

# CRIMXXIEDITIONS

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**RUSSEL G. SMITH  
(AUSTRALIA):**

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remains a high priority  
for our research work'***

**ANTONIO GARCÍA  
CHAZARRA (SPAIN):**

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## **Director greetings to the readers:**

Welcome back criminology friends and forensic science lovers. In this third issue of CRIMXXI, you will be able to enjoy two interviews with professionals, this time from the world of applied criminology.

On one side we interview Antonio Chazarra, a criminologist of national prestige, and possibly symbolizes the old school of criminology in Spain, which had to face many vicissitudes to see the light in the way we conceive it today. I must confess that I am often surprised by the ease with which today we continue with the resorts of many college and university degrees in Spain, and there are people who waste their time ticking less criminologists to those who obtained their title with the old curriculum. People like Chazarra, Beristaín, Genovés and others, began their career into criminology, struggling at times when they studied what could be studied in this country, and they were the ones who opened the way for what today is normal, seeing the figure of the criminologist in Spanish universities, like Locard or Freud, without being criminologist and psychologist respectively, they opened the doors to these sciences and now having an academic formalization in universities around the world during the twentieth century .

The second interview is a heavyweight of applied criminology to criminal policy, this time from our Australian colleagues. Russel Smith, represents in 'Oceania' the banner of criminology at his side over social research. Only a few criminologists in Spain have managed to carry out studies of general or specific crime, which should be the basis for such as in Australia, the criminal policies of our country to be directed. Therefore, following the figure of Russell, we should have spent from the study of banditry into the macro-criminostatistic without any problems, like our counterparts in the land of the kangaroos, they have done from bushrangers to forums state investigation on tax crimes, money laundering, etc. We still have a long way to get to that point, and many bureaucrats without the knowledge or belief in the practical criminology we will have to overcome in this way.

Finally inform you that the magazine is already being distributed internationally, in both languages, and we are reaching corners of the world which we thought we would not be coming to, especially after our editorial team recruitment of Lorena Montes Palacio, who is coordinating all the outreach work through the internet of our still young CRIMXXI.

Enjoy reading the interviews as much as Nathalie Rademaker and Pau Jordan have done while they were writing them.

**Félix Ríos**

*Criminologist and Profiler. Director of CRIM XXI*

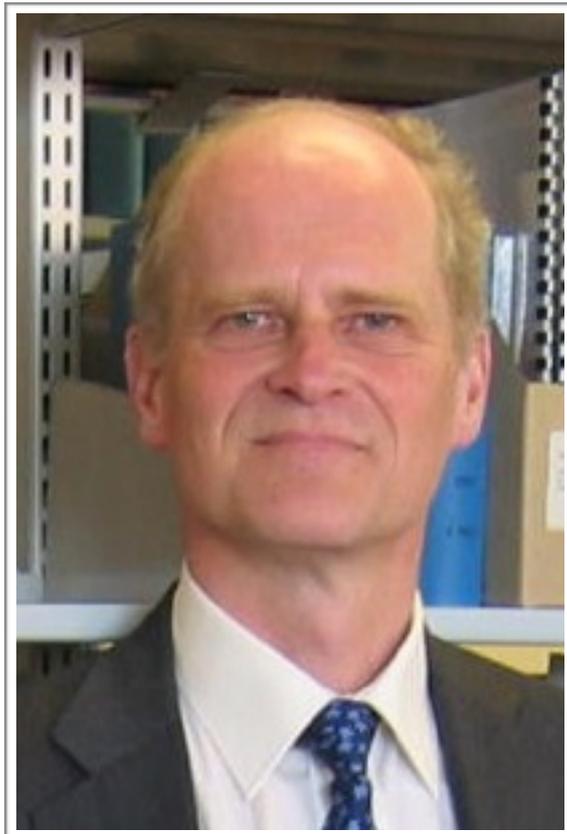
## Russel G Smith

(Australia)

We highlight the following from his professional curriculum:

- Russell Smith has qualifications in law, psychology and criminology from the University of Melbourne and a PhD from King's College London.
- He practised as a lawyer before becoming a criminology lecturer at the University of Melbourne.
- He then took up a position at the Australian Institute of Criminology where he is now Principal Criminologist and head of the Transnational, Organised and Cyber Crime Program.
- He has published extensively on aspects of fraud control, cybercrime and professional regulation.
- He is immediate Past-president of the Australian and New Zealand Society of Criminology and currently President of the Asia Pacific Association of Technology and Society.

