

Caterina Paternoster

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EDUCATION

- **Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore** November 2021 – February 2025
International Ph.D. in Criminology
Milan, Italy
Thesis Title: "Ties to Trus: Unveiling Patterns of Collaboration in 'Ndrangheta Clans".
Supervisors: Prof. Francesco Calderoni and Prof. Mario Andrea Lavezzi.
- **University of Manchester** February 2024 – July 2024
Visiting Ph.D. student at the School of Social Sciences, Department of Criminology.
Manchester, United Kingdom
- **Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore** October 2019 – September 2021
M.A. in Public Policies – Curriculum Security Policies
Milan, Italy
Dissertation Title: "Beneficial Ownership Transparency and Anti-money Laundering: An Exploratory Analysis" - Supervised by Prof. Michele Riccardi. Final Grade: 100/100, *cum laude*.
- **Università degli Studi di Padova** September 2016 – July 2019
B.A. in Political Science, International Relations, and Human Rights
Padua, Italy
Thesis Title: "Missing Inflation: An Investigation into Its Determinant" - Supervised by Prof. Gianfranco Tuset. Final Grade: 100/100, *cum laude*
Awarded the *Mille e una lode* merit scholarship in 2019.
- **Liceo Scientifico Leonardo da Vinci** September 2011 – July 2016
High School Diploma (EQF 4)
Trento, Italy

WORKING EXPERIENCE

- **Università Bocconi** January 2025 – Ongoing
Postdoctoral Research Fellow
Milan, Italy
- **Transcrime - Joint Research Centre on Innovation and Crime** November 2021 – December 2024
Researcher
Milan, Italy
- **Crime&Tech Srl** February 2021 – September 2021
Internship
Milan, Italy
- **Comune di Trento** September 2018 – October 2018
Internship
Trento, Italy

PROJECTS

- **FALCON** 2023 – December 2024
Fight Against Large-scale Corruption and Organized Crime | Horizon Europe
Aim: Mapping the trends and *modi operandi* of corrupt activities, developing and validating data-driven indicators and monitoring tools.
Contribution: Coordinated project activities on behalf of Transcrime; authored policy reports; delivered training sessions; presented findings at international and consortium conferences.
- **KLEPTOTRACE** January 2024 – July 2024
Strengthening EU asset recovery and sanction tracing against transnational high-level corruption | ISF
Aim: Improving the investigation, tracing and recovery of the assets related to transnational high-level corruption and to sanctioned regimes and entities through a combination of research, training, and data-driven tools.
Contribution: Investigated transnational high-level corruption and sanction evasion through case collection; contributed to policy reports.

• ALLIES

2023 – 2024

AI-based Framework for Supporting Micro and Small HSPs on the Report and Removal of Online Terrorist Content
| ISF

Aim: Supporting micro and small Hosting Service Providers (HSP) in achieving compliance with the new requirements and obligations under the “Terrorist Content Online” (TCO) Regulation.

Contribution: Conducted qualitative analysis through literature review and case analysis on online terrorist radicalization; supported in developing taxonomy and risk assessment module; authored policy reports and scholarly papers; presented findings at international and consortium conferences.

• CEASEFIRE

2022 – January 2024

Advanced Versatile Artificial Intelligence Technologies and Interconnected Cross-sectoral Fully Operational National Focal Points for Combating Illicit Firearms Trafficking | Horizon Europe

Aim: Increasing LEAs abilities to detect, analyze and track activities related to cross-border illicit firearms trafficking through the development of advanced AI technologies and the establishment on fully-operational National Focal Points to reduce exchange challenges.

Contribution: Conducted and developed the criminological analysis on the trends and *modi operandi* of firearms trafficking; authored policy reports and scholarly papers; presented findings at international and consortium conferences.

• CSABOT

2021 – 2023

Civil Society Advancing Beneficial Ownership Transparency, Preparatory action - Capacity Building, Programmatic Development and Communication in the Context of the Fight Against Money Laundering and Financial Crimes | Horizon Europe

Aim: Boosting awareness and building capacity of civil society actors on the role that beneficial ownership information could play in the prevention of and fight against money laundering and terrorist financing.

Contribution: Conducted qualitative analysis on the risk associated with lack of ownership transparency in the AML domain, summarized in a co-authored handbook; contributed to policy reports and scholarly papers; delivered trainings to civil society from selected EU member states; presented findings at consortium conferences.

• ANAC

2022

Identification and Evaluation of Conflicts of Interest | PON ‘Governance e Capacità Istituzionale 2014-2020’

Aim: Measuring the risk of corruption and transparency at the local level.

