Enterprising Criminology Conference

The project brief

Arrangement of the 4\textsuperscript{th} Annual UK PGR Criminology Conference: "Enterprising Criminology – How to get noticed, what you can do beyond academic outputs?" by PhD students in the Centre for Criminological Research at The University of Sheffield.

Key impacts

The conference provided an opportunity to present early findings in a supportive environment, meet others working in a similar field and discover how best to publish and disseminate research findings. The key impacts were improving awareness of enterprising means of disseminating research and the ability to develop networks with other PhD students working in similar fields.

Outcomes observed

All delegates reported that they found the conference useful, and 92\% reported making contacts at the conference that they would use in the future. Indeed, only one person did not find the networking / socialising opportunities at the conference useful. With regards to informing delegates of the various means of disseminating their research, 80\% reported that they were now better informed as to how to access traditional routes to publication, and 85\% felt better informed about how to make use of non-traditional routes to dissemination (e.g. twitter, blogs, working with 3\textsuperscript{rd} sector agencies etc). Only 2 delegates reported that they did not find these panels useful.

Networks built during the conference have been maintained with people who attended being approached to participate in the School of Law’s criminology postgraduate seminar series (Crimsoc).

The legacy

Whilst this was a one-off event for the School of Law (this annual conference is hosted by different universities each year) the networks established at the conference have been maintained by individuals studying in the department.

This is an Annual conference programme and this year it will be hosted by the University of Oxford. All those who attended last year will be invited (as well as being open to any other Criminology PhD student) to help maintain and build the networks established last year.
Enterprise

‘Enterprise’ was a key theme during the conference, with a particular emphasis during the expert panel sessions on enterprising means of disseminating research. There was also a plenary session by Professor Paul Wiles which explored writing for policy makers and informed delegates about means of disseminating research, which can be used instead of, or as a complement to, traditional journal articles/monographs.

Innovation

Innovation was also evidenced through the expert panel sessions, indeed encouraging delegates to think about new forms of dissemination and having a session on new social media was (in the field of criminology at least) innovative. This was further evidenced through people micro-blogging about the conference over the course of the two day event.

As noted above, these aspects of the conference were found to be useful by the vast majority of delegates, 85% of whom felt better informed about how to make use of non-traditional routes to dissemination.

Quotes and personal experience

“Excellent opportunity to listen to wide variety of research projects from inspirational researchers. Good timing at the end of August before new academic year.”

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