

EUROPEAN GROUP FOR THE STUDY OF DEVIANCE AND SOCIAL CONTROL

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Front page photo: Struggle for Survival by Christian Krogh

I. *Editorial*

One key feature of the development of legal aid in all the Nordic countries is the move towards commercial legal expenses insurance. Another is the development of third sector legal aid initiatives in Denmark and Norway, and to a lesser extent in Finland and Sweden. Such third sector initiatives have striven to alleviate deficiencies in the public legal aid schemes and, in particular, shortcomings in the way these schemes function in relation to the welfare state.

These are some of the conclusion found in a new anthology - *Outsourcing Legal Aid in the Nordic Welfare States* - edited by Ole Hammerslev and Olaf Halvorsen. The book also provides an answer to whether there exists a Nordic model when it comes to free legal aid and access to justice. We have in this newsletter decided to include the introductory chapter of the book, which is available through Open Access as we believe this is to be a topic, which will interest many in the European Group. Despite the Nordic context, many of the dilemmas surrounding legal aid and access to justice we are sure will resonate among readers from other parts of Europe and the world.

We are counting the days to the 46th Annual conference, which will this year be held in Ljubljana. Please help spread the word of the conference as well as remember to submit a short abstract of 150-300 words to the relevant stream coordinator *by 31 March 2018*.

In solidarity,
Ida and Per

II. Legal Aid in the Nordic Countries

Chapter one in *Outsourcing Legal Aid in the Nordic Welfare States*. The whole book is available through Open Access: <https://link.springer.com/book/10.1007%2F978-3-319-46684-2>

By: Ole Hammerslev and Olaf Halvorsen Rønning

The Nordic countries are among the highest spenders in Europe on legal aid, which provides people with legal services when they cannot otherwise afford legal assistance. Figures from 2012 provided by the European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice CEPEJ (2014) show that, of 47 European countries, Norway spends the most on legal aid per inhabitant, Sweden comes sixth, Denmark eighth, Finland tenth, and Iceland eleventh (for a full discussion, see Chap. 10). However, like many other Western European countries, Nordic countries also face political demands for cost savings, particularly in the face of the years of austerity following the 2008 financial crisis that impacted European welfare states. The welfare state was challenged by the entry of private actors into domains that traditionally belonged to the state, and by market-orientated reforms partly inspired by neo-liberal ideas (Bonoli and Natali 2012; Kvist and Greve 2011). This has affected legal aid in Nordic countries, just as it has in countries throughout the world, where legal aid systems are challenged by funding cuts, and there are demands for the setting of new priorities when limited funds are available.

The most prominent of such developments has been the recent changes in England and Wales, which has seen dramatic cuts in funding that affect both the supply of legal aid, and those legal professionals providing it. Studies of English legal aid lawyers show how new public management focuses on efficiency, cost control, and external monitoring through various forms of quality assurance measurements and guidelines (Sommerlad 2001; Sommerlad and Sanderson 2013; Sommerlad and Wall 1999). One major effect of all this, Sommerlad argues, is that legal aid lawyers, once seen as moral or political lawyers – who, as Sarat and Scheingold (1998, p. 3) point out – help raise the moral status of the legal profession by reconnecting law and morality, and by manifesting ‘the idea that lawyering is a “public profession”’ – become a group of lawyers with low morale that damages the political project they set out to defend, namely that of empowering their clients and countering social injustice. Legal aid lawyers are downgraded in the legal hierarchy, are stressed by increasing workloads, earn less, and, finally, turn into burned-out, disillusioned welfare workers (Sommerlad 2001). Meanwhile, Eastern European countries also face challenges in developing legal aid schemes, mainly due to massive underfunding. Instead, legal

clinics are linked with law schools and legal education (cf. for instance, Barendrecht et al. 2014, p. 82; Piana et al. 2013). The USA fares no better, struggling with an underdeveloped legal aid scheme for criminal cases, and with a civil legal aid system consisting of a wide variety of programmes beset with funding issues, and problems to do with federal versus state provision of legal aid (Houseman 2015). In Australia, there is a diverse set of legal aid initiatives, and severe challenges as regards provision for the indigenous population, and for rural areas, together with the problem of severe financial constraints (Hunter et al. 2009). Countries such as China and Japan seem to have introduced extensive legislation on legal aid but are experiencing challenges about putting it into practice (Qin and Tang 2013). In Brazil, there has been growing interest in the right to legal aid provided by the state, but, so far, it is still charitable organisations that seem to provide most of the legal aid (Alves 2014).

