

## Q&A – 7 October 2021 – Dr. Manne Gerell

**1. Are there cases of over policing in the risky places in Sweden? Do you see community policing as helpful in those vulnerable neighborhoods?**

Yes, I believe vulnerable neighborhoods are both over- and under-policed. Many residents want more police, but young men who tend to be the ones stopped and similar are not always great fans. Community policing is certainly helpful, and it is something the police is working to build up more of.

**2. What is the risk of crime displacement to more “innocent” places?**

In general such crime displacement does not appear to be very big. Many studies have looked into this, and they tend to find that displacement is quite small, and in fact diffusion of benefits – reduction of crime in nearby places too – happens at times. With that said however, there is of course a risk that crimes can be displaced. There are no studies on that for gun violence in Sweden, but the Stockholm police have sometimes highlighted such explanations in explaining why some non-vulnerable neighborhoods have seen increases in gun violence.

**3. Other actors to be involved for a better development in local areas? The ideal team?**

A: The municipality is a key actor as they run the schools and the social services. I think in particular the schools are key to stop recruitment into the networks. There are a lot of kids that are failing school in vulnerable neighborhoods and that are at risk of being drawn into criminal networks. Another important actor is the property manager. In Gothenburg for instance the municipality owns property companies that house a lot of the residents in vulnerable neighborhoods, and they have now decided to invest about \$1 billion to improve the situation in vulnerable neighborhoods. The property manager can be a very important actor both for the physical and social environment, so this is an important development.

**4. What is the evidence that non-criminal youth become criminal by being stopped by the police?**

A: I do not think a single police stop has any such effect, and I am unsure if there is any evidence for police stops more broadly to have such an effect. It might have an effect in that direction if there are many stops of an individual, but that probably depends on the individual as well. It does fit with the labeling theory paradigm anyway, for which there is some evidence.

**5. Is it difficult to find Policemen that are prepared to work in such a risky neighborhood?**

A: It probably varies, but to some extent such troubles exist. The police have tried to improve the work environment and safety for police in those neighborhoods. The situation has improved too, in a sense. There is a lot less low level attacks and small riots now than a few years ago. The downside is that instead there are more weaponized attacks on the police. Bombs against police stations, shots fired at police officers homes, and similar. Very scary.

**6. Guayaquil is the city with more homicides rates (18 x 100.000 hb). Most of them are related with nacrotráfico. The police have concentrate a lot of officers in this areas, stop and search is the most common tactic used to**

**control the area, hot spot policing as well used but the rates does not down... What else must the police do to prevent the homicides.... It is crazy**

A: You are the expert on this, but I think one thing that is worth exploring is to try to get more precise in your actions. You could try to put patrols at the hottest times and the hottest places for instance, like I discussed in my talk. Another thing worth considering is to focus on the most violent individuals, networks and groups and put pressure on them, something that for instance is done in the focused deterrence/group violence intervention framework.

- 7. 1. Could you please elaborate on the drug sold in the market? 2. Is there a link between the type of drugs sold and the occurrence and rate of crime? Do you have any idea who the drug dealers are? Is it sufficient to associate them with a specific gang? Still, who are the members of the gang?**

A: 1. All, or at least almost all, involve cannabis. Many also involve medicine such as painkillers etc, eg., tramadol. When it comes to other drugs there are more differences. Mia-Maria Magnusson tracks the types of drugs sold in her Stockholm open drug scene survey which is done yearly.

2. There probably is, but we haven't looked into it.

3. Swedish police track members of criminal networks in each of the vulnerable neighborhoods, which would include most of the dealers in such neighborhoods as well. So the police know exactly, while I only have like an overview of what it looks like. They are mostly young males for sure, but that is quite self evident. Many, but far from all, live in the vulnerable neighborhoods. When they get older/advance in the hierarchy they tend to move away, but still do business in their old neighborhood. Swedish police label members of criminal networks (many of them are quite fluid/unstable organisations, so networks often a better term than gang) into four categories.

A = Criminal business. Have access to networks, skills, resources that can generate criminal opportunities to others, for instance the people who can take it a large shipment of drugs/weapons)

B = Doers. Selling drugs, shooting people etc. Who normally are labelled gang members in media etc

C = The hangarounds/youth. Younger, often early teens. Commit crimes, but not as serious. Have a big impact on social order of neighborhoods though.

D = Kids. Children might do services for the gang, but are too young to be considered criminals – they are children. They do however risk aging into more serious crimes as they grow up. The police do not always know these, and track them by proxies of how many kids that fail school as I mentioned in the Q&A.