EUROPEAN GROUP FOR THE STUDY OF DEVIANCE AND SOCIAL CONTROL

ESTABLISHED 1973

Coordinator: Ida Nafstad                        Secretary: Per J. Ystehede

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

NEWSLETTER No 1, 2017
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<p>| | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I.</td>
<td>(p. 3)</td>
<td>Editorial</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II.</td>
<td>(p. 4)</td>
<td>Lauritzen: Images of the Greenlandic Prison population – An Expanded Suicide?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>III.</td>
<td>(p. 9)</td>
<td>The 45th European Group Conference 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IV.</td>
<td>(p. 10)</td>
<td>Justice, Power and Resistance: The Journal of the European Group for the Study of Deviance and Social Control</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VII.</td>
<td>(p. 12)</td>
<td>News from Europe and Around the World</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Front image: Mountains in Southern Greenland, Photo: wiki commons
I. Editorial

Following up on Scott's articles in the latest issues of the EG Newsletter on suicides in UK prison, we this time move in space to prisons in another part of the world where prison may not only cause suffering and suicide for the individual but for an entire group of people. Annemette Nyborg Lauritzen, Greenland’s EG national representative, presents some of her research on prisons in Greenland.

The world’s largest island, Greenland (or Kalaalit Nunaat, meaning the land of the Kalaalit, the indigenous Greenlandic Inuit people), is a place few visit. With a population of approximately 57,000, it is the least densely populated country in the world. Even though being semi-autonomous, Greenland remains largely a Danish colony (from 1814). Many people around the world know Greenland through the fictional novel Miss Smilla’s Feeling for Snow by the Danish author Peter Høeg. Superficially being a work in the detective genre, the book may also be read as commenting upon and exploring Danish and Scandinavian post-colonialism. The islands colonial history is very much part of the fabric of Greenland’s current social problems and its prison population. As Annemette shows: “their reactions and crimes should be seen as an answer to the life situation they are in. From a bleak place in society with no perspective for the future, the only one they really hurt is themselves and their close family. In that way their reaction can be seen as a kind of expanded suicide.” For those familiar with the Scandinavian languages you can read more about Greenland in a newly released report about human rights in 2016 in Greenland here: http://menneskeret.dk/sites/menneskeret.dk/files/media/dokumenter/udgivelse_r/status/2015-16/groenland/menneskerettigheder_i_groenland_-_status_2016.pdf. A resume in English can be found here: http://menneskeret.dk/sites/menneskeret.dk/files/media/dokumenter/udgivelse_r/status/2015-16/groenland/gr_status2016_summary_a5.pdf

The 45th European Group Conference Uncovering Harms: States, corporations and organizations as criminals will this month be online here: http://www.europeangroup.org/?q=node/117. Please note that the dates for the conference have changed! The conference will be held in Mytilene on the 31st of August to the 3rd of September 2017.

In solidarity,
Ida and Per
II. Images of the Greenlandic Prison Population – An Expanded Suicide?

By: Annemette Nyborg Lauritzen

Formally there are no prisons in Greenland. People who have broken the law will be helped rather than punished. This was at least the purpose of the Greenlandic Criminal code, and for more than 50 years this has been widely believed, and frequently expressed in relation to the Greenlandic criminal justice system.

To compare how strictly a country punishes, one of the most commonly used measures is to compare the rate of prison population, inmates per 100.000 of the national population. If we take a look at the Nordic countries, their prison populations varies as it appears here (www.worldprisonbrief.com October 2016):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Inmates per 100,000</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Norway</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denmark</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finland</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
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<td>Sweden</td>
<td>53</td>
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<tr>
<td>Iceland</td>
<td>44</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Faroe Islands</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greenland</td>
<td>226</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In Greenland the prison population is 226 inmates per 100.000 citizens. More than 10 times higher than the Faroe Islands. When we use the official figure for the Greenlandic prison population, it is important to note that it only counts inmates in the Greenlandic institutions for delinquents. A very large group of the Greenlandic inmates are sent to safe custody for an indeterminate period in a Danish prison. This group is not included in these numbers. If we include the Greenlandic convicted inmates in the Danish Herstedvester-prison, the Greenlandic prison population is 270 inmates.

Greenland has no prisons – but a very huge prison population. In 2018 Greenland will get its first prison where inmates whom today are sent to the Danish prison will be incarcerated.

