As we welcome new students as well as returning students at the start of the new Academic Year, there have been many developments within the Department of Criminology since the last edition of the newsletter, including publications, research, new courses and alumni updates. This edition also includes a special themed section on Hate Crime, highlighting just one of the particular research strengths within the Department at present. We hope you enjoy this issue and, as ever, if you have any questions, comments or articles for a future edition please do contact the editors.

Welcome to the Winter 2014/2015 edition of Criminology in Focus.

The Leicester Centre for Hate Studies

About the Centre

The Centre is supported by an independent Advisory Board. This Board consists of senior figures from a range of different organisations – including Leicestershire Police, Stonewall, the Cross-Government Hate Crime Programme, the Sophie Lancaster Foundation, the UK Disability Hate Crime Network and the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights – who are on hand to offer expert advice on the Centre’s programme of activities. The Centre also has an Academic Network in place which brings together academics and researchers at the University of Leicester with shared interests in hate studies. The Network has a membership drawn from a wide range of disciplines across the social sciences and beyond whose expertise will help to facilitate the exchange of knowledge and good practice.

If you have any comments please contact the editors:
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Study with us

Find out about study opportunities at the Department of Criminology, including our research degrees and distance learning programmes.

Please turn to page 19 for further details.

www.le.ac.uk/criminology
The Leicester Hate Crime Project

By Dr Neil Chakraborti and Stevie-Jade Hardy

Over a two-year period from 2012 to 2014 the Leicester Hate Crime Project team conducted groundbreaking research into acts of hate, prejudice and targeted hostility. Funded by the Economic Social and Research Council, this research – Britain’s biggest ever study of hate crime victimisation – uncovered new and significant insights into the nature and forms of these offences and their impact upon victims, families and their wider communities.

The broad aims of the Leicester Hate Crime Project were to examine people’s experiences of hate, prejudice and targeted hostility; to understand the physical and emotional harms suffered by individuals and their families; and to identify ways of improving the quality of support available to victims. The study used a deliberately broad and inclusive definition of hate crime in order to capture the experiences of anyone, from any background, who felt that they had been victimised specifically because of their identity or ‘difference’. This framework enabled the research team to expand upon the range of victim groups and experiences typically covered within conventional studies of hate crime. Rather than just focusing upon the five strands of victim identity (race, religion, disability, sexual orientation and transgender status) which are monitored by criminal justice agencies in their recording of hate crime, they wanted to give a voice to victims who have tended to be peripheral or ‘invisible’ within academic research and official policy but whose victimisation can often bear all of the hallmarks of recognised hate crimes.

We asked the Principal Investigator, Dr Neil Chakraborti and the Lead Researcher, Stevie-Jade Hardy to tell us more about the research.

How did you conduct the study?

Stevie: We used a mixed methods approach of online and paper-copy questionnaire surveys, in-depth face-to-face qualitative interviews, and a field-note diary which involved me detailing my observations and informal conversations with community groups, participants and practitioners. These accounts provided additional insight into the context and impact of victimisation.

Neil: Our approach included translating the survey into seven different languages and spending prolonged periods of time in public spaces and buildings across the city, including international supermarkets, cafes and restaurants, charity shops, community and neighbourhood centres, libraries, health centres, places of worship, pubs and clubs, taxi ranks, and organisations such as shelters and drug and alcohol services that support ‘hard to reach’ groups. That enabled us to engage with a really broad range of people from established and emerging communities. Over the duration of the study we received 1,106 questionnaire responses from victims of hate crime and conducted interviews with 374 participants. In total we spoke to 1,421 victims of hate crime.

What types of hate crime do people experience?

Stevie: Our research illustrated that hate crimes take a variety of forms. For instance, nine out of ten survey respondents had experienced verbal abuse, seven in ten had been harassed, and three in ten had experienced some form of cyberbullying. Moreover, a third of the survey sample had experienced violent hate crime, often regularly.

Neil: Within the in-depth interviews we were able to explore the nature of hate crime victimisation in much more detail. We found that people’s experiences of victimisation were extremely diverse, and included being sent hate mail or offensive text messages; having the windows of their family car smashed repeatedly; being mimicked and mocked for a speech impediment or physical disability; having eggs thrown at their house or faeces pushed through their letter box; being befriended and then exploited, humiliated or robbed; and being intimidated and threatened at work, in the street, in pubs, clubs and restaurants and at home.

Who are the victims?

Neil: Of the various subgroups the largest proportion of victims had been targeted because of their actual or perceived ethnicity, with many belonging to emerging and less familiar communities such as Congolese, Zimbabwean and Chinese, to name just some. In addition, high numbers of participants had been targeted because of their religious identity, gender, age, learning and/or physical disabilities, or sexuality.
Stevie: We also found that high numbers of participants had been targeted for more than one aspect of their identity or ‘difference’. For example, many felt that they were targeted because of their race and their religion; their mental ill-health and their physical or learning disability; or their subcultural status (e.g. goth, emo or punk) and their dress and appearance.

Neil: I think the findings from this study challenge conventional ideas regarding which victim groups or identity and lifestyle characteristics should be considered relevant to hate crime policy. The experiences of some of the more marginalised victim groups – such as asylum seekers and refugees, European Roma and the homeless – and of those targeted on the basis of having unfamiliar (in the context of hate crime policy) visual identity markers – such as age, gender, larger body shape or alternative subcultural status – bear all the hallmarks of recognised hate crimes.

How does hate crime affect victims?

Neil: Hate crimes have a significant emotional and physical impact on the victim, their family and in some contexts their wider community. 95% of our survey sample felt that their most recent experience of targeted hostility had affected their quality of life, and respondents consistently referred to feeling upset, angry, anxious, vulnerable and fearful as a result of their victimisation.

Stevie: We were able to explore the impact that hate crime can have on a victim’s mental and physical health. Over a quarter of the total survey sample referred to feeling depressed as a result of their experiences of hate crime, and within interviews we heard time and time again about how the process of victimisation had worsened their underlying health conditions. Many victims spoke about needing to visit their doctors and take prescription drugs in order to deal with their mental ill-health and physical health issues.

Neil: We also heard about the more practical impact of hate crime which involved victims developing coping strategies or defence mechanisms. These ranged from personal changes in dress and/or appearance, including Sikh men cutting off their hair, Muslim women removing the veil and Muslim men shaving off their beards. Other more practical strategies employed by our sample included crossing the road to avoid large groups of people, carrying safety devices, installing CCTV and bypassing certain areas altogether including public parks, transport, places of leisure and other ostensibly ‘safe’ spaces for those not at risk of hate crime.

Do you think this research can make a difference to policy and practice?

