EUROPEAN GROUP FOR THE STUDY OF DEVIANCE AND SOCIAL CONTROL

An international network working towards social justice, state accountability and decarceration since 1973

www.europeangroup.org/

Coordinator team: Vicky Canning, Katja Simončič, Dani Jiménez-Franco

Melilla, Spain – North African coast (photo by José Palazón – PRODEIN Association)

newsletter

NOVEMBER 2018
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Dear comrades and colleagues of the European Group

Hello and welcome to the November edition of newsletter from the European Group for the Study of Deviance and Social Control. Alongside these exciting contributions, we are also pleased to announce that the European Group is growing fast – since our annual conference, we have welcomed more than 70 new members to our mailing list, and counting. We know this is a collective effort from our members and very much appreciate the work you all do to spread to the word and build the EG community.

As you know, Ida Nafstad’s and Per Jørgen Ystehede’s successful term as coordinator and secretary came to an end and the European Group now has three new coordinators: Victoria Canning, Katja Simončič, and Daniel Jiménez Franco. We are also pleased to announce this month that former coordinators Ida Nafstad and Per Jørgen Ystehede will soon take up the role of editors of our journal Justice, Power and Resistance. They are currently working with Monish Bhatia, Patrick Williams, Lisa White and Steve Tombs on the transition, so we are confident that the journal is in good hands. On that note, we would also like to thank everyone who has worked to get the journal to this stage, in particular Monish and Patrick, all guest editors, John Moore, David Scott and Emma Bell.

Going forward we aim to be as proactive as possible in developing activist actions as well as in encouraging new members to join the group – in particular activists and practitioners. We feel that the work EG members do is so important and thus want to keep on promoting these links and encouraging social and political action. We welcome any suggestions!

In addition, 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.

In line with this objective, **next EG Conference (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.

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]**
I. Barcelona 2019

European Group for the Study of Deviance and Social Control
47th Annual Conference

Can Batlló, Barcelona, 4, 5, 6 September 2019

RESISTING STATE-CORPORATE CRIMES AND FACING REPRESSION
TOWARDS A THEORY OF INSURRECTION

Call for contributions & invitation to take part in the working sessions

Across the globe, there has been an undoubttable 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. Indeed, we are increasingly seeing the militarization 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 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.

Contributions and enquiries can be sent to:

Ale Forero – aleforero@ub.edu

Ignasi Bernat – ignasi.bernat@gmail.com

Dani Jiménez – dfj@unizar.es

(coordinators)
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. 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.

Envío de contribuciones y consultas a:
Ale Forero – aleforero@ub.edu
Ignasi Bernat – ignasi.bernat@gmail.com
Dani Jiménez – dif@unizar.es
(coordinadores)
II. Working Groups and National Representatives

The list of national representatives has been updated. We now have the following national representatives:

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<th>National Region</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AUSTRALASIA</td>
<td>Ana Rodas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BRAZIL</td>
<td>Andre Giamberardino, Mauricio Stegemann Dieter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BELGIUM</td>
<td>Sarah Van Praet</td>
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<tr>
<td>COLOMBIA</td>
<td>David Rodriguez Goyes</td>
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<tr>
<td>CYPRUS</td>
<td>Demetra Sorvatzioti</td>
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<tr>
<td>DENMARK</td>
<td>Liv S. Gaborit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FINLAND</td>
<td>Emma Holkeri</td>
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<tr>
<td>FRANCE</td>
<td>Gilles Chantraine</td>
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<tr>
<td>GREECE</td>
<td>Christos Kouroutzas</td>
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<tr>
<td>ICELAND</td>
<td>Snorri Orn Arnason</td>
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<tr>
<td>LITHUANIA</td>
<td>Maryja Supa</td>
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<tr>
<td>NEW ZEALAND</td>
<td>Lizzy Stanley</td>
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<tr>
<td>NORWAY</td>
<td>Per Jörgen Ystehede</td>
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<tr>
<td>PORTUGAL</td>
<td>Luísa Saavedra</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RUSSIA</td>
<td>Екатерина Тищенко (Ekaterina Tishchenko)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLOVENIA</td>
<td>Katja Simončič</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPAIN / CATALAN</td>
<td>Alejandro Forero Cuéllar</td>
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<tr>
<td>SWEDEN</td>
<td>Martin Joormann</td>
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<tr>
<td>SWITZERLAND</td>
<td>Sophie Serrano</td>
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<tr>
<td>TURKEY</td>
<td>Caglar Dolek</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNITED KINGDOM</td>
<td>Andrea Beckmann</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE (FOR ALL MEMBERS OUTSIDE OF EUROPE)</td>
<td>Maeve McMahon</td>
</tr>
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Working Groups:

