

Australian and New Zealand Society of Criminology (ANZSOC) Newsletter

Volume 1, Number 2

December 2000

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

This has been a good year for Australasian Criminology and next year promises to be even better.

At the American Society of Criminology Meetings in November, Professor Pat O'Malley of LaTrobe University became the third Australasian recipient of the prestigious Sellin-Glueck Award, conferred annually by the ASC for lifetime achievement by a non-North American criminologist. Previous Australasian recipients include Gordon Hawkins and John Braithwaite. Warmest congratulations to Pat on this occasion.

Arie Freiberg and his colleagues at University of Melbourne are putting together a most impressive program for our Annual ANZSOC Conference in February, with many speakers from Australia, NZ and around the world. Those members who have not yet registered should do so. It would be great to set an attendance record in Melbourne. At the beginning of the conference, it will once again be my pleasure to award certificates to the winners of the ANZSOC Young Scholar and Student Paper Prizes. There were some outstanding entries this year, and we can all take pride in the achievements of our younger colleagues.

The ANZSOC Annual General Meeting that will take place during the conference will address such important issues as the legal status of the Society, and our proposed code of ethics. This will be an opportunity to contribute to the governance of your Society, so please make every effort to attend.

Table of contents

Letter from the President	1
PhD REPORTS	2
School of Criminology and Criminal Justice at Griffith University	2
Bond University	5
A New Journal: Criminal Justice	5
NEW Website	6
JOB CHANGES	7
Richard Harding	7
George Zdenowski	7
Stuart Ross	7
ANZJOC	8
CONFERENCE REPORTS	9
The Homicide Research Working Group (HRWG), Chicago, 24-27 June 2000	9
ACS Annual Meeting, San Francisco, November, 2000	9
ANZSOC 2001	10
REPORT FROM CRIMINOLOGY RESEARCH/TEACHING CENTRES	10
Institute of Criminology, Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand	10
Criminology at Bond University	12
The Office of Crime Statistics, SA	13
FORTHCOMING CONFERENCES	15

Plans continue for an ANZSOC study tour of China in mid-September 2001. The visit will last two weeks, and will include stops in Hong Kong, Beijing and Shanghai. Tentative plans have been made for visits to the Hong Kong Police, the Hong Kong ICAC, a correctional facility in Hong Kong, the Institute of Sociology and Juvenile Delinquency at the China University of Political Science and Law, the Australian Federal Police Liaison Officer in Beijing, and the Institute for Crime Prevention in the PRC Ministry of Justice, among others. Rod Broadhurst at Hong Kong University is also arranging joint meetings with the Hong Kong Society of Criminology and the China Society of Criminology. Initial quotes came in at around \$4,000 per person double occupancy, including return economy airfares, four star accommodation, ground transfers, and most meals. While this might alter slightly as a result of the recent depreciation of the Australian Dollar, it still represents great value. Further details will be available at the Conference. For those who are interested please contact Peter.Grabosky@aic.gov.au

Members may recall my earlier request for anecdotes, reminiscences and other memorabilia that might serve as the basis for a history of ANZSOC. To date, I am aware of no such contributions having been made. As we move further into our fourth decade as a Society, please assist us in reconstructing the past. Feel free to contact our Acting Hon. Sec at Jenny.Mouzos@aic.gov.au

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank The ANZSOC Executive for its support over the past year; to The Crime Research Centre at UWA for its maintaining of the ANZSOC Website; to John Pratt, Reece Walters and the team at Victoria University for continuing to produce our excellent Journal, and Toni Makkai and Margaret Cameron of AIC for editing this newsletter. Congratulations to all ANZSOC Members for their contributions toward continuous improvement in Australasian criminology. Best wishes for a peaceful and enjoyable Festive Season. See you in Melbourne!

Peter Grabosky, President

PhD REPORTS

SCHOOL OF CRIMINOLOGY AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE AT GRIFFITH UNIVERSITY

Carol Ronken

Carol is in the middle stage of a part-time PhD candidature. Her thesis title is 'Family Relationships and Sexual Behaviour: Interpersonal attachment as a mitigating factor in early sexual experiences'. The types of attachments that are made during our early life influence the development of our personality and our affective responses. Attachment theory has been utilised in research on intrafamilial abuse and has provided some important insight into the relevance of childhood attachments and effects and interpretations of the abuse. Research has suggested that sexual experiences of young people have both short-term and long-term effects on young people that impact on their adult relationships and their personality development. A number of questions are raised by the literature with no real consensus on the types and extent of effects early sexual encounters have on individuals. Aside from psychosomatic responses, psychological effects have been reported. At a broad level this research investigates early sexual experiences on a number of different levels: the vulnerability to these encounters; the psychological effects and impact on adult relationships; and general and specific perceptions of early sexual experiences. It also introduces the idea that these variables may be mitigated by attachment to parents during childhood. Being able to identify such factors has possible implications for further debate, discussion and development of prevention and intervention measures.

