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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Retirement of Andrew Willis

Andrew Willis, Senior Lecturer in Criminology, retired in 2008 after 20 years of working at the University of Leicester. Andrew began his time at Leicester in the School of Social Work where he was Head of School from 1990 to 1993.

At the same time, he became involved with the newly developing Centre for the Study of Public Order, which had been established by Professor John Benyon in 1987. In 1996, Andrew formally joined the CSPO, later the Scarman Centre, and later still the Department of Criminology, to take the lead role in the Postgraduate Certificate in Criminal Justice and Police Management. This partnership with police practitioners became an important part of the work of the Scarman Centre and Andrew excelled in delivering at the interface of higher education and professional training in criminal justice. He was a superb teacher with a striking success in making academic material accessible and relevant to skilled practitioners.

From 2002 to 2005 Andrew was Head of the Scarman Centre and through a series of internal and external reviews oversaw its transition from entrepreneurial centre to the Department of Criminology. This was a difficult time for the Scarman Centre/Department of Criminology and it was through Andrew’s exceptional administrative and managerial skills that it emerged as a centre of criminological excellence with in excess of 200 undergraduate students, more than 35 full-time taught postgraduate students and over 500 distance learning students.

All the staff in the Department will miss Andrew’s presence – he could be relied upon to offer a considered and valued view on a range of academic issues and he played a pivotal role in the personal development of many staff who worked in the Department. It has been a pleasure to work with him over the past 20 years – I personally owe him a great debt of gratitude for helping to establish my own academic career and for the role he played in creating a Department which is vibrant, progressive and well regarded. We will all miss his commitment and unstinting support of the establishment of criminology at the University of Leicester and we wish him a very happy, healthy and well-deserved retirement.

Adrian Beck, Reader in Criminology

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION RELAUNCH

Find out how to join the Association on page 11 and catch up with Leicester Criminology graduates around the world.
www.le.ac.uk/cp/Alumni

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE YEAR 2008/9
www.le.ac.uk/criminology
Scarman Lecture Series

Crime and the Camera: Making Prison Documentaries – The Work of Rex Bloomstein

On November 5th 2008 the Department of Criminology welcomed acclaimed documentary film-maker Rex Bloomstein to speak in the Scarman Lecture Series. Rex is a film-maker well known for exposing the realities of prison life and addressing aspects of the British penal system that are usually closed to public scrutiny. In his lecture he revealed some of the dilemmas of the documentary film-maker, and showed excerpts from many of his films, including ‘Release’, ‘Prisoners’ Wives’, ‘Strangeways’ ‘Lifer – Living With Murder’ and ‘Kids Behind Bars’.

Rex started his lecture with two clips from ‘Release’, a film he made for the BBC in 1976 about a man called Charlie Smith being released from HMP Maidstone. The future looked quite promising for Charlie as he discussed his plans to carve out a new career as a commercial designer in the advertising industry. But, as the film shows, with no formal training and having cut off all family ties, Charlie struggled with the painful reality of life on the outside. The raw and uncompromising film techniques used by Rex perfectly captured Charlie’s growing anger and paranoia as he tried, and failed, to get a grant to go to art college and to make it in the advertising industry. In the end, it seemed likely that Charlie would fall back on his talents as a criminal rather than his talents as an artist.

Among the other excerpts shown – and the ones that later discussions within the Department indicated were the most profoundly affecting – were the clips of Steve, who was interviewed by Rex for two different films. The first – for ‘Lifer’, a two-hour film for ITV in 1982 – showed Steve who had, as a 17-year-old, kicked a man to death. Twelve years into his 25 year sentence he was cocky, restless and resistant. Prone to responding violently to provocation, he described how his anger had led him to trash his cell and the prison wing on several occasions. He spoke contemptuously of the prison officers who would restrain him physically and with drugs. Twenty-one years on, in an excerpt from a seven-part follow-up series called ‘Lifer – Living With Murder’ made for Channel 4, we see the effects that the ‘liquid cosh’ has had on Steve. Bloatet, dulled and his speech so slurred that the interview had to be accompanied by subtitles, the effects of 32 years in custody were dramatically conveyed (the only day of ‘freedom’ Steve has been allowed was to attend his mother’s funeral). Now held in the secure wing of a psychiatric hospital, there can be no more graphic or moving illustration of a life inside.

Rex follows a tradition of great television film-makers in narrating social history from below. Employing apparently simple (though in fact highly sophisticated) film-making techniques Rex has succeeded in humanizing his subjects, while still conveying the complexities of their personalities, motives and circumstances; a process he referred to as ‘undermining the simplicities’. A film-maker of power and passion, Rex has won many prestigious awards, including two British Academy Awards for ‘Strangeways’ (1980). He is a member of the board of trustees of the Prison Reform Trust, and his latest film, a feature length documentary on freedom of expression called ‘An Independent Mind’, was broadcast on More 4 in December 2008.

