

New Voices in European Criminal Law: Part 2

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It was five years ago that the *New Journal of European Criminal Law* published a special issue on ‘New Voices in European Criminal Law’ under our co-ordination. The special issue provided a platform to doctoral candidates and early career researchers to showcase their work in the field of European criminal law by hosting primarily authors who had presented their work in the 4th Annual Ph.D. Conference of the European Criminal Law Academic Network (ECLAN). Five years later, it is with great pleasure to continue the tradition that was created in 2015, by co-editing the publication of the second edition of the special issue entitled ‘New Voices in European Criminal Law: Part 2’. This special issue is a further reflection of the commitment of the Journal to nurture and support ground breaking work by early career researchers. The vast majority of the papers included in this special issue were submitted in response to a dedicated call for papers, which received an overwhelming response by prospective authors that clearly demonstrates the dynamic development and richness of European criminal law as a distinct academic field. We would like to thank the authors for superb commitment and dedication to delivering high-quality articles and bringing this special issue to life.

What do the articles included in this special issue reveal about the current state and future of academic research on European criminal law? And how have the topics that today’s researchers are interested in changed compared to five years ago? In the previous special issue, some authors’ research focused on the relationship between European criminal law and European constitutional law and EU citizenship, while others focused more on specific challenges arising from the institutionalisation of European criminal law on the one hand and from the establishment of new forms of EU judicial co-operation in criminal matters on the other, including the application of the principle of mutual recognition in criminal matters. The contributions in this special issue demonstrate that European criminal law remains a dynamic and evolutionary field of research. Novel questions about the challenges posed by EU instruments on mutual recognition remain at the top of the research agenda (Martufi and Gigencack, Šubic). Furthermore, a number of contributors are interested in the interplay between the EU legislation and case law and domestic legal orders, including vulnerable suspects’ or migrants’ rights (Minetti, Mergaerts and Dehaghani, Martufi and Gigencack). Third, questions about the use of modern technologies in judicial cooperation in criminal matters, such as facial recognition and exchange of financial data, also emerge prominently in a number of contributions (Neroni, Mouzakiti). Ultimately, the contributions put the individual in Europe’s Area of Freedom, Security and Justice at the centre of attention, whereby authors comprehensively examine current developments in European criminal law and inevitably their impact on fundamental rights and the rule of law.

With the special issue hosting high-quality, self-standing academic contributions of scientific rigour and originality, one cannot be but optimistic about the bright future of European criminal

law as a field of academic research. And hopefully the next instalment of this special issue of the *New Journal of European Criminal Law* will be there to celebrate it.

In addition to the articles appearing in the special issue, and continuing our long-standing commitment to publish work by established scholars, we are delighted to host the article by Linda Groning alongside Unn Haukvik; Gerben Meynen and Susanna Radovic on “Constructing Criminal Insanity: The roles of Legislators, Judges and Experts in Norway, Sweden and the Netherlands”.

Valsamis Mitsilegas, Niovi Vavoula and Irene Wieczorek