In this book, we set out to examine and compare civil legal aid in Nordic countries, as seen in relation to welfare state reforms, to determine if a unique model of Nordic legal aid exists. The Nordic welfare state model, common to all Nordic countries, is characterised by universal state-regulated welfare schemes, which give all citizens the right to assistance when they have various kinds of health or social problems. With the development of the Nordic welfare states after World War Two, the process of juridification accelerated, as legislation ensuring people's rights to welfare expanded. The growing complexity of welfare rights and regulation, as well as increasing bureaucracy, meant that ordinary people, especially poor people, had difficulty claiming their rights, both from the public administration and in the courts. Substantial legal aid schemes were developed to help people claim these rights, and in the Nordic countries legal aid came to be considered as part of the universal welfare ideology.

Nordic research on legal aid has most often been carried out against the backdrop of the ideology of universal welfare: researchers have generally considered legal aid as no different from traditional welfare state social support schemes, such as health care and social security, even though the market for legal services has been based primarily on market premises (Johnsen 1987). Though limited, Nordic legal aid research flourished in the 1970s and developed hand-in-hand with the emergence of new legal aid clinics in Norway and Denmark that were critical of public legal aid that was failing to satisfy unmet legal need among disadvantaged groups in society.

Nordic Legal Aid Research

With the strong social commitment of the 1970s, and the turn towards critical scholarship, if not Marxism, research inspirations and interests varied markedly in different Nordic countries. It was only in Norway that legal aid research developed

into a strong field of socio-legal research in this decade, with pioneers such as Vilhelm Aubert, Thomas Mathiesen, Kristian 'Kikki' Andenæs, Torstein Eckhoff, and Jon T. Johnsen, in the Faculty of Law of the University of Oslo. They were inspired by US sociology, the sociology of law, and by cause lawyering (Mathiesen 2001). They succeeded in establishing several so-called action research projects that sought to combine scientific knowledge with practical action (Hammerslev and Mathiesen 2013). These projects had several aims. First, they established legal aid clinics in which law students gave free outreach legal aid to marginalised citizens. Not only did people in need get free legal advice, but law student volunteers got practical experience as a part of their education. Another aim was to document which types of legal need existed, and how social structures impacted different classes unevenly, so that the aid could be improved, and knowledge could be used to benefit those in need. They established attractive kinds of legal clinics in which future high profile lawyers and judges worked in during their studies. Through their visibility and use of academic capital, they successfully set the agenda on legal aid: factors that still make the legal clinic *Juss-Buss* an important and visible player in Norway (see Chap. 7). In Denmark, as in Finland, critical legal scholars were more concerned with changing social conditions for marginalised people by means of theoretical analysis of the law, and of the very concept of law (Hammerslev and Madsen 2014; Hammerslev and Madsen 2013). There were a few studies of legal aid, and some Danish research on various issues in Greenland, but their engagement with legal aid issues was not sufficient to make legal aid paradigmatic as a research topic, or as an important element in the public discourse, as had happened in Norway.

Noting the development of extensive welfare legislation giving all citizens rights in increasing areas, a series of Norwegian studies in the 1970s and 1980s examined the latent need for legal aid among marginalized people (Eidesen et al. 1975; Eskeland and Finne 1973; Johnsen 1994, 1987; Andenæs et al. 2005). Legal aid was defined thus: 'Aid which one person receives from another ... when the aid worker has legal knowledge that can potentially have an impact on obtaining a desired result.' (Eskeland 1975, p. 12, our translation).