Neil: We certainly hope so. The research has uncovered an array of significant problems relating to the identification and reporting of hate crime and the support pathways available to victims, and our outputs are designed to help policy-makers and practitioners address these problems before they escalate further. We have produced a comprehensive report documenting our full findings, along with a series of themed briefing papers, while our end of project conference in September and a subsequent programme of practitioner workshops will offer further opportunities to shape policy and practice.

Stevie: Our sample of hate crime victims offered a range of suggestions to improve existing levels of support. These have been incorporated into our recommendations and into a Victims’ Manifesto which we are asking regional and national organisations to pledge support to. This will help to ensure that the research makes a sustained difference to policy and practice with respect to challenging all forms of hate, prejudice and targeted hostility.

A full set of the project’s findings, including detailed analysis and commentary, can be found in the Findings and Conclusions report. This report, together with an Executive Summary, a series of briefing papers and a Victims’ Manifesto, can be accessed at www2.le.ac.uk/departments/criminology/research/current-projects/hate-crime
Four University of Leicester criminologists were invited to discuss their hate crime research at a major international conference held in Brighton on the 8-9 May. Dr Neil Chakraborti, Stevie-Jade Hardy, Laura Knight and Irene Zempi (all based at the Department of Criminology) delivered presentations based on the findings and policy implications of their research to an audience of over 100 academics, practitioners and activists from 15 different countries. The conference - ‘Understanding Hate Crime: Research, Policy and Practice’ - was the inaugural conference of the International Network for Hate Studies, a cross-jurisdictional and interdisciplinary organisation that aims to facilitate the exchange of knowledge about the study of hate and hate crime.

Dr Neil Chakraborti, Reader in Criminology and Director of the Leicester Centre for Hate Studies, delivered a keynote address entitled ‘Responding to Hate Crime: The Case for Connecting Policy and Research’. He also featured in a panel discussion on the challenges of researching hate crime which included contributions from Stevie-Jade Hardy (Research Associate) and Irene Zempi (University Tutor). Irene also gave a talk based upon her research into the impact of Islamophobic victimisation upon veiled Muslim women, whilst Laura Knight (PhD student) spoke about her doctoral research on the relationship between faith communities and policing.

Dr Chakraborti commented: ‘This landmark conference was the first event of this scale to bring together academics, practitioners and NGO workers from across the globe to discuss the problem of hate crime. It was heartening to see such a strong contribution from the University of Leicester, and in particular from three of the Department of Criminology’s current and completing PhD students who each gave stimulating and extremely well-received presentations on their innovative research’.

Further information about each of the speakers, their hate crime research and the new Centre for Hate Studies can be found at www.le.ac.uk/departments/criminology

Dr Neil Chakraborti
Director, The Leicester Centre for Hate Studies

Professional Development

From 2015 the Leicester Centre for Hate Studies will be offering expert knowledge and guidance through the form of one-day Continuing Professional Development (CPD) workshops. These face-to-face workshops will draw from academic evidence to enhance the knowledge-base and work skills of professionals from a range of backgrounds, and all learners will receive a certificate of completion from the University of Leicester. Learners can select from workshops covering a broad range of themes, including:

- Cyber bullying
- Multiculturalism
- Disablist hate crime
- Racially motivated hate crime
- Diversity and ‘difference’
- Religiously motivated hate crime
- Extremism
- Responding to hate crime
- Hate offenders

Professional Development workshops can be delivered either at the University of Leicester or in-house, and can be tailored to address the needs of different professional audiences including the police and other criminal justice agencies, local authorities, healthcare services and victim support groups.

For further information about the Leicester Centre for Hate Studies, or to discuss opportunities for professional development, research or further study, please email LCHS@le.ac.uk or visit our website at www2.le.ac.uk/departments/criminology/hate

Dr Neil Chakraborti
Director, The Leicester Centre for Hate Studies

Leicester Criminologists offer policy solutions to hate crime at major international conference

Department PhD Success

We are delighted to congratulate two of the Department’s PhD students, Irene Zempi and Stevie-Jade Hardy, who recently undertook their vivas. Both performed extremely well requiring only minor corrections to their respective theses. Dr Irene Zempi graduated in July and Stevie-Jade is expected to graduate in January.

Dr Irene Zempi’s research, Unveiling Islamophobia in Leicester, examined...
Over the duration of the Leicester Hate Crime Project the research team heard from more than 1,400 victims of hate crime. Their experiences took many forms: from violent attacks to the more ‘everyday’ forms of harassment and intimidatory behaviour such as being called an abusive name, being spat at and being threatened. The project also highlighted the significant physical and emotional impact that hate offences have on victims, families and communities.

In order to draw attention to these problems, the research team produced a short film in conjunction with the University of Leicester’s Video Production Team, and with the support of UnLtD and the HE Social Entrepeneurship fund. ‘The Harms of Hate’ showcases the stories of seven people who come from a range of different backgrounds and who have experienced hate, prejudice and targeted hostility for a variety of reasons. Despite these differences however, they have all suffered significant emotional and physical harms as a result of their victimisation.

The film highlights a number of themes, including:

- The range of people affected by hate incidents.
- The different forms that hate incidents can take.
- The impact that hate incidents have on victims, their families and wider communities.
- The advice that these victims would offer to people suffering from similar experiences.

The short film was distributed free of charge on DVDs to hundreds of schools, colleges and community-based organisations both locally and notionally. Within just a fortnight of being posted on YouTube the film was viewed nearly 1,000 times. Since then, the film has been nominated for a Royal Television Society Award and will be screened at the internationally recognised Aesthetica Short Film Festival (ASFF) in York this November.

To watch the short film, or to find out more information, visit www.le.ac.uk/centreforhatestudies.

‘The Harms of Hate’ – A Short Film

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The victimisation experiences of Muslim women. Stevie-Jade’s research, What’s White About Multiculturalism?, examined everyday multiculturalism, prejudice and targeted hostility with White British people in Leicester. Their successes represent not only the strength of hate crime research in the Department of Criminology, but also the hard work and determination of two very promising young academics. We wish them both every success in the future!

Left to right: Dr Irene Zempi & Stevie-Jade Hardy
First SCID Symposium—Building Security and Justice after Conflict

On 13 March 2014, the Department of Criminology hosted the first — of what will be an annual — Security, Conflict and International Development (SCID) Symposium. Ten members of the newly-established SCID Panel of Experts gave presentations on the theme of the Symposium – building security and justice in post-conflict environments.

The Panel of Experts was established in late 2013 to further enhance the learning experience of students on the innovative distance-learning postgraduate degree programme (http://tinyurl.com/cyehtly). The Panel includes over 70 international experts in the field of conflict prevention, mitigation and recovery: the recently-published public Compendium details the impressive profiles of most Panel members (http://uolscid.files.wordpress.com/2014/03/compendium-final-external-links.pdf). Panel members are engaged in a wide range of activities to enhance the Course and support its students, including contributing to the SCID Blog (http://uolscid.wordpress.com) and email discussion list (www.jiscmail.ac.uk/UOLSCID), supervising dissertations, and marking students work. Members also provide bi-monthly Online Guest Lectures, which are uploaded onto the Blog, as will be the presentations delivered at the Symposium.

