

FPsyc3400 Week 10: Criminal Networks

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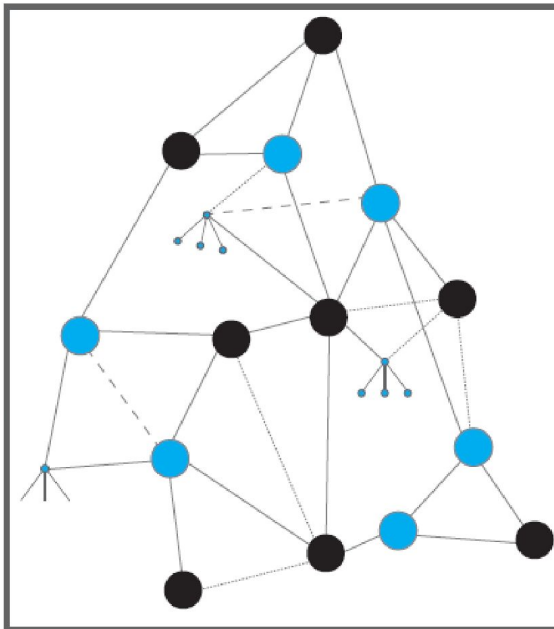


Lecture Outline

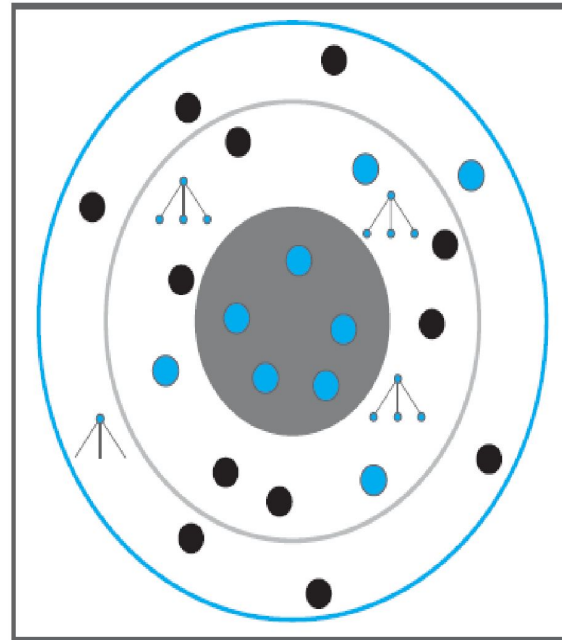
- The Investigative Psychology Perspective
 - Deconstructive Organization Psychology
 - Cultural Ideologies & Criminal Networks
- Social Networks & Social Network Analysis
- What is organized crime?
 - Organized Crime in Canada



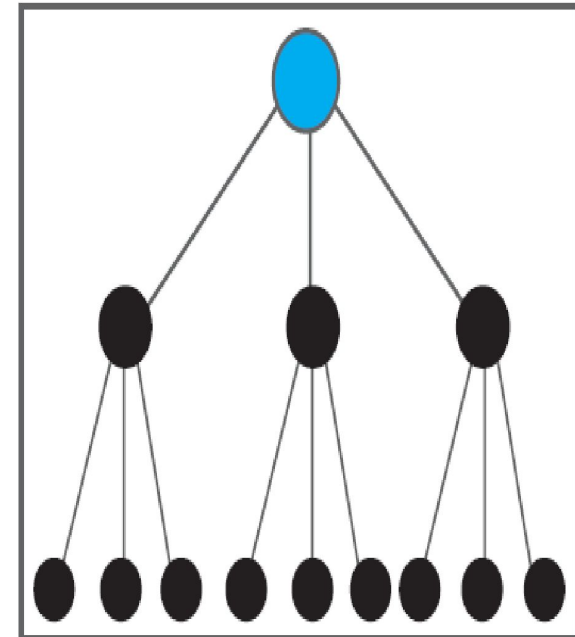
Terminology & Models of Crime Organizations



Criminal Network



Core criminal group



Hierarchy

- IP perspective of organizations & networks
 - How to disrupt their function and weaken social interactions

Generally, organized crime has:

1. Pattern of associations with no formal structure
2. Differences in types of crimes
3. Differences in criminal networks (not all are made equal)
4. Differences in communication