In several studies during the 1970s, including work on immigrant workers, Norwegian Romani, and the homeless, Norwegian scholars found that the need for legal aid was determined by social structures in industrialised society: everyone has a need for legal aid but the system for accessing legal assistance is uneven. The higher your position in the social hierarchy, the greater is the availability of legal aid – which means that the well-off, and companies, can have their needs met by the wide variety of legal services offered on the free market, while the more disadvantaged you are, less is available, and the more difficult it is to access legal aid. Mathiesen concluded

that the need for legal aid was greater the lower the class one belonged to, and that the 'lumpenproletariat' had an especially acute need for legal aid in the areas of tax law, social security law, and the law on rent—core areas of the welfare state (Mathiesen 1975, p. 188). This showed that legal aid was symptomatic of social structures: on the one hand, even though welfare rights relate to basic subsistence, citizens are more likely to claim their rights the higher in the social hierarchy they are; on the other hand, many problems that the law is designed to solve cannot be solved by the law, since they arise from concrete difficult life situations (Eskeland and Finne 1973; Mathiesen 1975; Albrechtsen 1975). These studies generally followed work done in the USA and the UK (Hammerslev 2016; Smith 1919, Clark and Corstvet 1938; Pleasence et al. 2001; Dalberg-Larsen 1977; Abel-Smith et al. 1973).

Through the legal clinics, researchers were able to examine various barriers to legal aid, and the way legal aid, including outreach legal aid, was delivered; they were also in a position to make recommendations on the organisation of legal aid institutions. One reason why the law fails to give the legal protection it is designed to provide, it was argued, is the fact that welfare law is often written in difficult language, so that the rules are hard to understand for any lay person—and even more so for marginalized people, who often have little education. Another reason was that marginalized people could not afford legal assistance if it was not free (Sejr 1977). As society becomes ever more complex, and the amount of legislation becomes ever greater, this creates legal insecurity. To this should be added the increasing use of framework acts that delegate authority to public authorities for making decisions. The decisions and discretion of public authorities may well become dependent on financial or political criteria, making the most marginalised even more vulnerable (Beck and Sejr 1977, p. 213; see also Papendorf 2012).

Despite the existence of outreach legal aid for less well-off groups, there were barriers that prevented it reaching the target groups, because accessing legal assistance is uneven. The higher your position in the social hierarchy, the greater is the availability of legal aid – which means that the well-off, and companies, can have their needs met by the wide variety of legal services offered on the free market, while the more disadvantaged you are, less is available, and the more difficult it is to access legal aid. Mathiesen concluded that the need for legal aid was greater the lower the class one belonged to, and that the 'lumpenproletariat' had an especially acute need for legal aid in the areas of tax law, social security law, and the law on rent – core areas of the welfare state (Mathiesen 1975, p. 188). This showed that legal aid was symptomatic of social structures: on the one hand, even though welfare rights relate to basic subsistence, citizens are more likely to claim their rights the higher in the social hierarchy they are; on the other hand, many problems that the law is designed to solve

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Despite considerable state expenditure on legal aid, these early studies set the agenda for later legal aid research through their critical approach to the organisation of legal aid and the apparent unmet legal need among the poorest groups in society. In general, Nordic studies were characterized by an optimistic view of the law, and of free legal aid as the solution to various problems of less well-off groups in society. The studies assumed that they could uncover a latent—but real—need for legal assistance among certain groups of citizens. Thus, against a background of assumptions about a universal welfare state, unmet legal need in the Nordic populations is well documented (Dalberg-Larsen and Kristiansen 2014; Kristiansen 2013, 2009; Graver et al. 2001; Juss-Buss 2001; Juss-Buss and Rønning 2011). However, these studies rarely consider the normative side of their methodological approach. Behind the assessment of legal need was the assumption that people should use lawyers to solve their problems, and that when they did not use lawyers or other advisors, this constituted ‘unmet legal need’. This made it easy to argue that further public funds were necessary (see also Pleasence et al. 2001). Hidden behind discussions of methods and empirical findings is the failure of the studies to recognise that, as Lewis (1973) pointed out: ‘defining something as a legal problem is not a statement of fact, but a normative statement about how a problem ought to be solved.’ The focus of the research, and the research design, has an embedded normativity (Habermas 1972).

Purpose of the Book

As illustrated by the literature review above, Nordic research on legal aid has not taken recent welfare state changes into consideration, nor have there been any comparative studies of all the Nordic countries. To serve several purposes, this volume therefore takes a different approach from that of traditional Nordic studies.

First, through chapters on individual countries, it seeks to compare all Nordic legal aid schemes – i.e., those of Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Finland, and Iceland – and to relate legal aid developments to those in the welfare states. The chapters explore some general questions about how legal aid schemes in the Nordic countries are organised and how they function. To what extent do the schemes match welfare state ideology, and are they changing alongside the changes in the welfare state?

