Celebrating 30 Years of Excellence
‘You won’t find anywhere quite like this.’ This was a message relayed to me some 19 years ago on my very first visit to what was then the Scarman Centre as an open day visitor.

Staff, students and researchers discussed postgraduate opportunities, drank tea with us and spoke candidly about their own experiences of criminological research and teaching – experiences which, for a newcomer to the discipline like me, felt exciting, intoxicating and utterly inspirational. I left Leicester that day mesmerised not only by the subject matter and its relevance to the world around me, but by the way in which everyone had spoken so passionately about criminology at Leicester. I signed up the very next day.

Fast forward to 2017 and although much has changed within our Department, our discipline, our University and indeed our sector as a whole, I feel that those features which attracted me, and indeed countless others, to the Department of Criminology are still as compelling as they ever were. We still pride ourselves on our friendliness, our passion for high quality teaching, and our desire to inspire the next generations of criminologists. We still strive to make a lasting difference to social justice through our research. And better still, we still like drinking tea with visitors. And with each other. Within this context we have evolved into one of the very best Departments of Criminology anywhere in the world; a research-intensive, multidisciplinary community of criminologists who shape policy and scholarship through a diverse programme of teaching, research and enterprise activities. Our staff include scholars who are internationally-renowned in their fields, who have won awards for their contributions to new knowledge, and who have published books, journal articles and reports which continue to shape criminological thinking. Our students come from more than 80 countries across the world to study a suite of world-leading undergraduate and postgraduate programmes which offer them extensive opportunities to gain valuable work experience, to network with professionals, to volunteer and to develop their employability skills. Our learning experiences are engaging, discovery-led and delivered in ways that are tailored around the specific needs of our students, whether this be via campus-based courses, distance-learning degrees, Major/Minor pathways or continuing professional development units.

Perhaps most importantly, our ambitions continue to rise. As we approach a new academic year, our campus-based undergraduate and postgraduate degrees are attracting record numbers of students who will be studying cutting-edge modules on our revitalised BSc and MSc programmes. We will be launching innovative learning opportunities within the fields of policing and hate studies and embarking on a series of newly funded research projects which will transform current policy and practice in various areas of criminal justice. And at the heart of everything we do, we will retain our sense of pride in our subject area, our students and our Department. More than 50% of our academic staff have completed at least one degree here at the Department of Criminology, which speaks volumes for our ability to relate to our student body and to nurture talent.

A 30th anniversary is a landmark achievement in the life of any academic department and one that we are hugely proud of. Those 30 years, and the successes they generated, have created a legacy which will not be forgotten by anyone fortunate enough to be working within this wonderful Department over the next 30 years and beyond.

Professor Neil Chakraborti
Head of Department, Department of Criminology
30 Years in the Making
A Short History of the Department of Criminology

1980s - The Centre for the Study of Public Order

The Department of Criminology was originally called the Centre for the Study of Public Order and was established in 1987 by Professor John Benyon. He was interested in a broad range of issues relating to riots, public disorder and policing, and had written widely on the inner city riots in the early 1980s and the hugely influential Scarman Report which followed. Sadly, John passed away in May 2016 but his legacy lives on – without his vision and determination, the Department of Criminology at Leicester would simply not exist today.

The MA in Public Order was established and proved extremely popular with a wide range of practitioners from across the criminal justice system. This programme set the tone for future developments, prioritising the importance of providing learning opportunities for those already working as practitioners.

1990s – The Scarman Centre

The Centre was renamed the Scarman Centre for the Study of Public Order in honour of Lord Scarman and his influential observations about public order, policing, civil liberties and social justice in contemporary societies. This time also saw the establishment of a range of postgraduate courses being offered by distance learning. In addition, the Centre was carrying out a wide range of research projects, including a socio-economic profile and needs analysis of African Caribbean people in Leicestershire, the policing of football hooliganism, violence against retail staff and policing in central Europe.

In 1996 the Centre was given a new shorter name – the Scarman Centre – and continued to expand its areas of interest and activity. It established yet more postgraduate programmes of study and undertook major research work including a Home Office funded project evaluating the impact of CCTV, a series of projects funded by the UK’s Department for International Development and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office looking at policing in transitional societies; gun control; police co-operation in Europe; and the management of security in organisations.