Organized Crime: The IP perspective - Deconstructive

Cultural Ideologies & Criminal Networks

- *Degrees* of organizational structuring
 - Low to high
- Dimensions that distinguish criminal cultures (Mars, 2000):
 1. extent to which a culture imposes rules and classifications on its members (classification)
 2. the strength of the group and the influence on a person's life (group strength)

Cultural Ideologies & Criminal Networks

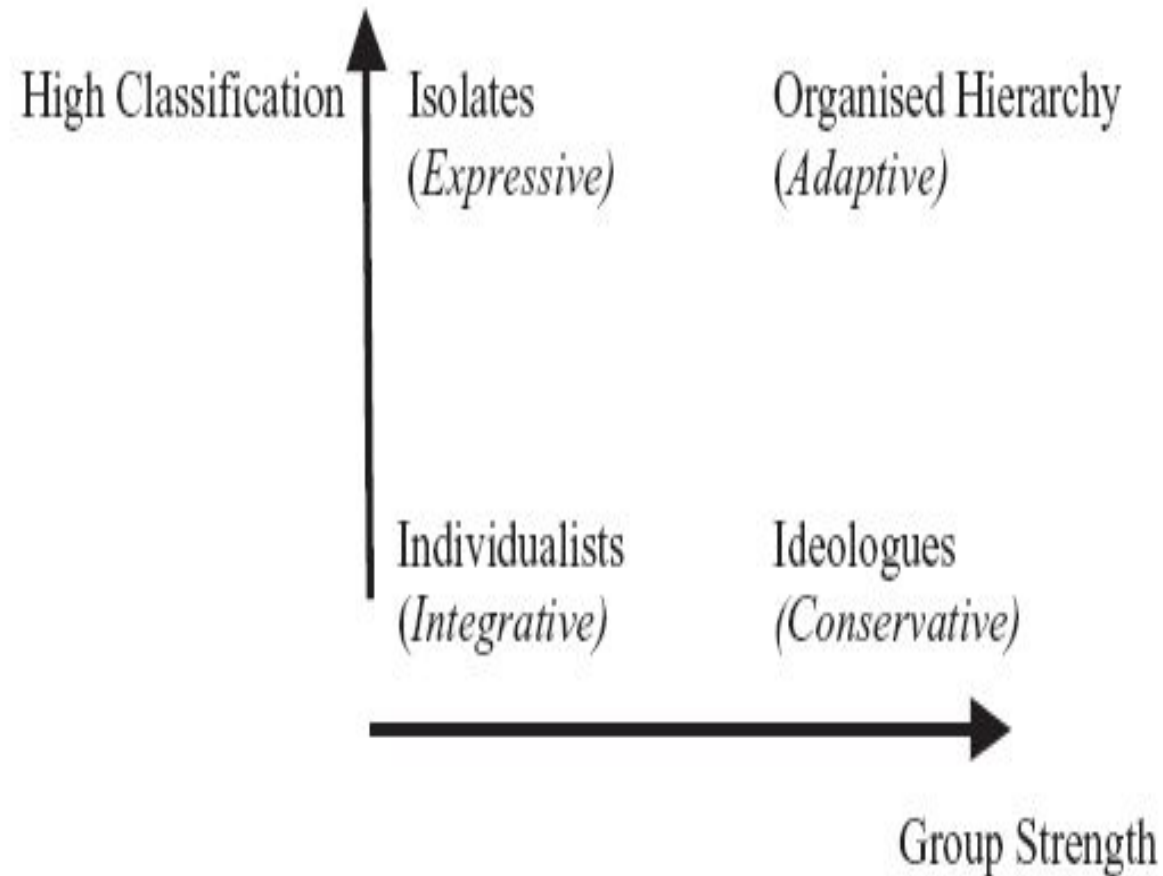


Figure 14.1 Fourfold categories of criminal organisation (from Mars, 2000) with action system interpretation.

Social Network & Social Network Analysis (SNA)

- **Social network** – a social structure of people, related to each other through a common relation or interest
- **Social network analysis** views social relationships in terms of network theory about nodes and ties; process of identifying ‘nodes’ and links between them to determine patterns of association
 - Nodes: Individuals; points
 - Ties: Relationships/connections between individuals; lines



SNA: Features

Core group of individuals, that coordinate operations in a network.

Key central figures (“generals”) form the core group.

Sub-groups (“soldiers”) carry out different activities.