The broad range of papers presented at the Symposium addressed issues concerning stabilisation, statebuilding, holistic security, Security Sector Reform, policing in post-conflict environments, transitional justice, community-based dispute resolution, and the value of conflict assessments. Papers were given by leading international experts on issues related to building security and justice after conflict. Presenters included former diplomats, retired senior police chiefs and military officers, government advisers, senior members of the legal profession, and senior officials in the UN system.

The event was an enormous success. The quality of the presentations was outstanding and it was an incredible opportunity to be able to listen to and discuss the insightful observations of leading international experts who have extensive first-hand experience of the issues being discussed. It was also great to meet those working and studying in this field, which is often particularly cherished by those involved in distance learning and those working in remote or isolated areas. In addition to exposing students to the views of leading experts in the field, it was intended that the Symposium help contribute to bridging the gap that can often exist between academia and the field, and thus better respond to the challenges in building peace; draw attention to some of the key issues involved in building security and justice after conflict; further equip students with the skills and knowledge required for a career in this field; and provide a networking opportunity.

Further to the realisation of these aims, through the delivery of the outstanding papers, the Symposium also highlighted some common themes, challenges and lessons learnt in building security and justice after conflict. Many papers addressed the importance of local engagement in efforts to rebuild security and justice after conflict if these and broader peacebuilding efforts are to be successful. Likewise, the importance of context-specificity and reflection was emphasised, in contrast to what often happens in the field with the application of pre-determined models and approaches. Whit Mason, for example, argued brilliantly that we need to think more about how societies work, and the principles upon which they are based, if peacebuilding efforts are to be more effective. This may lead us to the conclusion that the methods of intervention usually used aren’t necessarily the most effective and, indeed, that ‘outsiders can’t supply what’s needed to bring peace’. This linked with the recurring theme throughout the Symposium of the exercise of power and the potential harm associated with external interventions in conflict and post-conflict environments. It also resonated with the comment made by Phil Wilkinson and echoed by others throughout the day that indigenous solutions are required for indigenous problems.

Being attentive to the use of power and control was first introduced in the two excellent opening papers by Malcolm Russell (stabilisation) and Phil Wilkinson (holistic security), which also introduced
the recurring themes of the value of holistic approaches to building peace and security, the need to be attentive to language and – if possible – have a shared understanding of core concepts in order to have a shared approach; and the difficulties in co-ordination, particularly where national interests conflict with mutual endeavours. The importance of engaging with community-based approaches to building security and justice after conflict was also underscored by the brilliant papers by Tony Welch (Security Sector Management), Fraser Hirst (community-based dispute resolution) and Matthew Waterfield (conflict assessments), among others. The importance of engaging with those at the community-level was emphasised if effective and sustainable solutions to conflict and insecurity are sought, while too often local engagement is reduced to consultation with state-level leaders. A related message was the importance of being responsive to the context (and the changing context), which means being flexible, adaptable and reflective in approach. Excellent papers on the value of international criminal justice (John Cubbon) and policing (Chris Sharwood-Smith and Mo Poole) highlighted the complexity of the challenges of rebuilding security and justice after conflict and current developments in the field of transitional justice, in the UN Police Division and in police reform within post-conflict environments. The final paper by Keith Sargent (governance and corruption) tied together many of the recurring themes of the day, emphasising the importance of co-ordination and coherence of efforts, as well as superbly highlighting the conflict-related risks associated with corruption.

Every paper was outstanding and resonated with one of the key messages delivered by Matthew Waterfield in his presentation: many people are suffering from the effects of conflict and ‘it is up to us to respond to those challenges in innovative and creative ways’. Discussions after the Symposium, including on the SCID Blog, will continue to consider these challenges and the ways in which they can be most effectively addressed. Following the success of the first SCID Symposium, next year’s Symposium will be on the theme of researching and working in conflict-affected environments. All presentations were recorded in audio and video format to be uploaded to the Blog (http://www.uolscid.wordpress.com) and Course platforms (Blackboard and iPad) along with the PowerPoint presentations where relevant. This will enable some of the fascinating discussions to continue and involve those SCID students and Panel of Expert members who could not attend. In addition, the proceedings were published in the first SCID Critical Reader, containing all written papers presented at the Symposium, which is made available to all SCID students.

Scarman Lecture Series 2014/15

Named in honour of one of the most outstanding and highly influential Law Lords of the Twentieth Century, the Scarman Lectures are a series of public lectures which provide an opportunity for some of the most high profile and acclaimed commentators from the world of criminology, policing, and criminal justice to share their thoughts, ideas and views on topics of key concern.

The Scarman Lecture Series is free to attend and open to undergraduate and postgraduate students as well as members of staff and the public.

For all Scarman Lecture bookings, please contact: Russell Knifton
Tel: +44(0) 116 252 5780
Email: rk191@le.ac.uk

For more details and updates for our Scarman Lectures please visit: www2.le.ac.uk/departments/criminology/news-and-events/scarmanlecture

The Department of Criminology have recently launched a new webpage which hosts a repository of our popular Scarman Lectures in audio format: www2.le.ac.uk/departments/criminology/news-and-events/scarmanlecture/audio

As the series runs through the next year the webpage will be added to and the bulk of the back catalogue will be available.
Global Summit to end Sexual violence

For Angelina Jolie, the world’s media is never far behind and this was shown to be true earlier this summer as she co-chaired the Global Summit to End Sexual Violence in Conflict. This was the largest ever event focusing on this issue and attracted over 100 NGOs, nearly 50 Foreign Ministers and a huge number of survivors, government delegates, faith leaders and experts from over 100 countries. One of the experts was the Department of Criminology’s Dr Lisa Smith, who writes:

“The Global Summit to End Sexual Violence in Conflict was held in London on 10-13 June and was co-chaired by the Foreign Secretary William Hague, and the Special Envoy of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Angelina Jolie. It was the largest international event ever held on the subject of sexual violence as a weapon of war and the main aim was to launch a new international protocol for the investigation and documentation of sexual violence and tackle the culture of impunity that exists for perpetrators of these acts.

My role in the expert meetings and Ministerial-led sessions was to participate in discussions relating to how forensic science can be used more effectively to document and investigate these crimes and provide access to justice for victims in conflict regions with an aim to improve the ability to successfully prosecute perpetrators. Because many of these regions do not have the infrastructure in place to support advanced forensic science technology, there is a need to adapt forensic techniques and practice in order to make physical evidence available to the courts in these areas of conflict. This is a difficult hurdle to overcome, however I think this summit demonstrated a strong commitment to tackling the complex issues surrounding sexual violence in conflict, and improving prosecution rates in the regional and international courts”.

