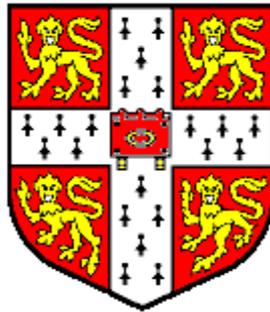


**Prisons Research Centre**  
Institute of Criminology  
University of Cambridge

*Annual Report*

October 2018



## PRISONS RESEARCH CENTRE ANNUAL

### REPORT 2018

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 the Prison Service, several research councils (for example, the Economic and Social Research Council, the European Research Council, the British Academy, The Leverhulme Trust and the Nuffield Foundation) and from other organisations. Its members include Professor Alison Liebling, Dr Ben Crewe (Deputy Director), and nine Research Associates: Dr Ruth Armstrong, Dr Katherine Auty, Dr Susie Hulley, Dr Gary Pritchard, Bethany Schmidt, Dr Kristian Mjåland, Dr Anna Schliehe, Dr Julie Laursen and Dr Alice Ievins. There are also currently 12 PhD students conducting individual research projects, often linked to other research going on in the Centre. Sarah Rosella is the Centre Administrator, and Claire Bonner is the administrator for the Comparative Penology Research Project. Associate Members include Helen Arnold (a past Research Associate), Dr Adrian Grounds, Dr Joel Harvey (a former PhD student and Research Associate), Dr Amy Ludlow, Dr John Rynne, and Dr Charles Elliott. Centre members are provided with intellectual support by Professor Sir Anthony Bottoms, and other colleagues in the department and elsewhere.

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 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> 2018. This year, after last year's very successful and stimulating meeting, we are again discussing 'values, methods and quality in prisons research: developing deep structures of practice'. It will be attended by a range of academics from the UK and overseas, as well as a number of engaged practitioners. See our website for further information: [www.prc.crim.cam.ac.uk](http://www.prc.crim.cam.ac.uk).

#### **Visitors**

Ian O'Donnell was a senior visiting scholar at the Prisons Research Centre during September and October 2018, returning to Cambridge 30 years after he was a student on the MPhil in Criminology. Currently professor of Criminology at University College Dublin, his most recent books (both published by Oxford University Press as part of the Clarendon Studies in Criminology series) are *Justice, Mercy, and Caprice: Clemency and the Death Penalty in Ireland* (2017) and *Prisoners, Solitude, and Time* (2014). Ian spent his time as a visitor writing up the results of fieldwork carried out at a prison in the Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples' Region of Ethiopia.

Other recent and current visitors to the Centre include Moshe Bensimon, Senior Lecturer and Head of the Social-Rehabilitative M.A. Program, whose field of research includes

music in prison; aggression; and victimology. He is the director of the Forum for Qualitative Research at Bar-Ilan University. We have also hosted Hakbong Kim, a prison officer from South Korea, who is working on the classification of dangerous prisoners, and on modern management reform. Hakbong and Bethany facilitated a visit from 7 Corrections Staff from the Korea Correctional Service, Ministry of Justice, Republic of Korea, in July 2018.

### International activities

Following on from their visit to Latin America in 2016, Alison Liebling and Bethany Schmidt will deliver a two-week course in penology and prisons research, in partnership with the Federal Prison Service in Argentina, to a group of 50 senior leaders in Buenos Aires. Speakers will also include Shadd Maruna (Queens University Belfast), Fergus McNeill (University of Glasgow), and Richard Sparks (University of Edinburgh), as well as presentations from local academics. The course aims to familiarise senior persons working within the field of criminal justice with some of the most important recent theory and research in applied criminology, penology, and desistance, and to develop the conceptual understanding necessary to encourage healthy collaborations with growing prisons research communities worldwide in the interests of better understanding and practice. The course will run from November 12-22, 2018. Alison also participated in a Winter School in Penology led by Maximo Sozzo, with David Garland, Richard Sparks, Jonathan Simon and Kelly Hannah-Moffatt at the National University of Litoral in Santa Fe in July 2018. The course was attended by around 50 students from Argentina, Uruguay, Brazil, Bolivia, Peru, Chile and Colombia.

### Professor Alison Liebling

Alison is the Principal Investigator of the PRC's ongoing 'Conceptualising and Measuring the Quality of Prison Life' work, and the NHS-

funded 'Evaluation of Shared Reading in Prison' study (see below). She continues to act as an editor for the *Oxford Clarendon Series* and the *Oxford Handbook of Criminology*. During the last year, she gave keynote lectures at Queensland Corrections Conference, ICPA's Prisons Research Conference in Prague, and Leicester University's 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Sykes conference.

Alison was made a Fellow of British Academy for the Humanities and Social Sciences in July 2018 in recognition of her work. She is a member of the HMPPS Close Supervision Centres Advisory Committee, a Trustee of the Butler Trust and an Advisor to the Prison Phoenix Trust.

### Recent publications

**Liebling, A** and Williams, R. (2017) 'The New Subversive Geranium: Some notes on the management of new troubles in maximum security prisons'. *The British Journal of Sociology*, DOI: 10.1111/1468-4446.12310

Williams, Ryan J. and **Liebling, A.** (2018) 'Faith provision, institutional power and meaning among Muslim prisoners in two English high security prisons'. In Kerley, K. (ed) *Finding Freedom in Confinement: The Role of Religion in Prison Life*. Praeger, pp. 269-291

**Liebling, A.**, Maruna, S. and McAra, L. (eds.) (2017) *The Oxford Handbook of Criminology*, 6<sup>th</sup> edition, Oxford: Oxford University Press.

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

Lokdam, N., Modveg, J S., Skar, M and **Liebling, A** (under review) 'Quality of prison life, violence and mental health in Dubrava prison'

### Dr Ben Crewe

Ben is the Principal Investigator of the ERC-funded study *Penal policymaking and the prisoner experience: a comparative analysis* (see below). During the last year, he became a

Trustee of the Prison Reform Trust, and gave one of the keynote lectures at the British Society of Criminology conference. He also gave invited talks at the University of Oslo, the University of Leicester, and the ICPA's Prison Research Conference in Prague. In July 2018, with Kate Gooch (University of Leicester), he co-organised a large international conference to mark the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the publication of Gresham Sykes's *The Society of Captives*. He continues to be series editor of the *Palgrave Series in Prisons and Penology*, with Professor Yvonne Jewkes and Professor Thomas Ugelvik. He is a member of the HMPPS Separation Centres Advisory Committee, and the HMPPS Close Supervision Centres Advisory Committee.

### Recent publications

**Crewe, B.** and levins, A., (under review) 'Tightness, grip and penal power'

**Crewe, B.** and levins, A., (under review) 'The prison as a reinventive institution'

**Crewe, B.**, (2018) 'Process and insight in prison ethnography', in Rice, S. and Maltz, M. (eds.) *Doing Ethnography in Criminology: Discovery through Fieldwork*. Springer.

**Crewe, B.** and Laws, B., (2018) 'Subcultural adaptations to imprisonment', in J. Wooldredge and P. Smith (eds.) *The Oxford Handbook of Prisons and Imprisonment*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

**Crewe, B.** and Liebling, A., (2018) 'Quality, professionalism, and the distribution of power in public and private sector prisons', in Hucklesby, A. and Lister, S. (eds) *The Private Sector and Criminal Justice*, pp161-194.

Morey, M. and **Crewe, B.**, (2018) 'Work, intimacy and prisoner masculinities', in Maycock, M and Hunt, K (eds.) (2017) *New Perspectives on Prison Masculinities*. London: Palgrave Macmillan, pp17-41

**Crewe, B.** and Liebling, A., (2017) 'Reconfiguring penal power', in A. Liebling, S. Maruna, and L. McAra (eds.), *The Oxford Handbook of Criminology*. Oxford: OUP.