Mid-level individuals (“captains”) conduct daily operations, liaise with lower-level members and provide protection to the key figures.

Isolated individuals that provide information and resources

The ***size of the networks*** – the number of individuals involved.

Chains as subgroups are subgroups that are connected to each other with each member only connected to one other.

Centrality Measures

Table 14.2 Summary of SNA measures.

Degree measures how connected an individual is in a network. Degree is calculated as the number of links that a member has with all other members in the network (Freeman, 1979). The more links an individual has then the more power he or she is considered to have.

Betweenness measures the extent to which an individual acts as an intermediary between all other pairs of points. More specifically, betweenness measures how many times an individual falls on the shortest path between all members in a network (Bonacich, 1987; McAndrew, 2000).

Closeness measures how 'easily' a member can contact all other members with the least number of go-betweens. In other words, the sum of the shortest distance between any two individuals in a network, such that the individual with the smallest sum is considered to have a close relationship to all other individuals in the network.

Information measures of how involved a member is in all possible paths in a network (Stephenson and Zelen, 1989). This measure takes account of the access the individual has to other individuals who are highly connected.

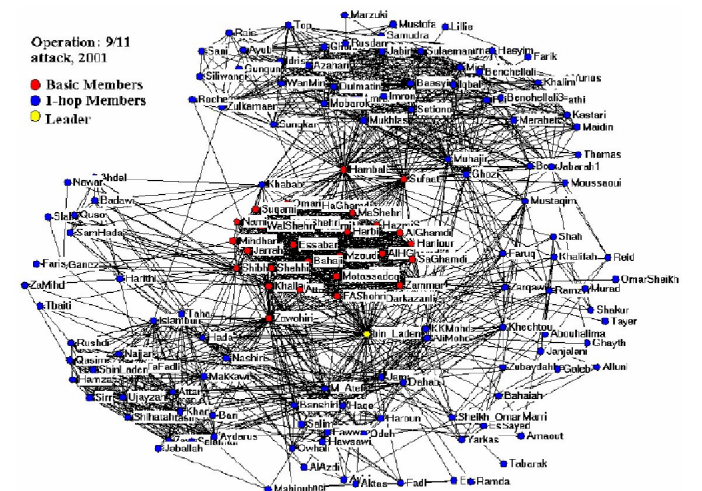
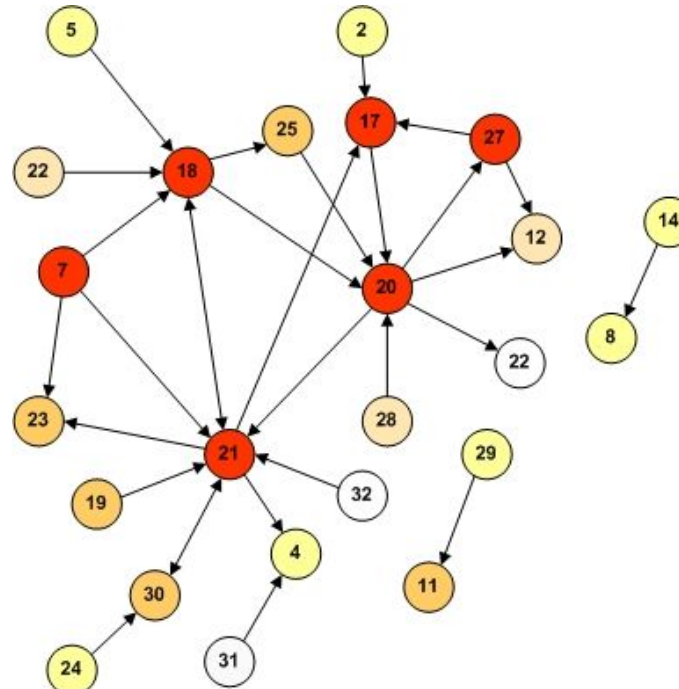
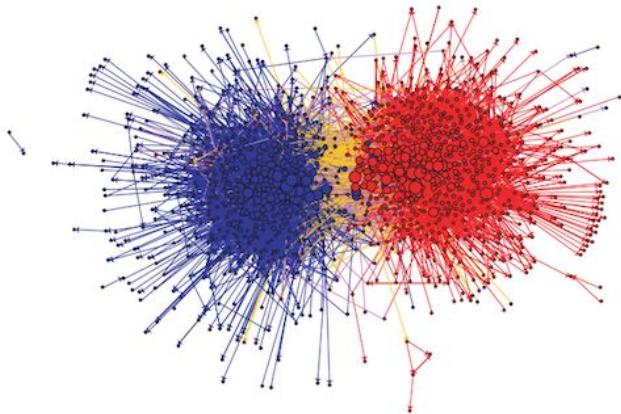
Clique measures the extent to which all individuals in a subgroup in a network are connected to all other members of that subgroup. A clique is thus a subset of individuals that are more closely tied to each other than are other members that are not part of that subgroup. A perfect clique would consist of all members being connected to one another.