- *Prison, Detention and Punishment* [p.7]
- *Policing and Security* [p.9]
- *Crimes of the Powerful* [p.9]
- *Fear and Looting in the Periphery* [p.11]
- *Historical, Philosophical and Artistic Approaches* [p.11]
PRISON, DETENTION AND PUNISHMENT WORKING GROUP

Coordinator: Simone Santorso

The Group's working manifesto, adopted in April 2013 is as follows:

1. This European working group provides a network and database for teachers, researchers, students and activists across Europe (and beyond) who have an interest studying prisons, detention and punishment. The working group will provide an opportunity to share our knowledge of sites of confinement and the operation of the penal rationale and help establish new links with activists and academics worldwide who critically engage with the current forms, extent and nature of detention and punishment. The working group will thus provide an opportunity to connect local campaigns with a wider global network through which we can collectively provide solidarity and support. The working group also aims to foster a greater understanding of contemporary penalty; offer possibilities for collaborative research; and work towards emancipatory change. We recognise that, since the inception of the confinement project in the eighteenth century, the boundaries between different sites of detention have become increasingly blurred: prisons house foreign nationals and recalcitrant mental health patients; high security hospitals hold the ‘criminally insane’; immigration centres are run like prisons. The working group is committed to the abolition of penal confinement and other sites of involuntary detention. We also aim to challenge the logic and assumptions of the penal rationale and propose the development of non-repressive means of handling social problems and conflicts.

2. In many countries around the world there has been a proliferation in sites of confinement. More than ten million people are confined in prisons and many millions more are housed in other forms of detention. However, the rise of global hyper-incarceration and the analytical frameworks that underscore its assumptions have been challenged by a growing number of academics in their teaching and research, and by social workers, anti-prison activists, social justice-inspired social movements, members of the radical penal lobby, progressive members of the public, socialist politicians and students. An increasing number of organisations all around the globe are now directly challenging hyper-incarceration. The European working group aims to contribute to the development of abolitionist and anti-prison activism and to highlight the limitations of the current application of confinement. We acknowledge that the mobilisation of grass roots activists is absolutely necessary for any sustained radical transformation of current penal and social realities.

3. The working group aims to encourage members to formulate intellectual interventions and direct activism that can systematically expose the brutal realities of detention, penal confinement and community punishments and facilitate a reduction in the stigmatising effects and collateral consequences of the application of the penal rationale. We recognise that it is essential that the experiences and voices of detainees are given a platform to air their views and that the brutal and inhumane realities of sites of confinement are brought to the attention of the wider public and those in positions of power. The working group supports the rights of activists and citizens, including those sections of the voluntary sector that are pursuing social justice and penal reductionism, to pursue their goals without domination by governmental or profit-making interests.

