

UNIVERSITÁ CATTOLICA DEL SACRO CUORE
MILANO

Dottorato di ricerca in Criminologia

Ciclo XXVII

S.S.D: SPS/12

**IDENTIFYING PATTERNS OF MAFIA MOBILITY:
THE PRESENCE OF THE ITALIAN MAFIAS IN EUROPE**

Tesi di dottorato di: Federica Sarno

Matricola: 4010655

Anno Accademico 2013/2014



UNIVERSITÀ
CATTOLICA
del Sacro Cuore



**INTERNATIONAL PH.D.
IN CRIMINOLOGY**

**DOTTORATO INTERNAZIONALE
IN CRIMINOLOGIA**

Cycle XXVII

S.S.D: SPS/12

**IDENTIFYING PATTERNS OF MAFIA MOBILITY:
THE PRESENCE OF THE ITALIAN MAFIAS IN EUROPE**

Candidate: Federica Sarno

Identification number: 4010655

Academic Year 2013/2014

Table of contents

Abstract	1
Introduction	3
Chapter 1. The spatial mobility of mafia groups	5
1.1. Territorial scope of mafia groups	6
1.1.1. Transnational organized crime	6
1.1.2. Localized mafias	7
1.2. Mechanisms and forms of mafia expansion	10
1.2.1. Mechanisms of mafia movements	10
1.2.2. Forms of mafia presence abroad	12
1.3. Conclusions of Chapter 1	19
Chapter 2. The spatial mobility of the Italian mafias	21
2.1. Conceptualizing the Italian mafias	22
2.1.1. Mafia and organized crime	22
2.1.2. Italian mafia organizations	24
2.2. The spatial diffusion of the Italian mafias	26
2.2.1. Presence in Italy	26
2.2.2. Presence abroad	30
2.3. Conclusions and research problem	35
Chapter 3. The methodology	39
3.1. Aim and objectives	39
3.2. Mapping the presence of the Italian mafias in Europe and identifying the characteristics of mafia presence abroad	39
3.2.1. Data sources and data gathering	40
3.2.2. Data analysis	44
3.3. Comparing Italian mafias in different European countries and identifying similarities and differences of their presence abroad	48
3.3.1. Data sources and data gathering	48
3.3.2. Data analysis	53
3.4. Limitations of the methodology	53
Chapter 4. The Italian mafias in Europe: countries of expansion and characteristics of mafia presence abroad	57

4.1.	The spread of the Italian mafias in Europe	57
4.1.1.	Presence of Cosa Nostra in Europe.....	62
4.1.2.	Presence of the Camorra in Europe	64
4.1.3.	Presence of the ‘Ndrangheta in Europe	67
4.2.	Territorial and functional specialization of the Italian mafias across Europe.....	70
4.3.	Discussion and conclusions of Chapter 4.....	75
Chapter 5. The case studies: similarities and differences of mafia presence abroad....		79
5.1.	Italian mafias in Spain.....	79
5.2.	Italian mafias in Germany	84
5.3.	Italian mafias in the Netherlands.....	95
5.4.	Discussion and conclusions of Chapter 5.....	101
Conclusions		105
Annexes		111
	Annex 1. Interview protocol for law enforcement and judiciary	112
	Annex 2. Interview protocol for academics, journalists and representatives of the civil society.....	114
References		117
Acknowledgments.....		137

Abstract

Research on the spatial mobility of Italian mafias has frequently adopted a narrow approach, focusing on only one type of mafia or a single country. The few studies with a broader perspective do not examine in detail how different mafias operate across different countries. This study addresses these gaps by providing a first comprehensive analysis of the presence of Cosa Nostra, the Camorra and the ‘Ndrangheta across Europe, with the aim of identifying patterns of mafia mobility.

The study combines different data sources and different levels of analysis. Drawing from official reports, it firstly maps the spread of the Italian mafias in Europe and identifies the main characteristics of their presence abroad. Secondly, it focuses on three country case studies and, based on expert interviews, compares how different mafias operate across different countries.

The results show that country-related and activity-related characteristics prevail over organizational ones in determining patterns of mafia mobility. Italian mafias concentrate in a few European countries and in specific areas within a country. Drug trafficking is the most recurrent feature of their presence abroad. The ‘Ndrangheta is the only mafia which has a structured presence in Europe, although it does not reproduce its structures in all foreign countries.