Carol would be interested in hearing from others researching or working in this area. Her e-mail address is c.ronken@mailbox.gu.edu.au

Anna Grant

Anna has just started the initial stages of a part-time PhD. The thesis will attempt to investigate

the effect of "professionalisation" upon corrupt activity by custodial correctional officers. Anna is currently the project manager for a collaborative research study underway between Griffith University, Queensland Department of Corrective Services (DCS) and the Criminal Justice Commission (CJC) on defining, measuring and preventing official misconduct in correctional institutions, specifically Queensland correctional services. It is proposed that the PhD component will extend one particular part of this project in more detail. The PhD will examine the recent measures which have been implemented to "professionalise" the role of custodial correctional officers within Queensland. This study aims to measure whether these processes which have been introduced have had any affect upon the level or type of corrupt activity by these officers. The current literature indicates an assumption regarding the link between changes to structures and processes and their reported influence on the roles, practice and behaviour of those affected. Examples of such an assumption can be found throughout police corruption literature, and this PhD aims to incorporate some of the theoretical work regarding police corruption and the professionalisation of policing as well as role theory and organisational theories.

Anna would be most interested in discussing either the project or the PhD and can be contacted on (07) 3875 6485 or by email on A.Grant@mailbox.gu.edu.au

Stuart MacIntyre

Stuart is in the final stages of his PhD, titled, A qualitative & quantitative exploration of descriptive decision making and the rational choice perspective applied to break and enter.

The thesis examines the dominant perspective that relates to offender decision making in reference to target selection by burglars. The rational choice perspective, (Clarke & Cornish 1985) has its origins in a utilitarian explanation of crime, criminals choosing from alternative courses of action according to their perception of risk versus gain. This work specifically studies how burglars select their target. The results will furnish discussion and increase the understanding and prevention of break and

enter. It offers considerable potential benefit, if the decisions of various criminals are better understood, it will allow the alteration of an environment with the intention of influencing a criminal's decision making, thus increasing the chance that s/he will decide not to proceed.

Lengthy interviews were conducted with fifty heroin using burglars. From these interviews seventeen significant Cues were developed. These Cues are used by burglars to decide which house they will burgle. Sixteen Cues had two alternatives, while one had four alternatives. A computer software program was developed which exposed ninety-six subjects to a series of twenty Case Studies. The subjects could select as much or as little information as possible. Subjects gave a rating of vulnerability for each target. Quantitative examination of the data has allowed a full evaluation of the descriptive decision making of burglars and target selection, including the interactive effects of age and experience. The method used for this study could be replicated for almost any other crime type. Stuart can be contacted at Stuart.McIntyre@vcga.vic.gov.au

The Editors would like to thank our contributors, particularly the postgraduate criminology students at Griffith University and Bond University

The next copy deadline is

Monday 4 June 2001 The newsletter will appear twice a year. The next issue is scheduled for June 2001. Please email us with your contributions.

Lyn Hinds

Lyn is in her final year of her PhD titled, "Harsh and Necessary Punishment: Law and Order in Contemporary Perspective".

My research explores the contemporary phenomenon of punitive 'law and order' crime control. Using the constructionist approach to social problems, I seek to account for the increased punitiveness associated with contemporary law and order. Three explanatory

frameworks that account for contemporary law and order punitiveness are examined. The variability between Australian states across a range of criminal justice policy outcomes is analysed; Australian data is compared with analyses of variability among the 51 states in the United States from the 1970s. Newspaper content analyses of the abolition and creation of law explore the influence of the media in the definition of the 'crime problem' over an 80 year time period. Interviews with stakeholders in academia, the media and government contextualise the contemporary politics of law and order. Lyn can be contacted on through Griffith on (07) 3875 6806.

Elena Marchetti

Elena is in the initial stages of her PHD candidature and her work is titled "RCIADC: An Indigenous Feminist Analysis."

A substantive race and gender analysis will be conducted of the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody (RCIADIC). The national report handed down by the Royal Commission was tabled almost ten years ago and has had a substantial impact on policy decisions ever since. The national report made 339 recommendations, none of which specifically related to women or to violence in the family. This was the result even though the report in various places discussed the problems relating to violence against women and children. The Royal Commission's terms of reference had also been expanded to include an analysis of the underlying issues relating to the deaths in custody, particularly the social, cultural and legal factors associated with those deaths. The RCIADIC portrays itself as a neutral and objective analysis of the treatment of indigenous people in the criminal justice system. Since the report must have been written from a particular political perspective it cannot be neutral and unbiased. A critical review of the available archival data will be conducted with the view to uncovering whether the Commission justifiably ignored indigenous women. Key players in the RCIADIC will also be interviewed to obtain their reflections on the process undertaken and whether in their view, there existed a hidden political agenda. Comparisons will also be made with international

investigations into similar issues, as well as other Australian inquiries specifically conducted from an indigenous feminist perspective. Elena would be interested in hearing from other people working in this area and can be contacted via e-mail at e.marchetti@mailbox.gu.edu.au.

