

Ethnic Disparities in Sentencing in England and Wales: Taking Stock and Moving Forward

This is an event organised by the University of Leeds, the Sentencing Academy, and the London School of Economics, funded by the Economic and Social Research Council.

Date: 14th of November, 12.00 to 17.00

Venue: Old Building 5.25 (Graham Wallas room), Houghton Street, London School of Economics.

Online attendance will also be possible for first part of the event through this link:

<https://lse.zoom.us/j/86953709195?pwd=qa8WUGO8bOdkOsGhs9gI8vdEQh0fqd.1#success>

This symposium seeks to bring together researchers and stakeholders (practitioners, policy-makers, and third sector organisations) to discuss the latest evidence on ethnic disparities in sentencing in the jurisdiction of England and Wales, and its implications in terms of sentencing practice, public policy, and future research priorities. The event will review recent findings through concise presentations of under 10 minutes each. Following the presentations, participants will engage in semi-structured discussions, employing both structured polls to gauge consensus on critical issues and open dialogue to encourage detailed expression of viewpoints. Insights gathered will inform a short article to be published as a Sentencing Academy research bulletin. Only participants explicitly requesting to be identified will be included as contributors to this research bulletin, any other comments expressed in the discussion part of the event by participants who did not request should be identified should be considered as ‘off the record’.

Program

The first part of the event involving presentations of recent findings will be hybrid and the recording will be available after the event. The second part of the event involving discussion panels will be in person only as it will not be recorded.

11.30 to 12.00 – Registration

12.00 to 12.15 – Introduction

12.15 to 13.00 – Recent findings 1

13.00 to 13.30 – Lunch break

13.30 to 14.00 – Recent findings 2

14.00 to 14.30 – Questions & answers

14.30 to 15.15 – Discussion 1: How robust is the evidence-base? What are we missing?

15.15 to 15.30 – Coffee break

15.30 to 16.45 – Discussion 2: Policy and practice considerations

16.45 to 17.00 – Concluding remarks and drinks

Recent findings

Disparities in the Crown Court (Kitty Limperopoulou, University of Plymouth)

Article available here: <https://academic.oup.com/bjc/article/64/5/1189/7612940>

Ethnic and area disparities (Ana Morales, University of Edinburgh)

Preprint available here: https://osf.io/preprints/socarxiv/zxjm4?view_only=

Disparities in sentencing factors 1 (Eoin Guilfoyle, Brunel University)

Article available here: <https://academic.oup.com/bjc/advance-article/doi/10.1093/bjc/azae039/7708313>

Disparities in sentencing factors 2 (Qi Chen, University of Nottingham)

Report available here: <https://www.sentencingcouncil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/Equality-and-Diversity-Report-FINAL.pdf>

Disparities in previous convictions (Angela Sorsby, University of Sheffield)

Article available here:

https://www.adruk.org/fileadmin/uploads/adruk/Documents/Data_Insights/Data_Insight_The_number_of_convictions_before_the_imposition_of_a_short_sentence_of_immediate_custody_ethnicity_and_gender_differences_August_2022.pdf

Perspectives from criminal barristers (Ana Veiga, University of Leeds)

Article available here: <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.1111/hojo.12496>

Methodological considerations (Jose Pina-Sánchez, University of Leeds)

<https://josepinasanchez.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/jps.pdf>

Discussion 1: How robust is the evidence-base?

Moderated by Melissa Hamilton (University of Surrey) and Julian Roberts (University of Oxford)

What are we missing?

What are the areas where future research is most needed?

Discussion 2: Policy and practice considerations

Moderated by Eoin Guilfoyle (Brunel University)

Given the available evidence, what changes in practice and new policies should be considered?