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Anonymous

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1. Huvudförfattarens namn *

Susanne Nilsson

2. Huvudförfattarens lärosäte *

KTH Kungliga Tekniska Högskolan

3. Huvudförfattarens e-postadress *

suni@kth.se

4. Ev. medförfattarens namn och organisationstillhörighet

Julian Gasson, KTH; Pia McAleenan, Förnyelselabb; Joseph Harrington, Förnyelselabb.

5. Jag/vi önskar presentera i följande format (flera val är möjligt): *

☒ Muntligt

☐ Poster

6. Jag/vi önskar presentera på (ett val är möjligt): *

☐ Svenska

☒ Engelska

7. Titel på abstract *

Partners in crime prevention – Exploring conditions for collective ownership and agency through design-led cross-sector collaboration.

This research project addresses one of Sweden's most urgent societal challenges: the recruitment of children and youths into organized crime. An estimated 1,000 children and young people are recruited into local criminal environments each year (1). In December 2023, the government launched the Bob initiative (Barn och unga i organiserad brottslighet) to prevent youth involvement in organized crime through concrete and innovative measures, emphasizing cross-sector collaboration for at-risk individuals (2).

In our project we explore how cross-sectoral collaboration, particularly the involvement of business actors, can be mobilized in crime prevention using systemic and speculative design methods to foster new forms of cooperation and collective ownership of complex challenges (3). It is guided by the overall research question: What conditions are vital for engaged and innovative cross-sector collaboration, particularly involving business actors, in preventing children and youths from entering severe criminality? While cross-sectoral collaboration and the inclusion of business actors in social innovation, has been highlighted as promising (4,5), conflicting goals and values may create negative lock-ins, or undermine the social goals of crime prevention (6).

The project team brings together researchers from criminology, social work, innovation management, and transition design working alongside systemic designers who develop and facilitate systemic and speculative design interventions. Using qualitative methods combined with design-led experimentation, the team engages diverse stakeholders through a series of learning workshops and a futuring workshop. Business actors including housing organisations, industrial firms, retailers, and financial institutions are invited to co-create and critically reflect together with representatives from governmental agencies, regional actors and municipalities who confront these challenges in their daily work on various system levels.

We will share our project design and observations on how such collaboration makes it possible to jointly examine prevailing mental models, identify systemic barriers and explore future possibilities and transformative alternatives. We aim to spark a discussion on how this way of working can help address complex and pressing societal challenges by enabling collective ownership and agency as actors gradually recognise their roles and possible contributions within an emerging local-regional-national social innovation ecosystem.

References:

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5. Martinez, F., O'Sullivan, P., Smith, M., & Esposito, M. (2017). Perspectives on the role of business in social innovation. *Journal of Management Development*, 36(5), 681-695.
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