Professor Yvonne Jewkes

MSc Terrorism, Security and Policing

The MSc in Terrorism, Security and Policing is a new campus based postgraduate programme recently launched by the Department of Criminology. The new course will have its first intake of students in September 2009.

This innovative degree stream has been developed in response to the increasing significance of the impact of terrorism in the fields of international security, policing, risk management and the media. The programme will provide students with a detailed understanding of the key issues surrounding managing risk and security, policing and terrorism with a focus on global issues and their impact at the local level, particularly in a post ‘9/11’ and ‘7/7’ world. Students will be able to explore the idea of terror as a concept, the history of terrorism and investigate the common myths associated with contemporary terrorism.

The MSc in Terrorism, Security and Policing will be directly relevant to practitioners working at a senior level in the fields of law enforcement, security and intelligence. It will also be of interest to undergraduates studying politics, criminology, law or international relations who are looking to increase their subject knowledge and embark on careers in this diverse area.

Adrian Beck, Reader in Criminology, commented that:

“Changes in the way in which issues of security, crime and policing are conceptualised and discussed have been profound in the last few years. The spectre of terrorism is now routinely on the agenda of a wide range of agencies and this new course seeks to provide a detailed and critical review of the key issues relating to this subject”.

For more information about the MSc Terrorism, Security and Policing programme please visit our website: www.le.ac.uk/cp/courses/pg/cb/index.html
The University of Leicester’s Forensic Research Centre recently organised a conference looking at the contribution academic research can play in the fight against crime.

It is undeniable that forensic science has become an invaluable tool in improving the detection of crime by the police. The aim of this conference was to discuss how advances in forensic science might be used to increase the number of crimes detected. At present there are few collaborative ventures between academia and the police, despite the mutual benefits illustrated by the success of this conference.

The conference was jointly opened by the Deputy Chief Constable of Northamptonshire Police, Davina Logan and Christine Fyfe, Pro-Vice Chancellor at the University of Leicester. The collaborative opening was illustrative of the formal agreement signed by the Forensic Research Centre and the Northamptonshire Police Scientific Support Department in May 2008. The formal agreement emphasises the importance of collaborative research and the practical application of academic research in the fight against crime.

Chief Constable Chris Sims of Staffordshire Police, who is also the ACPO Forensic Science Portfolio holder, was the keynote speaker at the conference. The agenda was packed full of cutting edge research, presented by members of the Forensic Research Centre and other leading experts in the field. Papers discussed, among other issues, how to improve data collection; serial offending and case linkage of vehicle theft; the advantage of using stubs over swabs to recover traces of gunshot residue from suspects; new approaches to non-invasive forensic pathology; and how the use of DNA and fingerprints can increase the number of volume crimes detected.

The conference attracted delegates from 27 police forces across the UK. Dr John Bond said “considering it was our first conference, I was very pleased with the strong attendance from the UK police service and other agencies. Clearly, this was a somewhat different conference to what most attendees might be used to as it was aimed very much at practitioners in the police service. We look forward to working with the Forensic Research Centre to host further conferences of this nature in the future”. The full conference programme is available on the Centre’s website: www.le.ac.uk/forensic-research/conferencedectingcrime.html

The collaborative research carried out by members of the Forensic Research Centre will hopefully lead to more conferences on a variety of subjects covering all stages of the criminal justice process. Dr Emma Palmer, Director of the FRC explained that “the joint research conducted by FRC members with Northamptonshire Police is an excellent example of multi-disciplinary working with external agencies in order to reduce and prevent crime”.

For more information on the Forensic Research Centre and its members, please visit our website: www.le.ac.uk/forensic-research/ or contact the Director of the FRC, Dr Emma Palmer on forensicresearch@le.ac.uk

Tammy Ayres, Research Assistant, Forensic Research Centre


Professor Herschel Prins Awarded an Honorary Professorship

In July 2008 Professor Herschel Prins was awarded an Honorary Professorship for his significant contribution to the Department over a number of years.

Professor Herschel Prins has been closely associated with the development of forensic mental health for more than 50 years. Over his varied career his concern for our understanding and management of mentally disordered offenders has remained a constant.

Professor Prins began his career as a probation officer back in 1952 which led to his interest in the treatment of mentally disordered offenders and his decision to qualify as a psychiatric social worker. He has since worked in the Home Office, has been a Visiting Professor at the University of Leicester and Nottingham Trent University. He holds a Chair at Loughborough University and Honorary Chairs at the University of Leicester and the University of Birmingham. He was director of the School of Social Work here at Leicester from 1981 to 1984.

His service to the profession includes membership of the Parole Board, the Mental Health Review Tribunal and the Mental Health Act Commission. He has chaired three Committees of Inquiry into the care and management of offender patients. He has over 200 published works with the most recent being the third edition of Offenders, Deviants or Patients in 2005. He is currently working on a fourth edition.

