



ALMA MATER STUDIORUM
UNIVERSITÀ DI BOLOGNA

BIAS AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE

12th Conference on the future of adversarial and inquisitorial systems, University of Bologna May 18th and 19th, 2023

The conference

The topic of bias in criminal justice is becoming of primary importance in modern democracies. On the one hand, the principle that any justice system must not only be impartial, but also appear so to an outside eye (as long as properly informed), is well established. On the other hand, this very objective seems increasingly difficult to achieve.

The causes that may endanger an impartial course of justice are indeed very numerous, and it is impossible to make a complete list/list them all. Among them worth mentioning are factors such as race or gender or political orientations. Other elements such as the role of the media, and especially social media, perhaps less considered in the past, are now gaining prominence. Further causes of bias may also hidden in factors designed to improve the administration of justice, such the aim to increase efficiency in handling criminal cases. Eventually, the shifting of criminal justice toward preventive justice may also well be a cause of bias, even more thanks/especially in light of the development and use of AI systems.

The conference organized by the group “The Future of Adversarial and Inquisitorial Systems” intends to critically examine new and old factors that undermine the causes that may endanger an impartial course in the administration of criminal justice, from a comparative perspective and in the light of normative systems that are highly interconnected.

The conference will take place over three days, from 17 to 19 May 2023 at the at Department of Legal Studies of the University of Bologna, Italy.

The Future of Adversarial and Inquisitorial Systems

The Future of Adversarial and Inquisitorial Systems conference series is a collaboration between the Universities of Warwick, North Carolina, Bologna, Basel and Duke University. It seeks to understand how criminal justice systems rooted in adversarial and inquisitorial traditions approach common legal problems and trends - and how these are situated, understood and practiced within different legal cultures.

Conferences take place every 1-2 years, rotating between the partner institutions and focusing on a different theme each year. Speakers with national and comparative expertise are drawn from across the globe, discussing topics from a range of disciplinary, methodological and legal procedural perspectives. The conferences take place over two and half days, with the first day devoted to papers from Early Career Researchers, with emphasis on participation and discussion throughout.

For more information visit the webpage:

<https://warwick.ac.uk/fac/soc/law/research/centres/cic/international-conference-series/>

Thursday, May 18 – Palazzo Malvezzi, Sala Feste	
09:00	<u>Coffee</u>
09:20- 09:30	<u>Welcome words</u>
09:30- 11:15	<u>Session 1 - Algorithms and bias in criminal justice</u> Chair: Joseph E. Kennedy, North Carolina <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Irmak Erdogan, Leuven - <i>Algorithmic profiling and the new forms of discrimination in criminal justice</i> • Ben Chen, Hongkong - <i>Algorithm-Induced Bias in Sentencing</i>
11:15- 11:30	<u>Coffee</u>
11.30-13:00	<u>Session 2: Race and bias in criminal justice</u> Chair: Sabine Gless, Basel <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Silvia Allegrezza, Luxemburg - <i>Hidden bias in criminal justice: toward a European critical race theory?</i> • Frank Baumgartner and Isaac Unah, North Carolina - <i>Don't Kill a White Lady: Race, Gender, and the Death Penalty in North Carolina, 1976 -2023</i>
13:00- 14:30	<u>Lunch</u>
14:30-16:15	<u>Session 3: Politics and bias in criminal justice</u> Chair: Giulia Lasagni, Bologna <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annalisa Mangiaracina, Palermo – <i>Political justice, fundamental rights and surrender of persons in the EU area of freedom, security and justice</i> • Klaudia Lozyk, UWA Perth - <i>Is the criminal system in Poland more adversarial or inquisitorial?</i> • Brandon Garrett, Duke – <i>Polarized by process</i>
16:30	<u>Visit of the University Museum “Palazzo Poggi”</u>

Friday, May 19 – Palazzo Malvezzi, Sala Feste	
09:30-11:00	<u>Session 4: Gender and bias in criminal justice</u> Chair: Emanuela Fronza, Bologna <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lora Briski, Lubjana - <i>Uncovering bias in processing sexual offences: A qualitative analysis of Slovenian case files for rape, sexual violence, and sexual abuse of a defenceless person</i> • Karolina Kremens, Wroclaw - <i>This is a Man's World - Gender Bias in Digitalized Criminal Justice</i>
11:00- 11:30	<u>Coffee</u>

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Session 5: Prejudices and bias in criminal justice

Chair: Rosa Ruggiero, Tuscia

- Jacqueline Hodgson, Warwick - *Challenging bias, building trust: police community engagement through arts and culture*
- Mojca Plesnicar, Lubjana - *Searching for Bias, Finding Noise: Experimenting with criminal justice professionals in Slovenia*