

PNI WORKSHOP 2022

IMPROVING CRIMINAL JUSTICE RESPONSES TO INTERNET-RELATED CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN

Workshop by the Institutes of the UN Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme Network (PNI)

Workshop moderated by the Australian Institute of Criminology

Monday 16 May 2022

14.00–16.00

**Boardroom-A, M-Building,
Vienna International Centre**

Available online for CCPCJ participants

Overview

This interactive workshop will examine some of the latest international evidence that is helping to improve criminal justice responses to internet-related crimes against children. Six short presentations will showcase research that explores different ways in which online child sexual abuse is being addressed. These will include an examination of the legal approaches to online child sexual abuse, approaches to investigating online child sexual abuse, and new technology to assist the investigation of such crimes against children.

CCPCJ

**COMMISSION ON CRIME PREVENTION
AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE**



Presentation 1: Legal assessments of the severity of online child sexual abuse

Dr Malin Joleby, Karolinska Institutet, Sweden

Internet communication technology has created new ways for adults to sexually abuse children. Contrasting the common assumption of online child sexual abuse being a less severe crime, research suggests that it can lead to consequences of the same severity as offline child sexual abuse. Adapting laws that are not designed for a digital context or creating new cybercrime laws can be challenging. By extension, children may have poorer legal protection in the digital environment compared to the offline environment. In this presentation, Joleby presents the latest research on the topic.

Dr Malin Joleby (PhD in psychology) is a researcher with a focus on technology-assisted child sexual abuse (TA-CSA). In her research, Joleby has analysed court documents regarding this crime type and interviewed child victims about their experiences and psychological consequences of TA-CSA and the legal process. Dr Joleby is currently working at Karolinska Institutet in Stockholm, Sweden, on a research project for preventing child sexual abuse by providing treatment to individuals at risk of committing these crimes.

Presentation 2: The role of the international community in enhancing effective prevention and response to the abuse and exploitation of children in illegal activities with the use of the internet

Dr Alexandra Martins, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Austria

Children, in particular girls, are more likely to become victims of cybercrime, including online sexual abuse and trafficking for different types of exploitation, but also the recruitment and exploitation by organised criminal and armed groups, including those designated as terrorist groups, with the use of information and communications technologies. Challenges faced by Member States in preventing and responding to these types of crimes, as well as those encountered by child victims of online abuse and exploitation are significant and may be exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. UNODC, together with the international community, has been working to develop policies and enhance international frameworks to respond to this complex phenomenon. Dr Alexandra Martins is a Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Officer who heads the UNODC Global Programme to End Violence against Children from its headquarters in Vienna, Austria. Her work involves the development of international laws and policies; and the provision of technical assistance on violence against children in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice to countries across the world. In recent years, she has focused on preventing and responding to serious forms of violence against children committed by organised criminal and armed groups, including those designated as terrorist groups. Dr Martins has amassed 25 years of experience in the field of criminal law and child rights through her work as a criminal lawyer in Brazil; with international NGO, Save the Children; and - since 2005 - with UNODC. She graduated in law from the University of Sao Paulo, Brazil; and holds a postgraduate qualification in Criminal Procedural Law and a Ph.D. in Criminal Law from the University of Florence, Italy. She played a key role, as a staff of the UN Secretariat, in the development of the international normative instrument titled UN Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the Elimination of Violence against Children in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, which was adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2014.



Presentation 3: Adapting investigative interviewing with children to the reality of online child sexual abuse cases: Towards victim-sensitive, evidence-based and effective investigations

Dr Julia Korkman, European Institute for Crime Prevention and Control, affiliated with the United Nations (HEUNI), President-elect, European Association of Psychology and Law

Investigative interviewing of children has been the focus of a substantial amount of research during the last two decades, leading to well-established guidelines for the criminal justice system. However, online sexual offences come with new challenges and best practise guidelines for offline offences may not automatically be transferred to online offences. An adaptation of best practise interview guidelines (the NICHD protocol) specifically designed for online child sexual abuse cases has been developed as a collaboration by experts both within the practise of interviewing as well as researchers within the field. This presentation examines findings on how to interact with young online abuse victims and introduces the new NICHD interview protocol for online child sexual abuse cases.