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Professor Prins has taught on our MSc Clinical Criminology programme since it began over ten years ago and still teaches the Current Issues in Clinical Criminology module. The Department are delighted to be able to honour Professor Prins’ hard work and dedication to criminological research and teaching by awarding him the title of Honorary Professor.
Staff Publications and Achievements

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

Research grants applied for
Jewkes, Y. ‘ICTs in prison: a comparative study’, part of wider project entitled ‘(In) secure identities: ICTs, identification, trust and social sorting’ – application with colleagues from the University of Oslo to the Norwegian Research Council.

Research grants awarded
Hedderman, C. £97,000 from Ministry of Justice to conduct outcome feasibility study on the Together Women projects for women offenders and those ‘at risk’ of offending.

Publications
BOOK CHAPTERS AND CONTRIBUTIONS


JOURNAL ARTICLES


REPORTS


Conference papers presented
Beck, A. organised and chaired seminar on Developing a Shrinkage Insight Framework, Brussels, Belgium (September 2008).

Beck, A. co-organised biennial conference on Policing in Central and Eastern Europe: Social Control in Contemporary Society - Practice and Research, Ljubljana, Slovenia (September 2008).


Beck, A. chaired two day conference on Retail Loss Prevention, London, UK (October 2008).


Beck, A. organised seminar on Retail Loss Prevention, Moscow, Russia (December 2008).

Chakraborti, N delivered two papers at the ‘Respect and Right: Political and Social Support to Victims of Right-Wing Violence’ conference, organised by the Friedrich Ebert Foundation, Berlin. The first paper was entitled ‘Far-Right Violence: The Situation in England’ and the second entitled ‘Working with Victims of Racist Violence’ (November 2008).

Chakraborti, N. presented a paper entitled ‘Hate Crime: Fresh Challenges for Scholarship and Policy’ to the Centre for Criminology, University of Oxford (December 2008).


Spence, K. presented a talk on Human Security and Counterterrorism at NATO Sessions in Ankara, Turkey (September 2008).
James Treadwell, Lecturer in Criminology

I studied for my first degree in what was then a Department of Social Sciences at the University of Central England (now Birmingham City University). I was reluctant to leave my home city and go away to University as I would have missed the football and the chance of making money while at university, so study options were pretty limited. When I arrived at U.C.E there were only two staff members who were criminologists. For this reason, a significant part of my degree was sociology based. I think this was a good grounding for my work as a criminologist, and I still tend to regard myself as much a sociologist/social scientist as a criminologist.

After finishing my undergraduate degree, I studied for an MA, completing in a year with a distinction. I would have liked to have studied for a PhD, but it wasn’t really financially viable (my wife told me that she was worried about me becoming a permanent student). I joined the new probation training scheme, and spent a further two years at the University of Birmingham getting another undergraduate degree in the process. I worked as a probation officer for a short while in a range of offices, and then stumbled into academia in 2003.

I enrolled on a PhD and went back to the type of research that had always interested me, talking to active offenders who hadn’t been caught. Before becoming an academic, when I worked as a nightclub bouncer, I had access to quite a few people who were criminals. This was why criminology as a subject had initially appealed to me. I had seen the real world practices of crime and I suppose that helped me to make sense of the theory. It also provided me with a good excuse for hanging around in places like boxing gyms, greyhound tracks and in pubs, clubs and bars.

I wrote my first undergraduate dissertation on a group of football hooligans that I knew and I used the night club security scene as the research for my MA. When I went back into academia as a career I started my PhD by conducting ethnographic research with a different group of football hooligans. I have always been drawn to the traditional type of criminological ethnography found in the work of the Chicago school and I have always been interested in issues of identity, masculinity, and violence and the realities of crime as encountered out there in the real world.

I moved to the Department in June 2008. My PhD work will be finished off soon, and I can present some of the ethnographic work from that in journals. I would also like to publish my PhD as a book. I continue to try and stay research active in a number of ways and I am interested in a diverse and eclectic range of topics. I have just finished a joint article on the practice of doing ethnographic research (with Kate Williams from Wolverhampton University), and a single authored article on how the fashion industry appropriates crime to badge its products ‘cool’, while conversely those who subscribe most to those fashion trends are increasingly controlled in public space. I am glad to be at Leicester and I am looking forward to the next few years.

Treadwell, J. presented a paper at the British Society of Criminology conference in Huddersfield on ‘Call the (fashion) Police and ‘just talking a good conference in Huddersfield on ‘Call the report to the University of Portsmouth on ‘Scrutinising the football “fight” undertaking qualitative research’ (fashion) Police and ‘just talking a good conference in Huddersfield on ‘Call the British Society of Criminology report to the University of Portsmouth on ‘Scrutinising the football “fight” undertaking qualitative research’ (November 2008).

