

# Criminology *in Focus*

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF CRIMINOLOGY

## Inside this issue:

In the following pages you will find out about the latest news from the Department, our current research and what our students and staff have been up to. We hope that you find *Criminology in Focus* informative and interesting. Please do let us know what you think.

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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 4 for further details.

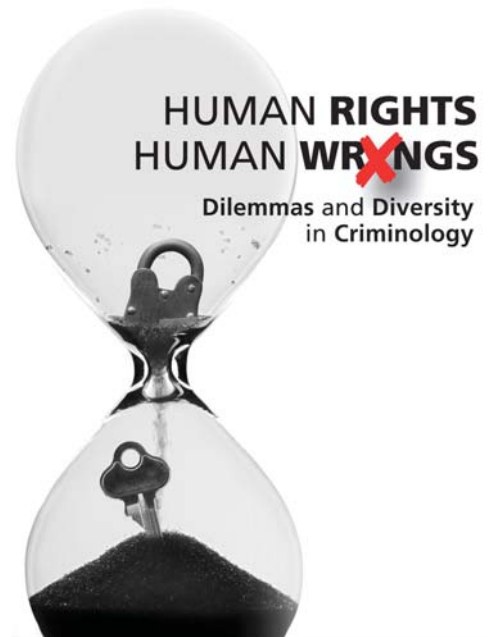
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## The Department of Criminology Hosts the British Society of Criminology Conference!

Many of you reading this will be doing so from the British Society of Criminology conference, which is being hosted by the University of Leicester for the second time in a decade. Others may be scanning these pages with bleary eyes as they recover from the intellectual and social onslaught that marks the three day conference.

I've been to many other disciplines' symposia, seminars, conferences and conventions and most seem rather staid affairs compared to the British Criminology Conference. I'm happy to say that we criminologists take the social side of our annual get-together very seriously indeed! When I think back over the last decade, some of my stand-out conference memories are the River Thames Cruise aboard the Dixie Queen organised by the LSE in 2007, the mellifluous tones of the Male Voice Choir at Cardiff last year, followed by a disco which involved a fair amount of 'dirty dancing' (the offending parties know who they are!), and who can forget the music provided by 'Stenson and Burke' at Keele in 2002?!

At Leicester in 2010 we are upholding the tradition of providing a varied and exciting social programme. The bars at the conference site are open until late and we



have a big screen TV showing the FIFA World Cup Final on Sunday evening, a barbecue and band on Monday evening, and a magnificent Indian banquet on Tuesday to be held at a beautifully restored art deco cinema in the cultural quarter of Leicester. Joining us here at Athena are two accomplished guest speakers: internationally renowned human rights lawyer and founder and Director of Reprieve, **Clive Stafford Smith** OBE; and a man who combines wit, wisdom and wince-inducing recognition of the joys of academia in his insights into life at Poppleton University, **Laurie Taylor**.

Of course it's not *all* beer and skittles (or forgetting your rule not to drink anything blue or green and then throwing obscene shapes on the dance floor) at the BSC conference. Over the years there have

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*Criminology Conference continued from page 1*

been some fascinating plenary speakers and Leicester 2010 is no exception. We have invited four academic keynote speakers – **Jeff Ferrell, Lilie Chouliaraki, Reece Walters** and **Ben Bowling** – who are all pushing back the boundaries of criminological knowledge in various ways. All four can be described as genuinely innovative and imaginative scholars and leading lights in their respective fields. We are delighted to welcome them to Leicester.

We also have several exciting special sessions, including a *Hate Time Question Time*, featuring some of the leading international hate crime scholars; **Barbara Perry, David Gadd, Jon Garland, Nathan Hall** and **Paul Giannasi**; an *Audience With Rex Bloomstein* in which prison governor and academic, Jamie Bennett, will interview the critically-acclaimed, Bafta-Award winning film-maker **Rex Bloomstein** about his prison documentaries and other work; a crime film stream which will show movies as diverse as *Fourteen Days in May, The Fear Factory* and *Man on Wire*; and an *Authors Meet Critics* panel in which **Ian Loader** and **Richard Sparks** will discuss their new book *Public Criminology?* (Routledge) and will face their 'critics', **Martin Innes, Gordon Hughes** and **Reece Walters**.

A friend and colleague, Katja Franko Aas, describes hosting an academic conference

as being very similar to organising a wedding and after a few months of planning – booking the marquee and jazz band, drawing up a list of invited guests, choosing the dinner venue and enduring the task of tasting approximately thirty courses of the most exquisite Indian food in order to come up with a suitable conference dinner menu – I have to agree with her. Writing at a distance of some two months before the conference gets underway I can say at this point that it has been tremendous fun. But being entrusted with hosting the conference on behalf of the BSC is also a great honour and privilege and I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the Society and, particularly, Anne Brunton who, although no longer the Director of the BSC, got us off to the best possible start with invaluable advice and support. And while

I'm acknowledging those who have helped to make the conference happen, I'd like to extend my gratitude to all my colleagues at the Department of Criminology who have enthusiastically got stuck in, and to our former Head of Department, Carol Hedderman and current HoD, Adrian Beck, who have shown unstinting support throughout; to the organising committee – Tammy Ayres, Charlotte Bilby, Jon Garland, Rob Mawby and James Treadwell – who have worked tirelessly and good-humouredly throughout; and Neil Chakraborti and Helen Baldock who joined me in making up the core organising team and have just been brilliant. We very much hope that you enjoy, or have enjoyed, the BSC conference at Leicester.

