

UNIVERSITY OF
CAMBRIDGE

Institute of Criminology

Making Sense of Organised Crime and Criminal Governance

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Strategies for understanding and addressing organized crime
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What is organised crime?

**UN Convention against
Transnational OC (2000)**

“Organized criminal group” shall mean a structured group of three or more persons, existing for a period of time and acting in concert with the aim of committing one or more serious crimes or offences established in accordance with this Convention, in order to obtain, directly or indirectly, a financial or other material benefit.

UN Convention against Transnational OC (2000)

“Serious crime” shall mean conduct constituting an offence punishable by a maximum deprivation of liberty of at least four years or a more serious penalty.

UK National Crime Agency

Organised Crime Activities:

- Child sexual exploitation
- Counterfeit currency
- Cyber crime
- Drugs
- Illegal firearms
- Fraud
- Modern slavery and human trafficking
- Identity crime
- Intellectual property crime
- Kidnap and extortion
- Money laundering
- Organised theft
- People smuggling

How can we make sense of such a
multifaceted concept?

Making sense of organised crime

Fraud

Production

Organised
Theft

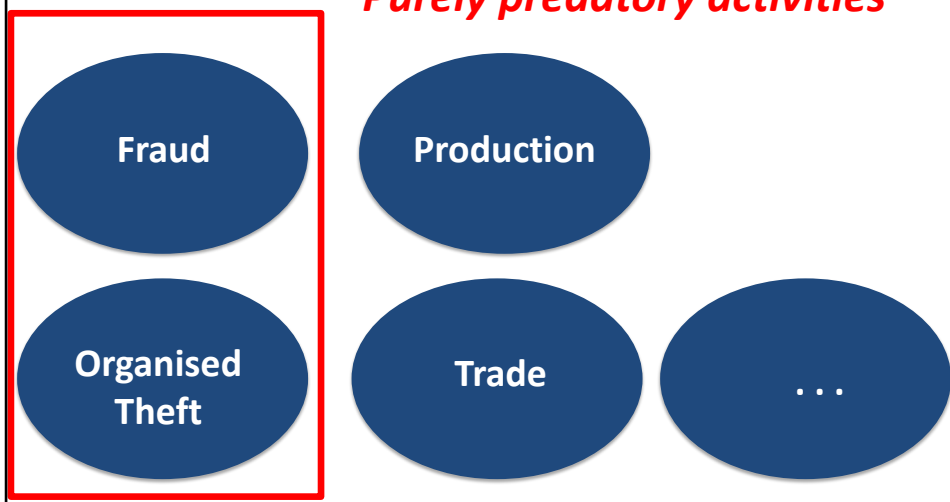
Trade

...

(Campana and Varese 2018, British Journal of Criminology)

