**Report on the research stay at CiCC, 18th of April – 13th of May 2016**

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My research conducted at the Centre International de Criminologie Comparée (CiCC) was part of the project “Communicating Risk in the Digital Age” (DIGICOM), which focuses on the promises and pitfalls of the digitization of risk communication. The project explores how digital media may generate new forms of risks, new modes of risk communication, but also change the notion of risk altogether. Since digital technologies will continue to influence the way in which society and security professionals interact with each other and how boundaries of the political are being drawn, one of the aims of my stay at CiCC was to enhance critical research on the digital in criminology and security studies, as well as to foster related empirical and theoretical insights. In the course of the work I conducted at the center, I was offered time, room and resources to do exactly that, to deepen my understanding of the way in which digital technologies and security practices influence each other. CiCC’s policy to not only write about, but also to present and discuss research findings with other criminologists in a dedicated conference was here particularly helpful to drive my project further. I had the chance to rethink the relevance of my paper, a co-authored introduction to a special issue called “Politics and the Digital”, for criminological study. In addition, I had the opportunity to approach my work on the digitization of resilience anew.

The research stay, however, not only resulted in concrete written outputs, but it also allowed me to connect and discuss with people that are central in my field of study, such as Benoit Dupont, Clifford Shearing or David Grondin – just to name a few. Especially the Laboratoire de cybersécurité SERENE-RISC established at the CiCC is here a great resource for future collaboration. Dupont and his colleagues at the lab combine inspired research questions with methodological creativity and a convincing amount of already existing data, which really invites common writing and research projects.

Most importantly, within our discussions the colleagues at CiCC also reminded me of some simple, but critical research principles that may accompany scholars from the start, but are easy to forget:

* Don’t preach to the converted. Present your ideas in a way that allows everyone to appreciate them.
* Even if you don’t agree with them, let your research be challenged by methodologies and approaches that are not your own.
* When developing theory, listen carefully to what practitioners have to say; take seriously the powers of organizational culture in security practices.

Altogether, the CiCC is not only a professional and inspiring place to be, but also full of welcoming, interested and knowledgeable colleagues. Conclusion: I’d do it again.

Link to the conference “How to understand *the digital* in criminological studies?”