ExxonMobil’s fracking pit in Germany

newsletter
DECEMBER 2018
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Dear comrades and colleagues of the European Group

Welcome to the final newsletter of 2018! It has been a fantastic year for the European Group – we had a successful conference in Ljubljana, have welcomed more than 100 new members in the three months since, and have growing commitment from our working group coordinators who have been developing events and publications as the year has gone on. We have taken on a new co-ordination team, and thank everyone for their exceptional efforts in ensuring the rhythm, enthusiasm and critical thinking of the Group has carried on during this change. We are particularly thankful to those who have dedicated their time and energy to keeping the journal running smoothly and to such a high standard, and who have helped in the production of our other recent publications. Thank you!

As you will see from this month’s edition, we have much to discuss in the way of collaboration, support and resistance as we enter 2019. Our contributions touch on some issues of serious significance – fracking, the criminalisation of protest, migration and deaths in prison. We very much hope you take the time to read through, but also to reflect on what we might do collectively as we enter a new year. As you will see from the call for papers for our annual conference, this is at the forefront of our agenda moving forward.

In line with this objective, next EG Conference (Can Batlló, Barcelona, 4-6 September 2019*) coordinator team will make an effort to guarantee that as many sessions as possible can be translated, orally or visually, to make their contents accessible to most participants. The conference will also include some methodological changes agreed in Ljubljana during the last EG Meeting, such as replacing the concept of 'key speakers' by two 'Opening Sessions' in the form of round tables, including four 'Special Sessions' to encourage collective discussions, and taking the streams as 'workshops' where papers and research documents constitute the contributions around which every session can be organised.

* You will find at your disposal a list of hotels around Sants quarter (close to Can Batlló - conference venue) here: http://www.europeangroup.org/?q=node/165

As always, we kindly invite you to contribute texts about the Group, information on campaigns, lectures or seminars across the world, and short articles in 500 words to be published in the EG Newsletter. Please send them to Vicky, Dani and/or Katja at europeangroupcoordinator@gmail.com before the 25th of each month if you wish to have it included in the following month's newsletter, and please provide a web link (wherever possible). We are keen to be inclusive beyond Anglocentricity to ensure as many voices are included as possible, and to reflect the continued and increasing diversity of the group.

If you want to subscribe to the newsletter, do not hesitate to send a mail to this same address.

All the best

Vicky Canning, Katja Simončič, and Dani Jiménez [coordinator team]
Call for contributions & invitation to take part in the working sessions

Across the globe, there has been an undoubted evolution of the intimate bond between states and corporations. The impacts have been prolific: as state-corporate power increases, the social, economic and political wellbeing of populations and ecosystems has degenerated greatly in many areas. Political repression has ensued across regions of resistance. Whilst wealth has increased for a minority elite, violent economic policies continue to inflict social, economic, emotional and political harms against some of the most powerless in society. Meanwhile, so-called ‘globalisation’ often imposes market totalisation: an essentially colonial dynamic to manage populations through the mechanisms of warfare and social control. Indeed, we are increasingly seeing the militarisation of police forces and borders, with armies patrolling the provinces of world ‘geoeconomics’ (Rodrigo Karmy, 2016): life becomes privatised, and death is outsourced.

In response to these shifts, the 2019 Annual Conference of the European Group for the Study of Deviance and Social Control will be held in Barcelona. Our objective is to give voice to those who resist, and offer the means to collaborate towards the collective construction of an insurrectional theory based on a variety of practical experiences. This is a chance to expand on a theory and practice which is based on the legitimate right to a dignified life. A theory to pull down the walls between discourses and struggles for justice, thus dissolving the divide between so-called ‘knowledge production’ and social organisation: it is always the latter what facilitates the former. We look forward to taking this opportunity to build activist and research agendas in this direction.

We particularly encourage papers and panels that draw together activism and academia, and bring to the table examples of where toolkits or actions for resistance have been successful – or not. We aim to build a mutual learning environment within which attendees and speakers can develop ideas to move forward in various areas across the spectrum of social inequality and multiple oppressions or violence.

The call for contributions is organized under streams pertaining to the titles of the European Group’s Working Groups. If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact one of the stream coordinators.

