

Prisons Research Centre

Institute of Criminology

University of Cambridge

Annual Report

September 2013



PRISONS RESEARCH CENTRE ANNUAL REPORT 2013

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, research councils (for example, the ESRC, Leverhulme and the Nuffield Foundation) and from other organisations. Its members include Professor Alison Liebling, Dr Ben Crewe (Deputy Director), six Research Associates: Dr Susie Hulley, Dr Ruth Armstrong, Dr Katherine Auty, Ms Serena Wright, Ms Zetta Kougiali and Dr Ryan Williams. There are also currently 11 PhD students, all conducting individual research projects, often linked to or developed from other research going on in the Centre. B Raffan Gowar acts as Centre Administrator (part-time). Associate Members include Helen Arnold (a past Research Associate), Dr Adrian Grounds, Dr Joel Harvey (a former PhD student), 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 members of the department. Further contributions are made by members of our steering group.¹

The Research Centre aims to provide a stimulating research environment in which a coherent and cumulative strategy of high quality prison research can be pursued, and integration between funded and non-funded, and applied and theoretical projects can be facilitated. Our vision is of methodologically rigorous and theoretically relevant field-based

¹ Current members include: Professor Anthony Bottoms, Professor Richard Sparks, Professor Shadd Maruna, Professor Fergus McNeill, Juliet Lyon, Ian Poree, Michael Spurr and Jo Bailey.

studies addressing problems of human and social values, punishment practices and the organisation and effects of prison life. We strive to consolidate and enhance the Cambridge Institute of Criminology's strengths in penological research, in forging links with research in the broader fields of criminology and sociology, and our capacity to collaborate with others.

This Report provides summaries of on-going projects, including PhD theses, as well as a summary of new or recently funded research.

The Annual Research Day and Steering Group Meeting, at which we discuss selected findings from our recent research projects will take place on Thursday October 24th 2013, in the Institute of Criminology, University of Cambridge. Places are limited but we are happy to receive additional requests.

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A. RECENT AND ONGOING RESEARCH PROJECTS

An Exploration of Staff-Prisoner Relationships at HMP Whitemoor: Twelve Years On

2009 to 2011

Alison Liebling, Helen Arnold and Christina Straub

This Home Office-funded research consisted of a repeat of an exploratory study carried out at HMP Whitemoor in 1998-9 by Alison Liebling and David Price ('An Exploration of Staff-Prisoner Relationships at HMP Whitemoor'). The original study explored the nature and quality of staff-prisoner relationships and the work and role of prison officers and led to a deep understanding of the complex role staff-prisoner relationships play in prison life, the experiences of long-term prisoners held in conditions of maximum security, the peacekeeping work of prison officers, and the use of discretion in accomplishing order in prison on a day-to-day basis. It identified outstanding prison officer work and the characteristics of role model officers, and described prison officer work at its best. It drew on the method of Appreciative Inquiry, for the first time in a prison, and resulted in the publication of the book, *The Prison Officer* by Alison Liebling and David Price (Waterside Press, 2001; 2nd edition, with Guy Shefer, 2010).

The aim of the repeat study was to re-investigate the nature and quality of staff-prisoner relationships at Whitemoor in a new context, exploring how life for prisoners, the work of prison officers, and the nature of staff-prisoner relationships had changed, using the original study as a baseline. The study also explored the nature of relationships between prisoners. The context had changed in two significant ways.

1. The population in 2009 consisted of 40 per cent Muslim prisoners, some of whom had converted to the

Muslim faith whilst in prison. Many of these prisoners felt under constant scrutiny.

2. The sentences being served were significantly longer, and more likely to be indeterminate. There was considerably more emphasis on risk and risk assessment.

Lower levels of trust, uncertainties of role and identity, a perception of time in prison as more punishing than rehabilitative, and a reorganisation of the information flow, had left prisoners and staff feeling uncomfortable. Divisions and conflicts between prisoners, and some distancing from staff, had impacted negatively on perceptions of safety, as well as on the 'presentation of self'. New dynamics between prisoners had undermined the traditional prisoner hierarchy, and faith identifies (not always related to religious belief) were shaping prisoner social life in new, and sometimes dangerous, ways. Anxieties about extremism and radicalisation were altering both the flow of power and the perception of risk in prison. The 'problem of faith', including the proper policing of faith-based claims, was a new concern for all, as it posed a risk, a temptation, a source of power, and a source of meaning. A lack of attention being paid to hope and identity in high security settings was identified as a major difficulty for prisoners and those managing or working in high security prisons. Considerable drift away from the 'Radzinowicz ideal' of 'combining security with humanity' within high security prisons, had taken place in the wake of new social and criminal justice conditions.

A new governor and newly energised chaplaincy team were seeking ways of opening up a dialogue and building better relationships between staff and prisoners, as well as faith groups, at the end of the research period. A Working Group was established in NOMS to take the learning from this project forward, including a review of regimes in long-term prisons, of categorisation decisions, of the role of faith in prison, and of organisational development. That work is continuing.

Publications

Liebling, A. and Arnold, H. (2012) 'Social relationships between prisoners in a maximum security prison: violence, faith, and the declining nature of trust', *Journal of Criminal Justice*, 40(5): 413-424.

Liebling, A. (2011) 'Moral performance, inhuman and degrading treatment, and prison pain', *Punishment and Society* 13(5): 530-550.

Liebling, A., Arnold, H. and Straub, C. (2012) *An Exploration of Staff-Prisoner Relationships at HMP Whitemoor: Twelve Years On*, London: National Offender Management Service

Liebling, A. and Straub, C. (2012), 'Identity Challenges and the Risks of Radicalisation in High Security Custody', *Prison Service Journal. Special Edition: Combating Extremism and Terrorism*, No. 203: 15-22.

Liebling, A. (2013, forthcoming) 'Legitimacy Under Pressure' in High Security Prisons', in J. Tankebe and A. Liebling (eds) *Legitimacy and Criminal Justice* Oxford University Press.

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

Ben Crewe, Susie Hulley and Serena Wright

Funded by the Economic and Social Research Council, this two year study is being conducted by Ben Crewe, Susie Hulley and Serena Wright, who are currently in the fieldwork phase of the study. Focussing on prisoners serving life sentences with tariffs of fifteen years or more, given to them when aged twenty-five or under, the study focuses on three main areas: first, how do these prisoners cope psychologically with such lengthy sentences (e.g. how do they think about time and the future? How do they manage their identities?); second, how do they build a world for themselves while in

prison (e.g. what relationships do they form with other prisoners and staff? How do they maintain external relationships?); and, third, to what degree do they comply with the regime and feel that their sentences are (or are not) legitimate?