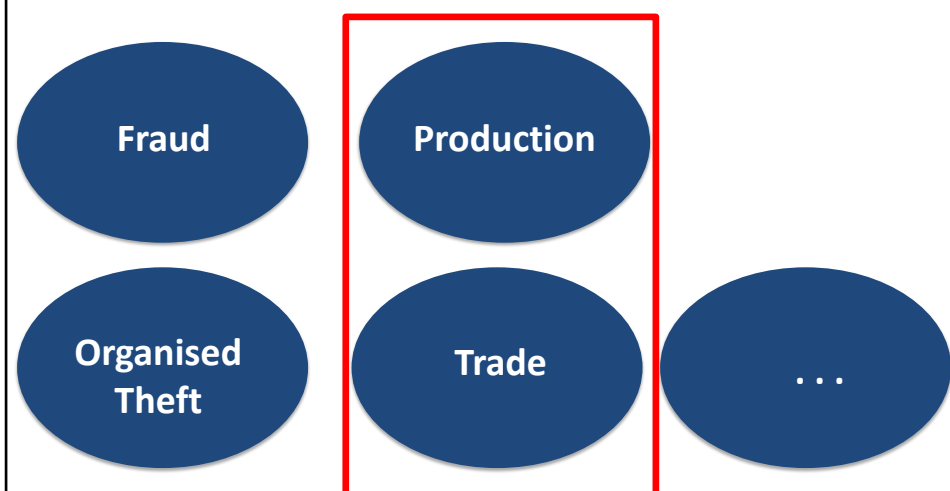
Making sense of organised crime

Purely predatory activities



Making sense of organised crime

Provision of illicit goods and services





Picture from www.vanguardia.com



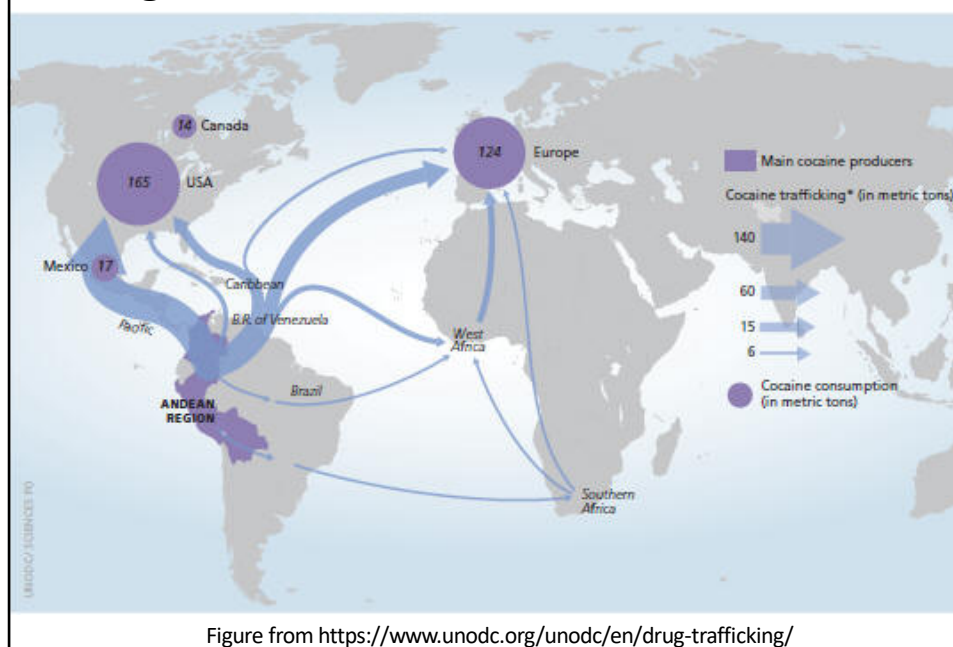
Opium Poppies in Myanmar (UNODC picture)



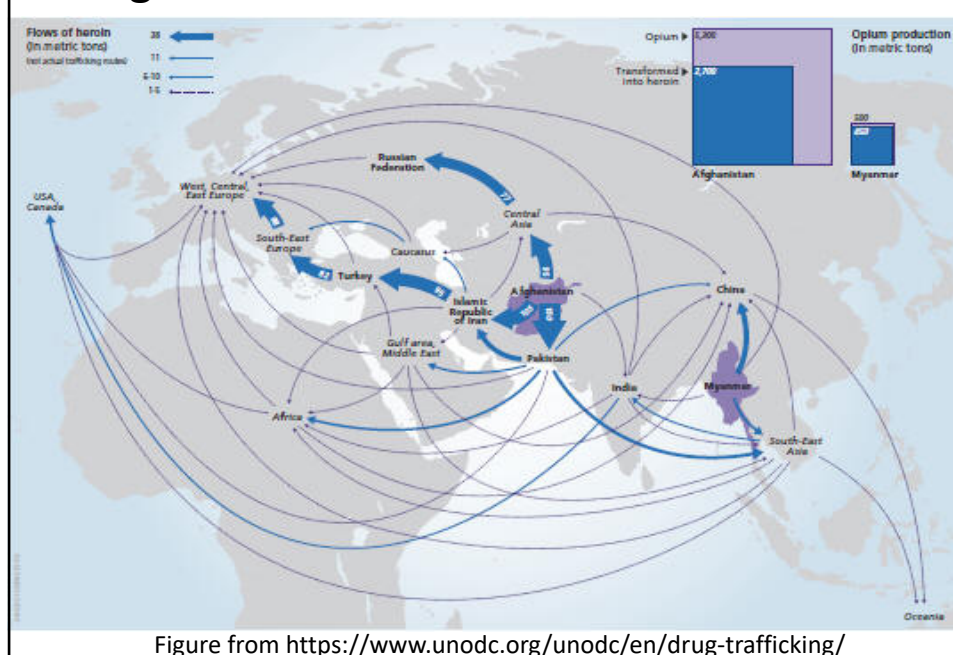
Picture from <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2460163/Half-million-cannabis-growers-UK-homes-Criminals-switching-harder-drugs-lenient-jail-sentences.html>



Main global cocaine flows



Main global heroin flows



Trade

Ghostmarket post

Selling Paypal Accounts

EDIT

X

!

