

1st Australian and New Zealand
Society of Criminology (ANZSOC)
POSTGRADUATE CONFERENCE

Flinders University

Adelaide

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ABSTRACTS & PROGRAM

PARTICIPANT ABSTRACTS

Tarmi A'Vard, RMIT University, Melbourne

Title: Transitional programs for rural youth: A case study from a Bendigo perspective

Abstract

Excessive prison overcrowding and the attempt to reduce incarceration rates through the introduction of intermediate sanctions over the past thirty years, has forced corrective services to implement and evaluate rehabilitative programs. There is, however, a notable gap in correctional literature, specifically in the available/implemented rehabilitation programs targeting the young adult offender age group, which is classified as eighteen to twenty-five years.

The main aim of the Masters is to determine key factors surrounding the suitability of the rehabilitative programs offered to young adult offenders, particularly living in the Bendigo district, who are sentenced to community based dispositions. In addition to the extensive literature review, a number of Community Correctional Officers located at Bendigo Community Correctional Services will be interviewed regarding their views and opinions of rehabilitation programs available to young adult offenders residing in rural/regional areas who are currently serving community based sentences.

Preliminary findings indicate that currently there are three rehabilitation programs which are implemented by Victorian Community Correctional Services. These programs are offence specific and only one of them is run internally at Bendigo Community Correctional Services and the other two programs are only facilitated in Melbourne central business district.

Liana Benini, RMIT University, Melbourne

Title: The Teacher/Lover Sexual Offender: A Media Analysis of the Karen Ellis Case

Abstract

Professional discourse among criminal justice administrators and theorists extends a growing concern that female sexual offending particularly the category concerning the female teacher/lover is gravely underreported due to myths associated with its perpetration and victimology. This Honours thesis examined the role of the media in defining the teacher/lover female sexual offender and the young male victim through a qualitative analysis of the Karen Ellis case, a teacher who conducted a relationship with her 15-year old male student. The media saturated the social environment with information to influence and educate society about this crime. The findings of the research indicated the reporting associated the myths as key factors influencing a gender based discrimination that affected the processing of the crime. The Karen Ellis case became an important test case for this type of offending in Australia.

Danielle Campbell, University of Tasmania, Hobart

Title: Police-Refugee Relations: The Significance of the Refugee Voice

Abstract

This paper presents and discusses the findings of an Australian Research Council (ARC) Linkage project exploring particular challenges for regional Australia in the settlement of new and emerging refugee communities. The focus of this research is an examination of refugee-police relations and police-refugee relations in order to develop a best practice model for community policing in the context of refugee settlement in regional Australia. The qualitative data was collected in 2006/07 through focus groups, interviews and participatory observation. The primary focus of this paper is the refugee perspective. The key findings address issues such as youth, family violence, driving offences, substance use and mental illness. The paper argues that an understanding of 'experiential difference' by refugees, police and other service providers is crucial. It will conclude with suggestions regarding the process through which successful police-refugee interactions develop in regional Australia.

Haley Clark, University of Melbourne, Melbourne

Title: Victim/Survivors of Sexual Assault - Conceiving Procedural Justice

Abstract

Procedural justice refers, in part, to an individual's subjective evaluation of whether or not processes are 'fair' and 'just'. As has been noted in the literature, this is critical to the satisfaction, or otherwise, of the crime victim with the criminal justice system. This research looks at how it is not just the outcome, but also the process, which matters to victim/survivors of sexual assault. Drawing on interview materials, this paper considers the ways in which notions of procedural justice are conceptualised by victim/survivors of sexual assault, and applies these understandings to policy and reform efforts aimed at improving criminal justice processes for victim/survivors.

