Nordic Exceptionalism in the High and Low Politics of Justice-Making Elsewhere

Co-organized by the research programs:
Nordic Exceptionalism in International Criminal Justice
& Nordic Branding

In Castbergs Bibliotek, Domus Bibliotheca, University of Oslo, Norway
March 1-2, 2018

For more than a century, the internationalization of criminal justice has evolved along two paths, which correspond to two distinct fields of research: one associated with law enforcement and policing, and another with human rights and international law. On one hand, certain crimes with an international connection - organized crime, terrorism, money laundering and tax evasion - are historically linked to national law enforcement, the police in particular, and to street-level crime. On the other hand, specific crimes of international concern – war crimes, crimes against humanity, genocide and other kinds of ‘crimes of the powerful’ – are associated with the high politics of foreign ministries, and have generated the creation of new international institutions, such as the International Military Tribunal at Nuremberg and the permanent International Criminal Court.

In this workshop, we will contribute new perspectives on the internationalization of criminal justice by approaching it from a Nordic (branding) perspective. As the Nordic systems are often perceived and promoted as having ‘exceptionally’ positive characteristic such as low imprisonment rates and ‘humane’ prison conditions, questions can be asked about the role of ‘Nordic penal exceptionalism’ and ‘Nordic models’ as part of status-building internationally. By bringing together a variety of disciplines and perspectives on Nordic criminal justice and its connections with other ‘brands’ of Nordic behavior in the international sphere – such as human rights, humanitarianism and gender – the aim of the workshop is to understand better the multifaceted roles of Nordic exceptionalism (or not) in the politics of criminal justice-making elsewhere.
Program:

Thursday, 1 March 2018

11.45  Introductions
Kjersti Lohne & Malcolm Langford

12.00 – 13.30  Part I: Nordic ‘exceptionalism’ meets internationalization of criminal justice
Discussant:  Malcolm Langford
Participants:  Mikkel Jarle Christensen: *The constitution of Nordic criminological discourse: an analysis of Nordisk Tidsskrift for Kriminalvidenskab*
Thomas Ugelvik: *Punishment, welfare, and prison history in Scandinavia*
Magnus Hornqvist: *Merging high and low politics of transnational crime governance: the crime of terrorism*
Katja Franko: *Nordic crimmigration exports: challenging the humanitarian exception*

13.45 – 15.30  Part II: Exporting Nordic Brands: International politics and brand alignment
Discussant:  Mikkel Jarle Christensen
Participants:  Sigrun Marie Moss: *Representing Nordicity through gender ‘exports’*
Cecilia M. Bailliet: *Representing Nordicity through peace ‘exports’*
Kristin B. Sandvik: *Nordic humanitarianism*
Johan Karlsson Schaffer: *Scandinavian dualism and human rights*
Kjersti Lohne: *Representing Nordicity as penal humanitarianism*

15:30  Launch of ReNEW in Stallen, Professorboligen

19: 00  Dinner for invited speakers at Restaurant Eik
09:00 Coffee & fruits

09:30 – 11.00 Part III: The politics of Nordic branding: continuities and discontinuities
Discussant: Kjersti Lohne
Participants: Kristian Bjørkedal: *Postcolonialism from the Nordic Margins*
May-Len Skilbrei: *The Nordic Model of Regulating Prostitution and the Politics of Transnational Policy: Lessons learned*
Victor Schammas: *The rise of a more punitive state: on the attenuation of Norwegian penal exceptionalism in an era of welfare state transformation*
Christopher Browning: *Nation Branding, Nordic Exceptionalism and Policy Transfer*

11.00 – 12.00 Lunch

12.00 – 13.30 Part IV: Summary and discussion (closed session)
Discussants: Thordis Ingadottir & Magnus Hornqvist
Publications & project development: Kjersti Lohne & Mikkel Jarle Christensen