Until now imprisonment in Greenland has taken place in the so called open institutions for delinquents, which are based on an ideology with offender principle and principle of rehabilitation. The intention with these institutions was to help inmates to a future life without crime. The inmates were supposed to work in the town outside the institution during daytime, while serving their sentence in the institution. Over the years these institutions have developed to very closed
institutions, and today only very few inmates experience the principle of an open institution.

Today there are six institutions for delinquents in Greenland with room for 154 inmates. In autumn 2015 there were 122 inmates which correspond to occupancy of 80 percent.

In addition, as mentioned, we have the group of convicted inmates sent to prison in Denmark. In the Danish Herstedvester Prison 28 Greenlandic men are serving their sentences. They are judged by a Greenlandic Court and sent 4.000 km away from their home to serve their sentences in Denmark. To get a true picture of the Greenlandic Prison population we also need to count them in.

With the intention to get a detailed image of the Greenlandic Prison population I recently reviewed records of all the inmates, both those who are serving in Greenland and those who are sent to Denmark.

I have chosen to present a small part of the study in order to show what hides behind the Greenlandic inmate numbers. If we take a look at the gender ratio; in the Danish prison the group of Greenlandic inmates are only men. But in the Greenlandic institutions 15 percent of the inmates are women. In a Nordic perspective the female inmate ratio is relatively high. All women are convicted for homicide, attempted murder or violence.

Even though they represent a significantly higher percentage than in Scandinavia, we are talking about few women among many men. And that means that some women are forced to serve as the only woman among many men. In the capital, Nuuk, the institution has a section only for women. But in the smaller institutions around the country, women are serving as the only woman, or with few other women, together with many men.
In Greenland we have to take the geographical distances into account. It creates challenges for the Greenlandic Prison and Probation System. The question is, what will be the best for female inmates; to serve their sentences near their home and family, although they will be the only woman in the institution – or will it be better for them to be in an institution only for women, but far away from home?

**Forms of Crime**

When we take a look at the forms of crime, we see that 76 percent of the Greenlandic prison population are convicted of offenses against the person: Homicide, sexual crimes or violence.

![Bar chart showing the percentage of different types of crimes in Greenlandic prison population.]

To understand the Greenlandic crime picture, I find it important to try to find information about the victims. Who are the victims of these 76 percent of the Greenlandic inmates? And how are the relation between offenders and their victims?

For homicide and attempted homicide, in most cases the victim is the spouse or partner. For sexual crimes against children under 15 years, the victim is in most cases the offenders own children. Overall, the picture shows that we find the victim in intimate relationships.

**Background**

When I reviewed the records of the inmates my intention was to find information about how the inmates were raised in their childhood, and how their life was before they were convicted. Very soon I saw a kind of depressing pattern where a large proportion had suffered from problems related to poverty.
Before the imprisonment at least 45 percent were unemployed. At least 47 percent have in periods of their life been homeless. And at least 43 percent haven’t even graduated from primary school.

Almost a fifth of the Greenlandic prison population has family relations to former or current inmates. And more than half have previously been serving in an institution for delinquents. 56 percent are registered as having substance abuse problems with drugs or alcohol.

At the beginning of the year, the National Institute of Public Health published a report entitled; “The population in Greenland – living conditions, lifestyle and health”.

A part of this study focused on upbringing. The study shows that more than 70 percent of the Greenlandic population born in the mid-1960s or later had grown up in a home with alcohol problems, violence or sexual assaults. For the group of young people between 18 and 29 years the study shows that 33 percent have been sexually abused before the age of 18 years.

Several studies show the same. It is well-documented, that for some people it has been a hard time growing up in Greenland. Childhood has also been a difficult time for a large number of the prison population.

More than 40 percent of the Greenlandic prison population had grown up in a home with violence and alcohol or drug problems. More than 30 percent of the Greenlandic prison population have been in care away from their home. At least 41 percent of the 18 to 24 years-olds have been in residential institution.

At least 23 percent of the inmates have been sexually abused before the age of 18 years. And for the female inmates at least half have been sexually abused in their childhood.

For inmates convicted for sexual crimes against children we see that at least 51 percent themselves are sexually abused during their childhood.

Greenland is a polarized society with a limited welfare system. There is a lack of treatment staff. There is a lack of halfway houses for children grown up in residential institutions. And there is a lack of rehabilitation institutions.

A huge part of the Greenlandic prison population grew up in a violent family. During their childhood they have suffered great trauma without finding any help to get through this.

The question is if they react in conflict from known patterns. In absence of other solutions, they resort to actions they know from their childhood when it comes to solving conflicts, which is violence.