Please submit a summary of your contribution (máx. 600 words) to the relevant stream by 20 April 2019.
Working Groups / Streams:

Prisons, Detention and Punishment
Simone Santorso (Simone.santorso18@gmail.com)

Policing and Security
Georgios Papanicolaou (g.papanicolaou@tees.ac.uk)

Crimes of the Powerful
Samantha Fletcher (Samantha.Fletcher@mmu.ac.uk)

Fear and Looting in the Periphery
Dani Jiménez (djf@unizar.es), Ale Forero (aleforero@ub.edu).
Ignasi Bernat (ignasi.bernat@gmail.com), Rita Faria (rfaria@direito.up.pt)

Social Harm
Christina Pantazis (C.pantazis@bristol.ac.uk)
Simon Pemberton (s.pemberton.1@bham.ac.uk)

Historical, philosophical and artistic approaches
Stratos Georgoulas (s.georgoulas@soc.aegean.gr)

Conference co-ordinator team:
Ale Forero – aleforero@ub.edu
Ignasi Bernat – ignasi.bernat@gmail.com
Dani Jiménez – dif@unizar.es
47ª Conferencia Anual del Grupo Europeo para el Estudio de la Desviación y el Control Social

Can Batlló, Barcelona, 4, 5, 6 de septiembre de 2019

CRIMINALIDAD ESTATAL-CORPORATIVA: RESISTENCIA Y REPRESIÓN HACIA UNA TEORÍA DE LA INSURRECCIÓN

Invitación a aportar contribuciones y participar en las sesiones de trabajo

En todo el mundo, el vínculo íntimo entre estado y mercado ha sufrido evidentes transformaciones a lo largo de las últimas décadas. Los efectos nocivos de ese cambio han afectado a una mayoría de la población mundial, a sus condiciones de vida y a sus entornos sociales y naturales. La represión política se extiende a todos los territorios en resistencia. La llamada globalización impone una totalización del mercado por medio de dinámicas esencialmente coloniales, de ahí que la gestión de las poblaciones tienda a emplear lógicas y métodos de guerra y control social. Las policías hacen guerras locales, los ejércitos patrullan las provincias “geoeconómicas” (como afirma filósofo Rodrigo Karmy) del mundo, la vida se privatiza y la muerte se subcontrata. Por todas estas razones, el próximo mes de septiembre en Barcelona, la 47ª Conferencia del European Group for the Study of Deviance and Social Control quiere dar voz a quienes resisten, con el objetivo último de construir colectivamente una teoría insurreccional basada en una suma de experiencias prácticas. Una teoría basada en el legítimo derecho a una vida digna. Una teoría para derribar los muros entre discursos y luchas por la justicia, eliminando la división entre la llamada “producción de conocimiento” y la organización social. Porque es siempre la segunda la que construye lo primero, y no al revés.

Os animamos a presentar experiencias que pongan en común la actividad de la militancia social y el trabajo académico, ejemplos en los que las herramientas, métodos y acciones de resistencia hayan tenido éxito – o no. Nuestra intención es construir un espacio de aprendizaje mutuo en el que asistentes y ponentes desarrollen propuestas encaminadas a avanzar en diferentes frentes de lucha contra la desigualdad social y sus múltiples formas de violencia y opresión.

La recepción de contribuciones se organiza en base a los títulos de los diferentes Grupos de Trabajo del European Group. Para resolver cualquier duda no dudéis en consultar a los/as coordinadores/as.

Os pedimos que enviéis una versión resumida de vuestras contribuciones (máx. 600 palabras) al grupo de trabajo correspondiente antes del 20 de abril de 2019.
Grupos de Trabajo / Sesiones:

**Cárcel, Encierro y Castigo**
Simone Santorso (Simone.santorso18@gmail.com)

**Policía y Seguridad**
Georgios Papanicolaou (g.papanicolaou@tees.ac.uk)

**Crímenes de los Poderosos**
Samantha Fletcher (Samantha.Fletcher@mmu.ac.uk)

**Miedo y Saqueo en la Periferia**
Dani Jiménez (djf@unizar.es), Ale Forero (aleforero@ub.edu),
Ignasi Bernat (ignasi.bernat@gmail.com), Rita Faria (rfaria@direito.up.pt)

**Enfoques históricos, filosóficos y artísticos**
Stratos Georgoulas (s.georgoulas@soc.aegean.gr)

**Daño Social / Social Harm**
Christina Pantazis (C.pantazis@bristol.ac.uk)
Simon Pemberton (s.pemberton.1@bham.ac.uk)

Equipo coordinador de la conferencia:
Ale Forero – aleforero@ub.edu
Ignasi Bernat – ignasi.bernat@gmail.com
Dani Jiménez – djf@unizar.es
II. No Small Fracking Matter

No Small Fracking Matter

Report on the event held at Sites of Resistance, Manchester Metropolitan University and a call for expression of interest in further activities on resisting and contesting hydraulic fracking and associated or similar practices.

