Behavioural science research—broadly speaking—is currently in the throes of a “crisis of confidence.” The crisis began when Ioannidis (2005) famously claimed that, “Most published research findings are false.” Yet, despite the upheaval in sister disciplines like psychology, the field of criminology has yet to confront the bleak reality facing it. This seminar will consider two ways in which the crisis of confidence has bearing on criminological research. Firstly, attention will be given to the level of statistical power observed in the average criminology study. Low statistical power raises the likelihood of a false-positive (read: “wrong”) finding. Secondly, we will consider how biosocial criminology impacts the coming crisis of contemporary criminology.

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