

# 8<sup>th</sup> Research Conference on Organised Crime

Countering International Organised Crime Groups – Challenges and Opportunities

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## The Globalization of Russian Organized Crime

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#### Curriculum vitae

Louise Shelley is the Omer L. and Nancy Hirst Endowed Chair, the chair for a public intellectual as well as University Professor in the School of Policy, Government and International Affairs. She is the founder and Director of the Terrorism, Transnational Crime and Corruption Center (TraCCC) at George Mason University. During 2015-2015, she will be an inaugural Andrew Carnegie Fellow. She is presently working on her book Illicit Trade: Global Challenge for Princeton University Press that examines the impact of this trade on sustainability of the planet and the differences between illicit trade in the real and virtual world. Her most recent books are: Dirty Entanglements: Corruption, Crime and Terrorism (Cambridge University Press, 2014) and Human Trafficking: A Global Perspective (Cambridge, 2010). Her earlier books include: Policing Soviet Society, Lawyers in Soviet Work Life and Crime and Modernization.

Dr. Shelley has edited books and written dozens of articles and books chapters on the subject of transnational crime and corruption. She served for six years as a member of the Global Agenda Councils on Organized Crime and Illicit Trade of the World Economic Forum (WEF) and was the initial co-chair of the global agenda council on organized crime. She presently co-chairs a group within the WEF on human trafficking. She is a member of the Global Initiative against Transnational Organized Crime and a life member of the Council of Foreign Relations. She is the recipient of many fellowships and prizes including the Guggenheim and two Fulbrights for research in the Soviet Union and teaching in Mexico and two grants from the MacArthur Foundation, the first addressing post-Soviet organized crime and is now completing one on the role of non-state actors in nuclear smuggling. Professor Shelley has received many other research grants on post-Soviet organized crime, money laundering, human trafficking and illicit wildlife trade. Dr. Shelley has testified for the United States Congress repeatedly on these issues and has addressed fora of the OSCE, OECD, the United Nations and other national and international bodies. She appears in the media frequently both in the US and internationally.

### **Abstract**

Post-Soviet organized crime very rapidly globalized at the end of the Soviet period. At the time of its emergence, it was highly violent. The level of violence has receded but it remains an important part of its development. The talk will focus on the following elements:

- 1) The relationship of organized crime and the emergence of oligarchical fortunes in Russia
- 2) The deep involvement of Russian organized crime in virtual illicit trade, i.e. the online trade in pharmaceuticals
- 3) The significant involvement of Russian-speaking organized crime in international money laundering through the global banking system. It will examine the reliance on banks in former Soviet states for this activity and their impact on the international community.
- 4) Crime-terror relationship—the Beslan case and its international financial support system