On Wednesday 21st November 2018 Sites of Resistance at Manchester Metropolitan University hosted the event No Small Fracking Matter with presenters Richard Roberts of Reclaim the Power and Dr. Will Jackson from Liverpool John Moores University.

Richard Roberts, alongside Simon Roscoe Blevins and Richard Loizou, were convicted of ‘causing a public nuisance’ at Preston Crown Court, England and Wales, in August of 2018. They were thereafter sentenced to prison terms of between 15 - 16 months. Their ‘crime’? Opposing the controversial process of Hydraulic Fracking, or ‘fracking’ as it is more commonly known, through peaceful direct action, at the Preston New Road site near Blackpool, Lancashire. On Tuesday 27th July 2017, 8 lorries associated with the Caudrilla Resources oil and gas exploration company, carrying various forms of fracking equipment, sought to enter the New Preston Road site and were blocked by a mass gathering of people. When the lorries came to a stop, ‘The Anti-Fracking Three’ climbed atop 3 of the lorries and remained there for times varying between 45 and 84 hours. On Wednesday 17th October The Anti-Fracking Three were freed during their appeal process where the judge deemed their original sentences ‘manifestly excessive’ (Gayle et al., 2018).

Since the imprisonment of the Anti-Fracking Three, it was revealed, late in October 2018, by journalists for the Mirror Online that the presiding Judge over the case, Judge Robert Altham had links to the oil and gas industry. Smith (2018: np) argues that ‘J.C. Altham and Sons is believed to be part of the supply chain for energy giant Centrica, which has invested tens of millions of pounds in fracking’. This once again calls into question the mutually reinforcing relationship between the State and the Corporation in the pursuit of capital gains. As stated by Tombs and Whyte (2015) in their text The Corporate Criminal: Why Corporations Must Be Abolished, ‘corporations are institutions that are created for the mobilisation, utilisation and protection of capital within recent socio-historical state formations […] corporations are wholly artificial entities whose very existence is provided for, and maintained, through the state via legal institutions and instruments’ (p.54).

Hydraulic fracking is a process of extracting gas and oil from various types of rock, most notably shale rock. It is achieved through drilling into the earth’s surface in both vertical and horizontal patterns, including the creation of wells up to 3 km deep. A mixture of water, sand and chemicals is then pumped into the ground at extremely high pressures creating ‘fractures’ to release oil and gas. Fracking is opposed by many for the untold dangers that it may bring. Although the full effects of fracking are arguably unknown, thus far concerns raised include effects on the environment such as the sourcing of huge amounts of water for the process, it’s impact on national parks, and its effect on the earth’s surface - with fracking being cited as ‘highly likely’ to have caused the 1.5 and 2.2 magnitude earthquakes experienced in the Lancashire area during fracking ‘tests’ in 2011 (BBC, 2015). Contamination of water sources is also a highly referenced concern. The Oscar nominated documentary such as Gasland (2010), and its sequel Gasland II (2013), have shown footage of persons who live near fracking sites in the US as able to light their running tap water with a single match, due the entry of methane into the water supply - argued to be a direct result of the Fracking process. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) found that there is the risk of ‘spills or leaks’ at every stage of the fracking process including ‘during the transport, mixing and storage of the water and flowback’.
Returning to the event itself, the public seminar was attended by a series of activists, scholars and campaigners for social and environmental justice including Community Action on Prison Expansion, Smash IPP, The Haldane Society of Socialist Lawyers amongst many others. During the session Richard Roberts discussed the harmful impacts of fracking and associated practices and the number of environmental protests that had taken place across Europe in recent years. Richard further reflected on his experience of the criminal justice system which, in turn, facilitated further discussion within the Q and A, regarding how both environmental harms and responses to protesters and activists through the discourse of ‘crime’ are experienced disproportionately across the interplay of structural relations pertaining to notions of race, class, and gender (also see article from Simon Roscoe Blevins here). In the second part of the session Dr. Will Jackson co-author of the Keep Moving! Report on the Policing of the Barton Moss Community Protection Camp, presented regarding the nuances of the criminalisation of protestors, drawing critical conclusions concerning the construction of the ‘bad’ and ‘good’ protestors along lines of symbolic protest Vs direct action that disrupts the process of capital.