Conferences attended

Laure Guille attended the Sixth Challenge Training School, organised by the Centre for European Policy studies in Brussels, on ‘Internal and External Insecurities: The EU’s Anti-Terrorism Strategy and International Cooperation’ (November 2008).

Invitations, awards, accolades

Adrian Beck examined a PhD thesis at the University of Portsmouth (December 2008).

Charlotte Bilby was invited to chair a lecture on ‘Prison Today’ given by former prisoner and Guardian columnist, Erwin James, as part of Nottingham Contemporary’s Impossible Prison art exhibition (December 2008).

Jon Garland has been appointed external examiner at De Montfort University, for their BA (Hons) Applied Criminology and Psychology, BA (Hons) Applied Criminology, BA (Hons) Applied Criminology and Forensic Science programmes.

Jon Garland and Neil Chakraborti participated in a ‘Meet the Author’ session as part of an EU-Fellowship Programme entitled ‘Future Urban Research in Europe – FUTURE’. The session took the form of an online forum where participants posed questions to Jon and Neil about their experiences of researching ‘race’ and racism in urban and rural environments (September 2008).

Jon Garland and Neil Chakraborti have been invited to work in conjunction with the Scientific Support Department of Northamptonshire Police to examine the constabulary’s hate crime data. They will be analysing eight years of anonymised data, focusing especially upon the type and nature of each hate incident, as well as their location, in order to examine the strength of the relationship between the victim and perpetrator.

Yvonne Jewkes has been appointed to the editorial board of Prison Service Journal.

Yvonne Jewkes examined a PhD thesis at the University of Plymouth (September 2008).

James Treadwell has been appointed to the editorial board of the Howard Journal of Criminal Justice.

James Treadwell appeared on BBC Radio Five Live talking about street lighting, darkness and the psychology of the fear of crime (October 2008).
Building on Sand: Why Expanding the Prison Estate is Not the Way to ‘Secure the Future’

By 25th July 2008, the prison population had risen to 83,964. The government’s independent advisor Lord Carter of Coles estimated in his report Securing the Future: Proposals for the Efficient and Sustainable Use of Custody in England and Wales (2007) that the prison population could rise to 100,000 by 2014. He recommends building huge warehouse prisons, called ‘Titans’ to help to contain the extra numbers. This is a surprising departure from the line he took four years earlier in Managing Offenders, Changing Lives: A New Approach, when he suggested that sentences could be used more effectively to both reduce reoffending and protect the public. Perhaps it is connected to the fact that the measures he proposed in that earlier report have not brought about the seamless end-to-end management of offenders he expected. Nor have the savings in prison places, which were needed to pay for the new arrangements, been realised.

Anyone who questions whether we need to be sending quite so many people to prison risks being labelled soft on crime and putting offenders’ rights before the needs of victims. That is why, while both political parties are only too happy to say who should go to prison, neither are prepared to specify who should not. The costs of that failure are largely obscured by spurious claims about the impact of the offences brought to justice initiative; a focus on the prison population rather than current sentencing practice; and a failure to consider what impact resorting to prison so frequently has had on reconviction.

The only connection efforts to bring more offenders to justice have is that it has increased the proportion of offenders coming to court with high numbers of previous convictions. The increased use of custody has been affected by the sentencing of some serious offences but the biggest change in sentencing behaviour concerns the number and length of custodial sentences for less serious property offences and cases which are too trivial (summary only) to be sent to the Crown Court.

The fact that modelled reconviction rates show that the Prison Service is doing a better job is a testament to its hard work, despite increasing overcrowding. Raw reconviction rates suggest that this is in the face of custody being used less effectively by the courts. The cost of the change in sentencing behaviour cannot be measured simply in terms of extra prison places; the extra reconvictions which have resulted also carry a cost.

There are no new easy or quick fixes for constraining or reducing the size of the prison population. There are even fewer politically palatable ones. Limiting magistrates’ powers to use custody for non-violent summary offences and specifically discouraging them from using custody for theft and handling might be a good place to start. Surely these are not the offences the public have in mind when they call for tougher sentencing? Such a move would not solve prison overcrowding but it would slow down the rate at which it worsens and help to reduce reconviction rates. It would also save money both because prison is so expensive and because it is an ineffective response to less serious offending – as current reconviction rates demonstrate.

Professor Carol Hedderman
A copy of the report by Professor Hedderman into the prison population can be downloaded from the Centre for Crime and Justice Studies website: http://www.crimeandjustice.org.uk/buildingonsandstructure.html
Adrian Beck Introduces his Research Interests

Having joined the Department back in 1988, when it had first been established as the Centre for the Study of Public Order, I am now the longest serving member of staff, entering my 21st year of service – luckily I started when I was 16! Since then, I have seen the subject of criminology grow considerably at Leicester and I continue to be extremely proud of the achievements of colleagues past and present.

