

# Do prisoners meet their co-offenders in prison?

Lena Roxell

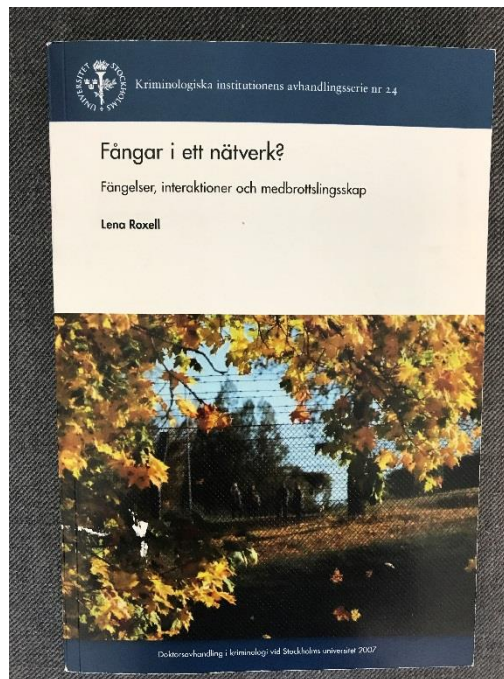
Department of Criminology

Stockholm University

Ten years ago ...

# Prisoners in a network?

## Prisons, interactions and co-offending



/Lena Roxell, Department of Criminology

# Research question

- Are new contacts established during a prison term that then result in co-offending subsequent to release?

# Background

- Schools of crime
- Prisons arena to meet new co-offenders
- Prisons gangs

# Result

64 individuals, 2% of a total of 3930 inmates, were suspected of committing offences together with a person with whom they had spent time in prison

Today ...

# 10-year follow-up study

Motivated by:

- The length of follow-up
- Very little research on the links between imprisonment and co-offending



# The questions

1. What is the frequency of co-offending among individuals who have been in the same prison at the same time?
2. Are gender, age, type of prison, offence type and prior experiences of co-offending of significance for co-offending following a joint period of imprisonment?

# Previous research and previous study

- Imprisonment has a criminogenic effect on reoffending
- Co-offenders are generally young
- Gender differences
- Offences theft, burglaries, robberies and drug offences
- Released from closed prison

# Study population and data

All inmates released from Swedish prisons during the period between 1 October 2001 and 31 March 2002, a total of 3930 individuals

Register of Suspected Offenders

1 January 1995 – 1 July 2004

2 July 2004 – 31 December 2011

**Table 1: Distributions of gender, age upon release and prison type in the study population N=3,930)**

	N	%
<b>Gender</b>		
Women	246	6
Men	3684	94
<b>Age</b>		
18-25	779	20
26-35	1161	29
36-45	1163	29
46-55	622	16
56-65	185	5
66-77	20	1
<b>Prison type</b>		
High security closed/ Closed	128	3
Closed	1483	38
Closed/open	898	23
Open	1421	36

Something new happens?

- 85%, 3353 subjects, of the study population had been suspected of committing an offence following their release from prison
- 3%, 109 subjects, of those who have been in the same prison at the same time are suspected of committing an offence together subsequent to release

**Table 5: Logistic regression analysis of whether gender, age, prison type and proportion of offences committed with co-offenders are associated with co-offending after release following a joint stay in the same prison. (N=3,930 )**

	Coefficient	Standard errors	Odds ratio
Women			1
Men	-.277	.404	.758
18-30 years			1
31-40 years	.657***	.241	1.930
41-77 years	.208	.273	1.232
Open prison			1
Closed/open prison	1.146***	.359	3.145
Closed prison	1.732***	.316	5.650
Proportion of offences committed with co-offenders			
	1.267***	.399	3.551
Constant	-5.736***	.375	

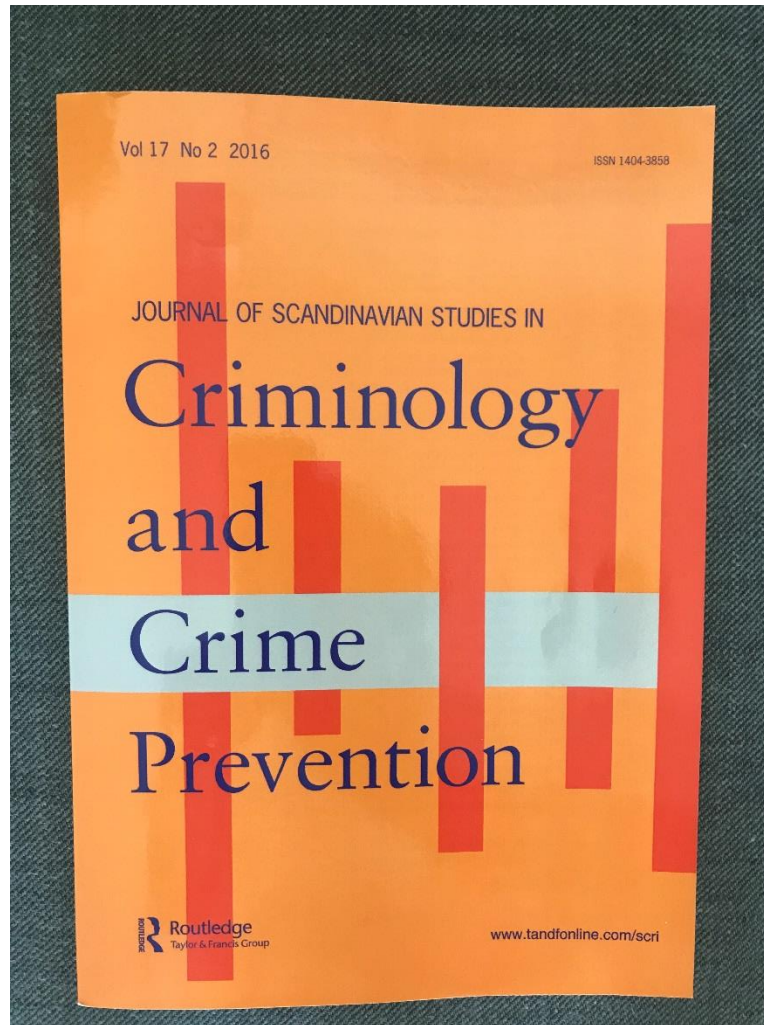
This means that the likelihood of being suspected of committing an offence together following the conclusion of a joint stay in the same prison is higher for

- those released from a closed prison
- who are aged 31–40
- and who had committed a large proportion of their offences together with others prior to the relevant prison sentence



# How can we understand the results?

- Timing of release from prison
- Inmates residential location
- Re-offending and arrested again
- Different behavior
- Return to their old networks



/Lena Roxell, Department of Criminology



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year follow-up study

Thank you!