The context for the study includes increasingly long sentences for murder and concerns – expressed publicly by the chief executive of NOMS and the former Chief Inspector of Prisons – about the potential impact of these sentences on the stability of the prison system. In recent decades, the long-term prisoner population has changed, and there is little understanding of how those with the most severe sentences are adapting to extreme periods of confinement. Academic interest in long-term prisoners has waned since the 1970s, and where attention has been paid to life sentence prisoners, it has tended to focus on those in high-security prisons. Our aim is to conduct around 100 interviews with prisoners at various stages of such sentences, including those who are in medium-security conditions, and a number who are in open conditions, often many years beyond their tariff date. So far, around 85 interviews have been completed in ten establishments, ranging from Young Offender Institutions to Category D prisons. All interviews include a life history element, and most have lasted for several hours overall. Among the emerging themes so far are the difficulties that prisoners face in grasping the terms that they are serving, the paradoxical experience of time both standing still and moving quickly, the prevalence of extreme forms of coping (including religious conversion, legal challenge, appeal/denial, and living 'day-to-day'), the co-existence of exceptional frustration with high levels of compliance, and a notable lack of engagement with and empathy from staff.

Alongside the interviews, we are also administering surveys to prisoners which ask them primarily about the main problems that they are experiencing. Our questionnaire draws upon a well-established set of questions about long-term confinement, while supplementing them with items of

contemporary relevance. We expect to collect around 200 surveys overall, which will constitute around a quarter of the overall population who meet our criteria. We are also undertaking interviews with a number of uniformed staff and senior practitioners whose work involves dealing with or setting policy for long-term prisoners.

In coming years, we hope to obtain further funding to enable us to follow-up our cohort of interviewees at five year intervals, as a way of providing a longitudinal perspective on their experiences and adaptations, both within prison and on release.

'MQPL +': Analyses of Quality, Culture and Values in Individual Prisons

During 2011, the PRC team developed a methodology referred 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 an MQPL survey if we are doing this as part of a larger research project, with added qualitative components.

MQPL+, then, is an in-depth, intensively-conducted, descriptive analysis of the social environment for staff and prisoners in a prison establishment, using 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 sensitive, appreciative interviews with staff and prisoners. The research exercise is conducted by a highly experienced team of at least 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 two years, we have conducted MQPL + exercises at Brinsford, Birmingham (twice), Aylesbury (twice) and Full Sutton. Establishment Governors/Directors often request feedback meetings, and return visits one year later. These exercises are helping us to better understand how prisons change over time, the relationship between staff and prisoner quality of life, the relative strengths and weakness of public and private sector prisons, and the distinctive characteristics of (for example) high-security prisons and young offender Institutions.

Analysis of the results is on-going (reports have been written for and distributed to each establishment). Meanwhile, a book chapter which describes the initial and on-going development of the MQPL surveys was published in 2011 in *The Sage Handbook of Criminological Research Methods*:

Liebling, A., Hulley, S. and Crewe, B. (2011), 'Conceptualising and Measuring the Quality of Prison Life', in Gadd, D., Karstedt, S. and Messner, S. (eds.) *The Sage Handbook of Criminological Research Methods*. London: Sage.

**Australian Research Council Linkage Project:
Aboriginal Quality of Life**

John Rynne, Yolonda Adams, Sjharn Leeson and Alison Liebling

According to a young Aboriginal prisoner in Western Australia, the worst thing about being in prison is being away from his family and friends. He adds, however, that 'the best thing about prison is also being away from his

family and friends'. This man's account of his experience in custody illustrates the complexities of an Australian-funded study looking at how to measure the **quality of prison life for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander offenders**. It will explore cultural differences between non-Aboriginal and Aboriginal prisoners, and the experience of custody in both urban and remote rural prisons. Led by Griffith University Criminology and Criminal Justice Senior Lecturer John Rynne, the team of researchers will interview Aboriginal prisoners over the next three years in Western Australia (WA) and Northern Territory (NT) prisons. The study, funded by the Australian Research Council Linkage Project, will investigate how elements of Aboriginal culture could be used in prison quality to empower prisoners and how this could be transferred into their communities on their release.

Speaking to the press after a tour of Broome Regional Prison and the new West Kimberley Regional Prison recently, Dr Rynne said his study was a continuation of research conducted by Professor Alison Liebling and her team from the Prison Research Centre at the University of Cambridge's Institute of Criminology in 2001: "Professor Liebling's research was about trying to measure what prison was actually like and the experience of prison," Dr Rynne said. "The research found the prison experience depended on things such as relationships, humanity, decency and authority." Dr Rynne said these criteria quickly made their way into Australia's corrective services but a gap remained when it came to how to measure the prison experiences of Aboriginal Australians and Torres Strait Islanders. A pilot study in 2004 grew into a fully-funded project spanning four universities and two government departments. Alison Liebling is acting as a consultant to the project, and has participated in some of the early stage fieldwork in WA and NT.

B. NEW RESEARCH

Locating trust in a climate of fear: Religion, moral status, prisoner leadership, and risk in maximum security prisons

2013-2015

Alison Liebling, Ruth Armstrong and Ryan Williams were pleased to be selected in March 2013 through a novel competitive 'pitch to peers' procedure, for a research award from the ESRC under a *Transforming Social Science* scheme. The 18 month project, which starts in October 2013, will explore how trust, risk, faith identities and prisoner leadership interact in two maximum security prisons. We propose that contemporary prison sociology – which has always explored prisoner sub-cultures, hierarchies and leadership, but never seriously engaged with faith – needs to develop an understanding of the complex role of religion in the lives of individuals and communities. Dr. Ryan Williams, from the Faculty of Divinity, will add theological expertise to the study. The bringing together of two disciplines could transform and humanise our understanding of the prison in ways that are also of deep significance to our fractured inner city communities.

It is clear from the recent Whitemoor study (Liebling et al 2011, see 1. above) that high security prisons have fundamentally changed: at Whitemoor in 2010, 40 per cent of its population were Muslim. Half of this number converted to Islam whilst in prison. 55 per cent of its population were Black or mixed race; 97 per cent were serving sentences of over 10 years. Most were being held many years beyond their tariff or expected punishment. Many prisoners regarded their sentences as unexpected and illegitimate. We described Whitemoor high security prison as 'paralysed by distrust'. Staff did not 'recognise' their 'audience' any more (a reference to work by Bottoms and Tankebe 2011). 'Intelligence' had replaced close connection between staff and prisoners. This

was the opposite of 'dynamic security', on which order in prison depends.

There are explanations for this transformation, related to social change outside: drastically lengthening sentences; the growing number of people imprisoned for offences related to terrorism, a changing political and policy climate, in which growth-related activities are regarded as 'pampering', and concerns about faith-related discrimination. Staff are not well informed about the differences between authentic (but unfamiliar) faith practices and bids for power. Prisoners at early stages in long sentences undergo a kind of 'existential crisis', and one of the only parts of the prison where life has not been severely constrained is at Friday prayers. One prisoner in our study said:

The best way to be able to feel that you can trust anyone in here is to be a Muslim ... like I said, it's a proper temptation. It's the best thing in here, really... It's the only place in the prison where there's love, where there's trust, where there's real friendships, loyalty, any of them type of things.

The other social change is managerialism, which has transformed the knowledge base of prison managers, and brought about an intensified focus on risk.