Contribution: Developed the methodology to identify economic interest and relevant links of individuals subject to declaration of absence of conflicts of interest; supported the exploratory analysis in a sub-sample of *responsabili per la prevenzione della corruzione e della trasparenza*, operating in local administrations; authored the final report.

• EBOCS III

2021

European Business Ownership and Control Structures | ISF

Aim: Providing simplified and unified access to Business Registries data on business ownership, with the intent of controlling structures through financial analysis and investigations, increasing their level of transparency.

Contribution: Analyzed data stemming from official beneficial ownership registers across some selected EU members states; authored the final report.

TEACHING

• Methods and Techniques of Criminological Research

2024

Teaching Assistant - 10h

Master Degree in Public Policy - Crime and Security Analysis, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Milan

OTHER QUALIFICATIONS

• Culture della Materia - Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore

2022-2024

- Models Applied to Crime Analysis | Faculty of Political and Social Science
- Methods and Techniques of Criminological Research | Faculty of Political and Social Science

PUBLICATIONS

UNDER REVIEW

- **Paternoster C**, Calderoni F. (2025+) Ties to Trust: Factors Influencing Collaboration Within and Across Organised Criminal Groups. Under peer review at the *British Journal of Criminology*.
- Diviak T, **Paternoster C**, Jürgen L, Calderoni F. (2025+) Exploring the Dynamic Interplay between Communication and Co-offending Using Relational Hyperevent Data on an Italian Mafia Network. Under peer review at *Social Networks*.

JOURNALS

- Carbone C, **Paternoster C**, Riccardi M. (2025) Ville Lumière Ou Ville Obscure? Assessing the Secrecy of Firms Owning Real Estate Properties in Paris. *Trends in Organized Crime* <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12117-025-09570-8>
- **Paternoster C**, Nazzari M, Jofre M, Uberti T.E. (2025) Inside the Leak: Exploring the Structure of the Conti Ransomware Group. *Global Crime* 26(2), 148–171. <https://doi.org/10.1080/17440572.2025.2473350>
- Mademlis I, Mancuso M, **Paternoster C**, Evangelatos S, Finlay E, Hughes J, Radoglou-Grammatikis P, Sarigiannidis P, Stavropoulos G, Votis K, Papadopoulos G Th. (2024) The invisible arms race: digital trends in illicit goods trafficking and AI-enabled responses. *IEEE Transactions on Technology and Society* 6(2), 181-199. <https://doi.org/10.1109/TTS.2024.3514683>

BOOK CHAPTERS

- Kalpakis G, **Paternoster C**, Mancuso M, Kozhuharova D, Spathi T, Semertzidis T, Tsikrika T, Vrochidis S. (2024) AI-Based Framework for Supporting Micro and Small Hosting Service Providers on the Report and Removal of Online Terrorist Content. In: Gkotsis, I., Kavallieros, D., Stoianov, N., Vrochidis, S., Diagourtas, D., Akhgar, B. (eds), *Paradigms on Technology Development for Security Practitioners. Security Informatics and Law Enforcement*. Springer, Cham. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-62083-6_20
- Dugato M, **Paternoster C**. (2022) Organized Crime and the Retail Sector. In Zabyelina, Y., Thachuk, K. L. (eds), *The Private Sector and Organized Crime: Criminal Entrepreneurship, Illicit Profits, and Private Sector Security Governance*, Routledge: 180- 194. 10.4324/9781003198635-13

CONFERENCE PAPERS

- Bianchi S, Mancuso M, **Paternoster C**, Kalpakis G, Tsikrika T, Vrochidis S, Kozhuharova D, Jaeger B. (2023) Artificial Intelligence to Counter Cyber-Terrorism. *Proceedings of the International Conference on Cybersecurity and Cybercrime (IC3)*, 10, 12-20

POLICY REPORTS AND PROJECT DELIVERABLE (SELECTION)

