EUROPEAN GROUP FOR THE STUDY OF
DEVIANCE AND SOCIAL CONTROL

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Coordinator: Ida Nafstad                        Secretary: Per J. Ystehede

An international network working towards social justice, state accountability and decarceration

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

I. (p. 3) Editorial

II. (p. 4) Noack: Turkey’s Politics of Fear

III. (p. 12) Rezension: Non-penal Real Utopias

IV. (p. 15) The European Group Journal; Justice, Power and Resistance: Critical Criminology. Volume 1, Issue 1

V. (p. 16) Call for papers: The 45th European Group Conference 2017

VI. (p. 19) News from Europe and Around the World

Front page: The barrier -graffiti painted - West Bank – Palestine (CCO, Flickr, Wall in Palestine)
I. Editorial

The Turkish election ended with a marginal majority to Erdogan’s proposal for constitutional changes – including, among other alterations, taking away the prime minister post, less autonomy for the courts, and more power gathered at the hands of the presidents, being himself, also enable him to be reelected for two more periods. In this April newsletter Anna-Sophie Noack takes us with her on a journey to Diyarbakir to bring attention to the alarming situation for Kurdish activists in Erdogan’s Turkey. Noack spent a week in the city in conversations with various activists, and recall these voices here in the context of the changing Turkey. Noack stresses the situation for the Turkish Kurds under Erdogan, and particularly the situation for Kurdish and women activists, and prisoners, which has heavily deteriorated after the failed military coup and the following emergency degrees, used also to crack down on these groups under the pretext of ‘terrorism’.

The European Group Journal: Justice, Power and Resistance, Volume 1, Issue 1, will soon be out. As you will see from the table of content for this issue to be found on page 15, this issue promises highly interesting and important readings.

If you are not a subscriber to this excellent journal you still have the chance to subscribe here and get the new issue soon in your postbox, or maybe the institution were you work or your local library will be interested in a subscription.

This is the first volume of the Journal; the foundation volume was published in September 2016. At page 12 you will find a most flattering review of the foundation volume by Johannes Feest (translated by Andrea Beckmann).

We would like to remind you about the deadline for call for papers for the European Group annual conference in Lesbos. The deadline is 30 April. See more information about the conference here and at page 16 in this newsletter.

In solidarity,
Ida and Per
II. Turkey’s Politics of Fear

By: Anna-Sophie Noack

2015 started out promising for the large Kurdish minority in Turkey. While Erdoğan's ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP) did not gain the majority of votes for the first time in thirteen years, the 2012 newly founded Peoples’ Democratic Party (HDP), largely representing the Kurdish population as well as left-wing liberals, gained 13, 1% of the votes, giving the otherwise marginalized Kurdish movement its biggest voice ever in the field of Turkish parliamentarian politics. At the same time the fragile truce between the Turkish state and the forbidden Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) was still holding up, peace talks were detained.

This short period of hope seems long ago. Things have changed for the worst. Today large parts of the HDP and her sister party DBP (Democratic Regions Party) are imprisoned, the armistice collapsed, the Kurdish-Turkish conflict erupted again in a full-scale warfare with already more than 1200 reported deaths of local residents in the mainly Kurdish populated south-eastern areas of Turkey (Bakur/North-Kurdistan). Since the failed military coup in July 2016, “a God-given gift” according to Erdoğan, Turkey is ruled via martial law and emergency decrees, allowing the AKP to suppress any opposition and to re-secure their demand for unlimited and unchallenged power through politics of fear including killings, torture, large-scale arrests, mass dismissals and bans as well as nationalist and religious propaganda. While Turkey is advancing to one of the national states with the highest number of incarcerated journalists, activists and politicians, Erdoğan strives to consolidate his current grip on power trying to implement a presidential system or in less obscuring words a dictatorship-like one-man rule.

To get a more accurate idea about what is currently happening and what all of this means for the political work as well as for the everyday life of Kurdish activists, together with a colleague, I spent a week in Amed (Diyarbakir), the so called secret capital of North-Kurdistan, to speak with members of different political organizations, with human right lawyers, unionists, journalists and individuals. Along these interviews the following article tries to depict the current alarming situation in Turkey.