*'...public-sector fraud remains a high priority for our research work'*



### ***What made you interested in Criminology?***

Crime and justice always fascinated me – and, of course, I come from a country that was established as a penal settlement in the late 18th century! I was also an avid reader of accounts of the exploits of Australian bushrangers of the 19th century, and I loved exploring police and folk museums in Australian bush towns. So, when I first studied law at the

University of Melbourne, I focussed on criminal law, the law of evidence, and certain elective subjects including criminology and legal history.

While I was in legal practice, I undertook graduate studies in Criminology and then commenced a master's degree in law and took subjects on sentencing, tenancy law, and medical ethics.

Once again, my interest in the more deviant aspects of society led me to undertake doctoral research into the regulation of medicine in Britain. This provided me with an opportunity to travel and to live in Europe for a number of years. Having completed doctoral research, one is naturally drawn to the attractions of an academic career with the temptation to publish one's thesis, which I managed to do a few years later in the form of a book, "Medical Discipline," published by Clarendon Press in Oxford in 1994.

***In what field do you work as a criminologist?***

I work for the Australian Government at the Australian Institute of Criminology which is Australia's national research and knowledge center on crime and justice. It seeks to promote justice and reduce crime by undertaking and communicating evidence-based research to inform policy and practice. I am Manager of a small team of researchers who focus on transnational, organised and cybercrime. We are the designated agency to collect information on fraud against all federal government agencies, which results in an annual report to government. This means that public-sector fraud remains a high priority for our research work.

We are also a member of the Australasian Consumer Fraud Taskforce and undertake an annual online survey of the personal fraud experiences of Australian consumers. Much of our research and public outreach is in the area of consumer fraud victimization which, in Australia alone, costs almost A\$2 billion a year in losses. The other focus of our research concerns business fraud and money laundering, and this tends to involve the preparation of risk assessments of new fraud and money laundering typologies that identify threats for the future. There's more information about the AIC at [www.aic.gov.au](http://www.aic.gov.au)

***What kind of functions do you have as a criminologist in the AIC?***

The Australian Institute of Criminology follows a standard path in conducting research and in formulating policy recommendations in new areas of crime. At the outset, funding needs to be secured, usually from government sources, although occasionally from the private sector. We then develop research proposals which form an agenda for a Roundtable Discussion in which a dozen or so stakeholders are invited to attend a face-to-face meeting to consider the proposals and to offer suggestions for further development. This ensures that the AICs research most accurately reflects the interests of all those involved and is targeted at the most critically important research questions.

Research will then be conducted and a report prepared which will be shared with stakeholders, once again, to seek their views on the recommendations proposed. Finalised reports are then made public and often road-shows will be conducted to disseminate the findings throughout the country. Senior policy makers will receive copies of the reports which can then form part of the evidence used to develop policy reform and promote legislative change, if necessary. AIC staff may be invited to address parliamentary committees of inquiry or speak with those developing new policies or legislation. The process, of course, is often lengthy, although it can be adapted where urgent reforms are required.

### ***What Projects are you currently developing?***

At the moment I am developing a survey of victims of consumer fraud (online scams) in Australia. The study aims to replicate and develop a survey undertaken by the AIC in 2010 that sought to determine and to quantify the factors that make an individual vulnerable to scams and lead to his/her victimization (see <http://www.aic.gov.au/publications/current%20series/tandi/401-420/tandi420.html>). The research will employ a similar structured questionnaire to that used in the earlier study and will be applied to a wider sample throughout Australia.

The questionnaire will ask respondents to report their exposure to approaches made by persons unknown to them through electronic media (primarily email) seeking assistance in return for financial reward, their responses to these approaches, and any ongoing contact with the originators of the contact. Additional information will be collected on known risk factors for consumer fraud. The information provided to participants will also offer assistance and/or counselling should they require this.

The research results will be used to assist with the development of preventive measures and target-oriented awareness programs. Completing the questionnaire will also help to increase awareness of online scams, and convince scam victims that they have been defrauded and that they should cease sending further payments overseas.

We are also planning to undertake similar research with partner organisations in the United Kingdom and China (Hong Kong) to obtain some comparative data on consumer fraud.