Diploma award for Criminology Staff member

Wilma Coleman, a senior clerk at the Department of Criminology, has recently successfully passed her Professional Diploma in Management.

Wilma started the Distance Learning programme in 2012 and passed in August 2014. The diploma is hosted by the School of Management at the University of Leicester.

When asked about her reasons to take the diploma, Wilma said ‘Generally, to expand my horizon academically, but more specifically, to improve my understanding of the various aspects of management and improve efficiency at work to get the best out of people and myself. Completing this programme has opened new avenues, which include the possibility of pursuing an MBA at some point in the future which is very exciting.”

Congratulations to Wilma from all of us at the Department of Criminology!

Moonwalk success

BA Criminology Course Administrator Hema Patel has recently successfully completed the London MoonWalk 2014 Marathon, which was a charity in aid of uniting against breast cancer. Hema started the marathon at 12 midnight and completed the entire 26.2 miles at 7.40am on Sunday 11th May.

Hema (pictured back row- second from the right) commented on her experience: “It was a fantastic, vibrant but tiring experience. I raised £410 and in a group of 12 ladies we raised a grand total of £3,945.15”.
The Superstar Award is a way for students to recognise and reward staff at the University of Leicester who have gone above and beyond.

Andy Bates from the Student Union who presented the awards to the Department staff said “As a Student Union it is brilliant to see such positive feedback and to see people in a variety of positions (whether it be a tutor/lecturer or part of the counselling service) make such a positive difference at the University. Our hope is that more people know about the award as I imagine there are plenty of staff who would be nominated if the award has a bit more exposure. But still it is an absolute delight to go round and give out these certificates and is one of the highlights of doing this job.

The Superstar Award is in its second year and gathering a large amount of publicity. We have delivered a few to Criminology earlier in the year and it was a real pleasure to come back and give more awards out. We receive lots of nominations for all types of staff member across the University, along with Michael Rubin (currently the Education Officer, and soon to start as President) we go over the nominations and look at the comments made and from there give out the awards, or perhaps ask for more feedback from the student nominating. Getting to deliver the award and have a good laugh with people is also good fun, and the Criminology lot certainly like a joke or two!”. 

Superstar award winners from the Department of Criminology:

- Mita Chauhan
- Anne Esposito
- Dr Jennifer Fleetwood
- Gina Fox
- Dr Eleanor Gordon
- Becky Halden
- Dr Hillary Jones
- Russell Knifton
- Nikki Shelton
- Dr Lisa Smith

Gina Fox was also invited to the University of Leicester Student Awards 2014 and was awarded the ‘Superstar of the Year for the College of Social Science’.

Well done to all of our winners!

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**Postgraduate Festival 2014**

The Festival of Postgraduate Research is where the University gets to showcase the best of its research student talent and this year the standard of entries was very high. The Panel of Judges were extremely impressed by the breadth and quality of work on display and the knowledge and passion for research demonstrated by our presenters. The Festival celebrated its tenth year in 2014.

Gina Fox and Stevie-Jade Hardy were both prize winners. The prize winners are pictured with the Graduate Dean, Professor Sarah Hainsworth.

Gina won the prize for Best Poster (College of Social Science) sponsored by the Leicester Mercury for her poster: ‘The Rehabilitative Lottery: Exploring the Delivery and Attitudes Towards Non-Accredited Programmes Delivered in a Private Prison’. You can view the poster at the webpage: www2.le.ac.uk/research/festival/meet/2014/gina-fox

Stevie was a runner up in the first University of Leicester 3 minute thesis competition with her presentation of What’s Hate Got to Do With It?: Challenging the Myth Around Hate Crime Offenders.

Top: Gina receiving her award
Bottom: Stevie receiving her award
Managing Security and Risk in Healthcare Settings

The Department of Criminology has developed a new innovative undergraduate credit bearing course which is the first of its kind in Healthcare Security!

The Managing Security and Risk in Healthcare Settings CBC (credit bearing course) is aimed at professionals at early career or aspiring managers working in, or who wish to work in the Healthcare Security sector.

The 12 week course has been designed to meet the differing needs of security managers at all stages of their career development.

Studying the Managing Security and Risk in Healthcare Settings course gives an excellent understanding of the internal and external threats to security in healthcare settings which will enable students to more fully appreciate the short and long-term impact of breaches of security on users and on staff. The course also increases awareness of the key issues that are particular to the management of risk and security in healthcare settings, enabling students to implement a sound and considered range of risk management and crime prevention responses and strategies.

For students who graduate this course and want to continue in Higher Education via distance learning with us, the undergraduate academic credits earned will go towards our Foundation Degree in Security and Risk Management.

The course is also an excellent opportunity to consolidate professional experience by undertaking academic study as part of a continuing professional development strategy and if students are already a member of the Security Institute (SyI) Continuing Professional Development Scheme, the course will help them to maintain their CPD status.

Here’s what the Head of Security with one of the largest NHS Trusts in the country has to say about our innovative new course:

‘For some time academics and the security industry have recognised that the function of healthcare security is one of the most problematic and complex areas of security. It requires that those who aspire to the highest levels of security management possess a range of skills sets and experience to enable them to be fully competent in - amongst other core activities - physical and technical security systems, criminal and non-criminal investigations, risk management and knowledge of the criminological theories that inform the practitioner.

As security practitioners, it is fundamental that we understand the industry we are in. I have had the opportunity to review the content of this course and as a Head of Security and Safety with one of the largest NHS Trusts in the UK; I welcome the introduction of such a course. From the outset, it takes the student on a journey through the NHS industry with a comprehensive introduction to this complex industry with its significant challenges’.

Brian Pender MSc, BSc (Hons), PGCE, ASMA, FSyl

You can find out more about this new course at our dedicated webpage: www.le.ac.uk/departments/criminology/dlcourses/ugdlcourses/healthcare
Professor Carol Hedderman retires

Summer 2014 marked the retirement of Professor Carol Hedderman. Carol was appointed Professor in the Department of Criminology in 2004 following roles in the Home Office Research and Statistics Directorate, as Deputy Director of the Criminal Policy Research Unit at London Southbank University (now the Institute for Criminal Policy Research at Kings College London) and a return to the Home Office as Assistant Director of the Home Office Research and Statistics Directorate.

Carol made an enormously valuable contribution to the Department and also to the wider Criminology discipline, specialising in the areas of community sentences, the probation service and women offenders. A highly distinguished academic, Carol has published in numerous international journals, been a member of the Interagency Advisory Group on Statistics on Women in the Criminal Justice System and research advisor to the London Probation Trust. She served on the editorial board of the British Journal of Criminology and Psychology, Crime and Law.