My research has been centred on two areas: policing post soviet societies, and loss prevention in the retail sector. The former led me to spending more than seven years working on a range of projects sponsored by the Department of International Development, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the European Commission, focussed on action-driven research in Russia and Ukraine. My work in the Eastern Ukrainian city of Kharkiv was particularly challenging as our research team tried to work with the Ukrainian police, Non Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and the public to test out a number of community-policing style initiatives in two parts of the city. The project focussed not only in the applicability of westernised notions of community policing to post soviet countries, but also charting the changing nature of policing in these societies. In many respects the Ministry of the Interior (Equivalent to the British Home Office) in both Russia and Ukraine have been the ones least likely to embrace change since the collapse of the soviet regime and problems of police corruption and low levels of confidence and trust in the police remain major issues yet to be resolved.

My interest in this work continues and I recently had a co-authored chapter published in Mercer and Newburn’s book on Policing Developing Democracies (2008) and have an article appearing in the Journal of Police, Practice and Research early in 2009 on the challenges to reforming the police in Russia. While there is much less funding available these days to sponsor this type of work, I still enjoy going back to Russia and Ukraine to visit old friends and catch up on the odd tipple of vodka!

My other area of interest – retail loss prevention – has led me to work with a considerable number of companies all over the world looking at issues ranging from measuring the scale and extent of the problem to evaluations of technologies trying to prevent it. For the last nine years I have been the academic advisor to the ECR Europe Shrinkage Group and have helped them to develop a number of research papers focused on issues such as staff dishonesty, identifying ‘hot spots’ in the supply chain, the use of RFID technologies, and measuring the ‘value’ of technology interventions. Some of this has been putting ‘criminology’ into practice, while at the same time trying to inject some rigour into the way in which practitioners groups go about measuring their work. I am currently working with colleagues on a book bringing together my research in this field, which is due to be published in 2009 by Palgrave. The book intends to debunk many of the commonly held assumptions about the nature and causes of loss within the retail community and offer a more systemic understanding of the issues faced by this part of the economy.

One of the advantages of joining a Department when it is first established is that you can witness its evolution over the years – the study of crime, policing and security has certainly gone through many phases at Leicester, but the future looks extremely promising as the current staff build upon the success of the past and continue to develop the Department as a centre of excellence – I feel privileged to be a part of that process.

Adrian Beck, Reader in Criminology

Honorary Visiting Fellows

The University confers honorary titles to individuals who make a significant regular contribution to the work of the University in relation to teaching, study and/or research.

In the last twelve months three friends of the Department have been invited to become Honorary Visiting Fellows. Already contributing to the Department in various ways, we hope that Jamie, Joel and Marinella will enjoy a productive and mutually rewarding relationship with us over the coming years.

Jamie Bennett

When I was twelve years old, my English teacher, a stern man with extravagant eyebrows, attempted to inspire the class by having us articulate our ambitions. One by one, creeping around the classroom, this bunch of clueless kids whispered their tentative desires to be medics, teachers, farmers and soldiers. Being less imaginative, I simply waited to hear what the girl who I found most attractive had to say. “Lawyer” she chirped up and I quickly followed suit, hoping that this would prove that there was an undeniable bond between us. And so started a journey that ended with me in prison.

Six years later I left home for Cambridge University, convinced that studying law would be a route into a moral career, tussling with questions of right and wrong. A few introductory cocktail soirees hosted by Linklaters and Clifford...
Chance and the attempts of tutors to enthuse us with excitement for the worlds of contract and commercial law, quickly showed me that I had entered a world that was all about a word beginning with ‘m’ but that word wasn’t ‘moral’. By the time I entered the second year, I was drifting into uncertainty. I could only define myself by negatives, by what I wasn’t and didn’t want to be. It was during this time that I picked criminology as one of my options. Over time, I discovered that this was a subject that was about right and wrong, was about political ideologies, a contested battleground that had real consequences for people. In the third year I completed a dissertation on women’s imprisonment and after leaving University I joined the prison service on the accelerated promotion scheme.

I started my career keen to progress. I immersed myself and splashed through what was at times a sink or swim experience. Within a few years I allowed myself to be moulded into a managerialist; designing performance management tools, managing the contracting out of services and opening new prison accommodation. The nadir came when I enrolled for and completed a Masters of Business Administration at Durham University.

Although my career was progressing well, I started to wonder what had happened to that moral attitude I once had. I started to try to reconnect with that, to bring together what I had learned about management with the values and ideas that had first attracted me to prison work. One of the means by which I made this connection was through a growing interest in writing about prisons. This started safely, writing about a visit to prisons in South Africa, and then writing about prison films. As this interest expanded I became Editor of the Prison Service Journal, started developing contacts with academics and started to be invited to contribute to lectures and publications, and gradually my writing expanded to cover more critical issues about managerialism, politics and social control.