Following on from this event, The Crimes of the Powerful Working Group would welcome further contact from groups across Europe and beyond regarding developments and activities seeking to resist the crimes and harms of the powerful in this and similar contexts. It is recognised that Ireland, the Netherlands, Poland and Romania have, in recent years, been nation states with sites of major protest to hydraulic fracking and similar environmental destructive processes in the pursuit of profit extraction in the fossil fuel industry. There has been de facto banning of hydraulic fracking in Austria, Czech Republic, France, Germany, The Netherlands, Scotland and Wales. There remain however, active fracking licenses within England, Belarus, Estonia, Hungary, Lithuania, Poland, Portugal, Sweden, Spain, Turkey and Ukraine. Similarly, other European states such as Greece and Italy have experienced similar environmental issues in terms of Hydrocarbon exploration exacted by corporations and states. The Crimes of the Powerful working group is keen to hear from activists and scholars alike regarding all and any matters of resisting practices of environmental danger and destruction across Europe and beyond. We would very much like to establish a supportive network of people who can share their experiences in matters of this area and to support any similar events. If you would like to discuss any further matters related to the content of this report and/or would like support from the Crimes of the Powerful working group in setting up a similar event or workshop, please contact Samantha Fletcher whose details are including below.

In solidarity,

Samantha Fletcher

Samantha Fletcher is a Lecturer in Criminology at Manchester Metropolitan University and the Coordinator of the Crimes of the Powerful Working Group c/o The European Group for the Study of Deviance and Social Control. To make contact regarding any of the issues contained within this report please email samantha.fletcher@mmu.ac.uk.

Please note that portions of this report are taken in part or in whole from the original accompanying blog for the event No Small Fracking Matter which can be accessed here.

References


Dear Friend,

We hope you don’t mind us writing to you unannounced and that you have received this letter in good time. We are university professors (Michael at the Chico State University of California, USA, and David at The Open University, in England), and we are putting together a book with lots of chapters on the abolition of prisons and the penal system in general. The book is titled, *The Routledge International Handbook of Penal Abolitionism*, and is already contracted for publication.

The book will include chapters from people all around the world and we are thinking that it is really important that it also includes abolition thoughts from people who have lived and/or are living through the daily realities of imprisonment.

We would be delighted if you would consider writing an account (anywhere between 1,500 to 5,000 words) about why you think we should abolish the use of imprisonment and/or the penal system in general. We have already received good essays from academics and activists in the abolition social movement. What we are looking for from you, is an abolition essay from the perspective of someone on the inside. Write from what you know.

If you do not have access to a computer or a typewriter to write such an essay, you could send us your essay as a letter, or as part of a letter. We could then turn the letter into a typed document and send it to you for any edits or revisions you would like to make.

Your essay would be of great help for students, anti-prison and abolition activists, and all who read the book. We very much hope that this is something that interests you.

All the very best,

Michael and David

_P.S. We would like to refund your postage costs for participating in this project, if the regulations at your prison allow us to do so. Kindly let us know._

**Michael J. Coyle, California State University, Chico, U.S.A.**

**David Scott, The Open University (based in Manchester and Milton Keynes), England**

**PLEASE SEND YOUR LETTER/ESSAY TO THIS POSTAL ADDRESS:**

The Editors, *The Routledge International Handbook of Penal Abolitionism*

CARE OF: Professor Michael J. Coyle

Department of Political Science and Criminal Justice - California State University, Chico

400 West 1st Street - Chico, CA, 95926-0455, U.S.A.
IV. No més morts a la presó. Respecte als drets de les persones preses

Som familiars de persones que estan preses i també de persones que van morir a la presó. Som entitats, col·lectius i persones que treballem pels drets de les persones preses i que exigim que es respectin els seus drets i la seva dignitat. Hem decidit reunir les nostres veus per trencar el silenci i l’opacitat que envolta la situació existent a les presons.

