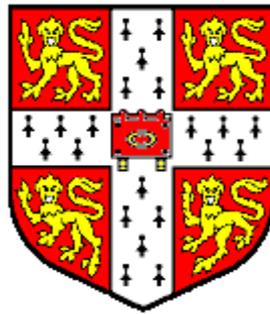


Prisons Research Centre
Institute of Criminology
University of Cambridge

Annual Report

October 2016



**PRISONS RESEARCH CENTRE ANNUAL
REPORT 2016**

The Cambridge Institute of Criminology Prisons Research Centre (PRC) was established under the Directorship of Alison Liebling in 2000, with a modest budget. It is now well established and attracts funding from NOMS, several research councils (for example, the Economic and Social Research Council, the European Research Council, the British Academy, Leverhulme and the Nuffield Foundation) and from other organisations. Its members include Professor Alison Liebling, Dr Ben Crewe (Deputy Director), seven Research Associates: Dr Ruth Armstrong, Dr Katherine Auty, Dr Susie Hulley, Dr Julie Laursen, Dr Kristian Mjaland, Anna Schliehe and Bethany Schmidt; and one College Lecturer, Dr Amy Ludlow. There are also currently twelve PhD students conducting individual research projects, often linked to other research going on in the Centre. Ezgi Taboglu acts as Centre Administrator and Eliza Price is the research co-ordinator for Dr Crewe's European Research Council study. Associate Members include Helen Arnold (a past Research Associate), Dr Adrian Grounds, Dr Joel Harvey (a former PhD student and Research Associate), Dr John Rynne, and Dr Charles Elliott. The centre hosts Visiting Scholars from time to time, and is provided with intellectual support and guidance by Professor Sir Anthony Bottoms, and other colleagues in the department. Further contributions are made by members of our steering group.¹

The Prisons Research Centre aims to provide a stimulating research environment in which a coherent strategy of high quality research can be pursued, and integration between funded and non-funded, and applied and theoretical projects can be facilitated. We investigate how prisons operate, socially, morally and operationally, how they are experienced, and the relationship between these moral and social qualities, and their effects. Members of the PRC team carry out, individually and collectively, methodologically rigorous and theoretically relevant field-based studies addressing problems of human and social values, punishment practices, and the organisation and effects of aspects of prison life. We strive to forge links with other prisons researchers, scholars in the broader fields of criminology and sociology, and with practitioners. Our vision is to develop a rigorous and person-centred model of social inquiry.

This Report provides summaries of on-going projects, including PhD theses, as well as a summary of new and recently funded research. The Annual Research conference takes place on October 19th-20th 2016. This year we are discussing 'values, methods and quality in prisons research: developing deep structures of practice'. This agenda coincides with the launching a British Academy 'Rising Stars' programme led by Amy Ludlow (see later). It will be attended by a range of academics from the UK and overseas, as well as practitioners.

¹ Professor Anthony Bottoms, Professor Richard Sparks, Professor Shadd Maruna, Professor Fergus McNeill, Peter Dawson, Michael Spurr, Gill Attrill, Jo Bailey, Paul Ibrahim, Ian Blakeman and Alan Scott.

Activities

Together with the Butler Trust, we organised and hosted the first ever **Prison Officer Summer School** in July 2016 ('Unsung Heroes: Prison Officers at their Best') in Cambridge, with the support of NOMS. This was a very special two-day event, involving 120 officer attendees, and an active tailored programme of 'POD' talks and work groups. The event was recorded so that all contributions are available on both the Butler Trust and Prisons Research Centre websites (<http://www.butlertrust.org.uk/summerschool2016/> and www.prc.crim.cam.ac.uk/). The feedback (which is also available on the Butler Trust website) was extraordinarily positive: for example, *'it was the most inspirational 2 days of my career if not my life!'*

We also hosted the second '**Butler Trust Research into Practice Day**' in September 2016 to coincide with the department's MSt course for senior practitioners, with research presentations from Professors Tony Ward and Fergus McNeil, in house team Alison Liebling, Katherine Auty and Ben Crewe, and from Governors Ian Blakeman and Pia Sinha. Sam Gyimah MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Prisons and Probation, gave his first public speech at the event. To close, Alison Liebling was honoured to be awarded the Perrie Award, for 'the person doing most to promote understanding of the work of the Prison Service and influencing policy', presented by Ian Mulholland. Both events were full of research content, were energising, and very well received.

Other activities include attendance at the second **Inspire Dialogue** event hosted by the former Archbishop of Canterbury in Magdelene College in September (AL), a well attended **roundtable event on prison suicide prevention** (AL, ACL). In September, Alison Liebling was one of the plenary speakers at the European Society of Criminology conference, and she has given a range of other talks during the year including at the Personality Disorder Pathway conference (HMP Whitemoor), the Conference on

Terrorism, Extremism and Mental Health Services, (University of Cambridge), 'New problems of risk, trust and recognition in high security prisons'

Ben Crewe has given invited talks for NOMS and the Scottish Prison Service, at the University of Oxford, the Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona, the Crime and Control Ethnography conference (University of Birmingham), and at the 'Emotions in criminal justice conference (De Montford University).

Contents

A. Recent and on-going research projects

1. Locating trust in a climate of fear: religion, moral status, prisoner leadership, and risk in maximum security prisons	5
2. Experiencing very long-term Imprisonment from young adulthood: identity, adaptation and penal legitimacy	11
3. 'MQPL +': analyses of quality, culture and values in individual prisons	13
4. Learning Together: education across walls	15
5. Penal policymaking and the prisoner experience: a comparative analysis	17
6. Conceptions of violence, friendship and legal consciousness among young people in the context of Joint Enterprise	17

B. Post-Doctoral and Other Research

Dr Ruth Armstrong	18
Dr Katherine Auty	19
Dr Amy Ludlow	20
Dr Julie Laursen	21
Dr Kristian Mjaland	22
Anna Schliehe	22
Dr Ryan J. Williams	22

C. PhD research

Aiden Cope - <i>Opening new prisons: a comparative study of the translation of political vision into operational reality</i>	24
Judith Gardom - <i>Reading in Prison: transformation narratives and everyday</i>	24

<i>practices</i>	
Alice levins – <i>The social experiences of sex offenders in prison</i>	25
Deborah Kant – <i>Under threat? A social and occupational history of prison officers.</i>	26
Ben Laws – <i>Emotions in prison: an exploration of space, emotion regulation and expression</i>	26
Dev Maitra – <i>Faith, race, gangs and ‘the street’ in prison: an inductive analysis</i>	27
Martha Morey - <i>The construction of prisoner masculinities in terms of work experiences</i>	28
Daniel Packham - <i>The experiences of former military service personnel in prison in England and Wales</i>	28
Bethany Schmidt - <i>Democratizing democracy: re-imagining prisoners as citizens through participatory governance.</i>	29
Kirstine Szifris - <i>Philosophy in Prisons: a grounded theory in personal development.</i>	30
Ezgi Taboglu - <i>Legal Literacy among Prisoners: Comparing legal education experiences in prisons in Turkey and England</i>	31
Fabio Tartarini - <i>The role of self-empowerment in the process of human flourishing in prison</i>	31
D. Appointments and Promotions	32

A. RECENT AND ONGOING PROJECTS

Locating trust in a climate of fear: religion, moral status, prisoner leadership, and risk in maximum security prisons - key findings from an innovative study²

Alison Liebling, Ruth Armstrong, Richard Bramwell and Ryan Williams

New developments in England and Wales have made the sociological study of hierarchies, leadership and power in prison essential. Religious life and identity have come to matter in distinctive ways, especially in maximum security prisons, where the population is increasingly and disproportionately Black, Asian and mixed heritage.

This ESRC-funded research was intended to be methodologically and conceptually transformative. It aimed to explore the 'problem of trust' in high security prisons in an open-minded and sociologically imaginative way. Using a combination of person-centred social science, appreciative inquiry and ethnography-led measurement, we found fundamental differences in the moral climates of apparently similar high security prisons, which led to significantly different levels of anger and alienation ('political charge') among prisoners. These differences shape what types of faith are expressed by prisoners in each environment as well as the kind of social organisation of prisoners in each. Reconceptualising 'the presenting problem' (a

² This research was funded by the ESRC's Transforming Social Science Scheme, award no. ES/L003120/1.

problem of risk, recognition and the 'moral self') as a problem of *trust* opened the way for close and meaningful dialogue with participants, as well as more accurate understanding and measurement of prison life and quality. The project has captured empirically, differences between 'disabling' environments that damage well-being and character, and 'enabling' environments that support human growth or flourishing, and the reduction of risk. One of the innovations in this study has been to include expertise in religious studies, and in hip-hop and cultural studies in the team.

Research aims

The aim of this study was to provide accurate, authentic and *generative* description of life, experience and social organisation in two high security prisons. We explored the role of trust, risk, religion, religious and moral identities, and leadership in particular.

More specific aims were:

- To diagnose and describe the moral and cultural environments of two high security prisons, and the quality of life in each.
- To understand the approach each prison took to risk, and to identify and describe the presence of 'intelligent trust' in risk management.
- To describe processes of recognition, misrecognition, fairness, kindness, forms of discrimination and their effects, and to explore the extent to which these experiences differed between prisons.

- To discover new and helpful ways of thinking about risk identification and management in prison.
- To investigate the utility and validity of several groundbreaking methodological approaches, which together constitute *person-centred social science*.

Because of the potentially catastrophic nature of the dangers involved, risk-related security activity is prominent in high security prisons. Questions are rarely asked about whether or not these activities are fair or proportionate or what the legitimate scope of security activities might be.

The five main working hypotheses were:

1. That high security prisons will differ empirically in their levels of trust. These differences can be measured and will have major effects.
2. Some intelligent trust will generate more constructive faith exploration/identities or 'spiritual capital', as well as personal growth, and lower the risk of violence; faith conversations will have a more open nature in prisons where some intelligent trust flows.
3. Higher levels of trust will characterise a prison, and become extended into staff groups and between departments as well as between all staff groups and prisoners.
4. Prisons will differ in the amount of 'political charge' they generate. 'Failed state prisons', paralysed by distrust, will generate more 'political charge' and (therefore) more dangerous, power-laden faith identities, as well as stagnation and damage to wellbeing and character.

5. Different types of prisoners will be esteemed, or rise to the top of the prisoner hierarchy, carrying influence, in these different kinds of climates.