QUOTE

By **solv3nt** » Fri May 08, 2009 11:34 am

Hey, some of you might know me as dentrino from other boards/irc

I'm selling Paypals, with cash & or CC & bank attached..
got some verified, unverified a bit of everything

I can negotiate a price with people interested for what they're
looking for, contact me on msn @ dentrino1@gmail.com

Currently only accepting LR as payment.

Thanks.

Dealings on the dark web

3.5g COCAINE - HQ IMPORTED PERUVIAN - VAC/MYLER SEALED - AU ONLY

Hello guys and girls!

FE ONLY SHOP! :)

11.05.2015 - BRAND NEW BATCH! BRAND NEW PHOTO! MOTHER OF PEARL!
LARGER QUANTITY IMPORTED! QUALITY IMPROVED AND PRICE DROPPED
DIRECTLY FOR YOUR BENEFIT! HOW I GET IT I PASS IT TO YOU :) GET IT WHILE
IT'S HERE! NOTHING ELSE LIKE THIS ON THE DOMESTIC AUSTRALIAN DARKNET
MARKETS I AM SURE OF IT!

Wow. Ok. Lets do this. This is a listing for 3.5 grams of amazing high quality oily to touch,
hard, rich in smell mother of all pearl white imported Peruvian cocaine!

I do NOT add filler/cutter into my products. Check out the photo. Nothing but what you
should expect from your dealer! I vac/myler seal every single order. Im not expecting this
listing to remain up for long. I am incredibly selective in all my products and finding a
supplier on the same page as me in terms of quality has been difficult to find! Search is
over! Come try it for yourself :) Get in quick while it lasts people!

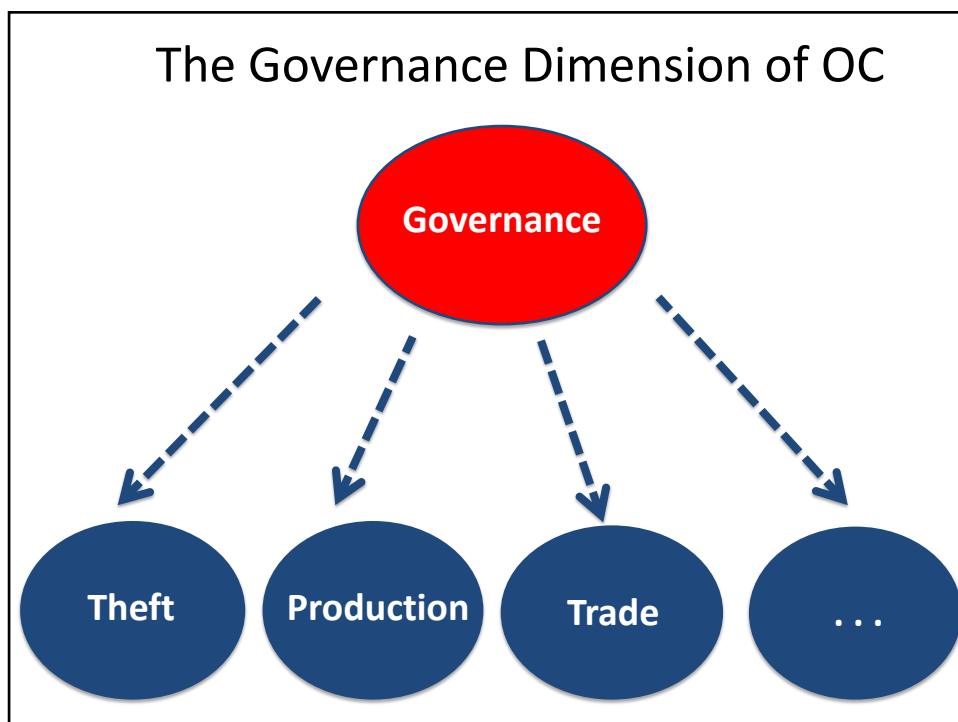
PACKAGING

I pride myself on my quick turnaround and stealth of my packaging. I vacuum and myler
seal every order under the strictest anti cross contamination conditions and my operation
complies (if tested by a government lab) with high grade sterilization techniques that would
conform to the ISO 11737 series.

