

**Speaker:** Ákos Szigeti (University of Public Service, Hungary)

**Presentation title:** Cross-country comparison of prevalence and patterns of victimization and perpetration in cybercrime

**Co-authors:** Pekka Räsänen (University of Turku, Finland) Katalin Parti (Virginia Tech, USA) Tünde Barabás (University of Public Service, Hungary), Aki Koivula (University of Turku, Finland), Thomas Dearden (Virginia Tech, USA) James Hawdon (Virginia Tech, USA) Tibor Kiss (University of Public Service, Hungary)

There is a need to understand victimization and perpetration in cyberspace, but official crime statistics miss the whole picture. While some European countries offer official statistics for cybercrime victimization and perpetration, this is not the case outside Scandinavia. In addition, victimization and self-report surveys on cybercrime are not comparable since they utilize different survey questions, definitions, and methodologies. In this descriptive paper, we address this need by comparing basic cybercrime offending and victimization characteristics in the United States and two European countries: Finland, and Hungary; countries with different societal, economic, and political compositions. The three nations are all economically developed, yet they have different socioeconomic conditions that can influence both their vulnerabilities to cybercrime and level of preparedness to avoid cyber incidents. Furthermore, socialization can be very different in the three countries due to the different political and educational histories. The US is a traditional democracy with a capitalist economy that promotes personal independence where norm-conforming behavior can be undermined by individualism and personal goals. Thus, patterns and prevalence of cybercrimes and cyber victimizations such as cyber harassment, phishing, credit card fraud, hacking, illegal downloading, identity theft, illegal drug purchase, and sexting are compared to determine if these vary among the nations. After comparing country characteristics in cybercrime, we offer plausible explanations of the outcomes, emphasizing that criminal policy must take into consideration societal, economic, and political characteristics. Data are collected using online surveys administered to national samples of 1,300 residents, representative by age, sex, residence (Hungary, Finland), and age, sex, and race (US) in Spring, 2022.