“There is no law no more” - The Turkish State of Emergency

Shortly after the failed military coup, the Turkish government declared the state of emergency, which is still in effect and will be expanded for at least another three months in April. The state of emergency enables the cabinet of ministers led by Erdoğan to govern via emergency decrees – so called KHK’s. These cannot be challenged through appealing to the Constitutional Court. The only control mechanism left is the parliament in which the AKP has a majority. While the emergency KHK’s can (and already did) contain limitations on essential civil rights and political freedoms, there is no juridical control or opposition. With more than 134.610 dismissed, 94,980 detained and 47,120 arrested Turkey is experiencing
the biggest purge in its modern national history (cf.: https://turkeypurge.com/; 22.03.2017). Whilst the purge initially turned against supposed members of the Fethullah Gülen movement, the state of emergency is used as a tool to crack down on the Kurdish population, at least since September 2016.

We are meeting with the co-presidents of the former Mesopotamian Lawyers Association in an office with closed blinds. It was not easy to find a room where we could speak freely because recently their own organization, including their premises, was shut down via emergency decree. Now restructuring under the name of Libertarian Lawyers Platform they explain to us how hundreds of civil organizations, like theirs, were closed down within the last months:

“the organizations are all closed down with a general comment like ‘they have bonds with a terror organization’. But most of these associations are the alternative or the opposition against the government. […] because of this extraordinary situation you can not apply to the court or your right – you cannot search for any justice. […] what they make for the associations they also make for the parties of the HDP and BDP” (Libertarian Lawyers Platform/ÖHD; Interview 14.02.2017).

The forced closures are mainly aimed at organizations working in the field of human rights, especially women’s organizations or organizations of the Kurdish minority. Most of our interviewees have been organized in political structures, like JINHA (an all-female news agency), the KJA (the Congress of free women, an umbrella organization for women’s rights) or the women’s academies (self-organized all-female structures doing educational work and supporting women in problematic situations) that were shut down within the last year, forcing them to go underground or to regroup under a new name. The AKP is using the term “terrorist” and the accusation of having bonds to terrorist groups excessively to legalize their actions against oppositional groups and to delegitimize every critical voice. Meanwhile they are deflating the already blurry term of terrorism even more.

Furthermore, the Government has used the state of emergency to take direct control of municipalities in the Kurdish areas. Elected co-mayors were jailed and replaced with trustees, political achievements revoked.

“Today to 79 of the municipalities’ trustees has been appointed. […] It’s an intervention in the freedom of choice in Turkey. Our municipalities have been elected in 2014 and they have sent state governors to administrate these local elected municipalities. They had an intervention over the municipalities to all the institutions that we had established for the beneficial of social. They had banned the right to give service in the mother tongue ..., they had also intervention to the equal representation of women, which is based on representation of women in every institution including municipalities. They try to destroy all this […] All the municipalities that trustees have appointed are becoming police stations. This is not a representation of the conscious of society. This is the intervention of the state. We can call it a coup. […] There is no freedom of choice” (Gülcihan Şimşek; Interview 17.02.2017)

“Another remarkable point is that: they are making the employees listen to chauvinist marches, chauvinist music in the municipalities which is a kind of torture” (Ramazan Tunç; Interview 17.02.2017)
Propagating a strong Turkish nationalism the AKP government strives to destroy a Kurdish identity. This can be seen, for example, in their procedures against the Kurdish language. One of the first acts of the trustees was to dismiss the Kurdish-speaking employees, to ban the right to get education in Kurdish language and to change all Kurdish signboards into Turkish. The state of emergency rule also allows to “ban the print and distribution of journals, magazines, newspapers, brochures, books and fliers” and to “restrict or ban any kind of audio-visual broadcast” (cf.: http://edition.cnn.com/2016/07/21/europe/turkey-coup-emergency/). By now, almost all Kurdish language media outlets are closed and their journalists are arrested. In total 149 media outlets have been shut down, 162 journalists are currently incarcerated (cf.: https://turkeypurge.com/; 22.03.2017).

In addition to the government’s actions against civil organizations, municipalities and the media, the AKP regime tries to transform the juridical and the education system in accordance with their own visions, again, using the state of emergency. Since the failed coup more than 4.230 employees from the Ministry of Justice and 4.270 judges and prosecutors have been dismissed (cf.: ibid.).

