Colloquium

Risk and vulnerability in prison populations: a global crisis

Friday 21 October 2016, 11am – 4pm

Room 101, 30 Russell Square, Birkbeck, University of London, WC1B 5DQ

Programme

10.30 Registration

11.00 Introduction and welcome: Catherine Heard, Director, ICPR World Prison Research Programme

11.10 Keynote speech: Andrew Coyle, ‘The global prison crisis: and an alternative future?’

11.30 Panel 1: Time to re-evaluate what we expect of prison? (Chair, Mike Hough)

  Dirk Van Zyl Smit
  Tapio Lappi-Seppälä
  Bill Bowring

12.30 Discussion

13.00 Lunch

14.00 Panel 2: Vulnerable and high risk prisoners: management and policy challenges (Chair, Juliet Lyon)

  Alison Liebling
  David Maguire
  Monica Lloyd
  Jamie Bennett

15.20 Discussion

15.40 Refreshments

16.00 Close

Attendees will be able buy our recent book, Imprisonment Worldwide (Coyle A, Fair H, Jacobson J, Walmsley R. Policy Press, June 2016) for £5.00. (Usual retail price £9.99.)
Speaker biographies and abstracts

Dr Jamie Bennett (Governor of HMP Grendon and Springhill and research associate at the University of Oxford’s Centre for Criminology) In addition to his role as governor of the UK’s only therapeutic prison (Grendon), he is editor of the Prison Service Journal and has published over 100 articles and reviews on prison issues. Will discuss therapeutic work that Grendon carries out with men who have committed serious offences. Will contextualise this as an alternative to increasingly globalised models of prison management that are based on intensified control and surveillance.

Prof Bill Bowring (Professor, School of Law, Birkbeck) International human rights law expert with in-depth knowledge of prison regimes in the Russian Federation, Turkey and other states. Will discuss developments in Russia and Turkey and their likely consequences in those states’ prisons; the ‘risk’ categorisation of political prisoners, and the use of isolation as investigative tactic.

Prof Andrew Coyle CMG (Emeritus Professor of Prison Studies, University of London). One of the co-authors of Imprisonment Worldwide, founding director of the International Centre for Prison Studies (which has since merged with ICPR), an internationally renowned expert on prison systems and, for several years, a prison governor.

Prof Alison Liebling (University of Cambridge, Director, Institute of Criminology’s Prisons Research Centre). Has carried out significant research on the effects of imprisonment, high security prisons, vulnerability to suicide, the use of small units for difficult prisoners, and suicide prevention strategies. Will discuss some of the implications of her recent work on regimes for the management of vulnerable prisoners and those who represent risks to themselves and others.

Monica Lloyd (C Psychol (Forens) University of Birmingham, School of Psychology). Senior Lecturer in Forensic Psychology, Research Fellow, University of Birmingham’s Centre for Research and Evidence on Security Threats. Monica will address the latest research on resilience and its implications for how prisoners may be helped to cope with restricted conditions and for staff who have to balance a duty of care against their responsibility for ensuring good order and discipline.

Dr David Maguire (School of Geography and the Environment, University of Oxford). David will discuss his recent PhD thesis, ‘Learning to Serve Time: Why So Many Working Class Men End Up in Prison’. This provides a cultural, class-based and gendered exploration of the links between masculinity, vulnerability and crime.

Dr Tapio Lappi-Seppälä (Director, Finnish National Research Institute of Legal Policy, Helsinki, visiting professor in criminology, sociology and law at the University of Helsinki) An expert in comparative criminology and punishment theory; has advised policy makers on penal and criminal law reform, juvenile justice reform and child welfare.

Prof Dirk Van Zyl Smit (Professor of Comparative and International Penal Law at the University of Nottingham). An expert on sentencing and alternatives to custody. Has advised on several jurisdictions including European states, Bangladesh, Malawi and South Africa. Is currently involved in a three year international comparative study of life imprisonment funded by the Leverhulme Trust.

Panel chairs

Juliet Lyon CBE (Visiting professor, Birkbeck School of Law and Chair of Independent Advisory Panel on Deaths in Custody. Until recently director of the Prison Reform Trust and Secretary General of Penal Reform International) Juliet acts in an independent advisory capacity and has been a member of government reviews including Corston on vulnerable women, Bradley on mental health and learning disability and the Social Exclusion Unit.

Prof Mike Hough (Professor of Criminology, Birkbeck School of Law, Associate Director ICPR). After working as a Home Office researcher, Mike established an academic policy research centre at London South Bank in 1994, which moved to King's College London in 2003, and to Birkbeck in 2010. Research interests include: procedural justice theory and public trust in justice; public perceptions of crime and justice; policing and police legitimacy; sentencing; rehabilitation and desistance.