Emma Colvin, University of Melbourne, Melbourne

Title: Ignoring the Injustices of the Ordinary: Remand in Victoria

Abstract

There is a tendency to focus on the extraordinary at the expense of the ordinary in the criminological analysis of pre-trial detention. While there has been significant discussion of the indefinite detention of terrorist suspects in Guantanamo Bay and most recently, the controversial detention of Mohamed Haneef, little is known about the everyday uses and abuses of pre-trial detention in the Australian criminal justice system beyond bare descriptive statistics. This is a crucial dearth to address. The decision to imprison a suspect touches on core issues at the heart of the liberty-security dichotomy and presents a significant challenge to the presumption of innocence. Accordingly, it is concerning that in most Australian states remand

rates have been increasing despite a recorded decrease in violent crime. This presentation will address the paucity of qualitative analysis in the literature and illustrate the current state of remand in Victoria.

Rena De Francesco, University of Melbourne, Melbourne

Title: Imagining Motherhood in the Law's Judgment of Maternal Filicide

Abstract

Women who kill their children are a powerful symbol of failed motherhood. My presentation will demonstrate how the law characterises women who commit such a grave maternal mistake.

I will relate the findings of a feminist-informed discourse analysis of eight sentencing reports of women who committed filicide, focussing on the dominant explanatory narratives drawn upon by the law.

My presentation will demonstrate that in its sentencing of maternal filicide, the law draws on four thematic contexts, including victimhood, ideals of femininity, notions of normal motherhood and pathology. In judging women who kill their children according to their location within these contexts, the law diminishes the culpability of some while silencing the mitigating factors relevant to others.

By revealing the discursive nature of the sentencing of women who kill their children, my presentation will show that the law creates categories of mothers, thereby re-constructing dominant understandings of the maternal.

Denise Foster, University of Queensland, Brisbane

Title: Moving Up the Ranks: An examination of gender differences in the Queensland Police Service.

Abstract

It has been suggested that police women are not being promoted in proportion to their numbers and that they predominately spend more years in lower level ranks than males. Therefore, the aim of this study was to examine the career progression of female police officers using the Queensland Police Service (QPS) as a case study. Empirical results from a survey specifically designed for this study indicate that although a higher proportion of female QPS officers are occupying the lower ranks, female officers are spending less time in the lower ranks than their male counterparts. These results are discussed in relation to two different but complementary theoretical perspectives, stereotype theory and experience theory.

Andrew Groves, Flinders University, Adelaide

Title: Does policy review with regard to the classification, production and sale of pharmaceutical products have the capacity to prevent the use of Pseudoephedrine in the manufacture of illicit drugs and melt the 'Ice' epidemic?

Abstract

The use and manufacture of Methamphetamine within Australia has sparked significant concern within law enforcement agencies and policy-makers alike. Specifically, the misuse of cold and flu ingredient, Pseudoephedrine as a precursor chemical for the manufacture of Methamphetamine in clandestine laboratories has evoked considerable policy debate. Whether critical analysis of the classification and sale of Pseudoephedrine has the ability to reduce its availability and use in the illicit manufacture of Methamphetamine remains the dominant question within Australia's response to illicit drugs.

Through a proactive and multi-directional approach rather than simply reactive law enforcement policy, policy-makers can engage in the creation and implementation of policy frameworks that provide practical guidelines to facilitate the legitimate sale and distribution of Pseudoephedrine-containing medication to the community, and limit its use in the illicit manufacture of Methamphetamine. This paper will demonstrate that, through increased inter-agency coordination, harm minimization and policy revision, policy-makers can melt the 'Ice' and reduce the impact of the Methamphetamine within the community.

**Rachel King, Peter Newcombe, Julie van den Eynde,
Christine Bond, University of Queensland, Brisbane**

Title: Legal Responses to Rape: Survivors' Accounts of Police Responses

Abstract

Research has chronicled that rape legislation and police decision-making uphold victim blaming therefore presenting a biased view regarding responsibility and culpability in sexual violence cases. The treatment received from police officers, or victims' perceptions of that treatment, appears to significantly determine whether survivors of rape participate in the criminal justice system (CJS).