Methods

The research took place in two of the five high security prisons in England: Full Sutton, in York and Frankland, in Durham, and an additional prison, Long Lartin. Appreciative Inquiry, shadowing and towards the second half of the fieldwork, long interviews, were conducted with 68 staff (37 at Full Sutton, and 31 at Frankland) and 100 prisoners (60 at Full Sutton and 40 at Frankland). Revised Measuring the Quality of Prison Life (MQPL) surveys (including new dimensions of 'trust', 'intelligent trust', 'hope' and 'political charge') were conducted with 632 staff attending full staff meetings and 506 randomly selected prisoners.

Of the 100 prisoners interviewed in the two main sites, 42 per cent were Black, or mixed race, and 21 per cent were Asian. 32 per cent were White. Almost half of the sample described themselves, or were described by the prison, as Muslim. A quarter of the sample were Christian, 13 per cent were atheist, and a handful were Buddhist or Rastafarian. Most had been convicted of serious crimes of violence involving drugs, gun or gang-related violence, or murder. A disproportionate number had been convicted on 'joint enterprise' charges, and were appealing against the conviction. Their sentences were long, and several were facing tariffs of 35 years or more. Two were serving natural life sentences. Several were many years beyond their tariff and still Category A. Others were at relatively early stages in their very long sentences. The sample included ten prisoners

who had been charged with an offence against the Terrorism Act (TACT offenders), a small number of whom had carried out acts of extreme violence. Most of this number (like the general population of TACT offenders) had been charged with planning or supporting terrorist activity rather than carrying acts out. Others in the sample (3) were regarded as 'at risk' (of radicalisation) in prison and were being monitored, either at the time of the interview or in the recent past, by the prison system's monthly risk management procedure. Several acts of violence which were framed in religious terms occurred between prisoners during the research.

In addition, and as an extension of the originally planned fieldwork requested by NOMS, a third high security prison (Long Lartin) was added to the project. 'MQPL +' fieldwork was also carried out at a high security 'core local' prison (Manchester), which, in addition to its Category B local population, housed prisoners on its one Category A wing who were unable to be located in any of the five high security prisons for sentenced prisoners due to inter-prisoner conflict.

Key Findings

1. The research hypotheses were broadly supported. The prisoner hierarchy had developed in new and complex ways, which required a more nuanced and contextualised analysis than that found in previous studies. Significant variations were found in most areas of the moral quality of prison life between the prisons, including in levels of intelligent trust and political charge. These differences were related to faith identities, personal development, and the handling of risk. Full Sutton was 'new penological' and tightly

controlled. Frankland was more 'old penological', with slightly more freedom of movement, a friendlier climate, and more opaque practices. Prisoners said they 'felt like a statistic' in Full Sutton but 'like a person' in (parts of) Frankland. The populations were slightly different, with longer tariffs in Full Sutton, more Black and mixed race prisoners (28-30% at FS compared with 17-20% at FL) and a higher proportion of Muslim prisoners at Full Sutton (22%) than in Frankland (which varied from 10-12% at the time of our research).

2. The prisons were most similar in their approach to the management of risk. The 'professionalisation' or 'bureaucratisation of risk' created knowledge gaps on the wings. Staff did not 'know' or 'recognise' prisoners as well as they had in previous studies. Both prisons approached internal security as an end in itself rather than as a means to social order, although there were exceptions to this at Frankland. Both prisons 'pursued security' via intelligence-gathering, restrictions on correspondence, thorough searching, control of movements, internal administrative processes (such as –'no one-to-one contact'), use of segregation, and reviews of security categorisation. All 'risks' were treated equally (that is, they brought about the same activities and practices). Neither prison downgraded prisoners more than occasionally. This was changing at Frankland towards the end of the research. Frankland's approach to counter-terrorism was, however, imaginative and person-centred.

3. Staff-prisoner relationships were somewhat distant in both establishments, but their tone and nature differed, with relational dimensions at Frankland rated significantly higher. At their best, staff practices were carefully grounded in a concept of 'emergent

personhood' (Smith 2010). Staff at both prisons were overwhelmingly (97%) white.

4. Trust existed in high security prisons, at low levels, but to very different degrees, and different forms of it materialised.³ The best forms of trust were used as a way to connect with an individual or facilitate growth in prisoners. Where trust was used intelligently, it could have life-affirming consequences. Trust was built in environments where cooperation over meaningful tasks was available. Areas such as certain key workshops (Braille, woodwork, horticulture), the gym, the chaplaincy, the art room, education more generally, and the music room, allowed forms of trust to emerge relationally, and around achievements. It was built in areas where processes permitted 'whole people' to be present and common projects to emerge.

5. Each prison's wings had different forms of social organization that ranged from high prisoner solidarity to more diffuse prisoner relationships, and these distinct organizational patterns related to differences in prisoners' relationships with staff. Four models of social structure or organisation were found, based on (i) 'power-seeking', characterised by competition among prisoners (ii) the 'good' or 'harmonious society', characterised by cooperation; (iii) a 'rehabilitative culture', which was collaborative; and iv) 'the good life': which was relaxed but could stray into the somewhat collusive. Different forms of leadership (from

³ At Full Sutton the mean score on trust was 2.65 (of 5); at Frankland it was 2.85; At Full Sutton the mean score on intelligent trust was 2.57; at Frankland, it was 2.91 (an almost neutral score). These differences are statistically significant.

the violent to the cooperative) emerged in each environment. These forms of leadership were related to the expression and formation of different kinds of faith identity (from a narrow, norm-enforcing kind to a more diffuse, exploratory kind).

6. The new 10-item dimension of 'political charge' (anger and alienation) worked well in the project and scores varied significantly.⁴ It was highest in Full Sutton (reflected by the lowest score of 2.61), lower at Long Lartin (2.72), and lowest in Frankland (at 2.94, an almost neutral score). These differences were felt by the research team as well as clearly described by prisoners – so Full Sutton had a more charged atmosphere; Long Lartin felt 'lighter', and, at Frankland, prisoners were less tense, they talked about being treated as a person, and they engaged more willingly with staff. Four MQPL dimensions (broadly reflecting the concept of legitimacy) accounted for 65 per cent of the variance in political charge: 'bureaucratic legitimacy'; 'humanity'; 'decency'; and 'fairness'. Political charge arose for a range of reasons, including feelings of being treated poorly or unfairly. Lack of access to family, frustration over complex sentence and security downgrading arrangements, and location far from home, also contributed. Feeling unrecognized or misrepresented, or portrayed as "a really dangerous person", using 'exaggerated evidence' was provocative. Political charge was directed towards the 'system', towards politicians, and the country. Hatred towards an abstract system was sometimes framed in religious language.

⁴ Items include, 'my time in prison has made me angry', 'I dislike this prison's treatment of people like me', and 'I have seen things happen to other prisoners in here that are simply wrong.'

7. Most of the prisoners in our research identified themselves as members of a religious group. Religion mostly facilitated personal transformation and growth and helped prisoners to cope with the pains of imprisonment. Religion could also facilitate conflict and violence under a variety of conditions. For Muslim prisoners, practicing their faith could be risky because it was sometimes misconstrued as an indicator of risk, which had negative consequences for progression and quality of life. There was confusion about what constituted 'legitimate religious practice' and what might constitute 'risk'. Most of the converts to Islam whom we interviewed were making a deliberate choice and could be accurately described as seekers.

8. Power dynamics, as a well as dominant norms about Islam held by the 'powerful', or those who chose to uphold 'prison Islam', could lead to conflict and violence.

9. Making 'progress' (that is achieving a security downgrade or transfer out in order to take steps towards release) was difficult in a high security prison, particularly at the early stages of long or indeterminate sentences, but also well beyond this. Reducing risk was mainly achievable via the successful completion of a small number of accredited offending behaviour courses, but prisoners' sentence plans often required much more than this, and 'the goal posts frequently changed'. Methods of achieving access to courses that were accredited to reduce risk, and specified in sentence plans, were opaque. There were long waiting lists, or courses were not available. Many prisoners had no idea how to move forward, and little hope that they would be able to achieve this. Few staff, and fewer prisoners,

believed in the reliability or effectiveness of the systems that were in place to achieve change (that is, in the sentence planning process or in the effectiveness or relevance of offender behaviour programmes). There were no courses available in the HSE for some types of prisoners (such as international drug smugglers) to reduce their risk. Long term Category A prisoners often became 'stuck', describing a sense of hopelessness and frustration.

10. The flow of trust was structured by 'race' in both prisons, with members of different ethnic groups experiencing significantly different treatment by officers. While, in one prison, white prisoners complained about limitations on family contact, being humiliated by their treatment in the prison and the impersonality through which officers dealt with prisoners, these experiences were intensified amongst black prisoners, who on average spent more time on Category A, were given significantly fewer opportunities to work in trusted positions in comparison with white prisoners, and were more likely to be subject to local security measures limiting contact with non-uniformed staff. In the other prison, the reported differences in the experiences of black and white prisoners were much less. Black prisoners were aware of systematic unequal treatment in the second prison, but they were more likely to see this as 'discrimination' or unwitting racism and less likely to criticise the entire prison as being a 'racist jail' because of the friendlier relationships in general.

11. Managers' responses to the official measures of the unequal treatment and outcomes experienced by different ethnic groups in both prisons, were focused around the management of 'prisoners' perceptions' and

the need to maintain confidence amongst staff. Both managers and staff were sensitive to accusations of individual or institutional racism. Where officers emphasised care, the ability to approach prisoners with humanity, and a willingness to understand different perspectives, levels of trust between all prisoners and officers increased, and the differences between the experiences of members of different ethnic groups within the prison decreased. Lack of 'cultural' engagement produced higher risks and could disrupt the aim of reducing reoffending for particular groups of prisoners.

12. The flow of trust was also structured by religion. Particular ethnic identities interacted with particular faith identities in different ways in each prison. In general, those with either non-white or non-Christian identities had poorer experiences than white Christian prisoners. However, the suspicion through which Muslims, for example, were viewed was moderated by ethnicity. Being Asian generally improved the experiences of Muslim prisoners. On the other hand being black tended to intensify staff suspicions as well as prisoners' perceptions of their unequal treatment.

13. The moral identity as well as professional priorities of Governors mattered in shaping staff attitudes and practices. Almost everything Governors did (including the selection of individual managers for key roles) provided either support for, or undermined, an area or aspect of work. Senior managers could be 'enablers, leaders and catalysts', 'competent-limited', or 'blockers'. Many outstanding staff had leadership qualities, and made a difference, despite not occupying leadership positions. The best Governors were 'moral dualists' or demonstrated 'high

Integrative Complexity' (i.e. were complex thinkers).