### ***Do the results of your investigations produce real effects? That is, do the authorities of your country put in place changes in criminal justice policies following the results of your investigations.***

It is quite difficult to measure the impact of our research, as it often forms the evidentiary foundation of a number of new government initiatives. Often, our new empirical research identifies a crime problem that the government then needs to address. Examples of this include our work of fraud and corruption against the government, identity crime and misuse of personal information, money laundering and financing of terrorism, and cybercrime generally.

Our research on cybercrime in the early 1990s was some of the first of its kind in Australia, and globally, and we published a number of books including *Crime in the Digital Age: Controlling Telecommunications and Cyberspace Illegalities* (1998), *Electronic Theft: Unlawful Acquisition in Cyberspace* (2001), and *Cyber Criminals on Trial* (2004). These all provided a foundation for understanding the crime risks created by computers and how to respond to them. Using this research, the government has established a National Plan to Combat Cybercrime <http://www.ag.gov.au/CrimeAndCorruption/Cybercrime/Pages/default.aspx>

and created the Australian Cybercrime Online Reporting Network, which is a centralised reporting portal for all types of cybercrime – see <http://www.acorn.gov.au/>

Similarly, our work on identity crime has led to the government establishing a National Identity Security Strategy <http://www.ag.gov.au/RightsAndProtections/IdentitySecurity/Pages/NationalIdentitySecurityStrategy.aspx> and a Document Verification Service to verify evidence of identity documents among public and private sectors <http://www.ag.gov.au/RightsAndProtections/IdentitySecurity/Pages/DocumentVerificationService.aspx>

These initiatives were developed following analysis of the research that the AIC and other agencies did into these crime problems.

### ***In what ways do you help State Security Forces?***

The AIC works very closely with all law enforcement and Intelligence agencies in Australia, and also in other countries and a number of our recent research projects have been commissioned by police departments. We have recently undertaken research for the Australian Federal Police to examine a sample of their completed criminal cases involving online child exploitation to determine whether people who download child exploitation material go on to groom children for sexual contact. The results of this research will be published soon.

We have also undertaken extensive research for Australia's financial Intelligence unit (AUSTRAC) to assess the nature of money laundering and financing of terrorism risks, and perceptions of those in the community who are asked to control it. Other recent research for the Australian Crime Commission has attempted to assess the cost and impact of organised crime in Australia, and we have undertaken other research looking at the problem of crystal methamphetamine, particularly in the State of Victoria.

The AIC also conducts a number of crime monitoring programs in which it gathers data on the nature and extent of particular crime problems and law enforcement issues. These include financial crime, human trafficking, deaths in police custody, homicide, armed robbery, consumer fraud, and a number of drug-related questions. These datasets are regularly used by police and other government bodies for policy purposes.

**NOTE:** *Russell Smith's views are personal and don't necessarily reflect the policies of the Australian government.*



## Antonio García Chazarra

(Spain)

We highlight the following from his biographical details:

- After completing Highschool and University, he started working in the free exercise of the profession, in private enterprises, engaged in the construction of roads, tunnels and bridges or viaducts (the last one was Orio). He trained for a position in public competition, specialty, in the DFA, and achieved it. In 1973, he obtained the title of Civil Pilot, and several airline concurse championships. In 1981, at the Nautical School of Bilbao, he conducted studies skipper. And then came the adventure and honor to meet Professor Beristain.
- In the newly founded Vasco Institute of Criminology, he performed studies in Criminology, Master and Private Detective. He always tells his pupils that they should have a subject in the Degree called: 'Biography of Antonio Beristain'.
- In 2008 in the XV World Congress of Criminology he was given, the Special Prize of Criminology.
- In 2011 the Vasco Institute of Criminology named him the Honorary Member of the same.

*'...it's a difficult profession to implement, but very beautiful and helpful. But you have to put in that implementation: fight, commitment, enthusiasm and everything will be fine. That's the job of each professional'*





***What is for you Criminology?***

The study of the prevention and treatment of crime, the criminal and the victim.

***What motivated you to become a Criminologist?***

Finding out that the studies were not at the level they deserved, since It was a private Title, we had to make it an official title, an University Degree, with all its consequences. I liked the challenge. It was a little unequal struggle, but it didn't matter. We began by founding a Federation called FACE, to have more moral force.

In this struggle we got support from great figures in the world of Criminology, such as Antonio Beristain Ipiña, Esther Giménez-Salinas (Rector of the University Ramon Llull), J.L. de la Cuesta, etc. And politicians like Mayor Oreja (Secretary of State for the Home Department), Javier Rojo (President of the Senate), Pilar Castillo (Minister of Education), etc. It took several years, but eventually we made it.