N-clique is a more lenient measure that does not require all individuals in a network to be connected with one another. In contrast to a perfect clique (one-clique), a two-clique would be all individuals connected through an intermediary.

K-Core consists of a subgroup of individuals that are connected to each other a little more than they are to others within the network as a whole. All individuals have an equal number of contacts between one another and one more than others in the network do with them (Seidman, 1983).

Centrality Measure	Interpretation in Social Networks
Degree	<p>How many people can this person reach directly?</p> <p>In network of music collaborations: how many people has this person collaborated with?</p>
Betweenness	<p>How likely is this person to be the most direct route between two people in the network?</p> <p>In a network of spies: who is the spy though whom most of the confidential information is likely to flow?</p>
Closeness	<p>How fast can this person reach everyone in the network?</p> <p>In a network of sexual relations: how fast will an STI spread from this person to the rest of the network?</p>
Information	<p>How well is this person connected to other well-connect people?</p> <p>In a network of paper citations: who is the author that is most cited by other well-cited authors?</p>

SNA examples



A Study Of Criminal Networks

(Canter, 2004)

- 12 drug-dealer networks
- 11 property crime networks
- 6 hooligan networks
- Data analysed using POSA

A study of criminal networks

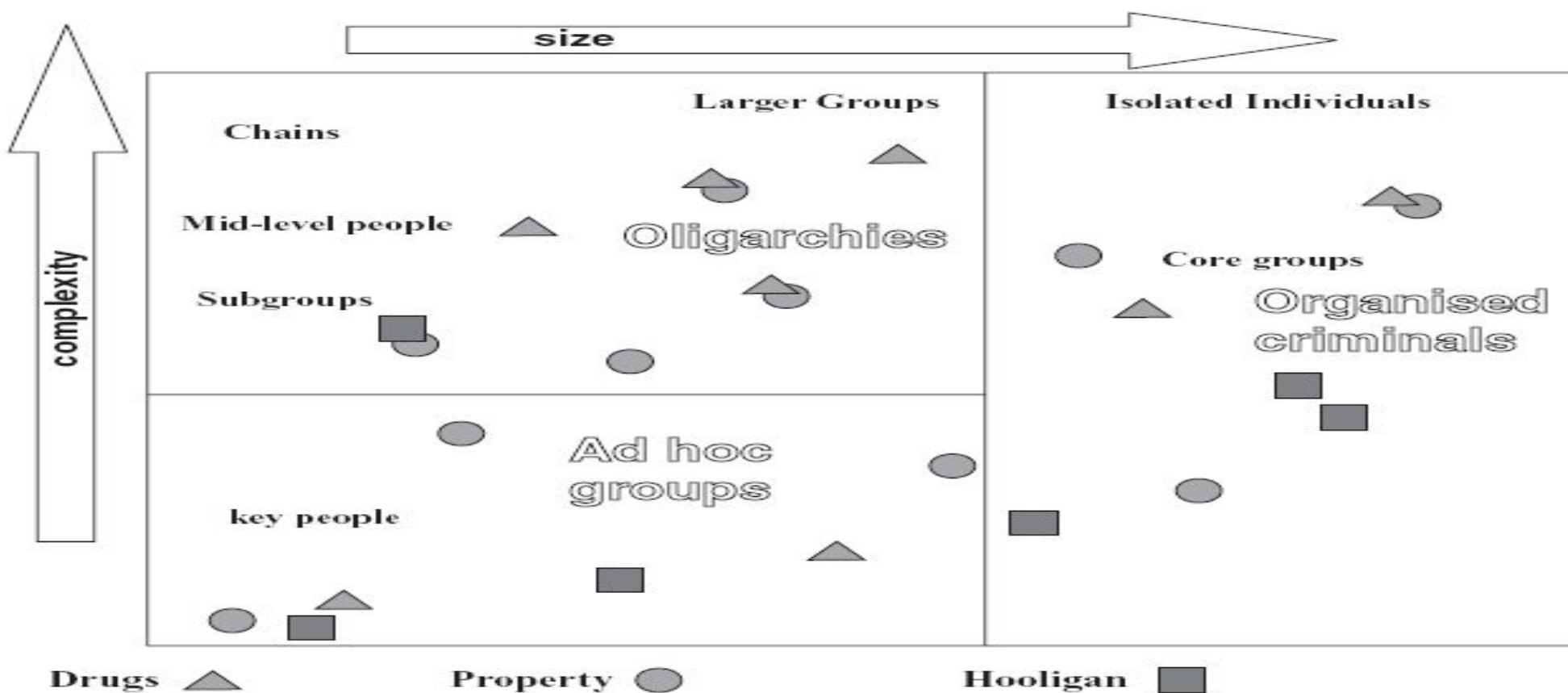


Figure 14.3 A schematic representation of the POA results reported by Canter (2004).

Source: Canter (2004b). Reproduced with permission.

What networks are you a part of?

- Consider any network of which you are a part and draw out its organizational structure:
 - (a) How easy was it to define who is in and who is outside that network?
 - (b) How would you characterize the network's structure?
 - (c) If for any reason that organization were made illegal what problems would it face in trying to survive?

What is Organized Crime?

- **Canada - “Criminal Organisation” CCC 467.1 (1)**
 - 3 + people in or outside Canada
 - Main purpose includes the facilitation/commission of a serious offence that results in the receipt of material benefit
 - Proof of Criminal Organisation
 - Case by case basis
- **Globally: “organized criminal group”**
 - 3+ members taking action in concert for purpose of committing a serious crime for the purpose of obtaining financial or other benefits
 - Most have existed for some period of time before/after the actual commission of offence(s)
- **Consensus definition:** *“Organized crime is a continuing criminal enterprise that rationally works to profit from illicit activities that are often in great public demand. Its continuing existence is maintained through the use of force, threats, monopoly control, and/or the corruption of public officials.”*