“They want to use the juridical system as a tool for themselves in a political way. If you are in the opposition or anything you are dismissed or suspended from your position. They don’t want to use the juridical system for the democracy or for the freedom. Now we cannot say that the judge system is the objective here, because it’s also used on the benefits of the politics” (Libertarian Lawyers Platform/ÖHD; Interview 14.02.2017).

Around 28,000 teachers and more than 330 academics, mostly professors who signed an open letter for peace, were discharged over allegedly terrorism links (cf.: http://www.reuters.com/article/us-turkey-security-teachers-idUSKCN11P1OX).

**Crimes of the State: torture, killings, forced displacement**

Our accommodation is located just at the north gate of the historical city center of Sur; once the touristic magnet of Amed, there is not much left of its former charm. Checkpoints with armed police forces mostly accompanied by water cannons or armored vehicles can be found at every entrance to the 2000 year-old city center. Armored police vehicles are patrolling the streets and create an oppressive atmosphere which reminds us of what has happened here a year ago.

In early 2016 Sur belonged to one of the more than 30 towns and neighborhoods that were declared as special security zones. In those, for the span of several months militarily closed off areas, around-the-clock curfews were enforced prohibiting any
movement of the residents cutting their access to food, water, emergency medical care and electricity. At the same time militarized security operations with heavy artillery, tanks, mortars, and even aerial bombardment were conducted. Triggered by the proclamation of autonomy by regional people’s assemblies and the HDP’s call for a democratic and emancipatory transformation of the state, the AKP government displayed its force, committing serious human rights violations and killing approximately 1,200 local residents, including targeted killings like the lawyers of the ÖHD described:

“Under normal conditions if you make a curfew the punishment if you go to the street or on the roofs or on the window it was a money fine, but during the curfew this time it has been death, the punishment is to be killed” (Libertarian Lawyers Platform/ÖHD; Interview 14.02.2017).

Especially the events in the city of Cizre, where 189 civilians who had already been trapped for weeks in a basement, were massacred by security forces, have left fresh wounds in the collective memory of the Kurdish population. This traumatic event is mentioned in almost every interview we conduct. While this incident was documented exceptionally well, in the later phase of the curfews journalists and human rights observers where not only hindered to accomplish their work but actively endangered by the misinformation policy of security forces, like this statement of the Libertarian Lawyers Platform shows:

“During the beginning we had chances to go to these areas to see what’s happening, to detect that and also make reports about what’s happening. But lately it start to be a problem to go there. We have been banned. At the beginning we could go there but later the police and the military make obstacles for us to go where we want to work … in the curfew areas. When we are going there to work, they don’t tell us about exploding bombs. Most of our friends have been injured.

They always make obstacles for our work. For example once we were working, making reports, finding people, speaking to the people, the police is following us with their armed vehicles - it makes inside the people fear – and so people don’t want to speak with us, they are afraid that something would happen to them. And they are always banning us, making obstacles for us. We can see why they block us, they don’t want us to understand what’s happening there” (Libertarian Lawyers Platform/ÖHD; Interview 14.02.2017).

According to estimates of the OHCHR between 335,000 and half a million people, mostly Kurds, have been displaced in the course of those state-run operations. Even after the clashes ended neither residents nor NGO’s, like the Libertarian Lawyers Platform, would be allowed into many of the clamped down regions:
“They closed the areas even though the conflicts are finished. They closed the areas and blocked people who wanted to do research about what happened there. They won’t let them. … The police and the state doesn't want anyone to know how the people there have died and also perished all the evidence of what has happened there” (Libertarian Lawyers Platform/ÖHD; Interview 14.02.2017).

The whole south-eastern part of Sur is closed for the public until today. Cement blocks in the streets are blocking the access as well as the view. The only entrance left to the highly demolished part of the historical city center is secured with armed police forces and a watch tower. Sur is not an exception in this, all over the south eastern part of Turkey; whole neighborhoods have been razed to the ground in the aftermath of the fighting. In regard to the city of Şırnak the co-presidents of the Libertarian Lawyers Platform tell us that,

“when they open the area, when we go there, there is nothing. Even the bricks of the houses they’re taking away from the area. Just empty places. You don't see anything. [...] By this way you can't understand what has happened there. You don't reach any evidence of the conflicts” (Libertarian Lawyers Platform/ÖHD; Interview 14.02.2017).

In the end of February, shortly after we leave Turkey, new curfews are enforced in several villages in the south-east.