14. Prisoners engaged with the research project meaningfully, many approaching the team on wings, or elsewhere in the prison ('are you the guys doing this study of trust?'). Apparently unreachable/'dangerous' prisoners also engaged in meaningful dialogue once convinced that they would be approached as more than their ascribed identity. Many of these prisoners told complex stories of (for example) their past or present propensity to use violence, and (in the case of prisoners regarded as extremists) were poised between confirmation of or disillusionment with their hatred or anger. Positive change was more likely in 'enabling' environments. After we left the two main prison sites, prisoners organised themselves to continue a dialogue, including with staff and managers, about trust and the building of relationships.

15. Prisons with more legitimate climates tended to lead to fewer threats to order, and better orientations towards faith (that is, there were fewer attractions presented by faith identities linked to 'political charge'). Combining risk assessment with 'intelligent trust' based on a broad concept of 'emergent personhood', and grounded in knowledgeable relationships, would *reduce* as well as manage risk more effectively. The fieldwork and basic analysis is complete, but further analysis of the qualitative data, and the preparation of publications, is now underway. Several events have been organised with the High Security Directorate and others in NOMS to share and build on the findings. They have been used to inform the High Security Estate's Rehabilitative Culture programme.

Publications

Liebling, A., Armstrong, R., Bramwell, R. and Williams, R. (2015) 'Locating trust in a climate of fear: religion, moral status, prisoner leadership, and risk in maximum security prisons - key findings'. Final report submitted to ESRC (available from authors).

Liebling, A. (2015) 'Appreciative inquiry, generative theory, and the 'failed state' prison', in J. Miller and W. Palacios, (eds) *Qualitative Research in Criminology. Advances in Criminological Theory*. Transaction Publishers: New Brunswick. Vol 20, pp 251-69.

Liebling, A., Arnold, H., and Straub, C. (2015) 'Prisons Research Beyond the Conventional: Dialogue, 'Creating Miracles' and Staying Sane in a maximum security prison', Drake, D., Earle, R., & Sloan, J. (eds) *International Handbook of Prison Ethnography*, Palgrave MacMillan.

Liebling, A. (2016) 'The Dalai Lama, prisons, and prison research: A call for trust, a 'proper sense of fear', dialogue, curiosity and love', *Prison Service Journal*. 225: 58-63.

Liebling, A. (2016) 'High Security prisons in England and Wales: Principles and practice', in Jewkes, Y., Bennett, J. and Crewe, B. (eds.) *The Handbook on Prisons* (second edition), London: Routledge.

Experiencing very long-term imprisonment from young adulthood: identity, adaptation and penal legitimacy

**Ben Crewe, Susie Hulley and
Serena Wright**

At the end of 2010, there were over 2,300 prisoners in England and Wales serving indeterminate sentences of at least 15 years, and in the previous decade, the number of offenders who received a minimum tariff of 15 years or more increased by 240%. Around the same period (2003-2012), the average tariff of a mandatory life sentence for murder rose from 12.5 years to 21.1 years. Moreover, these sentences are being more frequently given to prisoners who are barely adult - at the end of 2010, almost 15% (326) of prisoners serving indeterminate sentences of at least 15 years had entered prison when aged 21 years *and under*. Accordingly, a growing number of prisoners are serving sentences that, a generation ago, were considered highly unusual and barely survivable.

This study, funded by the Economic and Social Research Council with additional funding from the Newton Trust, focuses on the lived experience of male and female prisoners serving very long life sentences (i.e. with a tariff of 15 years or more) received when aged 25 or under.

The three primary research questions are as follows:

- How do prisoners serving very long life sentences from an early age make sense of and psychologically manage their sentences? What problems do they experience, and how do they cope with these problems?
- How do they adapt socially to the demands of the environment and build a life for themselves while imprisoned over many years? On what basis do they form relationships with other prisoners and with prison staff?
- How do such long sentences shape perceptions of penal legitimacy, with what implications for adaptation and compliance?

The study has adopted a mixed-methods design, involving long interviews with 126 male and 21 female prisoners (around an eighth of the population of interest) and survey data from 294 male prisoners and 19 female prisoners, in 24 institutions overall. All participants had been convicted of murder and were serving mandatory life sentences.

In the last twelve months, we have published three papers each focusing on different aspects of the findings, with another under review.

- **'Re-examining the problems of long-term imprisonment'** presents the findings from the men's survey, while making use of interview data to interpret these findings. The problems of long-term imprisonment that were experienced as most severe related primarily to missing others outside prison and feeling that one's life was being lost or wasted. As has been found in similar studies, 'Problem severity' was highest among prisoners who were at the early stage of their sentence. The fact that problem severity did not increase by sentence stage has been interpreted in previous studies as evidence that long-term imprisonment does not have cumulative or deleterious effects. However, interview data suggested that long-term prisoners were far from untouched by their experience. Most reported that they had changed profoundly as a result of having to cope within the problems of the prison environment over an extended time period. That is, their coping mechanisms themselves appeared to be, in some senses, debilitating. Many appeared to have become 'over-adapted' to the environment – emotionally over-controlled; socially withdrawn, and so on - in ways that might be maladaptive for life after release (see Liem and Kunst 2013 on 'post-incarceration syndrome').
- **'Suppression, denial, sublimation: Defending against the initial pains of very long life sentences'** adopted the psychoanalytic language of 'defence mechanisms of the ego' to make sense of prisoners' responses to the early months and years of their sentences. Drawing on interviews with both male and female participants, the paper describes these initial reactions, specifically 'entry shock', 'temporal vertigo', and 'intrusive recollections'. It goes on to describe the most common mechanisms employed to defend against these experiences: 'suppression', 'denial', and 'sublimation', highlighting the ways in which prisoners' adaptations were shaped by a distinctive *offence-time* nexus i.e being convicted of the specific offence of murder, and confronting a very long period of incarceration.
- **'Swimming with the Tide: Adapting to Long-Term Imprisonment'** draws on survey and interview data to examine the transition between the early sentence phase and subsequent stages. It identifies five key transitions: *coming to terms with the sentence; finding ways of managing time; coming to terms with the offence; and finding ways of making the sentence meaningful and constructive*. The article argues that most prisoners demonstrated a shift from a form of agency that was reactive, to one that was productive, as they learned to 'swim with', rather than against, the tide of their situation.
- **'The Gendered Pains of Imprisonment'** compares and seeks to explain differences between the male and female participants in terms of the problems that they reported. First, it explains that the women experienced their sentences as acutely more painful than their male counterparts. Drawing primarily on the narratives of the female prisoners, it goes on to examine the issues that were of particular salience to them: loss of contact with family members; issues relating to feelings of powerlessness, constrained autonomy and lack of control; problems relating to psychological wellbeing and mental health; and matters of trust, privacy and intimacy. The article concludes that understanding how these women experienced their sentences was not possible without grasping the multiplicity of abuse that the great majority had experienced

in the community, or without recognising their emotional commitments and biographies.

The research team has continued to disseminate the findings from this study related to Joint Enterprise. In addition to the oral and written evidence submitted to the Justice Committee's second inquiry on Joint Enterprise in 2014, further findings have been presented at the British Society of Criminology conference and a Liverpool University event attended by Lord Toulson (Justice of the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom and member of the bench in the recent case *R V Jogee*, in which the law on Joint Enterprise was revised).

A research monograph, based on the study, will be published by Palgrave MacMillan in 2017.

Publications

Crewe, B., Hulley, S., and Wright, S. (2014). Written evidence submitted to the House of Commons Justice Committee on Joint Enterprise. Available online

Crewe, B., Liebling, A., Padfield, N. and Virgo, G. (2015) 'Joint Enterprise: the implications of an unfair and unclear law', *Criminal Law Review*, 4: 252-269.

Crewe, B., Hulley, S., Wright, S. (2016), 'Swimming with the Tide: Adapting to Long-Term Imprisonment', *Justice Quarterly*, Published online

Crewe, B., Hulley, S., and Wright, S. (under review), 'The Gendered Pains of Imprisonment'.

Hulley, S. Crewe, B. and Wright, S. (2016), 'Re-examining the problems of long-term imprisonment', *The British Journal of Criminology*, 56(4): 769-792.

Wright, S., Crewe, B., and Hulley, S. (2016), 'Suppression, denial, sublimation: Defending against the initial pains of very long life

sentences', *Theoretical Criminology*, Available online

'MQPL +': Analyses of quality, culture, and values in individual prisons

During 2011, the PRC team refined a methodology we refer to as 'MQPL +'. This arose in response to an increasing number of requests from individual establishments for a 'cultural and quality' diagnosis, often at short notice. The methodology reflects the way in which we tend to conduct MQPL surveys if we are doing this as part of a larger research project, with added qualitative components.

MQPL+ is an in-depth, intensively-conducted, descriptive analysis of the prison establishment, as experienced by prisoners and staff. It makes use of the conceptually validated version of the Measuring the Quality of Prison Life (MQPL) and Staff Quality of Life (SQL) surveys (also in use by NOMS), alongside detailed observation, and appreciative interviews with staff and prisoners. The research exercise is conducted by a highly experienced team of around six members of the research centre, who spend at least 70 person days conducting the work. Data analysis is carried out collaboratively, with data from many other prisons in mind, so that any cultural diagnosis of the prison is well informed and fully contextual. The empirical data and the written report provide senior managers with a thorough basis for understanding and improvement, and an assessment of effectiveness and progress.

Each study is treated in a cumulative way, adding to our developing expertise in understanding and assessing prison quality and culture. In the last five years, we have conducted MQPL+ exercises at Brinsford, Birmingham (three times), Aylesbury (three times), Full Sutton (twice), Long Lartin, Frankland, Manchester, Oakwood, Brixton,

Durham, Humber, Rochester, and Doncaster. In addition, the Scottish Prison Service has commissioned the PRC to conduct a longitudinal quality of life study in their newly opened prison, HMP Grampian, the UK's first 'community-facing' prison, holding men, women, and young offenders. Fieldwork for this MQPL+ study was conducted in March 2015 and October 2016, with a final exercise to take place in October 2017. The PRC team also conducted the first MQPL+ exercise in an Australian prison in Brisbane, Queensland, in October 2015. A second Australian MQPL+ study is planned for 2018 in Victoria's Ravenhall prison, a privately managed establishment to be opened in 2017.

These intensive research exercises are helping us to understand how prisons change over time, the relationship between staff and prisoner quality of life, the relative strengths and weaknesses of public, private, and benchmarked prisons, and the distinctive characteristics of (for example) high-security prisons, young offender institutions, and special units. An increasing number of requests have come to us from international jurisdictions wanting to use or adapt the MQPL survey for reform purposes (e.g. in Haiti, Spain, Canada, Australia, Kosovo, Sweden, and Belgium). We try to support these requests wherever possible.