Rosie Teague

Rosie is a part-time student in the initial stages of her PhD. The working title is "The role of gender in the development and prevention of problem behaviour."

My PhD will be linked to an existing study: a community-based intervention project currently being developed in a disadvantaged suburb in Queensland. The project's broad aim is to support children aged three to six years, their families, preschools, childcare centres, schools and, where possible, the wider community with the transition to primary school. My PhD research will examine how gender may mediate the relationship between the intervention package and an improved transition to school, specifically in reductions in problem behaviours. Previous intervention research outcomes have varied greatly along this dimension for reasons not well understood. In the first instance I will be focusing on the effects of one of the intervention components, a program to improve children's communication skills and parent-child interactions. During the preliminary stages of my research I have been focusing on an examination of the developmental psychology and criminological literature to map gender-specific developmental differences and gender-specific pathways to problem behaviour. I have also been documenting interventions where outcomes have differed for boys and girls and exploring the hypotheses that have been proposed to explain these differences. In addition to examining individual-level developmental differences, I have been attempting to maintain a social-ecological perspective and look at ways in which gender differences may interact with features of the environment, making girls and boys differently equipped to deal with the major institutions impacting on their lives. I would be interested in hearing from other people working in this area. I can be contacted via email at: R.Teague@mailbox.gu.edu.au

Christine Bovey

Christine's PhD thesis is titled "The impact of symbolism in a courtroom of criminal jurisdiction on jurors and the legal process." This research proposes to investigate the impact of symbolism in the courtroom setting on jurors who are experiencing the initial phases or settling-in stage of their role. Recent research in New Zealand reports that "in 20 of the 48 cases, one or more jurors commented on their failure to absorb material during the early part of the trial due to (the) settling-in process". It is this aspect of the juror experience that this research proposes to examine. This research has two distinct phases. Initially, it is necessary to quantify the level of symbolism in the courtroom. This will be achieved by measuring the courtroom and describing the presence of symbolism in the fixed and semifixed elements of the environment. Then the behaviour of those involved in criminal trials in which juries are involved will be observed so that non-fixed elements of symbolism might be quantified. This will incorporate the use of an environmental survey or checklist. The final stage of the research will involve the jurors being interviewed and surveyed about their experiences as jurors and whether their attention to the evidence was effected by the symbolism in the courtroom.

I would be happy to discuss my research or receive any feedback from others interested in this area of research and can be contacted at cbovey@ Cairns.net.au

BOND UNIVERSITY

At present there are two PhD students: one is undertaking a cross-cultural comparison of juvenile delinquency between Japan and Australia utilising the Sibling Study instrument; and the other is also engaged in cross-cultural comparisons but is focussing on miscarriages of justice. In addition there are currently over 20 students enrolled in postgraduate studies, some of whom have completed their coursework and are embarking on their minor dissertations which deal with broad topic areas such as: art crime; monitoring and regulation of private prisons; parental threats to kill children; media analysis of

family violence; the effects of demeanour and police response; as well as specific examples in this edition of the ANZSOC newsletter.

A NEW JOURNAL: CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Academic interest in criminal justice policy and practice has grown remarkably in the last decade. To date, however, there has been no international forum dedicated to critical debate in this most important of areas. *Criminal Justice* aims to fill this gap.

This is a new peer review journal that focuses on the general field of criminal justice policy and practice. The journal, which will appear four times a year beginning in 2001, will publish scholarly articles on all areas of crime and criminal justice: from policing to sentencing, community penalties and prisons; and from crime prevention to victims of crime. More particularly, it will seek to publish scholarly articles that focus on:

- the policy-making process;
- criminal justice policy and/or practice; and
- the gap between policy and practice.

The journal is aimed at academics, researchers, policy makers and practitioners.

The journal will be published four times a year, starting in 2001.

Manuscripts from Australasia (four copies plus disk) should be submitted to: Professor David Dixon, School of Law, University of New South Wales, Sydney 2052, Australia

Book reviews should be sent to: Judith Rungay, London School of Economics and Political Science, London, UK

Terry Goldsworthy

Terry is undertaking a Master of Criminology and his minor thesis topic is *Criminal profiling - is it investigatively relevant?* The aim of the project is to determine what information is investigatively relevant for police in criminal investigations, how this information fits into the investigative model, and what is the acceptance and usage levels of criminal profiling among police officers (drawing on earlier Dutch, British and American studies). There are three main aims to the research: to formulate broad categories of useful profiling characteristics; to revise/develop the investigative model for major police investigations through the incorporation of criminal profiling techniques; and to canvass what, if any, additional training needs in relation to offender traits/psychology are raised by the use of criminal profiling and the concept of investigative relevance. The project will rely on an attitudinal/experience survey of members of the Queensland Police Service. Terry would like to hear from anyone interested in exchanging ideas in relation to criminal profiling, investigative relevance or investigative models - gworthy@optusnet.com.au.