All my orders are for DOMESTIC AUSTRALIA ONLY and I VAC/MYLER SEAL ALL MY
ORDERS! Nothing comes from overseas. This is strictly an Australian domestic operation.

PAYMENT

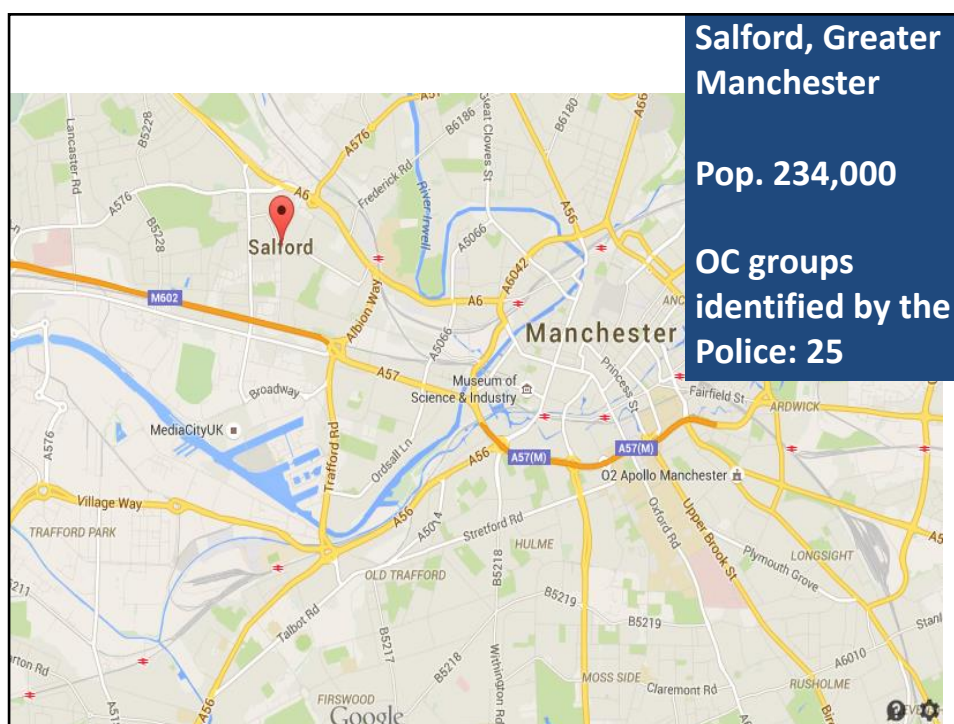
ALL MY LISTINGS ARE FE ONLY. I AM CONFIRMED AND VERIFIED BASED UPON MY
LEGACY SALES ON THE DARKNET MARKETS WHICH IVE BEEN A PART OF FOR A
LONG TIME (BEEN ON SR/BMR/SMP/PANDORA/UTOPIA/SR 2.0/AGORA/EVOLUTION
USING THE SAME PGP). I WAS OPERATING ON SR 2.0 MAINLY BEFORE IT WAS
TAKEN DOWN. EVOLUTION IS NOW MY HOME. HAVE A READ OF MY FEEDBACK.
CHEERS GUYS!



Criminal governance

- Analytical distinction between **producers/traders** and **protectors**
- Criminal/illegal governance challenges the primacy of states in providing protection, regulating exchanges, dispensing justice, and solving disputes
- **Criminal governance as an alternative way of regulating markets and (in some instances) a specific community**
- Produces systemic harm

