



Kuralarasan Kumar

Post doctoral researcher in Quantitative criminology, IRCP, Ghent University

Date of birth: 24/08/1991 | **Nationality:** Indian | **Gender:** Male | (+32) 467667048 | kuralarasan.kumar@ugent.be

WORK EXPERIENCE

Sep 2022 – present– Ghent, Belgium

Post Doctoral Researcher – Ghent University, Belgium

- Conduct research on **crime patterns and offender decision-making**, applying **spatial modelling and network analysis techniques**.
- Provide **data-driven insights on spatio-temporal patterns of crime** to inform law enforcement and other stakeholders.
- Analyze and report **large spatial datasets** to understand spatial and temporal patterns of crime.
- Co-supervise a doctoral researcher in the **Belspo-BRAIN-BE 2.0 Project**, using **network analysis to link police and forensic data** for detecting hidden connections in serial and co-offending behavior.
- Supervise master's and bachelor's theses focusing on spatial analysis of crime.
- Organize journal club meetings and research presentations to **foster research development** and strengthen the team's **quantitative research skills**.

Dec 2020 – May 2022– Chennai, India

Assistant Professor and Head (in-charge) – DRBCCC Hindu College, Chennai, India

- Managed the **Department of Criminology**, overseeing **curriculum development**, faculty mentoring, and job placements for students.
- Taught courses on **research methodology, data analysis, and quantitative criminology** and crime prevention, community policing, child rights, and prison administration.
- Actively **mentored bachelor students**, guiding them in data collection, analysis, and research projects.

EDUCATION

2015- 2020 – Chennai, India

Ph.D. in Criminology and Criminal Justice Administration – University of Madras

- Dissertation: **“Target Selection Process in Burglary: A Study on Convicted Burglars of Tamil Nadu.”**
- Explored how offenders select locations, targets, and entry methods, drawing comparisons between **Indian and Western burglars**.
- Empirically tested target-selection behaviors through interviews with over **300 convicted burglars**, integrating **criminological theories** (rational choice, crime pattern theory) within the **Indian context**.

2013 - 2015 – Chennai, India

Master of criminology and criminal justice administration – University of Madras

- Covered **criminology theories**, police administration, human rights, and forensic sciences, **research methodology, statistical modelling, and crime prevention techniques**.
- Graduated as a **Gold Medalist and First Rank Holder**.

2010 - 2012 – Chennai, India

Bachelor of criminology and Police Administration – University of Madras

- Studied **foundational criminology theories, police administration, human rights, psychology and crime prevention**.

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS

- 2013 – 2015: Gold Medalist and First Rank Holder**
Awarded for securing the highest rank in the master's program at the University of Madras.
- 2015 – 2017: Junior Research Fellowship – University Grants Commission**
Highly competitive fellowship (0.2% success rate) supporting early-stage PhD research on burglary in Tamil Nadu.
- 2017 – 2020: Senior Research Fellowship – University Grants Commission**
Continued research funding, enabling **advanced comparative analysis** of offender target selection behaviours (Indian vs. Western contexts).
- 2015: National Eligibility Test (NET) Qualification**
Demonstrated academic proficiency for faculty positions in criminology.
- 2021: Best Research Paper Award – Indian Society of Victimology**
Honoured for outstanding research contributions on **victimology and crime prevention**.
- 2021: Best Research Paper Award – O.P. Jindal Global University**
Recognized for work on **victim assistance** and **offender decision-making**, emphasizing the impact of environmental factors on crime.

LANGUAGE SKILLS

Native language: Tamil

Other language(s): English, Russian, Dutch

	UNDERSTANDING		SPEAKING		WRITING
	Listening	Reading	Spoken production	Spoken interaction	
English	C1	C1	C1	C1	C1
Russian	B1	B1	A2	A2	A1
Dutch	A2	A2	A2	A2	A2

Levels: A1 and A2: Basic user; B1 and B2: Independent user; C1 and C2: Proficient user

ICT SKILLS

- SPSS – Advanced
- R programming – Advanced
- QGIS- Advanced
- ArcGIS – Intermediate
- Python – Beginner

JOB-RELATED SKILLS

Research Proficiency

- Expertise in **offender decision-making** and **crime pattern analysis**, utilizing **geospatial and network analysis methods**.
- Skilled in applying **criminological theories**—including rational choice, crime pattern theory, routine activity theory—to **spatial and behavioural studies** in urban contexts.

Data Collection and Field Investigation

- Conducted extensive field research with **300+ convicted burglars** and interviews across **four states** in India (Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra).
- Investigated **trafficking, sex work, and fear of crime**, employing **qualitative and quantitative** techniques.

Report Writing and Policy Evaluation

- Authored **policy briefs** and evaluation reports for the **National Commission for Women**, India, providing **evidence-based recommendations**.
- Provided inputs for **graffiti prevention** in Ghent through **spatial data analysis**.

Teaching and Mentorship

- Taught **research methodology** and **quantitative criminology**, focusing on **spatial analysis** and **GIS applications** in offender decision-making.
- Co-supervise **PhD students** and supervise **master’s and bachelor’s** students, guiding **GIS-based** and **network analysis** research projects.

Science Communication

- **Media Coverage:** Research on [street robber location choices](#) and [burglars’ target selection](#) was featured in *The Times of India*, *Sun News*, and *Chennai Citizen Matters*, garnering substantial public attention.
- **Stakeholder Engagement:** Presented findings on **graffiti writers’ spatial decisions** to *Dienst Preventie voor Veiligheid – Stad Gent* and on **burglars’ spatial decision-making** to *Dienst Maatschappelijke Veiligheid en Politie Leuven*.
- Published in top-tier criminology journals and presented at **international conferences**.

Selected Publication

Kuralarasan, K., Bernasco, W., & Vandeviver, C. (2024). Graffiti Writers Choose Locations That Optimize Exposure. *Crime & Delinquency*, 00111287241287133. <https://doi.org/10.1177/00111287241287133>

Vandeviver, C., Kuralarasan, K., Brantingham, P. J., & Bernasco, W. (2025). Target Choices in a Population of Illegal Graffiti Writers: Evidence of Consistency and Specificity. *Crime Science (under Review)*.

Kuralarasan, K., & Bernasco, W. (2022). Location Choice of Snatching Offenders in Chennai City. *Journal of Quantitative Criminology*, 38(3), 673–696. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10940-021-09514-9>

Kuralarasan, K., Krishnan, A., & Priyamvadha, M (2020). Spatial and Rational Choice in Drug Peddling at Kochi City: A Descriptive Analysis of News Reported in Print and Electronic Media during 2016-2017. *The Indian Police Journal*, 67 (1).

Kuralarasan, K., & Priyamvadha, M (2018). Rationality or opportunity: what matters in crime? A descriptive analysis of property crimes reported by electronic media in Chennai city and its outskirts. *Indian Journal of Criminology*, 1(1).

Reference

- Available upon request.