

**SHARING FORENSIC BIOMETRIC DATA -
FROM THE NORTH SEA TO THE BLACK AND BALTIC SEAS,
AND BACK AGAIN**

Ending a busy twelve months almost where they started (but on the Dutch shore of the North Sea) Professor Tim Wilson (left in the picture) and CECJS Deputy Director, Adam Jackson, spoke about international fingerprint cooperation at a conference at Europol in The Hague on 15th January. EU fingerprint experts and interior ministry representatives heard them talk about defending privacy and ensuring probative reliability when forensic biometric data is shared across borders.

This event took place just under month after both Houses of Parliament had voted to opt into the Prüm arrangements for sharing forensic biometric data with other EU member states and countries with reciprocal Single Market freedom of citizen movement with the EU (Norway, Iceland and Switzerland). These decisions were strong endorsements for Home Secretary Theresa May's recommendation to Parliament that such action would help to safeguard the British public 'while also protecting their civil liberties.



Special Issue to share recent events members

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

February 2016

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During the last twelve months NCECJS organised academic events about sharing forensic biometric information with the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences and the University of Latvia. Tim and the Centre's Research Fellow, Chris Wood, also spoke at Europe's leading triennial forensic science conference held in Prague in early September. NCECJS members Dr Ashley Savage from the Law School and Derek Johnson from the University's Geography Department joined them at the prestigious Stockholm Criminology Symposium in June. Also Ashley together with NCECJS member Gemma Davies contributed with Tim in multiple presentations at a conference held by the Institut National de Criminologie et Criminologie (NICC) in Brussels in late September.

The forensic biometric research team, which involves addition Centre members, now have an equally busy year ahead of them in writing and publishing the results of their research!

In the meantime Professor Wilson has contributed a chapter dealing partly with the exchange of forensic bioinformation and entitled 'The Global Perspective' to the *Annual Report of the Government Chief Scientific Adviser 2015: Forensic Science and Beyond: Authenticity, Provenance and Assurance: Evidence and Case Studies* (available at www.gov.uk/go-science). Following presentations made by him and Chris Wood in Toruń, Poland, he will be contributing further to discussions in that country about the impact on expert evidence of that country's move last year to a quasi-adversarial system of criminal justice. This will be done in his paper 'Forensic Science in an Adversarial System during a Period of Neo-Liberal Experimentation and Fiscal Austerity' to be published shortly by Volumina PL, Szczecin in *The Proceedings of the 6th Conference of the Polish Forensic Association* (Polskie Towarzystwo Kryminalistyczne).

PROFESSOR HEATHER DOUGLAS—

SEMINAR 17TH FEBRUARY

TITLE: EVIDENCE AND THE FEMINIST JUDGE

Heather Douglas is a Australian Research Council Future Fellow and a Professor at the T.C. Beirne School of Law, University of Queensland, Australia. She is currently visiting Durham University as an Institute of Advanced Studies fellow.

She researches in the areas of criminal justice and domestic violence and has published widely on criminal justice issues and around legal responses to domestic violence and child protection. Heather was the lead chief investigator on the Australian Feminist Judgments Project funded by the Australian Research Council.

In 2015 she commenced an Australian Research Council Future Fellowship to research the way in which women who have experienced domestic violence use the legal system to help them leave violence.

She is also currently working with the Australasian Institute of Judicial Administration on the development of a National Family Violence Bench Book, a project funded by the Australian Commonwealth Government. From 2001-2007 she was a part-time commissioner with the Queensland Law Reform Commission and in 2013 was appointed a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Law.



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