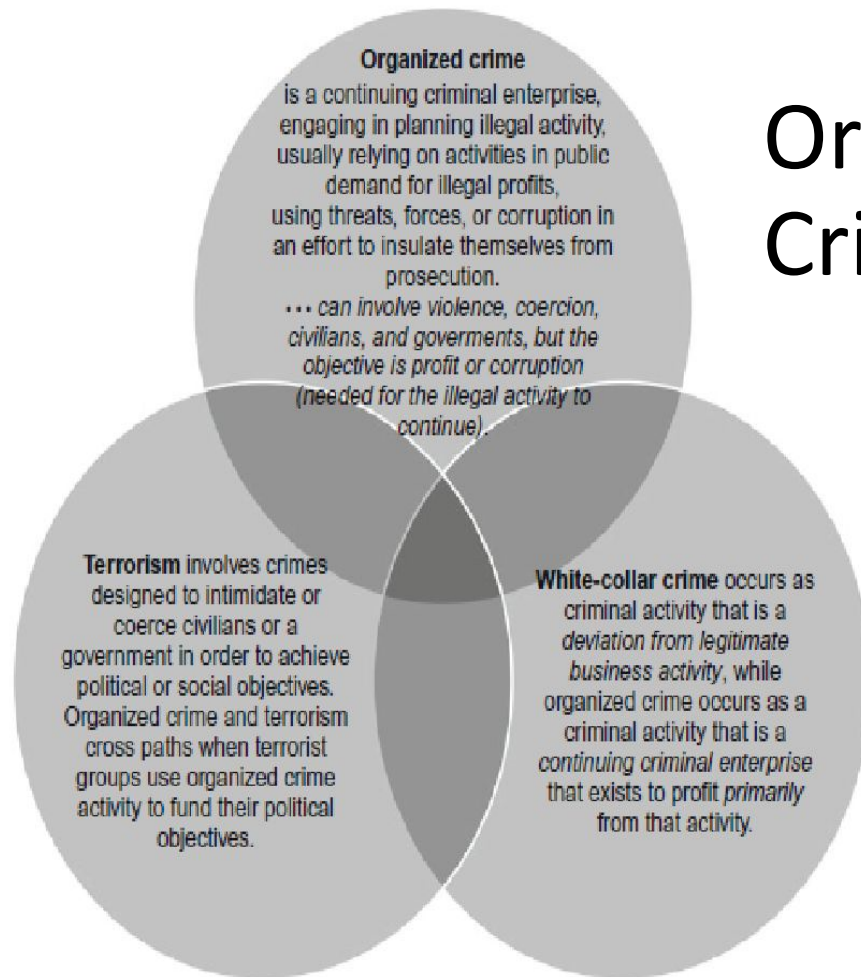


FIGURE 1.1 Distinguishing organized crime, white-collar crime, and terrorism.

Organized Crime vs. White-Collar Crime & Terrorism

- **White-collar, or organizational, crime** most often occurs as a deviation from legitimate business activity, whereas organized crime usually takes place through a continuing criminal enterprise that exists to profit primarily from crime. In many ways, these two forms of “organized” criminal behavior are similar.
- **Terrorism** involves crimes designed to intimidate or coerce civilians or a government in order to achieve political or social objectives. Examples would include hostage-taking in order to secure freedom for those seen as imprisoned unjustly, or acts of violence done in retribution for perceived past injustices. In every case, an act of terrorism has a political objective, unlike the profit motive that lies behind organized crime.

Motivation for Joining Organized Crime

- What are possible motivations for joining and staying in organized crime?
 - Money
 - Fear of the gang
 - Protection
 - Respect
 - Special access to women and cars
 - Imitation of others
 - Political or religious agendas
 - Toughness*
 - Trouble*
 - Smartness*
 - Autonomy*
- Changes once the individual has joined

The Case of the Making of “Sammy the Bull” and Ivankov

- Sammy Gravano was born and raised in Brooklyn, New York. He was held back twice in school to repeat grades in both elementary and middle school due to learning problems. He reacted to these setbacks by becoming tough. He fought like a “little bull” and earned the nickname “Sammy the Bull.” He dropped out of high school and called the kids in school “nerds” who were doing it the “easy way” instead of living by their wits through thefts and scams as Sammy and his gang members did. Sammy only robbed from commercial establishments because “they had insurance” and did not steal from private homes. He was caught and imprisoned on several occasions, but this experience appeared to improve his reputation among the criminal elements. His propensity toward violence and ability to carry out a variety of illegal scams, such as illegal gambling, loansharking, and theft, helped bring him to the attention of established organized crime groups in New York City that involved him in organized crime on a larger scale.