With this growing interest, I enrolled for a PhD at Edinburgh University, being supervised by Professor Richard Sparks. My thesis is focussing on agency and structure in the working lives of prison managers, particularly in relation to managerialism and culture. This involved ethnographic research in two medium security prisons over a 12 month period.

My prison career has continued to progress, including being Deputy Governor of Gartree, which specialises in life sentence prisoners, Deputy Governor of Whitemoor, a high security prison, and now Governor of Morton Hall, a women’s prison. However, during that time I have also become more detached, more critical and more questioning of that working world. Having a foot in both the academic and practitioner worlds can be a messy and uncomfortable place to be but given that prisons are a complex and contested moral environment, if it ever does feel easy I’m probably not doing it justice.

Jamie Bennett, Governor at HMP Morton Hall and Honorary Visiting Fellow

Marinella Marmo

Dr Marinella Marmo is a Senior Lecturer at Flinders University Law School, Australia. Previously, she taught in the area of criminology in the UK, including a period at the University of Leicester.

Marinella teaches and researches in the area of international criminal justice and human rights. Exploring transnational crimes and the role of national and international institutions have always been a major part of her research and personal interests. In particular, she has researched on the role of national and supra-national judges. She has interviewed several judges in Europe and in Australia on their core responsibility and intervention that have contributed to change in the significance of national governance, with impact on public policy and crime.

Furthermore, Marinella has explored national and international policy approaches and criminal justice responses to women trafficked in Australia for sexual exploitation. Her approach is based on the consideration that trafficked human beings remain mostly invisible within Australian society (as well as other Western societies) but ‘reachable’ as ‘bodies’ to consume, like other commodities, or as ‘prosecutorial tools’ by the Criminal Justice System. In all these phases, their abject condition remains. This research project, funded by Flinders University, looks at how ideas of traditional female morality and sexuality are used as a basis for restricting the (legal) migration of women – with possible links to recent times on how/why illegal female immigrants maintain an abject condition.

The research aims to uncover the processes the British Government have utilised in the 1970s and 1980s to regulate (adult) female migration. The historical context of the criminalisation of female immigrants is considered on the basis of moral decency and body integrity; the immigration restrictions placed upon women had been based on the idea of the woman as a ‘commodity’. Their worth is determined by how they can be utilised by others. Unlike male migrants, women’s economic value was solely determined by the use of their bodies. Most women were only allowed to enter Britain under the pretence of family unification; the migrant adult, single, unattached, and potentially sexually active woman was perceived as a threat. The original documents testify how foreign women, and their ‘value’ (determined by their sexual integrity), had been subject to scrutiny and restriction in British immigration law for many years until the 1980s.

Marinella Marmo, Senior Lecturer at Flinders University and Honorary Visiting Fellow
Joel Harvey

Joel Harvey completed his MA (Hons) in psychology at the University of St Andrews in 1997 and completed his MSc in forensic psychology at the University of Kent in 1998. He worked as a researcher at the University of New South Wales, with the New South Wales Police Service, and then with HM Prison Service on the development team of the Offender Assessment System.

In 2004 Joel completed his PhD in criminology at the University of Cambridge and was awarded the Nigel Walker Prize for this work. In 2006 he published his first book Young Men in Prison: Surviving and Adapting to Life Inside (Willan). In 2007 he completed a doctorate in clinical psychology at the University of Manchester. His thesis examined perceived physical health, psychological distress and social support among prison officers.

Since qualifying as a clinical psychologist he has worked as a senior lecturer in forensic psychology at London Metropolitan University and as a clinical psychologist for Cambridgeshire Youth Offending Service. He has also been involved in the evaluation of a staff training programme for juveniles in custody.

Joel currently works as a chartered clinical psychologist at the Centre for Forensic Mental Health, a medium-secure unit in East London. In January 2009 Joel will return to work as clinical psychologist for Cambridgeshire Youth Offending Service. He is currently co-editing a book entitled Psychological therapy with Offenders in Prisons and Other Secure Settings (Willan) and continues to be interested in prisons, therapy provision for offenders, and youth justice.

Joel Harvey, Clinical Psychologist and Honorary Visiting Fellow

PhD Student Research

Exploring the Idea of ‘Human Error’ in Aircraft Accidents

A former senior Air Force Officer, Anthony Masys holds a BSc in Physics and an MSc in Underwater Acoustics and Oceanography from the Royal Military College of Canada. His current research, as a PhD student in the Department of Criminology, focuses on understanding air accidents. Anthony is currently applying his academic and professional background as a Defence Scientist in support of the Department of National Defence, Canada.

Human error is a prevalent finding in many accidents involving complex socio-technical systems. Within the aviation domain it is common to see statements that 70% to 80% of aircraft accidents are caused by pilot error or that 85% of work accidents are due to unsafe acts by humans rather than unsafe conditions (Leveson, 1985).

