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.

Welcome to the Spring 2014 edition of Criminology in Focus.
There have been many developments within the Department of Criminology since the last edition of the newsletter, including publications, research, new courses, student achievements and alumni updates. As ever we have tried to capture as many of these activities as possible in the pages of this newsletter. This edition also includes a special themed section on Gender and Criminology, 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.

Gender and justice research group
The Gender and Justice Research Group recently has been established within the Department of Criminology, drawing together the expertise and interests of a number of staff within the Department. The Group was created following a grant awarded to Dr Jennifer Fleetwood and Dr Clare Gunby from the College of Social Sciences Research Development Fund. The grant is to fund activities both within and external to the University, including attendance at national conferences and seminars.
The Group draws together a number of researchers interested in issues of gender, including ‘law breaking’ and deviance, victimisation and criminal justice, demonstrating the current strength of research expertise in this area within the Department. In the near future the Group will have its own website, host a postgraduate conference and host a launch event. Group activities are open to others within and outside the University who also have an interest in the area of gender and justice.
These activities are in line with the Department of Criminology and the College of Social Science’s commitment to promoting leading research and scholarship relevant to policy makers and other organisations involved in crime and justice. Dr Jennifer Fleetwood said: “This is an exciting Group to be part of and its creation will facilitate a wide range of innovative research which lies at the cutting edge of criminology. It will also foster interdisciplinary research and close working with practitioners, policymakers and the wider public”.

In the short time that it has existed, the Group has already set up a reading group, which meets monthly to share and develop ideas for future research and learning and teaching; submitted an application to the British Academy International Partnership Mobility Scheme; and, a number of the Group’s members have attended gender focused events and conferences.
The key aim of the Gender and Justice Research Group is to foster a culture of research focused on deconstructing gender and reconstructing justice. The Group is particularly interested in reaching out to postgraduate students and staff, across the College and University, not just within the Department of Criminology. If you are interested in knowing about any of our events, getting your name on an email distribution list or getting involved, please email jf209@le.ac.uk.
Leicester Criminologists Helping to Undertake First-Ever Review of Sex inside Prisons

Two academics from the Department of Criminology are part of a 15-strong Commission which is investigating sexual activity within the prison environment.

Dr Neil Chakraborti and Professor Jo Phoenix are part of an independent Commission on Sex in Prison, established by the Howard League for Penal Reform to undertake the first ever review of sex inside prisons in England and Wales. It is unlawful to have sex inside prisons because prison cells are deemed to be public places, and there is little reliable evidence available on consensual or coercive sexual activity in prisons.

The Commission comprises eminent academics, former prison governors and health experts and is focusing on three broad themes: consensual sex in prison; coercive sex in prison; and healthy sexual development among young people in prison. The purpose of the Commission is to understand the various issues and problems relating to these themes and to make recommendations with a view to making prisons safer. It will also examine how the situation in England and Wales differs from other countries, seeking to identify best practice.

The Commission on Sex in Prison began work in September 2012 and has received written and oral evidence from voluntary and statutory agencies, prison governors and serving prisoners. Seminars have been held on a series of issues including sexual health, consensual sex in prison, women in prison and sexual assaults in prison, with more planned for the coming months. As part of its review the Commission is also conducting visits in England and Wales and abroad to investigate how other jurisdictions deal with issues regarding consensual and coercive sex in prison.

Before publishing its Final Report, the Commission is issuing briefing papers on interim findings during the course of its two-year investigation. These briefing papers, along with further information about the Commission on Sex in Prison, can be accessed at www.commissiononsexinprison.org/homepage/

‘Well managed prison has quiet day’:

DG of the Northern Ireland Prison Service speaks to staff and students

The Director General of the Northern Ireland Prison Service, Sue McAllister, visited the Department on Monday 25th November for an informal lunch with members of staff and PhD students. The conversation was wide ranging but included the opportunities and barriers involved in carrying out research in prisons and how more research could be encouraged and facilitated in Northern Ireland and England and Wales.

Sue McAllister was appointed in 2012 to lead and implement a programme of reform across the Prison Service of Northern Ireland, having previously worked in the prison service in England and Wales for more than 25 years. During that time she undertook a variety of roles including being Governor of HMP Gartree, near Leicester, which is a prison for adult male prisoners serving life sentences. She also undertook various policy roles in the Prison Service, Ministry of Justice and National Offender Management Service. Sue drew on those experiences later in the day when she talked to Masters students about the challenges of running any prison and the particular challenges and opportunities of heading the Prison Service in Northern Ireland. She began by pointing out the work she, and her staff, were doing to improve public understanding of what actually happens in prison. Currently only bad news from prisons is ever regarded as newsworthy. Thus, we are most unlikely to ever see the headline ‘Well managed prison has quiet day’. Sue also talked about working in the different political contexts of Northern Ireland and England and Wales and the way different histories inform present thinking and the scope for change. Sue went on to describe the challenges facing both services in a time of financial constraint, including recruiting, training and retaining staff, managing rising prison numbers and providing appropriate services for women offenders. She then focused on the importance of working with partner agencies in the community to deliver on prison service objectives which are concerned not only with keeping the public safe, but supporting offenders to steer clear of crime after release by helping them with issues such as education, training and employment, housing and health. Finally, Sue answered questions about potential careers in the Prison Service.