In our bid for the funding, we argued that the high security prison could not be more relevant to broader understanding of British society. Six of the cases of known terrorist acts in the UK have involved young men who converted to Islam in prison. On the other hand, many prisoners are drawn to faith in prison to resolve questions of meaning, hope and identity: faith scripts can be transformative in wholly positive ways. Networks and relationships in prison shape these dynamics. Our working hypothesis is that in a risk-dominated, low trust climate in which meaning is scarce, faith scripts and identities are more likely to become transformative in the wrong direction. Where some trust flows, and prisoners feel supported in their own personal development

journey, faith is more likely to be part of a positive change trajectory.

We hope to capture dynamics that encourage human flourishing, even in prison, rather than 'damage to character' (Jacobs, 2012), which is an increasing risk. The American author of the only credible study on radicalisation in prison says, this field is 'bereft of social science methodologies' (Hamm 2009). We are completing and refining a methodology that combines appreciative inquiry with ethnography-led measurement of key dimensions of the prison experience in an attempt to explore where and how trust might develop and 'work' even in a risk-dominated climate.

We will take two high security prisons and penetrate these prisons sufficiently deeply over four months in each to be able to determine whether and how levels of trust (and a broader theoretical framework related to legitimacy) are related to faith practices and identities, other searches for meaning and power, types of prisoner leadership, and the types of change trajectories that prisoners are on. By the end of the study we aim to be able to measure 'political charge', that is, disaffection, and perceived lack of legitimacy. But we want to do this by focusing on how and where trust is found and built. Our argument is that, even in a high security prison, efforts at recognition and intelligent trust, undertaken clear-headedly, improve more or less every outcome senior managers and the public might reasonably care about.

Our methodology depends on slow entry into the field, the use of Appreciative Inquiry; dialogue, and 'reserved participation', gradually organised long interviews, and then measurement. We will test the hypothesis that faith identities and networks take on a different character in different moral climates. We will combine our evolving methods with a novel socio-metric technique, the Social Field Generator, which will help us to identify what sort of leaders emerge in what kind of moral climates, providing a sort of psychological or 'moral geography' of prison wings. Some of the questions we hope to address include:

where is trust found and how is it built, in high security settings? What opportunities do prisoners get to demonstrate trustworthiness? Who do prisoners trust? On what basis? What meaning do faith identities have for prisoners? Are more esteemed prisoners in a community high or low on 'integrative complexity': that is, are prisoners who exert influence complex open-minded thinkers, resilient to extremist ideologies, or is closed thinking legitimized and authorized as a genuine expression of being, for example, a Muslim? Where else do prisoners find hope, recognition and meaning? Most important, are the kinds of influential leaders who emerge related to properties of the prison environment?

We are part of the evolving dialogue and action in this area, with others, following ongoing work arising from the Whitemoor study. We hope to be starting fieldwork in the first prison by the end of October.

Drug Recovery Wing (DRW) Pilots Evaluation

2013-2015

Charles Lloyd, Neil McKeganey, Steve Parrot, Geoff Page, Zetta Kougiali and Alison Liebling

Following the UK drug strategy (2010), which gives priority to service users and aims to 'support people to live a drug free life', there has been a major commitment to ensuring that drug treatment services are maximising the opportunities for the recovery of dependent drug users and that drug users in prison and in the community have access to high quality recovery focussed treatment. Delivering abstinence focussed drug treatment services within prisons presents different challenges from those developed within the community, not the least of which is the need to combine both treatment and custodial responsibilities. This Department of Health funded research, based at York University's Health Research Centre, but with Cambridge PRC members playing a linked

role, will answer questions in three main areas. First, based upon a detailed qualitative assessment of five of the drug recovery wings, it will provide a detailed description of the therapeutic programme within the wings and the experience of both staff and prisoners involved within them. This element of the research will provide rigorous information on how the wings are operating, what interventions are used with prisoners and how links are made with support services on release. It will also collect detailed information on the impact on the broader prison of having a wing focussed on recovery from drug and alcohol problems and (drawing on MQPL) the quality of life on these wings in particular. Second, the research will focus on assessing the impact of the drug recovery wings: identifying which DRWs produce the greatest reductions in drug use and misuse and the greatest progress in participants' journey towards a broader recovery experience, and which intervention components are most strongly associated with these positive outcomes. The research will also assess the economic costs and saving associated with the DRWs.

C. PHD RESEARCH

Amy Ludlow - *'Does Public Procurement Deliver? A Prison Privatisation Case Study'*.

Amy recently submitted her PhD in law at the University of Cambridge. Her research was jointly supervised by Alison Liebling and two colleagues in the Faculty of Law (Nicola Padfield and Catherine Barnard). Amy has been appointed as a Fellow in Law of Gonville and Caius College, University of Cambridge, from September this year and will continue to contribute to PRC activities.

Her PhD research found that contestability, through market testing and competitive tendering with private sector involvement is a major experiment in penal organisation and management. It may result in prison closure or the transfer of management to a private company (privatisation). This business restructuring necessarily has enormous, and

perhaps not entirely undesired, potential to affect employment and industrial relation change. It also demands new types of commercial understanding and engagement from the public sector.

Amy's research combines public source data collection with a case study at HMP Birmingham, the first operational public sector prison in the UK to be transferred into private management. Amy followed the competition at Birmingham for a year, through its transition period to the prison's transfer to G4S in October 2011. The research describes and evaluates market testing and procurement processes in prisons against labour law and human resources values. The project explores the role of procurement and employment law in shaping the staffing and industrial relations impacts of contestability and privatisation.

In practice, procurement and the workforce restructuring it tends to bring, appear to come into tension with some aspects of employment law as well as with good employment and industrial practice, particularly in the currently challenging economic climate. Amy's research explores how this tension has been managed by the managers, bid teams and NOMS staff who have been charged with steering the competition. In drawing upon the experiences of Birmingham prison staff, it questions whether the law provides an adequate and effective framework within which employment rights can be safeguarded and the promises of competition (such as value for money and innovation) can be fulfilled. The study explores and articulates the tensions between contestability / privatisation in the prison sector and good employment law and practice. It reflects upon what these new practices might mean for the occupational identity, role and future of prison staff. Its purpose is to connect law and the criminological literature on prisons and prison staff to the story of the people in and behind the competition processes in the sector.

Publications

Ludlow, A. (2012) 'Competition and contestability in action: restructuring the prison sector to achieve workforce and industrial change' *Public Law* 508-526.

Ludlow, A. (forthcoming, 2013) 'The Right to Strike: A Jurisprudential Gulf between the CJEU and ECtHR' in K. Dzehtsiarou, T. Konstadinides, T. Lock and N. O'Meara (eds), *The EU and the ECHR: Influence, Overlaps and Contradictions*.

Ludlow, A. and Liebling, A. (in progress) 'Privatising prisons: theory, law and practice'.

Ludlow, A. (under review) 'Private prisons and public interest: the changing role of prison controllers'.

Ludlow, A. (in progress) 'Rediscovering public law duties to ameliorate the labour impacts of outsourcing public services'.

Rachelle Larocque - '*Penal Practices, Values and Habits in Canada: Liberal Humanitarian and/or Punitive?*'.