2000s – The Department of Criminology

In 2004, after an internal and external academic review of the work of the Centre, and in line with broader organisational changes within the University, it was decided to rename the Scarman Centre the Department of Criminology. Around this time, the Department began offering the hugely popular undergraduate Criminology programme which continues to attract record numbers of students each year.
Timeline of Directors/Heads of Department

1987-1999: Professor John Benyon
1999-2002: Professor Martin Gill
2002-2005: Andrew Willis
2005-2009: Professor Carol Hedderman
2009-2015: Professor Adrian Beck
2015: Professor Jo Phoenix
2016-present: Professor Neil Chakraborti

In the three decades since the Department was first established much has been achieved – a wide range of courses have been developed spanning different modes of learning and levels of study, and research has been carried out covering a plethora of subjects. But what has remained is a commitment to conducting innovative, ground-breaking research, engaging with practitioners and providing students and staff alike with the opportunity to develop their knowledge, experience and understanding of a subject area that remains central to societies throughout the world. Here’s to the next 30 years.

Professor Adrian Beck
30 Years of Research Excellence

Research

The Department has a comprehensive track record of engaging in cutting-edge and forward-thinking criminological research which speaks to both complex and everyday issues of crime and criminal justice. We have core themes across our diverse research areas which enable our research to have significant impact in relation to policy, practice and social change. Our research strategy promotes the intention to be the best Criminology department in the country by attracting a mixed economy of research income, leading international collaborations as well as addressing local and national agendas with public and private collaborators. Our connections to national and local government, NGOs, private partners and international networks provide a rich bed of ideas, expertise, skills and commitment to use criminological research as a powerful agent of change.

Professor Teela Sanders, Director of Research

Impact

The Department of Criminology has a long history of conducting research which has the potential to impact the local, national, and international community, and we continue to work closely with partners across a range of sectors to ensure that our research findings are disseminated and utilised beyond academia. In recent years, large scale funded research projects have enabled our researchers to continue to build strong relationships with stakeholders and embed impact activities in our research strategy. Impact continues to be at the heart of our research activity in the Department, and looking forward we strive to build on our existing partnerships and build new collaborations in order to ensure that our research is influencing policy and practice in the UK and beyond.

Dr Lisa Smith, Departmental Lead for Impact

Enterprise

Enterprise activity can take many different forms, from being commissioned to conduct research on a specific topic or for a specific organisation, providing consultancy on an area of expertise, delivering continuing professional development training to external audiences, or creating innovative products that can be used by businesses around the world. For the past 30 years the Department of Criminology has engaged in enterprise activity which has transformed lives, shaped policy and practice, and tackled real-world problems. Examples of our enterprise achievements include:

• The Scene of Crime App, designed to index samples, attach photos, create labels and communicate with central databases in real-time to generate crime reports.

• CPD training on diversity- and hate-related topics has been delivered to more than 800 practitioners and policy-makers working in criminal justice, education, local authorities, and health and social care.

• Helping to tackle the social and criminal issue of ‘hit and runs’ via contract research for the Motor Insurers Bureau (MIB), which found six typologies of hit-and-run drivers.

Dr Stevie-Jade Hardy, Departmental Lead for Enterprise
Research Highlights: Past and Present

**INTREPID Forensics**

The Interdisciplinary Training and Research Programme for Innovative Doctorates in Forensic Science (INTREPID Forensics) is a €2.9 million, multidisciplinary project funded by the People Programme (Marie Curie Actions) of the European Union’s Seventh Framework Programme. The programme provides ten funded PhD opportunities for early stage researchers to pursue innovative research degrees focusing on areas applicable to the forensic sciences. The research projects span a wide range of disciplines, including genetics, criminology, chemistry, psychology, mathematics, physics, archaeology and ancient history, and immunity, infection and inflammation.

**Beyond the Gaze**

Beyond the Gaze is a project in collaboration with the University of Strathclyde and funded by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC). Working in collaboration with partner organisations (National Ugly Mugs), the police, as well as co-researchers from the sex work community, Basis Yorkshire and SAAFE Escort Forum, this project will shed light on how the Internet has shaped the 21st century adult commercial sex industry.

**Developments in Mobile Scanning Technology**

This project, co-funded by the ESRC and three major retailers, investigated how developments in mobile scanning technology in shops generates new opportunities for crime and loss to occur in the retail sector, as well as how such losses can be better prevented.