***How well settled is your profession in your country? Is it possible to practice it easily?***

Criminology, as a profession, can be possible in Spain, in almost any field of work, both public and private (in the security forces, universities and schools, councils, ministries, offices of Victim Care, intervention in mediation processes, Private Investigation, Judicial Experts). But we are still waiting for Spanish institutions to believe in it and to create new suitable jobs. Initiatives happened, such as in the City of Benidorm, which in 2010

established a public job for a Criminologist, and where Justo López works professionally proving to be an excellent criminologist. This should be imitated. Or the Fiscal Coordinator Road Safety Board bet on criminological reports on crimes committed in this area are a sign of progress in this line. In this particular experience, the head of the Public Prosecutor Road Safety and the head of Alicante have derived to the inclusion in the stage of preliminary criminal investigation about cases against road safety, reckless homicide and aggravated recidivism, a criminological expert report on the accused, as an aid to determining the imposition of the appropriate legal consequences. We are negotiating with several city councils the inclusion of criminologist in the General Plans as a part of the team. And we keep on fighting.

***How is the life of a criminologist?***

One thing is how it is, and a different thing is how it should be if all the conditions which I have expressed were achieved. Now there is frustration and hopelessness when they see that they have been spending four years at the University when business and public administrations are unaware of its utility.

***How does this profession affect into your personal life?***

In my private life, it affects me in the way I help others to come forward and fight for their place in society.

***What positive and negative aspects would you remark about this profession?***

As a positive aspect: the fields of action to intervene, but as I told before, focus in convincing companies and administrations that we are useful to society.

As a negative aspect: the struggle that they must develop to be known as a professionals. They are the best, no doubt, but they have to prove it. We are in a very competitive society. Work is not going to knock on your home door.

***Tell us a curious case that you remember.***

It was an interesting one, for its originality. It was a kidnapping of a girl, locked in an apartment in Vitoria, of Belgian nationality. Her parents entrusted us her rescue, we did it and we took her to their country. I can't give many details, as you will understand, but one thing: the flat where the girl had been was in the neighborhood of immigrants, and 3 men were guarding her. We put the place under surveillance for some time. And found out that one day a week only one of them remained with her. That day we went and one of us got the girl and another one of us held the suspect. We already had a car and a plane ticket prepared.

***What kind of projects are you currently working on?***

It's always the same, at the end, as you see, we are still far from making aware the Administrations and companies that Criminologists exist, and what they do. Lately we have

presented it in the Ministry of Justice to let them know before redacting the Statute of the Victim. With the Nation of Mexico we also have contacts and with Morocco too.

***Outside the field of training, what kind of work do you practice as a criminologist and for how long?***

In the field of private investigation. It's been 16 years.

***Do you think that in the education sector of Criminology in Spain universities are taking precedence in the the tax collection spirit rather than the wish to train good professionals and provide them appropriate work practices and integration? How do you think this problem can be solved?***

I am, with some exceptions, convinced of it, although I know this might not appeal to some universities, who rushed to see a new revenue stream, and a solution for their unemployed teachers from other specialities. Some universities called to the Association, expressing their surprise about this fact. They did not like the answer.

***In your opinión, whose responsibility is that after more than 20 years of university Criminology in Spain and almost 2000 graduates in two years ahead it is less than a dozen criminologists who serve as such outside the field of teaching?***

The main responsibility lies with the universities, which did not report them to prospective students the reality of the labor market, they did it as a novel dream, where they could work. There is no denying that the latter is true, but as Churchill said to the british: the recovery would be with "blood, sweat, strain and tears." I tell them to get with "effort and sweat."

With this motto will be achieved and what should be the field. They should teach some criminologists at the University already suffering the problem.

***At the time of your practice as a private investigator, How were the 24 hour working any given day?***

24 hours of mine work passed: 8 hours Engineer (in the Directorate of Roads of the Provincial Council of Alava DFA) in inspection and control of roads, tunnels and bridges, five hours or that they were necessary in my 2nd profession of private detective, and the rest, including holidays and parties, advised by Professor Beristain, as criminologist, struggling to found the AVC and FACE, and continuing along the degree.

***What advice would you give to students or people who are interested to set out on this field?***

They have chosen a difficult profession to implement, but very nice and helpful. But you have to put in that implementation: fight, commitment, enthusiasm and everything will be fine. That is the job of each professional. The Professional Associations support them, but every effort will be by them.



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