The Bologna workshop was focused on understanding recent changes in the political and institutional framework of Europe in order to assess the question of prevention of crime with regard to those most delicate issues of ethnicity and especially migration.

The workshop was developed on two days covering several aspects. The first day was devoted to exploring migrants’ deviance, from a general overview of methodological aspects to interventions which focused directly on the link between deviance and migrations, particularly the deviance of young generations. The first session began with a presentation by Marian Fitzgerald (University of Kent) on *The Use and Abuse of “Ethnic” Statistics in a Criminal Justice Con-
Some Lessons from the British Experience which dealt with the persistent pattern of over-representation of “ethnic minorities” in the British criminal justice system, as described by statistical data. Marian Fitzgerald argued that these ethnic statistics fail to reflect the complexity of the ethnic makeup of British society in an age of increasing immigration and multiculturalism and lend themselves to what the author defines “statistical racism”, i.e. oversimplified ethnic classifications (e.g. “white” vs “black”), which in turn might inspire shortsighted and discriminatory crime policies. Ethnicity should not be reified into being a “thing” – she stated – it is rather a “process”. She concluded that the challenge facing criminologists today is to develop a constructive mindset enabling them to draw general lessons from the particular situation of minorities in the UK.

After this methodological introduction, the focus turned to the particular topic of migrants’ deviant behaviour, especially migrant youth. The paper by John Pitts (University of Bedfordshire), entitled Ethnicity, migration and violent youth gangs in London provided an account of the emergence, nature, and impact of armed youth gangs in East London. The intervention, introducing the topic addressed by Prof. Pitts’ book Reluctant Gangsters (2008), presented in detail the gang structures and their distribution on the East London territory, their legal and illegal activities, and their impact on the area. It also explored some successful interventions by social services, schools and the police in order to understand and prevent this phenomenon. The following presentation, Second Generations, Stigmatisation and Italian schools: First Results of a Self-Report Study in Emilia-Romagna by Ester Massa (University of Bologna), broached the subject of second generation immigrants, a category that most classical criminological literature sees as most exposed to the risk of criminalisation. The intent was to present the early results of a self-report study in twenty-seven schools of the Italian Region of Emilia-Romagna, the Region with the highest relative rate of migrant presence in public schools. The study tried to understand whether the school environment and the way in which schools are structured and managed may result in a lower self-esteem among migrant youth, in turn linked to the youngsters committing certain acts of deviance. Then came the paper by Monia Giovannetti (University of Bologna), presented in French, Parcours d’inclusion et exclusion des mineurs immigrés non accompagnés en Italie. The study presented a first attempt, in Italy, to investigate the processes of social exclusion and introduction into deviant behaviour of so-called foreign “unaccompanied minors”. Based on the life stories of seventy foreign minor youths met in penal institutions for minors and community centres in three Italian cities (Bologna, Milan, Rome), the author tried to reconstruct through interviews the youths’ migratory routes and the circumstances that led them either to being criminalized or accepted into community centres (and therefore, ostensibly, integrated into life in Italy). The study came to the conclusion that, by and large,
their “choice” whether to engage in deviant activities, and become subsequently the object of criminalisation, or to insert themselves in the life of community centres, rested on a web of micro-opportunities having to do with the half-hazard structure of the chancy encounters in the city as soon as arrived, rather than on any biographic pre-termination. Therefore, beyond the mere working of the principle “there, but for fortune...”, what could be done – Giovannetti concluded – is to structure a network of “good encounter” opportunities, especially in the big cities (in railway stations, etc.), that may give these “unaccompanied” youngsters a chance to a positive outcome.