Commenting on the visit Professor Carol Hedderman said: ‘We seek to provide our students not only with a good academic grounding in Criminology but also to help them see how that relates to current policy and practice. We really appreciate very busy criminal justice professionals, like Sue, taking the time to talk to our students. This helps to ensure that our graduates leave with a well-rounded as well as sound academic understanding of criminal justice.’
the environment of the centre plays a role of women’s community centres, with the existing research around the centre that were prominent in initiating in Birmingham.

Anawim women’s community centre that had been undertaking a research project exploring the role and function of Women’s Imprisonment: A Study in Social Control (1983), Women, Crime and Poverty (1988), Analyzing Women’s Imprisonment (2004, with Anne Worrall) and Imaginary Penalties (ed. 2008)) and many articles. Pat’s work is fundamentally sociological, exploring the morality of punishment and the relation between crime and penal issues in a socio-political and economic context. Her impact on feminist criminology, however, cannot be underplayed, as her work has encouraged and influenced many academics to explore the way in which gender shapes crime and crime control within a wider social, economic, political and ideological context. In 1985 Pat co-founded the campaign group Women In Prison and in 1991 she established the first undergraduate degree programme in Criminology in the UK at the University of Keele. Pat’s influence is truly international and she has conducted research and given public lectures in Australia, New Zealand, Netherlands, Spain, Portugal, Peru, South Africa, North America, Austria, Hungary, Denmark, Sweden, Israel, Argentina and Hong Kong. In 1997 she was awarded the American Society of Criminology’s Sellin-Glueck Prize for Outstanding International Contributions to Criminology, in 2010 the British Society of Criminology’s Award for Outstanding Achievement and in 2011 an honorary Doctorate of Laws from Lincoln University. Pat was Editor-in-Chief of the British Journal of Criminology 2006-2013 and appears in the Routledge textbook Fifty Key Thinkers in Criminology (2009). Pat writes: I am especially pleased to be joining Leicester University’s Department of Criminology at this time. The Department is comprised of a number of colleagues whose work I highly esteem and, additionally, there are the exciting prospects of being ‘in at the beginning’ of the newly-inaugurated Gender and Justice Research Group; and of learning more about the very innovative Hate Crime Project. Yet although much of my own substantive research focus over the last forty years has been on justice for women, my over-riding interest, as a sociologist, is in the meanings of justice and knowledge in grossly unequal societies. I am, therefore, as much intrigued by the production of criminological knowledge (and, currently, in the effects that the REF, Ethics Committees, Impact Studies and Citation Analyses are having on what passes for criminological knowledge and research) as I am in criminology’s more substantive areas relating to class, gender, racism, sexuality and justice. Given the exciting range of colleagues currently working in the Department of Criminology, I am now most eagerly looking forward to sharing these interests with them. More selfishly, I am also very much looking forward to learning from my new Leicester colleagues about the newest conceptualisations of ever-changing and constantly recurring justice issues.

Researchers present paper on gender and desistance at European Society of Criminology conference

Dr Sam King, Department of Criminology, and Dr Sarah Pemberton, of Birmingham City University, have for the past year been undertaking a research project exploring the role and function of Anawim women’s community centre in Birmingham.

The research examined aspects of the centre that were prominent in initiating desistance from crime and what aspects help to sustain desistance from crime. The researchers found that, in keeping with the existing research around the role of women’s community centres, the environment of the centre plays a crucial role in enabling the women who attend to feel safe, secure and positive about aspects of their lives. The study also found that Anawim helped women to navigate various systems, including accessing support for accommodation, finances and employment. Perhaps most importantly, the research found that the centre plays an integral role in empowering women service users to improve their lives.

Through a successful bid to the College of Social Sciences Research Development Fund, Sam was able to attend the European Society of Criminology conference in Budapest last September. The conference was attended by leading academics from around the world and showcased a range of exciting and innovative research being undertaken in a variety of criminological fields. Sam said: “It was a great experience and a real opportunity to network with some inspirational academics from across Europe and the rest of the World. The experience has enabled me to develop contacts and to generate new research possibilities, with colleagues from other institutions, in exciting areas of criminology”. The paper was well received and is currently being revised as an article, expected for publication later this year.