Carole McCartney

Carole recently completed her research degree (MA) on *Privatisation from the inside: an inmates' perspective of the quality of confinement of a private prison in Queensland*. The thesis explores the use of inmates as a reliable and relevant data source and examines the difficulties in delineating and measuring 'quality' within the penal context. It highlights the need for, and relevance of, such research within the recent experience of the dramatic privatisation of prisons in Australia, and the importance of independent, non-partisan research into these private facilities. It also canvasses the problems of research in corrections facilities and the consequences of undertaking such study into private companies with their interests and viewpoints not necessarily being in concordance with research aims or findings. Part of the literature review section of her thesis comprises a chapter published in the most recent edition of

Chappell and Wilson's edited text from Butterworths.

Carole has recently enrolled in a PhD and the working title of her thesis is *A cross-cultural study of miscarriages of justice*. Her research will examine in detail a number of high-profile miscarriages of justice that have occurred in Australia and England & Wales in the last 20 years. It is anticipated that such a cross-national comparison will illuminate the extraneous factors that are involved in miscarriages, including political climate, police practices and culture, public opinion, media influence and treatment of crime, use of forensic and expert evidence and the treatment of sentenced offenders. The research should lead to the development of a more thorough understanding of the factors involved in the construction and resolution of miscarriages. It can then be determined whether it is possible to construct a typology of 'risk' where potential miscarriages can be identified and preventative measures put in place.

NEW WEBSITE

Australian Domestic Violence Clearinghouse

The Australian Domestic Violence Clearinghouse was established in October 1999 and can be accessed through the website: www.austdvclearinghouse.unsw.edu.au/

The Clearinghouse aims to meet the information needs of government agencies, generalist and specialist service providers, researchers and interested members of the public.

Wayne Petherick

Wayne has just graduated with a MScrim and his dissertation topic was *on Detection of deception in written statements: analysing the quantitative and qualitative differences*.

The premise for this study is that there is considerable literature available on verbal statement analysis, but a lack of literature on the detection of deception in written statements. It was the purpose of the study's experimental design to isolate potential markers of deception with a view to giving investigators a starting

point for determining written deception, where a practical application of the research may be in insurance fraud cases, for example. The study found that although some of the more traditional markers are absent (such as body language and eye movement), other cues such as statement length, the use of witnesses, and reports of geographic distance differ qualitatively and quantitatively between deceptive and non-deceptive statements.

Michelle Mustchin

Michelle is enrolled in the Mcrim and her minor thesis topic is *Club rage: an analysis of the perceived increase in verbal aggression in nightclub hotspots*. This thesis continues the evaluation work from the Surfers Paradise Safety Action Plan conducted by Homel, Hauritz and others from Griffith University by focussing on a recent follow-up data collection phase in 1999. However, its specific focus is not on the crime prevention elements, but rather on a more detailed exploration of the key recent finding that verbal aggression appears to have increased considerably in some nightclub venues. The wealth of patron, bouncer, situational and environmental variables collected via the 22-page observational instrument from the SPSAP will be analysed to determine the likely factors implicated in this perceived increase in verbal violence.

JOB CHANGES

RICHARD HARDING

Richard Harding has been appointed as Inspector of Custodial Services for Western Australia. This Office was set up in 2000 to bring independent external scrutiny to the standards and operational practices relating to custodial services within Western Australia. The Office, which falls within the general portfolio responsibility of the Minister of Justice, is answerable directly to Parliament.

Initially, the jurisdiction will extend to adult prisons (public and private), court custody and

prisoner transportation, as well as those Police lock-ups whose operation has been contracted out to the private sector. It is expected that juvenile detention centres and those community corrections orders administered by the Ministry of Justice will soon also be covered, and that by 2005 the entire criminal justice custodial system, including all lock-ups, will be within the jurisdiction of the Inspector's Office.

The core responsibilities, in the initial stage, are to carry out comprehensive inspections of all individual prisons and to conduct 'thematic reviews' of prison services – i.e. assessments of system-wide issues. All reports will be tabled in Parliament. The Office will also advise Parliament and the Minister on criminal justice policy issues arising out of these inspections, as well as recommending the development and improvement of standards across the custodial system. The Office is also to have regard to national and international experience in setting its own priorities.

The Office is required to co-ordinate with other relevant statutory bodies. In particular, it is required to pass on individual prisoner complaints to the Ombudsman.

Whilst some other Australian states have inspectorates, the Western Australian Office is the only one that possesses statutory autonomy and direct access to the Parliament. This model is designed to ensure that the Inspector's activities remain independent and that, in the public interest, the conduct of custodial operations in Western Australia is transparent and fully accountable.

