



Manuel Eisner, PhD

[Wolfson Professor of Criminology](#)
Institute of Criminology, University of Cambridge

“I could kill him” – victimisation, violent ruminations, and human evolution

Humans develop far more violent ideations than actual violent acts. Especially among young men fantasies of homicide and other types of serious harm are widespread. However, we lack a good understanding of the developmental and situational processes that trigger violent fantasies. One possibility is that they represent part of an evolved revenge and retaliation mechanism that responds to personal or vicarious threats to one’s survival. This evolutionary hypothesis would lead to the expectation that experiences of victimisation lead to an increase in violent ideations, especially in men.

To examine this hypothesis I will present findings from the Zurich Study on the Social Development from Childhood to Adulthood, a longitudinal study (ages 7 to 20) of a normative sample of 1400 participants. I will present a new instrument to measure violent ideations, the violent ideations scale. I will then examine the extent to which different types of violent victimisation (parental corporal punishment, bullying victimisation, serious violent victimisation) at age 17 predict change in violent ideations.

Date: Friday, 15 December 2017

Hour: 13:00

Place: Aula Magna, Edifici del Teatre, Campus Mundet



Institut de Neurociències
UNIVERSITAT DE BARCELONA



UNIVERSITAT DE
BARCELONA

Campus d'Excel·lència Internacional

B:KC Barcelona
Knowledge
Campus

HUB Health
Universitat
de Barcelona
Campus