Second, through discussions of the European ‘access to justice perspective’ set against the USA use of legal clinics, Chaps. 10, 11, and 12 examine the uniqueness of Nordic legal aid in a wider perspective. The overarching question is whether we can identify a Nordic model of legal aid. Through comparison of approaches within the Nordic countries, and the positioning of Nordic legal aid in the wider world, the conclusion will compare the Nordic schemes, their differences and similarities – and discuss if the Nordic welfare state approach to legal aid is unique.

Budget cuts also give rise to questions about how to design efficient legal aid programmes, and make alternative legal aid schemes more interesting: throughout the world there is a wide variety of alternative programmes exploring new ways of providing legal aid. As discussed above, Nordic legal aid research has also focused on, and recommended, the provision of alternative forms of legal aid. Thus a *third* purpose of this volume is to explore and discuss how legal aid institutions in the contemporary Nordic welfare states are organised and how they work. Chaps. 7, 8, and 9 examine some of the most notable alternative legal aid programmes in the Nordic countries: Juss-Buss, the Danish organisation The Street Lawyers, and various mentoring programmes for ex-prisoners. The aim of these case studies is to discuss alternative legal aid initiatives, and examine how the various programmes reach their target groups and help turn social problems into legal cases through legal aid in – to adopt the notion of Felstiner et al. (1980) – a naming, blaming, claiming process (for earlier studies discussing this process see, e.g., Carlin and Howard 1964–1965, p. 424; Johnsen 1987; Olesen et al. 2016, 2017).

Outline

Following the introduction, Chaps. 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 will describe the national legal aid systems of the five Nordic countries. In this section, the public, state-organised legal

aid schemes will be analysed, together with other notable legal aid initiatives in particular countries. The *Norwegian legal aid scheme*, as examined by Olaf Halvorsen Rønning, is largely based upon a well-funded public legal aid ‘judicare’ scheme. However, it is traditionally organised, with private-practice lawyers as the main providers, so it fails to fully meet some legal needs, especially those of disadvantaged groups. The public legal aid scheme is therefore complemented by a few high-capacity, outreach-focused legal aid initiatives directed at certain disadvantaged groups. These programmes are to some extent state-funded but are otherwise independent, and are connected to a Norwegian tradition of legal aid research and policy. The *Swedish legal aid scheme* – as described by Isabel Schoultz – has undergone a transformation: it used to be a public scheme comparable with Norway but now relies mainly on commercial legal aid insurance. Few alternative legal aid programmes exist. Insurance schemes mostly cover legal representation in trials, not legal advice or representation. Antti Rissanen examines legal aid in Finland. The *Finnish legal aid scheme* is perhaps the one most in tune with a welfare state ideology, as state-funded legal aid offices are the backbone of the scheme. It covers all legal problems, and has generous financial eligibility criteria. If necessary, the public legal aid offices can call on judicare lawyers. The Finnish legal aid system seems to work well but concerns have been raised that this system, too, will face more restrictions in coming years. The *Danish legal aid scheme*, as analysed by Bettina Lemann Kristiansen, has a mix of legal aid offices and judicare lawyers. The legal aid offices, organised by a private lawyers’ and volunteers’ initiative, but partly funded by the state, provide most of the legal advice, while legal representation, particularly in the courts, is provided by lawyers. The trend is now to cut expenditure on legal aid and on legal advice in particular. This is raising concerns about the accessibility of the legal aid system. Hildur Fjola Antonsdottir examines Icelandic legal aid. At present the *Icelandic legal aid scheme* is being affected by the financial crisis. It is based on a judicare model, with a measure of discretion regarding eligibility criteria, but the scheme is mostly limited to legal representation. The lack of accessible legal advice and information remains a concern.