GEORGE ZDENOWSKI

Former Associate Professor and the University of New South Wales, George Zdenowski has been appointed as a Magistrate in New South Wales.

STUART ROSS

Currently head of the Criminal Justice Statistics Unit at the ABS in the Melbourne office, Stuart is

leaving to join the Criminology Department at the University of Melbourne. He will be establishing a commercial consulting venture within the department.

ANZJOC

The Australian and New Zealand Journal of Criminology is now in the thirty third year of its existence, an age which makes it one of the more senior criminology journals around. For much of this period it was published by Butterworths. For the last two years, however, it has been published by Australian Academic Press, who gave it its exciting new format. I have been editor for the last three years.

Obviously, as editor, and as with the editors I succeeded, the aim is to help the journal come to be recognized as one of the leading criminology journals in the world. In these respects, perhaps some of the best publicity we ever had was when this journal was featured in Cohn & Farrington's article on journal citations in the British Journal of Criminology in 1998. Our journal was included as one of the four leading criminology journals in the English speaking world (I will desist from advertising our competitors by naming them here!) From relatively small and humble beginnings, the journal today probably has a bigger local and international audience than ever before. The local criminological field is probably bigger than ever, as criminology itself has established a place as a respected tertiary discipline, with its own sub-disciplines such as police studies and justice studies. By the same token, criminology has grown internationally and one of the things I have been particularly keen to try and do is to encourage international contributions. I think criminology in this part of the world is sufficiently well entrenched not to need any protective barriers from imports (it seems that there was once an unwritten rule that the journal would only publish the work of local authors). Equally, I do not think that we need be so insecure as to think that research in this part of the world is going to be of no interest to those who work beyond the Antipodes. I am pleased to say, then, that since being author, in addition

to local contributors, I have received papers from Indonesia, Hong Kong, Singapore, South Korea, Canada, the United States and Britain.

Inevitably the growth and expansion of criminology, particularly as a tertiary discipline, has led to changes in the range of contributors to it over the years, as Zoe Priestley and I suggested in our review of the papers content history which was published last year (Pratt and Priestley 1999). From being by academia, as one would expect perhaps from any refereed journal today, it still maintains, however, a pluralistic editorial policy: articles are welcome from all shades of opinion from positivism to postmodernism. It remains a generic journal, reflecting qualitative and quantitative research, that which is policy oriented, that which is purely theoretical, that which is historical and so on. Essentially, the journal can only be as good as the copy it receives, so all are welcome, as are any ideas people may have regarding content: we had a special issue last year, for example, on Crime Justice and Indigenous Peoples, and the latest issue of the journal is a special issue on Modernity and Postmodernity.

When an article is received, it is read initially by me: if prima facie it seems potentially publishable and likely to be of interest to our readership, it is then sent out to two, sometimes three, referees. Most usually these are local, but I often call on the international community for assistance as well. The refereeing process takes between four and six weeks, all being well. Depending on their recommendations and suggestions, a decision is then made about whether or not to proceed further: if yes, the paper is returned to the author(s), usually with suggestions for some revision. Obviously, the sooner the revisions are attended to, the quicker the paper will then be able to take its place in the queue to be published (the journal come out three times a year). As stated, contributions from any perspective are most welcome, as are offers to referee papers! For further information, please get in touch with:

***Dr John Pratt, Institute of Criminology,
Victoria University of Wellington, PO Box
600, Wellington, New Zealand.***

Email: john.pratt@vuw.ac.nz

CONFERENCE REPORTS

THE HOMICIDE RESEARCH WORKING GROUP (HRWG), CHICAGO, 24-27 JUNE 2000

In June this year, I had the opportunity to attend the Homicide Research Working Group Meeting to present some of the latest findings relating to homicide in Australia. This meeting is a gathering of academics, police and policy makers interested in homicide research. Once the language barrier was overcome (some people had difficulty understanding my Australian accent), most of the members were left in disbelief after my presentation.

The international audience could not believe that we only had 64, yes 64 firearm-related homicides in 1998/99 in the whole of Australia (the United States recorded 9,143 firearm homicides in 1998). They were truly fascinated and amazed that a country the size of Australia had such a low incidence of homicide, especially homicides committed with a firearm. They were also further intrigued by our firearms regulations, and so I spent most of question time discussing these.

In addition to hearing about the latest research in homicide, the group also had two field trips: a visit to the Cook County Trauma Unit, and a tour of the Cook County Medical Examiner's Office (the Cook County Morgue). Regardless of what people think, homicide researchers "... are not all a bunch of stiffs!" (motto at the back of the HRWG t-shirt).

