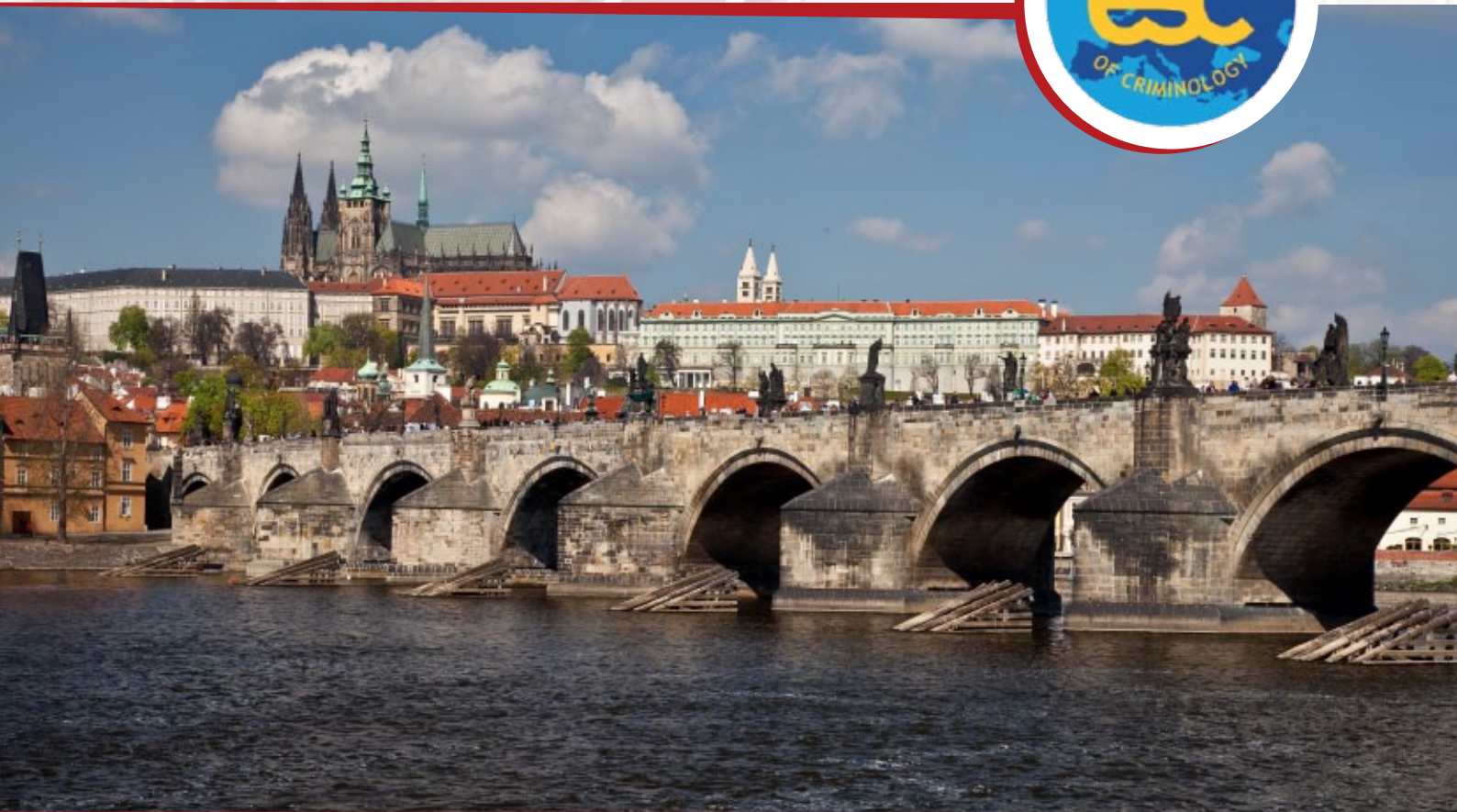




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Book of Abstracts

PA3-6

ETHNOGRAPHIES OF IMMIGRATION DETENTION

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There has traditionally been a special relationship between the state, its citizens and the territory it controls, often thought of as a form of contract binding the three together. Huge shifts have occurred in recent years, however. Increased international mobility means non-citizens are showing up, legitimately or illegitimately, in unprecedented numbers. Consequently, "the immigrant" has become a new political and administrative object for (Western) states. The states, in turn, are developing new systems for the greeting, evaluation, classification and ultimately either integration or deportation of the outsiders at the border.

Criminological scholarship has in recent years brought renewed attention to the transformative impact of migration on issues of crime and justice. Generally speaking, the focus has been on the impact of migration on crime practices and crime rates. Researchers have particularly focused on immigrant gangs, various forms of migration-related crime and the deepening of urban marginality. While acknowledging the importance of these contributions, we want to argue that there is also a need to describe systematically the specific impact that migratory flows have had on the everyday life of people on "both sides" in the migration control system.

Migration control is, as migration itself, an intrinsically transnational phenomenon and thus challenges traditionally national footing of state policies and state laws. It involves measures within and beyond national and European territories. These practices create novel spaces and notions of territoriality: 'in between spaces', borderlands or what Saskia Sassen has called 'third spaces'. Our objective is to examine the spaces where national systems of justice meet their limits. We want to study these institutions ethnographically, "from the ground up", partly to compare different institutions in different jurisdictions and partly to explore whether it makes sense to see these institutions as part of the same development on the European level.

Keywords: Immigration detention, migration, ethnography, globalisation