**Crewe, B.**, Hulley, S. and Wright, S., (2017) 'The gendered pains of long-term imprisonment', *British Journal of Criminology*. 57(6), 1359-1378

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Dr Katherine Auty	
Dr Ruth Armstrong	
Dr Alice Ievins	
Dr Julie Laursen	
Dr Amy Ludlow	
Dr Kristian Mjåland	
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#### MAJOR RESEARCH PROJECTS

##### Evaluation of Shared Reading Groups in Psychologically Informed Planned Environments.

*Professor Alison Lieblich, Dr Katherine Auty, Judith Gardom, and Elinor Lieber*

Funded by NHS England and HMPPS, this 20-month research project is an evaluation of Shared Reading, a distinct model of reading groups run by The Reader Organisation in

Psychologically Informed Planned Environments (PIPEs). PIPEs have been developed jointly by the NHS and HMPPS as part of the Offender Personality Disorder Pathway. They are designed to provide 'Enabling Environments', a relational response to working with offenders with varieties of Personality Disorder. The aim is to consolidate the benefits of more formal treatment, and to support prisoners and former prisoners through a pathway of change.

Shared Reading groups, run by The Reader Organisation, are offered weekly in all PIPEs. The Reader Organisation has developed a distinctive model which differs from other reading groups in that literature is read aloud in the group session, rather than in advance. A wide range of participants are therefore able to share the literature, whether or not they are confident readers. Short stories, sections of novels, and poetry are made accessible to participants by a trained Leader, who elicits the discussion of individual and shared responses.

The starting point for the evaluation was a Theory of Change proposed by The Reader Organisation. The theory models how the reading aloud of literature in a supportive environment enables the articulation and integration of profound thought and feeling, and therefore leads to outcomes that include increased well-being, social participation, self-worth, flexibility, agency, and hope, and a sense of connected life and identity. As well as investigating these outcomes, the evaluation explores the *processes* through which Shared Reading supports change, and its contribution to the overall ethos of PIPEs.

The Evaluation comprises two phases. Phase 1, which has been completed over the past year, involved extensive fieldwork in three main sites: HMP Send, HMP Wayland, and HMP Warren Hill. The fieldwork consisted mainly of attending and observing Shared Reading groups, informal conversations with participants, group facilitators and staff

members, and recorded one-on-one interviews.

On the basis of the qualitative data generated during Phase 1, the research team have developed a new research tool, called the Measuring the Experience of Reading Group (MERG) survey. The MERG consists of 50 statements, and invites a response on a 5-point Likert scale. Its development makes use of 'ethnography-led measurement', and it is intended to provide a way of measuring the often nuanced and intricate aspects of the Shared Reading experience which contribute to positive change, with accuracy and subtlety. The statements for the MERG attempt to authentically reflect the language of participants. Direct quotes from participants have been used in several statements, and group members in various sites have been consulted regarding the overall tone and 'feel' of the survey. We used an approach based on Appreciative Inquiry, with the emphasis on tapping into 'best practices' and peak moments. At the same time, we incorporated aspects of shared reading that might be uncomfortable – experiences of conflict, dissonance, or uncertainty – but which appear to provide routes to personal psychological growth. Among the main themes covered in the MERG are: Absorption, Recognition, Group Experience, Security, Memory, Flexibility, and Non-literal thinking. The MERG has been received very positively by participants and by The Reader, who plan to use it in the future.

The second phase of the Evaluation is currently underway. This phase involves the administration of the MERG and a separate well-being survey (IOMI) - which will be used to capture change in participants over time - in six prisons, as well as two Approved Premises. Both surveys will be repeated at 6-month intervals. In May, the team hosted at the Institute the Reader's three-day 'Read to Lead' event, in which prison officers are trained to become Shared Reading group facilitators. Eight prison officers attended the training, as well as one member of the research team,

Judith Gardom, who is now a qualified Reader Leader.

Throughout our fieldwork period, we have found differences beyond what we expected between the PIPEs across the sites. It was anticipated that scale and turnover, as well as the gender, age and sentence type of the population would make a difference. However, we also became aware of considerable differences in staff cultures, language, levels of trust, and overall atmosphere. All of these contribute to what we now think of as the 'PIPEyness' of each PIPE: that is, the extent to which it is a supportive relational environment informed by psychological understanding. Since the subject of the evaluation is the contribution that Shared Reading makes to PIPEs, we see the differences between PIPEs, and the extent to which they embody PIPE values, as an important aspect of the project. We will therefore be using data from observations, interviews and recent MQPL data - where available - to characterise these differences, as part of our Evaluation. The project is being extended by two months in order to incorporate this work, and is due for completion in March 2019.

### **Violence, Friendship and Legal Consciousness in the Context of 'Joint Enterprise'**

*Dr Susie Hulley, Dr Tara Young (University of Kent) and Dr Gary Pritchard*

'Joint enterprise' is a complex set of legal principles, which outline the circumstances in which two or more people can be held liable for a single criminal act (CPS 2018). Recent changes in the law have limited the circumstances in which a secondary party can be convicted of the principle offence. However, concerns remain over the limited impact of such changes in practice and the extent to which joint enterprise continues to be used disproportionately against black and minority ethnic (BAME) men (Crewe, Hulley and Wright, 2014; Williams and Clarke 2016).

The goal of this project, funded by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC), is to make a theoretical and empirical contribution to the debate on joint enterprise, to inform policy makers, criminal justice practitioners and young people. The study has four central aims:

1. To provide an analysis of young people's social relations and how these relations shape their involvement in serious group violence;
2. To document young people's legal consciousness – their perceptions and experiences of the law – as it relates to serious violence generally and joint enterprise specifically;
3. To provide an analysis of criminal justice practitioners' interpretations of young people's social relations and the extent to which these influence practice in cases of serious group violence; and
4. To document criminal justice practitioners' legal consciousness and the impact of recent changes to the law on practice.

Much of the past year has been dedicated to undertaking fieldwork and preliminary data analysis. To date, semi-structured interviews have been conducted with: 33 legal practitioners (lawyers and police) with experience of cases involving joint enterprise; 34 prisoners convicted of serious group violence when they were aged between 16 and 25; 33 young people in the community, aged between 16 and 25 years old, with various experiences of serious group violence, from no experience to considerable involvement (as witnesses, victims and perpetrators).

Although we are still collecting data, we have conducted a preliminary analysis and can present the following tentative findings organized around four broad themes:

- *Young people's friendship and involvement in violence.* Young people's friendships vary

in duration and quality. Young people feel tight bonds and strong emotional connections with their close friends, which can lead to violence in some contexts. However, violence is perpetrated not only with close family members and old friends, but also new associates.

- *Practitioners' interpretation of young people's social relations.* Police see young people's social relations as either 'vener' – amorphous and fluid where people can be susceptible to peer manipulation and exploitation – or as 'fam' – genuine and meaningful, in which young people are committed to one another. Both have implications for joint enterprise, as they provide a narrative for the police to interpret young people as 'encouraging and assisting' in the commission of an offence.
- *Understanding of the law and legal consciousness.* Young people's knowledge of the law is informed by formal education and, most commonly, the media. Some young people are aware of joint enterprise, but misunderstandings prevail. Police officers have a broad understanding of joint enterprise, although many acknowledge that they do not understand the doctrine in detail.
- *Joint enterprise in practice.* The change in the law has had some impact on the number of young people who are drawn into investigations and subsequently charged. However, police state that their investigations are hampered by a lack of engagement from young victims, suspects and witnesses, which they blame on fear and loyalty among young peers and lack of trust in the police. There is little reflection on the reciprocal nature of trust and on the precarious nature of joint enterprise, which poses a significant risk to young people engaging in the investigation process.

To date, we have engaged in a number of consultation and dissemination exercises. We submitted a response to the Crown Prosecution Service consultation on joint

enterprise in 2017, with some of our suggestions being explicitly recognised in their follow-up report. We have conducted an interactive session on joint enterprise with students in the further education college involved in the fieldwork, from which we received positive feedback from the young people who expressed 'how important it was to talk openly about this subject'. The research team also hosted a panel at the European Society of Criminology in Sarajevo in August 2018 feeding back some of the study's preliminary findings. We are currently developing these three papers for publication. Later this month we will be presenting a paper at a workshop entitled 'Joint enterprise and the post-Jogee settlement: Socio-legal reflections', held at the University of Cambridge. The workshop brings together practitioners and academics from a range of disciplines to discuss joint enterprise in the current legal landscape. In addition to undertaking a guest blog for the Scottish Centre for Youth and Criminal Justice, we have also regularly updated our blog ([www.crim.cam.ac.uk/jointenterprise](http://www.crim.cam.ac.uk/jointenterprise)) and twitter account (@JEKentCamStudy).