**Professor Yvonne Jewkes**



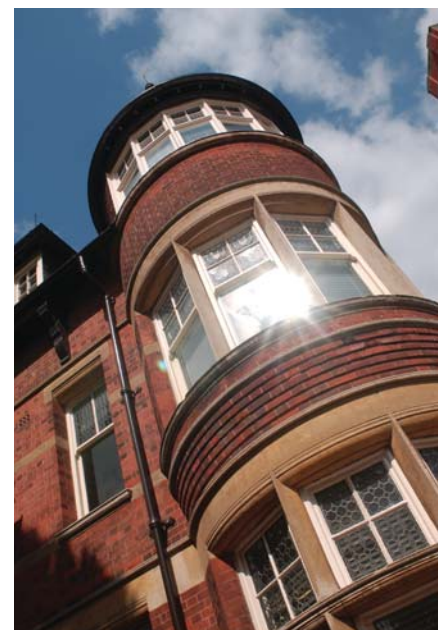
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## History of the Department

### The Early Days

The Department of Criminology was originally called the **Centre for the Study of Public Order** and was established in 1987 by John Benyon who was an academic working in the then Department of Further Education at the University of Leicester. He was interested in a broad range of issues relating to riots, public disorder and policing, and had written widely on the inner city riots in the early 1980s and the hugely influential Scarman Report which followed. The first ever MA in Public Order was established at this time which proved extremely popular with a wide range of practitioners from across

the criminal justice system including senior police officers and magistrates as well as with representatives from minority ethnic groups and local government. This was followed by an MA in Criminology and an MSc in Security Management and Information Technology, both of which reflected the broadening interests of the people who had begun to join the Centre as academics and researchers. This was also the time when the current Head of Department (Adrian Beck) and Professor Yvonne Jewkes joined the Centre as young researchers – Adrian employed to work on a range of retail security projects and Yvonne on a Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust funded project on social



*Continued on page 3*

*History of the Department Continued from page 2*

justice and order in Britain's cities (Yvonne left the Centre in the early 1990s but rejoined in 2007). Andrew Willis, who later became a Head of Department, also began collaborative work with staff from the Centre at this time, particularly on an extensive project funded by the European Community looking at Police Co-operation in Europe.

## Expansion and Development

In the early 1990s the Centre was renamed the **Scarman Centre for the Study of Public Order** in honour of Lord Scarman and his influential observations about public order, policing, civil liberties and social justice in contemporary societies. This time also saw the establishment of a range of postgraduate courses being offered by distance learning, in recognition of the growing interest from practitioners in the subjects being researched and taught by the Centre. This mode of learning enabled those in full time employment to undertake postgraduate study while maintaining their personal and professional responsibilities, and has continued to be an extremely popular option, with many thousands of students obtaining qualifications through this route. The Centre was also carrying out a wide range of research projects, including a socio-economic profile and needs analysis of African Caribbean people in Leicestershire, the policing of football hooliganism, violence against retail staff and policing in central Europe. Staff working in the Centre at this time included Martin Gill (now Director of PRCI), Professor Mike King (Birmingham City University), Ed Borodzicz (now professor at Portsmouth University), Jon Garland, who is now a Senior Lecturer and Course Convenor of the BA in Criminology programme, and Mita Chauhan who has gone on to be the longest serving member of the current administrative team.

## A New Name and New Research

In 1996 the Centre was given a new name – **the Scarman Centre** – and continued to expand its areas of interest and activity. It established new courses in Risk, Crisis and Disaster Management, Emergency Planning

and postgraduate studies in Health and Safety. Research work underway at this time included a major Home Office funded project evaluating the impact of CCTV, a series of projects funded by the UK's Department for International Development and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office looking at policing in transitional societies, gun control, police co-operation in Europe, and the management of security in organisations.

## Becoming the Department of Criminology

In 2004, after an internal and external academic review of the work of the Centre, and in line with broader organisational changes within the University, it was decided to rename the Scarman Centre the **Department of Criminology**. Around this time, the Department also created a BA in Criminology which has proved to be one of the most popular programmes on offer, regularly attracting over 60 students a year. In addition, it established a Foundation Degree and a BA in Security and Risk Management by distance learning, providing those working in the security industry with a unique pathway to enable them to improve their skills and knowledge. Professor Carol Hedderman joined the Department in 2004 taking over as Head of Department from Andrew Willis, who retired in 2008. Recent research work has included pioneering studies on hate crime, the assessment of probation performance, the role of

evaluation in offender management policy making, and an evaluation of the value of using advocates to support victims of domestic violence through the criminal justice process.