Regular readers of Criminology in Focus may recall that Carol featured on the front cover of the very first issue of the newsletter (Autumn 2008) when she was Head of Department. Carol played a key role in the development of the Department and has been an invaluable source of support and guidance for many PhD students and early-career researchers at the beginning of their academic careers, as well as more senior and established colleagues.

Carroll is currently working as a consultant and research advisor and we all wish her a very long and happy retirement!

Dr John Bond OBE joins Department of Criminology

Dr John W. Bond OBE has joined the Department of Criminology from the Department of Chemistry, where he has worked for the past three years since retiring from Northamptonshire Police in 2011.

John worked for Northamptonshire Police for nearly 20 years as Head of Forensic Services and, during that time, crime scene managed many high profile investigations including the investigation of the multiple murderer Phillip Austin, who murdered his entire family in 2000.

John also invented a novel method of recovering fingerprints from spent brass shell casings, which has been used to provide prosecution evidence in murder trials across the US. Whilst at Leicester, John has continued to invent new ways of recovering fingerprints from ‘difficult’ surfaces and some of these are now in commercial production, used by law enforcement agencies worldwide, and generate an income for the University. These inventions have been acknowledged with innovation awards from Time Magazine and the BBC Focus Magazine and, in 2011, John was awarded an OBE for services to forensic science.

John has a long standing association with the Department of Criminology and, for several years, has worked in close collaboration with academics in the Department, notably Dr Lisa Smith and Tammy Ayres. The most recent of these collaborations have included the ‘Blazing car murder’ from 1930, legal high substance abuse and the successful FP7 bid for EU funding for ten Ph.D. studentships at the University. John said, ‘I’m really looking forward to joining such a dynamic department and to continue my work with colleagues who share an interest in using forensic science to solve crime’.
Evaluation of impact and outcomes of schemes targeting prolific offenders

Dr Sam King and Dr Matt Hopkins were successful in winning a grant (£30K) to evaluate the impact of Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire probation trusts. The schemes target prolific offenders and aim to address their offending through addressing risk and protective factors. The evaluation not only aims to ascertain if the schemes impact on outcomes such as reconviction, but through interviews with offenders it also aims to ascertain what elements of the intervention are successful (or not). The final report is due at the end of October 2014.

Multi-disciplinary Revenge documentary and international conference planned

The Department of Criminology has recently begun collaboration with documentary filmmaker Rex Bloomstein, and his co-producer Justin Temple, on an academically informed feature-length documentary on Revenge. Bloomstein, who is an Honorary Visiting Fellow within the Department, has received University of Leicester funding to contribute towards the development and research stage of this pioneering documentary exploring, from a range of disciplinary perspectives, the human motivation of revenge. Bloomstein has been making innovative documentaries about crime and punishment, the Holocaust, human ‘evil’ and Human Rights for almost four decades. For more information on his work please refer to his profile on the Department of Criminology website and his own filmography at www.rexentertainment.co.uk/

The proposed documentary entitled Revenge: A Journey in Five Chapters will draw together international experts and scholars to explore the multi-faceted, and under-researched, topic of human revenge, and looks at this for infidelity in a relationship, to a rampage of destruction in response to perceived social injustice, to even the role that revenge may play politically in warfare. It is hoped that this will be a great opportunity both for the University of Leicester, and for academics within the University, to be associated with such an ambitious and exciting film project in collaboration with such a critically acclaimed and groundbreaking filmmaker.

The Department of Criminology, led by Professor Adrian Beck and Dr Sarah Hodgkinson met the directors, along with colleagues from a range of other academic departments within the university, on the 12th of June. They discussed the forthcoming documentary, and explored the potential collaborative research ventures around various aspects of revenge. The outcome of this was discussion was to plan to host an International Conference in 2015, spearheading research into ‘Revenge studies’. Colleagues from the University will be meeting again to take this further and start the organisation of the conference, as well as discussing other research outcomes, such as an edited collection of papers. The conference will be organised by Dr Sarah Hodgkinson (Criminology) and Dr Gavin Bailey (Politics and International Relations), who will shortly be putting out a Call for Papers to anyone involved in research in revenge-related areas. Anyone interested in the project more widely, and/or in the conference can contact Dr Hodgkinson on sf101@le.ac.uk
Developments in Mobile Scanning Technology: Understanding the Potential Impact on Shrinkage and Loss Protection

Professor Adrian Beck and Dr Matt Hopkins were awarded an ESRC grant of £144,000 to explore the development and use of mobile scanning technologies within the UK retail sector. The project aims to identify how major retailers are implementing mobile scan and pay systems, the criminogenic opportunities generated and the crime prevention strategies that can be implemented to reduce these opportunities. The project runs until January 2015 and is expected to produce a number of outputs including journal papers and conference presentations.

Gender network

The Gender and Justice Research group held their first one-day conference in July, attended by postgraduate students, researchers and early-career academics. The conference explored interdisciplinary perspectives on gender and justice and there were talks from researchers representing a diverse range of subject areas, including: domestic violence, sexual violence, gender and deviance, gender and offending and gender in institutions. The conference opened with engaging and thought-provoking talks from Carol Hedderman (formerly University of Leicester) and Sarah Lamble (Birkbeck) which set the tone for a lively series of discussions around contemporary themes and issues. The emphasis was on creating a welcoming and participatory forum for people to discuss their current research and this was certainly achieved! The group looks forward to organising further events in the future. If you would like to know more about the group, or are interested in joining, please email jf209@le.ac.uk.

Identifying and assessing the risk of money laundering in Europe (IARM)

Dr Matt Hopkins was successful in securing funding from the European Union under the European Commission Prevention and Fight against Crime research call to conduct research in relation to money laundering in Italy, Holland and the UK. The project, which involves collaboration with Transcrime (Italy) and VU Amsterdam (Holland) will develop a risk assessment model to identify risks and threats with a view to designing preventative strategies. The project will run for two years from December 2014.

Evaluating Rape Law Effectiveness is an 18 month project that will examine the working reality of the Sexual Offences Act 2003. Dr Clare Gunby received a grant from the British Academy in March 2014 (in conjunction with Dr Anna Carline from the School of Law). Based upon interviews with Barristers from four British cities the project will identify how provisions introduced by the Act are used in practice, where problems with the legislation exist and make recommendations for improvement.
New book on Islamophobia by Leicester criminologists

Dr Irene Zempi, University Tutor and Dr Neil Chakraborti, Reader in Criminology and Director of the Leicester Centre for Hate Studies have published a book entitled ‘Islamophobia, Victimisation and the Veil’.

