

## President's Column



*President Rick Sarre musing at the 28th Annual ANZSOC Conference at Flinders University in Adelaide*

Greetings!

My first duty is to record my profound thanks to the conference team from Flinders University Law School, and their Centre for Crime Policy and Research, for putting together a superb conference in Adelaide last November. The conference committee, headed by Willem de Lint, included academics from Flinders and representatives from a range of government departments. The team included Marinella Marmo, Bibi Sangha, Michael O'Connell (Commissioner for Victims' Rights), Kaylene Douglas (Corrections), Russell Brewer, Olivia Thomas and later Deb McBratney, and Jayne Marshall, along with Emma Ziersch (Crime Statistics).

The conference was opened by the South Australian Attorney-General, John Rau, who spoke affectionately and positively about the role of associations such as ours in advising on reforms. I remember well his predecessor, the current speaker of the SA parliament, Michael Atkinson, who was memorable for his opening remarks at the 2007 conference. In essence he said that criminologists were not people he was paying much heed to. He preferred, he said, to listen to his electorate on matters to do with justice. It was an interesting speech and one that attracted a great deal of comment. In hindsight, it did us all a favour. All speakers after that comment, and for the rest of the week, prefaced their remarks by saying "despite what the Attorney-General has said, this research is highly valuable" and then spoke about policy imperatives.

The Flinders conference was the 28<sup>th</sup> annual conference, but it actually marked 30 years since the first conference in 1985, convened at St Hilda's College in Melbourne, so we celebrated a milestone in that respect.

The organising team for the 9th annual postgraduate conference event was composed of Rhiannon Bandiera, Adam Pocrnic and Diego Dominguez Mejia, and to them I offer my sincere thanks also. The first such conference was, in fact, convened at Flinders in 2007 and each one has been a great success ever since.

Congratulations to Kathy Daly and Janet Chan for being announced as the Distinguished Criminologists for 2015. Kathy was in attendance and spoke at the dinner of her passion for the subject. Janet could not be with us, but her speech via her appearance on the big screen at the following plenary session was very much appreciated. Janet will receive her plaque at an event on 21 April at UNSW where she will present the occasional address. Congratulations to all other winners of the awards and prizes. They are featured in this (or were featured in the previous) newsletter.

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The conference dinner was held at the State Library. Associate Director Shane Cathcart was guest speaker. The Mortlock library room, where we convened the dinner, is reminiscent of Harry Potter's Hogwarts, or perhaps the Trinity College Dublin (Old Library). The latter library bases its classification system on the size of the books. I am reminded of the Rutgers University criminology library in Newark, New Jersey, where I spent a sabbatical 25 years ago. Its classification system was designed by the idiosyncratic and wonderful librarian Phyllis Schultze. It's a fairly unsophisticated system, based upon when the book was delivered to Phyllis. The oldest book was the first on the shelf. The latest, the last, and so forth. I saw Todd Clear in Brisbane last week at the Griffith Institute / BOCSAR applied criminology conference. Todd tells me that Phyllis is still in charge of the library. There is little doubt that it remains one of the best criminology libraries in the English-speaking world.

The Hobart conference in November this year promises to be a beauty. Rob White and the team are in the throes of planning, and the website is up and running. The relevant dates and other pieces of information are all in this newsletter (page 10) for your planning.

As I am sure you are all aware, 2017 is our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary year. The planning sub-committee of Russell Smith (now our honorary historian), Kathy Daly, Philip Stenning, Antje Deckert, Tara McGee, Cassandra Cross and I have been working hard and have assembled a range of projects. The most significant is an edited volume on developments in Australian and New Zealand criminology over the past half century, to be published by Palgrave in 2017. We also have an oral history project underway, a citations index, special historical papers to be presented at the annual conference in Hobart and again in Canberra in 2017, and a special event in October 2017 at the University of Melbourne where it all began. Kathy has included her latest 'Where are they now?' column in this newsletter (pages 14-15) as part of a 50th anniversary series.

The Committee of Management farewells Sanja Milivojevic (who has accepted a job at La Trobe in Victoria and thus can no longer be the NSW representative) and I thank her for her dedication during her service and in particular, for managing the communications services that ANZSOC provides. Marinella Marmo and Asher Flynn have both announced their impending maternity leave from Flinders and Monash respectively, and we offer both our congratulations and thanks for their service to the Committee too. We will hold elections for the SA/NSW casual vacancies soon. Li Eriksson will step back in and edit the next edition of PacifiCrim and I am grateful to her for that offer.