## Building on the Success of the Past

As can be seen from this short history of the Department, much has been done in the two decades since it was originally established. A wide range of courses have been developed spanning different modes of learning and levels of study. Research carried out by staff has covered a plethora of subjects, from retail security to prisons and public order. What has remained central to the work of the Department however (throughout the many changes in its name), is a commitment to conducting innovative, ground-breaking work within criminology, to engaging with practitioners throughout the criminal justice system and more broadly the security and risk management industry.

## List of Directors/Heads of Department

- 1987-1999: Professor John Benyon
- 1999-2002: Martin Gill
- 2002-2005: Andrew Willis
- 2005-2009: Professor Carol Hedderman
- 2009 to present: Adrian Beck

### Adrian Beck, Head of Department



## Studying Criminology at Leicester

The Department of Criminology provides a welcoming academic environment for undergraduate and postgraduate students whether you choose to study with us in Leicester or by distance learning. We offer an undergraduate degree in criminology, four campus based MSc programmes, a suite of distance learning courses and research opportunities.

### BA Criminology

The BA in Criminology is a three year, full-time campus-based degree programme. It focuses on issues such as: the motivations behind criminal or deviant behaviour; contemporary methods of policing; the workings of the criminal justice system, and policy development and practice around these key issues. The undergraduate criminology programme at Leicester examines criminal behaviour in contemporary society, firmly locating the study of crime and how to prevent it in the context of recent social and political developments. The year-on-year increase in our student numbers is the best indicator of our success as it reflects the reputation for excellence our undergraduate course has gained at home and abroad.

### Campus-Based Masters Courses

Our four campus-based MSc programmes can all be studied full-time over one year or part-time over two years. They enable students to study criminology in-depth, enhance their knowledge and help them to stand out in a crowded job market. The MSc Criminology programme offers the flexibility to study a range of optional modules. On the other hand, our MSc Clinical Criminology programme is designed for students who wish to investigate criminological ideas from a psychological perspective and our MSc Terrorism, Security and Policing programme allows students to focus on managing terrorism, security and risk in a post 9/11 world. Our MSc Applied Criminology programme is unique in

that it offers students the opportunity to undertake a work placement, enabling them to gain valuable experience in the field.

### Distance Learning

For over fifteen years the Department of Criminology has been a leading institution for distance learning degrees in the fields of policing, community safety, criminal justice and security and risk. We currently offer five distance learning programmes directly relevant to those working in the security sector, police force or within the criminal justice system:

- MSc Community Safety
- MSc Criminology and Criminal Justice
- MSc Police Leadership and Management
- MSc Security and Risk Management
- Foundation Degree in Security and Risk Management

Our distance learning courses are designed to attract mid-career professionals who are looking to add an academic dimension to their professional profile. The distance learning format allows students the flexibility to study at a time and pace that suits them and to combine achieving a relevant academic qualification with their work or family commitments.

### Research Degrees

As well as the chance to enhance their career and earning potential, the PhD or MPhil programme offers students the opportunity to grasp a higher academic challenge while conducting research at an advanced level. Research students are an integral part of the academic life of the Department, which aims to deliver high-quality supervision through a team of experienced and highly-regarded academics who are themselves actively researching and publishing.

- For more information about any of our courses please visit our website: [www.le.ac.uk/criminology](http://www.le.ac.uk/criminology)



## STAFF PROFILE



### Dr Neil Chakraborti, Senior Lecturer in Criminology

**As is often the case with these things, my path to academia – and indeed Leicester – was rather a fortuitous one.**

On graduating from the University of Birmingham with a first degree in law, I found myself puzzling over which direction to take having made up my mind that a career in law wasn't for me. A conversation with a careers advisor soon convinced me that a further year's study wouldn't do any harm at all, and barely a week later I found myself attending an open day at what was then the Scarman Centre (who just so happened to have the most eye-catching advert in the postgraduate courses directory I'd consulted, a factor which I'm ashamed to confess seems to have had as significant a bearing as any on my career planning). Twelve years on and I'm still here so my decision-making back then may perhaps have been more inspired than I give it credit for. My time at the Department has taken in a variety of experiences. On completion of my Masters degree my research career began in earnest with a four-week (!) contract to join a research team investigating levels of crimes

committed on petrol service stations, a contract which was subsequently extended for another couple of years. Further retail crime-related projects followed until I joined forces with Mike Rowe and Jon Garland to work on areas more aligned to my research interests including evaluations of anti-racist initiatives and police diversity training programmes. However, it is probably the series of research projects on rural racism that Jon and I conducted from 2002 that I look back upon with the fondest recollections, not just for their impact in shaping policy on marginalised issues but also for the 'fan mail' we received from some people outraged by what one described as our 'poisonous attempts to challenge the white supremacy of the English countryside'. That this particular correspondent happened to sign off his letters to us as 'Death Incarnate' perhaps says it all. This period of research also provided the basis for my doctoral research examining the way in which processes of 'othering' impact upon rural minority ethnic households, and the impetus for my edited book with Jon, *Rural Racism* (Willan, 2004).