This book examines the experiences of veiled Muslim women as victims of Islamophobia, and the impact of this victimisation upon women, their families and wider Muslim communities.

Irene Zempi thinks that: ‘the book offers a unique insight into the gendered dimensions of Islamophobia and the vulnerability of veiled Muslim women as victims of hate and prejudice. Based on cutting-edge empirical research, the findings shed light on the nature and impact of this victimisation, which is all too often ‘hidden’ from academic enquiry.

Nathan Hall from the University of Portsmouth added: ‘As contemporary hate crime scholarship continues to flourish in Britain, with this book Zempi and Chakraborti have made a significant contribution to our knowledge and understanding of an issue hitherto largely underexplored by the existing literature. There is a wealth of knowledge contained within this accessible volume, and given current political and social discourses, should be read by academics, policymakers, and practitioners alike.’

The book will be essential reading for students, academics and practitioners working across a range of disciplines including Criminology, Sociology, Victimology and Gender Studies. More details about the book are available at: www.palgrave.com/products/title.aspx?pid=694259

Drug Mules: Women in the International Cocaine Trade

Drawing on extensive research in prisons in Ecuador, Dr Jennifer Fleetwood, a lecturer in Criminology, has published a new book entitled Drug mules: Women in the international cocaine trade, in which she investigates how women become involved in drug trafficking and what they do once they’re involved. The in depth data contained in the book enables a clearer understanding of drug trafficking beyond stock assumptions about evil traffickers and exploited mules. Women involved in drug trafficking cannot be considered as simply victims or volunteers – women’s reasons for working as mules are complex and varied.

Patricia A. Adler, University of Colorado, Boulder said: “Despite the plethora of studies in criminology about women and crime that have appeared in the last thirty years, the preponderance of scholarship has focused on women as victims, with relatively little adding to our understanding of women as offenders. In this groundbreaking new book, Jennifer Fleetwood employs feminist criminology to illustrate how women are both victims and agents in illicit enterprises. Focusing on drug mules, women who transport cocaine across international borders, this book traces the various roles women play, the consequences of these roles, and what it means for the future of female criminality. Engaging, methodologically sound, theoretically driven, and just a plain ‘good read,’ Drug Mules promises to sit on our shelves as one of the most important works on the contemporary global drug trade, women and crime, and changing gender roles published in the last decade or more.”

Dr Sveinung Sandberg, University of Oslo, remarked that: “The fieldwork in this book is only matched by a handful of ethnographers worldwide. Fleetwood’s book is a big advance in understanding women’s participation in transitional crime. Unpacking the international drug trade using ethnographic data is truly extraordinary. As opposed to most other researchers in this tradition, Fleetwood also explores new ground theoretically. Her original use of feminism and narrative theory is nothing less than impressive, and makes the book a must-read for audiences far beyond those interested in the drug trade. This is contemporary criminology at its best.”
Responding to Hate Crime: New book from Leicester criminologist makes the case for closer partnerships between scholars and policy-makers

Why has so much hate crime policy seemingly ignored academic research? And why has so much research been conducted without reference to policy?

These questions are addressed in the latest book from Dr Neil Chakraborti, Reader in Criminology and Director of the Leicester Centre for Hate Studies. The book, co-edited with Jon Garland (formerly Department of Criminology, now University of Surrey), bridges the gap between hate crime research and policy by bringing together internationally renowned experts from the domains of scholarship, policy and activism. In doing so, it provides new perspectives on the nature of hate crime victimisation and offending, and considers an extensive range of themes, challenges and solutions that have previously been under-explored.

Professor Yvonne Jewkes from Leicester’s Department of Criminology describes the book as ‘an exceptionally important, comprehensive and stimulating collection exploring the hate crime scholarship-policy nexus. Responding to Hate Crime is a text of remarkable range and sophistication; it is both timely and forward-thinking. The tragic consequences of prejudice and bigotry are sadly all too familiar to all of us, but the small ‘signs of progress’ noted by the editors are in no small part due to their own pioneering work in this field’.

Essential reading for students, academics and practitioners working across a range of disciplines including criminology, sociology and social policy, Responding to Hate Crime makes a clear and compelling case for closer and more constructive partnerships between scholars and policy makers.

Football Hooliganism, fan behaviour and crime (Matt Hopkins and James Treadwell eds)

Dr Matt Hopkins and Dr James Treadwell (University of Birmingham) have published an edited collection focusing on a number of contemporary research themes in relation to football hooliganism, fan behaviour and crime. The book includes chapters from eminent scholars about football supporter sub-cultures and hate crime, football and corruption, football as a crime generator and the policing of crowds. This volume moves forward the debate on football hooliganism, situating the study of football and crime into appropriate historical, theoretical and policy contexts. The collection also illustrates that the analysis of football and fan behaviours still has much to offer the criminological community.

Dr Matt Hopkins

I got my first job in criminology back in 1994. After leaving University I somehow managed to land a job as a Research Assistant to Professor Nick Tilley at Nottingham Trent University. My interest in criminology was ignited as an undergraduate at the University of Leicester where I sat a module (offered by Professor John Benyon) on Public Order, though I never thought it was something I would ever pursue as a career. Luckily I talked Professor Tilley into giving me a job and I also took the opportunity to register for a PhD. I initially worked on a project on commercial victimisation, managed to get a few papers published and also completed my PhD (on ‘Abuse and Violence Against Small Businesses’). I then lectured at Nottingham Trent University before working for consultancy companies Morgan Harris Burrows and Matrix in London. After several years of contract research I made the leap back in to academia when I joined the Department in January 2011.

Throughout my career I have been involved in a number of applied research projects and evaluations of national government programmes, and my work has spanned a variety of areas relating to crime prevention, risk, security, commercial victimisation and organised crime. I have also been lucky enough to publish in some fairly prestigious journals such as the British Journal of Criminology, the International Review of Victimology, Criminology and Criminal Justice and the Security Journal.

I’m currently involved in an ESRC funded project entitled ‘A study of Developments in Mobile Scanning Technology: Understanding the Potential Impact on Shrinkage and Loss Protection’ (with Professor Adrian Beck). This project aims to explore the development and use of mobile scanning technologies within the UK retail sector, identify how the implementation of such technologies will generate opportunities for crime and what preventative strategies can be integrated into systems to reduce crime.

I’m also working with Dr Sam King on an evaluation of Integrated Offender Management Programmes (IOM) in Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire, which aims to provide an understanding of the impact and outcomes of schemes targeting prolific offenders in those two probation trusts. I’ve also recently secured a grant in partnership with Transcrime (Italy) and VU Amsterdam (Holland) from the European Union to conduct research in relation to money laundering in Italy, Holland and the UK. This project commences in December and will run for two years.

I am a Research Fellow of the Security Institute, an academic advisor on the Home Office Commercial Victimisation Steering Group and I Chair the Department’s Thesis Committee.