Pat Carlen – profile and reflections

We are delighted to welcome Professor Pat Carlen to the Department of Criminology as an Honorary Professor, joining the Department in September 2013. Pat has been one of the key contributors to criminology, in general, and to feminist criminology in particular, authoring 19 books (including Magistrates Justice (1976), Women’s Imprisonment: A Study in Social Control (1983), Women, Crime and Poverty (1988), Analyzing Women’s Imprisonment (2004, with Anne Worrall) and Imaginary Penalties (ed. 2008)) and many articles. Pat’s work is fundamentally sociological, exploring the morality of punishment and the relation between crime and penal issues in a socio-political and economic context. Her impact on feminist criminology, however, cannot be underplayed, as her work has encouraged and influenced many academics to explore the way in which gender shapes crime and crime control within a wider social, economic, political and ideological context. In 1985 Pat co-founded the campaign group Women In Prison and in 1991 she established the first undergraduate degree programme in Criminology in the UK at the University of Keele. Pat’s influence is truly international and she has conducted research and given public lectures in Australia, New Zealand, Netherlands, Spain, Portugal, Peru, South Africa, North America, Austria, Hungary, Denmark, Sweden, Israel, Argentina and Hong Kong. In 1997 she was awarded the American Society of Criminology’s Sellin-Glueck Prize for Outstanding International Contributions to Criminology, in 2010 the British Society of Criminology’s Award for Outstanding Achievement and in 2011 an honorary Doctorate of Laws from Lincoln University. Pat was Editor-in-Chief of the British Journal of Criminology 2006-2013 and appears in the Routledge textbook Fifty Key Thinkers in Criminology (2009). Pat writes: I am especially pleased to be joining Leicester University’s Department of Criminology at this time. The Department is comprised of a number of colleagues whose work I highly esteem and, additionally, there are the exciting prospects of being ‘in at the beginning’ of the newly-inaugurated Gender and Justice Research Group; and of learning more about the very innovative Hate Crime Project. Yet although much of my own substantive research focus over the last forty years has been on justice for women, my over-riding interest, as a sociologist, is in the meanings of justice and knowledge in grossly unequal societies. I am, therefore, as much intrigued by the production of criminological knowledge (and, currently, in the effects that the REF, Ethics Committees, Impact Studies and Citation Analyses are having on what passes for criminological knowledge and research) as I am in criminology’s more substantive areas relating to class, gender, racism, sexuality and justice. Given the exciting range of colleagues currently working in the Department of Criminology, I am now most eagerly looking forward to sharing these interests with them. More selfishly, I am also very much looking forward to learning from my new Leicester colleagues about the newest conceptualisations of ever-changing and constantly recurring justice issues.
It is against this backdrop that Dr Rebecca Barnes and Dr Clare Gunby have been successful in securing research funding from the Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Commissioner, where they will be jointly leading a research project that will assess current service provision for medium risk repeat domestic violence (DV) victims in Nottinghamshire. In conjunction with colleagues in the Department of Criminology, and expertise from Nottingham-based domestic violence agency Equation, the research will identify gaps in current support, make recommendations for enhancing provision and, more generally, develop an evidence base of best practice in responding to domestic violence. The research will enhance collaboration between the Department of Criminology, practitioners working within the field of domestic abuse and the police. It also aims to foster future departmental research relationships with the Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Commissioner.

Domestic violence currently accounts for two-thirds of all reported violence in Nottinghamshire, leading the Police & Crime Commissioner to prioritise this type of offence as part of an overall initiative to focus policing resources on services for victims. The two-year research project, which commenced in December 2013, is designed to protect, support and respond to repeat female victims of medium risk domestic abuse. The research is innovative in its focus on medium risk, where evaluations of DV provision have long focused on victims assessed as high risk, with fewer resources being dedicated to those considered medium risk. This is in spite of the physical, emotional and material impacts suffered by such victims and their children and for medium risk cases to escalate into high risk, without agency intervention. The project will evaluate the effectiveness of a new support intervention specifically for medium risk, repeat female victims in Nottinghamshire through interviews with the new support workers, service users and other practitioners who are involved in work with medium risk DV victims. The research team will also have access to police data to analyse repeat victimization and the extent of successful prosecutions amongst those women receiving the new support. A chief aim of the research is to evaluate any weaknesses in response standard and provision, such that the Commissioner can use these insights to inform the future commissioning of DV services.

The project will draw on the wide range of expertise within the Department of Criminology that lies in the fields of gender, violence, victimisation and criminal justice. The team’s domestic violence research experience includes original studies of lesbian survivors of domestic abuse, domestic abuse amongst female offenders and university students’ experiences of domestic and sexual violence. Members of the team also offer expert skills in specific aspects of the project including statistical analysis, qualitative data analysis, process evaluation and experience of making realistic recommendations for policy and practice. The team is consequently well-equipped to conduct a robust project yielding a set of evidence-based recommendations that will improve response to medium risk, repeat domestic abuse in Nottinghamshire, as well as laying the foundations for future research collaboration.

The research team is co-led by Dr Rebecca Barnes and Dr Clare Gunby and comprises Professor Carol Hedderman, Dr Sarah Hodgkinson, Ms Tammy Ayres and Ms Jo Roberts in collaboration with Ms Kerry Sullivan from Nottingham-based domestic violence agency, Equation.
Department News

Leicester Criminologist to Help Shape Research Strategy at World’s Oldest Penal Reform Charity

Dr Neil Chakraborti has been appointed as Chair of the Research Committee for the Board of Trustees at the Howard League for Penal Reform. Established in 1866, the Howard League for Penal Reform is the oldest penal reform charity in the UK and is renowned for its pioneering work designed to facilitate less crime, safer communities and fewer people in prison. As an organisation, it achieves principled and radical change through a variety of ways, including research, campaigning, legal work and parliamentary lobbying and briefings. The Howard League works with parliament, the media, criminal justice professionals, students and members of the public in order to influence debate and policy.