Since then my focus has been on broader issues of hate crime, culminating most

recently in research funded by the Equality and Human Rights Commission looking at public authority responses to targeted violence and harassment. My work in this field has also taken the form of a co-authored book *Hate Crime: Impact, Causes and Responses* (Sage, 2009 with Jon Garland) and an edited collection *Hate Crime: Concepts, Policy, Future Directions* (Willan, 2010), while a variety of further projects are currently in the pipeline. In terms of my other main academic responsibilities, I've run various modules at both undergraduate and postgraduate level where I've been fortunate enough to teach some outstanding students on our campus-based and distance-learning programmes, and I'm the Department's Head of Learning and Teaching and a member of its Management Group.

My years in Leicester have without doubt been busy but happy ones and they've raced by without me really noticing. I look forward to enjoying more good times here in the future, though thankfully without the four-week contracts and analyses of petrol station crime data to contend with!

## Staff Publications and Achievements

In each issue of *Criminology in Focus* we include details of staff research, publications, awards and invitations from the previous six months.

### Research grants awarded

**Darrick Jolliffe, Carol Hedderman,** Emma Palmer and Clive Hollin have been awarded a grant from the Ministry of Justice for £88,108 to undertake the outcome evaluation of the Together Women Project which aimed to reduce re-offending and to divert women 'at risk' of offending from becoming offenders. It was also expected to divert women offenders from prosecution and custody. TW involved tailoring packages of interventions to address social exclusion factors which are known to be associated with offending and/or are very prevalent among women offenders. Interventions were either delivered by TW staff or other staff, ranging from community psychiatric nurses to dance instructors, at five TW centres or through referrals to other appropriate agencies (e.g., for substance abuse). The purpose of the current research is to assess the extent to which TW achieved its aims using available quantitative data and collecting and analysing additional data from sentencers about diversion from custody.

**Darrick Jolliffe** and **Carol Hedderman** are working with colleagues from the Institute of Criminal Policy Research at King's College on helping to develop the Offender Engagement Project for the Ministry of Justice. This will include further development and validation of the Offender Manager Feedback Questionnaire (previously created at the Department of Criminology at Leicester led by **Charlotte Bilby**) and additional exploration of the nature and impact of the one-to-one relationship between offenders on probation and offender managers. This grant was for a total of £113,505.

**Rob Mawby** and Professor Anne Worrall (Keele University) have been awarded £76,601 by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) to undertake research on 'Probation Officers, their occupational cultures and offender management'.

### Publications

#### BOOKS

**Chakraborti, N.** (ed.) (2010) *Hate Crime: Concepts, Policy, Future Directions*, Cullompton: Willan.

**Jewkes, Y.** (2010) *Media and Crime* revised 2nd edition, London: Sage.

**Prins, H.** (2010) *Mad, Bad and Dangerous to Know. Reflections of a Forensic Practitioner*, Hook: Waterside Press.

#### BOOK CHAPTERS AND CONTRIBUTIONS

**Chakraborti, N.** (2010) 'Future Developments for Hate Crime Thinking: Who, What and Why?' in N. Chakraborti (ed.) *Hate Crime: Concepts, Policy, Future Directions*, Cullompton: Willan.

**Chakraborti, N.** and **Garland, J.** (2010) 'Hate Crime' in W. DeKeseredy and M. Dragiewicz (eds.) *The Handbook of Critical Criminology*, New York: Routledge.

**Guille, L.** (2010) 'Police and Judicial Cooperation in Europe: Bilateral versus Multilateral Cooperation', in F. Lemieux (ed.) *International Police Co-operation: Emerging Issues, Theory and Practice*, Cullompton: Willan.

#### JOURNAL ARTICLES

**Chakraborti, N.** (2010) 'Beyond 'Passive Apartheid'? Developing Policy and Research Agendas on Rural Racism', *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, 36 (3): 501-517.

**Jewkes, Y.** (2010) 'Much ado About Nothing? Representations and Realities of Online Soliciting of Children', *Journal of Sexual Aggression*, special issue on 'Child Sexual Abuse and the Internet: Offenders, Victims and Managing the Risk' 16 (1): 5-18.

**Jewkes, Y.** (2010) 'Penal Aesthetics and the Architecture of Incarceration', *Prison Service Journal*, No.187, January: 23-28.

**Jewkes, Y.** (2010) 'Young People, Risk and Cybercrime', *Sociology Review*, April.

**Mawby, R.C.** (2009) 'Understanding Criminal Justice Through Analysing its Communication' *CJM (Criminal Justice Matters)* 78: 15-17.

Heath, G., **Mawby, R.C.**, and Walley, L. (2010) 'Using Economic Analysis in Evaluating Police Service Projects: The Case of an Outsourcing Project' *Journal of Finance and Management in Public Services* 8 (2): 51-67.

**Mawby, R.C.** (2010) 'Police Corporate Communications, Crime Reporting, and the Shaping of Policing News' *Policing and Society* 20 (1): 124-139.

**Treadwell, J.** (2010) 'COUNTERBLAST: More than Casualties of War?: Ex-military Personnel in the Criminal Justice System', *The Howard Journal of Criminal Justice*, 49 (1): 73-77.