The present research program investigated whether victim characteristics and the victim/offender relationship predicted the treatment survivors received from police. Female survivors of rape (n=6) were interviewed regarding the 'story' of their assault, the actions taken by the CJS, their expectations regarding the CJS, and the effects of their involvement with the CJS. It was hypothesised that victims who did not conform to victim stereotypes, or who were assaulted by someone familiar, would not have their cases proceed and would report more negative treatment from police. Results will be discussed in relation to Australian police practices and legislation.

Nessa Lynch, University of Otago, Dunedin, NZ

Title: Youth Justice Conferences in New Zealand: How Restorative in Practice?

Abstract

Restorative justice is commonly defined a process whereby parties who have a stake in an offence come together to decide on plan to deal with the aftermath of the offence. New Zealand's youth justice system has become a byword for restorative justice in practice due to the use of the youth justice family group conference to resolve instances of offending by young people. The claimed benefits of such an approach are well known: victim empowerment, offender re-integration and cultural appropriateness. The issues in this paper arose as a side issue to a larger research project on youth justice family group conferences. In the course of that research, it was apparent that many such family group conferences did not have a victim present, had outcomes that were not restorative in nature and raised questions about voluntariness and meaningful participation. This paper will argue that the youth justice family group conference in New Zealand is more properly described as a criminal justice process with potential for restorativeness rather than an example of restorative justice in practice.

Nadine McKillop, Griffith University, Brisbane

Title: Offence-related Situations through the Lens of Attachment: Attachment Insecurity in Adult Child-Sex Offenders and its Implications for Understanding Offending Onset Situations

Abstract

Childhood experiences of individuals, who later sexually offend, have been viewed as fundamental to understanding the development of sexual offending behaviour. Consequently, there are now myriad theories, which attempt to address the etiology and maintenance of sexual offending behaviour. It is widely agreed that the perpetration of child sexual abuse (CSA) is multi-determined and that child sex offenders are a heterogeneous group. Despite this, there is still no consensus on how to comprehensively explain, treat and/or prevent the perpetration of sexual abuse against children. Attachment theory has been proposed as a conceptual framework for understanding both the developmental and the immediate situational factors associated with the onset of sexual offences against children. Attention to sexual offence onset is in turn critical for the development of primary prevention efforts with respect to child sexual abuse, but has been somewhat neglected in the literature to date. This presentation will focus on introducing a new, integrated framework to understanding sexual offence onset, to be tested empirically as part of the author's PhD.

Katherine McLachlan, Flinders University, Adelaide

Title: Grounds for Hope and Disappointment: Victims'/Survivors' Perceptions of South Australia Police Responses to Rape

Abstract

Internationally, there have been few studies examining the attitudes of people who have been raped towards police. This has been attributed by researchers to a range of reasons, both personal and systemic, including the influence of stereotypes and myths about rape on both victims'/survivors' decision-making and police responses. Based on semi-structured, in-depth interviews with 11 women who had been raped in South Australia, my findings illustrated the diversity of South Australia Police responses to victims/survivors of rape. The outcomes of my study suggest that South Australia Police practices were similar to those of other Australian and English-speaking jurisdictions. My findings and their implications can help police and justice agencies develop more effective ways to respond to rape and sexual violence.

Angela Pascale, Flinders University, Adelaide

Title: Restorative Justice: A reality check - from what once was to what it has become.

Abstract

The paper has three aims. Firstly, it aims to determine the problems criminologists have in defining restorative justice. It aims to show although there are many definitions; none is identical, though each exhibits a common thread, which is the underlying principle and foundation of restorative justice. As a second feature, the paper will shed light on the array of processes and programs often considered as restorative justice, yet illegitimately labelled. As a last facet, the paper concludes with the aim of outlining other processes enabling the affected victims and offenders achieve restoration where one or both lack the psychological strength often required.

The content of the paper includes a discussion on the different definitions documented on restorative justice, enabling a deconstruction of the definitions and a clear thread identified. A spider diagram will be used to address the second aim, emphasising why restorative justice is considered the 'alternative' to formal justice, and in my view described perfectly as the secondary line on every train track. Finally, a video will be used to emphasise the psychology involved in restorative justice.