Neil, a Reader in Criminology at the Department of Criminology, was invited to join the Board of Trustees in November 2011. Since that time he has been involved in the setting and monitoring of the strategic direction of the Howard League and the establishment of policy. As Chair of the Research Committee he will play a key role in providing strategic oversight of their research activity, helping the executive management team to develop partnerships that continue the focus on high quality research.

Frances Crook, Chief Executive of the Howard League for Penal Reform, commented: “We are pleased to announce that Dr Neil Chakraborti has been appointed Chair of the Research Committee for the Board of Trustees. Dr Chakraborti will be setting the strategic direction for the internationally recognised centre of research and leading the charity’s major five year programme questioning the ethics and practice of justice”.

The launch of the Leicester Centre for Hate Studies

February saw the launch of The Leicester Centre for Hate Studies – a new Centre designed to bridge the gap between academic research and professional practice. The Centre is a new initiative and will act as a cross-disciplinary forum for generating research into issues of hate, prejudice and extremism. The Centre will be delivering a range of activities, including:

- Continuing Professional Development (CPD) opportunities, including short courses and online modules
- Consultancy, evaluation and training
- Research on issues of regional, national and international significance
- Conferences, seminars and practitioner-orientated workshops
- Academic network for cross-disciplinary debate and knowledge exchange
- Opportunities for personal development and further study, including the supervision of PhD research
- The production of educational resources such as short films, audio material and written reports

Dr Neil Chakraborti, Director of the Leicester Centre for Hate Studies, explains: “As a result of our ongoing work with professionals from different environments we recognised the need for a Centre which could help organisations respond to hate offences and some of the other challenges relevant to an increasingly diverse and multicultural society. We have a wide range of expertise in this field at the University of Leicester, and this new Centre gives us an exciting opportunity to create new collaborative partnerships and to meet the research and training needs of professional bodies.”

One project already undertaken by the Leicester Centre for Hate Studies is the production of a short film. Led by Stevie-Jade Hardy in conjunction with the University’s Video Production Team, ‘The Harms of Hate’ showcases the harrowing stories of seven people who have been victims of hate crimes in Leicester. All of the participants come from a range of backgrounds and have been victimised for different reasons and in a variety of ways. 200 copies of the film are being distributed free of charge to local organisations as a way of raising awareness of the physical and emotional harms of hate suffered by victims, their families and wider communities.

Scarman Lecture Series 2014

As part of our popular Scarman Lecture Series, our next lecture is on Wednesday 26th March at 5.15pm

The lectures will take place in the Frank and Katherine May Lecture Theatre in the Henry Wellcome building. All of the Scarman Lectures are free and open to all and a wine reception follows each of the lectures.

For bookings, questions, etc., please contact Russell Knifton at rk191@le.ac.uk
Dr Clare Gunby

I remember the 100th issue edition of Forensic Update in 2010 which showcased reflections on how some of the top UK Forensic Psychologists had entered the discipline. Mary McMurray’s reflection stood out, describing her career as ‘unplanned’ and the consequence of a set of fortunate ‘accidents’ – a description that resonated with me.

I first applied to university to study art and was accepted onto a foundation degree at Loughborough University – the prerequisite year to any subsequent Art BA. However, at the last minute, I ‘changed my mind’ and applied for a BSc in Psychology at Plymouth University instead – convinced I wouldn’t have the staying power for four years of study but could feasibly cope with three. Seven years of university education later, I smile at the irony. But I was 17, and impatient, and it was the first fortunate ‘accident’ in my unplanned career.

I graduated from Plymouth in 2000, aware that my favourite parts of the degree had been those which focused on offending and deviance. It was that memory which spurred on my application in 2004 to the MSc in Forensic Psychology at Leicester. An enthusiasm at being back in education saw me graduate with the highest course average in that year. This inevitably helped me to secure a Research Assistant position in the department: in retrospect, perhaps the most influential ‘accident’ of all. I soon went on to a second research position in Criminology, working on an evaluation of a community intervention for female offenders and women at risk of offending. It was working on this project, in 2007, when I came to the profound realisation that if there was one topic I could spend my career reading about, then that was women! I was fascinated by the possible differences between male and female offending, the significance of the keyworker relationship and perhaps most specifically, the ways in which women experienced the criminal justice process. Since 2007 I’ve researched almost exclusively issues relating to women, violence, victimisation and gender, including a PhD at Liverpool JMU which examined students’ experiences of alcohol involved sexual offences and the prosecution of such cases in court.