### Conference papers presented

**Charlotte Bilby** and **Jon Garland** were invited to speak about their research into the BBC TV series *Life on Mars* at the Café Scientifique et Culturel in Nottingham. Their talk, entitled 'What's Coming Next, Dwarves?' An Assessment of the Portrayal of Police Working Cultures in *Life on Mars*, placed the series within the historical context of other television police procedurals such as *The Sweeney* and *The Wire*. The ways in which police occupational cultures were portrayed in *Life on Mars* were also assessed and Charlotte and Jon's talk concluded that, despite its ambiguities, the series acts in many ways as a paean to 1970s policing by appearing to reject the 'politically correct' strictures that surround policing in the twenty-first century (May 2010).

**Jon Garland** and **Neil Chakraborti** delivered a paper entitled 'Disablist Hate Crime: Lessons from Wider Debates' as part of a day seminar on disablist hate crime held at De Montfort University, Leicester. The paper examined the differences and similarities between hate crime directed against disabled people and that directed against other minorities in society. Jon and Neil argued that there are a number of such differences, both in the nature of disablist hate crime and in the typology and motivations of offenders, but that there are also enough similarities,

including the effect upon victims, for disablist hate crime to be included under the broader hate crime 'umbrella'. The pair also expressed concern that it had taken an awful 'signal event', namely the tragic deaths of Fiona Pilkington and Frankie Hardwick in 2007, for the issue of disablist hate crime to be taken seriously by the criminal justice system and academics, yet many organisations were still ignorant of its nature and impacts (May 2010).

**Jon Garland** was invited to address a 'Love Music Hate Racism' conference in Liverpool. Jon's paper, 'Trends in Hate Crime', outlined key contemporary concerns and developments in the field of hate crime, including the worrying rise of the new extreme-right organisation the English Defence League (EDL). The conference was part of a series of conferences and gigs in Liverpool and elsewhere that aimed to challenge the growing influence of groups like the EDL (March 2010).

**Laure Guille** presented a paper on 'Police Cooperation in Europe: From the Macro Level to the Micro Level – is There a Gap?' at a conference on 'European Internal Security Policies – After the Stockholm Programme: An Area of Freedom, Security and Justice in the European Union?' held at the University of Salford (January 2010).

**Yvonne Jewkes** presented a paper on 'Penal Aesthetics and the Pains of Imprisonment', at the *Architecture and Justice* conference, University of Lincoln (November 2009).

## Conferences attended

**Rob Mawby** attended and assisted Lieve Gies with the organisation of the 'Justice, Media and Public: Changing Public Perceptions in the New Media Landscape' conference held at Keele University. The conference attracted delegates from Europe, Australia and the United States and keynote speakers included His Honour Judge Keith Cutler, former BBC legal correspondent Joshua Rozenberg, camera in courts expert Daniel Stepniak and Olga Kavran who is spokeswoman to the Prosecutor at the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (March 2010).

**Nikki Shelton** attended the 'Cutting Crime – the Case for Justice Reinvestment' conference held at the Royal Commonwealth Society, London (March 2010).

## Invitations, awards, accolades

**Tammy Ayres** has been invited to join the teaching team at the CSI Leicester 2010 Summer School.

**Neil Chakraborti** has been invited to become a member of the Howard League for Penal Reform's Research Advisory Group.

**Neil Chakraborti** has been invited to edit a special issue on 'Hate Crime Victimization' on behalf of the *International Review of Victimology*, to be published in 2011.

**Carol Hedderman** has joined the Editorial Board of the *British Journal of Criminology*.

**Yvonne Jewkes** guest edited a special issue of *Prison Service Journal* on the theme of 'Prison Space', No. 187, January 2010.

**Yvonne Jewkes** has been appointed External Examiner on the MSc in Criminology and Criminal Justice at the University of Edinburgh, and on the MSc in Criminology and Criminal Justice, delivered jointly by the Universities of Glasgow and Strathclyde and the Scottish Centre for Crime and Justice Research (SCCJR).

**Rob Mawby** has joined the Editorial Advisory Group of *The Howard Journal of Criminal Justice*.

**James Treadwell** featured as an academic commentator on the BBC 2 documentary series *A History of Now: The Story of the Noughties* (Episode 3, entitled *Hello World*) talking about 'How China put Britain's Burglars out of Business' (January 2010).

**James Treadwell** appeared on BBC East Midlands News talking about cybercrime (January 2010).

**James Treadwell** appeared on BBC Radio WM, BBC Radio Five Live and BBC Radio Wales talking about the recall of Jon Venables (March 2010).



## Hate Crime: Concepts, Policy, Future Directions

New Book Edited by Dr Neil Chakraborti

Hate crime has become an increasingly familiar term in recent times as problems of bigotry and prejudice continue to pose complex challenges for societies across the world. Although greater recognition is now afforded to hate crimes and their associated harms by academics, policy-makers and criminal justice

agencies, the problem is still widespread and many key questions remain unanswered. Are we doing enough to protect vulnerable members of society? Are we doing enough to address the offending behaviour of hate crime perpetrators? Are there better ways of understanding and responding to hate crime?

This book brings together contributions from leading experts in the field to address these and other contested issues in this fascinating and often controversial subject area. Drawing upon innovative work being undertaken nationally and internationally, the book offers fresh

ideas on hate crime scholarship and policy and in so doing enables readers to re-evaluate the concept of hate crime in the light of fresh research, theory and policy.

