

# Caterina Paternoster

Last update: 04.11.2025

+39 3495988778 | [caterina.paternoster@unibocconi.it](mailto:caterina.paternoster@unibocconi.it)

## EDUCATION

---

### • Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore

*International Ph.D. in Criminology*

November 2021 – February 2025

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

*Visiting Ph.D. student at the School of Social Sciences, Department of Criminology.*

February 2024 – July 2024

Manchester, United Kingdom

### • Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore

*M.A. in Public Policies – Curriculum Security Policies*

October 2019 – September 2021

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

*B.A. in Political Science, International Relations, and Human Rights*

September 2016 – July 2019

Padua, Italy

*Thesis Title:* "Missing Inflation: An Investigation into Its Determinant" - Supervised by Prof. Gianfranco Tusset. Final Grade: 100/100, *cum laude*

Awarded the *Mille e una lode* merit scholarship in 2019.

### • Liceo Scientifico Leonardo da Vinci

*High School Diploma (EQF 4)*

September 2011 – July 2016

Trento, Italy

## WORKING EXPERIENCE

---

### • Università Bocconi

*Postdoctoral Research Fellow*

January 2025 – Ongoing

Milan, Italy

### • Transcrime - Joint Research Centre on Innovation and Crime

*Researcher*

November 2021 – December 2024

Milan, Italy

### • Crime&Tech Srl

*Internship*

February 2021 – September 2021

Milan, Italy

### • Comune di Trento

*Internship*

September 2018 – October 2018

Trento, Italy

## PROJECTS

---

### • FALCON

*Fight Against Large-scale Corruption and Organized Crime | Horizon Europe*

2023 – December 2024

*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

---

### • Cultore 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. *IEE 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., Diagouras, 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](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: Crimetech (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** *San Francisco, CA, USA* *November 13-16, 2024*  
*Presentation:* Paternoster C. "Cohesion and Connection: An Analysis of 'Ndrangheta Clans Interactions."
- **European Society of Criminology (ESC) Annual Conference** *Bucharest, Romania* *September 11-14, 2024*  
*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** *Philadelphia, PA, USA* *September 15-18, 2023*  
*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** *Florence, Italy* *September 6-9, 2023*  
*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** *Porto, Portugal* *May 11-12, 2023*  
*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** *Brussels, Belgium* *November 29-30, 2022*  
*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.