After this analysis of the general legal aid systems, seen from a national perspective, Chaps. 7, 8, and 9 are devoted to in-depth case studies of particularly interesting examples of legal aid in the different countries. From Norway, there is a chapter by Ole Hammerslev, Annette Olesen, and Olaf Halvorsen Rønning on *Juss-Buss*, a student-run legal aid clinic. The establishment of the clinic was closely connected with pioneering legal aid research in Norway in the 1970s, and it is still in operation. *Juss-Buss* provides outreach legal aid to disadvantaged groups, such as prisoners and migrant workers, who are insufficiently covered by public schemes. Stine Piilgaard Porner Nielsen and Ole Hammerslev examines *Gadejuristen* [The Street Lawyers],

which is a project in Denmark providing legal aid to vulnerable groups on the streets, such as drug addicts and sex workers. It is based on a holistic and novel outreach idea, and provides social and legal aid in an informal manner. The *legal needs of ex-prisoners*, and how the legal aid system functions in relation to them, are examined by Annette Olesen in the last chapter of this section. With background in the above-mentioned notion of Felstiner et al. (1980) of a naming, blaming, claiming process, which stresses how legal cases can emerge and transform, it highlights the inadequacy of the legal aid scheme to cope with the complexities of the legal problems prisoners face, and points to the need for more cross-functional legal aid programmes.

The final section, Chaps. 10, 11, and 12, will help contextualise the studies of the Nordic legal aid schemes. Johnsen's chapter on the *Nordic model of legal aid in Europe* compares the Finnish and Norwegian models of legal aid, and analyses them in relation to the ideologies of the welfare state, and against the background of European human rights. On the basis of theoretical perspectives on juridification, in particular in relation to Habermasian theories on the development of law in welfare states, Papendorf discusses the scope for disadvantaged groups to mobilise the law. Wilson discusses the differences between the USA and the European traditions of *legal aid clinics*, pointing out the current development of clinical legal education that is taking place in Europe.

The concluding chapter, Chap. 13, compares and analyses the legal aid systems in the Nordic countries, particularly in relation to the changes taking place in the welfare states, and discusses whether there is a unique Nordic model of legal aid.

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III. European Group 46th Annual Conference: *Ljubljana, 22-24 August 2018*

Social harm in a digitalized global world: Technologies of power and normalized practices of contemporary society



The world in which we live in is more interconnected and changing more rapidly than ever before. Accelerated technological advances, climate change and large-scale migration, to name a few, are all having an increasing effect on how we experience our lives today and how we will in the future. It leads to new modalities of social control and understandings of deviance as well as to increasing gaps between those who are able to take part in a digitalized global world, and those who are not – those who are privileged by globalizations and those who are harmed by it.

The changes brought on by globalization and the rise of technologies of power are influencing different aspects of different people's lives. While the transformations have been positive for many, they have also been extremely harmful for countless of others. Analyzing the changes and wide specter of consequences brought on by trends such as consumerism, transnationalism and digitalism in different parts of the world is a necessary prerequisite to understand and act upon new ideological, policy, legislative, and enforcement solutions. Distinctions between public and private modes of provisions and control are becoming increasingly blurred, preventing oversight and bringing surveillance and repression, driven by economic incentives.

Resisting harms resulting from the normalized practices of contemporary society as well as harms brought on by technologies of power is not an easy task as it encircles our everyday life. In an aim to preserve human dignity, the normalized practices of contemporary socio-economic conditions as well as technologies of power that are changing the world as we know it must attract our attention in order for us to act upon it.

Streams

The call for papers is organized under streams pertaining to the titles of the European Group's Working Groups, and suggests a series of key themes for that working group in relation to the overarching conference theme. We do, however, also welcome papers that explore other critical trajectories pertaining to the wider intersections of the overarching conference theme and the concern(s) of the working groups. If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact one of the stream coordinators.

Please submit a short abstract of 150-300 words to the relevant stream coordinator *by 31 March 2018*.