In March 2013 I made the first ‘planned’ decision of my career – I applied for a lectureship back here in Criminology. This was the department, after all, that had led me to understand exactly what I wanted to do. I was offered, and took up that lectureship in June, where I now work with world class academics I admire personally, as well as professionally. It is an exceptionally exciting time to be researching gender in Criminology at Leicester, with the recent appointment of a number of ‘early career’ academics who share similar research interests, as well as it also now homing some of the major female criminologists of our time. It’s 16 years since I ‘decided’ not to become an artist – it’s the best ‘accidental’ career move I could have made!

Dr Eleanor Gordon

After completing her PhD in Criminology, Eleanor spent the following 15 years working in the field of international security, justice and human rights. This experience includes 10 years in post-conflict environments in the Balkans and South Asia, working with the United Nations (UN) amongst other organisations. Her work has included building state security and justice institutions, working with demobilised guerrilla groups, addressing war crimes and human rights violations, and addressing issues related to organised crime and terrorism. Prior to joining the Department of Criminology at the University of Leicester, she has also worked for the University of Wales, the Open University, Kaplan Open Learning (affiliated to the University of Essex), and the Pearson Peacekeeping Centre, developing and delivering training and academic courses in the social sciences, principally criminology, counter-terrorism and post-conflict reconstruction. She has also always endeavoured to integrate human rights issues into her work, research and teaching.

She has developed and is the Course Tutor for the MSc Course in Security, Conflict and International Development (SCID) offered by the Department, which focuses on building security and justice in countries emerging from conflict. She has had published many research and policy papers with international and non-governmental organisations, principally in the field of post-conflict security and justice. In the last couple of years she has written and edited reports for the UN on police reform; as well as safety and security in South Asia, South East Europe and the Middle East for Saferworld, International Alert and others. She has also evaluated community safety mechanisms in Kosovo; trained stakeholders in Nepal on civilian oversight and management of the armed forces; provided guest lectures/workshops on women, conflict and peacebuilding; presented papers at conferences on global insecurities and security & defence learning; and been invited to evaluate the Croatian Police Academy. She has recently established SCID’s Panel of Experts and is preparing for the first SCID Symposium and Critical Reader. Her research interests include rebuilding security and justice in post-conflict environments, with a specific focus on Security Sector Reform; democratic control of the armed forces; transitional justice; human rights; women and peacebuilding; conflict-related sexual violence; crime and conflict.
Staff Publications and Achievements

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

Research grants awarded

Clare Gunby and Rebecca Barnes have been awarded funding from the Nottinghamshire Police Crime Commissioner (2013) £37,035.

Sarah Hodgkinson was awarded a grant from the College of Social Science Research Development Fund – £2000 to hire an intern to develop and promote the Extremes of Human Cruelty Network, and help with an online survey of visitor experiences of Holocaust Tourism. July – November 2013.

Sarah Hodgkinson was awarded a grant from the College of Social Science Research Development Fund – £1605 to fund research trips to Germany and Austria in May and June 12/13 to investigate Holocaust Tourism during summer/autumn 2013.

Lisa Smith has been awarded £41,025 from the College of Policing Innovation Capacity Building Fund to coordinate research projects and skills training in collaboration with Northamptonshire Police, Leicestershire Police & PCC, Thames Valley Police & PCC, and Lincolnshire PCC.

Lisa Smith has been awarded €2,935,916.50 for a Marie Curie Initial Training Networks Innovative Doctoral Programme. This funding will support ten PhD researchers in various disciplines across the University, and provide a core forensic research skills training programme in collaboration with industry and academic partners throughout the UK and Europe.

Publications

JOURNAL ARTICLES


Invitations, awards, accolades

Neil Chakraborti has been appointed as Chair of the Research Committee for the Board of Trustees at the Howard League for Penal Reform.

Neil Chakraborti was invited to Chair the Howard League for Penal Reform’s Annual National Student Conference: ‘Think Beyond the Bars: The Dynamics of Desistance’. Held on 20 November 2013 at the King’s Fund, London.

Neil Chakraborti has been invited to present a seminar to the British Society of Criminology South West Branch in March 2014 at the University of Plymouth.

Neil Chakraborti has been invited to present a public lecture at the University of Ontario Institute of Technology in March 2014.

Neil Chakraborti has been invited to deliver a plenary lecture at the inaugural International Network for Hate Studies conference in May 2014 at the University of Sussex.

Eleanor Gordon was invited to deliver a lecture and workshops on Women, Conflict and Peacebuilding to MSc students on a module delivered by Professor Alice Hills entitled ‘Post-Conflict Reconstruction: Development and Statebuilding’ at the University of Durham, School of Government and International Studies (2014).
Eleanor Gordon was invited to deliver a workshop on Women, Security and Conflict to undergraduate and postgraduate students attending a Gender Study Day at the Department of Peace Studies at the University of Bradford (2013).

Eleanor Gordon was invited to be Consultant for the OU providing input on a new Open University course on International Relations and Security (developing Kosovo case study re: balance of power, critical security studies, and feminist IR theories) (2014).