The majority of serious crimes in Greenland have been committed while the offender was intoxicated. And as we saw, more than the half of the prison population have substance abuse problems with drugs or alcohol. Their life situation of poverty, homelessness, and unemployment and as outcasts makes it reasonable to assume
that frustrations pile up. In combination with alcohol and without knowing alternatives to how to solve conflicts they often react with violence.

For a huge part of the Greenlandic Prison population it is not only other people they hurt. Many of them have hurt themselves, and they have several suicide attempts behind them. And many of them have lost close relatives to suicide. Unfortunately this is not unusual in Greenland. The suicide rate is among the highest in the world.

Maybe we should see the actions from the prison population as a reaction of powerlessness. They react with known solutions to their problems. Solutions where they harm themselves and people close to them.

Maybe their reactions and crimes should be seen as an answer to the life situation they are in. From a bleak place in society with no perspective for the future, the only one they really hurt is themselves and their close family. In that way their reaction can be seen as a kind of expanded suicide.

About the author:

Annemette Nyborg Lauritsen, is Associate Professor at Ilisimatusarfik (University of Greenland) and European Group National Representative.

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III. The 45th European Group Conference 2017

Uncovering Harms: States, corporations and organizations as criminals

Save the Date!
31 August-3 September

The 45th European Group Conference will be held in Mytilene, Lesbos, Greece

More information to come in the February Newsletter
IV. Justice, Power and Resistance

*The Journal of the European Group for the Study of Deviance and Social Control*

**Volunteers needed**

Justice, Power and Resistance – Journal Subscription and Distribution

**Coordinators needed**

To help manage the production of the Journal we need two volunteers:

A **Subscription Co-ordinator** to manage the Journal’s subscriptions, ensuring all requests are responded to, subscribers invoiced, payments recorded and the subscription list kept up to date. This person could be based anywhere as long as they have internet access.

A **Distribution Co-ordinator** to ensure that the Journal is distributed to all subscribers. Initially we anticipate this will be one person and **UK-based**. This role will involve taking delivery of all the copies of each edition, packing them into envelopes and using the subscription list provided by the Subs co-ordinator to address the envelopes and post the journals out. All the costs of postage and packaging will be reimbursed by EG Press (in advance if necessary).

For further details or to volunteer please get in touch with David (D.G.Scott@ljmu.ac.uk); Emma (bell.emma@neuf.fr) or John (jimmoore911@outlook.com)

**Justice, Power and Resistance – Reviewers wanted**

Future editions of the Journal will have, we hope, a lively and vibrant review section. However, this needs you, the members of the European Group, to contribute reviews. We are looking for a diverse range which will include the traditional academic book review but will also hopefully include reviews of a wider range of cultural events – films, fiction, poetry, plays, festivals etc. From 500 to 1550 words (possibly longer for review essays on more than one thing), these should be critical, engaging and informative.
If you are interested in writing a review, please contact the review editor – John Moore (jimmoore911@outlook.com) in the first instance to discuss your ideas and proposed review. We will try and get you copies of any books you particularly want to review. Also, if group members who have recently published material would like it to be reviewed, please let us know and we will see what we can do.

Don’t be shy – your Journal needs you!

Justice, Power and Resistance – activist contributions wanted

We are keen to publish accounts of activism from members in our new journal. These pieces can be short (1,000 to 1,500 words). The aim is to keep members of the Group informed about activist activities and the issues they are concerned with in the hope of forging new support networks. The European Group has a long history of connection to such activities and these links ought to be reflected in our journal.

If you are interested in submitting an account, please contact David (D.G.Scott@ljmu.ac.uk), Emma (bell.emma@neuf.fr) or John (jimmoore911@outlook.com)

Justice, Power and Resistance – Proof Readers wanted

We are looking for Group Members to volunteer to proof-read papers prior to the production of our journal. This is not intended to be part of the review process – that should have already been completed – but a final attempt to spot any spelling or grammatical errors. It is also a chance to read the papers before publication.

We will need you to keep to deadlines, so if you volunteer to be on our panel please be prepared to say no to any requests you are unable to turn around within the required timescale.

Hopefully, if we get a good panel of people, the task will not be too onerous.

For further details or to volunteer please get in touch with David (D.G.Scott@ljmu.ac.uk), Emma (bell.emma@neuf.fr) or John (jimmoore911@outlook.com)
V. News from Europe and Around the World

Basque Country

OSLS Vol 6, No 4 (2016): The Politics and Jurisprudence of Group Offending
01 Dec 2016

Issue edited by Anthony Amatrudo (Middlesex University. School of Law).