Analysis of the results is on-going (reports have been written for and distributed to each establishment). We continue to explore the ways in which MQPL+ data can assist us in understanding institutional change trajectories, especially as national policy evolves, benchmarking processes settle in, new challenges arise, and local practices adapt. Our exercises in recent months have enabled us to develop our previous conceptualisations of penal power, taking into account reductions in staffing levels and the loss of experienced staff in public sector prisons, which appear to be leading to more 'absent' forms of staff authority. In both sectors, we are seeing a greater degree of power-sharing between

officers and prisoners, in forms that range from careful delegation to near abdication of staff power. The prisoner experience is becoming increasingly differentiated, with those who are meek and vulnerable often finding themselves neglected on the wings, while others are able to access a much greater level of staff attention. Prisoners are also describing the difficulties of making their voices heard without resorting to extreme measures, and the ways in which living in chaotic, unpredictable environments generates distress, despondency and disengagement. Overall, these research exercises are helping us to explore the connections between changes in penal policy, staff attitudes and behaviour, and prisoner hierarchies, experiences and outcomes.

We have recently completed the first large-scale analysis of the relationship between prison moral and social climate and reoffending. It relates data from the Measuring the Quality of Prison Life (MQPL) survey carried out in all prisons in England and Wales to official data on proven reoffending from the Ministry of Justice. The sample contains data from 224 prison surveys conducted between 2009 and 2013 (a total of 24,508 prisoners completed the survey). Results indicate that several of the MQPL dimensions were found to be related to rates of proven reoffending for each prison. As the MQPL survey measures the moral, relational and organisational quality of prison life for prisoners, overall these findings suggest that higher moral quality of life, or higher interior legitimacy, supports better outcomes for prisoners on release. This is consistent with theoretical expectations about the links between legitimacy, engagement in prison programmes, and compliance with the law.

Publications

Liebling, A. and Auty, K. (submitted) 'Exploring the Relationship between Prison Social Climate and Reoffending'

Crewe, B. and **Liebling, A.** (in press) 'Reconfiguring penal power', in Liebling, A., McAra, L. and Maruna, S. (eds.) *The Oxford Handbook of Criminology*, 6th edn. Oxford: OUP.

Learning Together: education across walls

Ruth Armstrong and Amy Ludlow

In January 2015, Amy Ludlow and Ruth Armstrong obtained support from the University's Teaching and Learning Innovation Fund to pilot a new educational initiative called Learning Together whereby 12 graduate students from the Institute of Criminology study a short course in criminology alongside 12 prisoner students at HMP Grendon. Together, and with colleague from the Institute of Criminology as lecturers and small group facilitators, Learning Together students explore material ranging from legitimacy to desistance. To complete the course, students participate in a group project where they work together to reimagine one aspect of the criminal justice system using the theory they have learned on the course. They also each write a reflective essay about their experiences of the course in light of their new theoretical knowledge. A celebration of achievement is held for all of the students at the end of the course, informed by research on rituals of redemption, desistance, and the sentence planning process.

The design and delivery of Learning Together has been research and values led. We have drawn upon the powerful theoretical coincidences between how people learn well, how people move away from crime and the sorts of interactions that reduce stigma and prejudice. Our first year pilot evaluation, published in 2016 in the *Prison Service Journal*, suggested that Learning Together could make a positive contribution to individual, institutional and broader social transformation. Building on these findings, and responding to interest from colleagues at other universities and in other

prisons, a roundtable was held in Cambridge in November 2015 with 50 practitioners and academics from universities and prisons around the UK. This led to the formation of new partnerships e.g. between Leeds Beckett University and HMP Full Sutton, and De Montfort University and HMP Gartree. The second criminology course began in January 2016, enhanced by the presence of peer mentors who supported new learners in finding their academic voice within the learning space.

Based on feedback from our students about how best to assess the course, it is being evaluated through the use of participatory narrative inquiry. The themes that have emerged from this co-produced analysis have informed a 'story form' which will be used in upcoming courses to qualitatively and quantitatively capture students, mentors, facilitators, lecturers experiences of the course each week as they engage with it. Story Forms will also be available for other people who interact with the course on the wing or in the prison more broadly. These and other measures should provide considerable insight about processes of change and the contexts within which these changes take place.

In February 2016, Learning Together received an ESRC Impact Acceleration Funding to host a conference and make a short film about its work. The conference took place in May and was attended by 120 practitioners and academics from around the country. Day one, hosted by HMP Grendon, was led by our students, who gave delegates an experience of Learning Together, through a lecture about the theory underpinning the course, and facilitating small groups made up of senior criminal justice managers and academics. The second day, held at St John's college, Cambridge, was a collaborative reflection on what has been learned throughout the course and some of the challenges of inter-institutional partnership working. One of the panels, on release on temporary license from prison, was chaired by one of the Grendon students from the 2015

course.

Over the summer, Ruth and Amy worked with three filmmakers and a team of nine prisoners in HMP Springhill to co-create a short film about Learning Together for use throughout the prison estate. This film will premiere at the London Learning Together launch in HMP Brixton on 13 October, which will be attended by the Justice Secretary and 100 practitioners and academics. They also worked collaboratively with two Learning Together students, employed as research assistants, to analyse data about experiences of life on death row for a forthcoming publication.

Learning Together partnerships have now been established between over 20 prisons and universities nationally. The University of Cambridge will run three courses in 2016: criminology and English literature at HMP Grendon, and philosophy and theology at HMP Whitemoor. Ruth and Amy have worked with Prisoners' Education Trust to design a forum through which prison and university partnerships can support best practice, and they have established PUPiL (the Prison University Partnerships in Learning) as a platform for learning and support for institutions involved in this work. Earlier this year, Sally Coates' review of prison education highlighted Learning Together as an example of best practice.

Learning Together has also garnered international interest, leading to visits to prisons and universities interested in partnership working in Mexico and Australia. The first Australian Learning Together courses will start in Queensland in March 2017.

Alongside our colleague, Dr Ingrid Obsuth, Ruth and Amy received further funding from the University's Teaching and Learning Innovations Fund in 2016 to design and deliver a course for university and prison staff called 'Engage in Learning'. The course seeks to explore with prison and university staff some of the

theoretical knowledge about the best ways to engage people in learning. It will be delivered to an initial cohort of ten prison staff and ten academic staff, with the aim that this learning will inform prison officer training and academic supervision training within universities.

Awards

University of Cambridge Public Engagement Award

Prisoner Learning Alliance Inspirational Individuals Award

Butler Trust Award nomination

Publications

Armstrong, R. and Ludlow, A., (2016) 'Educational Partnerships Between Universities and Prisons: How Learning Together can be Individually, Socially and Institutionally Transformative' *Prison Service Journal*, 225: 9-17

Ludlow, A., Armstrong, R. and Bartels, L. (forthcoming, 2016) 'Learning Together: theory, reflexivity and localism in prison and university partnerships' *Journal of Prison Education and Reentry*.

Gareth, **Ruth and Amy** (2016) Book Review: Prisoner Reentry at Work: Adding Business to the Mix by M. Delgado, *Howard Journal of Crime and Justice* 55 (1-2), 255-6.

Jon, Gareth, Ellie, **Amy, Ruth**, Shadd (forthcoming, 2017) 'Spending Time Under Sentence of Death' in H. Toch and J. Acker and V. Bonventre (eds) *Living on Death Row* (American Psychological Association Books).

Penal policymaking and the prisoner experience: a comparative analysis

Ben Crewe, Kristian Mjaland, Julie Laursen, Anna Schliehe, Alice Ievins and Eliza Preece

Funded by the European Research Council, this research programme is a comparative analysis of policymaking and prisoner experiences in England & Wales and Norway. Its primary goal is to bring into relief the nature and experience of penalty in countries that are considered 'exclusionary' (or 'neo-liberal') and 'inclusionary' (or 'social-democratic') respectively in their social and penal practices. Specifically, a key objective of the research is to test empirically the assumptions of the Nordic exceptionalism thesis i.e. the claim that penal practices in the Nordic countries are milder and more humane than those in other nations.

Conceptually the research draws upon a framework that has been developed to understand different aspects of the prison experience, formed around the concepts of the 'depth', 'weight', 'tightness' and 'breadth' of imprisonment. This framework seeks to move beyond the kinds of metrics (such as imprisonment rates and material conditions) that have often been used to indicate levels of punitiveness and penal harshness. The research also foregrounds the roles of shame, stigma and 'penal consciousness' – the prisoner's sense of what is being done to him or her through state punishment – in shaping prisoners' attitudes and adaptations to imprisonment.

The project is subdivided into four sub-studies, each of which will take place in both jurisdictions: an exploration of processes of entry into and exit from the prison system; ethnographic analyses of the exercise of and responses to penal power; a study of the experience of 'deep-end' custody; and an analysis of policy formation and the penal field. The entry/exit sub-study is the furthest developed in terms of research design and

fieldwork planning. This sub-study is divided into three phases – entry, exit, and post-release – and will involve mainstream male prisoners, female prisoners and sex offenders, many of whom will be followed longitudinally as they are received into and discharged from custody. The ethnographic sub-study focusses on two prisoner populations that were never fully included in the 'golden era of prison sociology' or have been marginalised from mainstream penological theorising. The aim is to conduct four-month ethnographies in prisons holding (a) women and (b) sex offenders in both jurisdictions. The third sub-study looks at the treatment of prisoners in the most secure and , restrictive corners of each system – in England and Wales, the Close Supervision Centres, and in Norway, a unit holding prisoners on preventative detention as well as interviews with prisoners held in long-term isolation. The final sub-study will involve interviews with key players within the penal field in each jurisdiction.

Conceptions of violence, friendship and legal consciousness among young people in the context of Joint Enterprise

Susie Hulley

Dr Susie Hulley has recently been awarded ESRC funding to lead a research team on a two-year study, with Dr Tara Young from the University of Kent as Co-Investigator. The study will examine and compare the ways in which notions of friendship and collective violence are conceived by young people and criminal justice practitioners in the context of Joint Enterprise, and will consider young people's understandings of the legal consequences of collective violence.