The project is due to end in July 2019. The coming months will be spent completing fieldwork with young people in the community and undertaking Photovoice - a creative methodological tool, which will use photography to engage young people in discussions about our core themes. We will also continue to analyse the data and undertake further dissemination activities, including publishing in academic and practitioner journals and non-academic engagement with practitioners and young people. We plan to host a final conference towards the end of the study, bringing together young people, practitioners and academics – a range of whom will be invited to present alongside the research team. We also plan to engage in creative and co-produced outputs (with young people in the community

and prisoners), including a community visual exhibition and a film.

### **Penal policymaking and the prisoner experience**

*Dr Ben Crewe, Dr Kristian Mjåland, Dr Julie Laursen, Dr Anna Schliehe, Dr Alice Levins*

Funded by the European Research Council, this research programme (known as 'COMPEN') 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 ideas 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 as indicators of 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 comprises four sub-studies, each of which is being conducted 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 involves interviews with prisoners at three separate stages – entry into prison, pre-release, and post-release, with the aim of capturing these key moments in prisoners’ penal trajectories, in particular the transition from free citizen to prisoner to free citizen again. One aim is to compare processes of reception into and discharge from each prison system; another is to contrast experiences of imprisonment, concerns about release, and the kinds of disqualifications and disabilities that shape prisoners’ lives post-release. This sub-study includes mainstream male prisoners, female prisoners and men convicted of sex offences, and has so far involved over 400 interviews in England & Wales and Norway. It has also involved the administration of surveys in a number of prison establishments in the two jurisdictions, primarily HMP Pentonville, HMP Chelmsford and HMP Peterborough in England and Wales, and Bergen, Bjørgvin, Bredtveit, Arendal, Ullersmo and Halden prisons in Norway. Among the emerging findings of the study so far are a clear contrast between the more individualised entry process in Norway and a more mechanised process in England and Wales, and the ambivalent experience of being in the ‘prison queue’ in Norway: existing in the shadow of the prison prior to the commencement of the sentence. This longitudinal design of this study is also revealing important differences in the way that imprisonment is experienced and described according to sentence stage.

The ethnographic sub-study focuses on female prisoners and male prisoners convicted of sex offences, that is, prisoner groups that were marginal in the ‘golden era’ of prison sociology and remain so in mainstream penological theorising. For this sub-study, we have completed six-month ethnographies in prisons holding (a) women and (b) sex offenders in both jurisdictions, primarily in HMP Send, HMP Littlehey and HMP Norwich (in England and

Wales) and Bredtveit, Bergen and SVF Berg prisons (in Norway). Our main aim is to analyse the ways in which social relations among these prisoner groups are shaped by the terms of penal power, and to continue to refine our understanding of how depth, weight and tightness operate in practice.

It is clear, for example, that forms of psychological power and monitoring operate between prisoners (‘lateral tightness’) as well as between the institution and the individual, and that different prisoner groups use different kinds of metaphors for the ‘depth’ of their experience, according to their expectations of their futures, the moral assessments that they make about their peers, their sentence length, and the degree to which they feel that they have some autonomy over their daily lives. This sub-study is also exposing differences in the ways that ‘risk-thinking’ works upon sex offenders in the two prison systems. In Norway, the culture is ‘risk-aware’ rather than ‘risk-oriented’, and the language of risk is considerably less prominent in everyday discourse than in England and Wales. The result is that there is considerably less anxiety and self-regulation among prisoners, allowing their interactions with each other and with prison staff to be much more natural. This *relational normality* represents an important and under-appreciated dimension of the broader objective of normalization in Norway’s prison system. With regard to the women’s prisons, we are currently seeking to theorise the intimate but volatile relationships both between staff and prisoners, and among prisoners themselves, as well as a form of order that appears to combine fatalism with direct personal challenges to authority. We have been intrigued to find much greater similarity in the social dynamics and institutional regimes in the women’s prisons in the two jurisdictions than in the men’s establishments, raising questions about cross-national gendered penalty.

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 (CSCs), and in Norway, a unit holding prisoners on preventative detention as well as interviews with prisoners held in long-term isolation. Interviews have been conducted with 38 of the (approximately) 50 men held in such conditions in England and Wales, and with a number of key practitioners working in the CSC system. Initial findings from this study have been reported at a day symposium with invited academics and practitioners held in Cambridge, in January 2018, and at the CSC Management Committee meeting in May 2018. The Norwegian fieldwork for this sub-study will be conducted in Spring 2019.

The final sub-study involves interviews with key players within the penal field in each jurisdiction, and will be undertaken in the coming months.

Over the previous year, members of the team have presented findings at a number of conferences, including the 2017 Carceral Geography conference, the 2018 Royal Geographical Society conference, and at a dedicated panel at the 2017 and 2018 European Society of Criminology conferences. In February 2018, the team hosted a two-day international conference on ‘Comparative penology and Nordic Exceptionalism’, at the Institute of Criminology, attended by around 60 academics and practitioners.

The project website

[www.compen.crim.cam.a.uk](http://www.compen.crim.cam.a.uk) provides further information about the research programme, including a regular blog from members of the team and from scholars working in related areas.

### **Conceptualising and Measuring the Quality of Prison Life**

*Professor Alison Liebling, Dr Katherine Auty, Dr Ben Crewe, Aiden Cope, Judith Gardom,*

*Deborah Kant, Dr Julie Laursen, Dr Ben Laws, Elinor Lieber, Martha Morey and Bethany Schmidt*

The Prisons Research Centre’s work on prison moral climates has developed over 20 years and uses innovative methods combining deep qualitative exploration with quantitative measurement: a methodology we refer to as ethnography-led measurement. We draw in particular on Appreciative Inquiry: a creative exploration of ‘what matters most’ to participants, peak experiences, and moral meaning in the measurement of the quality of prison life. The main outcome of these explorations has been the development of a ‘moral climate survey’ (MQPL: Measuring the Quality of Prison Life), which is now widely used, both by the Prison Service in England & Wales and by prison services and research teams internationally. This methodology (the survey, used together with observational and interview methods) has allowed us over a substantial number of research projects carried out between 2000-2018, mainly in England and Wales, to find significant relationships between aspects of prison quality and key outcomes: (i) distress and suicide, (ii) order and disorder, (iii) personal development and reoffending, and (iv) ‘political charge’ or anger and alienation among prisoners (assumed to be relevant to the risk of extremism). The main explanations for variations in these outcomes derive from a set of prison quality dimensions that include fairness, respect, humanity, staff-prisoner relationships, bureaucratic legitimacy, safety, and good uses of authority by prison officers. In other words, the relational and moral characteristics of prisons shape outcomes. The use of authority is central to prisons, and its form and quality varies significantly. This idea is neglected in most narratives of punishment.

‘MQPL+’ attempts to combine the strengths of ethnography with survey work in an efficient and intensive way, in individual prisons.

‘MQPL+’ exercises are in-depth, intensively-conducted, descriptive analyses 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, alongside detailed observation, and sensitive, appreciative interviews with staff and prisoners. Each 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, taking into account local conditions, and also the historical trajectory of the prison system. 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 2018, we conducted MQPL+ exercises at HMP Warren Hill (Category C), HMP Swaleside (Category B) and HMP Drake Hall (Women's closed) prisons. A new prison quality dimension, exploring the meaning and experience of 'trauma-informed' practice, was developed for the Drake Hall exercise.

Detailed reports summarising the results and 'culturally diagnosing the prison' are written for each establishment. The reports provide insights into some of the general changes in prison life in England and Wales as well as analyses of widely different cultures and climates in individual prisons. Establishment Senior Management Teams often request feedback meetings, at which the detail, meaning and implications of the results are discussed. An increasing number of requests have come to us from international jurisdictions wanting to use or adapt the MQPL survey. We try to support these requests where possible.

## **Publications**

Liebling, A., Laws, B., **Lieber, E.**, Auty, K., Schmidt, B., Crewe, B., Gardom, J., Kant, D., Morey, M. (under review). Are hope and possibility achievable in prison? *The Howard Journal of Crime and Justice*.

## **Learning Together**

### *Dr Ruth Armstrong and Dr Amy Ludlow*

In January 2015, Dr Amy Ludlow and Dr Ruth Armstrong were funded by The University of Cambridge's Teaching and Learning Innovation Fund to **pilot a new educational** initiative called Learning Together. Learning Together brings together people in criminal justice and higher education institutions to study alongside each other in inclusive and transformative learning communities. Learning Together partnerships aim to provide progressive learning opportunities for people in criminal justice and higher education institutions to study degree level material together, and learn with and from each other through dialogue and the sharing of experience. Courses are academically rigorous and their design and delivery builds upon and, through evaluation, advances educational, sociological and criminological research and best practice.