Demolished part of Sur (Photo: Anna-Sophie Noack)

“Everyday somebody else is being detained”
Turkey is developing to the nation with the highest global rates of incarcerated politicians, journalists and activists. During our one-week stay alone more than 830 persons are getting arrested, mostly members of the HDP. Ramazan Tunç, the vice co-president of the DBP, tells us that in total more than 10.000 official members of the pro-Kurdish parties HDP and DBP, including 85 elected co-mayors, are currently imprisoned. Almost every person we have been talking to has been detained in the past and/or know someone who is presently in jail. Getting accused of having bonds
to terrorist organizations and getting therefor taken to custody is an ever present threat for our interviewees. Some of them are sure that it is just a matter of time until they will be arrested (again). The lawyers of the ÖHP were explaining to us, that under the state of exception rule the timespan that a person can be held in police detention without legal review was extended from four to 30 days. Furthermore the detainees’ right to see a lawyer had been leveraged for the first five days of detention. Within the maximum span of 30 days, the incarcerated are not allowed to get any visits. Besides these worrying legal restrictions we’ve heard stories about psychological and physical mistreatment at the police stations. A woman who was shortly released from police custody told us that she was not allowed to smoke or eat, that the officers showed “really bad behavior” and that she was beaten by two of them whilst arrested. According to her as well as to other interviewees the mass arrests are mainly a tool to spread fear and to silence critical voices. In most cases they won’t have any further legal consequences.

Since the proclamation of the state of emergency the situation in the prisons has declined as well. Many persons are incarcerated without even knowing what they are charged for:

“[…] The indictments are not prepared until 6 months or so, sometimes it takes one year to prepare the indictment and during this process they are in jail and they don’t know what they get blamed for” (Ramazan Tunc, Interview 17.02.2017).

Formerly unauthorized forms of audio-visual surveillance have been implemented in the prisons undermining the prisoner’s right to privacy as well as their right of defense. Officers are monitoring sanitary facilities and visits from relatives and lawyers alike.

“They put cameras on the social areas of the prisoners; these cameras are seeing the toilets and the bathroom of the women especially. […] When the lawyers are going to see their client there is voice recording. […] Before there wasn’t anything like this because it’s against the juridical system. They make also videos of what they are speaking. It blocks your right of defense” (Libertarian Lawyers Platform/ÖHD; Interview 14.02.2017).

When we ask the “libertarian lawyers” if there are any problems due to overcrowding, their first response is to laugh bitterly. Currently two to four prisoners have to share one bed, but the government would already be working on a solution: they began to build new prisons. With the current overwhelming number of arrests the police stations have touched their capacity limits as well. To hold the thousands of arrestees gymnasiums are used.

It is not only sharing a crowded cell with many other people that can make life in prison hard, it can also be the opposite – isolation. Solitary confinement seems to be a ‘privilege’ for party members in higher positions: „The overcrowding is a big problem, but also a problem is that [concerning] the MPs of the HDP, there is a big isolation. They are taken in the cells and not with the people“ (ibid.). A statement that is also brought up by the DBP’s Deputy Chairperson Gülcihan Şimşek, who explains furthermore that “before martial law, before the state of emergency there
was a right to meet with three different people, but now it has been banned” (Interview 17.02.2017).

Additional to the prison-intern isolation, steps are taken to further isolate prisoners from their families and social environment. It seems to be a common practice to transport political prisoners in regions distant from their hometowns. Gülçihan Şimşek says “all our members who are being arrested are exiled to other regions very far away from Kurdistan”. A journalist of the all-female news agency Şûjin tells us the same about her incarcerated colleagues and also the lawyers of the ÖHP talk about friends “who have been beaten in Mardin or Diyarbakır [and then] have been sent to different state prisons”.

To make it even harder for prisoners to meet with their families and friends, they are sanctioned for talking in Kurdish language:

“[...] it’s not legally but de facto: when the families are speaking to the prisoners in Kurdish they cut the visiting times. They don’t know if it has been banned, but de facto they are making obstacles about these things, speaking their mother language. They just say except Turkish you cannot speak another language” (Libertarian Lawyers Platform/ÖHD; Interview 14.02.2017).

We get informed that furthermore the access to health-care services is heavily restricted, that there are sexual harassments, that the right of defense including a face to face confrontation is violated, that it is hard to send prisoners items like clothes or books and that there are limits on how many letters can be send or received by prisoners.

