UCD School of Geography Seminar Series

The Geographies of Cybercrime

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Date: Thursday, 4th of April

Time: 15:00 – 16:00

Format: In-person

Where: E003, Newman Building

Zoom link: https://ucd-ie.zoom.us/j/66192911567

Cybercrime attacks can, in theory, be launched from anywhere in the world with a connection to the internet. However, in reality cybercrime shows intensely uneven spatial distributions. It is disproportionately associated with a small number of high-cybercrime nations in regions such as the former Soviet Union, West Africa and parts of Asia including Cambodia and Myanmar. We can also observe intense clusters of active cybercriminals within individual neighbourhoods, such as in Ostroveni in the Romanian city of Râmnicu Vâlcea (nicknamed 'Hackerville'). Cybercrime, then, is an intensely geographical issue, but it is one to which geographers have made only a tiny contribution to date.

Drawing on my own research this seminar will explore the multi-scale geographies of cybercrime and explanations for this. It will consider the contributions that geography can make to the multidisciplinary literatures of cybercrime, both in terms of identifying potential high cybercrime nations and understanding the interactions within nations that drive or inhibit the growth of cybercrime there. It will discuss the case study of cybercrime in Armenia, a former Soviet nation with close ties to Russia, and global statistical analysis using an innovative regional cyber-criminogenic model. It will conclude by briefly discussing ongoing research looking at flash loan attacks, highly sophisticated, lucrative forms of cybercrime targeting the cryptocurrency sector. It will consider how geography can help us better understand these multi-million dollar cybercrimes.

References

Hall, T. and Ziemer, U. (2023) 'Cybercrime in Commonwealth West Africa and The Regional Cyber-Criminogenic Framework', *The Commonwealth Cybercrime Journal*, 1, 1: 5-27

Hall, T. and Ziemer, U. (2023) 'Exploring the interactions between poverty, IT development and cybercrime: an Armenia case study', *Journal of Cyber Policy*, 7, 3: 353-374

Biography

Professor Tim Hall is a geographer / criminologist based at the University of Winchester. He has previously worked at the Universities of Gloucestershire and Worcester. Originally an urban geographer, for the last 15 years he has been researching the geographies of organized crime, and in recent years cybercrime. He is the author and editor of a number of books including *Urban Geography* (with Heather Barrett, fifth edition, 2018), *A Research Agenda for Global Crime* (with Vincenzo Scalia, 2019) and *The Economic Geographies of Organized Crime* (2018). His crime related research has appeared in journals such as *Geoforum*, *Geography*, *Progress in Human Geography*, *Journal of Cyber Policy* and *Trends in Organized Crime*. He is currently working on a series of publications exploring the history of geography's engagement with crime since the 1980s. He has also undertaken extensive pedagogic research over the last three decades and was appointed a Principal Fellow of the Higher Education Academy in 2020.