I attended the criminology conference in Auckland in mid-February this year. It had joint sponsors: the Auckland University School of Social Sciences, and ANZSOC. There were papers on police accountability, Indigenous perspectives, gender politics, sexting, desistance and reintegration. Harry Blagg was the keynote. My thanks to Alice Mills for putting it all together so professionally.

My last item for this column is to announce that we have signed a memorandum of cooperation with the ACJS (Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences), similar to the one that we have with the BSC (British Society of Criminology). This means that an ANZSOC member can get member rates at ACJS and BSC conferences. Be sure to alert their conference organisers of this fact when you are registering.

I will finish my presidency at the Hobart conference in November. I look forward to being there, visiting the Governor and looking at the MONA exhibits. What a great time it will be.

*Professor Rick Sarre, President ANZSOC*

## Secretary's Report

Wow – I can't believe we are already so far into 2016! It was great to see so many of you in Adelaide in November which seems almost a distant memory. I look forward to seeing you again in Tasmania this November, which I am sure will be here before you know it.

Our award program is well and truly underway. I am looking forward to seeing many nominations and I'm sure all the judges are equally looking forward to reviewing the submissions. For more information on our awards program be sure to check out our website [www.anzsoc.org](http://www.anzsoc.org).

If I can help in any way – be sure to get in touch.

*Kate Sweeney, ANZSOC Secretary*  
[secretary@anzsoc.org](mailto:secretary@anzsoc.org)



## PacifiCrim Editor's Note

Welcome to the first (and my last) *PacifiCrim* newsletter for 2016. In this very packed, exciting issue, Colin Campbell updates us on the complications that have struck the AIC and ACC merger. Philip Stenning and Anna Stewart report on the Australian and New Zealand Journal of Criminology and Kathy Daly catches up with two former ANZSOC Student Paper Prize winners and three New Scholar Prize recipients as part of the "where are they now" special column. We also recognise the recipients of the 2015 ANZSOC student awards, including an insightful discussion with Patricia Aloï (student paper prize winner); a journey from neuroscience to IT to criminology with Armin Alimardani (Monash HDR prize winner); and we congratulate Dr Anastasia Powell on her recent ARC success—a criminology DECRA.

This issue features two research snapshots on projects funded by the Criminology Research Council: (1) the Sexting and Young People Project—with Murray Lee, Alyce McGovern, Thomas Crofts and Sanja Milivojevic; and (2) the More than Revenge Pornography Project—with Nicola Henry, Anastasia Powell and myself. Professor Kent Roach and ACJS President, Lorenzo Boyd, share their reflections on the 2015 Annual ANZSOC conferences (main and postgraduate) and several members report on the various conferences they attended around the globe—from New Zealand to Washington, Portugal and Hong Kong. Thank-you to everyone who has contributed to this supersized issue.

I want to take this opportunity to say a big THANK-YOU to everyone for their considered contributions over the past few years, and for their ongoing support of the newsletter. I have genuinely, thoroughly enjoyed my time as editor, and know Li Eriksson will do a brilliant job (yet again!) as she re-takes the reins. I want to say a special thanks to Rick for his eagle editing eye and his incredible, valued support. It's been wonderful working with you in this role. Happy reading to all! Signing off for the last time ...

*Dr Asher Flynn*  
*PacifiCrim Editor*  
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## Crunching the Data

*Readers of the e-version will find reference links by clicking on the blue text*

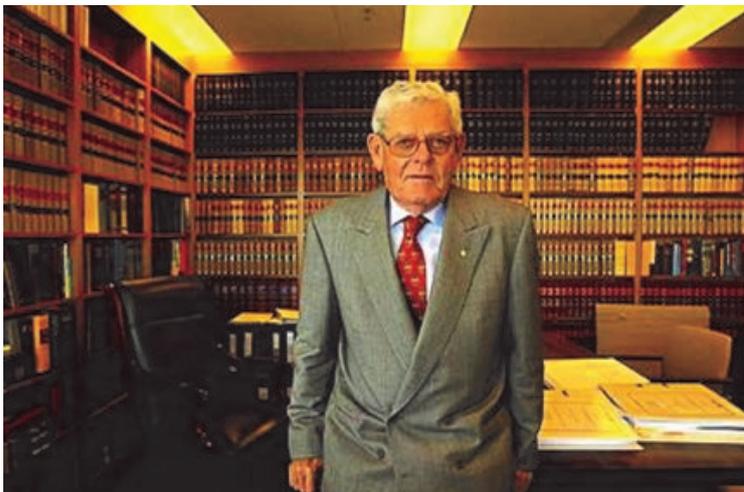
At the end of 2015, the merger of the Australian Institute of Criminology (AIC) with the Australian Crime Commission was sold by the Abbott Government and Justice Minister Michael Keenan as a “fait accompli”, but what is going to happen to its criminological firepower is still very unclear.