It provides much-needed ways of taking the 'hate debate' forward as well as offering practical suggestions for developing both scholarship and policy in a more progressive manner.

*Hate Crime: Concepts, Policy, Future Directions*, edited by Dr Neil Chakraborti is available now from Willan.

For more information about the book and its contributors, please visit: <http://www.willanpublishing.co.uk>

## 'Probation Officers, Their Occupational Cultures and Offender Management'

### New ESRC-funded Research Project by Rob Mawby and Anne Worrall

Rob Mawby and Professor Anne Worrall from Keele University have been successful in applying for a grant to study the occupational cultures of probation officers. They have been awarded £76,601 by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) to undertake research on 'probation officers, their occupational cultures and offender management'.

The demands of the probation officer role have changed dramatically in the past twenty years, culminating in the creation of the National Offender Management Service in 2004 and, while a great deal has been written about the historical and policy changes that have shaped the role

of the probation officer, there has been little research on the changes to occupational cultures and the ways in which probation officers themselves experience the impact of changes to their role. Similarly there is little research on the relationships between probation officers and other criminal justice agencies engaged in offender management.

The planned research therefore aims to fill these gaps by exploring three key questions: (1) What are the characteristics of contemporary probation cultures and how do probation officers construct their occupational identities? (2) How might such cultures contribute to, or undermine, the effectiveness of offender

management? (3) To what extent is an understanding of probation cultures essential to achieving change within the National Offender Management Service and related criminal justice agencies?

To answer these questions, Anne and Rob will be conducting interviews with samples of current probation officers at different career stages and with former and retired probation officers. Through this work, the research aims to make a contribution not only to the study of probation work but also to the body of knowledge on the occupational cultures of criminal justice practitioners. It also aims to generate data that can assist policy and practice in the development of offender management that can best support the reduction of re-offending and the rehabilitation of offenders. The research began in April 2010 and will be completed by the end of 2011.

**Dr Rob Mawby,**  
Senior Lecturer in Criminology

## Are Today's Heroes Tomorrow's Prisoners?

### New Research by James Treadwell

A study currently underway and involving James Treadwell from the University of Leicester working alongside the Howard League for Penal Reform, the world's oldest penal reform charity, is looking to find out more information about why it is that former soldiers and military personnel are the highest single former occupational group serving sentences in British prisons.

James Treadwell is acting as an academic consultant to the Howard League, helping them devise the research strategy, undertake the fieldwork, and produce findings on former soldiers in prison as part of their extensive 'Inquiry into Ex-military Personnel in Custody'.

Statistics vary, but at present suggest that between 3% and 10% of the British prison population are ex-forces personnel, with former soldiers the highest occupational culture claimed by prisoners. Some people believe that this might be in part due to the experience of witnessing or being party to traumatic events while in the services, and then later developing Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

Others have argued that PTSD might be but one factor that we need to understand, and the link between serving in the forces and appearing in the criminal justice system is much more complicated than simply being to do with battle trauma.

With the release of official statistics in 2010 on the number of armed forces veterans in Britain's prisons, a clearer picture is finally beginning to emerge of the number of personnel who leave the armed forces only to end up in prison. According to the Ministry of Defence and the Ministry of Justice, approximately 2,500 ex-forces personnel are currently in Britain's jails, making up around 3% of the prison population. However, elsewhere a survey by probation officers' union Napo last year put the total number in prison at 8,500 – 10% of the prison population. Added to the number on probation or parole, Napo said the total number of veterans in Britain's criminal justice system was around 20,000, twice as many as are currently serving in Afghanistan.

The truth may well be somewhere in between the two sets of statistics, and official



numbers were released with the proviso that they may be subject to increase, when a further study of the data is published in the near future. However, the figures tell us little about the backgrounds of those who are represented, and finding out more about that is an important step forward. Therefore this important research will involve going into prisons to interview serving prisoners who were once in the armed forces about their reasons for being in prison. This groundbreaking research involving the Howard League and the University of Leicester will be among the first to provide any real background information on why some people turn to crime when they leave the armed forces, and what might be best done to prevent this.

**James Treadwell,**  
Lecturer in Criminology

## Research team led by Neil Chakraborti awarded a grant from the Equality and Human Rights Commission

A research team led by Dr Neil Chakraborti in conjunction with Dr David Gadd (Keele University) and Applied Research in Community Safety (ARCS) Ltd, has been awarded a grant from the Equality and Human Rights Commission to undertake a nationwide review of public authority strategies to challenge targeted harassment and violence. As part of its commitment to minimising the negative impact of targeted harassment and violence upon individuals and wider communities, the Commission is seeking to establish what action public authorities across England, Scotland and Wales are taking to eliminate the harassment of people on the basis of their age, disability, gender, gender identity, race, religion or belief, or sexual orientation.

This research – consisting of an online survey of public authorities and interviews with selected representatives – will be used by the Commission to shape future policy on safety and security issues across its remit and to support the progress of future action in England, Scotland and Wales.