4. The working group prioritises the critical scrutiny of the justifications of the punitive rationale; punishment in the community, semi-penal institutions and probation hotels; and the wider moral and political contexts of the deliberate infliction of pain. The justification of detention of people in the interests of others should be critically scrutinised and located within its given social, economic, political and moral context. This does not mean we believe that nothing should be done, or that all forms of detention or deprivation of liberty are necessarily unjustified (especially those forms of detention provided for the best interests of the detainee), but rather that imprisonment and many forms of detention are an illegitimate response to wrongdoing, social harms and social problems. Sites of confinement fail to uphold human rights, meet the demands of social justice or provide transparent or accountable forms of state governance. The increasing reliance upon involuntary detention,
prisons and other forms of detainment in recent times also draws attention to its very real threat to democracy. All forms of detention have faced consistently high death rates and intentional self-injury; institutionalisation and disculturalisation; bullying and sexual violence; staff moral indifference; institutionalised racism; masculinist hierarchies of power; and broader vulnerabilities to systemic abuses through torture and inhuman and degrading treatment. What the different institutions also seem to share is an historical broad inability to satisfy the duty of care owed to those who they detain. We acknowledge also that detainees are predominantly poor, in bad physical and mental health, unemployed, and badly educated. It is the less fortunate, vulnerable and needy who are disproportionately detained and this draws direct connections with the need for a more socially just world.

5. The organisation of the European working group on prisons, detention and punishment is undertaken by a steering group that will consist of at least the following: a working group coordinator; the coordinator of the European Group for the Study of Deviance and Social Control; the secretary of the European Group for the Study of Deviance and Social Control. Members of the working group may also be invited to join a steering group. The working group will meet every year at the annual conference of the European Group for the Study of Deviance and Social Control and members are encouraged to organise other events, meetings and conferences throughout the calendar year to help generate ideas, networks and direct interventions. Such events may be full meetings for the whole working group or specially convened meetings of local activists in one given region / nation. A separate mailing list will be maintained and other European Group media sources, such as facebook, youtube, twitter and crim-space, will be used to disseminate information about the working group and its activities. The working group coordinator will be elected at the European Group annual conference and full details of the membership of the working group will be detailed on our website.

6. Members of the working group are committed to the reversal of the proliferation of sites of confinement and the utilisation of strategies drawing upon direct action and abolitionist praxis to facilitate radical penal and social transformations. Though strategies of engagement will vary from place to place depending upon local circumstances, we believe that to achieve our aims we must propose a number of direct interventions that are feasible here and now and that can exploit contradictions in the operation of penal power. We call for the following general interventions as a means to facilitate a long-term and radical reduction in the populations of those detained in sites of confinement.

   i) An international moratorium on building new sites of confinement (prisons / asylums / immigration centres) and on the allocation of existing buildings and spaces as locations of involuntary detention.

   ii) An end to the privatisation of sites of confinement and the insidious expansion of the carceral state via the voluntary and private sector.

   iii) A detailed and critical interrogation of existing state detention, followed by a systematic call for governments to close the most inhumane, degrading and torturous sites of confinement without opening new houses of detention.

   iv) A virtual end to pre-trial detention and the abolishment of the antiquated notion of bail except for those who present a serious threat to society.

   v) The safeguarding and expansion of the legal rights of detainees. Post incarceration ex-detainees must be recognised as full citizens and given full and uninhibited access to employment, housing, other social and financial services and full access to political and civil society.

   vi) The decriminalisation of victimless and harmless acts, such as alcoholism, deviant sexualities between consenting adults, substance misuse and drug taking. The criminalisation of sex workers (who are often from working class backgrounds) is harmful and victimising and we propose alternative responses that protect and prioritise the safety of the men and women who engage in this work.

   vii) The decriminalisation of infringements of migration laws.
viii) To raise the age of criminal responsibility in all countries in the world to the age of at least 16.

ix) To divert people with mental health problems, learning disabilities, severe physical disabilities, the profoundly deaf and people with suicidal ideation from the criminal process whilst at the same time ensuring any alternative interventions are both ‘in place’ of a penal sanction and are not merely forms of ‘trans-incarceration’ to other sites of confinement.

x) To immediately remove those people most vulnerable to the inherent harms and pains of confinement from places of detention.

xi) To formulate and advocate radical alternatives to the criminal process and social injustices for individual and social harms that are feasible and could be implemented immediately or within a short period of time.

xii) To propose that all governments prioritise meeting human need, recognising common humanity and facilitating social justice as the most effective means of preventing / dealing with human troubles, conflicts and problematic conduct.