In the first two sitting weeks of 2016, the Bill to merge the AIC is Government business item number 13 on the Senate Notice Paper. If the Senate had generally supported the legislation, it would have been passed. But Labor, the Greens and several independents have indicated in 2<sup>nd</sup> reading speeches that they are dubious about the quality of the merger, and Labor Senator Jacinta Collins indicated that the Bill won’t be passed in its current form because the merger is “not a good fit”.

In the meantime, the AIC has become a putative branch of the Crime Commission through a “Machinery of Government” order signed by the previous Prime Minister in the middle of last year, which is an executive instruction, but has no legislative basis. The AIC has always had its own Act of Parliament which has to be amended to allow the merger – including the merger of the AIC budget with the Crime Commission budget.

In Senate committee hearings in December 2015, the AIC’s CEO Chris Dawson, an eminent law enforcement officer who also, of course, heads the Crime Commission, said that the AIC’s new function as a crime and justice research branch would continue monitoring deaths in custody, homicide rates and offender drug use. Mr Dawson also gave commitments to maintain peer reviewed research, with broader advisory committee and ethics committee oversight, and to retain the JV Barry Library, all excellent news.

But the Crime Commission is involved in multiple policing operations: countering organised criminals who manufacture and distribute ‘ice’, chasing money launderers, and recently, keeping under surveillance returned fighters from Syria – big problems right at this moment. [So it’s not surprising that the transcripts of the Senate committee reveal that program directions and lines of advice for the new research branch were yet to be finalised.](#)



*Tom Hughes QC, courtesy of the Sydney Morning Herald*

This is a tad ironic, since many of the AIC’s research areas – such as crime prevention programming and evaluation, or more qualitative research into forced marriage, or victim support – are currently very effective. The question is, will lines of research such as these survive?

The Senate’s Legal and Constitutional committee reported back on 26 November 2015. There were only three submissions. The merger was tiptoed through with process-driven Ministerial press releases and *sotto voce* tablings in the Parliament with a short second reading debate in the House of Representatives.

The AIC did not begin silently. Indeed, it is one of the last remaining Gorton era legacies, although the Australian Film and Television School (or AFTRS) is probably Gorton’s most long-lasting legacy to the observable national culture.

Most folk think the AIC was a Whitlam Institution, but that’s because the Criminology Research Act 1971 was passed into law by Executive Council just before the writs were issued for the 1972 “It’s Time” Election.

In fact, the AIC was made possible through years of lobbying and negotiation in the late 1960s by enthused public servants and Liberal Attorneys-General, including Tom Hughes QC, who happens to be Prime Minister Turnbull’s father-in-law. Tom Hughes [worked to bring States and Territories on board in terms of both funding research](#) and a collective promise to start standardising data to create a national picture of Australian crime.

In November 1969 Mr Hughes addressed a biennial meeting of the ANZSOC. Mr Hughes said that he believed that the establishment of the national Institute of Criminology which had been announced to the Parliament the previous May was proof of the growing concern of the Commonwealth in crime prevention and related fields. “The Institute will be the first national effort to investigate the extent of crime in Australia and the best means of dealing with it.”

He added: “This problem is the difficulty in convincing people that there are real dividends to be gained from each small step taken in the field of crime research. The work done by [ANZSOC] has been of real value in this connection. It is by acting as a coordinating influence in this field that the Commonwealth feels it can make a significant contribution”, he said.

McMahon toppled Gorton and reshuffled Hughes onto the backbench (to put it mildly, they didn’t get along) and, after the coup, there was an hiatus around the 1971 Bill of almost a year. In Opposition, Whitlam and his shadow Ministers, Bill Hayden and Lionel Bowen, used question time to press the apparently disinterested McMahon to send the Bill to ExCo to be signed into law. This was finally achieved just before the 1972 election, and the unformed Institute fell like a newborn baby into Prime Minister Whitlam’s grateful lap.

Fast forward to 2015 ...