Eleanor Gordon was invited by International Alert – Lebanon to write a report on public perceptions of security and the security sector in Lebanon, based upon data gathered from a nation-wide survey (2014).

Eleanor Gordon was invited to attend an event (as developer of the programme) for the Security, Conflict and International Development programme which was shortlisted for an E-Learning Award for best use of mobile learning (2013).

Eleanor Gordon (as developer of the programme) The Security, Conflict and International Development Course was nominated for the Times Higher Education Award for Outstanding Contribution to Innovation and Technology (2013).


Eleanor Gordon was appointed member of Panel of Experts for the re-accreditation of the Croatian Police Academy (2014).

Clare Gunby was awarded fellowship to the Higher Education Academy in December 2013.

Yvonne Jewkes was invited to be an International keynote speaker, Informa Prison Planning & Design conference, Melbourne, Australia, ‘The new architecture of incarceration: humane punishment, hidden pain?’ Dec 2013.

Yvonne Jewkes was a Keynote speaker at NOTA, the National Organisation for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers, University of Cardiff, September 2013.

Conference papers presented

Neil Chakraborti presented a public lecture at the University of Leicester entitled ‘Ten Things I Hate About You: Stories of Prejudice, Bigotry and Targeted Violence in Leicester’.


Irene Zempi gave a lecture on the impact of Islamophobic victimisation upon veiled Muslim women at the Department of Psychology, Coventry University. November 2013.

Irene Zempi presented her research on the experiences of veiled Muslim women as victims of Islamophobia at Café Research, University of Leicester. December 2013.

Media work

Neil Chakraborti has been interviewed for a number of recent features in national and local media including BBC 1’s Inside Out, BBC 1’s East Midlands Today, BBC Radio Leicester, Capital Radio, the Leicester Mercury and BBC News Online.

Departmental Research Seminar Series 2014

Throughout the year staff and research students from the Department of Criminology, along with guest speakers from other institutions, are invited to deliver papers on their current research or areas of interest within the field.

02/04/2014 (13.00 – 14.00 Department of Criminology)

Jo Roberts will be discussing her PhD research into the relationship between domestic abuse and female offending.

30/04/2014 (13.00 – 14.00 Department of Criminology)

Gina fox will be discussing her PhD research into the selection and delivery of prison interventions. *this session replaces the previously advertised session scheduled for the 05/03/2014*

14/05/2014 (13.00 – 14.00 Department of Criminology)

Dr Jennifer Fleetwood will be discussing the case of Melissa Reid and Michaela Connolly in relation to the developing themes within narrative criminology’s engagement with female drug trafficking.

Research seminars and lectures are free events open to staff and students of the University of Leicester and members of the public. If you are not a member of the University of Leicester but would like to attend, please email Mark Connor at mec19@le.ac.uk to confirm your attendance.
Leicester researchers examine youth justice policy

Implementing Policy Change in Youth Justice is an ESRC funded research project that moved to Leicester in September 2013. The project team comprises: Jo Phoenix (as principal investigator), Laura Kelly from LJMU (as co-investigator) and Vici Armitage who also moved to Leicester (as research associate and project coordinator).

The research is an examination of contemporary English youth justice and focuses on how those who work with young lawbreakers or those deemed as ‘at risk of offending’ make sense of what they do and the policies that shape their work. The data comprises qualitative interviews with Youth Offending / Justice Services in two sites in England. In practice, this meant that 88 practitioners were interviewed in the summer of 2013 – 44 taking part in focus groups and 74 undertaking individual interviews. At the heart of the project were questions about the ways in which policy and practice intersect, but the data collected has raised other questions about organisational cultures in youth justice, about bureaucracy, new public managerialism and the impact of austerity on the production of youth justice, and ultimately about the changing role of the practitioner in youth justice.

Whilst the project did not ask specific questions about the use of pre-court diversion, practitioners and managers in both research sites talked extensively about the use of such measures and the potential impact they had on falling numbers of young people coming into youth justice for the first time (that is, first time entrants (FTEs)). These measures were seen as being one of the key ways that local youth justice services could meet their statutory requirement to bring down FTEs. The project team were able to use some of this data to submit written evidence to the All-Party Parliamentary Inquiry into the operation and effectiveness of the youth court system, questioning whether pre-court diversion is ‘the magic bullet’ that it is thought to be. As a result Jo Phoenix and Vici Armitage have been invited to give oral evidence at the House of Lords in February 2014.

