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Presentation title: Criminal collaboration networks and criminal organizing in Sweden: the role of region of birth

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In criminal collaboration, as well as other social phenomena in general, individuals tend to commit crimes with other individuals that have similar characteristics, for example in terms of age. In this study, we investigate the role of region of birth for the development of criminal networks and criminal organizing in Sweden in recent decades. We use Swedish suspicion data from the population register of suspected individuals between 1995 and 2015. Our study population consists of 433,714 individuals that have been suspected of committing one or more crimes together with at least one more individual. Two or more individuals that were suspected in the same criminal case can be linked to each other, and this allows the construction of so-called co-offending networks, in which nodes represent individuals and links represent co-suspicions in crime. We build yearly co-offending networks and use the tools of social network analysis to analyze them. Our preliminary results show that Swedish-born individuals constitute between 70 and 80 percent of the suspicions. Suspicions by foreign-born individuals are concentrated in seven regions of birth. In the co-offending networks, co-suspicion links occur for the most part between individuals belonging to the same region of birth. Furthermore, the networks exhibit over the years high positive assortative with respect to region of birth.