Les morts a la presó són un problema insostenible. Exigim a les autoritats que deixin de mirar cap a una altra banda. La Raquel, l’Eduardo, la Claudia, el Lewis, la Gina i molts més sobre les quals no coneixem la seva història. Morts de persones sota custòdia de l’Estat que s’accepten i normalitzen pels qui dirigeixen les presons.

L’any 2017 van morir 41 persones a les presons de Catalunya. Segons les estadístiques de la Generalitat, 8 persones van morir per suïcídi, en 9 casos s’assenyalà una causa “desconeeguda”, 5 van morir per sobredosi i 19 per malalties.

Els “suïcidis” a la presó, en moltes ocasions, es produeixen quan les persones es troben en règim d’aïllament. L’aïllament a la presó imposa un règim de vida a les persones que consisteix en el tancament en solitud durant la major part del dia, entre 18 i 22 hores. Hi ha persones que estan dies, mesos i fins i tot anys, malgrat que les normes internacionals per al tractament de les persones recloses, conegudes com les “Regles Nelson Mandela”, que estableixen que el temps màxim de reclusió en aïllament hagi de ser de quinze dies. L’aïllament penitenciari genera un dany físic i psicològic enorme i irreparable.

Així mateix, hi ha morts per sobredosis que no s’haurien de produir i persones amb malalties mentals recloses en departaments d’aïllament que acaben per enfonsar-les definitivament. Respecte a les morts per malaltia, cal destacar que en l’actualitat hi ha persones malaltes que no haurien d’estar a la presó, ja que existeix la possibilitat que se’ls concedeixi la llibertat condicional pel motiu de la seva malaltia.

No obstant això, són moltíssims els casos que coneixem de persones amb malalties terminals que no són alliberades i que finalment menoren a la presó o que obtenen un tercer grau in extremis per sortir a morir fora de la presó, però que van veure com la seva malaltia les va acabar consumint. Exigim que es revisi el règim de visites i les condicions a la presó de les persones que pateixen malalties. Tot això demostra que no es protegeix de manera adequada la vida i la integritat física i psíquica de les persones empresonades.

Denunciem que a la presó es produeixen situacions de violència institucional cap a les persones preses: les hi maltracta, denigra i vexa diàriament. Aquestes vulneracions de drets i aquests abusos de poder no s’estan investigant de manera adequada, i això genera una terrible indefensió pels qui les pateixen en primera persona i també per a les seves famílies.

També denunciem que estan tenint lloc discriminacions cap a les persones migrants i/o racialitzades: el conjunt de discriminacions que opera a la societat s’intensifica dins de la institució carcerària. Tot això demostra que no es protegeix de manera adequada la vida i la integritat física i psíquica de les persones empresonades.

Les famílies denunciem que el tracte quotidià per part dels funcionaris de la presó cap als familiars i cap a les persones preses és denigrant. A més, hi ha una gran indefensió jurídica
degut a que el sistema públic de defensa no funciona de manera àgil i efectiva. Les famílies patim una gran desinformació i això ens desconcerta, a la vegada que fa augmentar el nostre dolor i la nostra angoixa.

Fem una crida a emprendre una lluita col·lectiva. A generar una xarxa dins i fora de les presons, acompanyant iniciatives com la vaga de fam que nombrosos presos i preses van iniciar el passat 1 d’octubre. Volem trencar el silenci que ens porti a defensar els drets de les persones preses i els seus familiars, així com qüestionar un sistema penitenciari obsolet, que fereix profundament a les persones que passen per aquest sistema i que genera un gran dany social.

**Famílies contra la Crueltat Carcerària, Barcelona, 24/10/2018**


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**No más muertos en prisión. Por los derechos de las personas presas**

Somos familiares de personas presas y también de personas que murieron en prisión. Son entidades, colectivos y personas que trabajan por los derechos de las personas presas y exigimos respeto a sus derechos y su dignidad. Hemos decidido unir nuestras voces para romper el silencio y la opacidad que rodea la situación de las cárceles.

Las muertes en prisión son un problema insostenible. Exigimos a las autoridades que dejen de mirar a otro lado. Raquel, Eduardo, Claudia, Lewis, Gina y muchos más cuyas historias son desconocidas. Muertes de personas bajo custodia del estado que son aceptadas y normalizadas por quienes dirigen las cárceles.