A systems view of the problem space regards human error as a symptom of ‘...contradictions, pressures and resource limitations deeper inside the system’ (Dekker, 2002:3). This systems view supports a complexity perspective, where the attribution of pilot error is seen as an oversimplification of a complex aetiology. The label ‘human error’ as reported by Woods et al. (1994) is considered prejudicial and unspecific. They argue that the label ‘human error’ retards rather than advances our understanding of how complex systems fail and the role of the human practitioners in both successful and unsuccessful system operations.

My research entitled “Fratricide in Air Operations: Opening the Black Box, Revealing the Social”, presents an argument that human error, crew or pilot error represents a limited view of accident causation. The black box, we call pilot error has become an opaque representation of a complex problem space. It is by opening the black box that we reveal the ‘social’ that characterizes the accident aetiology associated with fratricide (friendly fire). This body of work argues that pilot error is not an explanation but is something to be explained (Dekker, 2002). The research has taken a systems approach enabled through the application of Actor Network Theory, informed by Complexity Theory and managed by Grounded Theory methodology to facilitate the contextual understanding of fratricide.

Key findings that emerge from the analysis of fratricide incidents include how hardwired politics and illusions of certainty that reside within this actor network shape situation awareness and decision-making. From the case studies examined emerge a solution space model that identifies three foundational principles and recommendations for ‘operationalising’ knowledge management and organizational learning as key components thereby increasing an organization’s capability to take effective action. The Actor Network perspective provides the framework that provides insights into the socio-technical solution space for knowledge creation, knowledge access and knowledge sharing and recognizes how these processes emerge in virtual teams.

Anthony Masys, PhD student
A Tale of Two Half-Marathons

I used to think distance runners were crazy. But last summer my dad finally convinced me to do a run with him and I haven’t looked back since.

Once my places were confirmed in the Great North Run on October 5th 2008 and the Leicester City Half Marathon two weeks later, the decision of who to run for was easy. As a huge admirer of Audrey Hepburn, I was inspired to run for children’s charity UNICEF because of her selfless dedication. The Great North Run is a fantastic event, and I am privileged to have had the chance to run the famous course. Seeing the Red Arrows fly right over your head just a few metres from the finish is something I don’t think I will ever forget. I was pleased with my time of 2hrs 15mins, to say me and my mum were running alongside 50,000 people. The Leicester Half Marathon was a smaller event, yet far more personal. Running the first 6 miles with my hero, my dad, and sprinting past the Department of Criminology to see my friends and family at the finish gave me a really unique feeling of accomplishment, although my legs were telling me something else. I still think distance runners are crazy!

I’d like to thank everyone who sponsored and supported me, because if freeing a baby from HIV is as easy as 68p, then hopefully my £400 sponsor money will make a big difference to children’s lives across the globe.

Richard Banks, BA Criminology third year student

Criminology Society Update

Since the last issue of Criminology in Focus, the Criminology Society has gone from strength to strength. Our enthusiasm at Freshers’ Fair at the beginning of term (reinforced with a catchy slogan and numerous packets of sweets) paid off and saw our membership grow to well past the one hundred mark. Now, with approximately 128 paying members, we are the largest the society has ever been.

Furthering this success was the huge interest we received in our society ‘hoodies.’ Now, with fifty nine orders taken for hooded jumpers in a myriad of colours, all with the recognisable Criminology Society thumbprint logo, Criminology students will be recognisable on campus en force.

This success was rivalled only by our first social event, a ‘C’ themed bar crawl around Leicester, and the respectable £63 the committee raised for Cancer Research UK, UNICEF and the NSPCC by selling their scrumptious fare at a cake sale during RAG week.

The second semester will see the Society moving in new directions. In addition to alcohol orientated social events, the committee aims to provide non-alcoholic events such as a pub quiz and pool afternoon to reach out to all of its members. Echoing similar movements in our Union Council we are also keen to hold a student forum which will enable Criminology students to reflect on their year and pass on invaluable advice or information to students in the years below. These plans, coupled with the committee’s hopes of affiliating the society with a well known charity, signal the beginning of a fresh and exciting year for the Criminology Society!

For more information about the Criminology Society please contact us via email: Leicester-criminologists@hotmail.co.uk

Becky Maitland-Titterton, Secretary, Criminology Society

BA Criminology Student wins I-Pod

Becky Forster, a first year BA Criminology student, was the lucky winner of an I-pod shuffle from the University of Leicester Careers Service. Becky’s name was entered into a prize draw after signing up for careers alerts from the Careers Service at the Freshers’ Fair. You can find out more about the support available from the Careers Service on their website:

http://www2.le.ac.uk/offices/ssds/careers
Department of Criminology Alumni Association Update

Since we re-launched the Department of Criminology Alumni Association we have had an excellent response from alumni based all over the world. We have sent the first issue of Criminology in Focus via email to hundreds of our alumni but we would like to be able to reach as many of you as possible.