**Probation Workers and their Occupational Cultures**

This project, funded by the ESRC, investigated the characteristics of contemporary probation cultures and examined how probation workers construct their occupational identities. As part of this study, 60 interviews were conducted with current and former probation workers across England and Wales in order to understand their original motivations and aspirations on joining the probation service, their training experiences and career development, their views on public and media perceptions of probation work, and their daily routines and relations with probationers, courts and other criminal justice practitioners.
Hate Crime

With hate and extremism having increasing relevance to multiple fields of work, the Centre for Hate Studies – which is based in the Department of Criminology – was established to offer academic expertise to policy-makers and practitioners to improve how they engage with diversity, support victims and tackle hate. Over the past five years the Centre has been commissioned to undertake seven major studies on hate crime – including Britain’s biggest study of hate crime victimisation – involving more than 6,000 community members from a wide-range of different backgrounds and over 2,000 hate crime victims. This research has not only transformed academic understanding within the field of hate studies but also, it has shaped more effective and sustainable policy and practice in the UK and beyond.

Policing and Public Order

Research into policing and public order, carried out in the early and mid-1990s, influenced police and government policies. A major project on police co-operation in Europe, which also looked at the problems of cross-border crime in the EU, was commissioned by the European Commission and the results fed into the development of new policies in Justice and Home Affairs.

Publications such as The Police – Powers, Procedures and Proprieties, edited by Professor John Benyon and Colin Bourn, discussed the changes to the police and prosecution services following the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 and the Prosecution of Offences Act 1985. It was hailed by Lord Scarman himself, the distinguished law lord best known for his inquiry into the 1981 Brixton riots, as a work that encouraged “clear thinking and a new approach to a problem as old as civilisation itself – how to maintain the public tranquillity of a free society”.

Firearms in Europe

In 1997, a Leverhulme-funded project investigated the control of firearms in Europe and the problems around gun crime in Britain. It provided one of the first major studies in the UK of its kind, comparing gun control policies in various European countries, and the effects of legislation on levels of crime involving firearms. As a result, Professor Benyon and Kate Broadhurst presented written evidence to the Home Affairs Select Committee and appeared before the Committee in parliament to answer oral questions. This work influenced the Committee’s deliberations and government policy in this field.
30 Years of Teaching Excellence

Undergraduate Teaching

The first campus-based BA Criminology degree launched in September 2002, with an intake of 40 eager undergraduate students (including none other than our current MSc Security and Risk Management course convenor, Claire Vanneck!). Our 30th anniversary year marks the launch of our brand new BSc Criminology, as well as our Major in Criminology and Minors in Criminal Justice, and Criminal Behaviour. A strong commitment to student experience remains at the heart of our new programmes; we will maintain our focus on employability, academic skills and study abroad, and we look forward to working with colleagues across the University to achieve this.

Dr Sam King, BSc Course Convenor

Postgraduate Teaching

We have offered postgraduate courses in the Department of Criminology since the late 1980s, but as crime, victimisation and justice, and the study of them have evolved, so too have our programmes. Aptly, in our 30th anniversary year, we launch our freshly-approved suite of MSc programmes. Our cohort consists of home-grown talent by way of graduates from our undergraduate Criminology courses and students from across the globe, including Taiwan, Japan, India, the USA and Chile. This diversity enriches student and staff experiences of teaching and learning and is a highlight of our programmes. Developed in consultation with students, our updated MSc programmes retain our commitment to high quality teaching and excellent student support, whilst refreshing course content and assessment strategies to keep our courses distinctive, cutting-edge and adaptive to students’ employability needs.

Dr Rebecca Barnes, MSc Course Convenor
Distance Learning Teaching

For over 25 years (and long before my time I might hasten to add!) the Department of Criminology has been delivering distance learning courses to practitioners far and wide. In recognition of our long standing presence and high standards, we’re currently one of the biggest providers of higher education distance learning in the UK and firmly believe education shouldn’t stop once you enter the workplace. In alignment with the increasing professionalisation of the security industry worldwide we continue to develop our Security and Risk Management programme to meet the needs of the global sector. Never ones to stagnate, we’ve made the most of technological innovations by moving to a more streamlined and interactive approach better suited to those who study with us. The programme launched its very own custom built MSc in Security and Risk Management iPad app in 2015. Without a doubt our approach to distance learning continues to be firmly committed to cutting-edge teaching, widening participation and the enhancement of career prospects for students across the world!