Canadian corrections are often characterized as less punitive than their counterparts in the United States, perhaps having more in common with European jurisdictions. Rachelle's dissertation, which she is soon to submit, explores whether and in what ways this claim of 'Canadian exceptionalism' within North America is true. Through in-depth qualitative interviews and use of the MQPL and SQL surveys, it challenges the assumption that the Canadian penal environment is liberal-humanitarian, suggesting instead that it is both liberal-humanitarian and punitive in nature. While the Canadian prison system is not characterised by explicitly punitive practices, prisoners described experiencing forms of psychological punishment, including shame, disconnection from self and others, and a form of 'covert punitiveness', which resulted in feelings of worthlessness and degradation.

Marie Hutton - *'A Case for Change?: A Human Rights Analysis of Family Contact in Prisons'*.

Marie is in the final year of her PhD research. She has conducted in-depth case studies of the visiting systems in two local male prisons in England. Adopting a combined ethnographic and phenomenological methodology, she has observed each stage of the visits process and conducted semi-structured interviews with prisoners, their visitors and some visiting staff. This has enabled her to obtain an 'in depth analysis of the meaning of the lived experience' of prison visits to those who experience them (Kilinc and Campbell, 2009) in order to interpret the culture and social structure of the visiting system. The research is underpinned by considerations that arise from the application of Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights, the right to respect for a person's private and family life, to domestic prison visits. Article 8 ECHR case law on prison visitation often highlights a conflict between respecting the Article 8 right and the operational and security needs of the prisons. The research explores how prison personnel understand and address this balancing act in practice and the extent to which this impacts on the 'quality' of visits experienced. Marie also aims to 'humanise' human rights concepts by exploring what a 'private and family life' means to prisoners and their visitors in a prison setting.

Marie has recently been commissioned by the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama to undertake an evaluation of a Children's Play Project at HMP Doncaster, during which prisoners create a play for their children. The aim of the project is to help prisoners maintain and strengthen their relationships with their families during imprisonment to aid their rehabilitation and resettlement upon release. The evaluation explores the impact of the project on the participants, their relationships with their families and the implications for the prison more widely. A publication of the study is forthcoming.

Marie has now been appointed as the ESRC post-doctoral research fellow on a project at the University of Birmingham researching the link between prison visits and recidivism.

Jason Warr – *'The Forensic Psychologist: The Contemporary Prison Psychologist in Person and Practice'*.

Jason is in the final stages of writing up (and adapting for publication) his PhD on Forensic Psychologists working within prisons. In the meantime, he is employed full time at User Voice working on the organisation's prison projects as well helping it to establish a central research and evaluation system. Earlier this year, Jason presented a paper titled 'Imagined Rehabilitation' alongside Fergus McNeill at the London Practitioners Forum. He was one of the invited guest speakers at this year's Perrie Lectures, where he spoke about the risks of prisons becoming larger in size. His talk will be published in the Prison Service Journal later this year. He will also be contributing a chapter to the forthcoming edition of the *Handbook on Prisons*.

Thomas Akoensi – *'Identifying the Predictors of Job Stress and their Impact on Satisfaction and Commitment among Ghanaian Prison Officers'*.

Thomas is in the final stages of his PhD. His study traces the historical roots of imprisonment in Ghana involving the study of colonial documents and how the prison as an institution has evolved to date. It argues that colonialism was not confined to an historical event, but remains evident in many organizational practices in prisons. Arbitrary transfer of officers, the para-military command and control structure, staff shortages, housing of officers in barracks accommodations, escorting prisoners on external labour activities, all were typical features of the colonial prison service, are still common.

Based on interviews (N=78), Thomas has sought to capture officers' conceptualization of job stress and other aspects of their working lives, in their own words. Ghanaian prison officers defined stress as the work pressure, anxiety/ tensions, frustrations and anger, physical exhaustion and the family interferences that were associated with doing prison work. Further thematic analysis of officers' interviews revealed that officers' perceptions of the work as dangerous, concerns over the risks of infectious diseases, the physical environmental working conditions, work-family conflicts, power-holder legitimacy and organizational injustice (both procedural and distributive) were important stressors. 'Benefit-finding' or the recognition of personal growth was highly significant in shaping officers satisfaction and commitment. Ghanaian prison officers' argued that they had become much more vigilant and critical of issues in general, had become conversant with the laws of Ghana, had become law abiding, had become peace advocates in their neighbourhood, had desisted from certain behaviours which they now realized were offences and finally, had acquired wisdom from their work.

Quantitative analysis of survey data (N=1062) using hierarchical regression modelling confirmed these stressors as important determinants of job stress, job satisfaction and organizational commitment. Job stress was found to be an important and significant predictor of both job satisfaction and organizational commitment although the relationship between job stress and organizational commitment was mediated by job satisfaction. Furthermore, in spite of the poor material conditions of prisons including officers' residential accommodations, these aspects of prison life were less important as determinants of officers' attitudes than psychological/ existential aspects of prison work such as being treated with respect and dignity (procedural justice), fairness in the allocation of organizational resources (distributive justice), the interference and difficulties associated with combining prison work and family life (Work-family conflict), confidence in officers' moral rightfulness of

authority (power-holder legitimacy) due to the inherent legitimacy deficits of the prison as an institution, perceptions of the job as inherently dangerous (dangerousness), recognizing positives and meaning in doing prison work (benefit-finding), and salary inadequacy.

Publications

Koehler, J., Humphreys, D., **Akoensi, T.**, Sanchez de Ribera, O. & Losel, F. (2013) 'A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis on the Effects of European Drug Treatment Programmes on Reoffending' *Psychology, Crime & Law* [Online] Available at: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/1068316X.2013.804921>

Koehler, J., Losel, F., **Akoensi, T.** & Humphreys, D. (2013) 'Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis on the Effects of Young Offender Treatment in Europe' *Journal of Experimental Criminology*, 9(1): 19-43.

Akoensi, T., Koehler, J., Humphreys, D. & Lose, F. (2012) 'Domestic Violence Perpetrator Programmes in Europe, part II: A Systematic Review of the State of Evidence' *International Journal of Offender Therapy and Comparative Criminology*, XX(X): 1-20.

Vicky Gadd - '*Exploring Excellence: Effective Senior Management Teams in Public Sector Prisons*'.

Soon to be completed, Vicky's research is an attempt to address Dilulio's (1987) claim that the 'management variable' has been neglected by prison scholars, and to investigate management teams in the UK as a unit, rather than prison governors alone. Combining ethnographic and survey methods, including appreciative interviews and the administration of psychometric and personality tests, Vicky's research involved the study of two high-performing prison senior management teams. Her primary research questions were: how do the 'best' teams achieve and maintain success in the current climate? What does effectiveness

mean to modern managers, and what mechanisms underlie it? Could these mechanism and conditions be replicated in other establishments and at other points in time?