En 2017 murieron 41 personas en las prisiones de Cataluña. Según las estadísticas de la Generalitat, 8 murieron por suicidio, en 9 casos la causa fue “desconocida”, 5 murieron por sobredosis y 19 por diferentes enfermedades.

Muchos “suicidios” en prisión ocurren cuando las personas están en aislamiento. El aislamiento en prisión impone un régimen de vida que consiste en el encierro en soledad durante la mayor parte del día, entre 18 y 22 horas. Hay personas que pasan días, meses e incluso años en aislamiento, aunque las normas internacionales para el tratamiento de los reclusos, conocidas “Reglas Mandela”, fijan el periodo máximo de reclusión en aislamiento en 15 días. El aislamiento en prisión produce enormes e irreparables daños físicos y psicológicos.

También hay muertes una sobredosis que no deberían producirse y personas con enfermedad mental cuya reclusión en los departamentos de aislamiento les hunde definitivamente. Con respecto a las muertes por enfermedad, debe señalarse que hay muchas personas enfermas que no deberían encontrarse en la cárcel, pues existe la posibilidad de conceder la libertad condicional por razón de su enfermedad.
Son muchos los casos que conocemos de personas con enfermedades terminales que no son liberadas y acaban muriendo en la cárcel u obtienen un tercer grado in extremis para morir fuera de la prisión, pero que vieron cómo su enfermedad les consumía. Exigimos que se revise el régimen de visitas y las condiciones en prisión de las personas enfermas. Todo esto demuestra que no se protege adecuadamente la vida y la integridad física y mental de las personas encarceladas.

Denunciamos que en prisión se producen situaciones de violencia institucional hacia las personas presas: se les maltrata, denigran y vejá todos los días. Esas violaciones de sus derechos y esos abusos de poder no son investigados adecuadamente, y esto genera una vulnerabilidad terrible para quienes los sufren en primera persona y también para sus familias.

También denunciamos la discriminación hacia las personas migrantes o racializadas: el conjunto de discriminaciones que opera en la sociedad se intensifica dentro de la institución carcelaria.

Las familias denunciamos que el trato diario de los funcionarios de las prisiones a las familias y a las personas presas es denigrante. Además, la falta de rapidez y eficacia del sistema de defensa pública agrava nuestra indefensión legal. Las familias sufrimos desinformación y eso nos desconcierta, al tiempo que agrava nuestro dolor y nuestra angustia.

Llamamos a emprender una lucha colectiva para generar una red dentro y fuera de las prisiones que acompañe iniciativas como la huelga de hambre que muchos presos y presas comenzaron el pasado 1 de octubre. Queremos romper el silencio en torno a la prisión, promover la lucha por la defensa de los derechos de las personas presas y sus familias y cuestionar un sistema penitenciario obsoleto que genera un enorme daño social y hiere profundamente quienes pasan por sus instituciones.

Familias contra la Crueldad Carcelaria, Barcelona, 24/10/2018

http://www.ub.edu/ospdh/ca/manifest-no-mes-morts-la-preso

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No More Deaths in Prison. Defending Prisoners’ Rights

We are the families of people in prison and also of people who died in prison. We are groups and organisations working for the rights of people in prison dams and we demand respect for their rights and their dignity. We decided to join our voices to break the silence and the opacity surrounding the situation of the prisons.

Deaths in prison are an unsustainable problem. We require the authorities to stop looking away. Raquel, Eduardo, Claudia, Lewis, Gina... and many more whose stories remain unknown: these deaths under the custody and responsibility of the State are accepted and normalized by those who run the jails.
In 2017, 41 people died in Catalanian prisons. According to the statistics of the Generalitat [Catalan government], 8 died by suicide, the cause was “unknown” in 9 cases, 5 died by overdose and 19 died for various illnesses.

Many “suicides” in prison occur when people are placed in an isolation regime. Prison isolation imposes a regime consisting of confinement in solitude for most of the day – 18 to 22 hours. Some people spend days, months and even years in isolation, although international norms for the treatment of prisoners – known as “Mandela Rules” – set its maximum period in 15 days. Isolation in prison produces enormous and irreparable physical and psychological damage.