Since 2015, Learning Together has attracted funding from the British Academy, ESRC, HEFCE, HMPPS and several philanthropic donors. The initiative has been covered in *The Times*, *The Guardian*, *Inside Time*, *The Telegraph*, *Radio 4's Today Programme* and various University of Cambridge publications, and was highlighted as an example of best practice by Dame Sally Coates in her 2016 review of prison education. Amy and Ruth have received a Butler Trust Award and awards from the Prisoner Learning Alliance and the University of Cambridge for public engagement with research for their work. Amy was also shortlisted for Oxford University Press's Law Teacher of the Year award for her work on the new Learning Together law course in HMP Warren Hill. In partnership with the Longford Trust and the

Institute for Continuing Education at the University of Cambridge, from October 2018 Learning Together will also be piloting a new bursary scheme for former prison-based students, who have either been released or are now housed in open conditions, to study at the university in an undergraduate certificate of their choice.

In Cambridge, there are now three local Learning Together partnerships between the university and HMPs Grendon, Whitemoor and Warren Hill. We are delivering a suite of courses across these partnerships, encompassing a range of subjects and disciplines, study skills sessions, reading groups, mentoring training and research projects. Courses are delivered using a digital learning platform designed in partnership with Coracle and the Ministry of Justice to deliver non-networked digital learning resources to students in prison and the same online platform to students at the university. This digital platform also provides evaluation data through learner analytics and pre and post course measures of student attitudes and achievement. Two of the three partnerships now also have dedicated higher education spaces within the prisons where course activities take place. There continues to be growing interest across many Departments and Faculties of the University of Cambridge in hosting their own courses, with a long-term ambition to offer full Cambridge degrees to appropriately qualified students currently under criminal justice supervision.

Evaluation findings from the 2015 pilot criminology Learning Together course at HMP Grendon were published in the Prison Service Journal and yielded new insights into how learning communities can transform students' ideas about themselves, others, and their futures. Amy and Ruth have written two further academic articles, which are currently under review. The first is about theory, reflexivity and localism in prison and university partnership working, and the second draws on qualitative and quantitative data to describe students' experiences of Learning Together. We have measured statistically significant increases across all students in self-esteem,

perspective taking, self-efficacy and social-self efficacy, and preliminary analysis shows that social-self efficacy appears to be directionally related to other positive transformations or, as one participant put it, 'it all happens in the interaction'. Learning Together has also welcomed a new researcher to the team this year, Dr Victoria Pereyra-Iraola, who has been working on the pilot of a longitudinal study, funded by the Cambridge Humanities Research Grant Scheme. This study follows up with students from Learning Together to analyse the role of the programme on their transitions through life.

Under Amy and Ruth's leadership, Learning Together has grown beyond Cambridge into a network of over twenty universities and thirty criminal justice institutions, all working in partnership to build Learning Together communities, guided by a common set of theory and value-led frameworks. Growth of the initiative means that over 500 students were involved in Learning Together across higher education and criminal justice institutions during 2017-18. This year, Learning Together successfully obtained a grant from HMPPS to formalise the Learning Together network over the next two years and provide common standards for best practice, as well as a quality assurance and evaluation framework. This will underpin the development of, and provide a basis for, a national comparative study of Learning Together initiatives.

Learning Together has attracted growing international interest, and in recent years, Amy and Ruth have visited Australia, Argentina, Uruguay, Mexico City and New York to bring together academics, criminal justice professionals, policy makers and people under criminal justice supervision, to share their work on Learning Together and learn about existing or potential similar partnership working in these other contexts. Ruth and Amy will return to Argentina in November 2018 with Victoria Pereyra-Iraola to host a conference, funded by the ESPRC and the British Council, to share experiences of partnership working with prisons and universities, across international contexts. In 2018/19 Learning Together will be welcoming

visiting scholars from Romania, South Africa and Spain who are coming to better understand Learning Together, the evaluation of partnerships between universities and prisons and to share best practice.

Finally, the Learning Together team are pushing the boundaries of academic collaborations and are in training for the Great South Run on the 21st of October. Colleagues, students, course convenors, lecturers, supporters, family and friends will be banding together and running 10 miles to raise money to support Learning Together students leaving prison. We will be hosting events in our partner prisons where students still in prison will be able to run alongside the rest of the community.

### **Publications**

Armstrong, R., Ludlow A. and Obsuth, O. (forthcoming, 2019) 'It all happens in the interaction': the power of the interpersonal in Learning Together'.

Ludlow, A., Armstrong, R. and Bartels, L. (forthcoming, 2018) 'Learning Together: Localism, Collaboration and Reflexivity in the Development of Prison and University Learning Communities' *Journal of Prison Education and Reentry*.

Reed, J., Evans, G., Price, E., Ludlow, A., Armstrong, R. and Maruna, S. 'Spending time on death row' in Toch, Acker and Bonventre (eds.) *Living on Death Row* (American Psychological Association Books, 2018).

### **PHD STUDENTS**

#### **Ellie Brown - Understanding the use and experience of segregation in English prisons.**

Ellie is a second year PhD student, supervised by Professor Alison Lieblich and Professor Nicola Padfield. Her research seeks to understand the current use and experience of segregation. As a qualified lawyer, Ellie is interested in how the law has shaped the

experience of segregation and is adopting a socio-legal approach to her research. Her research examines a number of questions relating to the use of segregation in prison. First, what is meant by 'segregation' in the English prison system and why is it used? Second, how is segregation experienced in prisons; what are the effects of segregation and is it a practice that can be considered legitimate? Finally, Ellie's research considers the alternatives to segregation (from the UK and elsewhere) and how these can be applied in the English prison system.

Ellie is seeking to draw together research from a number of different disciplines such as: law, psychology, criminology and sociology. In doing so, she hopes to bridge the legal-empirical divide. During her first year, Ellie has been developing her research framework, including through a systematic review of the effects of segregation and an examination of segregation and the law. Over the next year, she intends to undertake empirical research at two prisons in England and Wales. During her fieldwork, Ellie hopes to explore: (i) the processes involved in segregating individuals; (ii) how segregation is typically used; (iii) the experience of segregation; and (iv) the main challenges associated with the practice. Ellie will use observational techniques and semi-structured interviews with prisoners and prison staff to explore her research topic.

Over the past year, Ellie has undertaken a number of associated projects. She has been involved in high-level discussions with the Ministry of Justice, who are in the process of updating PSO 1700 (the Prison Service Order relating to segregation). Ellie has also facilitated the Learning Together Criminology course in HMP Grendon, working with students from Cambridge and Grendon, to explore a number of themes (such as deterrence theory, legitimacy in the criminal justice system and sentencing). She has also worked on a comparative law project that examined the impact of European institutions, like the European Court of Human Rights and

the Committee for the Prevention of Torture, on prison policy in France and England. She organised a conference at HMP Warren Hill to explore the findings from this project.

### **Aiden Cope - Opening new prisons: a comparative study of the penal field**

Aiden is entering the third year of his PhD, supervised by Professor Alison Liebling, a comparative study of the penal field in two legal jurisdictions, focusing on HMP Berwyn (England and Wales, UK) and Ravenhall Correctional Centre (Victoria, Australia). Aiden's study aims to describe the changing shape and purpose of new prisons in different jurisdictions. It explores the changing nature of the penal state and the tension between increasing financial pressures and the high aspirations apparent in recent penal policy.

Aiden has spent the second year of his PhD conducting interviews in both jurisdictions, following a fieldwork trip to Victoria, Australia in the summer of 2018. He is currently building case studies for each jurisdiction in order to describe the composition of the penal field and understand how this mediates macro level trends and pressures to shape and influence policy outcomes. The aim is to deepen knowledge of what takes place in the gap between global political, social trends and specific policy outcomes. During the coming year, Aiden will conduct further interviews in both jurisdictions, analyse the data he has already collected and continue to construct the case studies.