Two themes emerged strongly in the analysis: *optimism*, which encompassed positivity, hope, faith, trust and confidence, and *resilience*, which encompassed buoyancy, adjustability, flexibility, tenacity and determination. These concepts (alongside evidence from managers personality and work profiles) were used to create a typology of senior management styles, with two intersecting axes: optimism-pessimism and resilience-vulnerability. The most effective and successful senior managers were 'flexible-realists', who were optimistic and resilient, within limits. Other important themes were the relative importance of the number one governor and the significance of 'authenticity' for legitimate leadership. These findings could have important implications for the training and management of senior Prison Service managers.

Barbara Cooke - '*The Effects of Dog-Training Programs on Factors Related to Desistance*'.

Barbara will soon begin the third year of her PhD. Dog-training programmes use prisoners or at-risk youths to train dogs either to become service animals or, in the case of shelter dogs, to increase their chances of being adopted. In the United States, these programmes have become increasingly popular and have been implemented in over 150 prisons. Despite this popularity, very little is known about how dog-training programmes affect the participants and the institutions in which they are held. Existing literature on animal-assisted therapy/interventions, altruism as correctional treatment, and dog-training programmes all suggest that contact with dogs as well as the act of training them should have an impact on the psychological and physiological well-being of prisoners. However, much of this literature is anecdotal, limited, or based on animal-assisted therapies

in hospital settings and schools. Dog-training programmes vary widely in implementation and practice, so it is important that practitioners understand how this variance might affect programme outcomes, hence the need for a larger scale study.

In an effort to fill this research gap, Barbara is evaluating how participating in prison-based dog-training programmes affects specific risk and protective factors for desistance versus persistence: impulsivity, empathy, emotional intelligence, self-efficacy, and criminal thinking styles. To carry out this evaluation she has employed a mixed-methods approach, using both survey and interview data to measure the effects of programme participation in five programmes within two U.S. states, housed in two adult male medium/minimum security prisons, one adult female medium/minimum security prison, and one juvenile female prison. Barbara interviewed a total of 54 programme participants, programme coordinators, and prison staff and administered 98 surveys to programme participants. Additionally, Barbara is comparing predicted reoffending scores and actual reoffending data for participants and a control group.

Barbara is also the team leader of a group of researchers from the Institute of Criminology who are conducting an independent evaluation of *Spark Inside*, a programme that pairs young offenders with life coaches.

Publications

Cooke, B.J. (forthcoming) 'An evaluation of prison-based dog-training programs in two U.S. states using a mixed-methods approach' *SAGE Reference project: SAGE Cases in Methodology*.

Cooke, B.J. & Farrington, D.P. (under review) 'The effects of dog-training programs: Female participants' experiences of incarceration'.

Cooke, B.J. & Farrington, D.P. (under review) 'The perceived effects of dog-training programmes in correctional settings'.

Deborah Kant - *'Under Threat? A Social and Occupational History of Prison Officers'*.

Deborah has completed the first year of her PhD. The Prison Service of England and Wales has undergone rapid change over the last half century, as have the backgrounds, orientations and organisational roles of the prison officers' themselves. The shifting political climate, changing prisoner population, and institutionalisation of privatisation have all contributed to a sense of uncertainty among prison officers – about their role, the future and their place in it.

Deborah's research focuses on the life stories of prison officers as they relate their personal and working lives from the 1970s to the present. It will adopt a narrative based social history method of collecting qualitative data, which employs a semi-structured interview schedule and allows interviewees to lead the direction of their narrative – essentially highlighting the values, events and people they distinguish as most relevant to the formation of their working personalities. The study will investigate whether distinct 'working personalities' (Liebling, 2008) can be attributed to generations of prison officers. Previous research (for example Liebling, 2008; Crawley, 2004) has shown that prison officers as a group share certain traits such as a sense of camaraderie and social cohesion, 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, the same researchers agree that the culture of prison officers is diverse and different from prison to prison, and that there are therefore distinct 'ways things get done around here' (Deal and Kennedy, 1982) – complete with norms and values that may vary from wing to wing within the same establishment (Liebling, 2008). Deborah's research focuses on this distinction, and investigates whether the evolution of certain cultures can be traced generationally, or whether there are other factors in the lives of officers that more decisively influence the way institutional cultures hold over the working personalities of prison officers.

Bethany Schmidt – *'Democratizing Democracy: Re-imagining Prisoners as Citizens through Participatory Governance'*.

Bethany has completed the first year of her PhD, in which she has extended the research she began as a Masters student, which explored the work of the innovative non-profit organization *User Voice* and its ex-offender-led prison council model. Her research 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 current 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.

This research is beginning to produce important evidence in support of a prison-based cooperative and co-producing council model that assists prisoners in developing civil dispositions through democratic engagement. The data suggest that fostering democratic principles in the prison setting has the potential to 'civilize' individuals and institutions, and more closely align them with democratic virtues that endorse community, trust, and dialogical work towards collectivist objectives. This 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.

Publications

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*.

Schmidt, B.E. (in progress) 'Imprisonment and Civility: The Damaging of Democratic Character'.

Kirstine Szifris – '*Philosophy Classes in Prison: Exploring the Impact and Experience of Engaging Prisoners in Philosophical Conversation*'.

Kirstine has completed the first year of her PhD, exploring the relevance of engaging prisoners in Philosophical Dialogue in an educational context. Her work this year has predominantly involved developing the theoretical underpinnings of the research, exploring ideas of identity and morality and their relevance to prisoners, and planning her phase of data collection. This will involve the development of a twelve week programme of philosophical dialogue in at least two prisons. In assessing the outcomes and effects of engaging in such an education programme, Kirstine plans to employ a range of data gathering tools. This will include interviewer-led questionnaires which will assess participants' morality, empathy, reflexivity, moral emotions and self-control, based on survey tools initially developed for the Peterborough Adolescent and Young Adult Development Study, also based at the Institute of Criminology. To complement and supplement this information, Kirstine will also be interviewing participants, taking extensive notes and setting short assignments for participants.

As an ESRC Scholarship student, Kirstine has also been given the opportunity to complete a

three-month internship at the House of Commons, where she has been working at the Scrutiny Unit and serving as the Committee Specialist for the Joint Committee on the draft Voting Eligibility (Prisoners) Bill. This role has involved her writing briefings for Members of the House of Lords and House of Commons, putting together expert panels of witnesses to give oral evidence on relevant issues, and producing reports on the findings of these evidence sessions.

Fabio Tartarini - '*Prisoners' Narratives of Human Flourishing: An Exploration of the Institutional and Interpersonal Facilitators of Personal Growth in Prison*'.

Fabio has completed the first year of his PhD. The last decade has registered an increased interest in human flourishing (defined as feeling good emotionally and functioning effectively in psychological and social terms), both in academic and institutional contexts. Emblematic of this change is the reference, by the World Health Organization, to the need for prison environments to be able to guarantee prisoners' mental health and human flourishing. Meanwhile, in relation to prison research, analysis of the MQPL survey has shown that some prisons are more survivable than others and that some prisons are better than others at promoting personal growth (Liebling et al, in progress). Drawing on these developments, and bringing together the perspectives of prison research and positive psychology, this research aims to question the conceptualisation of prisons as place only of pain and distress and instead ask under what conditions prisons might enable human flourishing.