POLICING AND SECURITY WORKING GROUP

Coordinator: Georgios Papanicolaou

Rethinking Policing in the Radical Tradition

The aggressive reassertion of neoliberalism, the renewal and expansion of repressive state capacities and the effort of the establishment to contain growing popular unrest in the wake of the current financial crisis has resulted in an inevitable escalation of conflict between progressive movements and policing organizations around the world. These developments raise serious questions about the evolving nature, direction and intensification of police coercion. The current conjuncture has also produced the very real possibility of progressive electoral majorities on the heels of wider popular mobilizations. This necessitates reflection on the possibility of progressive police reform.

What complicates this task is that, despite considerable advances in critical and radical state theory, the police remain the least theorized and understood state institution among leftist criminology. Undoubtedly, the practical experience of the police role in political struggles has forced the political Left into a reactive and instrumentalist theoretical stance according to which the police merely dispense coercion on behalf of the ruling class and must therefore be challenged unambiguously on every possible occasion. The grave political implications of this stance are not limited to a self-perpetuating a state of mutual suspicion and hostility, but they also compromise the theoretical and practical ability to address consistently and persuasively questions of policing, law and order. Can we build a dialogue about the future and proffer a vision of a post-capitalist policing system that is safer and more democratic?

The purpose of this stream is to take stock of and invite reflection on the theoretical legacy of critical and radical criminology on questions of everyday policing and its organisation. How pertinent is this legacy today and in light of contemporary developments? How can it be renewed and reinvigorated? Papers reporting or reflecting on practical experiences and initiatives aiming towards a more democratic, inclusive and accountable policing will also be welcome.

CRIMES OF THE POWERFUL WORKING GROUP

Coordinator: Samantha Fletcher

2013 Manifesto – Working document:

This European working group provides a network and database for teachers, researchers, students and activists across and beyond Europe who have an interest studying and confronting corporate and state crimes and harms – in their various forms. The working group will provide an opportunity to share our knowledge of corporate and state harm and
help establish new links with activists and academics who critically engage with the current forms, extent and nature of such crimes and harms. The working group will thus provide an opportunity to connect local campaigns with a wider network through which we can collectively provide solidarity and support. The working group also aims to foster a greater understanding of criminal and harmful corporate and state activities; offer possibilities for collaborative research; and work towards emancipatory change.

Based upon observations and insights offered by academic research, investigative journalism and the struggles of campaigning and activist organisations, we recognise that:

- State and corporate crimes and harms take a diverse range of forms (to be inserted)
- Many corporate and state crimes and harms are either legal or sit at the borders of il/legality
- Many corporate and state crimes and harms, if they are at least ‘punishable’, never get processed through any legal system
- The economic, physical, emotional and social costs of corporate and state crimes and harms vastly outweigh the costs associated with the harms and crimes upon which criminal justice systems and civil law overwhelmingly focus
- Corporate and state crimes and harms victimise ubiquitously, but do not do so in an undifferentiated nor randomised way – their effects generally flow along cleavages of class, gender, ethnicity and other structured social divisions
- Corporate and state power makes knowing about the harms and crimes which are produced by such entities and their interactions relatively difficult – casting a critical gaze up, to power, is in general more difficult than casting such a gaze downwards, towards the ‘usual suspects’
- To resist corporate and state harms and crimes we must first be able to expose them, document them, make them known – and in these efforts we know that we face obstacles and resistance, since one of the bases and effects of power is to seek to protect that power from critical scrutiny.

These features of state and corporate crimes and harms require and energetic, co-operative and sustained response. This group seeks to provide one forum for galvanising such a response. To this end, we are committed to the following:

- Developing links between those seeking to expose criminal and harmful corporate and state activity
- Pooling resources, expertise and experiences in a non-exploitative and mutually supportive fashion
- Providing a series of resources in the form of tools, tactics and strategies, as well as documents...
- Acting as forum which can provide speedy responses to egregious corporate and state activities, utilising resources offered by Universities and academics .....
- Supporting those threatened by power as a result of their efforts to expose corporate and state wrongdoing

In seeking to achieve these commitments, the Group aims to provide a forum for the free exchange of ideas which is at the same time a space free of sexist, racist or class-based prejudices, either in the form of words or actions.