Chris Platania-Phung, University of Melbourne, Melbourne

Title: Risk complexities, intelligence, and the criminalisation of ill-health

Abstract

It is claimed that the association between social position and health is due to differences in intelligence (eg. Gottfredson, 2004); intelligence shapes an individual's capacity to manage the risk complexities of everyday life. However, the socio-cultural and political dimensions of this thesis have yet to be examined (eg.

evidence of a *moral imperative* underlying widespread demands that individuals self-regulate their health through lifestyle modification). To address this gap, the current study draws on criminology-sociology as the basis to compare technical and socio-cultural perspectives on rationality, competence, complexity, risk, class and health. Through this discourse analysis it was found that "scientific" discourses on intelligence have strong ideological underpinnings (eg. parallels with the IQ-crime debate) and, through an emphasis on "risk", generate a new politics of intelligence. It will be argued that rather than stall or reduce group differences in health, bureaucratic formalisation of these discourses will perpetuate and increase health disparities.

Kate Riseley, and Tung-Kai Shyy, Griffith University, Brisbane

Title: Exploring the relationships between community-based crime prevention programs and collective efficacy

Abstract

This paper explores the relationship between community-based crime prevention (CCP) programs and levels of collective efficacy. We develop a typology to understand the different profiles of CCP in different types of communities. We use multi-variate analysis and Web-based geographic information system to analyse and visualise whether spatial dependency of CCP program types exists between communities. This research will contribute to an understanding of the association between differing approaches to CCP and community levels of collective efficacy.

Lisa Rosevear, University of Tasmania, Hobart

Title: The Application of Standardisation Techniques to the Analysis of Population Ageing Related Changes in Australian Crime Trends

Abstract

Over time, the differing proportions of young in a population compromise the measurement of trends in total crime rates. This paper focuses on the application of the demographic analysis technique of standardisation to criminal data. These techniques express what the crime rate and/or numbers would be if the population age structure had not changed over time - hence, quantifying the proportion of change in the total crime rate that is due to changes in the population age structure, and the proportion that can be regarded as the 'true' crime rate (one which is free of age effects). Specifically, the roles of standardisation will be illustrated with reference to preliminary findings for changes in Australian police apprehension and prison population rates arising from structural ageing. Challenges and limitations for applying such techniques to Australian criminal data will be discussed.

Beejay Silcox, University of Melbourne, Melbourne

Title: What's in a Name? Taking the Mass out of Mass Imprisonment.

Abstract

'Mass imprisonment' is a recent addition to the penological lexicon - an addition that ostensibly denotes the emergence of a novel carceral phenomenon. Prima facie, the source this novelty is self-evident. The sheer mass of US imprisonment, and more specifically, its eclipse of two million inmates in 2001, is described in penal discourse with a regularity and rhetorical unanimity bordering on cliché. However, while it seems appropriate to implicate the most visible characteristic of American imprisonment as the source of its distinction, this approach is demonstrably problematic. To suggest that there exists a numerical rubicon past which a mass of imprisonment becomes 'Mass Imprisonment' is conceptually vacuous - there is nothing inherently significant in the figure of two million inmates regardless of its emotional impact. This paper asks the deceptively simple question: 'What is Mass Imprisonment?' - and in doing so, tenders a critique of criminology's phenomenalisation of, and haphazard response to, the US imprisonment boom.

Barbara Stewart, University of Tasmania, Hobart

Title: Pathways into Policing

Abstract

Few occupations have been so fully defined as masculine and as resistant to the integration of women as policing. Despite nearly 100 years of involvement, women officers continue to contest negative stereotypes which are rooted in societal and cultural attitudes towards women, and which present an image of women as unsuitable for police work. The current research examines the motivations and contextual influences of Constables' choice of Policing as a career, with an emphasis on female Constables. The study, in particular, investigates whether there is a relationship between perceptions of Policing as a suitable career option and individual socialization. A number of factors influencing career choice has been identified in the literature, the primary influence being gender socialization - within the family, from significant others, through educational institutions and within the workplace. These factors can be related to the development of personal attributes such as self-efficacy, self esteem and perceptions of gender appropriate activities. The study uses both qualitative and quantitative analyses, that is, a questionnaire distributed to both male and female Police Constables, and individual interviews with female Police Constables, in three Australian State Police Services, to examine if specific pathways into policing can be identified. Initial findings of the survey data will be presented and discussed.