In addressing this question, the research will explore the interplay between institutional and interpersonal factors in promoting human flourishing in prison. Specific focus will be given to aspects of the prison's moral performance (e.g. respect, security, professionalism, organization), the prisoners' significant others (e.g. family members), and prisoners' human capital (e.g. coping skills,

personal resilience etc.). Over a six month period, after an initial interview, prisoners will be asked to record in a personal diary their experiences of imprisonment and the events affecting their human flourishing. At the end of this period, follow up interviews will be conducted with individuals whose level of wellbeing has either increased or decreased significantly. The overall aim of this project is to support the development of policies promoting the accomplishment of positive mental health: 'a state of well-being in which the individual realizes his or her own abilities, can cope with the normal stresses of life, can work productively and fruitfully, and is able to make a contribution to his or her community' (WHO 2010).

D. FEATURING POST-DOCTORAL AND RESEARCH STAFF

Dr Ruth Armstrong was awarded her PhD in 2013, entitled *'Life After Prison in America's Bible Belt: An ethnography of release from a faith-based prison programme'*. The thesis examined the lives of 48 men released over a six month period from a faith-based prison programme in the USA. Drawing on desistance theory, it analysed participants' experiences in their first year post-release and described the social contexts and interactions that shaped their lives in four areas: parole supervision, involvement in churches, support from faith-based aftercare services, and interactions with volunteers. The thesis drew together the findings from each of these areas to argue that in the neoliberal market economy of the USA, state supported welfare for ex-prisoners has all but disappeared. In this environment parole practice has moved towards supervision and sanction and away from support. Faith-based aftercare services and faith communities have been handed this supportive role, but, immersed in neoliberal logic, they often pass 'individual responsibility' for securing success in re-entry back to ex-prisoners themselves. While volunteer efforts cannot make up for the shortfall of state funding for ex-prisoners, official policy and practice could learn much

from their approach. Comparing participants' experiences across re-offending outcomes showed how ex-prisoners' internalisation of the need to take individual responsibility, combined with the debilitating effects of a prison mentality, inhibited the most needy (who are often the most at risk of reoffending) from seeking and getting the help they needed. The thesis concluded that the proactive and responsive virtues demonstrated by volunteers could help to promote desistance because ex-prisoners coped responsibly where they were helped responsively.

Since, Ruth has been working as a post-doctoral researcher in the PRC studying the connections between the themes from her thesis and Liebling et al's (2011) study of relationships in Whitemoor, and preparing for the study of trust and faith in high security prisons (see section on 'New Research', above).

Ruth has given several presentations this year drawing from, and developing, themes from her thesis. These include a seminar on *'Can trust enable agential capacities and facilitate a disposition of civility?'* and on *'The theology, practice and implications of faith-based volunteers work with ex-prisoners in America's Bible Belt'*, for the McDonald Agape Foundation symposium 'Re-Thinking the Ethics of State Punishment: Philosophy, Theology and Penal Theory', held in Cambridge in May 2013.

Dr Ryan J. Williams is a social scientist of religion in the Faculty of Divinity and is currently employing his expertise on network methods and the study of religion to investigate faith and trust in high security prisons as part of the ESRCs *Transforming Social Science* grant with Professor Alison Liebling.

Ryan completed his PhD at Cambridge in the Faculty of Divinity, where he explored issues related to preventing violent extremism. He brought a critical conceptual analysis of

'radicalization' and its relationship to religion and violence together with an empirical study to investigate how open-mindedness can be encouraged in religious communities. He developed a novel methodology to explore how grassroots religious leadership within small networks of young British Muslims can serve to encourage open-minded thinking about contested religious issues, drawing attention to the resources of social capital already available in communities of young Muslims.

Ryan is also interested in the way that theological and human scientific analyses can interact in a complementary and enriching way for understanding relationships between members of different religious communities. Ryan has explored this interaction through a study of an inter-religious dialogue community of Jews and Christians in Canada, providing one of the few systematic studies of a dialogue community. More generally, Ryan's interests lie in the intersection of religion and the social sciences, theory and method in the study of religion, inter-faith relations, religious education and religious leadership.

Ryan has informed policy and research on the national and international level. He has worked as a rapporteur for NATO to develop a research agenda for Europe and North America related to the human sciences and security. He has advised the Home Office on issues related to religion and concerns about radicalization, seeking to offer a balanced and nuanced understanding to security concerns and also offering advice on countering radicalization online. He has also served as a scientific advisor to the Taabah Foundation in the United Arab Emirates for a project related to religious leadership and Muslim youth across the Arabian Peninsula and North Africa.

Publications

Williams, R. J. (2013) 'Network hubs and opportunity for complex thinking among young British Muslims' *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, 52(3): 573-595.

Williams, R. J. and Watts, F. N. (in press) 'Attributions in a spiritual healing context: An archival analysis of a 1920s healing movement' *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*.

Williams, R. J. and Ruparell, T. (in press) 'On being in the middle: Interreligious dialogue and network centrality' Submitted to the *Journal of Contemporary Religion*.

Williams, R. J. (in press) 'Religious Leadership and boundary-spanning in a network society' *Faithful Enrichment: Essays at the interface of psychology, theology and religion*. Ashgate Science and Religion series.

Caroline Lanksey - *Educational Pathways of Young People in the Youth Justice System – PRC Report 2013*.

This research case study is investigating young people's experiences of education and training during their time in the youth justice system. It aims to develop an explanatory framework for the educational paths of young people on community and custodial sentences and to identify practices (pedagogic, strategic and administrative) which support their engagement with learning.

At the centre of the research is a purposive sample of 31 young people with one youth offending service (YOS) who have had diverse educational experiences. The young people range from 14 years to 18 years, with an average age of 16. Twenty-seven (87%) are male and four (13%) are female. Twenty-four (77%) are White British and seven (23%) are from minority ethnic groups. Sixteen (51%) have Referral Orders, eight (26%) have Youth Rehabilitation Orders, four (13%) have Detention and Training Orders, two (7%) are on Intensive Surveillance and Supervision Programmes and one (3%) is on a Supervision Order. Twenty-five young people have been tracked for a period of up to eight months during their time with the youth offending service and have been interviewed twice. A further five with shorter sentences have been

interviewed once. Data on their educational careers have also been collected from YOS records and reports.

To understand the multiple layers of influence on the young people's educational paths, interviews and discussions have also taken place with 21 professionals and managers working with youth offending and children's services, 27 teachers at educational establishments attended by young people under YOS supervision and seven representatives from policy and inspection bodies. Additionally 16 days of education observations and discussions have been undertaken at eight educational establishments: two young offender institutions, three pupil referral units, two secondary school inclusion units, and one special school.

The data collection is now complete and the analysis and writing up of the research are underway. The final report will be published at the end of the year.

Serena Wright joined the Prisons Research Centre in October 2012 to work as a Research Associate on the project '*Experiencing very long term imprisonment from young adulthood: identity, adaptation and penal legitimacy*'. While undertaking much of the fieldwork for this study, Serena has also – with B Raffan Gowar – organised a PRC trip to Norway to visit Bastøy open prison, following an invitation by the Governor, Arne Kvernvik Nilsen, during his visit to us here at the Institute last December (see below).