### **João Costa – A theory of prison justice**

João started his part-time Ph.D. in March 2018, supervised by Professor Alison Liebling. Building on his M.Phil. thesis, his research seeks to establish a basic set of principles of justice to guide within-prison social association. To this end, João is developing a theoretical framework of justice in prisons

rooted in the values of democracy and communication. The theoretical framework will be empirically explored through focus groups with internal and external penal stakeholders: offenders, prison staff, and 'regular' citizens. Participants will be asked to imagine a situation where they are entering prison without knowing key factors such as its conditions and regime, the nature of their treatment, their sentence length, and the offence for which they were convicted. Under such conditions, participants will be asked to formulate two ideas that they believe would make prison life more just and would be accepted by everyone in the same situation. João will explore the existence of overlapping consensus within and between these groups. The identification of common grounds of understanding, if any, will suggest principles of justice, that are intended to inform subsequent penal reforms. Over the past months, João has been refining and developing the literature review and methodology. While conducting his doctoral research part-time, João is working full-time as the Head of the Portuguese National Preventive Mechanism against torture and other cruel, degrading, and inhuman treatment of persons deprived of their liberty.

### **Judith Gardom - The role and meaning of reading in two Category C men's prisons in the East of England.**

Judith is a part-time PhD student, co-supervised by Professor Loraine Gelsthorpe and Professor Alison Liebling. Her research explores the personal, social, and institutional roles and meanings of reading in prison. Judith's research is funded by the ESRC and supported by the University of Cambridge ESRC Doctoral Training Partnership.

Library provision and access is a statutory requirement for prisons in England and Wales, in recognition of the benefits of reading for prisoners' literacy, education and well-being.

However, beyond basic literacy statistics and individual biographical accounts, data is lacking on the reading practices and experiences of men in prisons in England and Wales. The aim of the research is therefore to develop a theoretical framework for understanding the roles that reading plays for male prisoners in the process of 'making a life' in prison, and the meaning and value they give to their experiences of reading.

The theoretical framework for the research brings ethnographies of reading and 'reader-response' theories into dialogue with the prisons research literature. It draws on De Certeau's characterisation of 'Reading as Poaching', the appropriation of what is 'to hand' under constrained circumstances, reflecting the needs and interests that arise under prison conditions. Using Fish's concept of 'interpretive communities', Judith explores how prisoner readers constitute overlapping communities that shape how particular genres and texts are read using shared interpretive strategies.

During the past year Judith has been conducting fieldwork in two Category C men's prisons in the East of England, HMP Highpoint and HMP Warren Hill. The first stage of the fieldwork involved exploratory visits to the two sites to establish contacts, and to identify potential participants: people for whom reading had personal value and significance as an activity, and who could talk about 'becoming a reader' in prison: the process of acquiring, developing and using literacy capabilities. During the main phase of fieldwork, Judith spent three months visiting each site. Using prison libraries as a base, she observed and took part in everyday activities including reading groups, programmes linking prisoners with their families through recording stories, and peer mentoring of beginner readers; shadowed librarians in their work in the library and other areas including Segregation and Induction units; and conducted 58 semi-structured interviews with prisoners and staff. Fieldwork is due to finish

at the end of October 2018. Emerging themes suggest some potentially fruitful relationships with the findings of the Shared Reading in PIPEs Evaluation Project, which Judith will continue to work on.

### **Ben Jarman - Moral economy and the pursuit of desistance**

Ben is a first-year PhD student, supervised by Dr Ben Crewe, whose research aims to explore identity changes among prisoners serving life sentences for murder, and the extent to which these can be understood using the criminological research literature on desistance from crime. Despite its status as a major topic in criminology, desistance researchers have seldom looked inside the prison to explore the possibility that desistance might take place during a sentence. This omission is puzzling, especially in a historical context where English and Welsh courts are sentencing record numbers of prisoners to life imprisonment, and the average length of time they spend in prison is also increasing.

Ben's PhD will build on and develop research he carried out for his MPhil, which suggested that whether lifers think they must change, and how, is affected by how old they were when sentenced and the precise circumstances of their offence. The research will draw on recent work by others in the PRC especially Alice levins, to examine whether the perceived *moral* status of an offence affects feelings about change. In other words, do people who have committed particularly heinous offences feel a heavier burden of shame, and if so how does this affect their engagement with the idea that they should change, and the rehabilitative services and opportunities (such as work, training, education or offending behaviour programmes) on offer from the prison?

Ben will spend the first year of the PhD further developing the research framework for the

study, and identifying a research site holding a large number of indefinitely-sentenced prisoners within a range of different custodial environments. He will then select a sample of prisoners serving life sentences for murder, and will subdivide these by offences of different kinds.

While awaiting the start of his PhD, Ben worked with colleagues from Cambridge and the University of Edinburgh, carrying out archival research into the history of youth imprisonment. The work was commissioned by HMPPS's Historic Child Abuse Team; it aimed to improve their institutional memory and inform the evidence they gave to Independent Inquiry on Child Sexual Abuse hearings in July 2018. He joins the PRC following several years' working for voluntary sector organisations working in and around prisons and the criminal justice system.

### **Recent publications**

**Jarman, B.**, Delap, L., Jackson, L., Lanskey, C., Marshall, H. and Gelsthorpe, L., (2018) 'Safeguarding Children in the Secure Estate: 1960 – 2016'. Cambridge.

### **Presentations**

Feb 2018: 'Prison research and prison chaplaincy: a worthwhile conversation?', London Quakers day conference on 'Being and becoming a Quaker chaplain'

Jun 2018: 'Turning points or dead ends? Identity, desistance and the experience of life imprisonment', University of Worcester Centre for Violence Prevention, conference on 'Violence prevention at the intersections of identity and experience'

Jul 2018, with Prof Louise Jackson and Dr Caroline Lanskey: 'Safeguarding children in the secure estate: 1960-2016', HMPPS College Newbold Revel, (Historic) Child Abuse Team Single Points of Contact Workshop (July 2018)

**Deborah Kant - The prison and the city: a tale of**

### **two cultures**

Deborah is in the writing up stage of her PhD, supervised by Professor Alison Lieblich. Her research explores the relationship between personal biography, institutional culture, and locale in the personal and professional narratives of prison officers.

Previous research (for example Lieblich 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, for example, Tait 2008), and which are influenced by broader institutional cultures specific to the prison. 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 contexts and prison officer demographics, ideologies of punishment, and the cultural norms of individual establishments.

Adopting a mixture of semi-ethnographic and biographical research methods, Deborah conducted interviews with uniformed staff and managers at two large and busy men's Category B local prisons, located in the North and South of England. Her findings suggest 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. This suggests

that officer cultures are informed by a complex interplay of individual agency, and structures of the penal field, work role, and locale. The internal organisation of each prison in this study was influenced by broad economic and social shifts experienced at a national level. However, layers of history, labour relations, kinship and community ties unique to the cities (and regions) in which these prisons were located lent a distinct character to each locale. Officers' motivations, experiences, and narratives were coloured by these 'local flavours' and contributed to distinct organisational cultures.

### Recent publications

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.

### Presentations

'The prison and the city: a tale of two cultures', Presentation at UNLOCKED MSC Teaching Day 7<sup>th</sup> March 2018.

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

Ben's PhD, completed earlier this year, supervised by Dr. Ben Crewe, examined the emotional dimensions of prison life and investigated the ways in which male and female prisoners regulated their emotions. Using a combination of semi-structured interviews and prisoner shadowing, Ben conducted his research in HMP Ranby (a Category C men's prison in Nottinghamshire) and HMP Send (a closed category women's prison in Surrey). Ben hopes to transform these findings into a research monograph over the next year.

Ben is the sole author of an accepted article in *Punishment and Society* titled 'The return of the suppressed' which sets out his PhD findings on emotion suppression. While suppression is often a product of pre-prison experiences, it is also exacerbated by institutional practices. This was found to be particularly the case for prisoners at risk of self-harm or suicide who often felt spotlighted rather than supported with their emotions. The research found a strong correlation between prisoners who suppressed emotion and subsequent aggression and violence, either directed towards others, or inflicted upon the self.

Over the previous year, Ben has presented his findings at the second annual Emotions and Criminal Justice Conference in Leicester, and has lectured on the MSt Penology programme at the Institute. Ben has also been invited to publish sole author chapters in *Emotions Inside Criminal Justice* (Polity Press, 2019) and the *Oxford Handbook on Ethnographies of Crime and Criminal Justice* (both forthcoming). Outside of his PhD research, Ben has worked closely with the wider work of the centre. He took part in three MQPL+ exercises in HMP Warren Hill, Swaleside and Drake Hall. He is the second author on a forthcoming article in *The Howard Journal of Crime and Justice* about the positive aspects of HMP Warren Hill's regime and culture.