Sixty years in criminal justice and forensic mental health – some ‘snapshots’ – Prof. Herschel Prins

Honorary Professor in the Department of Criminology

When the editors were kind enough to ask me to submit a fairly short contribution on some of the highlights of my sixty years in criminal justice and mental health, I wondered how I could usefully provide a short piece covering a sixty year span and avoid too much self-advertisement! My initial attempt was far too long and seemed somewhat pedestrian. Having had a helpful conversation with my lawyer daughter I followed her suggestion to merely highlight some of the events that seem to have had a significant impact upon my thinking and practice. Following in the footsteps of some of my paternal relatives who had worked with both adult and young offenders, and after social science and probation training, I joined that service in 1952, in those far off days it was a very small organisation relatively uncomplicated. Such attenuation was also seen in other services, such as the prison service and what were then called the ‘welfare’ services. The year 1952 took its criminal justice ‘lead’ from the (then) groundbreaking Criminal Justice Act 1948 with its numerous humanitarian provisions. During my five years in Bedfordshire service I began to develop an interest in those offenders who were suffering from (and making others suffer from) mental disorders of one kind or another. This interest was sharpened by the presence of the local ‘asylum’ on one of my patches and, from time to time, I was responsible for the general welfare of those offender-patients who were in the hospital as a requirement of a probation order (as it was then called). I recall that in those far off days there were no forensic psychiatrists, so one was lucky if one found a local general psychiatrist who was prepared to take an interest in offenders. I think that my burgeoning interest in the relationship between mental disorders and crime had developed as a result of some excellent teaching by psychiatrists on the then Home Office Probation Training course. To take this interest further I applied for and was successful in taking the Certificate in Mental Health at the LSE and qualifying as a psychiatric social worker. My first (and only) post in such a role was Stamford House Remand and Classifying Centre for boys in west London. There I had the privilege of working with some excellent psychiatric colleagues such as the late doctors Peter Scott, Trevor Gibbens and Donald West, amongst others. Following a two year ‘stint’ at the Remand Home I returned to the probation service and it was during this time that the Home Office invited me to undertake ‘casework’ seminars on the Probation Training Course.

Child care was in a pretty parlous state in the 1940s and 1950s and following an inquiry led by Dame Myra Curtis, Children’s Departments were established in 1948. At a later date these departments were taken over by the newly established Special Services Departments. These assumed most of the work with children and young persons hitherto undertaken by the probation service. This had the effect of depriving officers of the opportunity to develop their knowledge-base of human growth and development. The late 1950s and 1960s saw a number of developments of forensic interest. Consenting adult homosexual acts were legalised in 1967. The plea of diminished responsibility in homicide cases was introduced by the Homicide Act of 1957, the Mental Health Act of 1959 swept away many of the archaic provisions of lunacy legislation.

Continued overleaf
The offence of suicide was abolished by the Suicide Act of 1961 and abortion was legalised by the Abortion Act of 1967 (sadly, still a contentious issue).

During the 1970s and 1980s I witnessed a number of helpful developments. Crown Courts replaced the Assize Courts and Quarter Sessions. I regarded this as a helpful development; however some people regretted the passing of the opportunity to witness the procession of the judges and other dignitaries from the church service to the court building. The Mental Health Act of 1959 had been significantly amended by the Act of 1983 (and much more recently by the 2007 Act). Recent years have seen a plethora of enactments concerning sentencing. Some of these have been very confusing for even experienced members of the judiciary, a number of these powers having been introduced in haste and needing subsequent amendment. The problem is that some of our political leaders find difficulty in tolerating ambiguity and uncertainty. In addition they seem to have little understanding of the significance of history (unlike a political leader such as Churchill who had an excellent sense of the discipline). Perhaps our leaders should heed the advice of the philosopher Santayana who wrote ‘Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it’, and we should ignore Henry Ford’s dictum that ‘History is bunk’. Perhaps a note of caution should be inserted here. In his book about the recent Savile case, the distinguished sociologist Furedi suggests that we sometimes fall into the trap of viewing the past through the lens of the present.

This contribution has, perforce, been a somewhat idiosyncratic effort, highly selective and discursive. In conclusion I would like to identify a number of distinct trends. First, both the forensic mental health and criminal justice systems have grown in complexity (and let it be said, sometimes in confusion). Because of this complexity there is a distinct danger of ‘throwing out the baby with the bathwater’. Second, and closely allied to the first, there has developed an over-hasty response and knee-jerk legislative reaction to social problems. The adage about marriage – ‘Marry in haste, repent at leisure’ – for many substitute legislate is very apposite here. Third, we have seen a worrying reliance in ‘payment by results’ and the prominence of economic considerations. As a former probation officer and for five years a member of Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Probation, I am disturbed that such considerations seem to have a high level of priority in present proposals for virtually dismantling the probation service. Fourth, we now live in the ‘age of inquiry’ and a somewhat obsessive preoccupation with risk. I write this as a former chairman of three mental health inquiries and former member of the Parole Board and the Mental Health (Review) Tribunal. Finally, I have had the very good fortune to try to help/enable a very wide range of professionals at all levels of seniority – undergraduates, postgraduates, magistrates and medical professionals (both at Leeds University’s and Leicester’s Medical Schools) – and many others. To the extent that my senior colleague, Professor Carol Hedderman, when chatting one day to a group of us in the entrance hall of the department, had occasion to say ‘Herschel, is there anyone you haven’t taught?’ Some accolade!