Dr Rebecca Barnes

I stumbled into Sociology and Criminology by a happy accident, dating back to when I embarked upon a combined honours undergraduate degree at the University of Derby. I had spontaneously chosen Sociology as a third option alongside English and German, and after becoming enthused in by studies of deviance, identity, gender, sexuality and so on, I subsequently dropped the other subjects and majored in Sociology! From there, I was awarded an ESRC studentship to undertake a Masters and PhD at the University of Nottingham, where I conducted one of the first in-depth studies of violence and abuse in women’s same-sex relationships in the UK.

After completing my PhD in 2007, I was fortunate in swiftly securing a full-time lectureship in Sociology at the University of Derby. During my five years there, I conducted small-scale research projects studying a youth inter-faith forum in Derby and exploring the needs of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) students in higher education, whilst also becoming the programme leader of the course that I had previously graduated from. I continued to feel passionately about pursuing further research into LGBT domestic violence and in 2012, together with Catherine Donovan at the University of Sunderland, I was awarded £267,484 by the ESRC to conduct the first UK study of perpetrators of violence and abuse in LGBT relationships. This project is currently drawing to a close, after a hectic yet fascinating two years of intensive fieldwork and various dissemination activities.

In January 2013 I joined the Department of Criminology and became the Deputy Convenor for the campus-based MSc programmes, whilst also teaching Research Methods, Sexual Violence and Crime Prevention at Masters level. The friendly and supportive atmosphere in the Department helped me to settle in quickly, and there have been many opportunities to collaborate with others through the Gender and Justice research group and through research which I am co-leading with Dr Clare Gunby, evaluating a new intervention for medium risk, repeat victims of domestic violence in Nottinghamshire. There is no shortage of opportunities to get involved in the teaching and research life of the Department, and with the continued development of the Gender and Justice research group and the recently launched Leicester Centre for Hate Studies, another exciting year is on the horizon.
I spent a day recently with the family of an 18 year old boy who had hanged himself on his second day on remand in prison. The lad had had treatment for mental health problems and depression and had tried to take his own life at least once before. When he arrived in prison he had visible marks round his neck where he had tried to hang himself with shoe laces but his family had arrived just in time to cut him down. Despite this the prison put him in a cell alone with no support and by morning he was dead. This young offender’s institution holds 700 teenage boys and has had the number of prison officers cut from 250 to just 160. It is common for such jails to have only three prison officers on duty at night so there is no possibility of a teenager in crisis to have someone to sit and talk them through it. There will be an inquest.

The number of people taking their own lives in prison has doubled in the last couple of years and two people die by their own hand each week. I cannot understand why this is not considered a national scandal and why the government is so flaccid in its attitude to these preventable deaths.

I sit on the Ministerial Board that oversees government policy on preventing deaths in custody, from police cells to mental hospitals, from prison cells to probation hostels. The prison death rate had been improving markedly as the numbers of inmates fell. In the last three years 18 prisons have been closed, the number of prisoners has increased and the number of frontline prison staff has been cut by a third. This is a perfect storm that created a toxic environment full of violence, self-injury and assaults on staff. It is bound to create more crime as people experience extreme fear and violence in prison spill back onto the streets with little support.

This is the most challenging and most important part of the work of the Howard League. The charity was founded back in 1866 partly to campaign for an end to capital punishment but also to find ways of making the penal system humane and effective. Today the Howard League works for less, safer communities and fewer people in prison.

Trying to find solutions to public policy issues involves working with the professionals at the coalface but also taking a step back and conducting research both to discover patterns and to foster new ideas. The charity has a major research programme overseen by its committee of trustees, chaired by Dr Neil Chakraborti.

We have had some successes. We campaigned for an end to automatic strip searching of children on reception to prison, a deliberately humiliating procedure, and it was indeed stopped earlier this year. As well as being a charity, the Howard League is a law firm providing legal advice and intervention to children and young people in custody. So I manage an amazing team of expert and dedicated lawyers. Through taking aggressive legal action they ended the unlawful use of punishments in a private prison and have helped hundreds of young people resettle more safely on release.

We are still fighting to get the ban on sending books and other essentials to prisoners. This campaign all started when I wrote an article explaining the impact of the new incentives scheme on prisoners and it went viral on social media. Within a week we had organised a reading outside Pentonville prison led by Carol Anne Duffy, the Poet Laureate, alongside Sir David Hare, Kathy Lette, Mark Haddon and Tracy Chevalier. We will carry on campaigning until books can be sent to prisoners.

There are few charities that are truly independent and I am proud that the Howard League does not accept government funding for services and so is free to conduct research, campaigns and public discourse unfettered and unimpeded. It does not make us popular, but lively and challenging civil society is critical to a healthy democracy.

Honorary Visiting Fellow:
Frances Crook

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First SCID Graduation

This summer, the very first students of the MSc programme in Security, Conflict and International Development (SCID) graduated. SCID graduates Tim Ford and Stephen Coller attended the graduation ceremony held at the University of Leicester on 15 July 2014. Graduating with Merit and after 30+ years in law enforcement in the UK and internationally, Tim Ford is now looking to specialise in Security Sector Reform, and welcomes any opportunities in this regard. Stephen Coller continues his career with An Garda Siochana in Dublin, with whom he has been working for over 10 years, specialising in investigating Drug Supply/Distribution. Stephen also intends to use the MSc to further a career in the national/international arena, particularly in the field of drug control (ideally with UNODC). Anyone wishing to contact either Tim or Stephen, or any of the SCID alumni, can email Dr Eleanor Gordon at eg132@le.ac.uk who will pass the message on.

Let's get networking...

This year sees the launch of the new University of Leicester Criminology Students and Alumni LinkedIn group. This will help members connect with other Alumni and share opportunities such as conferences, events and job openings. The University would also like to use this space to help undergraduates to gain useful careers tips and an insight into the different careers their degree can lead to. So whether you are an Alumnus of the Department or a current student – make sure you join the group to share your ideas and stay connected, just visit http://bit.ly/Criminologystudentsandalumni

The Criminal Justice FastTrack – Can you help undergraduates gain experience from your organisation?

In 2013, the University of Leicester introduced the UK’s first Criminal Justice FastTrack scheme. An award designed to recognise students’ practical experience within the Criminal Justice sector. Whilst supporting the most pro-active and motivated students from the Department to gain focussed work experience, this award also offers organisations access to a range of support from volunteer recruitment through to internship bursaries. If you would like to get involved with the Criminal Justice FastTrack and offer our students some valuable work experience opportunities please contact Louise Green on lg177@le.ac.uk

Student case study: Helen Gibbs, BA Criminology

What led you to join the Criminal Justice FastTrack?
I have always had an interest in working within the criminal justice system and this programme enabled me to gain experience in this area. As I have been studying Criminology, I found this opportunity very exciting and also relevant to my degree. As a result when this opportunity came up I was eager to take part in it as I feel that it greatly enhances my career prospects as it offers a deeper insight into what it is like to work in the criminal justice sector.

