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**Presentation title:** Women's roles in organized crime groups: a criminal networks' exploratory study

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Recent studies question the traditional perspective about organized crime groups, viewed as structurally hierarchical, running violent operations, and as being a men's world. In fact, a non-rigid structure of these groups is increasingly common, giving them greater flexibility, dynamics, and adaptation to possible risks. Additionally, the presence of women in these groups is also increasing, playing, mostly, broker roles. Based on a doctoral research on the role of women on organized crime in Portugal, this presentation contributes to this discussion. It presents the outcomes of a sentencing study on organized crime, in which members' centrality measures are included, besides other criminal networks' metrics. Grounded on a sample of four Portuguese court decisions on organised crime, involving 100 defendants, the study analyses to what extent women are integrated in organized crime groups and how much central they are in the activities performed by the groups. Content analysis of the court decisions provided data for applying Social Network Analysis techniques, and network density and members' centrality metrics were computed. Results evidence women emerging with important roles in criminal networks and relevant functions inside the groups, being some of them decisive key players, which contradicts the traditional perspectives about the participation of women in crime.