We recognise that there are a plethora of groups and individuals long engaged in these practices .. and ... the aim of this group is neither to usurp nor to act parasitically upon any of these activities... As academics we do not privilege academic activity. But we do recognise that, even in an era of marketised education many academics enjoy resources and privileges which it is our obligation to make as widely available as possible.
The organisation of the European working group on corporate and state crime and harm is undertaken by a steering group that will consist of at least the following: a working group coordinator; the coordinator of the European Group for the Study of Deviance and Social Control; the secretary of the European Group for the Study of Deviance and Social Control. Members of the working group may also be invited to join a steering group. The working group will meet every year at the annual conference of the European Group for the Study of Deviance and Social Control and members are encouraged to organise other events, meetings and conferences throughout the calendar year to help generate ideas, networks and direct interventions. Such events may be full meetings for the whole working group or specially convened meetings of local activists in one given region/nation. A separate mailing list will be maintained and other European Group media sources, such as facebook, youtube, twitter and crim-space, will be used to disseminate information about the working group and its activities. The working group coordinator will be elected at the European Group annual conference and full details of the membership of the working group will be detailed on our website.

FEAR AND LOOTING IN THE PERIPHERY WORKING GROUP

*Coordinators: Dani Jiménez Franco, Alejandro Forero, Ignasi Bernat, Rita Faria*

This working group on ‘Southern’ perspectives aims to enrich the analyses on and from the ‘Peripheries’, but also promote communication and discussions with other working groups within the EG, with two main objectives:

- To encourage the development of critical ‘Southern’ perspectives (not only criminological) on state-corporate crime and social harm, with the proper vocation of commitment and transformation that characterizes the EG.
- To develop a theoretical-political agenda based on a solidarity network against state-corporate criminal policies and punitive control strategies, radically challenging the discourses, practices and means of legitimation of global debtocratic looting.
- To create and strengthen link between the EG and activist groups, campaigns and organisations involved in struggles regarding our research and action lines:
  - Debtocracy/Austerity as state-corporate crime. Memoranda as social murder.
  - Criminal Policies vs. Penal Policies. Social harm vs. punishment/punitive control.
  - Neoliberal exceptionalism, post-fascism, and market totalitarianism.

HISTORICAL, PHILOSOPHICAL AND ARTISTIC APPROACHES ON THE STUDY ON DEVIANCE AND SOCIAL CONTROL

*Coordinator: Stratos Georgoulas*

This European working group provides a network and database for teachers, researchers, students, artists and activists across and beyond Europe who have an interest studying and confronting deviance and social control – in their various forms. The working group will provide an opportunity to share knowledge and help establish new links with activists, artists and academics who critically engage with the current forms, extent and nature of crimes and harms. The working group will provide an opportunity to connect local campaigns with a wider network through which we can collectively provide solidarity and support. The working group also aims to foster a greater understanding of criminal and harmful activities; offer possibilities for collaborative research; and work towards emancipatory change.

The working group’s objective is to develop and strengthen comparative historical, philosophical and artistic research on crime and social control and criminological studies.
that analyze contemporary phenomena through historical, philosophical and artistic perspectives, working always towards social justice, state accountability and decarceration, promoting critical analysis and connecting theory, politics and activism.

The Group aims to provide a forum for the free exchange of ideas which is at the same time a space free of sexist, racist or class-based prejudices, either in the form of words or actions.

The working group will meet every year at the annual conference of the European Group for the Study of Deviance and Social Control and members are encouraged to organize other events, meetings and conferences throughout the calendar year to help generate ideas, networks and direct interventions. Such events may be full meetings for the whole working group or specially convened meetings of local activists in one given region / nation. A separate mailing list will be maintained and other European Group media sources, such as facebook, youtube, twitter and crim-space, will be used to disseminate information about the working group and its activities. The working group coordinator will be elected at the European Group annual conference and full details of the membership of the working group will be detailed on our website.
Regulating police detention. Voices from behind closed doors

Welcome to one of the European Group’s newest members, John Kendall. Below John has outlined findings from his new book focussing on custody visitation in the UK. Below John highlights some of the key findings from his research, and his book specifically which will be of interest to anyone working on the rights of people held in custody.