Despite the tough situation in the prisons there are still acts of resistance:

“They [friends of the lawyers, A/N] are now in Elazig, and the condition of the prison is very bad. They are making a protest now. They don’t see the lawyers and their families. They don’t go to the visits protesting the conditions of the prisons” (Libertarian Lawyers Platform/ÖHD; Interview 14.02.2017).

In addition, more and more people go on hunger strikes. At the moment there are prisoners in Şakran, Ankara Sincan, Izmir Menemen, Edirne, Van and Bakırköy on hunger strike to protest the human rights violations and mistreatment of prisoners (cf. https://gazetesujin.com/en/2017/03/25433/). Outside the prisons, the members of the Libertarian Lawyers Platform try to challenge the inhuman conditions and infringements at the legal level – so far however, without any success.

**Hope and Resistance in spite of it all**

Despite the alarming situation the Turkish government’s politics of fear have yet not succeeded to crush the still vivid resistance. This can be seen by the many “No”-Campaigns mobilizing against the constitutional referendum held at 16th April. Doing critical political work in the current situation, which is extremely dangerous for all opponents of the ruling elite, demands a lot of strength. We were truly impressed and inspired by the courage and determination of the activists we met. All
our interviewees were talking about the losses they had to suffer, about the obstacles and the repression they were facing, about the chances to get dismissed, arrested, or even killed, but all of them were at the same time strongly believing in their political values and in the need to struggle for political change. There is an urgent need to support those fighting for humanity right now – as academics, as activists, as humans. To end with the words of Ramazan Tunc:

“We have a huge aspiration to build a free life […] We believe in our struggle, in our philosophy and in all the principles that bring people together. Yes, we are passing through hard times, through difficult times, but we will not give up from our struggle and they will not see any sign of fear in our eyes” (Ramazan Tunc; Interview 17.02.2017).

Anna-Sophie Noack (M.A.) is a criminologist and political activist. Her research focuses on power relations and resistance. As part of a feminist bouncer collective she is currently working in the night-time economy of Hamburg.

(8.3.2017)

By: Johannes Feest, Bremen (translated by Andrea Beckmann, British/ Irish section representative of the European Group for the Study of Deviance and Social Control)

The European Group has existed for 44 years. I am familiar with the group since its second Conference at the University of Exeter. In those days the group represented a unique opportunity to get to know colleagues from a diversity of European countries, and, together with them, to develop a “critical criminology”. The conferences always proved to be a challenge for non-native speakers [people whose first language is not English, remark of the translator; italics in original] but at the same time, they always also turned out to be exiting and had an impact. The outcomes of these meetings would usually be published in the format of “Working Papers in European Criminology” but there was no serious publication outside of the group and the groups’ books rarely made it into the libraries. The English in which the contributions were expressed was frequently dubious in meaning and did not invite itself for quotation.

This all appears to change now as it was decided to establish an international journal that is ‘peer-reviewed’. It is dedicated to the publication of original essays, book reviews as well as of ‘creative narratives’ but it is further meant to offer a platform for the voices of activists as well as for ‘people embroiled within state institutions’ (as expressed elegantly vague on the back cover).

The foundational issue is impressive. It contains, apart from an editorial focusing on the European Group, twelve highly interesting essays. The mostly younger authors are, alike the editors, nearly all exclusively native English speakers from the UK.

However, there are also two contributions by two great elders from Norway who kept in touch over the decades and whose contributions towards a critical criminology have proved themselves to be influential up to the present day: Thomas Mathiesen and Nils Christie (who sadly died in 2016). Another icon that gets referred to time and time again is Stan Cohen who already died in 2013.

The contributions circle around the subject of utopia in relation to the context of social control. The editors describe the common denominator of the contributions as an attempt to develop “practical alternatives to dystopian penal futures” (15). The concern is with ‘real utopias’, as referred to in the title, with a ‘pragmatic utopianism’ that was already suggested by Stan Cohen (97), with ‘concrete utopias’
in the sense of Ernst Bloch who gets referred to at least once in the essays (101). In the words of Bell and Scott the aim is a ‘utopian imagination’ (11) that is, however, always grounded in ‘lived experience’ and thus deeply rooted in daily praxis (27). Eric Olin Wright locates real utopias wherever “emancipatory ideals [are embodied] in existing institutions, practices and suggestions” (43). “[P]ockets of inspiration within the justice system “(164). At the same time the new solutions are meant to be ‘transformative’ which means that they are going beyond the boundaries of the Criminal Justice System (115) or that they refuse to comply with its demands. In this way they are reminiscent of older concepts such as the “nonreformist reforms” of Andre Groz (42) as well as Thomas Mathiesen’s “negative reforms” (116). What this shall mean concretely is outlined in the diverse essays in exemplary fashion.