Serena's first peer-reviewed paper - a multi-disciplinary research piece, co-authored with Connie Golsteijn of the University of Surrey - was accepted for INTRACT 2013, a key conference within the field of human-computer interaction, and will be published following the conference in the journal *Lecture Notes in Computer Science*. Serena's contribution reflected her interest in narrative research and holistic, person-centred methods of analysis, specifically pen/research

portraits. She has also published an article in the Howard League's Early Career Network bulletin on some of the findings from her doctoral research on the lives of persistent female re-offenders. Along with Dr Jenifer Sloan of Sheffield University, Serena will be contributing a chapter to a forthcoming book on prison-based ethnographies, which will focus on her experiences as a novice prison researcher.

Publications

Golsteijn, C., and **Wright, S.** (2013) 'Using Narrative Research and Portraiture to Inform Design Research' To appear in *Proceedings of the 14th IFIP TC13 Conference on Human-Computer Interaction (INTERACT'13)*.

Wright, S. (2012). "Being set up to fail?" The role of the CJS in perpetuating cycles of repeat criminalisation for substance-addicted women' *The Howard League Early Career Network Bulletin*, 18: 18-25.

Dr Katherine Auty is a Research Associate in the Prisons Research Centre, and was previously a PhD student in Forensic Psychiatry at Barts and The London School of Medicine and Dentistry, Queen Mary, University of London. For her PhD research, using data from the Cambridge Study in Delinquent Development, she examined the intergenerational transmission of psychopathy, personality disorders and criminal offending. She found that psychopathy was transmitted from fathers to male and female offspring, and this transmission was mediated via the father's employment problems. There were also relationships between the convictions of parents and their offspring: for male offspring, the transmission of convictions was mediated via the fathers' drug use and for female offspring, it was mediated via the father's cohabitation problems and harsh discipline of his children.

During her time at the PRC, Katherine has been producing quantitative analysis of the MQPL and SQL data to complement the

qualitative findings, and has been helping to organise and support the centre's extended MQPL and SQL exercises. This 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 more specifically 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. In addition, Katherine has been studying the relationships between the MQPL and SQL measures by examining data collected on the research visits to HMP Birmingham in 2011 and 2012 to see if staff-prisoner relationships in 2011 are related to those in 2012.

Katherine has also been conducting the first systematic review and meta-analysis of the effects of yoga and mindfulness mediation in prisons on psychological well-being and behavioural functioning. So far, 18 studies have been identified as being suitable for the review. Some preliminary findings were presented at the British Society of Criminology Conference in July, which suggest that there are positive effects of yoga and meditation on both psychological and behavioural functioning of prisoners. The review also recommends that future studies need to employ larger samples, treatment as usual or control groups and follow-up study participants over longer time periods.

Publications

Farrington, D., **Auty, K.**, Coid, J., Turner, R. (2013) 'Self-Reported and Official Offending from Age 10 to Age 56', *European Journal on Criminal Policy and Research*, 19(2):135-151.

Glaser, D., Prior, V., **Auty, K.**, Tilki, S. (2012) Does Training and Consultation in a Systematic Approach to Emotional Abuse (FRAMEA) Improve the Quality of Children's Services? (The Emotional Abuse Recognition Training Evaluation Study). In: Davies C, Ward H, eds. *Safeguarding Children Across Services: Messages from Research*. London: Jessica Kingsley, 179-180.

Piquero, A.R., Farrington, D.P., Shepherd, J.P., **Auty, K.** (2011) 'Offending and Early Death in the Cambridge Study in Delinquent Development' *Justice Quarterly*.

Zetta Kougiali is completing her PhD on the '*Process of Change from Addiction to Recovery*'. Her hypothesis stems from the theoretical approach that guides evaluation in drug treatment programs in prisons, that assumes linearity in the relationship between treatment and outcomes, viewing behaviour change as a 'before and after event'. Zetta's research looks at how the process of change from addiction to recovery occurs and attempts to determine the trajectory of this process and how this affects identity (trans)formation. Drawing on a multidisciplinary literature on the study of change, such as dynamical systems and chaos theory, her findings suggest that the process of change is discontinuous with long lasting periods of disequilibrium occurring before positive behaviour change is finally stabilised. Moreover, her research highlights how periods of discontinuity preceding stabilisation of change last a lot longer than a short-term pre-post research design can capture, and this has important implications for the definition, measurement and evaluation of change.

Publications

Needs A. & **Kougiali Z.** (2013) *An initial evaluation of the 'A New Direction' Programme at HMP Kingston: Qualitative data and Implications*: University of Portsmouth (Peer reviewed report)

Kougiali, Z., Fasulo, A., Needs, A., & Van Laar, D. (in progress) The discontinuous nature of the process from addiction to recovery: planting the 'seeds of change'.

Kougiali Z. (invited chapter, forthcoming) 'Narratives in progress: experiencing change from addiction to recovery', in R.Piazza & A.Fasulo (Eds.) *Marked identities. Narrating lives between social labels and individual biographies*. Palgrave.

E. OTHER ACTIVITIES

Alison Liebling and Ben Crewe continue to maintain strong relations with practitioners, including senior figures within NOMS with whom they regularly discuss their research findings, on topics including high-security prisons, prison governors, the use of authority in prisons, public and private sector imprisonment, and prison staff.

In October 2012, a joint three day **'Appreciative Inquiry' training workshop** was held in Cambridge, led by Charles Elliott and Alison Liebling. Three members of the **Australian 'Aboriginal Quality of Prison Life'** research team attended. The training culminated in a one-day visit by ten members of the PRC team to Bronzefield prison, where appreciative interviews were held with ten women prisoners on experiences of human flourishing. Appreciative questions included: 'Tell me about an aspect of your life you are most proud of;' 'What is the most rewarding experience you have had since coming to Bronzefield?'; 'What's the difference between an ordinary day and a best day in here?' 'Tell me a story about a time when you were at your best at Bronzefield in the last couple of weeks'. 'What positive skills do you have that have helped yourself or other people whilst you've been at Bronzefield?' 'What is your favourite way to pass your time in here and why?' 'Can you give me an example of something you have learned here that is going to be useful to you in the future?' 'Tell me about your best experience with a member of staff in this prison'. This was, thanks to staff at Bronzefield, among the best facilitated and most productive single days the team have spent in a prison to date. We hope to use the appreciative protocol devised in future research.

In June 2013 a delegation of representatives of the European branch of the **International Prison Chaplaincy Association (IPCA)** (including representatives from Germany, Austria, the Netherlands, Sweden, France and Romania) came to discuss mutual research interests and the possibility of holding the

International Conference in Cambridge in 2017. This is looking likely.

An increasing number of researchers or prison services continue to request use of **the MQPL survey** in their own work. Recent trials of the survey have been conducted in Barcelona and in Kosovo, by Elena Larrauri and team, and by the Kosova Rehabilitation Centre for Torture Victims (supported by Dignity: Danish Institute Against Torture). In January 2013 an MQPL training day was held for six staff from the **Irish Prison Service** to provide an introduction to the methods and spirit of MQPL following a visit to IPS Headquarters in December 2012. This newly appointed team are currently piloting use of MQPL in the Irish Prison Service.

