2022 Criminal Justice Scandinavian Study Abroad

In May 2022, Dr. Amy Stichman and a group of criminal justice students traveled to Helsinki, Stockholm, Copenhagen, and Oslo to study in-person how the criminal justice systems there differ from ours in the United States. Dr. Stichman provided the following pictures and accompanying captions describing the highlights of this study abroad trip.

In Spring 2022, we participated in a 2-credit hour class where we did some readings on their systems as well as did a number of presentations on various aspects of their culture, such as food, the languages, drinks, etc. While we were there, we were able to tour each of the cities and see some local attractions along with visiting with police in Helsinki, attending a court session in Copenhagen then talking with an attorney, and visiting a prison in Norway.
Helsinki Cathedral. We didn’t go in here or into any of the other buildings in the Senate Square. Some of us did, however, find a pizza place close by that had fantastic pizza.

Temppeliaukio Church, which is built into a rock. The acoustics here were amazing.
Outside the Police Department in Helsinki. I was able to take pictures inside, but I promised not to post any with the officers in there. The officer gave us a presentation and we were able to ask a few questions. As we left, they were kind enough to give us mugs saying “Helsinki Police” as well as a key chain.
Took this picture from the deck of the ferry as we were leaving Helsinki to Stockholm. A few students went up on that ferris wheel the previous day.

This is a picture of part of Stockholm. There are a lot of waterways dividing up the city. I took this picture standing outside Stockholm’s City Hall.
A group of criminal justice students outside of Swedish Parliament.

Inside the Vasa Ship Museum. Really cool Viking ship. Very intricate details, but alas a terrible ship for sailing. It sank after 20 minutes in the water because there had been more concern with aesthetics than making sure it would float!
Inside the Museum of Modern Art. There were some exhibitions that people could participate in, and some of us left a little bit of our own contribution to the art behind.

Inside the Museum of Toys, which some of us went during free time. This is probably the exhibit that baffled us the most in there. There’s some other disturbing stuff I couldn’t get in one photo, like the rat chewing on a hand under the bed. So strange in a museum that had a lot of fun toys on display, including Star Wars figures, Garfield, TinTin, etc.
While we were there, we went on a “ghost tour” around Gamla Stan (Old City). It was less a ghost tour and more of a tour of places in that part of the city where a lot of murders took place. As CJ people, that still worked out ok. This was a steep, narrow staircase that a lot of sailors would get trapped on after leaving a house of ill repute. They would get robbed and shoved down the stairs.
Police officers on Segways in Stockholm.
As a part of our food tour, which mainly consisted of trying honey, flodeboller, pastries, and licorice (they love licorice in that area of the world!), we went to this candy shop where they made some hard candy in front of us. After this, the food tour concluded with a hot dog that seemed to be a hit among the students.
This is NOT a pic of any of our students, but some of them did rent a boat and tour around some of the waterways. They highly recommended it. I do find it a little concerning that the rental place essentially required nothing of people except money (no drivers license, no boating experience), but it seemed to work out ok. I seem to recall them talking about almost hitting a duck or a boat; everyone, ducks included, survived.
Copenhagen has a lot of lovely gardens.
We went to a courthouse and sat in on an assault trial while we were in Copenhagen. The trial was a little baffling for us because, unsurprisingly, it was conducted in Danish. Our tour director passed us notes explaining a little of what was happening. We were also fortunate enough to have one of the attorneys in the trial offer to explain the court system and answer any questions we might have; we took full advantage of that. We were not allowed to take any pictures inside the courthouse. Our courtrooms don’t really look anything like theirs, and our procedures are very different from theirs. As I couldn’t take a pic of the courtroom, I did get one of the place where the whipping post used to be outside that particular courthouse.
This picture was taken on the ferry from Copenhagen to Oslo.

On our tour of Oslo, we went to Vigeland Sculpture Park. It is an enormous park filled with his sculptures.
After our tour of the city that day, we went to Halden Prison, which is on the border between Norway and Sweden. We weren’t allowed any personal items inside of the prison, so this is the best picture I could get. While we were there, we talked with the warden, talked with some inmates, and got a tour. Based on a survey of students, this part of the tour received a 10 out of possible 10 for enjoyment!
The second day we were in Oslo was a holiday, so a lot of the city was closed. Most of the museums, however, were open. I went to the Munch Museum and saw a variety of his pieces including one version (there are multiple) of probably his most known work, “The Scream.”

Another ship’s museum! This one is from the Fram Museum, which has the ships from Norway’s polar explorations.
Outside the National Theatre in Oslo. There were two statues. One was Henrik Ibsen and the other was someone whose name constantly eluded us, so he became known to us as “The Other Guy.” (Note: it’s Bjornson. No idea on his first name.)