For contents and to buy the book please visit: https://policypress.co.uk/regulating-police-detention

What is custody visiting?

The little-known Independent Custody Visiting Scheme facilitates volunteers to make random and unannounced visits to custody blocks in police stations. The volunteer visitors check on the welfare of detainees and report to their local Police and Crime Commissioner. Custody visitors are the only outsiders to make regular visits to detainees in their cells. Custody visiting appears to be a regulator of police detention, and it is part of the UK’s National Preventive Mechanism under UN Treaty obligations for the prevention of torture. But the power of the police, and official policy, prevent the visitors from making independent and effective scrutiny of what is going on in custody. Official policyprioritises the promotion of confidence in the police as a purpose of the scheme, not the welfare of detainees. Custody visiting is organised in a way that causes the police the minimum of trouble.

What is custody like?

Custody blocks are the places where the hundreds of thousands of people who have been arrested each year are processed and may be kept there for up to 96 hours. The police say the primary purpose of detention in custody is to make the suspect “amenable” to investigation. The police have wide discretion in how they operate custody. There is very little regulation except self-regulation, and what the police do there is largely invisible to the outside world. Those who are detained in custody run the risk of being abused by the police, whatever the extent of any actual abuse, and some lose their lives. However, the authorities have airbrushed out the idea that custody visiting could be a deterrent to police misconduct that might lead to deaths in custody.
How I came to write this book

I previously worked as a commercial solicitor and mediator. In retirement, I had an interest in finding out about custody, but had no intention at that stage to write about custody visiting, so I joined a local scheme and worked as a visitor for three years. I looked, in vain, for academic analysis of the scheme. I decided to write about it myself, but I realised that I would not be able to do so without academic help. I then undertook a research project at the University of Birmingham, centred on a case study (in a different area from the one I had worked in) where I had access to visitors, custody blocks, the police and crucially, to detainees. I contend that the findings of my case study can be applied widely to visiting schemes in other parts of England and Wales: all are subject to the same statutory scheme of visiting, the same statutory framework for custody, and behind that common formal structure lies the unchanging, fundamental power imbalance between the police and the visitors.

Independence

To do their job properly, custody visitors need to be independent, but the structure of the scheme makes that impossible. The visitors are recruited and managed by the local Police and Crime Commissioner, who is also required by statute to perform the unlikely conjuring trick of ensuring that they are independent both of the police and the Commissioner. Visitors who cause trouble can be dismissed, many do not keep their distance from the police, the training they receive is mono-culturally from the police's point of view, and the visitors fail to challenge the police. And when it came to the most important, defining issue of deaths in custody, almost all the visitors I interviewed thought their work had very little to do with it.

Effectiveness

I found that the visits took place at predictable times, and never during the night. Neither the existence nor the operation of the visiting scheme made any significant impact on police behaviour. The Police and Crime Commissioner gave no useful information to the public about the work of the scheme. I found that the police did not respect the visiting scheme and that the detainees did not trust the visitors. The visiting work does not meet international human rights obligations. Custody visiting is probably counterproductive, because it obscures the need for proper, effective regulation.

Reform

With extensive and radical reforms, custody visiting could make a much more effective contribution to the regulation of police detention. This book should show politicians and the public that the visiting scheme lacks legitimacy. When that is appreciated, there would be pressure for these reforms. In the words of Sir Stephen Sedley, former Lord Justice of Appeal: *This study should alert everyone concerned with the tension between authority and liberty.*
IV. Resisting Carceral Violence. Women’s Imprisonment and the Politics of Abolition

Bree Carlton and Emma K. Russell’s *Resisting Carceral Violence: Women’s Imprisonment and the Politics of Abolition* will be published 30th November 2019.