As a well-established legal doctrine dating back to the 16th Century, Joint Enterprise (a term used to describe a form of secondary liability) has been applied to the contemporary issue of

'gang' violence. In this context, it has been proposed that holding to account all those present at, or implicated in, such incidents will deter collective violence and break the strong ties of loyalty found in some friendship groups. Still, evidence from the long-term prisoner study undertaken by Susie, Ben Crewe and Serena Wright, suggests that there is a discrepancy between the rhetoric – of what those involved in the Criminal Justice System hope the doctrine of Joint Enterprise can achieve – and the impact of Joint Enterprise on young people's behaviour, in the context of their lived experiences. In fact, very little is known about the use of Joint Enterprise in practice and its impact, as research in this area is scarce. This is despite the spotlight being placed on Joint Enterprise recently by political and legal institutions, specifically the House of Commons Justice Committee (2012, 2014) and the Supreme Court, who have reformed the way in which one aspect of Joint Enterprise (the notion of 'foresight') is to be applied by the courts (in *R v Jogee*). As such, the proposed study will provide a rare, theoretically informed and empirically grounded account of the impact that Joint Enterprise is having *on the ground* at a crucial time in its application. The study will speak to questions about the legitimacy of this contentious legal doctrine, its potential to deter collective violence among young people and the impact of recent changes to the law on practice.

The primary research questions are:

- How do young people conceptualise 'friendship' and 'collective violence'?
- What do young people understand to be the legal consequences of collective violence and how does knowledge and/or experience of Joint Enterprise shape young people's interpretations of friendship, collective violence and perceived legitimacy of the Criminal Justice System?
- How are 'friendship' and 'collective violence' conceived and applied by practitioners who investigate, defend and prosecute cases of collective violence in the context of Joint Enterprise?

The study, which begins in June 2017, will involve interviews with young people in the community and individuals convicted of serious violence under Joint Enterprise when young. Interviewing these groups will provide insight into the impact that knowledge and experience of Joint Enterprise has on young people's conceptions of friendship and collective violence, as well as their perceptions of the deterrent value and legitimacy of Joint Enterprise. Interviews will also be undertaken with police officers involved in investigating cases of Joint Enterprise, and lawyers who prosecute or defend such cases. In addition, the 'visual methodology' of 'Photovoice' (Wang and Burris 1997) will be employed, as a way of engaging young people and criminal justice practitioners in dialogue, in an accessible and 'safe' environment.

B. POST DOCTORAL and OTHER RESEARCHERS

Dr Ruth Armstrong is a British Academy Post Doctoral Fellow at the Institute of Criminology and a College Research Associate at St John's College Cambridge. Her PhD explored the realities of life after release from prison for 48 men in the USA. Ruth has published several articles and book chapters drawing on her thesis, including examining the role of trust in desistance from crime, the potential for faith based groups to help reduce recidivism, and the methodological and ethical challenges of undertaking ethnographic research with people released from prison. This year, together with Ioan Durnescu, she has edited a book to be published in late 2016 by Palgrave entitled 'Parole and Beyond: International Experiences of Life After Prison'. The collection draws together contributions from academics across the globe whose research explores the lived realities of life after prison.

Ruth has also made several short films about her thesis findings. Her first two films ('Jogging with Jody' and 'Jogging with Jody – The Expert's

View') highlight the role of trust in the desistance process through looking at the work of volunteer mentors with ex-prisoners. They premiered at the Cambridge Festival of Ideas in October, 2014 and are now freely available on the University of Cambridge YouTube website.⁵ This year Ruth received an ESRC Accelerated Impact funding award to make three more short films about the role of multi-faith chaplaincy teams and faith communities in supporting people through the gate. The films will form part of a short course being piloted by NOMS called 'The Welcome Directory', to to capacitate faith communities to work alongside chaplaincy teams to support people leaving prison. The films will be premiered later this year at Westminster to launch The Welcome Directory initiative.

During 2014/15 Ruth was a co-investigator on the Transforming Social Sciences 'Trust Project' (see above). She continues to collaborate with colleagues in the analysis and write up of the findings of this project.

From January 2016, Ruth has been working on the British Academy funded project to implement and evaluate the Learning Together initiative that she started with Dr Amy Ludlow in 2015 (see above).

Publications

Armstrong, R. and Durnescu, I. (eds) (forthcoming, 2016) *Parole and Beyond: International experiences of life after prison*, London: Palgrave MacMillan.

Armstrong, R. and Ludlow, A. (2016) 'Educational Partnerships Between Universities and Prisons: How Learning Together can be Individually, Socially and Institutionally Transformative' *Prison Service Journal*, 225: 9-

⁵ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_7UXpT8Za1g
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8_RiP_KI77Q

17

Halsey, M., **Armstrong, R.** and Wright, S. (2016) "'F*ck it!": Matza and the Mood of Fatalism in the Desistance Process', *British Journal of Criminology*, doi: 10.1093/bjc/azw041

Armstrong, R. and Maruna, S. (2016) 'Examining imprisonment through a social justice lens' in *What is justice: reimagining penal policy*, Eds. Steven Farrall, Barry Goldson, Ian Loader and Anita Dockley, London: Routledge.

Dr Katherine Auty joined the Prisons Research Centre as Research Associate in 2012. She was previously a PhD student in Forensic Psychiatry at Barts and The London School of Medicine and Dentistry, Queen Mary, University of London. Using data from the Cambridge Study in Delinquent Development, she examined the intergenerational transmission of psychopathy, personality disorders and criminal offending. Some of her PhD work has recently been published in the *British Journal of Psychiatry* and the *British Journal of Criminology*. She has also presented her work at the Life History Research Society Conference in Amsterdam and the American Society of Criminology Conference in New Orleans.

During her time at the PRC, Katherine has been producing quantitative analysis of the MQPL and SQL data, and leading the centre's extended MQPL and SQL exercises. Her analytical work has included examining the psychometric properties of the MQPL by looking at its factor structure in different samples of prisoners. It has also involved looking at measurement invariance across male and female prisoner groups, to see if the MQPL captures the same quality of life dimensions in male and female prisoners.

Katherine has also been examining the relationships between the MQPL dimension mean scores and proven reoffending rates for every prison the MQPL survey is conducted in. The results were presented at the Butler Trust

Research into Practice Conference this year and have been submitted for publication.

She continues to work with the Prisoners' Education Trust (PET) as the Principal Investigator of a study of rehabilitative culture in eight prisons, which was supported by the National Offender Management Service (NOMS). The project findings are currently being written up.

Katherine has also been conducting a systematic review and meta-analysis of the effectiveness of programmes in prison to reduce violence. So far, she and colleagues have identified 21 separate studies with considerable variations in program quality and evaluation methodology. The majority of programs adopted a cognitive behavioural or social learning approach. There was limited evidence for the efficacy of these programs, although highly-structured programs showed the most promise. Programs that aimed to integrate their treatment ethos into the institutional regime and target specific criminogenic risks also produced evidence of the effectiveness in reducing institutional violence. This work was recently submitted for publication.

Publications

Auty, K. M., Farrington, D. P. & Coid, J. W. (2015). The Intergenerational Transmission of Criminal Offending: Exploring Gender-Specific Mechanisms. *British Journal of Criminology*

Auty, K., Cope, A., Liebling, A. (2015) A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis of Yoga and Mindfulness Meditation in Prison. Effects on psychological Well-Being and Behavioural Functioning. *International Journal of Offender Therapy and Comparative Criminology*.

Liebling, A., Schmidt, B., Crewe, B., **Auty, K.,** Armstrong, R., Akoensi, T., Kant, D., Ludlow, A., & Ivins, A. (2015). Birmingham prison: the transition from public to private sector and its impact on staff and prisoner quality of life - a

three-year study. National Offender Management Service Analytical Summary 2015. Ministry of Justice: London.

Auty, K. M., Farrington, D. P., & Coid, J. W. (2015). The Validity of Self-Reported Convictions in a Community Sample: Findings from the Cambridge Study in Delinquent Development. *European Journal of Criminology*, 12(5), 562-580.

Auty, K. M., Farrington, D. P., & Coid, J. W. (2015). Intergenerational transmission of psychopathy and mediation via psychosocial risk factors. *The British Journal of Psychiatry*, 206(1), 26-31.

Auty, K. M., Farrington, D. P., & Coid, J. W. (2015). Authors' reply (Vol. 206). *The British Journal of Psychiatry*, 206(4), 343.

Dr Amy Ludlow is a College Lecturer and Fellow at Gonville and Caius College and an Affiliated Lecturer at the Faculty of Law. In these capacities, she teaches EU, labour and criminal law, though for the last year, Amy has been on leave from teaching having been successful in obtaining major ESRC funding for a research project on migration linked to the EU referendum (<http://www.eumigrantworker.law.cam.ac.uk/About>).

Amy has continued to develop her interest in prison competition/privatisation and its staffing and industrial relations impacts, alongside a broader interest in the ways that public service procurement can increase social value. She has recently co-authored an article with Alison Liebling on 'Privatising Public Prisons: Theory, Law and Practice', which has been published in the Australian and New Zealand Journal of Criminology. She has also written a chapter for the forthcoming new edition of the Oxford Handbook of Criminology on 'Marketising Criminal Justice'. These recent publications build upon Amy's continued work as part of the Prisons Research Centre's 'MQPL+' exercises and her book, *Privatising Public Prisons: Labour*

Law and the Public Procurement Process, which is a case study of HMP Birmingham, the first operational public sector prison in the UK to be transferred into private management.

In 2015-16, Amy was part of a British Academy Rising Stars project at the University of Oxford, and in that capacity examined the ways in which the new public procurement rules have been implemented across EU Member States, with a view to better understanding the scope for added (or protected) social value. The outcome of this work has recently been published in the *European Labour Law Journal*.

Amy has also continued to build upon her work through the Harris Review with RAND and colleagues Bethany Schmidt, Thomas Akoensi and Alison Liebling on suicide and self-harm prevention in prisons. This year, she successfully secured ESRC Impact Acceleration Funding to hold two workshops (one in HMP Altcourse in May and a second in Cambridge in September) to bring together practitioners, policymakers and academics. Amy also co-authored a chapter with Alison Liebling about suicide and self-harm prevention which was published in the 2016 *Handbook on Prisons*.

Beyond this, with the support of Tony Bottoms, Amy has secured a British Academy Rising Star Engagement Award 'Understanding prison life: new research frontiers'. This project will create a network of 15 early career researchers, all of whom are researching the internal aspects of prison life. The network will be brought together twice, at the Prisons Research Centre conference in Cambridge in October 2016, and again, in February 2017, to explore how we conceptualise prisons research, its aims and values, methodological innovation and ethics. Members of the group will produce an edited collection together on the future of prisons research, which will be published by Hart in Spring 2018.

Further details about Amy's work on Learning Together are provided above.