Ben has also assisted with the COMPEN study, undertaking survey research in HMP Peterborough, HMP Chelmsford and HMP Send. Further, Ben has helped assess the work of master students at the University of Surrey involved in a two-year part-time professional practice programme for new entrant graduate prison officers, funded by Unlocked Graduates and financed by the Ministry of Justice. Ben will continue to teach a range of research methods lectures to this year's cohort of MPhil Criminology students in the Institute of Criminology.

### Recent publications

**Laws, B.**, (forthcoming) 'The return of the suppressed: Exploring how emotional suppression returns as violence and pain among male and female prisoners'.

*Punishment and Society*

Crewe, B. and **Laws, B.**, (2017) 'Subcultural adaptations to incarceration', in J. Wooldredge and P. Smith (eds.) *The Oxford Handbook on Prisons and Imprisonment*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Laursen, J. and **Laws, B.**, (2017). Honour and respect in Danish prisons: Contesting 'cognitive distortions' in cognitive-behavioural programmes. *Punishment & Society*, 19(1), 74-95

**Laws, B.**, (forthcoming). 'In shadows and space: an ethnography of prisoner emotion'. *The Oxford Handbook on Ethnographies of Crime and Criminal Justice*.

**Laws, B.**, (forthcoming). 'Where is the love? Unearthing the 'forgotten' emotions of prison life', in V. Knight (ed.) Polity Press. *Emotions Inside Criminal Justice*

Liebling, A., **Laws, B.**, Lieber, E., et al. (under review). 'Are hope and possibility achievable in prison?' *The Howard Journal of Crime and Justice*

### **Elinor Lieber - Friendship, care, and the flow of power: social relationships in a male and female prison**

Elinor is a first year PhD student, being supervised by Professor Alison Liebling. Her study, which builds on her MPhil thesis on the same topic, aims to explore the extent to which care and friendship are possible within a prison setting, and the role of these relationships in shaping prisoners' experiences of safety and power. Existing research on social relations among men in prison tend to

focus on such matters as aggression, hyper-masculinity, gang affiliation and prison misconduct. Conversely, much of the literature on women's imprisonment centres on the prevalence of sexual and pseudo-family relationships, and the social status of being female. By and large, this narrow focus of investigation implies that interactions between male prisoners are inevitably violent and destructive, while those among female prisoners are chiefly sexual or manipulative. Researching other forms of interactions will therefore advance a more nuanced understanding of prison social life.

This study will employ a mixed-methods approach to investigate the meaning, structure, and implications of friendship in prison, as well as the role of gender in shaping various patterns of friendship. Interviews will form the main part of the study, while Social Network Analysis will be used to enrich the qualitative data by creating a visual 'relational map', linking friendship with perceived safety, trust and power, and various demographic characteristics.

### **Recent publications**

Liebling, A., Laws, B., **Lieber, E.**, Auty, K., Schmidt, B., Crewe, B., Gardom, J., Kant, D., Morey, M. (under review). Are hope and possibility achievable in prison? *The Howard Journal of Crime and Justice*.

Laws, B., and **Lieber, E.** (in progress). King, Warrior, Magician, Lover: Forms of care among male prisoners.

Williams, R., Liebling, A., and **Lieber, E.** (in progress). More 'Mind Games': How have 'the action' and 'the odds' changed in prison?

### **Dev Maitra – Faith, race, gangs and 'the street' in prison: an inductive analysis**

Dev is a fourth-year PhD Student, supervised by Professor Alison Liebling, who passed his PhD viva in March 2018, and is currently

undertaking corrections. Dev's research primarily focuses on the reasons why gangs to form in contemporary English society, and how gang members are affected by the process of imprisonment. Specifically, 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, especially in relation to the roles of violence;
- To explore how 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 includes 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 his emerging findings both at the University of Cambridge and more widely. For example, he presented a paper at an International Conference on gangs and youth delinquency at City University, Hong Kong in December 2015, for which he received funding from Trinity Hall. Alongside his PhD, Dev has acted as a Supervisor for law undergraduates on the CSPS (Crime, Sentencing and the Penal System) module of the Law Tripos Course, and has lectured MPhils at the Institute of Criminology on criminological theories, and worked as an

Affiliated Lecturer at Anglia Ruskin University and South Essex College, Southend-on-Sea. He has worked as a freelance consultant for Restorative Solutions during his PhD and has written for *The Guardian* and *The Independent* as a freelance journalist.

### Recent publications

Holligan, C. and **Maitra, D. R.**, (2018) A Verisimilitude of Pessimism: Scottish Prisoner Mug-Shots 1883 – 1937. *Visual Studies*. 33(2): 172-185.

### Newspaper articles

**Maitra, D. R.**, (27 October 2017). 'England's prisons are war zones. Unless austerity ends, things will get worse'. *The Guardian*.

**Maitra, D. R.**, (17 January 2018). D'oes the answer to Britain's rise in teenage killings lie in Hong Kong?' *The Guardian*.

**Maitra, D. R.**, (23 March 2018). 'Those who despair of America's gun culture must examine its history'. *The Independent*.

**Maitra, D. R.**, (12 July 2018). 'I thought that by attending a Tommy Robinson speech I could understand his arguments – but there were not, only hate'. *The Independent*.

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

Martha is a finishing PhD student, supervised by Dr Ben Crewe, whose research explores how prisoner masculinities are shaped by experiences of work (in prison and outside). The study involved observations and 88 interviews in three men's prisons in different English regions (London, the West Midlands and Yorkshire). Much existing research on prisoner masculinities focuses on descriptions of aggression and violence, and Martha's study was designed to question the accuracy of this trope of prisoner hypermasculinity.

Purposeful activity in prison takes up a significant proportion of a prisoner's day, but there is relatively little research exploring how work is chosen and allocated, the experience of different types of work (education, vocational training, wing work, contracts work for private company, for example) and how the prisoner society shapes and is shaped by work inside.

One of the emerging findings from Martha's study is the regional variation between participants' work experiences prior to imprisonment: those from Yorkshire were the most likely to have had jobs and to have undertaken skilled manual work, while those from London were disproportionately likely to have never been employed or to have done service sector work. These different experiences shaped divergent attitudes towards work provisions in prison. The research findings also illuminate prisoner attitudes regarding the 'fairness' of work allocation in prison, as well as feelings about the purpose and practice of prison work. The research also raises questions about how prison work could better account for prisoners' forms of social and cultural capital, in light of the finding that most licit work undertaken by participants was found through friends, families or agencies.

With regard to masculinity more explicitly, the research suggests that the typical portrayal of a generalised form of 'hypermasculinity' is misguided: in discussing gender, sexuality and fatherhood, men within the study described and identified with a wide range of masculine identities.

### Recent publications

**Morey, M.** and Crewe, B., (2018) 'Work, intimacy and prisoner masculinities', in Maycock, M and Hunt, K (eds.) (2017) *New Perspectives on Prison Masculinities*. London: Palgrave Macmillan, pp17-41

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

Daniel has continued work on his PhD part-time, supervised by Dr Ben Crewe, studying the experience of imprisonment amongst ex-military personnel in prisons in England. Drawing on insights provided in Goffman's (1961) analysis of the 'Total Institution', Daniel's research is concerned with the similarities and differences between military institutions and prison institutions and how experience of life in the military might impact upon the experience of imprisonment. The study aims to investigate and establish how ex-military prisoners experience their time spent in prison with a particular focus on concepts of identity and self-conception, social status, attitudes towards authority, perceptions of state legitimacy and the dynamics of interpersonal relationships with other prisoners and staff.

Daniel's research study involved completing more than forty semi-structured qualitative interviews with former military prisoners and members of prison staff in seven prison establishments of various security categories around England. Daniel is currently writing up his findings, while continuing to apply his research and analytical skills learned from his PhD training in his full-time role as the Deputy Head of the Middle East and North Africa Research Hub at the Department for International Development.

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

Bethany is a finishing PhD student, supervised by Professor Alison Liebling. Her research explores the work of the innovative non-profit organisation *User Voice* and its ex-offender-led prison deliberative democratic 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. Her focus is on the impact of democratic participation on institutional life, staff and prisoner perceptions of procedural justice, legitimacy, and how these intersect with humane care, decency, and order.