| | |
|---|--|
| <p>The quest for growth and the issue of social harm</p> <p>Contact: katja.simoncic@pf.uni-lj.si</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The "normal", harmful practices of contemporary society - Technological progress and ethical issues - Privacy and data protection, a question of class? - Big data, Algorithms and Policing |
| <p>Crimes of the Powerful</p> <p>Contact: samantha.fletcher@open.ac.uk</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Privacy as a privilege of the powerful; - Critically examinations of technologies and the state-corporate relationship; - Accountability in global, transnational and/or digital economies; - From the local to the global - green criminology and the environment; - Resisting and contesting the crimes of the powerful: Activism and protest in the digital 'global' world |
| <p>Social harm/Zemiology</p> <p>Contact: C.Pantazis@bristol.ac.uk S.Pemberton.1@bham.ac.uk</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Uncovering harms of the sharing economy |
| <p>Fear and looting in the periphery: Approaching global crime and harm in (and from) the south(s)</p> <p>Contact: aleforero@ub.edu rfaria@direito.up.pt djf@unizar.es ignasi.bernard@gmail.com</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Technology and surveillance in the southern borders. - Controlling the (poor) migrants - Turning the predator into the prey: mapping and documenting harms and crimes to support resistance and social memory - Technologies and data treatment against global state-corporate crime. - Social torture and social murder under debtocracy - Synopticon, state repression and the (southern) violence of austerity |
| <p>Prison, Punishment and Detention</p> <p>Contact: Victoria.Canning@open.ac.uk</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Crimmigration; - Imprisonment and resistance; - Immigration detention; - Abolitionist perspectives on confinement; - Punishment; - Torture and state sanctioned violence |
| <p>Historical, philosophical and artistic approaches on the study on deviance and social control</p> <p>Contact: s.georgoulas@soc.aegean.gr</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - history of crime and social control - criminological theory - crime in arts and literature |

IV. News from the Prison, Punishment and Detention Working Group

Campaigns

Justice4Grenfell: Justice4Grenfell (J4G) is a community-led organisation, focused on the long term goal of obtaining justice for the bereaved families, survivors, evacuated residents and the wider local community, partnering with representative organisations. More info at: <https://justice4grenfell.org/>

Justice for the Moria 35: Please help Legal Centre Lesbos defend 35 refugees facing criminal trial following arbitrary arrests and police brutality after a peaceful refugee protest in Moria refugee camp. More info at:

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/justice-for-the-moria-35>

Conferences

Introduction to supporting prisoner resistance, 13 January, London:

<https://nothingiseverlost.wordpress.com/2018/01/03/introduction-to-supporting-prisoner-resistance-london-13-january/>

Conference on Race in Contemporary Denmark, 18 - 19 January 2018, Aalborg University Copenhagen: <http://www.en.cgs.aau.dk/research/conferences/race-in-contemporary-denmark/>

Call for papers: International Conference on Penal Abolitionism, London, 15-18 June 2018: <http://www.actionicopa.org/>

7th Ethnography and Qualitative Research Conference, Bergamo, Italy, 6-9 June 2018: http://www.etnografiaricercaqualitativa.it/?page_id=517

19th Nordic Migration Research Conference 2018, New (Im)mobilities: Migration and Race in the Era of Authoritarianism, 15-17 August 2018, in Norrköping, Sweden: <https://liu.se/forskning/19th-nordic-migration-conference-2018>

PPD Member Seminars

Victoria Canning, 10th January, 'Operation Deportation: Asylum and the Denial of Human Autonomy in Britain, Denmark and Sweden', 10th January, SOAS London: <https://www.soas.ac.uk/migrationdiaspora/seminarsevents/seminarseries/10jan2018-operation-deportation-asylum-and-the-denial-of-human-autonomy-in-britain-denmark-and-swede.html>

Azrini Wahidin, 28th February, 'Ex-combatants, Gender and Peace in Northern Ireland: Women, Political Protest and the Prison Experience', Teeside UK:

https://www.tees.ac.uk/sections/research/events_details.cfm?event_id=9459

PPD Publications

International Organisation for Migration, *Fatal Journeys Vol 3, Part 1: Improving Data on Missing Migrants*, freely available at <https://publications.iom.int/books/fatal-journeys-volume-3-part-1-improving-data-missing-migrants> and includes work by PPD member Ann Singleton.

Migrant Artists Mutual Aid, *Strategies for Survival, Recipes for Resistance*, available to buy here:

<http://www.newsfromnowhere.org.uk/books/DisplayBookInfo.php?ISBN=9781527217133>: This book explains some of the challenges that members of Migrant Artists

Mutual Aid have experienced seeking asylum in the North West of England. Using photographs, poetry and personal reflection, this book not only shows the many hurdles, but the strategies we take to survive through collective action and mutual aid.