What do you feel you have gained from doing the award?
I feel that I have gained a lot of different skills and experiences from this award. Firstly, my time with Futures Unlocked has given me administrative experience as well as a wider knowledge of the criminal justice system and the provisions available for offenders. Also, it enabled me to understand the importance of the various criminal justice agencies working together in an attempt to prevent offenders released from prison from offending in the future.

What are your next steps?
Thanks to the experience and skills I gained during my time volunteering for Futures Unlocked, I have now managed to secure a job with Hertfordshire Police as part of the Criminal Justice Department. I feel that I would not have been able to achieve this had I not taken part in the Criminal Justice FastTrack award and carried out my volunteering.
Could you inspire the next generation?

The College of Social Science in conjunction with the Career Development Service has developed a mentoring scheme which connects university alumni with current students who want to take their career plans one step further and enhance their employability. The scheme is designed to give students the opportunity to gain early career insights by learning from someone already working in their desired field.

As a Mentor the scheme will provide you with an opportunity to:
- Improve leadership and coaching skills
- Expand your professional networks and contacts
- Develop and maintain meaningful links with your former department for future collaborations, projects and events

Student communication with mentors involves a combination of email, telephone and face to face meetings based on what is convenient for the mentor.

To find out more about the scheme and how to get involved please contact Louise Green on lg177@le.ac.uk

The Criminology Society, by Claudia Hardy, 3rd Year BA Criminology student and President of the Criminology Society

The Criminology Society was founded in 2006 with the intent of aiding students with their studies during their time at the University. Since then its aims have grown. The Society endeavours to enhance our members’ learning with guest lectures, prison visits and police station tours whilst also adding to their overall student experience.

This year, for the first time, the Criminology Society was awarded a bronze STARS rating due to the hard work of last year’s Committee. This will increase our chances for funding opportunities together with the potential to make a real difference in the education of our members. Regular social events have increased participation within the Society including a joint end-of-year Criminology & Psychology Ball, which was a great success.

Whilst academic and social activities are a massive part of what the Society does, sport is also an essential part of the Society for all our members. We have become well established in the intramural leagues for both netball and football. This is especially important as it encourages our members to enjoy activities and make friends outside the reaches of the course, enriching their student experience. As President for the forthcoming academic year I’m looking forward to the Criminology Society enjoying even more success by continuing to build on the solid foundations that have already been established by previous Criminology Committees.

Students are able to join the Society via the Student Union’s website by following this link http://leicesterunion.com/groups/criminology--2
**Alumni loyalty discount scheme**

If you have already completed a degree or PGCE course at the University of Leicester and are a self-financing student, you are entitled to 10% off the course fees of:

- any campus-based postgraduate course (except PGCE or four-year M-level courses e.g. MPhys, MGeol);
- any postgraduate distance learning course;
- any postgraduate research degree

Your discount will be automatically calculated when you apply for your postgraduate course. No separate application form is required.

NB. This discount cannot be combined with the Family Discount Scheme for international students.

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**Julie M.T. Boost, MSc, CPP, CFM**

graduated with Merit from our MSc Security and Risk Management programme in 2014.

The past 15 years, I specialised in various positions ranging from CEO, CCO (Chief Commercial Officer), Operations and Facility Manager as COO, Security and Risk Management as CSO (Chief Security Officer) and Liaison Officer. Currently, I am a Law enforcement Inspector as well as an Independent Security Consultant. I notice, now more than ever, the pressure of change. Indeed, the impact of increasing internal and external threats are the main themes of the organisation’s memos. The reality out there is that managing Security is a challenging activity with a lot of pitfalls and danger zones.

In my experience, it is the motivated, determined and well trained professional that gets the goods home at the end of the day. To be at the top of your game, you need to expand your tactical, technical and academic knowledge.

Why, because poorly designed security foils everybody... except the attacker. So, it is up to you to groom yourself into the perfect Security professional.

In pursuing this quest I obtained several certificates, for example, the CPP (Certified Protection Professional from ASIS), the CFM (Certified Facility Manager from IFMA) and the High Studies for Police, Justice and Corporate Security from ECSA (European Corporate Security Association). For the newcomers into security, I can assure you that combining professional knowledge from security, policing and justice is no exotic choice. This, because preventive and repressive answers to criminal threats are not the prerogative of one monopolistic provider. Indeed, answers to threats are only efficient and effective if police, judicial and corporate go hand in hand.

For my academic development, I chose to partner up with the University of Leicester, which proved to be an excellent choice. It was the perfect platform to be more effective in my role as a Security professional. In short, I found the content of the course modules to be outstanding and they allowed me to sharpen my skills and capabilities and to reinforce my professional profile. Without hesitation, I would recommend this degree to anyone in the policing, justice and security industry.

I really enjoyed researching and writing my dissertation. As a woman, I noticed that most of my counterparts are men. So I decided to research ‘Women Executives in Policing, Criminal Justice and Security’. I was lucky to have Dr. Christopher Crowther-Dowey as a supervisor, who turned out to be as passionate as me about gender and justice. And I clearly remember the positive influence Professor Adrian Beck and Ms. Nikki Shelton had on my academic work.

In a nut shell, my research was not about pushing the boys out of the picture, rather pushing the girls in. My findings showed that there is a case for arguing rather pushing the girls in. My findings showed that there is a case for arguing that it is an informed choice to employ women in executive positions in policing, criminal justice and security. Indeed, they bring competitive advantage.

Finally, I truly enjoyed the graduation ceremony – the tassel was worth the hassle!

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**Department of Criminology Alumni Association**

If you are a graduate of the Department of Criminology and you would like to join the Alumni Association and receive Criminology in Focus via email then we would like you to get in touch with us so that we have your up-to-date contact details.

Graduates can also receive a free copy of the annual Graduates Review magazine through the central Alumni Relations team - do please let them know how you’d prefer to receive it by contacting them at alumni.relations@le.ac.uk

Don’t forget to join the Alumni LinkedIn Group (brilliant for professional networking and getting ahead in your career) and also the Alumni Facebook and Twitter pages (great for hearing about the latest news and events).

If you have not done so recently, you can fill out the short alumni questionnaire form so that you will be added to our contact list. In addition, if you know anybody who is an alumnus of the Department of Criminology please forward this newsletter on to them and ask them to update their contact details as well.

If you are one of our alumni and you would like us to feature an article about what you’re doing now then we would love to hear from you. Thank you to Julie Boost for providing the alumni profile in this issue.