- Vyacheslav Ivankov was raised in a poor section of Moscow, Russia. By the time he was 15 years old, he was a street brawler “who beat up people for the fun of it.” His “toughness” brought him to the attention of known gangsters who taught Ivankov to carry out more sophisticated extortion schemes against businesses. Once caught and imprisoned, his reputation and connections in the criminal world expanded further, and he became involved with criminals at an international level.

Organized Crime (OC) – Criminal Organizations in Canada

- Impact – Socio-economic Harms of Organized Crime
 - Direct and tangible vs. indirect and intangible impacts
- Number of organized crime groups
 - 2006: 800
 - 2007: 950
 - 2008: 900
 - 2011: 729
 - 2013: 672
 - 2019: 1850+
 - 2020: 2000+
- Illicit drugs are Canada's largest criminal market, 57%
- Financial 11%; other illicit goods & services 32%

OC in Canada cont'd - Criminal Scope

1. International (non-US)

- Level of scope – limited, medium, extensive

2. International (cross-border; US)

- States; French Islands

3. National

- 2 primary criminal hubs in different regions

4. Inter-provincial

- 2 or more provinces/territories

5. Intra-provincial

- Single province/territory
- More than one area within

6. Localized

- Within a single area

7. Unknown

OC in Canada cont'd – Level of Criminal Threat

- Higher-level threat

- Specialized expertise, high level of sophistication
- Direct importation/exportation w source countries
- Whole-sale level
- Laundering large sums
- International, interprovincial

- Mid-level threat

- Some expertise
- Mid-level distribution
- Laundering smaller sums
- Intra/inter-provincial

- Lower-level threat

- Specific/fixed capabilities
- Retail-level distribution
- Basic laundering
- Localized

Criminal Intelligence Service Canada:

1. Category One
2. Category Two
3. Category Three
4. Category Four