Dr Julia Korkman has vast experience both as a practitioner and as an academic within the field of legal psychology and notably with investigations of crimes against children. She has worked for more than a decade at an expert unit assisting the legal system in investigating suspected crimes against children, and co-leads LePÅ, a research group in legal psychology at Åbo Akademi University, focusing on topics such as crimes against children and investigations of these, the position of sexual offence victims, eyewitnesses and asylum procedures. Dr Korkman has been elected the next president of the European Association of Psychology and Law. In January 2022, she was appointed senior programme officer at HEUNI.



Presentation 4: Using financial information to detect livestreaming of child sexual abuse

Dr Timothy Cubitt, Australian Institute of Criminology, Australia

Live streaming of child sexual abuse is a technologically and financially enabled crime, in which individuals make financial payments to watch, and often direct, the abuse of children across online video streaming platforms. Due to its nature, little tangible evidence of this offence is left, beyond a financial transaction and locally stored metadata from the live streaming session. This presentation will discuss the importance of using financial transaction information to analyse the behaviour of these offenders, and how findings from the research can contribute to investigating this particularly hard to detect crime type.

Dr Timothy Cubitt is a Principal Research Analyst in the Serious and Organised Crime Research Laboratory at the Australian Institute of Criminology. His research focuses on the live streaming of child sexual abuse, law enforcement responses to Outlaw Motorcycle Gangs, and countering violent extremism.



NEW TECHNOLOGY TO ASSIST THE INVESTIGATION OF ONLINE CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

Presentation 5: AI for Safer Children: Artificial Intelligence combating sexual exploitation and abuse of children online

Mr Irakli Beridze, United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI), Italy

In 2020, UNICRI and the Ministry of Interior of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) launched the AI for Safer Children initiative with the aim of tackling child sexual exploitation and abuse online through the exploration of new technological solutions, specifically Artificial Intelligence (AI). To do so, UNICRI and the UAE Ministry of Interior sought to support law enforcement agencies to tap into the potential of AI through a unique centralised platform containing information on AI tools that could be used to combat child sexual exploitation and abuse and provide guidance on how to navigate the ethical challenges presented by the use of AI. Ultimately, the AI for Safer Children initiative seeks to contribute to realizing Target 2 of Goal 16 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which envisages an end to abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence and torture against children.

Irakli Beridze is the Head of the Centre for Artificial Intelligence and Robotics at UNICRI. He has more than 20 years of experience in leading multilateral negotiations and developing multi-stakeholder engagement programmes.

Mr Beridze is advising governments and international organisations on numerous issues related to international security, scientific and technological developments, emerging technologies, innovation and disruptive potential of new technologies, particularly associated with crime prevention, criminal justice and security. Since 2014, he has initiated and managed one of the first United Nations Programmes on AI. He is a member of various international task forces, including the World Economic Forum's Global Artificial Intelligence Council, the UN High-level panel for digital cooperation, and the High-Level Expert Group on Artificial Intelligence of the European Commission. Irakli Beridze is an International Gender Champion supporting the IGC Panel Parity Pledge.

Presentation 6: Developing automated methods to detect and match face and voice biometrics in child sexual abuse videos

Dr Russell Brewer, University of Adelaide, Australia

Dr Bryce Westlake, San Jose State University, USA

The proliferation of child sexual abuse material is outpacing law enforcement's ability to combat the problem. In response, investigators are increasingly turning to biometric software tools, namely facial recognition, to assist with the investigatory process. However, the utility of these applications are limited, due to various challenges associated with facial recognition technologies. Our research team has developed an automated software matching system to overcome these limitations, by extracting and matching multiple biometric features (face and voice) contained within child sexual abuse videos, to improve the identification of victims and perpetrators. This presentation provides an overview of this system, demonstrates its accuracy using a database of child sexual abuse videos, and outlines directions for future research.

Dr. Russell Brewer is an Associate Professor at the University of Adelaide (Australia), and leads the Adelaide Cybercrime Laboratory (www.AdelaideCybercrime.org).

His research focuses on both the technological and human factors of cybercrime – identifying the risk factors associated with (cyber) criminality, as well as working directly with law enforcement to develop tools to detect and prevent cybercrime.

Dr. Bryce Westlake is an Associate Professor at San Jose State University (USA). He is the Director of the Silicon Valley Digital Forensics Laboratory, where he coordinates the processing of digital evidence from on-going criminal cases for criminal justice institution collaborators.