Anthony Amatrudo. Applying Analytic Reasoning to Clarify Intention and Responsibility in Joint Criminal Enterprise Cases. [+PDF]

Peter Squires. Voodoo Liability: Joint Enterprise Prosecution as an Aspect of Intensified Criminalisation. [+PDF]

Michael Welch. Clinical Torture: Drifting in the Atrocity Triangle. [+PDF]

Adam Edwards. Actors, Scripts, Scenes and Scenarios: Key Trends in Policy and Research on the Organisation of Serious Crimes. [+PDF]

Don Crewe. Gang: Culture. Eidos and Process. [+PDF]


James Hardie-Bick. Escaping the Self: Identity, Group Identification and Violence. [+PDF]

Antje du Bois-Pedain: Violent Dynamics: Exploring Responsibility-Attribution for Harms Inflicted During Spontaneous Group Violence. [+PDF]

Great Britain

Criminology posts and studentships
https://jobs.derby.ac.uk/vacancy.aspx?ref=0106-16-R
https://community.dur.ac.uk/nine-dtp/
https://peopleportal.shu.ac.uk/pls/shlive18recruit/erq_jobspec_details_form.jobspec?p_id=024782
International scientific conference

Big Data:
New Challenges for Law and Ethics
Faculty of Law, University of Ljubljana
Ljubljana, Slovenia
22-23 May 2017
Call for papers

“Big Data” is a phrase that has been used pervasively by the media and the lay public in the last several years. Amongst many other fields, social control and crime control in particular have become one of the key emerging use cases of big data. For example, police predictive software produce probability reports on criminality and assure us that by using this, societies will reduce crime. Other programs are looking for patterns that would help us predict a terrorist attack. Criminal justice systems are using technological solution too, for instance, to predict future crimes of those applying for bail or those to be sent on a parole. Underlying these and many other potential uses of big data in crime control, however, are a series of legal and ethical challenges relating to, among other things to privacy, discrimination, and presumption of innocence.

The leading questions the conference speaker will tackle are:

- how the operations of society, political systems, and, in particular, social control and crime control, is changing due to large data bases and algorithmic datamining and predicting powers?
- Will computers decide who to prosecute and who should be sent to jail?
- Which programmes and systems of algorithmic predictions are already in place in the criminal justice systems around the globe?
- Why this can be dangerous in terms of fundamental human rights and fundamental principles of democratic societies?
- Is the new GDPR a suitable framework for »algocracy«, i.e. rule by the algorithm?
- How can we propose solutions that may not hinder the development of the technology, but enable more nuanced, ethically and legally sound solutions to
be developed in the future?
We invite paper proposals from scholars across the social sciences and humanities studying big data challenges for law and ethics.

Themes of interest include (tentative list):
- big data and crime control
- predictive policing
- automated justice
- big data and discrimination
- big data and social sorting
- ethical dilemmas and predictive analytics
- big data and international law
- big data and personal data protection law
- big data and cyber espionage
- big data and citizen empowerment

Please submit proposals for papers (300 words) with your name, address and affiliation by February 28, 2017 to https://easychair.org/conferences/?conf=bdl2017

Participants will be notified by March 31, 2017.

The conference is organized within the research project »Law in the age of big data: Regulating privacy, transparency, secrecy and other competing values in the 21st century« carried out at the Institute of Criminology at the Faculty of Law Ljubljana and Faculty of Law University of Ljubljana, and coordinated by Assoc. Professor Aleš Završnik. It is funded by the Slovenian Research Agency.

**Venue**  
Faculty of Law, University of Ljubljana, Poljanski nasip 2, SI-1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia

**Contact**  
Assoc. Professor Aleš Završnik, LL.D., E: ales.zavrsnik@pf.uni-lj.si Institute of Criminology at the Faculty of Law Ljubljana, E: inst.crim@pf.uni-lj.si

There is a charge of 100 EUR for conference speakers.  
Early bird 75 EUR (until 10 April 2017) Please circulate widely.
New Publications

Dirty Money
On Financial Delinquency
VINCENZO RUGGIERO

Clarendon Studies in Criminology
Please feel free to contribute to this newsletter by sending any information that you think might be of interest to the Group to Ida/Per at: 
europeangroupcoordinator@gmail.com

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

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

If you want to subscribe to the newsletter, do not hesitate to send a mail to europeangroupcoordinator@gmail.com