Publications

Ludlow, A. (forthcoming) 'Marketising Criminal Justice' in in Liebling, A., McAra, L. and Maruna, S. (eds.) *The Oxford Handbook of Criminology*, 6th edn. Oxford: OUP

Liebling, A. and **Ludlow, A.** (2016) 'Privatising public prisons: theory, law and practice' *Australian & New Zealand Journal of Criminology* (available online)

Dr Julie Laursen joined the Prisons Research Centre as a Research Associate in June 2016, working on the Comparative Penology project (see above) led by Dr Ben Crewe. Julie holds a PhD in Sociology from Aalborg University, Denmark (2016). Her PhD provided a critical examination of prison-based cognitive behavioural programmes through participant observation and interviews in three different Danish prisons. During her PhD, Julie was a Visiting Scholar at the Prisons Research Centre as well as at the University of Oslo and the University of California, Berkeley.

Publications

Laursen, J. (2015) "Man begynder jo ikke at smadre en købmand: Perspektiver på vold i vredeskontrolprogrammet "Anger Management" [You Wouldn't Beat up the Grocery Guy!": Perspectives on violence in the prison-based cognitive-behavioural programme Anger Management"] *Tidsskriftet Antropologi*, 71: 69-91.

Laursen, J. & Laws, B. (2016) 'Honour and Respect in Danish Prisons – Contesting "Cognitive Distortions" in Cognitive-Behavioural Programmes' *Punishment & Society*.

Laursen, J. (2016) Humour and the Limits of Soft Power in Prison. *British Journal of Criminology*

Prieur, A., Jensen, S.Q., **Laursen, J.** & Pedersen, O. (2016) "'Social Skills': Following a travelling concept from American academic discourse to

contemporary Danish welfare institutions". *Minerva*

Dr Kristian Mjåland is a Senior Researcher at Stein Rokkan Centre for Social Studies, and a Senior Research Associate at the University of Cambridge. He earned his PhD in Sociology from the University of Bergen, Norway, in 2015. Kristian has been involved in several large research projects, amongst others a study of compulsory care towards drug users, drug use, drug economy and offender rehabilitation in prisons, and an ongoing study of open-air drug markets. Kristian is a qualitative researcher, using primarily ethnographic methods in his work. Theoretically, his research explores issues such as penal/state power, legitimacy and procedural justice. Kristian's recent research has appeared in journals such as *Punishment & Society* and *International Journal of Drug Policy*. He is currently working on the Comparative Penology project, led by Ben Crewe, primarily leading the Norwegian fieldwork for this major research programme.

Publications

Lundeberg, I.L. and **Mjåland, K.** (in press). 'Rehabilitering og prosedural rettferdighet i kriminalomsorgen' [Rehabilitation and Procedural Justice in the Correctional Services]. *Retfærd* [Justice]. To appear in a special issue on 'Juridification and the Welfare State', edited by Aasen, H.S. and Nilssen, E.

Mjåland, K. (2016). 'Exploring prison drug use in the context of prison-based drug treatment', *Drugs: Education, Prevention and Policy*. 23 (2): 154-162).

Mjåland, K. 2015. 'The paradox of control: An ethnographic analysis of opiate maintenance treatment in a Norwegian prison'. *International Journal of Drug Policy*, 26 (8): 781-789.

Anna Schliehe joined the Comparative Penology project as a post-doctoral researcher in June 2016. She was awarded a Diplom (Geography)

from the University of Muenster, Germany, in 2011 and went on to do a MRes in Human Geography at the University of Glasgow. Anna completed her doctoral research project in 2013-2016 with the title 'Tracing outsiders: young women's institutional journeys and geographies of closed space'. Her research on the Scottish criminal justice system and its responses to young women in particular is informed by both carceral geography and criminological scholarship. Anna is interested in understanding the nature and experience of closed spaces, connecting empirical to conceptually challenging research.

Publications

Schliehe, A. (2016) 'Re-discovering Goffman – contemporary carceral geography, the 'total' institution and notes on heterotopia' In: *Geografiska Annaler: Series B, Human Geography*

Schliehe, A. (2015) 'Locking up children and young people - secure care in Scotland' In: Horton, J.; Evans, B. (eds) *Geographies of Children and Young People* [Springer]

Schliehe, A. (2014) 'Inside 'the Carceral': Girls and Young Women in the Scottish Criminal Justice System' In: *Scottish Geographical Journal*

Laxton, M.; Clark, N.; **Schliehe, A.** (2011) 'Caring for young people with mental health problems' Phase Three Consultancy Paper for Gateway, Dublin.

Dr Ryan J. Williams is currently a Research Associate with the Centre of Islamic Studies in Cambridge. His current project examines substantive aspects and lived experiences of citizenship among Muslims through the criminal justice system. He is also continuing work on the project 'Locating trust in a climate of fear', a comparative study of faith, risk and

identity in two high security prisons. His work seeks to bring a closer understanding of contemporary facets of religion and faith into the fields of criminology and penology. He draws on a range of methods, including ethnography and network sociology.

Dr Richard Bramwell is a Lecturer in Communication and Media Studies in the Department of Social Sciences at Loughborough University. He was previously a Senior Research Associate and is now a visiting scholar in the PRC. Richard is a specialist in the sociology of culture with a research focus in the areas of black British popular and vernacular cultures. His book, *UK Hip-Hop, Grime and the City*, examines the aesthetic, cultural and commercial practices of black and white, working-class youths in London. Through a combination of interviews, ethnography and close textual analysis, this interdisciplinary study considers how young men and women use rap to accommodate themselves to their position in the city and investigates how they contest their marginalisation through their collaborative work.

Richard is the principal investigator on the AHRC funded project, *Performing hip-hop Englishness: The performance of alternative British identities through rap*. This research project focuses on the circulation of rap culture within and beyond social and penal institutions and the impact of rap performances on British identities. Rap is the most popular poetic form and largest selling music genre in the world today. The development of hip-hop and grime into mainstream pop music genres over the last 40 years, and the production of grime as a distinctively British vernacular culture, highlight the importance of examining how the identities of British youths are shaped through rap. The *Performing hip-hop Englishness* project is focused on the role of rap performances in everyday lives of English youths and young adults. The research project aims to develop a methodological approach to rap, which

combines analytical techniques drawn from cultural sociology, ethnomusicology and performance studies, in order to address this art form on its own terms. Through a critical engagement with rap performances in one youth centre, a community centre, a young offenders institution and a prison the study will investigate the impact that rap has on these organisations and analyse how rappers' performances, in institutions funded by national and local governments, produce identities and identification between and within communities. The research will examine urgent questions regarding the impact that rap culture has on the identities of English youths and how state funded organisations influence the articulation of alternative English identities through rap in the wider hip-hop and grime scenes. Through this focus on the performance of rap in these institutions, the project will examine the rhetorical and performative techniques used by rap artists to solicit identity from their audience members; analyse how audience members produce identification in response to rap performances; investigate the circulation of rap culture within and between different state funded institutions; and examine the impact of this cultural form on the communities from which young rap artists emerge.

Publications

Bramwell, R. (2015) *UK Hip-Hop, Grime and the City: The Aesthetics and Ethics of London's Rap Scenes*. New York and London: Routledge.

Bramwell, R. (2015) 'Council Estate of Mind: The British Rap Tradition and London's UK Hip-Hop Scene' in Williams, J. A. (ed) *The Cambridge Companion to Hip-Hop*. Cambridge University Press, 2015, pp. 256-262.

Bramwell, R. 'Behind the Brixton riots' Guardian|Society (6th September 2011) <http://www.guardian.co.uk/society/2011/sep/06/behind-the-riots-injustice-brixton>

C.PHD STUDENTS

Opening new prisons: a comparative study of the translation of political vision into operational reality
Aiden Cope

Aiden is a first year PhD student, being supervised by Professor Alison Liebling. His comparative study of HMP YOI Grampian in Scotland, HMP Berwyn in Wales, and Ravenhall prison in Victoria, Australia, will examine the political and organisational challenges facing newly opening prisons. It will explore the role of political culture and policy-making processes in shaping the social and moral climate of each prison. The role of prison managers in translating policy into practice and shaping the culture of each prison will be examined in order to understand the mediating role of these figures, positioned as they are between the political and operational spheres.

This study will employ a mixed-methods approach to map the political landscapes that have created these different visions, before empirically examining the influence of the respective prison services and management teams in translating these visions into operational realities. The comparative analysis of three penal systems and their newest prisons that will comprise this study will lead to a greater understanding of the interplay between macro factors at the political and policy-making level, and micro factors, such as the professional orientations of prison managers and the shaping of, and influence of, staff. Interviews with policy-makers, prison service employees and senior management personnel in each jurisdiction will be supplemented by analysis of quantitative data from Measuring the Quality of Prison life exercises and in-depth fieldwork in each prison. A nuanced understanding of the highly politicised, complex and difficult process of opening new prisons, and the effects of these practices on prisoners, will emerge from this research.

Reading in Prison: transformation narratives and everyday practices
Judith Gardom

Judith is a first year PhD student, being co-supervised by Professor Alison Liebling and Professor Loraine Gelsthorpe. This year she has been developing the research framework and examining the literature for her ESRC-funded study of prisoners' reading practices and experiences.

Restrictions on books being sent to prisoners (as part of more general restrictions) in 2013 gave rise to a public protest against what was perceived as a prison 'book ban'. In the media and political debate that followed, the stories of former prisoners whose lives had been transformed through reading were frequently presented in arguments against the restrictions. Similar narratives can be found in prisoner autobiographies, as well as historical sources, and they share narrative characteristics and themes with other prisoner 'redemption narratives'. However, despite the presumed benefits of books and reading in prison, little is known about how many prisoners read, or how much; what is read; or the significance that reading has for prisoners. Although data on library visits, time spent locked up, literacy levels, and participation in education are available, the everyday reading practices and experiences of prisoners has been a neglected area of study.

In her upcoming field work, Judith is planning to use a survey of prisoner reading across two prisons, to begin to fill the gap in statistical knowledge about prisoners' reading. Semi-structured interviews will then be used to generate qualitative data on prisoners' reading practices and experiences at these two research sites. Judith plans to use prison libraries as a base for observation and interview, and to involve prison librarians and prisoner library assistants in data gathering. The aim of Judith's research is to provide a more detailed, accurate

and nuanced account of prisoners' reading than is currently available, with possible implications for prisoner well-being, adaptation to and coping with time in prison, and prisoner literacy and education.

Presentations

Cambridge Centre for Research in the Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities (CRASSH) seminar series 'The Subversive Good: Disrupting Power and Transcending Inequalities, with Professor Alison Liebling, Dr Amy Ludlow and Dr Ruth Armstrong.