Claire Vanneck, MSc Security and Risk Management Course Convenor

Postgraduate Research

The University of Leicester is one of the world’s leading research-intensive universities, and research excellence is at the heart of what we do in Criminology. We foster a research environment that encourages discovery, innovation and interdisciplinarity, which enables our students to thrive.

Dr Andrew Newton, Director of Postgraduate Research

Dr Irene Zempi, PhD Criminology Graduate 2014

“Studying for a PhD in Criminology at the Department was the best decision I’ve made in my life! The support I received from my PhD supervisors was outstanding. I also gained amazing experience by working as a teaching fellow in the Department during the course of my PhD studies. I received great support from my colleagues in a welcoming and friendly environment. I owe much to the Department and its dedicated staff for helping me realise my academic potential and achieve my goals. I could not recommend studying and working in the Department more highly. I wish the Department of Criminology all the success for many more years to come!”
Memories of Criminology at Leicester

Professor Mike Rowe, Northumbria University
(Department of Criminology, 1990-2006)

“Thirty years: what a landmark! Hard to imagine all that time has passed. Leicester has made a significant contribution to Criminology and it is amazing how many colleagues across the discipline have some link or another back to the department. I owe the university a very great deal, personally and professionally, and remain grateful for the opportunities that arose in the early days of a new department keen to make its mark. Of course there’s been a host of developments over the decades but the friendly and innovative spirit of the place continues to be the hallmark of the department.”

Andrew Willis, Former Director of the Scarman Centre, (1987-2008)

“The Scarman Centre was known internationally as a centre of excellence for research and teaching. A large number of students went onto become chief officer figures in policing and other areas of criminal justice, throughout the UK, whilst the Centre had an unparalleled profile in parts of Ukraine, Russia, China, and was the ‘go to’ centre for postgraduate courses on policing and criminal justice in countries as diverse as Bahrain, Hong Kong, the Bahamas and Sierra Leone. The identity of the department was so strong that many ex-students referred to their alma mater as the Scarman Centre rather than the University of Leicester. More importantly, the strong international profile in the ‘early days’ continues to be reflected in the diversity of the contemporary student population.”

Catharine White, BA and MSc Criminology Graduate 2013

“I first encountered Criminology at a University of Leicester Open Day. Having heard an inspiring talk by a lecturer from the Department of Criminology, my mind was set and I embarked upon an undergraduate degree, followed by a Master’s in Criminology. It is easy to become passionate about this subject with its focus on crime, deviance and society’s response to wrongdoing, and how these elements are changeable and challengeable. Criminology will equip you with the ability to grapple these elements with scientific rigour.”

Bethany Humphries,
BA Criminology Graduate 2017

“Since the beginning of my university experience, the staff in the Department have been welcoming, supportive and have consistently demonstrated an enthusiasm in the research they undertake; a trait which is clearly evident and incredibly inspiring from a student’s perspective. I am thankful to all the wonderful and talented staff that make up our Department of Criminology; you have helped me achieve so much more than my degree during my time at the University of Leicester.”
Yoana Barakova, BSc Criminology student

“As one Swedish proverb says: ‘Only the dead fish follow the stream’, and what the University of Leicester has taught me is never to float along without resistance and live simply as a passive observer, but stand as a courageous resolute individual, who has a mission and swims in the direction necessary to achieve her goals, even if this direction is against the current.”

Iain Richmond, MSc Security and Risk Management (DL) Graduate 2017

“My time at the University of Leicester with the Department of Criminology began in 2014, when I enrolled for the distance learning program in Security & Risk Management (MSc). After the first study school, we got to know the tutors and fellow students. What initially struck me was how down to earth, friendly and welcoming the Department was to us all, which made us feel a lot better about what we were about to undertake. Going through the study school and enjoying the University experience, meeting and greeting in the student bar together with the tutors and staff was a fantastic experience. Graduating from the Department of Criminology has undoubtedly been one of the highlights of my life, and something of which I am very proud. Graduation day was a fantastic occasion, and the Department was just as proud of us graduating as we and our families were.”

Rachel McGinty, MSc Criminology student

“The Criminology Department offers not only great course content but an encouraging and supportive environment which enables students to make the most of their university experience. The teaching staff are both enthusiastic about their respective research areas, and conscientious about imparting their knowledge to those whom they teach. I can’t talk about the Department without giving a big shout out to the administrative support team who work tirelessly to ensure the needs of students are met.”

