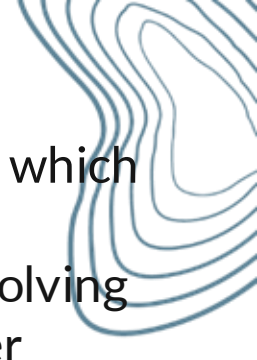


# Using Narrative Criminology to Research Predatory Journals

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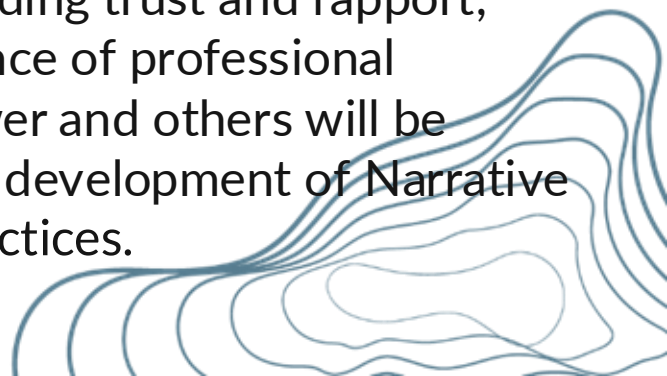
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“Predatory journals” (PJ) are an umbrella term, including a range of questionable publishing practices which have been a source of moral panic and blacklists. These practices have been considered a result of increasing pressure to publish in contexts that value quantity and metrics over quality. Moreover, evolving contexts include open access, AI and other tools that have the potential to dilute authorship and peer review. However, no evidence exists that publishing in PJ by paying high Article Processing Charges affects the quality or reliability of science. It may even be the case that labelling journals as predatory is a way of stigmatising researchers from the Global South who do not comply with the hegemonic publishing system controlled by big publishing houses.

Generated from a broader Project comprising different countries (Portugal, Germany, Poland, India, Brazil), this presentation will discuss the use of Narrative Criminology to conduct and analyse data from a sample of authors, editors and peer reviewers of journals flagged as predatory. This allows direct access to accounts of publishing experiences, meaning-making and navigating the scientific publication landscape. Methodological considerations will be discussed, including concerns about the sample likely comprising professionals, the sensitivity of the topic, and its potentially stigmatising and harmful nature. This may be more emphasised due to data collection by different national teams in different countries, where culture, language and patterns of storytelling may be quite different. Issues related to building trust and rapport, preparing the interview guide, temporality and causality in storytelling, the influence of professional subcultures, context and structural changes, and the positionality of the interviewer and others will be presented and debated. It is expected that the presentation will contribute to the development of Narrative Criminology and to a thorough discussion on the topic of predatory publishing practices.



# THANK YOU

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**Do you have any questions?**  
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