This book explores the dramatic evolution of a feminist movement that mobilised to challenge a women’s prison system in crisis. Through in-depth historical research conducted in the Australian state of Victoria that spans the 1980s and 1990s, the authors uncover how incarcerated women have worked productively with feminist activists and community coalitions to expose, critique and resist the conditions and harms of their confinement. *Resisting Carceral Violence* tells the story of how activists—through a combination of creative direct actions, reformist lobbying and legal challenges—forged an anti-carceral feminist movement that traversed the prison walls. This powerful history provides vital lessons for service providers, social justice advocates and campaigners, academics and students concerned with the violence of incarceration. It calls for a willingness to look beyond the prison and instead embrace creative solutions to broader structural inequalities and social harm.


*Bree Carlton* is a Senior Lecturer in Criminology, School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Deakin University, Australia. Her research explores strategies for preventing and resisting against prison generated violence and harm. Bree authored *Imprisoning Resistance* (Federation Press 2007) and is co-editor of *Women Exiting Prison* (Routledge 2013).

*Emma K. Russell* is a Lecturer in Crime, Justice and Legal Studies in the Department of Social Inquiry at La Trobe University, Australia. Her work has been published in various journals, including Theoretical Criminology, Critical Criminology and Crime Media Culture.

*Resisting Carceral Violence* is a key text for those invested in worlds without prisons, now. Carlton and Russell draw from luminous oral histories that document anti-carceral feminist mobilizations to build solidarity and struggle with people incarcerated in Australia’s Fairlea Women’s Prison. Contextualized with a brilliant critique of the political economy of ‘progressive reform’ in the Australian women’s correctional system in the 1980s and 1990s, this groundbreaking text creates necessary feminist abolitionist genealogies. By centering “inside-out organizing”, the archive illuminates the value of creative, collaborative, and coalitional movement labor and tactics – visual, spatial and sonic. *Resisting Carceral Violence* critically engages with multiple ‘on the ground’ tensions
that those working against the global prison industrial complex frequently confront, such as the implementation of reforms that might strengthen the carceral system and the pervasive trap of ‘gender-responsive’ logics. But perhaps most importantly this work makes visible the beautifully chaotic, and generally disappeared, imaginaries and labor of fierce grassroots organizations that knit together powerful and temporal coalitions. These decolonial abolitionist feminist mobilizations provide necessary, and fertile, terrain for our collective present and our future practice. Resisting Carceral Violence is a powerful ‘must read’ for all social movement scholars, organizers, and feminists. **Erica R. Meiners, Bernard J. Brommel Distinguished Research Professor, Northeastern Illinois University.**

By offering a unique historical vantage point on resistance both within and outside Australia’s women’s prisons Resisting Carceral Violence shows how activists have responded to a changing landscape of state carceral control and strategies of penal expansion. Through a close examination of archives, diaries, and interview data, the research reveals the potential and limitations of organizing on the “inside” and “outside” and the deep connections of women across these boundaries. The authors’ reflections about these struggles convey acute respect for activists’ commitments to real change and profound recognition of the costs of violence imposed on incarcerated women’s lives. This book is a “must-read” for scholars who seek to better understand the broader structural constraints that limit prison reform. **Kristin Bumiller, George Daniel Olds Professor of Economic and Social Institutions, Amherst College.**

Resisting Carceral Violence provides a compelling and often moving account of the brutal reality of prison life for women. It graphically highlights the highly gendered dehumanization, and desperate harms, the prison generates. The book represents critical scholarship at its very best. It is theoretically sophisticated, methodologically innovative, forensically focused and radically interventionist. It should be read by academics and activists as well as by policy makers as it illustrates the abject failure of the liberal, prison reform industry and the endless, fruitless search for the ‘best’ penal policy for women. Bree Carlton and Emma Russell, through their lucid scholarship, demonstrate, beyond any doubt that women’s prisons need to be removed forever from staining the social landscape. Their book makes a significant, uncompromising contribution to that utopian goal and to the literature on abolitionism more generally. **Professor Joe Sim, Liverpool John Moores University, England**
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