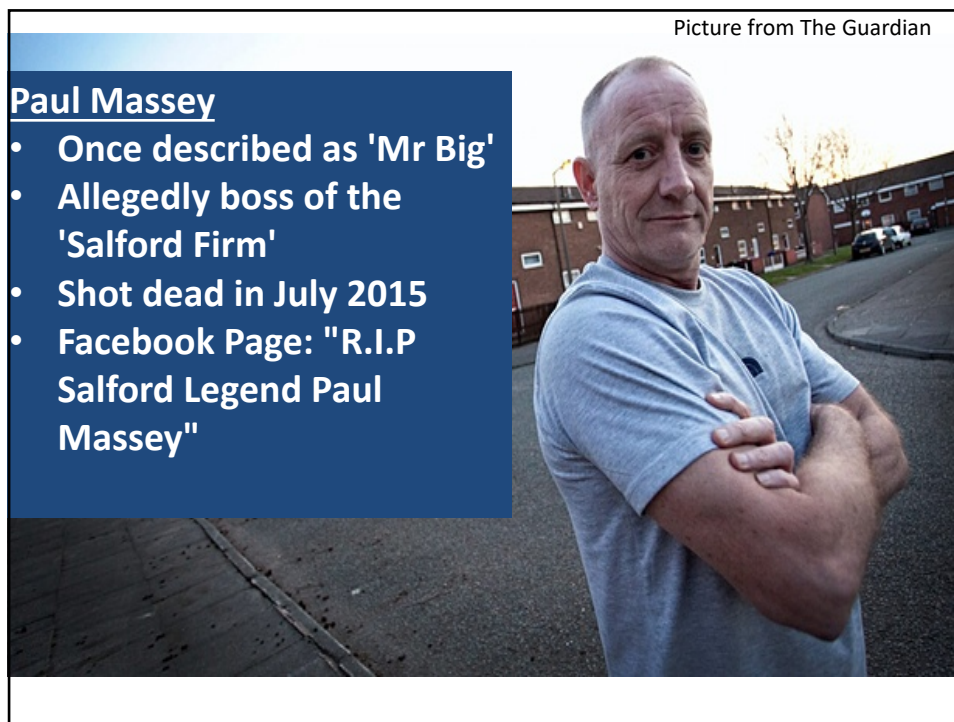




**Salford, Greater
Manchester**

Pop. 234,000

**OC groups
identified by the
Police: 25**



- “a locally well-known criminal gang” influencing the community life acting as “a quasi-political network” (Walklate and Evans 1999: 95).
- According to a police officer, the neighbourhood “has always been a self policing community” (p. 86)
- In one instance, the OCG set the amount of monetary damages that a joy-rider had to pay to a thirteen-year-old girl who had been knocked down during a public display of handbrake turns.

- Massey set up a security company officially. In a matter of a few years, the company obtained lucrative contracts to protect sites in Salford and Manchester.
- ‘These security firms are in effect protection rackets’ (Interview, 2016).
- Massey was involved in governing the drug market and solving disputes between gangs

- Acted as mediator in several gang conflicts across the United Kingdom
- He tried to run for Mayor of Salford (4.5% total votes)
- Reputation-boosting stories, e.g. an old lady had her pension-money stolen and he managed to track down the burglar and return the money to the lady
- Code of silence in the ward 'controlled' by Massey

- 'When Massey was killed I felt sad. I walked out of my office and just sat on a bench. Why did I feel sad? Yes, he was a criminal, but he was able to keep a lid on things, to keep things under control, and now there will be more violence.' (Interview, 2016)
- 'We also have our own Mafia. They murdered one of our own. There are two sides to each person. He has done some bad things but also some good things for the community. He had helped people.' (Interview, 2016)

Measuring Criminal Governance

- Measuring Criminal Governance: the **i-Gov Project** (with F. Varese, University of Oxford)
- Governance-related dimensions of OC:
 - 1) Generating fear in a community
 - 2) Coercing legal businesses
 - 3) Influencing public officials
 - 4) Controlling illicit markets
 - 5) Playing a role in community activities

Organised crime groups are scored (0-4) on these dimensions by police officers tasked with monitoring such groups.

Measuring Criminal Governance

- Greater London Area
- 86 gangs
- All gangs generate fear in the communities in which they operate
 - 58% of them generate *strong* fear
- 81% of gangs are able to exert some degree of control over the criminal market in which they operate – most likely a drug market – and 57% are able to exert *strong* control.

Measuring Criminal Governance

- However, fewer gangs are involved in the three key dimensions of governance: coercion of legal businesses, influence of public officials and involvement in community activities.
- 51 gangs (60%) are involved in at least one of these three activities;
- 16 (19%) have a *strong* involvement in at least one of these activities.

Conclusions

- Moving from just being fear-generating gang to a more complex organisation involved in criminal governance is not an easy task – and is a step that only a minority of gangs is actually able to make
- Providing criminal governance beyond illegal markets requires an even more complex set of resources and skills that fewer gangs actually possess

Conclusions

- Yet, criminal governance happens
- We find evidence beyond the areas traditionally associated with Mafia-type organisations
- Importance to measure criminal governance as distinct from other OC-type activities
- Importance to identify early signs of emergence of criminal governance/transition to criminal governance
- Criminal governance generates severe systemic harm

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