Alice levins was recently awarded the John Sunley Prize by the Howard League for Penal Reform in July 2013 for her MPhil dissertation 'Living among sex offenders: Identity, safety and relationships at HMP Whatton'. Alice will be developing this research when she starts her PhD at the Institute this autumn.

Alison Liebling was awarded an honorary doctorate by the **University of Örebro, Sweden**, in 2012. She has also been made an adjunct professor at the **University of Griffith, Queensland** (simultaneous appointment), in recognition of her contribution to the ARC linkage project, and to the establishment of an **International Corrections Research Centre**, launched in October, 2013.

In May 2013, 14 members of the research centre (along with two guests from other universities) went on an educational trip to **Bastøy prison in Norway**, co-ordinated by Serena Wright and B Raffan-Gowar. Located close to Oslo, on a small mass of land once known as 'Devil's Island', Bastøy was a reformatory for boys until 1971, but since 2007 has been run as a low security prison and is the world's first 'humane ecology prison'. Its philosophy is to instil a sense of responsibility in those imprisoned there, focusing heavily on the development of pro-social attitudes and activities, while providing prisoners with an unusual amount of

autonomy and freedom. Hosted by the prison's governor, Arne Kvernvik-Nilsen, our visit included a tour of the island (partly via horse and cart), which remains largely unaltered by the prison establishment and resembles a traditional Norwegian village. We participated in discussions with prisoners and staff, and had an evening meal in the island Light House, which was our accommodation for the night. Following our stay on the island, we spent a day at the Department of Criminology and Sociology of Law at the University of Oslo, where we contributed to a half-day seminar on prison research, sharing findings with our hosts, before enjoying traditional Norwegian hospitality as part of the country's Constitution Day.

In May 2012, Tony Bottoms, Justice Tankebe and Alison Liebling hosted an **International Symposium on Legitimacy in Criminal Justice** in Cambridge. The principal aims of the meeting, and of the edited collection to arise from it (see below), were to advance conceptual understanding of legitimacy in the contexts of policing, prisons, and criminal justice, through an advanced interdisciplinary dialogue drawing on insights from criminology, political science, international relations and sociology. The conference was attended by an unusually wide range of top as well as up and coming scholars in the field, and by several key senior managers in policing and prisons, including Michael Spurr. The collection will be published in December 2013:

J. Tankebe and A. Liebling (2013, forthcoming) (eds) *Legitimacy and Criminal Justice* Oxford University Press.

F. PUBLICATIONS ARISING FROM LINKED RESEARCH

Ben Crewe, Alison Liebling and Susie Hulley have recently had an article accepted for publication by the *British Journal of Sociology*, titled: 'Heavy-light, absent-present: Rethinking the weight of imprisonment'. Based upon their study of values, practices and outcomes in public and private corrections, the article seeks to conceptualise how power is used in both sectors and to provide a framework for thinking about how best it might operate. The full abstract for the article is as follows:

Since King and McDermott (1995), following Downes (1988), defined the psychological oppressiveness of incarceration in terms of 'weight', little has been written about the 'weight of imprisonment'. Nonetheless, it is generally assumed that prisons that are 'light' are preferable to those that are 'heavy' – in part because of an assumption among many penologists that power, and its application, is dangerous and antagonistic. This article does not dispute that 'heavy' prisons are undesirable. Its argument is that there can also be dangers if prisons are excessively light. Many of these dangers are linked to the under-use of power. The tone and quality of prison life depends on the combined effects of institutional weight with the 'absence' or 'presence' of staff power. Drawing on prisoners' descriptions of their experiences in public and private sector prisons, and their assessments of important aspects of their quality of life, the article outlines what these concepts mean in practice. The authors develop a four-quadrant framework for conceptualising penal legitimacy and the experience of penal authority.

Further publications drawing upon this research project are listed below:

Crewe, B, Liebling, A. and Hulley, S. (2011) 'Staff culture, the use of authority, and prisoner outcomes in public and private prisons' *Australia and New Zealand Journal of Criminology*. 44(1): 94-115.

Hulley, S., Liebling, A. and Crewe, B. (2012) 'Respect in prisons: Prisoners' experiences of respect in public and private sector prisons' *Criminology and Criminal Justice* February 2012 12: 3-23.

Crewe, B. and Liebling, A. (2012) 'Insider views of private sector competition', in Helyar-Cardwell, V. (eds.) *Delivering Justice: The role of the public, private and voluntary sectors in the prison system*. Criminal Justice Alliance publications.

Liebling, A. and Crewe, B. (2012) 'Values, Practices and Outcomes in Public and Private Sector Prisons', in Helyar-Cardwell, V. (eds.) *Delivering Justice: The role of the public, private and voluntary sectors in the prison system*. Criminal Justice Alliance publications.

Liebling, A. and Crewe, B. (forthcoming) 'Staff-prisoner relationships, moral performance, and privatisation', in McNeill, F. and Durnescu, I. (eds) *Understanding Penal Practices*.

Alison and Ben are continuing to reflect on the interviews that they conducted with senior managers on their occupational values and practices, and expect to add in the coming year to the two chapters that they have so far published in this area:

Liebling, A. and Crewe, B. (2012) 'Prisons beyond the new penology: the shifting moral foundations of prison management', in J. Simon and R. Sparks (eds.) *Handbook of Punishment and Society*. London: Sage.

Crewe, B. and Liebling, A. (2011) 'Are liberal humanitarian penal values and practices exceptional?', in Ugelvik, T. And Dullum, J. (eds.) *Penal Exceptionalism?: Nordic Prison Policy and Practice*. Cullompton: Willan.

Other recent publications, based upon a range of topics and on-going studies, are listed below:

Crewe, B. (2013) 'Compliance and resistance in prisons', in Raynor, P. and Ugwuodike, P. (eds.) *What Works in Offender Compliance? International Perspectives and Evidence-Based Practice*, Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.

Liebling, A. and Crewe, B. (2012) 'Prison life, penal power, and prison effects', in M. Maguire, R. Morgan, and R. Reiner (eds.), *The Oxford Handbook of Criminology*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Liebling, A. (2011) 'Being a Criminologist: Investigations as a Lifestyle and Living', in M. Bosworth and C. Hoyle (eds) *What is Criminology?*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp. 518-529.

Liebling, A. (2011) 'Distinctions and distinctiveness in the work of prison officers: Legitimacy and authority revisited', *European Journal of Criminology* 8(6): 484-499.

Crewe, B., Bennett, P., Smith, A. and Warr, J. (in press) 'The emotional geography of prison life', *Theoretical Criminology*

Crewe, B. (in press) 'Not looking hard enough: masculinity, emotion and prison research', *Qualitative Inquiry*

Crewe, B. (2011) 'Depth, weight, tightness: Revisiting the pains of imprisonment', *Punishment and Society*, 13(5) 509-529.