While Wright finds his examples for real utopias outside of the penal system (public libraries; workers’ cooperatives), others concentrate on an ‘abolitionist real utopia’ (Scott 2013, cit. by Lynne Copson, 83) without, of course, demanding a complete abolition of prisons.

There are cautious warnings about the dangers of cooption that is generated through the uncritical use of concepts such as “community alternatives”, “therapeutic communities” as well as “restorative justice”. Lynn Copland points to the importance of a replacement of discourse as: “so long as we continue to talk in the language of ‘crime’ and criminal justice, we cannot escape the perspective of ‘truth’ such language both requires and perpetuates” (87).

In the German speaking world such discursive change in its radical form is foremost associated with the work of Heinz Steinert and his colleagues (“Aergernisse und Lebenskatastrophen. Ueber den alltaglichen Umgang mit Kriminalitaet” ['Annoyances and life-katastrophies. About everyday dealings with crime'], AJZ-Verlag, Bielefeld 1989)

Paddy Hillyard had already suggested shifting and replacing the ‘crime’ centered discourse of criminology with a ‘zemiological’ one, a ‘social harm perspective’ (86).

The strengths of the book lie in these extremely engaging theoretical reflections. Concrete examples for non-penal utopias are rather rare to find: J.M.Moore and Rebecca Roberts discuss two examples of ‘transformative alternatives’ through a ‘social justice approach’:

- Damage reduction as the goal of drug policy (123ff), we are familiar with this approach through the successful work of Heino Stoever (Frankfurt)
- Appropriate approaches in the context of “gendered violence” are referred to (126) but the important ground work done by one of the great abolitionists Faye Honey Knopp is not mentioned.

Margret S. Malloch picks up the suggestion made by Pat Carlen (1990) to abolish prisons for women and contextualizes this position in a frame-work of further socio-
political demands for change. One can only agree wholeheartedly. For most women prison is even less necessary than it is for most men.

Steve Tombs focuses on “harmful corporations” and on how to deal with these in alternative ways instead of the predominantly ineffective punishment in the form of fines. His is “thinking beyond the archetypical capitalist corporation” approach (207 ff). His real existing model is the Basque Mondragon cooperatives that indeed represent a wonder of industrial worker participation in the midst of capitalism. However, without the contributions of the Basque government these cooperative industries would not survive.

Perhaps even more radical are the suggestions of Nils Christie who dedicates himself to the abolition of modern “regimes of apartheid”. His most important example is our schools, which mean institutions in which young people are forced to exist for many years.

One could ask if this does not explode the framework of ‘real’ utopias. However, Christie himself is realistic enough in so far as he only asks, as a first step to reduce compulsory schooling to seven or eight years of a person’s life (243).

One wishes the new journal the best of luck. If the editors continue with their consistency and consequence, they will be a lighthouse in the criminological landscape. It would only be consequent to include more authors from outside of the Anglo-American language sphere in the future. This might go against the quality of the language and consistency, it would, however, only be consequent.

The next conference of the European Group by the way will be held from the 31rd of August to the 3rd of September 2017 in Mytilene on Lesbos (Greece).
Editorial

‘Critical Criminology’

Articles
1. Vincenzo Ruggerio
   ‘Networks of greed’
2. Herman Bianchi
   ‘Abolition: Assensus and sanctuary’
3. Anne Alvesalo-Kussi and Liisa Lahteenmaki
   ‘Corporate criminal liability and abolitionism – An unholy alliance of corporate power and critical criminology?’
4. Massimo Pavarini
   ‘Strategy for combat: Prisoner’s rights and abolitionism’
5. Rosa Del Olmo
   ‘Limitations for the prevention of violence: The Latin American reality and its criminological theory’
6. Claudia Mantovan
   ‘Contested areas. Coexistence, conflict and governance in the districts near the railway stations of Padua and Mestre’

