

## CENTRE DE RECHERCHES SOCIOLOGIQUES SUR LE DROIT ET LES INSTITUTIONS PÉNALES (CESDIP)



By:

**FABIEN JOBARD**, PHD, DIRECTOR OF CESDIP, GUYANCOURT

**CHRISTIAN MOUHANNA**, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF CESDIP, GUYANCOURT

CESDIP – the Centre for sociological research on Law and Criminal Justice Institutions is the major venue for the study of criminal justice and deviance in France, and one of the leading research organizations dedicated to the study of crime in Europe. A division of the French Ministry of Justice as well as an affiliate of the *Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique* (CNRS) and the *Université de Versailles Saint-Quentin*, the Centre is in a unique position to connect academics, fostering policy and research. Since its creation in 1976, CESDIP has worked to provide practitioners, policy-makers and students with a scientific approach to criminal justice.

### *Issues*

A multidisciplinary centre with representatives of all the social sciences (sociology, political science, law, economics, demography and statistics), CESDIP is a diverse community comprising more than 30 research fellows, 11 PhD students, 3 research engineers and a large technical and administrative staff. CESDIP researchers work on a wide range of topics including: victimization and fear of crime; juvenile delinquency and prevention; history of crime, criminal justice, and the sciences of deviance; criminal statistics; police organizations, policing and security policies ; professions within the penal field and prison.

### *International network*

This vibrant intellectual community is a key player in the international development of criminal sociology. The *Groupe européen de recherches sur les normativités* (GERN), a subdivision of CESDIP, is in charge of fostering the Centre's international network. Since 1985, GERN has coordinated about 60 research organizations across Europe. GERN also maintains strong partnerships with major research centres in Brazil, India and Canada. GERN has recently carried out a cross-national research programme, *Assessing Deviance, Crime and Prevention in Europe* (CRIMPREV), within the European Union's 6th Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development (2006–09). CRIMPREV brought together 31 research organizations in 10 EU Member States and more than 500 researchers. Since 2002, our Centre is also part of a Joint European Laboratory with the *Max Planck Institut of Freiburg* and the *Centre Lillois d'Etudes et de Recherches Economiques et Sociologiques*.

### *Police studies*

Police studies are one of the Centre's principal areas of expertise. CESDIP researchers have largely contributed to the scientific literature on: urban riots, the feminization of police forces, New Public Management and the production of police statistics, the history of colonial policing, police and discrimination, Contempt of Police charges, police-community relationships, cooperation between police forces and other criminal justice institutions, and merger plans of local police forces in France. New lines of research also include: police unions, police management, and alternative security initiatives such as the creation of night correspondents in the *banlieues* or the development of closed-circuit television (CCTV) systems.

### **Victimization surveys**

CESDIP regularly conducts major national and cross-national surveys, and plays a central role in Europe in the quantitative research on crime, victimization and insecurity. We ushered victimization surveys in France in the 1980s, by conducting its first nationwide survey on self-reported crime victimization, and by supervising a series of regional victimization surveys in the 1990s and the 2000s. Since the 1990s we have worked in close collaboration with the *French National Institute for Statistics and Economic Studies* (INSEE) to promote and analyze the annual national victimization survey, now an official, state-sponsored investigation. This effort has brought French victimization surveys to the same level of scientific excellence that can be found in the UK and in the US. From 2007 to 2011 CESDIP, within the framework of an ANR (*Agence Nationale de la Recherche*) project, is carrying out the secondary analysis of all existing victimization surveys in France. CESDIP is also the depositary of the statistical archives of the French Ministry of justice. Known as the Davido database, after André Davidovitch, a pioneer in French criminal sociology, this unique collection serializes the *Compte général de la justice cri-*

*minelle* from 1831 to 1981. A leader in quantitative sociology, CESDIP is now taking an active part in the development of LabEx 6S at Saclay, a ambitious scientific project aiming at bringing together representatives of the exact sciences and the social sciences.

### **Publications**

We are dedicated to making scientific expertise available to the general public, in a format easily accessible to non-specialists. *Penal Issues*, a quarterly publication in the form of a four-page bulletin, provides an overview of the most recent investigations completed by CESDIP researchers. *Penal Issues* is simultaneously made available online, in French and English. The Centre's editorial activities naturally extend to scientific publications. No less than four international, peer-reviewed scientific journals are published by CESDIP. Besides *Déviance et Société*, the Centre's historic publication since 1977, CESDIP also supports *Crime, History & Societies* (a publication of the *International Association for the History of Crime and Criminal Justice*, a scientific forum cofounded by CESDIP), the *Revue d'Histoire des Sciences Humaines*, and *Champ penal*.

CESDIP houses the largest specialized library on crime and justice in France, with more than 16,500 titles, 80 scientific journals, 900 electronic resources and a database of 30,000 bibliographical references. An online catalogue and rich intranet contents are provided by the Centre. This collection is one of the most important in Europe, along with the Centre for Criminology at Oxford University and the Max-Planck-Institut für Strafrecht in Freiburg.

### **Research and education**

CESDIP is involved in several research projects, educational missions and collaborative committees with the Ministry of Justice and at UVSQ. CESDIP researchers are active in the education of magistrates and other personnel of the Ministry at ENM (*Ecole Nationale de la Magistrature*)

and ENPJ (Ecole nationale de protection judiciaire de la jeunesse). Our members also offer professional and research courses in two masters programs at UVSQ. Finally, CESDIP holds two-monthly research seminars, alternately at the Centre in Guyancourt and at the *Ecole Normale Supérieure* in Paris.

Contact point : [www.cesdip.fr](http://www.cesdip.fr)

CESDIP  
Immeuble Edison  
43 Boulevard Vauban  
F-78 280 Guyancourt T : 33 (0) 1 34 52 17 00  
F : 33 (0) 1 34 52 17 17

### **Upcoming Conferences, Meetings, Symposia, and Seminars**

*The European Police Science and Research Bulletin will publicize announcements of events that are relevant for the development and advance of police research and police science from a European perspective. Please send all information in time to [research.bulletin@cepol.europa.eu](mailto:research.bulletin@cepol.europa.eu).*

#### **The Stockholm Criminology Symposium "Recognising Knowledge to Reduce Crime and Injustice"**

Date: 13-15, June 2011

Place: Stockholm Sweden

#### **2011 CEPOL Police Research and Science Conference - Topic in preparation -**

Date: 20-22, June 2011

Place: Spain (restricted access)

#### **The 20th Annual Meeting of the International Police Executive Symposium "Policing Violence, Crime, Disorder, & Discontent: International Perspectives"**

Date: June 26-30, 2011

Place: Buenos Aires, Argentina

#### **11th Conference of the European Society of Criminology (ESC) "Rethinking Crime and Punishment in Europe"**

Dates: 21-24, September 2011

Place: Vilnius, Lithuania