Criminology graduate gains exciting new job role

Georgina Gillott, a recent graduate of our BA Criminology programme, currently interns with the independent think-tank ‘The Police Foundation’. Georgina commented on her new job and on her studies with the Department of Criminology: ‘I chose to study at the University of Leicester due to the exceptional standard of teaching and the diversity of topics available within the course. I greatly enjoyed my course and knew that I wished to pursue a career in criminology after my graduation. I was made aware of the Police Foundation internship by the Department and began work in September, assisting with policy influencing work and conducting literature reviews and web based research. I have assisted with the organisation of conferences and forums, and attended meetings and shows on behalf of the Foundation. The internship has developed my understanding of the criminological world and furthered my drive to work in policy and academia in the future. Whilst studying for my degree, I played netball for the Criminology society, and acted as secretary of sport for the Department in my final year. I would recommend to present and prospective students to try to keep a balance between your studies and social life, for this is why I believe I have succeeded both in my degree and in the time since graduating.

The Criminology Society

The Criminology Society’s aim is to support its members in getting the most out of their university experience. This is done through various events such as, prison visits, police HQ visits, gallery of justice visits, ex offender talks, revision sessions, bar crawls and much more. We also have two successful sports teams, a women’s netball team and men’s football team.

To sign up contact me or sign up at Freshers Fair. For more information like our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/LeicesterUniversityCriminologySociety20132014.

Criminology Society president: Josh Stevens  E: js574@le.ac.uk
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. The central University Alumni Association has some exciting things planned for the coming year, including networking events, reunions and its famed Annual Alumni Dinner.

The next alumni event is the Summer Reunion Open Day on Friday 27th and Saturday 28th June 2014. For more information, please go to: http://www2.le.ac.uk/alumni/newsevents/upcomingeventsreunions

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).

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.

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:
- Foundation Degree in Security and Risk Management
- BA Security and Risk Management
- MSc Security and Risk Management
- MSc Security, Conflict and International Development
- MSc Criminology and Criminal Justice
- MSc Police Leadership and Management
- PhD opportunities

The Department of Criminology are pleased to offer a funded PhD Studentship and also a funded Graduate Teaching Assistantship in Criminology both for October 2014. To find out more and to apply, please go to the dedicated website and scroll down to the Criminology section: http://www2.le.ac.uk/study/research/funding/criminology

For more information, please visit our website: www.le.ac.uk/criminology, or contact the Department: The Department of Criminology, The Friars, 154 Upper New Walk, Leicester, LE1 7QA.
T: +44 (0)116 252 3946/2458 E: criminology@le.ac.uk
ALUMNI PROFILE

Matthew Harris

I have thoroughly enjoyed the diverse and vibrant experience that studying criminology at the University of Leicester has offered me. In a past life, I wanted to be an engineer, but having spent two years studying for a National Diploma in Engineering I realised that people, and not machines, were my passion. I was cautious about completing an Access Diploma at aged 22 because I thought my peers who completed their A Levels would have a head start. My worries were ill founded and my first year studying at the Department of Criminology was a success, but it wasn’t easy. The Department assisted me during a time of bereavement that occurred two days before an essay deadline that counted for 100% of my Clinical Criminology module. The stress I experienced at this time was taken away when I was assured that the late submission would have no impact on my essay grade. I took advantage of regular meetings with my personal tutor, Neil Chakraborti, who has offered me consistent encouragement and constructive feedback during my degree that pushed me onwards to graduation.

I gained numerous skills in debate, critical thinking and reflection that will assist me in my future career. These have been developed as a criminology student and through the opportunities that were offered to me as a Leicester Ambassador to complete the Leicester Award for Community Engagement. I was elected as Vice President of Contact Student Volunteers that allowed me to restructure the universities volunteering organisation to be fully managed by students. I have recently started volunteering with Victim Support that will allow me to understand the victim (or ‘survivor’) perspective of criminal justice, which I believe is important if I am going to help people overcome crime. Upon graduating I immediately started volunteering for the Leicestershire Youth Commission on Policing and Crime that aims to improve relationships between young people and the police. I volunteered for this organisation because I chose to study Youth Crime as my first optional module during my second year and I wanted to apply my understanding of young people and crime to practical solutions such as early intervention and restorative justice. I have recently become the Local Project Coordinator for the Leicestershire Youth Commission and to find out more about the organisation please visit their website youthcommission.co.uk or search #YCUK.

I want to apply my experience with Victim Support and the Youth Commission to a career that will allow me to have a positive impact on the world. Long term I will go global, I plan on working locally for the next few years before I have gained enough experience to travel to a country that has experienced conflict. I’m interested in society, the social contract and why we don’t kill each other. This initially sparked my interest to study MSc Clinical Criminology at Leicester University, but more recently I’ve decided to alter my career plans and aim to follow a path that will lead me to the United Nations. To do so I will need to gain experience in the field within countries that have experienced conflict. To be as qualified as I can for such a career, I will eventually study a distance learning graduate diploma in Security, conflict and International development also taught at the University of Leicester’s Department of Criminology.

Matthew Harris

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