PPD News

- Westminster course brings serving prisoners together with students:

<https://www.timeshighereducation.com/news/back-pentonville-ex-con-academic-takes-teaching-behind-bars>

- Congratulations to PPD member Bree Carlton on receiving best article with Marie Segrave in The Australian and New Zealand Journal of Criminology for their article [Rethinking Women's Post-Release Reintegration and 'Success'](#).

- From the co-ordinator: Many thanks to Agnieszka Martynowicz for her role as group Secretary over the past few years. Please join me in welcoming Simone Santorso to his new role with the group.

If you have any news on campaigns, conferences or publications please get in touch with us before March.

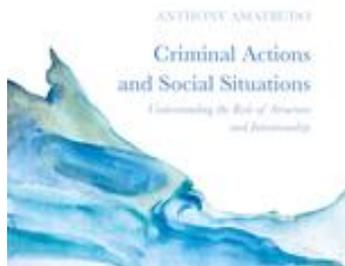
In the meantime, best wishes for 2018!

Vicky Canning (Co-ordinator) and Simone Santorso (Secretary)

[Prisons, Punishment and Detention Working Group](#)

V. News from Europe and Around the World

A new monograph from EG member Anthony Amatrudo is now available from <http://www.palgrave.com/us/book/9781137457301#aboutAuthors>



Anthony Amatrudo (2018) *Criminal Actions and Social Situations: Understanding the Role of Structure and Intentionality*. Palgrave Macmillan: London.

Abolitionist Futures: Building Social Justice Not Criminal Justice

International Conference on Penal Abolition

15-18 June 2018, London (UK)

Angela Davis posed the question “Are prisons obsolete?”

We say “YES!”

We invite communities and organisers to join an international gathering of people who are working to build a world without prisons. Over four days we will come together to strategise and debate, exchange ideas and build stronger relationships in our shared struggles.

We welcome proposals for:

- Workshops: skill-shares, strategy sessions, teach-ins, trainings, question-and-answer sessions, structured debates, activities for young people and children
- Presentations: talks, panels, roundtable discussions, reflections on organising successes and challenges, academic papers
- Art: music, poetry, dance, story-telling, film screenings, visual arts and infographic displays

We seek contributions that address the harms done by policing, prisons, immigration detention, surveillance and other forms of punishment.

We especially welcome sessions that focus on solutions and alternatives, including strategies for housing, health and well-being, economic and racial justice, community accountability, gender safety, youth empowerment, education, land rights and environment.

We encourage proposals that make connections between the harms of criminal justice and larger systems of oppression, such as racism, poverty, colonialism, gender and sexual injustice and disability-related discrimination.

We particularly welcome contributions from current and former prisoners, detainees and their families.

Conference format:

The conference will open with a public forum featuring local and international speakers on the Friday evening. Saturday and Sunday will be devoted to workshops, presentations, film screenings, artwork and other contributions. Monday will host a symposium for academic papers focussed on how academics can support movement building.

We invite contributions that relate to one of the four main themes below:

1. QUESTIONING

This theme is about questioning the assumption that prisons, police and surveillance can make us safe. It is about understanding the harm that criminal justice systems do to people, families and communities. It will ask how and why criminal justice institutions were put in place and whether society could exist without them.

2. RESISTING

This theme focuses on how criminal justice systems can be resisted by people both within and outside. It will consider how we have resisted throughout history, how people affected by criminal justice are resisting now and how we can build resistance for the future.

3. DISMANTLING

This theme explores how we can dismantle criminal justice institutions and change the ideas, attitudes and systems in society that reinforce punishment and imprisonment. It will look at what strategies we can use to move towards abolition and to improve the lives of people affected.

4. BUILDING

This theme is about building effective alternatives to prisons, policing and punishment – now and for the future. It will explore what societies could look like without prisons and other criminal justice institutions. It will look at how we can build safe, healthy and flourishing communities for everyone.

Instructions for Contributors:

Please send proposals for contributions by 15 February 2018 to:
icopalondon@gmail.com Please include:

1. Your name and email contact
2. A title for your session or contribution
3. Description of what your contribution will cover (200 words max)
4. Type of session (i.e. workshop, presentation, art or academic paper, etc.)
5. If you want a 1-hour, 1.5-hour or 2-hour time slot or space for a display
6. Which of the four themes your contribution most closely fits within

Proposals from prisoners, detainees and those without email access can be sent by post to: ICOPA 2018 c/o CCJS, 2 Langley Lane, Vauxhall, London SW8 1GB

<https://icopa2018.wordpress.com/>

The conference is hosted by: The Harm & Evidence Research Collaborative, The Open University; the Department of Criminology, Birkbeck University of London; and the Centre for Crime and Justice Studies.