Activist Contributions
1. Tammy Castle and Danielle McDonald
   ‘Intellectual activism and public engagement: Strategies for academic resistance’
2. Natacha Filippi
   The Birth of a Red Alarm Button: Against Institutional Violence in Barcelona – the SIRECOVI system’

Reflections
Justice, Power and Resistance ‘Thinking about justice’

Book Reviews
V. Call for papers: The European Group for the Study of Deviance and Social Control 45th Annual Conference

Uncovering Harms: States, corporations and organizations as criminals

31 August – 3 September, Mytilene, Lesbos, Greece

In recent years the international academic community has made an effort to define and uncover harms by states, corporations and organizations. This effort is stemming from the point of view of protecting human rights and preventing social harms. These acts include loss of life, physical or other harm, and loss of property. The need for addressing harms by states, corporations and organizations is connected both with the need for appropriate orientation of formal criminal policy (law, police, administration of justice) and for the awareness of citizens, consumers, workers and social movements.

A root of the problem, the criminal-induced partnership between state, corporate capital, and organizations, does not lead to easy answers for a future “better” political management of the state. This raises issues of the advocacy of the public interest and universal human rights; it highlights the concept of social harm, and sets democracy and the collective as the dominant principles. This complex is the contemporary reality, and a criminology that takes a position upon this ought to highlight a broader social awareness and action for social change.

We welcome papers on the themes below which reflect the general values and Principles of the European Group. Please forward short abstracts of 150-300 words to the relevant stream coordinators by 30th of April 2017.

For all general enquiries please contact Stratos Georgoulas at: s.georgoulas@soc.aegean.gr. For questions about the European Group, please contact the EG coordinator Ida Nafstad at: europeangroupcoordinator@gmail.com
### Streams

| Crimes of the Powerful Working Group Stream | Uncovering and examining harmful state-corporate relationships  
|                                           | Utilising Green/Eco-critical criminology to expose the crimes and harms of the powerful  
|                                           | Accountability in organisational, state and/or corporate crimes and harms  
|                                           | Unmasking the crimes and harms of the powerful: new trajectories, developments, challenges and methodological concerns  
|                                           | Activism, protest and resistance endeavours seeking to reveal the crimes and harms of the powerful  

*Special section*: This year we are seeking to have a special section within this stream dedicated to considering the current trajectories and developments in Turkey and we would particularly welcome papers to form a panel or specific stream related to the crimes and harms of the powerful in Turkey.

| Post-crash policing: developments and implications | Post-crash intensification of coercion and surveillance  
|                                                 | Policing the crisis in the European South: developments and comparisons  
|                                                 | Capitalism, pacification and post-crash policing  
|                                                 | Containing the police counterattack: problems and prospects for police accountability  
|                                                 | Citizens, activists, communities, movements: possibilities for resistance and alternative political programmes  

| Social harm/Zemiology | Social harm an neo-liberal policies, developments, and practices  
|                       | Financial crisis, recession and austerity and social harm  
|                       | Poverty, inequality and social injustice  
|                       | Social harms relating to classism, sexism, heterosexuality, racism, etc.  
|                       | Social harms arising from public/social policy (both in terms of interventions and the failure to act)  
|                       | Theoretical/conceptual advances  
|                       | Methodological advances  

| Fear and looting in the periphery: Approaching global crime and harm in (and from) the south(s) | More to come  