**Jenny Mouzos, Homicide Monitoring
Program, AIC**

Email: Jenny.Mouzos@aic.gov.au

AMERICAN CRIMINOLOGY SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING, SAN FRANCISCO, NOVEMBER, 2000

With over 3,000 participants, a minimum 8am to 6pm day, up to 20 concurrent sessions, no obvious lunch-break, and no central meeting place, the American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting is a conference which tests one's stamina, food reserves and ability to make choices. Nevertheless, the November 2000 conference had many highlights. I particularly enjoyed sessions on repeat victimisation, crime trends in the USA, a tribute to Malcolm Klein and one of John Monahan's typically high quality presentations.

The young American researchers I heard at ASC presented research findings with confidence and competence and were impressively unfazed by quantitative methodology. However, little scepticism emerged about data sources and their interpretation and I had to wait for a presentation by Robert Bursik to hear a more holistic approach. Bursik's commentary on Klein's research highlighted the importance of careful attention to data and their interpretation; to their contribution to theoretical constructs; and to the value of ethnography as well as structured survey methodology.

Consensus is lacking about the reasons for declining rates of violent crime in the USA over the past decade even though there is no shortage of explanation (policing practices, changes in drug markets, improvements in youth wages, prison population expansion and others. Read the book 'The Crime Drop in America' if you wish to explore these explanations in detail,

or any number of journal articles on the issue. However, critics believe variously that there needs to be more concerted data collection and research to sort out competing theories and that more comparative international research would illuminate the US trends. You may be amazed – as was Pat Mayhew of the British Home Office – that the interest in crime trends has not extended to property crime, whose decline in the US has been longer lived than the decline in violent crime.

effective family group conferences can affect outcomes, including reoffending, the nature of the best practice that produces effective family group conferences remains a matter of opinion and debate.

A number of factors affect outcomes for young offenders. These can include: early childhood experiences including backgrounds of abuse, transience and multiple carers; progress in school; relationships with others; parental supervision; emotional and behavioural problems; victimisation; development of skills and abilities; and experiences in the criminal justice system. Critical practice factors include: the professional practice of the co-ordinator and other members of the youth justice team; the management practice of the office including resourcing, training and procedures; experiences of the family group conference; diversionary and Youth Court experiences; and service provision. The research will explore all of these in order to find out, other things being equal, what aspects of practice in the youth justice system can make a difference.

Overall, the purposes of the research include: Determining the extent to which the goals of the Children, Young Persons and Their Families Act 1989 are being met; Determining the extent to which the restorative aspects of the youth justice process are achieved; Identifying best practice in the youth justice system; Collecting baseline data an evaluation of the Youth Services Strategy; Collecting information on the interaction between the Youth Court and other aspects of the youth justice system; and Collecting data on diversion/alternative actions of police in relation to young people.

Research methods: Family group conference cases

There will be two parts to the study that involve family group conferences (FGCs): retrospective (1000 FGC cases) and prospective (200 FGC cases). Retrospective: A sample of about 20-30 youth justice co-ordinators who had at least 30 cases in 1998 involving young people aged 15 years 9 months at the time the FGC was completed have been selected from the SWis database. Within these constraints, the criteria for selection have involved maximising variety in

terms of site and co-ordinator characteristics (experience, sex and ethnicity). The study will be done in two phases. Phase 1 will include 500 cases from offices in the North and West. Phase 2 will involve 500 cases from offices in the South and East of the country and this part of the study will be dependant on the availability of financial support.

It is planned to interview the young people involved in these FGCs and obtain data on their post FGC involvement in the criminal justice system from files. The youth justice co-ordinators who conducted the conferences and their managers will also be interviewed to determine the way practice operated in each of the chosen sites in 1998. The practice questions will also cover interactions with the police, the youth court and others involved in the youth justice system.

Prospective: In addition, a sample of (probably 4-6) current family group conferences with the same co-ordinator will be observed and, when consent is given, interviews will be conducted with the young person, the family, whanau and the victims involved.

Police youth diversion

Data will be collected on at least 1000 police youth diversion cases over a period of three months at 10 stations throughout the country. The research sites will be selected to provide a diversity of practice in the Police and in Child Youth and Family. Information will be recorded on a database which covers information about the offences committed, family and offending background and responses to offending.

Research outcomes

The results of the proposed research will be used by Child, Youth and Family, the Police, and Courts to: develop professional staff and management guidelines; benchmark the quality of youth justice practice; implement best practice to limit the future reoffending of those children and young people who attend family group conferences; and increase understanding of effective practice for the different cultural groups within New Zealand, particularly Maori, Pakeha and Pacific young people. The results will be used by the Ministries of Justice and Social Policy

to develop future policy in relation to youth justice. The information gained will be used to reduce the financial costs to government and the social costs to the community of youth offending and to enable the relevant government departments to confidently provide information on the value of their services.