Richard Coupe, MSc Security and Risk Management (DL) student

“More than the qualification, the University of Leicester has also given me the opportunity to improve my academic knowledge and confidence in my ability to succeed, which will stand me in good stead moving forward in my professional and private life.”

Angela Lester, MSc Policing and Public Order Studies (DL) Graduate 2001

“I have the Department of Criminology to thank for giving me a springboard into a career I absolutely love. And given our mutual interests, I am still in touch with my course tutor. So not only did I gain a Masters Degree, the experience meant I gained some great friendships.”

Yoana Barakova, BSc Criminology student

“As one Swedish proverb says: ‘Only the dead fish follow the stream’, and what the University of Leicester has taught me is never to float along without resistance and live simply as a passive observer, but stand as a courageous resolute individual, who has a mission and swims in the direction necessary to achieve her goals, even if this direction is against the current.”
Charlotte Bilby, Reader in Criminology, Northumbria University (Department of Criminology, 2006-2010)

“My connection with the Criminology Department was long-lasting, both in terms of time, and emotional impact. I first went there in 1995 for an MSc in Public Order Research and Information Management, and went back as a lecturer in 2006. When I started in the Criminology Department it felt as though I was joining a group of friends, because many of them were and still are, rather than a place of work. I enjoyed the mixture of campus based and distance learning teaching, and working with undergraduates and postgraduates. For much of the time at the department, I was the exams officer. It’s not often that you’ll hear academics saying that they loved their administrative duties, but I loved that role with a, faintly sad, passion.

I left in 2010, as I’d been in Leicester for 19 years and wanted to change all sorts of things about my life. The joy I felt at facing new challenges, in a new place, was counterbalanced with what I can only describe as the grief at not being with my friends or seeing them on an almost daily basis in that beautiful building on New Walk.”

Gemma Norton, BA Criminology Graduate 2008

“When I studied Criminology BA at the University of Leicester, I was immediately inspired by the wealth of knowledge and experience held by the lecturers, as well as the amount of prestigious research the University produces. With these factors combined, the Department makes a huge contribution worldwide to what we know about offending behaviour. To be taught by professionals immersed in different aspects of the Criminal Justice System allowed us as students to gain an insight into what it would be like to do so ourselves, so I personally consider our lecturers to have been role models for our own professional development. Throughout my ongoing development, I always think back to my days in Leicester and Upper New Walk, and whenever I see research studies from the University of Leicester’s Criminology Department quoted, I always feel a sense of respect, affinity and pride.”

Hannah Piggott, MSc Applied Criminology student

“Choosing to study an MSc in Applied Criminology was one of the best decisions I ever made. The University of Leicester has a strong Criminology Department filled with inspiring role models who have extensively contributed to criminological research. The opportunities available have allowed me to enhance my experience in working with offenders and increase my knowledge of crime and criminality. To have a whole building dedicated to Criminology students really sets Leicester apart from the rest. The department staff are extremely supportive which has been invaluable during my studies and helped me to secure a career in the Probation Service.”
Russell Knifton, Professional Services/Marketing and Admissions Administrator (Department of Criminology, 2010-2016)

“I have very fond memories of the Department of Criminology. After close to 20 years working in various jobs in a multinational company, I started at the Department of Criminology in May 2010. It didn’t take long to feel that I was part of the team, the Department and a member of a community. This was in no small part due to the staff who work there. During my time at Criminology, all the staff, both academic and administrative, are, and always have been, very friendly, supportive and welcoming. I will always value my time at Criminology and I feel very proud to have been a member of the Department.”

Professor Jon Garland, University of Surrey (Department of Criminology, 1990-2012)

“I was lucky enough to work in the Department for over 20 years and have many fond memories of that time. Being involved in the early years of the Department’s development was very exciting for me, and the hours that we put in to establish it, and the fun we had in doing so, will always stay with me. During those two decades I was privileged to work with some high-quality academics and, with them, was able to undertake some research which I hope has left its mark on UK Criminology. The key thing for me throughout all of the time I was in the Department, though, was the people that I met and the friendships that were forged along the way – I will always be grateful for those. I wish the Department of Criminology all the best for the next 30 years and am sure it will continue to prosper.”
I WANT TO BE ABLE TO DO EVERYDAY THINGS WITHOUT FEELING SCARED
Studying for a PhD in Criminology was the best decision I’ve made in my life! I owe much to the Department and its dedicated staff for helping me to realise my academic potential and to achieve my goals.

Dr Irene Zempi, PhD Graduate 2014