If you are a graduate of the Department of Criminology, we would like you to get in touch with us so that we have your up-to-date contact details and can continue to send you Criminology in Focus via email.

We would be grateful if you could take the time to visit our website: www.le.ac.uk/cp/Alumni/index.html.

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 visit our alumni page on the website.

We hope to include an article about one of our alumni in each newsletter. In this issue we introduce Helen Jones, who graduated in 2002 with an MSc in Clinical Criminology and now works as an Intelligence Analyst for the police. 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.

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 Community Safety
• MSc Criminology and Criminal Justice
• MSc Police Leadership and Management

“...the course has been both challenging and rewarding. A supervised placement at Leicester City Council Community Safety Team allowed me to apply an array of criminological knowledge and discover an ideal career path to maximise the skills I have learned. In September, I begin the role of Community Safety Project Officer at South Bucks District Council.”

Nicholas Martin,
MSc Applied 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. Tel: +44 (0)116 252 3946/2458 Email: criminology@le.ac.uk
Alumni Profile

Helen Jones studied for a MSc in Clinical Criminology, graduating in 2002.

“When I graduated with a BSc in Psychology in 2001 I had no idea that a year later I would be interested in areas of mental health nor would I have dreamt of going into a prison and interviewing young offenders about their experiences of suicide and self-harm. Yet in 2001 I embarked upon an MSc in Clinical Criminology with the (then) Scarman Centre, which provided me with these opportunities.

After I finished my Psychology degree I was probably more confused about what career I wanted than when I started. However, when I saw a flyer from the Scarman Centre about the courses on offer my interest was immediately drawn to the Clinical Criminology degree, which combined my love of psychology with my fascination for criminology. After being successfully accepted onto the course I completed a variety of criminological and forensic psychology modules, which sparked my interest in the penal system.

When it came to choosing a topic for my dissertation, a newspaper article about suicide and self-harm within young offenders’ institution caught my eye. I subsequently became intrigued as to what led some young offenders to such extreme measures. Through my research I was fortunate enough to speak with young male prisoners at Glen Parva YOI where I asked them about their experiences of suicide, self-harm and support services. I soon realised that whilst there are those prisoners who are so institutionalised they do not appear bothered by their imprisonment, there are those who are deeply disturbed by past and present experiences and for whom, the only way of coping with prison is to self-harm.

My interest in the pains of imprisonment did not stop with my MSc and in 2002, after much encouragement from Professor Yvonne Jewkes (who had supervised my MSc dissertation), I began a PhD in Criminology at the University of Hull. Although I returned to Glen Parva YOI to further my understanding of suicide and self-harm, I extended my research to include the earlier stages of the criminal justice system (police cells, court cells and escort vehicles), again interviewing young detainees and offenders. It was through my PhD that I began to develop the notion of ‘pains of custody’, which exist at some or all stages of the criminal justice system and which help to explain why some young detainees and prisoners turn to self-harm as a coping mechanism.

Unfortunately, for financial reasons I had to complete my PhD part-time, so I could continue to work full-time in a job that I had with a local police force. Consequently, I had to spend my evenings and weekends completing my PhD; this involved considerable support and understanding from my family and friends. However, after less than six years, I graduated with my doctorate in July of this year. Although it was stressful working full-time and completing a PhD, it provided me with a unique opportunity to continue my career with the police.

Following roles as a Crime Recorder Receiver and Research Officer, I began my present job as an Intelligence Analyst in June 2007 and am lucky to have a job that I love. Whilst there are a number of Intelligence Analysts within the force, I am the only one that specialises in protecting vulnerable people. There are five main areas that I analyse intelligence for; the Child Abuse Investigation Unit, Public Protection Management Team (who manage sex and dangerous offenders), Paedophile and Online Investigation Team, the SOLACE unit (who deal with victims of sexual assault) and domestic abuse/vulnerable adults. Every day differs depending on what threats have been identified and what offences have been committed. For example, I might produce an offending history timeline or association chart in relation to a registered sexual offender or be asked to analyse an offender’s telephone data. Other times I produce timelines to assist investigating officers, identifying discrepancies between witness statements and recommending possibilities for further investigation. I have also done a lot of work around identifying victims of child sexual exploitation. My job has given me the opportunity to utilise my background in psychology and criminology to help understand the offending behaviour of criminals and it has also furthered my knowledge, providing me with training opportunities to learn about male and female child sex offenders.

Although I am in a job that I love I am still keen to further myself and am not ruling out a career change. Thus, at the moment I am currently writing a journal article that utilises some of my PhD research.

Completing my masters at Leicester has been invaluable. It has provided me with the criminological theory to understand the crisis that our current criminal justice system faces and the opportunity to interview some of those most affected by it. Not only have I been able to further this knowledge and research experience by completing a PhD, but it has also been particularly beneficial in my career as an Intelligence Analyst.”