University of Cambridge Faculty of Education Conference on 'Risk, Defences and 'In(Security) by Design': Rethinking Youth Surveillance, Education and Policing in Global Cities'.

Butler Trust and Institute of Criminology Prison Officers Summer School, 'Unsung Heroes: Prison Officers' at their Best', with Dr Amy Ludlow.

Judith has continued to develop her involvement with the Open Book Project at Goldsmiths, University of London, co-ordinating a three day residential conference for Open Book students at Wolfson College with Cambridge University's Mature Outreach Ambassador.

***The social experiences of sex
offenders in prison***
Alice levins

Alice is a fourth year PhD student, supervised by Dr Ben Crewe, exploring the social experiences of male prisoners convicted of sexual offences. This qualitative study is based on in-depth qualitative research at HMP Stafford, a Category-C prison which exclusively holds adult men convicted of sex offences. Alice spent six months conducting fieldwork in Stafford, where she explored the social dynamics on two residential wings. She conducted 43 long

qualitative interviews with prisoners, interviewed 13 staff members, and spent long periods of time in all areas of the prison, observing life, talking to and shadowing staff and prisoners, attending meetings and building relationships.

This study explores the experiences of a significant and growing population within the prison system, one which has hitherto been neglected by sociological studies of imprisonment. It develops findings which suggest that people convicted of sexual offences are particularly likely to deny their offences, and argues that how people feel about their convictions structures the way in which they do their time and how they orient themselves to power. In so doing, it hopes to show how shame and identity management interact with prisoners' adaptations to imprisonment. The thesis also has a strong social focus, and seeks to explore how prisoners convicted of sex offences feel about living with other such prisoners. In addition to outlining and explaining the dynamics of trust, solidarity and friendship among this group, Alice has also developed the concept of 'stain', which seeks to describe the contaminating effect for prisoners of living with people who they feel may have done bad things and may continue to have deviant sexual interests. In addition, the research explores the dynamics of power in a prison of men convicted of sex offences. It is often argued that such prisoners are uniquely compliant, which can lead to the overuse of power by staff. Alice's study explores these dynamics, and outlines the diverse ways in which men convicted of sex offences nevertheless challenged the authority of officers.

Publications and presentations

levins, A. and Crewe, B. (2015) "'Nobody's better than you, nobody's worse than you": Moral community among prisoners convicted of sexual offences', *Punishment & Society*, 17(4): 482-501.

Presentation: 'Class, compliance and social relationships among prisoners convicted of sexual offences', European Society of Criminology Conference in Muenster, Germany, 2016

Main speaker at 'Living among sex offenders: Identity, safety and relationships in prison' at the Institute of Criminology, University of Cambridge, organised by The Howard League for Penal Reform, 2015

Under threat? A social and occupational history of prison officers
Deborah Kant

Deborah is a fourth year PhD student, supervised by Professor Alison Liebling. Her research explores the personal and professional narratives of prison officers recruited between the 1970s and the present, in order to explore the relationship between officers' identities and their experiences of organisational change within the Prison Service.

Previous research (e.g. Liebling 2008; Crawley 2004) has shown that prison officers share certain occupational traits such as a sense of camaraderie and social cohesion, an appreciation of humour and 'straight talk', as well as a cynical outlook, sense of nostalgia for a shared past, and mistrust of people outside their group. However, research has also shown that there are distinct 'schools' of officers, whose philosophies affect their approaches to care, punishment, management, etc. (see Tait 2008). Deborah's research explores this distinction in order to answer the question of whether there is an 'essential prison officer', or whether the professional role and self-definition of uniformed staff can be shown to have developed within the context of changing socio-economic conditions and prison officer demographics, ideologies of punishment, and the cultural norms of individual establishments.

Adopting a mixture of semi-ethnographic and

biographical research methods, with uniformed staff, managers, and prisoners, Deborah conducted 72 interviews with uniformed staff and managers at two large and busy Category B local prisons holding male prisoners, one located in the North of England and one in the South. Preliminary analysis suggests that while different generations of prison officers hold distinctive attitudes and approaches toward some aspects of their work and each other, the geography and culture of their establishment may be more powerful in influencing their professional identities and how they behave in practice. Deborah's findings suggest that while officers from different generations may have imported subtly different motivations into the prison, the experience of doing prison work within embedded institutional contexts narrows the field of individual expression.

Publications and presentations

Liebling, A. and **Kant, D.** (2016) 'The Two Cultures: Correctional Officers and Key Differences in Institutional Climate', in J. Wooldredge and P. Smith (eds) *The Oxford Handbook on Prisons and Imprisonment*, Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Presentation: "We're lucky up here' Exploring work, history, and location in the narratives of prison officers', European Society of Criminology Conference, Muenster, Germany, 2016

Presentation: 'The role of space and place in the work of prison officers' as part of a panel on 'Expanding prisons research beyond the social', European Society of Criminology Conference in Porto, Portugal, 2015

Emotions in prison: an exploration of space, emotion regulation and expression
Ben Laws

Ben Laws is a second year PhD student, supervised by Dr Ben Crewe. This year he has been collecting data for his ESRC-funded study

of prisoner emotion, spending six months overall undertaking fieldwork in HMP Ranby (a medium-security men's prison in Nottinghamshire) and HMP Send (a closed category women's prison in Surrey). He has been using a combination of structured interviews and prisoner shadowing to investigate the ways in which prisoners regulate and express their emotions under conditions of confinement. His research seeks to explore the emotional 'survivability' of different prisons, and has implications for practitioners seeking to ensure that prisons are positive, secure and safe environments for offenders. Ben is currently analyzing his qualitative data and working on an article about the prevalence of emotional suppression in prison. This article attempts to highlight some of the causes and consequences of 'bottling-up' emotions.

Ben has presented his work at the inaugural Emotions and Criminal Justice conference, hosted by De Montfort University, Leicester. He was invited back to give a guest seminar later in the year. His MPhil dissertation was recently published by the Howard League for Penal Reform.

Publications

Laws, B. (In progress). 'The return of the suppressed': Emotional suppression among male and female prisoners.

Laws, B. (2016). Fronting, masking and emotion release: An exploration of prisoners' emotional management strategies. *The Howard League for Penal Reform*.

Laursen, J., & **Laws, B.** (2016). Honour and respect in Danish prisons: Contesting 'cognitive distortions' in cognitive-behavioural programmes. *Punishment & Society*. (available online)

Laws, B., & Crewe, B. (2015). Emotion regulation among male prisoners. *Theoretical Criminology*. (available online)

Crewe, B. and **Laws, B.** (in press) 'Subcultural adaptations to incarceration', in J. Wooldredge and P. Smith (eds) *The Oxford Handbook on Prisons and Imprisonment*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Faith, race and gangs behind bars **Dev Maitra**

Dev is a fourth-year PhD student, under the supervision of Professor Alison Liebling. He recently completed the final components of his fieldwork, which involved interviewing a sample of prisoners at a core-local adult men's prison in the North-West of England. Dev's research primarily focuses on attempting to explain the reasons why gangs form in contemporary English society, and how gang members are affected by the process of imprisonment. His PhD has four main aims:

- To explore how gang identities develop on the streets and in the prisons of Greater Manchester, particularly focusing on the causal factors that lead individuals to become gang-affiliated;
- To investigate the linkages between street gangs and prison gangs in the region, and how street gang members' behaviours develop in a prison environment;
- To examine how the carceral experiences of gang members compare to non-gang-affiliated prisoners;
- To explore how religious and racial identities relate to gang affiliation, and the wider role played by religion in the prison experiences of gang members.

Dev's research has been guided by a qualitative methodology, combining observations with semi-structured interviews and ethnographic techniques. He has conducted research at two adult men's prisons in the North-West of England, interviewing gang members, prison officers and non-gang-affiliated prisoners. His data-set also contains interviews with youth

workers, community members, police and probation officers, active street gang members and reformed offenders. During the course of his PhD, he has presented a paper at an International Conference on gangs and youth delinquency at City University, Hong Kong in December 2015. He is looking at opportunities to begin publishing his work in the upcoming year.

Presentations

Presentation: "From Youth Gangs to Organised Crime Groups: the 'Career Paths' of English Gang Members". International Conference on Outreach Work - Youth Gangs, Violence, and Female Delinquency. City University, Hong Kong. December 2015.

The construction of prisoner masculinities in terms of work experiences
Martha Morey

Martha is a first year PhD student, supervised by Dr Ben Crewe, studying prisoner masculinities and how they are shaped by experiences of work both inside and outside of prison. Her PhD is a three-site comparative study involving workplace observations and in-depth qualitative interviews with prisoners at HMPYOI Swinfen Hall, HMPYOI Isis and HMP Wealstun. The research builds on Martha's MPhil thesis on the same topic which was conducted at HMP The Mount and has been shortlisted for the Howard League's 2016 Sunley Prize. Martha has completed her fieldwork at HMPYOI Swinfen Hall, where she interviewed 31 participants, and will undertake the fieldwork at the two remaining sites during her second year.

The aim of Martha's study is to investigate how work experiences prior to imprisonment shape prisoners' work experiences while inside, and also their impact on aspirations after release. The comparative design will enable an exploration of whether prisoner work

experiences and masculinities vary by region and locale. This research is also concerned with how prisoners think about purposeful activity and the impact of their views on what constitutes meaningful work on their engagement within the prison. Through this research Martha will build on her typology of prisoner masculinities developed during her MPhil research at HMP The Mount.

Publications and presentations

Morey, M. and Crewe, B. (in press) 'Work, intimacy and prisoner masculinities', in Maycock, M and Hunt, K (eds.) (2017) *New Perspectives on Prison Masculinities*. London: Palgrave Macmillan

Presentation: 'Work experiences, employment orientations and masculine identity among male prisoners, European Society of Criminology Conference, Muenster, Germany, 2016

The experiences of former military service personnel in prison in England and Wales
Daniel Packham

Daniel has continued work on his PhD part-time, supervised by Dr Ben Crewe, studying the experience of imprisonment amongst UK ex-military personnel. Over the past year, Daniel has been conducting fieldwork in a number of different English prisons of various security categories, and has conducted thirty-one interviews with prisoners and members of prison staff.

Alongside his PhD, Daniel continues to work as a senior researcher at the College of Policing. This has involved a randomised control trial (RCT) on the effectiveness of a police training programme, the results of which are due to be published in October, and will be presented at the American Society of Criminology in November.