Participating and co-organising groups; Action for Trans Health, Bent Bars Project, Black Lives Matter UK, Empty Cages Collective, INQUEST, JENGbA, Netpol, Race & Class collective, Reclaim Holloway, Reclaim Justice Network, North London Sisters Uncut, Smash IPP!, Stopwatch.

CALL FOR PAPERS
STATE VIOLENCE AT THE INTERSECTION
OF RACE AND MENTAL HEALTH:
LAW, LITERATURE AND THE IMAGE

BIRKBECK COLLEGE, 9 – 10 APRIL
A TWO-DAY SYMPOSIUM 'POLICING RACE, GENDER AND MENTAL HEALTH'
SYMPOSIUM

Sponsored by the Wellcome Trust
In collaboration with the Honourable Society of the Inner Temple

There are many ways to understand how the state regulates and controls those within its domain along and between the lines of race and mental health. Whilst these two categories cannot be disentangled from the myriad other ways in which we are called upon by the state, reading race and mental health together may allow us to revisit the ways the state positions many of us along the axes of atavistic and civilized, fragility and strength, capability and incapacity, malice and disinterest, redeemable and irredeemable. A close and creative analysis of these logics, their contemporary and historic manifestations, and forms of resistance to these such logics may help us to imagine the possibilities for a different type of future world. These will be the themes of this two-day symposium.

Whilst the first day is dedicated to engaging with policy and legal frameworks for understanding the interaction between the state (predominantly policing institutions) and civilians at the intersection of race, gender and mental health, the second day aims to examine 'the state' more broadly. Using a range of disciplinary perspectives from the humanities, arts and social sciences, the second day aims to critically examine the field of tension at the interface of the state logics of race and mental health. Both calls are open to any discipline, though the first may perhaps speak more to law, social science, criminology and politics while the second may speak more to the humanities. For particularly outstanding contributions and some plenary talks, there may be a possibility of reimbursement for travel to London.

Call 1: Policing at the intersection of race, gender & mental health

Papers should examine issues in policing at the intersection of race and mental health, and where relevant, gender and migrant status. These foci are not exclusive, but they will be important for focusing the conversations. The focus of the paper will be on legal, policy and social-scientific analysis; however, papers from other disciplines will be considered. Activists and advocates are welcome to submit contributions, and these must not necessarily take the form of academic papers. Potential paper topics include:

- Contemporary issues or cases in law, policy and advocacy
- Analysis of patterns, structures and logics of policing at this intersection
- Empirical study of policing at the intersection of race, gender and mental health

- Race, psychiatry and criminology
- Race, mental health and criminal justice
- Institutional racism, mental health and state violence
- Review of policing programmes and structures

Call 2: Imagining state encounters of race and mental health: Law, literature and the image

Proposals for this call should not be exclusively law or policy oriented. The approaches may include but are not limited to the medical humanities, critical race theory, literary or cultural criticism, visual arts and psychoanalysis. Topics may include (nonexhaustive):

- Creative ways of exploring the role of the state in engaging with people at the intersection of race and mental health
- analysis of photographs, film or music to engage with state logics the intersection of race and mental health
- connections between the state logics at the intersection of race and mental health with colonialism, empire and exploitation
- interdisciplinary approaches to analysing state logics at the intersection of race and mental health and exclusion based on gender, sexuality, religion, disability and migration status
- Exploration of utopian or dystopian futures

To submit a proposal, email an abstract of 500 words max. to Dr Eddie Bruce-Jones (e.bruce-jones@bbk.ac.uk) for Call 1 or Dr Monish Bhatia (m.bhatia@bbk.ac.uk) for Call 2 by Friday, 16th February. Early submissions may be confirmed prior to this deadline.



Albertine at the Police Doctor's Waiting Room by Christian Krogh

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:

europengroupcoordinator@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, and provide a web link (wherever possible).

If you want to subscribe to the newsletter, do not hesitate to send an email to europengroupcoordinator@gmail.com