Tom Sullivan, Flinders University, Adelaide

Title: Schoolies, crime and the media: A South Australian case study

Abstract

Each year many school leavers take flight to various localities in Australia to celebrate their completion of secondary school. Drawing on newspaper content and interviews with journalists, the police, a civic leader and event organiser, this paper considers how the print media have described these 'schoolie' celebrations at Victor Harbor, South Australia, and looks at the way news-workers and media sources have perceived these events. It observes that newspapers have accorded Schoolies' Week greater attention over time, and have relied primarily on the police, event organisers and civic leaders as sources. Although newspaper items have been more likely to focus on crime and disorder than other issues, a substantial minority of items have emphasised the leisure activities or public health of schoolies. This contested representation reflects working ideologies and constraints of the news media, improved organisation among sources, consumer culture, and a preoccupation with risk reduction among media and sources.

Carleen Thompson, Susan Dennison and Anna Stewart, Griffith University, Brisbane

Title: The Escalation of Violence in Stalking-like Behaviour: An Analysis of Risk Factors

Abstract

The potential for stalkers to escalate to violence elicits fear in stalking targets. Additionally, when such violence does occur, the psychological and physical effects on victims can be debilitating. Despite this, little is known about violence risk factors in the context of stalking behaviour. In this paper, the findings of an empirical study which aimed to investigate key stalking violence risk factors will be discussed. This study utilised a questionnaire design, whereby a survey was administered to approximately 1800 community members and university students. The self-report questionnaire measured participant's involvement in stalking-like behaviours and associated violence. 'Non-violent stalkers' and 'violent stalkers' were compared on key psychological, social and situational factors to test the proposed stalking violence risk factors. Variables examined included adult attachments, the need for control, history of domestic violence, substance use, break-up context, anger and jealousy and the role of triggering events. The implications of these findings for the development of crime prevention strategies will be discussed.

Oscar Williams, University of South Australia, Adelaide
Title: Predicting substance use in university students: An application of the Theory of Planned Behaviour

Abstract

Research has shown that despite having knowledge about the negative consequences of substance use, particularly excessive use, there has been no appreciable reduction in alcohol and drug use over the past two decades. This is of particular concern within the university student population, who have been identified as heavy users of both alcohol and other drugs. One model used to explain why an incongruence might exist between what people know or believe and their subsequent behaviours is that proposed by Ajzen's (1991) Theory of Planned Behaviour (TPB). The purpose of the present study was to examine the role of two additional predictors of intention and behaviour that are considered important in the use of substances, and to see whether the addition of these variables adds significantly to the predictive power of the model applied to alcohol and marijuana use: the variables were the function that substance use serves and the protective behaviours in which people engage when using these substances

Romy Winter, University of Tasmania, Hobart
Title: Policing The Criminalisation of Intimate Partner Violence

Abstract

Many Australian jurisdictions have enacted new legislation to criminalise violence within families and between intimate partners. The legislation provides greater degrees of protection for victims and in many states is supported by new policy frameworks and strategies in policing, prosecution and health and welfare agencies. Changes in the policing of intimate partner violence include a range of new powers of intervention in matters where the safety, life and or property of a person are threatened by their current or former intimate partner. Despite this, and significant resources allocated to the different aspects of the criminal justice system, the complex and dynamic nature of violence within intimate relationships can be resistant to a criminal justice response. This will be explored through interviews with police officers and magistrates regarding their experiences with the implementation of new family violence legislation.