**For entry onto the ESRC/AHRC transnational organised crime research, call database:**

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The proposal is to work with colleagues from SHU to research the transnational trafficking of firearms by organised criminals, using professional doctorate research on the police transnational firearms intelligence network, as a platform (see Severns 2015).

There is a lack of knowledge on how the organised crime/terrorist nexus facilitates the supply of firearms to terrorists (Makarenko 2012, Bajekal and Walt 2015) and how that affects the UK. European Commission funded research is being carried out to improve information sharing and maximise the use of ballistics intelligence in Europe (Effect 2015), as well as on the routes, markets and actors involved in the illicit trafficking of firearms in Europe (Fire 2014). However, it is proposed that further research should focus on the firearms crime-terror nexus using a transnational network of academics and practitioners taking a holistic view on the people and the firearms involved. The requirement for such a holistic approach was identified by Makarenko’s (2012) research into Europe’s wider crime-terror nexus.

One such holistic approach is to track recently recovered illicit firearms from source to criminal use in terrorism and investigate the backgrounds of all those known or suspected to have handled or been affected by the firearm. The aim would be to understand how the firearms crime-terror nexus develops and what crime script emerges to provide solutions to the problem.

An alternative approach would be to assess the current illicit firearms market in the UK and compare that with the firearms market in other nation states in the Euro zone to determine the level of threat to the UK from the firearms crime-terror nexus. Research suggests there are some similarities, particularly around reactivation and conversion. However, there appear to be differences between the UK and other Euro zone nation states, as there is easy movement of original live firearms through mainland Europe, which terrorists are taking advantage of through the organised crime/terrorism nexus (Severns 2015).

A local network between criminology, humanities and computer science academics is being created at SHU, through which transnational academic partnerships are also being enhanced. In addition, approaches are being made to develop partnerships with former police colleagues engaged in policing the illicit trafficking of firearms. In the first instance that contact is being made through the College of Policing as the central point of contact for research collaboration between police and academia. However, any practitioner with a specific transnational firearms problem that might benefit from the research proposed or similar research is asked to contact Dr Severns.

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EFFECT (2015). EFFECT. [online]. *Coventry University Research* last accessed 11th January 2016 at: <http://www.coventry.ac.uk/research/research-directories/current-projects/2014/examination-of-firearms-and-forensics-in-europe-and-across-territories-effect/>

FIRE (2014). Fighting Illicit Firearms Trafficking Routes and Actors at European Level. [online]. *FIRE* last accessed 11th January 2016 at: <http://fireproject.eu/>

MAKARENKO, Tamara (2012). Europe’s Crime-Terror Nexus: Links between terrorists and organised crime groups in the European Union. [online]. Last accessed 11th January 2016 at: <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/etudes/join/2012/462503/IPOL-LIBE_ET%282012%29462503_EN.pdf>

SEVERNS, Richard (2015). One Step Ahead: The Police Transnational Firearms Intelligence Network (The 'Network').[online]. *DProf International Criminal Justice, Sheffield Hallam University (SHU)* last accessed 11th January 2016 at: <http://shura.shu.ac.uk/11142/>