*The AIC offices in October 2015*

## Crunching the Data Continued

The closure of an internationally renowned Institute in crime and justice circles is a matter for the Abbott/Turnbull Government. It's the prerogative of any elected Government to change departmental and agency structures to try and get the results they want. The question is as follows: is there any logic to this impending change? The big picture of broad agency rationalisation is being driven by the Finance Department, most recently channelled through the Commission of Audit. Finance wants systems flattened out and savings made, which often comes at the expense of valuable "niche" research. Land & Water Australia, an agency that led sustainability research in the agriculture/natural resource management domain, was crushed by the Rudd Labor Government. The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare narrowly escaped being crushed earlier this year, but should watch its back. A lot of crunching has happened at CSIRO over the last 20 years

If the merger does occur, many hope that the new research branch will retain this broader remit of general criminological research, but Justice Minister Michael Keenan's merger announcement states: "Combining the expertise, capabilities and data and information holdings of the AIC and the ACC will significantly enhance support for law enforcement in counter terrorism efforts and in bolstering Australia's response to serious and organised crime".

His rhetoric indicates that research will likely focus on organised crime. CEO Chris Dawson was much more constructive in the Senate Committee hearings, flagging continued broader criminological research looking at high volume crimes such as assault, domestic violence, and theft, [which cost the community billions of dollars.](#)

President of ANZSOC, Professor Rick Sarre, told the committee: "We know that ... the vast majority of crime is caused by factors well and truly outside the control of policing generally. It is caused by lack of education. It is caused by social deprivation. It is caused by psychological illness. It is caused by poverty. It is caused by all the sorts of things that police simply cannot solve".

Three broad outcomes remain possible. The first is the merger happens and the well-rounded AIC peg will be hammered into a square law enforcement hole, hopefully with a broader research remit than organised crime. This is unlikely at the present time unless the Government introduces new amendments. The second, the merger doesn't happen and the Government treats the new Crime Commission branch as just that under the Machinery of Government order when, in fact, it has no legislative basis, and budgets remain separate. With this scenario, the Government may wait to revisit the situation after the new Senate is formed in 2017, post the 2016 election. Finally, the most constructive solution in terms of general criminological research—the merger is abandoned because of community (and Senate) concerns and the AIC returns to a purely research-based function, and looking after national crime trend monitoring.

*Colin Campbell*

*Editor's note: A version of this article was published in The Canberra Times. Colin Campbell was Communications Manager at the AIC until mid-2015. He was also a Senior Advisor to the Leader of the Opposition in the Senate from 1996 to 2004.*

## Kathy Daly Wins the Christine M Alder Book Prize

*What constitutes institutional abuse of children? What is redress? What do survivors want? In this book, Kathleen Daly explores major cases of historical institutional abuse of children in Canada and Australia. Drawing from first-hand accounts of survivors, the book documents their memories growing up in institutions and their experiences with redress, to examine whether justice interests—for participation, voice, validation, vindication, and offender accountability—are achieved. Redress for institutional abuse includes civil litigation, public inquiries, and redress schemes. Daly analyses these areas, paying close attention to redress schemes and asks whether, from a victim's perspective, there is an optimal redress process and outcome. With significant attention worldwide towards identifying effective responses to historical institutional abuse, this text provides a timely, lively, and authoritative resource.*



*Prof Kathy Daly and Dr Tara Renae McGee*

In 2015, the Christine M Alder Book Prize was awarded to Kathleen Daly, Professor of Criminology and Criminal Justice at Griffith University, for her book *Redressing Institutional Abuse of Children* (Palgrave MacMillan, 2014). The prize is awarded biennially for an outstanding monograph or book which, in the opinion of the judges (in 2015 Dr Sanja Milivojevic, Professor Sharon Pickering and myself) has made a valuable and outstanding contribution to criminology. There were a number of worthy contenders for the prize; the panel members were reminded of the breadth and vibrancy of Australian and New Zealand criminology in reviewing entries for it.

Kathy's work is an outstanding contribution to changing the way we understand institutional abuse. Elegantly written and compelling, it sets the standard for excellent scholarship and deserves the widest audience of policy makers, community leaders and scholars. The book gives voice to survivors of institutional abuse and seeks to explore whether various responses to institutional abuse of children meet justice interests. It is victims' perspectives that give this book a raw and authentic edge.

Most importantly, it is Kathy's ability to synthesise the voices of survivors, her theoretical innovations, and potential policy implications that make this book an outstanding scholarly achievement.