***Democratizing democracy: Re-imagining
prisoners as citizens through
participatory governance***
Bethany Schmidt

Bethany is a fourth-year PhD student, supervised by Professor Alison Liebling. Her research explores the work of the innovative non-profit organization *User Voice*, and its ex-offender-led prison deliberative democratic council model. It employs both qualitative and quantitative methods to examine and understand the processes at work when a prison-based council, which aims to give a voice to prisoners in order to facilitate collaborative problem-solving with staff, is established in the prison environment. Three English prisons with *User Voice* councils were selected for observation and Bethany has continued her fieldwork within them, including the collection and analysis of MQPL and SQL data (Measuring the Quality of Prison Life for prisoners and staff). Her focus is on the impact of democratic participation on institutional life, staff and prisoners' perceptions of procedural justice, legitimacy, and how these intersect with humane care, decency, and order.

Bethany's findings suggest that fostering democratic principles in the prison setting has the potential to 'civilize' individuals and institutional practices, and more closely align them with democratic virtues that endorse community, trust, and dialogical work towards collectivist objectives. Her study illustrates how the de-civilizing process of incarceration can, in some ways, be diminished or mitigated, through the establishment of a normative pattern of civic reciprocity through responsibility and inclusion. For prisoners, council participation promotes civic skills, positive identity transformation, and encourages responsibility within their 'community'. This in turn strengthens penal legitimacy through fair proceedings and justifiable decision-making. Re-enfranchising prisoners through forms of participatory

governance and agential engagement could therefore lessen exclusion and marginalization and in turn, possibly strengthen civic culture and democratic character.

Bethany was appointed to the post of Research Associate in the Prisons Research Centre in January 2016. This role involves project management responsibilities for the conduct and development of 'outreach' MQPL+ activities, including international projects, and other projects which form part of the overall research activities of the Prisons Research Centre. The aim of the post is to maximise the Centre's efforts to diagnose and describe prison cultures, and to conceptualise and measure changing aspects of the quality of prison life.

Bethany (in collaboration with colleagues at DIGNITY, the Danish Institute Against Torture) also recently completed a one-year pilot study of the quality of life in two Tunisian prisons. The research involved two intensive periods of fieldwork in one men's and one women's prison, interviews with former political prisoners and other criminal justice stakeholders, and some archival analysis. The study explored several aspects of prison life in Tunisia: e.g., prison policy and practice pre- and post-revolution; the gendered experience; identification of what is specific to Tunisian prisons and what is universal; the role of civil society; and, how power and authority are wielded. Along with colleagues from the University of Strathclyde and Queen's University Belfast, Bethany also recently completed a two-year evaluation of *User Voice's* Through-the-Prison-Gate Custody to Community Council project.

Publications

Liebling, A., McNeil, F. and **Schmidt, B.E.** (forthcoming chapter, 2016) 'Criminological engagements', in Liebling, A., McAra, L. and Maruna, S. (eds) *The Oxford Handbook of Criminology* (6th edn). Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Schmidt, B.E. (forthcoming, 2016) 'Active citizenship behind bars: prisoners and participatory governance in three English prisons', MoJ analytical summary.

Barry, M., Weaver, B., Liddle, M., **Schmidt, B.E.**, with Maruna, S., Meek, R. and Renshaw, J. (forthcoming Nesta/MoJ online publication, 2016) 'Custody to community voice: an evaluation of User Voice councils'.

Ludlow, A., **Schmidt, B.E.**, Akoensi, T., Liebling, A., Giacomantonio, C. and Sutherland, A. (2015) 'Self-inflicted deaths in NOMS' custody amongst 18-24 year olds: Staff experience, knowledge and views'. Study commissioned by Harris Review.

Schmidt, B.E. (2013) 'User Voice and the Prison Council Model: A summary of key findings from an ethnographic exploration of participatory governance in three English prisons', *Prison Service Journal* 209: 12-17.

Philosophy in Prisons: A grounded theory in personal development
Kirstine Szifris

Kirstine is a fourth-year PhD student, in the final stages of writing up her thesis, supervised by Professor Alison Liebling, Her research involved delivering two 12-week philosophy courses in HMP Grendon and HMP Full Sutton. Her time in the prisons allowed for an in-depth exploration of the role and relevance of a philosophy course in prisons. Based on the principles of Socratic Dialogue, Kirstine's course engaged prisoners in philosophical conversation on a range of topics including identity, morality, the good life, and society. Her findings draw on prison sociological literature, desistance theory, and research into prison education more broadly, and indicate that such classes are relevant to the development of trust, well-being, the forging of new identities and relationships, and personal development.

Kirstine has taken up a position as a Research Associate at the Policy Evaluation and Research Unit at Manchester Metropolitan University, (part of The Manchester College group) to undertake three years of research around prison education. Working in partnership with Novus, she is developing a series of research projects that will contribute to the growing area of prison education research with an aim to improve delivery methods in prison. So far she has undertaken a Rapid Evidence Assessment of prison education (see Ellison et al, *under review*), is in the process of a Realist Review to develop a theory of prison education, and is developing a project plan for empirical research looking at the most effective method of delivering functional skills in prisons. Her work also includes knowledge mobilisation which involves the launch of a new blog available through the Novus website.

Kirstine continues to support the work of colleagues interested in delivering philosophy in prisons, particularly colleagues at MMU who are working in Styal to deliver Philosophy and Gender Studies programmes, and other academics who are engaged in similar work at Kings College London and the University of Nottingham.

Publications and presentations

Szifris, K. (2015). Philosophy in prison: Taking a different perspective, *Well-being Beyond GDP: The value of humanities, the arts and social science in forming and informing responses to contemporary social change*, Manchester Metropolitan University Festival of Knowledge.

Presentation: 'Philosophy in Prison: Dialogue and community as a means of developing empathy and well-being in the prison classroom', *British Society of Criminology Conference*, Nottingham.

Szifris, K. (2016). 'Philosophy in prison: Opening minds and broadening perspectives through

philosophical dialogue' in *Prison Service Journal*, 225, pp. 33-38.

Szifris, K. (under review). 'Socrates and Aristotle: The Role of Ancient philosophers in the self-understanding of desisting prisoners', *The Howard Journal of Crime and Justice*.

Ellison, M., **Szifris, K.**, Horan, R., Fox, C. (under review). 'A Rapid Evidence Assessment of the effectiveness of prison education in reducing recidivism and increasing employment', submitted to *The Probation Journal*.

Legal Literacy among Prisoners: Comparing legal education experiences in prisons in Turkey and England
Ezgi Taboglu

Ezgi is a first year part-time PhD student, supervised by Professor Alison Liebling, as well as PA to the Director of the Prisons Research Centre. Her explorative study aims to understand the role of legal education in relation to identity, self-perception, and attitudes towards law and prison legitimacy. Ezgi will compare and evaluate the legal education experiences of both female and male prisoners in Turkish and English prisons.

Publications and presentations

Taboglu, E. (2016) 'Kirpiğiniz yere düşmesin': Eşlerinin ölümünden yargılanan kadınlar ('Don't let your eyelash fall': Women who are tried for killing their husbands), *Sosyal Hukuk (Social Law)* 5: 4-6.

Presentation: 'Perceptions of Justice and Legitimacy among Women Convicted of Serious Domestic Violence in Prisons in Turkey and England'. 15th Annual Conference of the European Society of Criminology, Porto, Portugal, 2015.

Presentation: 'Clinical Legal Education in Turkish Prisons: Improving Access to Justice for

Prisoners'. Prisoners' Education Trust Symposium, Cambridge, 2015.

The role of self-empowerment in the process of human flourishing in prison
Fabio Tartarini

Fabio is a fifth-year PhD student, supervised by Dr Ben Crewe, researching the process of Human Flourishing in prison. Human flourishing is generally defined as the experience of life going well, and is the combination of feeling emotionally positive and functioning effectively, in psychological and social terms (Huppert and So 2013; Seligman 2011). Flourishing is linked to better psychophysiological health as it lies at the opposite end of the mental health continuum from severe depression, anxiety, and self-harm. The importance of researching Human Flourishing lies in its potential to improve prison conditions and positively affect the process of rehabilitation: where offenders are able to lead satisfactory and fulfilling lives, they are less likely to reoffend (Laws and Ward 2011).

This research represents the first short-longitudinal and systematic exploration of the process of Human Flourishing in a local prison in England. The first part of this research sought to investigate how prisoners define Human Flourishing, and how the prison experience affects this definition. The second part sought to discover what changes in prisoners' lives can affect the process of Human Flourishing in prison, and identify those factors which have mostly supported or hindered this. This research gives a first opportunity to investigate prisoners' conception of the process of Flourishing and its effects on their life choices, including the rehabilitation process and engagement with prison activities (e.g. courses, programmes, work, etc.).

The research hopes to inform theory and practices related to prisoner rehabilitation, as well as support the identification of prison

environments that are conducive to personal growth, both in prison and on release. Further theoretical interest lies in the identification of the connections between Human Flourishing and Desistance.

With Prof. Stefano Gheno, Fabio conducted the workshop 'Bringing Positive Psychology to life: the use of self-empowerment as a tool for the human flourishing of individuals and the community', for the British Psychological Society, Professional Development session. He has also been working as a research assistant for a series of scoping studies on Restorative Justice by Restorative Solutions CIC. These projects aim to identify the current levels of provision across different Criminal Justice agencies, scope the future demands for restorative practices, identify current gaps and develop good practice guidelines.

Publications and presentations

Kjær Minke, L., Schinkel, M., Beijersbergen, K., Damboeanu, K., Dirga, L., Dirkzwager, A., Jewkes, Y., Knight, V., Moran, D., Palmen, H., Pricopie, V., **Tartarini, F.**, Tomczak, P., Turner, J., Vanhouche, A.S., Wahidin, A., (Submitted) 'Multiple perspectives on imprisonment in Europe', *The Nordic Journal of International Law*.

Tartarini, F. (forthcoming) 'Review: Ethics and values in social research' by Paul Ransome. *The British Journal of Community Justice*, 14(2).

Presentation: 'Who shall flourish? A short-longitudinal exploration of prisoners' experience of incarceration', European Society of Criminology, Muenster, 20-24 September.

Presentation: 'What is Human Flourishing? Early reflections from the field'. ESC Workshop on 'Prison Life and the Effects of Imprisonment', University of South Denmark, Odense, 20-21 April 2016.

D. APPOINTMENTS AND PROMOTIONS

Dr Richard Bramwell has been appointed to a lectureship in Communication and Media Studies at Loughborough University

Dr Serena Wright has been appointed to a lectureship at Royal Holloway University.

Fabio Tartarini has been appointed to a lectureship in Psychology at the University of Wolverhampton.