- Nicolazzo G, Bernatskyi B, Ventre L, Cascone G, **Paternoster C**, Ovsiannikova I, Bremi D, Axinte L. (2025) Restrictive measures: the challenges in front of the EU. Report on schemes employed to circumvent sanctions. Milan: Transcrime - Joint Research Centre on Innovation and Crime. ISBN: 978-88-99719-50-0
- Cascone G, **Paternoster C**, Riccardi M, Poltoratskaya V, Tóth B, Baez-Camargo C, Costa J. (2025). High-level Corruption: an Analysis of Schemes, Costs and of Policy Recommendations. Policy Brief of Project FALCON. Milan: Transcrime – Joint Research Centre on Innovation and Crime. ISBN: 978-88-99719-48-7
- **Paternoster C**, Riccardi, M, Cascone, G, Ventre, L, Anastasio, M, Nicolazzo, G, Venturini, F, Poltoratskaya, V, Toth, B, & Costa, J. (2024). Facilitators, schemes, interlinks and modi operandi of corruption. D2.1 FALCON project - Fight Against Large-scale Corruption and Organized Crime. *Available upon request*
- Nicolazzo G, **Paternoster C**, Cascone G, Ventre L, Anastasio M, Bernatskyi B, Riccardi M, Rondani C. (2024) Handbook on new forms of, and risk factors for, high-level transnational corruption schemes. Milan: Transcrime - Joint Research Centre on Innovation and Crime. ISBN: 9788899719494
- **Paternoster C**, Mancuso M. (2023). Report on online radicalisation, extremism and terrorism. ALLIES project - AI-based framework for supporting micro and small HSPs on the report and removal of online terrorist content. *Available upon request*
- Carbone C, **Paternoster C**, Riccardi M (2023). Beneficial owners of European companies (and related risks). In European Commission. Directorate General for Financial Stability, Financial Services and Capital Market Union. (Eds), *Preparatory action, Capacity building, programmatic development, and communication in the context of the fight against money laundering and financial crimes. Final report annexes (p 3-62)* Publications Office.
- Dugato M, **Paternoster C**, Favarin S (2021). La Sicurezza nel Retail in Italia 2021. Milan: Crimetechn (Spin-off di Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore-Transcrime). ISBN: 978-88-99719-27-2

CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS

- **Tenth International Workshop on Social Network Analysis (ARS'25)** October 30-31, 2025
Naples, Italy
Presentation: Paternoster C, Calderoni F. "Ties to Trust: Unveiling Patterns of Collaboration in 'Ndrangheta Clans".
- **European Society of Criminology (ESC) Annual Meeting** September 03-06, 2025
Athens, Greece
Presentation: Paternoster C, Calderoni F. "Ties to Trust: Unveiling Patterns of Collaboration in 'Ndrangheta Clans".

- **American Society of Criminology (ASC) Annual Meeting** November 13-16, 2024
San Francisco, CA, USA
Presentation: Paternoster C. "Cohesion and Connection: An Analysis of 'Ndrangheta Clans Interactions."
- **European Society of Criminology (ESC) Annual Conference** September 11-14, 2024
Bucharest, Romania
Presentation: Paternoster C, Anastasio M, Nicolazzo G, Ventre L, Cascone G, Venturini F, Riccardi M. "Modus Operandi of Corruption: Examining Drivers, Actors, and Financial Flows in Three Typologies."
- **American Society of Criminology (ASC) Annual Conference** September 15-18, 2023
Philadelphia, PA, USA
Presentation: Paternoster C, Nazzari M, Jofre M, Uberti TE. "Network Analysis for Cybercrime: Breaking Down the Structure of the Conti Ransomware Group." || Paternoster C, Calderoni F. "Collaboration in Organized Crime: Unveiling the Role of Family Ties".
- **European Society of Criminology (ESC) Annual Conference** September 6-9, 2023
Florence, Italy
Presentation: Paternoster C, Mancuso M. "Patterns of Online Radicalization: A Study of Jihadist and Far-Right Extremist Groups".
- **New Challenges for the Criminal Investigation of Organized Crime** May 11-12, 2023
Porto, Portugal
Presentation: Paternoster C, Nazzari M, Jofre M, Uberti TE. "Network Analysis for Cybercrime: Breaking Down the Structure of the Conti Ransomware Group."
- **Workshop - Training delivered to Fincantieri S.p.A.**
June 28, 2023
Presentation: Carbone C, Paternoster C. "Analysis of Ownership Structures and Identification of Beneficial Ownership."
- **Curbing Financial Crimes in Europe with Beneficial Ownership Transparency** November 29-30, 2022
Brussels, Belgium
Final Conference of the CSABOT project.

COMPETENCES

- **Office Tools:** Proficient with Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, PowerPoint).
- **Data Analysis:** R Studio, basics of Python.
- **Network Analysis:** R packages.
- **Spatial Analysis** R packages, Qgis.

LANGUAGES

- **Italian:** Native proficiency.
- **English:** Professional working proficiency (C1) - Advanced written and verbal communication skills.
- **Spanish:** Basic user.