In the afternoon of the first day, the workshop was dedicated to the comparison of two different European regions: Emilia-Romagna, of which Bologna is capital, and the French-speaking area of Belgium. Abraham Franssen and Ural Manço (Facultés Universitaires Saint-Louis, Bruxelles) presented a paper called *Public treatment of young immigrants living in Brussels, stigmatisation of Islam versus integration through a political clientele*, which analysed the historical background and the political treatment of immigration in Brussels since the 1970s, and tried to assess the overall success or failure of this integration “made in Brussels”. In so doing, they analysed the migrants’ political participation and representation, the weakening of survived racist discourses and radical political parties, the social and urban rehabilitation of poor and immigrant areas, the remaining school segregation, the ethnic discrimination on the labour market, and the ethnicisation of political life. In their conclusions, they highlighted the crucial importance of naturalization processes for the integration of migrants. Later, and rather differently, Giovanni Sacchini (Regional Government of Emilia-Romagna) moved the focus of his presentation, *Ten Years of Research on Public opinion About Immigrants and Immigration in Emilia-Romagna*, from the objective to the subjective point of view, comparing the results of official records and data for Italy and the UE to the answers given by Emilia-Romagna citizens to a survey promoted by the Regional Government in which they were asked whether they agreed with a number of statements about migration and crime. Then, he indicated the major relationships between the results and some crucial socio-demographic factors, as well as the trust the interviewees put into various social institutions and the media. Sacchini’s paper concluded the first day of our workshop.

The second day sessions had as its first main theme, *What Works and What Does Not in Emilia-Romagna*, focusing on the interventions in the region and its policies dealing with immigration and integration. The presenters in this session all worked in the Regional Government and had a qualified experience in the field of urban security studies. Samanta Arsani presented a paper called *Migrants in Sassuolo. A case study: the service network dedicated to immigration and the repatriation experience*, dealing with the subject of the impact that
the repatriation of undocumented migrants has on the community of Sassuolo (a city in the Modenese area of about 40,000 inhabitants) and on the migrants themselves, mostly Moroccans. Rossella Selmini and Marzio Barbieri instead talked about Immigrants in Emilia-Romagna Between Social Integration and Criminalisation. In their paper, they reconstructed local and national policies for so-called “urban security”, especially in relation to migration policies. Two aspects – they claimed – are particularly important. On the one hand, the contradiction between a tradition of inclusive policies by local administrators and their clash with national policies which are all geared to forms of criminal and administrative control. In this manner, the priorities of local security policies are decided centrally whereas the policies must then be executed locally. On the other hand, the restrictive slant of recent national policies clash with the basic integrative inspiration of local policies, based on concepts of service and opportunity creation. The result is one of heightened conflict. In the afternoon, for the last intervention in the workshop, the theme switched to that of inmates’ rehabilitation, in particular in the case of immigrant prisoners, with the paper by Stefania Crocitti (University of Bologna) called Foreign Detainees: A Challenge for the Italian Prison Administration. In this paper, three main aspects were discussed, from the period before imprisonment (deterrence), to those relating to the period during imprisonment (rehabilitation), and after the release (recidivism and expulsion orders – compelling the removal from Italy of certain convicted foreigners). The author touched on each of these topics, relying on official data of the Italian prison population and previous research findings. In addition, she analysed the results of a study she carried out in the penitentiary institutions of two Italian regions, Calabria and Emilia-Romagna, on a sample of two-hundred foreign detainees, aimed at exploring the relationships between integration and migrants’ crime.

At the end of the two-day workshop, Dario Melossi (University of Bologna) concluded with a comment on the current reality of processes of criminalisation in Europe. What American sociology of deviance in the 1960s called “labelling” may indeed be applied to the current situation of migrants in Europe – he claimed – especially in relation to their condition of, not only social and economic, but also legal, marginality, especially in the case of so-called “undocumented” migrants. In particular he offered the view that the dimension of labelling is a dimension that should be integral to all the traditional explanatory mechanisms of criminalisation processes, from anomie theory to differential association, from control to ecological theories. He also claimed that the kind of removal of labelling theory from the bad conscience of American criminology that took place after the 1970s, has worked even more smoothly in Italy recently, where a sociology of deviance has been a very recent import and where it has been particularly easy for Italian sociological newcomers in the field – who have only recently discovered the
gold mine of “crime” and “security”! – to shape once more a kind of criminology which is ancillary to political and legal power.
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