New developments in courses offered

Honours level

Surveillance, social control and resistance

Willem de Lint will be offering this course which looks at emerging instruments of surveillance and how these instruments impact upon our understanding of our social relationships, with institutions in society, and with the state. It will look at CCTV, computer monitoring at the workplace, internet surveillance systems, vigilante surveillance, and at the structural distribution of surveillance. The course is designed to give students an appreciation of surveillance as a continuation of both formal and informal forms of social control, and of the importance of notions of trust and risk. In addition, the course will draw attention to the mediated and bi-directional quality of many forms of surveillance: sometimes the 'eye' is asleep, and sometimes the 'watchers' can themselves be 'the watched.'

Psychology and Crime

Samantha Lundrigan will be offering this course which is designed to provide a detailed and focused examination of the contribution psychology can make to the study of crime and criminal behaviour. Areas covered will include psychological approaches to understanding crime, the application of psychology to police investigations and psychology in the courtroom.

Social change, culture and crime: The case of Japan

Dag Leonardsen will be offering this course which uses Japan as a case study for a broader comparative analysis of crime. It discusses crime as "fact", crime as "social construction" and the methodological problems of both measuring crime and comparing crime rates between nations; provides an overview of "the problem of

order"; contrasts collectivistic and individualistic cultures and presents the analytic distinction between "shame" and "guilt" cultures - all as a necessary background for understanding the Japanese case. The course will present empirical illustrations of the connection between rapid economic change and crime, both at a national and local level. The main focus in the course will be an examination of Japan, its social structure and how this might be linked with its crime pattern. The course will end with both a general and specific discussion of how to prevent crime. This is part of a wider (Habermasian) discussion on social limits to state intervention.

Undergraduate level

State and Corporate Crime

Reece Walters will be offering this course which aims to redress an imbalance in criminological teaching and research. It explores crimes of control, domination and exploitation committed by state and corporate officials, examines abuses of power by those who govern, and critically assesses methods of regulating acts of state and corporate crime. It, therefore, covers crimes against humanity, nuclearism, land rights and the stolen generation, genetic engineering, political corruption, the regulation of knowledge, as well as corporate fraud and occupational health and safety.

Environmental Criminology

Samantha Lundrigan will be offering this course which is designed to introduce students to the issues and concepts central to an understanding of environmental criminology. Its focus will be the study of crime, criminals and victimization in relation to particular places and the manner in which criminals carry out their activities spatially.

CRIMINOLOGY AT BOND UNIVERSITY

Elective criminology subjects were first offered at Bond in 1994 largely to cater to psychology, law and journalism students. A postgraduate diploma, coursework masters degree and an undergraduate major were introduced from 1996, so that criminology is now at 'departmental' status within the School of

Humanities and Social Sciences under the guidance of the Dean, Professor Paul Wilson.

The range of subjects offered covers basic criminological areas such as the criminal justice system, theories of crime and crime prevention, with additional more focussed subjects including Global Criminology, Miscarriages of Justice and Media & Crime. However, the main concentration of the department is on the developing area of forensic criminology with specialised subjects in criminal profiling, forensic victimology and criminal motivations among others.

The Centre of Applied Psychology and Criminology, housed within the department, provides short training courses and workshops in Behavioural Evidence Analysis (a form of profiling approach) and Analytic Interviewing (a form of cognitive interviewing style) each year that attract a wide range of law enforcement and other investigators. The department is also the home of the Australian chapter of the Academy of Behavioural Profiling (ABP) - an organisation dedicated to the development of professional and ethical profiling standards.

The department is involved in a range of research projects including the privatisation of community corrections (via a small ARC grant), the Sibling Study (along with consortium members from Queensland and Griffith universities) and an examination of crime and punishment in Queensland (via a Centenary of Federation grant).

Further information about criminology at Bond University is available from our website at <http://www.bond.edu.au>.

THE OFFICE OF CRIME STATISTICS, SA

The South Australian Office of Crime Statistics, which was established within the Attorney General's Department in 1978, has three key objectives:

- To provide timely, accurate and comprehensive statistical information on crime and criminal justice, with particular

focus on providing relevant data for policy development and legislative change;

- To conduct research into crime and criminal justice issues, including evaluations of the impact of legislative change and the introduction of new criminal justice practices; and
- To disseminate information on crime and criminal justice to Government, members of Parliament, relevant agencies and the community in order to increase the general level of understanding and to inform public debate and policy development in these areas.

The Office has a complement of 17 staff, most of whom are directly involved in research and evaluation or in data management. Its work can be grouped under three key headings.

1. *Statistical monitoring*

The Office receives regular downloads of unit record data from the key criminal justice agencies in South Australia, and uses these to produce a range of statistical reports encompassing all aspects of the criminal justice process. Its main statistical publication is its three volume "Crime and Justice in South Australia" report, published annually. Volume 1 focuses on police data relating to recorded offences, victim details and offender profiles; Volume 2 contains a range of statistical information on the juvenile justice system; while Volume 3 profiles cases finalised by the Magistrates and Higher Courts as well as data on imprisonments and community corrections.