**Dr Neil Chakraborti, Senior Lecturer in Criminology**

### STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

## Study with us at the Department of Criminology

#### CAMPUS BASED UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMMES:

- **BA Criminology**

#### CAMPUS BASED POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMMES

(available part-time and full-time):

- **MSc Criminology**
- **MSc Applied Criminology**
- **MSc Clinical Criminology**
- **MSc Terrorism, Security and Policing**
- **MPhil and PhD opportunities**

#### DISTANCE LEARNING PROGRAMMES:

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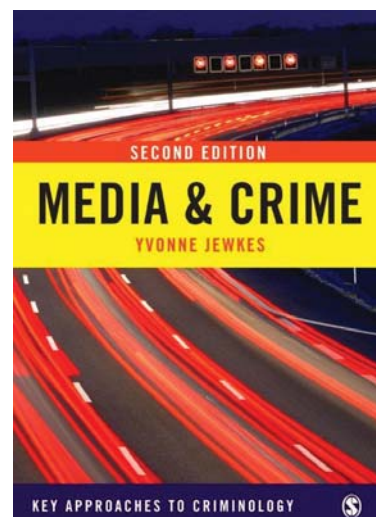
## Media and Crime Second Edition

Yvonne Jewkes has revised and updated her bestselling book *Media and Crime* for a new edition. Established in the field as the market leader, the book explores the complex interactions between media and crime from a critical and authoritative standpoint.

Retaining and updating coverage of the core issues in the subject: news reporting of crime; media constructions of children and women; moral panics; media and the police; 'reality' crime shows; surveillance and social control, the book now also includes:

- additional chapters on cybercrime and crime film
- updated content on new media including mobile, internet and digital technologies, and social networking sites
- discussions on how to research media and crime
- fully updated references and student-friendly features – including discussion questions, further reading and glossary.

*Media and Crime* 2nd edition can be ordered from SAGE Publications at: <http://www.uk.sagepub.com/>



## PHD STUDENT RESEARCH

## The Anonymity of African American Serial Killers



Allan L. Branson

**Currently a Philadelphia Police Lieutenant in the USA, Allan L. Branson holds a BA in Communications from Temple University and a MS in Criminal Justice from St. Joseph's University, and is a member of Alpha Epsilon Lambda's National Honors Society. His current research, as a PhD student in the Department of Criminology, focuses on the historic race based perceptions of African Americans that have excluded them from the serial murderer matrix.**

In the US there is a dichotomy regarding the historic negative images of black men, readily depicted by the media within a criminal context, and what appears to be a reluctance to portray them as serial murderers. Can you name an African American (black) serial killer?

Prior to the D.C. Snipers, Wayne Williams, the so-called "Atlanta child murderer", was considered an aberration and the subject of the only high profile investigation of a black serial killer. Durkheim (1895)

theorized the necessity of crime, and in that capacity my research suggests that the D.C. Sniper murders were a "shot over the bow" of law enforcement agencies. The predations of these black serial killers present a "revelatory case" (Yin, 2003), warning of the pitfalls of static ethno-centric criminal profiling methodologies, media stereotypes, and race-based perceptions. When the media and law enforcement rendered a profile of a white male perpetrator during the D.C. Sniper investigation, that image was consistent with the American collective psyche.

Hickey (2002) states that black males represent 22% of all known serial killers in the US. Based on the overall population of African Americans in the US (13%); this statistic indicates that they are overrepresented among serial killers. Similarly, US crime statistics reveal black males are also overrepresented in personal violent crimes and within the prison population (40%). Why would blacks *not* engage in serial murder? In fact, they have done so since at least 1935 (Jenkins, 1993). How many lives might have been saved had law enforcement agents been more flexible in their assessment of potential suspects during the D.C. Sniper investigation?

The notoriety of the white male serial killer is owed in part to extensive media coverage that has created a culture of celebrity. Research suggests that the concept of serial murderers as cunning white males with preternatural abilities, has been fuelled by popular culture – movies, television, and books (e.g., *Silence of the Lambs*; *Criminal Minds*; *The Alienist*) – and the FBI's self-promotion of their

Behavioural Science Unit's methodology.

To understand the true nature of the "serial killer", an examination of the behavioural antecedents common to this type of human predation is necessary. In conjunction with an analysis of social artifacts, FBI and social scientist's theories of causation (i.e. social sociological environments and childhood trauma) I have conducted an interview with a black serial killer. This research has revealed a disconnect between existing crime and mental health data of African Americans and FBI data (Ressler et al, 1992) regarding the behavioural antecedents they suggest are common to serial murderers. Rooted in grounded theory, this exploratory research illuminates the psychological and sociological impact of race, sexuality, and media influence. Furthermore it suggests that, in a similar societal paradigm, the multiple methodologies employed – historical, media, and cultural analysis – might render parallel findings, if replicated, within a similar context regarding the historic societal exclusion of a particular group.

**Allan L. Branson, PhD student**



## Update from the Criminology Society

Now approaching the end of the 2009/10 academic year, it is fair to say the University of Leicester Criminology Society has had a very successful year. As mentioned in previous issues, the society has received its largest number of members since its introduction, with over 130 members, a figure we hope to increase yet again for the 2010/11 academic year.