There are also deaths from drug overdoses that should not occur, and people suffering mental illnesses whose detention in isolation units definitely sinks them. With regard to deaths from disease, it should be noted that there are many people who should not be in prison but be granted conditional release because of his illness.

Many people with terminal diseases are not released and end up dying in prison. Some others get an in extremis third degree so they can die outside, after seeing how their illnesses consumed them. We claim for a revision of the visiting arrangements and the conditions of sick people in prison. All this shows that life and physical and mental integrity of incarcerated people are not adequately protected.

We denounce that prison generates and reproduces institutional violence against prisoners: They are abused, scorned and slandered every day. These power abuses and rights violations are not properly investigated, which creates a terrible vulnerability for the prisoners and their families.

We also denounce the discrimination against migrants and racialized people: the discriminations which operate across our societies intensify within the prison institution.

We denounce that the degrading treatment given by prison officials to families and prisoners. In addition to this, the slowness and lack of efficiency of the public defence system aggravates our legal helplessness. The families suffer from disinformation, which aggravates our grief and our distress.

Queremos romper el silencio en torno a la prisión, promover la lucha por la defensa de los derechos de las personas presas y sus familias y cuestionar un sistema penitenciario obsoleto que genera un enorme daño social y hiere profundamente quienes pasan por sus instituciones.

We raise the call for a collective struggle to generate a network within and outside prisons, thus supporting such initiatives as the hunger strike that many prisoners started on October 1st. We want to break the silence around the prison, to promote the defence of the rights of people in prison and their families, and to question a system that generates an enormous social harm while causing irreparable damages on those who are imprisoned.

**Families against Prison Cruelty, Barcelona, 24/10/2018**

V. Nordic Geographers Meeting conference

NGM - Nordic Geographers Meeting conference
Trondheim, Norway, June 16-19, 2019
‘Tightening the noose’
(The impact of constricted migration policy on sexual and gender minorities)

Session conveners: Deniz Akin (Department of Interdisciplinary Studies of Culture, NTNU), Florent Chossière (Department of Geography, Université Paris-Est Marne-la-Vallée), and, Thomas Wimark (Department of Human Geography, Stockholm University).

As neoliberal and populist policies are enforced in countries in the EU, borders are becoming increasingly difficult to cross and welfare regimes are weakened. The options for individuals to migrate to the EU are diminished and existing migrants are left with lesser resources in host societies. Contemporary cultural politics of immigration is also increasingly organized around cultural unfitness of migrants in the host society. Simultaneously, Western democracies have gradually marketed tolerance of sexual diversity as a distinct and inherent characteristic of their culture, distinguishing them from the homophobic rest. This while establishing a sexual humanitarian apparatus that turns out to shape, in a restrictive way, the asylum system. In this call for session presentations, we ask for scrutiny of how these shifts are affecting sexual and gender minorities, who appear as paradoxical figures in these politics. On the one hand, their non-normative sexualities require the protection offered by Western democracies, following self-claimed inherent tolerance of sexual diversity. On the other hand, the non-whiteness and the non-homonormative conformance of sexual and gender minorities provokes political and societal anxiety about their cultural unfitness. Without denying sexual and gender minorities agency, we ask how these new border and welfare regimes are creating hindrances and challenges and how coping strategies are employed. We call for intersectional analyses of migratory experiences across different routes and of migrant experiences in host societies. We welcome paper presentations that consider questions and themes such as:

- Migration and welfare reforms as sexual and racial regimes
- State and border control/enforcement as sexualized and racialized practices
- Sexual and gender identity formation/expression/participation and migratory processes
- Urban/rural differences in reception of sexual and gender minorities
- Embodied migrations and scales of oppression
- Migration and mobility of queer asylum seekers/refugees
- Intersections of homophobia, transphobia, racism, ableism, and islamophobia

Abstracts of 250 words should be submitted to thomas.wimark@humangeo.su.se florent.chossiere@u-pem.fr and deniz.akin@ntnu.no before the 10th of December. Authors will be notified about the status of their submission as soon as possible thereafter. Conference website www.ntnu.edu/geography/ngm-2019.
A BIG THANKS to all the European Group members for making this newsletter successful. Please feel free to contribute to this newsletter by sending any information that you think might be of interest to the Group to Vicky/Katja/Dani at europeangroupcoordinator@gmail.com

Please try to send it in 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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