In addition, the Office produces regular Information Bulletins, which provide snapshot statistics on topical issues such as Aboriginal involvement in the criminal justice system, stalking, domestic violence and home invasions. These are distributed free of charge to a wide range of agencies, community groups and schools.

2. *Evaluation*

With the range of new criminal justice initiatives now being introduced in South Australia by the

Justice Portfolio, the Office is becoming more heavily involved in evaluations. It has recently completed an evaluation of the pilot Magistrates Court Diversion Program for persons with a mental impairment and it is currently evaluating the two year pilot Drug Court program which commenced operation in May 2000.

3. Research

In addition to one-off, short term research projects on issues such as a hot spot analysis of break/enter dwellings, OCS's main focus over the next several years will be on recidivism and 'flow through' studies.

Over the past several years, OCS has concentrated on developing a pc-based offender and victim tracking system, which integrates police incident and apprehension data with courts data. While further developmental work is still to be done (including the addition of correctional services statistics) the database is now sufficiently developed to enable work to commence on a major recidivism project. Using a unique identifier for each discrete offender, this study will measure the level of re-entry of individuals into the criminal justice system over a ten year period. Stage 1 of this project aims to assess recidivism levels of juveniles while study 2 will focus on adult recidivism patterns. Stage 3 will attempt some comparisons between those individuals who 'offend' only as juveniles, those who commence offending as juveniles and continue to offend as adults, and those who offend only as adults.

The offender/victim tracking system also allows OCS to 'track' discrete cases from the point of first report to police to finalisation in court. One such study currently underway focuses on stalking incidents. Here, the aim is to identify how many such incidents result in an apprehension for stalking and how many end with an offender being found guilty in court. Once the key attrition points within the system have been identified, alternative data sources (such as interviews with key police, prosecutors and legal representatives) will be undertaken to identify the reasons for this. Similar studies are planned for child sexual assaults and domestic violence.

National CARS Project

In addition to the core tasks undertaken, in 1999 OCS was awarded a contract by the National Motor Vehicle Theft Reduction Council to establish a national database on vehicle thefts. This builds upon the South Australian Comprehensive Auto-theft Research System (CARS), which the Office has developed and maintained since 1995. Work commenced on this project in July 1999 with the employment of four new staff. The integration of police, registration and insurance data from across Australia is now underway and is being used to generate regular reports on national motor vehicle theft trends for the Council. It is anticipated that this project will run for approximately four years.

Information service

On an annual basis, OCS responds to well over 400 requests for crime and criminal justice data from a range of client groups, including members of the public, politicians, the media, academics and students. This service is available to anyone wanting up-to-date official crime statistics for South Australia.

Joy Wundersitz, DIRECTOR

FORTHCOMING CONFERENCES

4TH NATIONAL OUTLOOK SYMPOSIUM: NEW CRIMES, NEW RESPONSES, 21-22 June 2001 Rydges Lakeside, Canberra for details contact marianne.james@aic.gov.au

Governance & Justice, 2001, 9-11 July 2001, Brisbane for details contact s.lockwood-lee@mailbox.gu.edu.au

JUSTICE STUDIES ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE, 30 May – 1 June 2001, Wheaton College, Norton, MA, *Restorative Justice: Seeds of Social Revolution or Just Another Correctional Alternative*, abstracts due by 15 January 2001, contact gezellig@global2000.net for details.

SECOND INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON VIOLENCE AND ADOLENCE, 17-19 July 2001, Jerusalem, Israel. Abstracts due by 15 February 2001, contact seminars@isas.co.il for details.

AUSTRALIAN SOCIETY OF LEGAL PHILOSOPHY ANNUAL CONFERENCE, 15-17 JUNE 2001 Australian National University, Canberra Keynote Speaker: Dr Julia Black (London School of Economics) 'Critical Reflections on Regulation' Other speakers include Professor John Braithwaite (ANU).

CALL FOR PAPERS

The special theme for the conference is Regulation. However, papers are welcome on any topic of jurisprudential interest. Offers of papers should take the form of a summary of between 250 and 500 words, and should be communicated to Tom Campbell (tom.campbell@law.anu.edu.au; tel: (02) 6249 0630) or Peter Cane (peter.cane@coombs.anu.edu.au; fax (02) 6249 4933; mail: Law Program, Research School of Social Sciences, Australian National university, Canberra ACT 0200) by 1 March 2001.

CONTRIBUTE TO YOUR NEWSLETTER

Know of a conference that is coming up?

TELL US ABOUT IT. Been to an interesting workshop/conference? **LET OTHERS KNOW AND EMAIL US A PIECE**

Are you the postgraduate convener?

WHY NOT GET SOME OF YOUR STUDENTS TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE NEWSLETTER

Starting a exciting new research project? USE THE NEWSLETTER TO COMMUNICATE WITH YOUR COLLEAGUES

Email contributions to either:

margaret.cameron@aic.gov.au

toni.makkai@aic.gov.au.

Only email contributions accepted.