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Foregrounding the Senses in Ethnographies of Crime, Harm and Social Control

5th Annual Ethnographies of Crime and Control Symposium
King's College, University of Cambridge. 19-20 September, 2022.

Ethnography is a method well suited to researching those people and practices otherwise hidden from view; adopted by an increasingly diverse range of practitioners across the social sciences and humanities. In matters of crime, harm, and social control ethnographic approaches are subject to dual sets of pressures: on the one hand the need to demonstrate risk management, relevance, and impact, and on the other the more nebulous challenges presented by a focus on topics that carry political charge and social sensitivity. Added to this, the limitations to movement and contact imposed by COVID have forced hiatus on many, and an increased reliance on digital communications for all of us. As the world tentatively reopens, this symposium invites ethnographers both emerging and established to discuss different ways of *doing* ethnography with a particular emphasis on how privileging the senses affects our practice and offers the potential for innovations to our craft. As we prepare to return to the field, we invite reflection on how to revitalise innovative conceptual, methodological, and practical responses to this changed and fragile world. Through a combination of workshops, talks, keynotes, and discussions, we aim to create a space – both real and virtual – to support more junior colleagues in a spirit of openness, honesty, and debate.

We encourage talks from researchers at all stages of development but are particularly supportive of research students and early career academics both engaged, and planning to engage, in ethnographies on aspects of crime, harm, and social control. We invite papers on all aspects of this broad field, especially those that foreground the *sensory*, the *political*, and/or *disrupt conventional approaches to space, place, and methods*.

Abstracts of 150 words should be submitted to EthnographiesOfCrime@protonmail.com by Friday, July 1.

Rather than formal paper presentations, we ask that speakers give short talks (10 minutes max – slides discouraged) to allow more time for questions and discussion. Authors will be notified of successful proposals by July 18. We welcome submissions of non-traditional formats.

Keynote Speakers

[Dr Joy White](#)

[Dr Jonathan Ilan](#)