This research has produced 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 'civilise' individuals and institutional practices, and more closely align them with democratic virtues that endorse community, trust, and dialogical work towards collectivist objectives. This study illustrates how the de-civilising 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 marginalisation 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.

Along with Dr Andrew Jefferson from the Danish Institute Against Torture (DIGNITY), Bethany has recently completed a two-year pilot study of the quality of life in three Tunisian prisons. Intensive ethnographic fieldwork has been carried out in four prisons, alongside interviews with former political prisoners, and other criminal justice and NGO stakeholders. The study has explored several aspects of prison life in Tunisia: e.g., prison policy and the practice of punishment pre- and post-revolution; the gendered experience; the role of civil society and human rights in reform; terrorism; staff-prisoner relationships; and, how power and authority are wielded. This work is ongoing.

### Recent publications

Jefferson, A.M. and **Schmidt, B.E.**, (forthcoming) 'Engaging encounters in Tunisian prisons: concealment and revelation in bureaucratic and ethnographic practice'. *Critique of Anthropology*

Liebling, A., McNeill, F. and **Schmidt, B.E.**, (2017) 'Criminological engagements', in Liebling, A., Maruna, S. and McAra L. (eds.) *The Oxford Handbook of Criminology* (6<sup>th</sup> ed). Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp. 990-1009.

Barry, M., Weaver, B., Liddle, M., **Schmidt, B.E.**, with Maruna, S., Meek, R. and Renshaw, J. (2017) 'Custody to community voice: an evaluation of User Voice councils'. Available at: [http://www.nesta.org.uk/sites/default/files/user\\_voice\\_final\\_evaluation\\_report.pdf](http://www.nesta.org.uk/sites/default/files/user_voice_final_evaluation_report.pdf)

## POST-DOCTORAL RESEARCHERS

### Katherine Auty

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. Parts of her PhD work were published in the *British Journal of Psychiatry* and the *British Journal of Criminology*.

Katherine continues to work with the Measuring the Quality of Prison Life (MQPL) and Staff Quality of Life (SQL) survey data, producing quantitative analysis from the datasets, and participating in fieldwork exercises. This 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 examined the relationship between the MQPL dimension mean scores and proven reoffending rates for every prison the MQPL survey is conducted in. This piece of work is currently under review.

Katherine is part of a team (with Alison Liebling, Judith Gardom and Elinor Lieber) that successfully bid for a research project to evaluate the Shared Reading (formerly 'Get into Reading') project in six English prisons. More information on this project is available above.

Katherine continues to work with the Prisoners' Education Trust (PET) as the Principal Investigator of a study of rehabilitative culture in eight prisons, supported by HMPPS. Recently, additional funding was obtained to produce a psychometric evaluation of the survey tool that was developed in the previous phase of the project. This analysis has also explored the

reliability and validity of the tool in various different prisoner samples.

Katherine (in collaboration with Alison Liebling and Aiden Cope) recently finished a systematic review of the effectiveness of programmes in prison to reduce violence. Twenty-one separate studies were identified, 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 published last year (see below).

### Recent publications

**Auty, K.,** (2019). Meditation in Prison in M. Farias, D. Brazier & M. Lalljee, eds., *The Oxford Handbook of Meditation*, Oxford: OUP.

**Auty, K.,** (2018). Mindfulness-Based Interventions in the Criminal Justice System in H. Graham, F. McNeill, P. Raynor, F. Taxman, C. Trotter, & P. Ugwudike, . *The Routledge Companion to Rehabilitative Work in Criminal Justice*. London: Routledge.

**Auty, K.,** (2018). The Intergenerational Transmission of Psychopathy in M. DeLisi, ed., *Routledge International Handbook of Psychopathy and Crime*, New York: Routledge.

**Auty, K.,** Cope, A. and Liebling, A., (2017) 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*. 61: 689-710. DOI: 10.1177/0306624x15602514

**Auty, K.,** Cope, A. and Liebling, A., (2017). Psychoeducational Programs to Reduce Prison Violence: A Systematic Review. *Aggression and*

*Violent Behavior*, DOI:  
10.1016/j.avb.2017.01.018

**Auty, K.**, Farrington, D. P. and Coid, J. W., (2017). The Intergenerational Transmission of Criminal Offending: Exploring Gender-Specific Mechanisms. *British Journal of Criminology*, 57(1), 215-237. DOI: 10.1093/bjc/azv115

### Conference presentations

**Auty, K.**, and Farrington, D. P., (2018). The intergenerational transmission of personality disorders – general or disorder-specific? Annual Meeting of the American Society of Criminology, Atlanta, GA. November 14-17, 2018.

**Auty, K.**, and Farrington, D. P., (2017). Relationship of Testosterone to Crime, Psychopathy and Psychosocial Factors. Annual Meeting of the American Society of Criminology, Philadelphia, PA. November 16-19, 2017.

### Ruth Armstrong

Dr Ruth Armstrong is a Senior Research Associate at the Institute of Criminology and at St John's College Cambridge. Together with Dr Amy Ludlow she founded and directs the Learning Together initiative building partnerships between higher education and criminal justice institutions. Her British Academy post-doctoral fellowship is evaluating the experiences of students involved in Learning Together. The research design is longitudinal. It uses a co-produced mixed methods approach to quantitatively and qualitatively understand and measure students' experiences of Learning Together, and will relate these experiences to their life trajectories in the future. This year, the digital learning platform developed for course delivery and evaluation will be developed further to prepare for a broader national roll out to other Learning Together partnerships under new grant funding from Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service. This will make it possible for the evaluation to be expanded

nationally and internationally as the initiative grows. Ruth has received funding from the British Academy, the Economic and Social Research Council, the Cambridge Humanities Research Grant Scheme and support from philanthropic donors and foundation trusts to support this work.

Prior to Learning Together, Ruth's PhD explored the realities of life after release from prison for 48 men in the USA. It was awarded the Nigel Walker prize in 2013. 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 support people post release, how the process of desistance can unravel and helpful responses, and the methodological and ethical challenges of undertaking ethnographic research with people released from prison. Last year she also led the publication of a case study of life on death row, researched and written with people in prison. She has produced two sets of short films to communicate the findings of her research more broadly. 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 You Tube website. This year she produced three further films ('Leaving Prison in Faith': Hopes, Connections, Community) about the work of chaplaincy teams and faith communities supporting people through the gate. These films are used by the Welcome Directory, a HMPPS led training course designed to equip faith communities to work effectively alongside prison chaplains to support people leaving prison.

### Recent publications

**Armstrong, R.** Ludlow, A. and Obsuth, I. (forthcoming, 2019) "It all happens in the interaction": the power of the interpersonal in Learning Together'.

Ludlow, A., **Armstrong, R.** and Bartels, L. (forthcoming, 2019) 'Learning Together: localism, collaboration and reflexivity in the development of prison and university learning communities' *Journal of Prison Education and Reentry*

G. Evans, E. Price, A. Ludlow, **R. Armstrong** and S. Maruna with J. B. Reed (2018). 'Spending time on death row' in H. Toch, J. Acker and V. Bonventre (eds.) *Living on Death Row: The Psychology of Waiting to Die*. APA: Washington

**Armstrong, R.** and Durnescu, I. (eds) (2017) *Parole and Beyond: International experiences of life after prison*, London: Palgrave MacMillan.

### Alice levins

Dr Alice levins has spent this year working as a Research Associate on the COMPEN project. She has focused primarily on the ethnographic studies of prisons holding men convicted of sex offences, and has also conducted fieldwork in the ethnographies of prisons holding women. She has presented emerging findings at conferences for academics and professionals in both England & Wales and Norway, including The Perrie Lectures and a conference organised by KRUS in Norway.

More recently, Alice has started an ESRC Postdoctoral Fellowship, a year-long post which will allow her to develop and disseminate her PhD research on the experience of imprisonment for men convicted of sex offences. She hopes to publish a monograph and several articles building on her PhD research, and organise a symposium for academics and practitioners with expertise in this area. In addition, she hopes to develop her growing interest in everyday ethics and prison life, and as part of this project she will co-convene (with Beth Phillips) a Learning Together course on The Good Life and the Good Society at HMP Whitemoor.

### Recent publications

**levins, A.**, (in press) 'Prison officers, professionalism and moral judgement'. In N Blagden (ed) *Sex Offenders in Prison*. London: Palgrave Macmillan.