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- **Fear and looting in the periphery**: aleforero@ub.edu, djj@unizar.es, ignasi.bernat@udg.edu
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<th>Prison, Punishment and Detention Working Group Stream</th>
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<td>Contact: <a href="mailto:Victoria.Canning@open.ac.uk">Victoria.Canning@open.ac.uk</a></td>
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<td>- Resistance to control and prison</td>
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<td>- Immigration detention and forced removal</td>
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<td>- Prison and surveillance</td>
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<td>- Surveillance outside the prison</td>
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<td>- Racism, Islamophobia and incarceration</td>
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<td>- Semi-penal institutions</td>
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<td>- Punishment and structural violence</td>
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<td>- Gendered Violence in Prison</td>
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<th>PANEL: Resisting The Mega Prisons</th>
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<td>Contact: <a href="mailto:robert.jones7@southwales.ac.uk">robert.jones7@southwales.ac.uk</a> <a href="mailto:David.Scott@open.ac.uk">David.Scott@open.ac.uk</a></td>
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<td>At the 45th Annual Conference this year in Lesvos we would like to organise a panel on &quot;Resisting the mega prisons&quot;. The UK government announced in November 2015 that it planned to replace older Victorian prisons that are now situated on expensive inner-city land with up to nine new and much larger prisons. This 'prison building revolution' in the main is a cost cutting exercise as the new prisons will be much larger (mega prisons) and built on cheaper land.</td>
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<td>The recently opened HMP Berwyn, in North Wales, which holds over 2,000 people, is one of the largest prisons in Europe and is expected to cost £14,000 p.a. per prisoner compared to over £34,000 for prisoners currently being held in prisons of the same category. The other new 'mega prisons' are likely to follow a similar model.</td>
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<td>Although there has been little new information released since the announcement of the new &quot;mega prisons&quot; i 2015, the government is without doubt forging ahead with plans to increase capacity of the prison estate by 10,000 places and to replace older prisoners with new ones. In November 2016 it set aside £1.3 billion to transform the penal estate. Two new prison sites have been identified in Wellingborough and Leicester and plans submitted to local councils. There is, however, grass roots resistance to the new mega prisons involving a coalition of abolitionist inspired groups. Resistance has included direct actions, noise demos, public meetings and media engagement to highlight the harms of the prisons and to discover where the other new prisons are likely to be situated. Local groups have risen up across the UK wherever plans for new mega prisons have been mooted.</td>
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<td>We would like to take this opportunity to invite academics and activists to participate in a &quot;Resisting the mega prisons&quot; panel. We would like to hear stories of resistance, strategies for blocking planning and construction and ways of mobilising community action.</td>
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VI. News from Europe and Around the World

Positions

The Department of Sociology, Social Policy and Criminology, University of Liverpool, is seeking to fill a number of full-time academic positions as follows.


Lecturers x 4 (£32,958 to £49,772) – permanent. Details at:


Closing date for all posts: May 3, 2017

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Please find details of two exciting posts in the School of Social Policy at the University of Birmingham. We are looking to appoint to:

- Lecturer in Criminology
- Lecturer in Global Social Policy and Sociology

Enquires are welcomed and should be forwarded to Co-Head of Department of Social Policy and Social Work, Dr Simon Pemberton, [s.pemberton.1@bham.ac.uk](mailto:s.pemberton.1@bham.ac.uk)
In recent years there has been a significant growth in interest of the so-called "law in context" extending legal studies beyond black letter law. This book looks at the relationship between statute law and legal practice. It examines how law is applied in reality and more precisely how law is perceived by the general public in contrast to the legal profession. The authors look at a number of themes that are central to examining ways in which myths about law are formed, and how there is inevitably a constitutive power aspect to this myth making. At the same time they explore to what extent law itself creates and sustains myths. The book will be of general interest to a number of different disciplines such as legal theory, general law, criminology and sociology.

Contents

Introduction - Anthony Amatrudo and Regina E. Rauxloh

Part I: Perception shaped by traditional media
1 Criminology through the looking glass - Colin Sumner
2 What do they know of law who only cop shows know? Anthony Amatrudo
3 Regurgitating the media image: toward a phenomenology of the 'visible' in criminal justice - Matthew R. Draper and David Polizzi

Part II: Perception shaped by other means
4 'Kony is so last month' - lessons from social media stunt 'Kony 2012' - Regina E. Rauxloh
5 A comparative analysis of the criminal and civil justice systems in England and Wales - Matthew R. Smith
6 Beliefs about the European Court of Human Rights in the United Kingdom Parliament - Paul Johnson
7 Forward! Coding, de-coding, and re-coding law in public art for urban regeneration - Ronnie Lippens

Part III: Perception of those at the fringe of society
8 Criminology and the legacies of Clarice Starling - David Wilson
9 Letters to Casey Anthony, a woman accused of murder - Lizzie Seal
10 The gypsy's lot: myth and reality - Robert Jago
Please feel free to contribute to this newsletter by sending any information that you think might be of interest to the Group to Ida/Per at: europeangroupcoordinator@gmail.com

Also feel free to contribute with discussions or comments on the published material in the newsletter

Please submit before the 25th of each month if you wish to have it included in the following month’s newsletter. Please provide a web link (wherever possible).

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