Since the last issue of *Criminology in Focus* was published, the Criminology Society has arranged and carried out two more successful social events for its members. After all the students had finished their January examinations we

arranged a 'Geek' themed night out for students to let their hair down after what was for many, a stressful couple of weeks during the exam period. This event involved hiring out one of the venues situated in the Student Union Building, including security and a DJ, and even included a few snacks! Following this, the Criminology Society has recently held another successful social event which involved its members dressing up as Ninjas!

The Criminology Society managed to successfully arrange prison visits for 22 of its members, which included tours

around HMP Ashwell and Wellingborough. Everyone who attended the tours agreed the days provided them with useful knowledge, both for any work involved with their degree, and with those considering a career within the prison service. Following the success of these visits, there is continued hope that the society will be able to organise similar events next year for its members.

The Criminology Society football team (pictured below) has also done exceptionally well this year, and at present are involved in the intramural spring term quarter finals, after successfully qualifying from their group earlier this year.

With the end of this academic year in sight, the Criminology Society is in the process of organising a social event after the summer examinations in which its members can all meet up for a formal meal and drinks to celebrate the end of exams and indeed the end of a successful year.

The Criminology Society will be back at the University of Leicester's Fresher's Fair in September 2010 for the start of the academic year, in which we hope to attract even more members, organise more events and ultimately build upon the success of this year. The University of Leicester Criminology Society would like to thank the University of Leicester Alumni Association for their financial contribution this term.

**David Bradley,**  
Criminology Society Treasurer



### 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.

We would be grateful if you could take the time to visit the central University alumni website: <http://www.le.ac.uk/alumni>

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 Claire Vanneck for providing the alumni profile in this issue.

## Alumni Profile

**Claire Vanneck has completed our BA Criminology programme, our MSc Applied Criminology programme and is now studying for a PhD with the Department.**



After completing my A-levels in 1996 I was grateful my school years were finally over. I certainly never imagined I'd go on to do a degree in criminology as a mature student, let alone win a PhD scholarship.

Before returning to education, my career had been largely based in the night-club industry. After gradually moving through various job roles, I spent a considerable length of time working alongside the security team at the front-of-house, before eventually becoming the General Manager of a 3000 capacity music venue in the Midlands. A key responsibility within my role as manager was to ensure the safety of the venue, its clientele and its staff through various security measures and techniques. Whilst this task was relatively straightforward at first, it became more difficult and complicated following a rise in customer based violence and disorder, and the increasing use of firearms. In dealing with these issues the venue slowly took on a new, more austere form as security strategies became increasingly extreme. Nonetheless, I thoroughly enjoyed the experience and was amazed I got paid to do something I loved. However, having worked in the industry for over 7 years I wanted a new challenge and decided to completely change my career.

My decision to apply for a degree in criminology at the University of Leicester was shaped partly by my experiences in the night-time economy, but also by my avid interest in crime and the Department of Criminology's reputation for excellence. I found the transition from work to academia difficult at first, but with the help and support of my personal tutor Dr Paddy Rawlinson, I persevered, and when it came to choosing a topic for my final year dissertation I knew I wanted to focus on issues of security in the night-time economy. Drawing on my industry contacts I conducted an ethnographic study into the shifting nature of risk and risk management in a city centre night-club. After gaining a First Class BA (Hons) I explored various career options and temporarily returned to working for a music promoter. However, the pull of academia drew me back to the Department and I started an MSc in Applied Criminology on a part-time basis the following year.

Still passionate about issues of security in the night-time economy and interested in the regulatory ability of the Private Security Industry Act 2001, my dissertation examined to what extent the Act was achieving its objectives: to protect and reassure the public by preventing unsuitable people getting into positions of trust; and to raise standards generally in the industry, specifically in relation to door supervisors. The results of this research identified a series of unintended and unfavourable outcomes which threaten to seriously undermine the Act's potential benefits. Feeling the topic warranted further investigation and

adamant I wanted to remain in academia, I began applying for PhD funding and was fortunate enough to win a 'University of the Year' scholarship before graduating with a Distinction in 2009.

Under the supervision of Dr Darrick Jolliffe and Dr Keith Spence, my PhD thesis remains focussed on the issue of risk and security in the night-time economy. By examining how the occupational licensing of door supervisors has impacted on key stakeholders, I hope to build upon my earlier work and gain a deeper insight into the outcomes of this relatively new mode of regulation. I specifically intend to explore/question whether this provision can adequately govern an industry widely vilified by the public and closely associated with criminality, and more importantly enhance the safety of those who work and/or play in the licensed premises that constitute the night-time economy.

Returning to education after such a long break was trying to say the least, but the constant encouragement and support of the Department (and my long suffering partner) has given me the confidence to succeed. My degrees have provided me with a broad spectrum of theoretical knowledge as well as the ability to apply it in a practical setting – something I feel is extremely important and highly relevant to my current research field. I consider myself incredibly lucky to be undertaking a PhD in such a committed Department, and in a complete contrast to my former career path I now hope to pursue a career in academia.

**Claire Vanneck**

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