**levins, A.**, (in press) 'Power, shame and social relations in sex offender imprisonment'. *Prison Service Journal*.

Crewe, B. and **levins, A.**, (under review) 'The prison as a reinventive institution'.

### Julie Laursen

Dr Julie Laursen joined the Institute of Criminology in June 2016. She holds a Research Associate post on the ERC-funded project 'Penal Policymaking and the Prisoner Experience: A Comparative Analysis', led by Dr Ben Crewe and is a College Research Associate at King's College, Cambridge. Julie has spent the past few years doing a very large amount of fieldwork in Norway and England & Wales. She has mainly worked on the Entry/Exit study and the male and female ethnographies, where she – together with colleagues - has interviewed over 400 prisoners in both countries. After finishing the women's ethnography in Bredtveit prison in Norway, Kristian and Julie will now move on to the Ila prison in Norway, where they hope to conduct fieldwork for the remaining part of 2018. As a postdoctoral Research Associate, she is primarily engaged in research, but also in supervising, marking, teaching and developing practices at the intersections of anthropology, criminology and sociology of prisons in the Prisons Research Centre.

Julie has been a member of several MQPL+ research teams in places such as HMP Brixton, HMP Peterborough and HMP Drake Hall. She has presented her PhD work and COMPEN papers – with colleagues - at various conferences. She is a peer reviewer for Punishment & Society, AREA, Asian Journal of Criminology, Palgrave and Journal of Scandinavian Studies in Criminology & Crime Prevention.

## Recent publications

**Laursen, J.** and Henriksen, A. K., (2018): "Altering violent repertoires: perspectives on violence in the prison-based cognitive-behavioural program Anger Management". *Journal of Contemporary Ethnography*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0891241618771153>

**Laursen, J.**, and Laws, B., (2017) 'Honour and Respect in Danish Prisons – Contesting "Cognitive Distortions" in Cognitive-Behavioural Programmes'. *Punishment & Society* 19 (1): 74-95.

**Laursen, J.**, (2017) (No) Laughing Allowed - Humour and the Limits of Soft Power in Prison. *British Journal of Criminology* 57 (6): 1340–1358.

**Laursen, J.**, & Brinkgaard, L. (2017) "'Vi er ikke ude i, at I tænker kriminelle tanker': Kognitive Færdighedsprogrammer i Kriminalforsorgen". I: KRIM - 50 års kriminalpolitik - resultater og visioner. *Fjerritslev*: Forlag 1.

Pedersen, O., Prieur, A. and **Laursen, J.**, (2017) "Det skulle være så evident ... Om brug af manualbaserede adfærdsprogrammer til børn og unge i danske institutioner". *Social Kritik* 29, nr. 150, s. 34-50.

## Amy Ludlow

Dr Amy Ludlow is a Senior Research Associate at the Institute of Criminology and, as of 1 October 2018, Director of the MSt in Criminology, Penology and Management. Together with Dr Ruth Armstrong, she founded and directs the Learning Together initiative, building partnerships between higher education and criminal justice institutions. Amy is also Director of Studies in Law at Fitzwilliam College, supervising undergraduate and graduate students in their legal studies, with particular expertise in EU and labour law.

Alongside leading the increasingly international development, delivery and evaluation of Learning Together with Dr Ruth Armstrong, 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. Building on the ethnographic work that formed the basis of her monograph *Privatising Public Prisons*, Amy has published widely on themes of marketization and privatisation, including in the *Oxford Handbook of Criminology* and *Handbook on Prisons*. She has received funding from a wide range of research organisations including the British Academy, the Economic and Social Research Council and the Cambridge Humanities Research Grant Scheme, as well as philanthropic donors, trusts and foundations and most recently an HMPPS Innovations Grant.

Amy is currently working with Ruth Armstrong to produce a monograph of findings from the first three years of Learning Together, alongside developing an international comparative handbook on prison education (which builds on our growing interest and work in Latin America) and finalising journal articles about the methodological development of the initiative. Beyond Learning Together, Amy is writing a new chapter on accountability for an edited collection alongside one of her MSt students, and is finishing writing up findings from her recent major ESRC funded work exploring how EU nationals engage with the UK's social security system.

## Publications

Armstrong, R., **Ludlow, A.** and Obsuth, I. "'It all happens in the interaction": the power of the interpersonal in Learning Together' (forthcoming, 2019).

Barnard, C. and **Ludlow, A.** "'Undeserving" EU migrants "milking Britain's benefits"? EU

citizens before social security tribunals' *Public Law* (forthcoming, 2018).

**Ludlow, A.**, Armstrong A. and Bartels, L. (forthcoming) 'Learning Together: localism, collaboration and reflexivity in the development of prison and university learning communities' *Journal of Prison Education and Re-entry*

J. Reed, J., Evans, G., Price, E., **Ludlow, A.**, Armstrong, R. and Maruna, S. (2018) 'Spending time on death row' in H. Toch, J. Acker and V. Bonventre (eds.) *Living on Death Row* Washington: APA:.

Barnard, C., **Ludlow, A.** and Fraser-Butlin, S. (2018) 'Beyond employment tribunals: enforcement of employment rights by EU-8 migrant workers' (2018) 47(2) *Industrial Law Journal* 226-262.

**Ludlow, A.** 'Marketising criminal justice' (2017) in A. Liebling, S. Maruna and L. McAra (eds.) *Oxford Handbook of Criminology* Oxford: OUP pp. 914-937.

### **Kristian Mjåland**

Dr Kristian Mjåland joined the Prisons Research Centre in 2016, and holds a Senior Research Associate post on the COMPEN project (see above). He is also an associate professor at the University of Agder, Norway. His research interests are concerned with comparative penology, prison social life, offender rehabilitation, and drug use and drug economy in and beyond prisons.

Currently, Kristian is devoting most of his time doing fieldwork on the COMPEN project. Along with Julie Laursen, he is in charge of the research in the Norwegian prisons included in the study. Together with Julie, Kristian gave the keynote talk at the biannual prisons research conference organised by the University College of Norwegian Correctional Service in October 2017. In recent months, he has also given talks at the University of Oslo,

and at the ESC conference in Sarajevo, on risk logics and their consequences in England & Wales and Norway.

In August 2017, Kristian joined a team of researchers doing an MQPL exercise in Norgerhaven prison, a Dutch prison rented by the Norwegian government, and contributed to a report based on that research which was published in May 2018. Kristian has also co-authored two book chapters in 2018. One of the chapters was published in the edited volume 'Fengslende sosiologi' [Captivating Sociology] and explores the workings of a Norwegian prison considered to be 'exceptionally good'. The chapter draws on survey data administered to prisoners in ten Norwegian prisons, as well as qualitative interviews and observations. The other chapter will be published in an edited volume on prison officers. It explores the role of drugs in Norwegian prisons, and discusses how drugs impact on the discretionary work of prison officers.

### **Anna Schliehe**

Over the last year, Dr Anna Schliehe has spent a great deal of time undertaking fieldwork for the COMPEN project, and disseminating the findings from the study, including at invited talks in Oslo in November 2017, King's College, Cambridge in January 2018, the University of Münster in June 2018 and at the RGS-IGB conference in Cardiff in August 2018. In addition to these activities, she co-organised and presented at the 2nd International Carceral Geography Conference in Birmingham in December 2017. She also published an article called 'Conceptualizing the carceral in carceral geography' in *Progress in Human Geography* in 2017 (with Dominique Moran and Jen Turner) and co-edited and published a special issue on 'Troubling Institutions' in *AREA* in 2018 (with Tom Disney).

### **Recent Publications**

Disney, T., **Schliehe A.K.** (2018) Troubling Institutions - Editorial, *AREA*. (published online in October 2018)

Moran, D., Turner, J., **Schliehe, A.K.** (2017) Conceptualizing the carceral in carceral geography. *Progress in Human Geography*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0309132517710352>

## OTHER NEWS

### D. Appointments

**Jason Warr** has been appointed to a Lectureship in Criminology at De Montford University, Leicester.

**Fabio Tartarini** has been appointed to a Lectureship in Criminology at the University of Suffolk, working with Helen Arnold on the Masters in Leadership and Custodial Environments.

**Kirstine Szifris** is now a Research Associate at the Policy Evaluation and Research Unit, at Manchester Metropolitan University.