

**Report – Visiting Fellowship  
Dr Anna Sergi**

**Université de Montréal  
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My stay at the University of Montréal and in particular at the International Centre of Comparative Criminology (CICC) has been particularly useful for the purposes of my research. Next to the support of the CICC, my fellowship had the support of the British Academy and Leverhulme Trust for my current research project titled *“Cultural differences or cultural bias? Policing the Calabrian ‘ndrangheta across borders”*.

I have carried out my research mostly in Montréal, by arranging interviews at the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and meetings with lawyers who had experience with organized crime figures in the area. As Montréal is easily connected to other cities, I have also been able to go for three days to Toronto to carry out interviews with the RCMP and the York Regional Police as well. I have also travelled to Ottawa for a day to meet someone from the RCMP and someone from the Italian Embassy.

The purpose of the project – research into ethnic organized crime, of Calabrian origin primarily, between Quebec and Ontario - was tightly linked to the reason of staying in Montréal for the purposes of the fellowship. Prof. Carlo Morselli’s expertise in the field of organized crime and illicit networks, as well as his experience working with law enforcement in the city and in the country has been helpful to frame my work before and during my stay. The reputation of the University and the CICC has certainly helped in affirming the seriousness of my research across the institutions I have approached.

I have particularly liked the fact that my fellowship was organized at the same time when other colleagues from other institutions were visiting; this created a very lively atmosphere in the department and also occasions for social gatherings beyond working hours. I am thankful to the Centre for both the visiting scholars dinner and for the invitation to the Criminology Gala, which has allowed me to reconnect with colleagues that I had met around the world during conferences or other events.

The collegiality and the support of the department together with the time I have had to explore the city and appreciate Canada for the first time has made my experience extremely positive and I hope it will mark the beginning of further exchange for the following years.