The Prize is awarded in honour of Professor Christine M Alder who made a leading contribution to the development of Australian and New Zealand criminology through her pioneering research on gender, crime and justice, drawing international recognition to Australian criminological research in the 1980s and 1990s, her collaboration with practitioners in criminal justice reform and through her work in mentoring future generations of criminologists. We mourned her passing in 2015.

*Dr Tara Renae McGee, Vice President ANZSOC*

# Lorenzo Boyd Reflects on the 2015 ANZSOC Conference

As 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President of the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences (ACJS), I had the distinct honour of representing ACJS at the 28th Annual ANZSOC conference in the beautiful and picturesque city of Adelaide, South Australia.

The conference program was very timely and included a wide range of interactive workshops, interesting plenary sessions, informative round-tables, presentations and seminars, all geared towards enhancing and supporting its theme. The varied speakers ranged from graduate students, practitioners, educators and administrators, to jurists. ANZSOC President, Rick Sarre, was an amazingly hospitable and gracious host, introducing me to many of the conference attendees, and constantly checking with participants and presenters to assure that things were progressing smoothly.



*Keynote Speaker Professor Kent Roach*

There were ample sub-thematic panels to choose from, but what stood out to me was the variety of presentations surrounding three primary themes: (i) Policing; (ii) Restorative Justice and (iii) Human Rights/Victims issues. There were also several interesting presentations on sustainable and perceived justice, and many conversations and presentations about Indigenous Australians and preserving their rights in the criminal justice system. I immediately saw synergies with ethnicity/nationality research in the US.

The annual conference dinner, which was held in the spectacular Mortlock Chambers at the State Library of South Australia served as a memorable location to dine and mingle with other conference attendees. Lots of comparative criminal justice conversations happened prior to the meal, with many participants asking about various criminal justice policies with the US, including gun control, restorative justice, and incarceration practices. This conference dinner was both intellectually stimulating and filling.

One major point of comparison at the conference was discussing mass shootings and the proliferation of guns in the US compared to the lack of guns and thus mass shootings in Australia.



*Delegates enjoying the conference with keynote speaker, Professor Kerry Carrington*

Several presenters made the comparison and pointed out that the National Firearms Agreement in Australia basically prohibits automatic and semiautomatic assault rifles, as well as pump-action shotguns. The comparison is the fight surrounding the right to bear arms in the US and various segments arguing individual rights versus the rights of a safer society.

A number of people brought to my attention that there had not been a mass shooting in Australia in nearly two decades, and the lack of available firearms was said to be a precipitating factor. It was also pointed out that the per-capita rate of gun-related homicides and suicides in Australia has decreased significantly since 1996, the year in which gun ownership restrictions (National Firearms Agreement) went into effect. This information gave me much fodder for discussion of this issue back at my home campus.

I've had several conversations with people in Adelaide where they commented on the differences and similarities between Australia and the US in the context of demographic research. It appears that potential multi-disciplinary collaborations are readily available between the two. I see many sources for synergies between ACJS and ANZSOC, and we at ACJS invite members of ANZSOC to join us at our annual conference in Kansas City, Missouri from 21-25 March 2017. Our theme for this conference is linking Research, Teaching, and Practice.



*Dr Lorenzo Boyd at the conference*

By way of introduction, the ACJS is an international association established to foster professional and scholarly activities in the field of criminal justice. ACJS promotes criminal justice education, research and policy analysis within the discipline of criminal justice for both educators and practitioners. Providing a forum for disseminating ideas related to issues in research, policy, education and practice within the field, ACJS attributes its success in creating this dynamic professional association to the composition of its membership. As change expands the existing boundaries of the criminal justice field, ACJS is comprised of members from a variety of diversified backgrounds. Through the vital interchange of ideas, ACJS members develop and share knowledge about critical issues regarding crime and criminal and social justice.

ACJS is comprised of an amalgam of scholars (international in scope and multidisciplinary in orientation), professionals (from all segments of the justice system) and students. Our success in creating this dynamic professional association is due to the variety of interests represented in its membership ([www.acjs.org](http://www.acjs.org)). I look forward to visiting and sharing with members of ANZSOC at the 2016 conference in Hobart, Tasmania and helping to build a productive relationship between ANZSOC and ACJS.

*Dr Lorenzo Boyd, 1st President, Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences*

# Criminology and Criminal Justice in Everyday Life

The Third New Zealand Criminology Symposium, sponsored by ANZSOC and the School of Social Sciences, University of Auckland was held in the Fale Pasifika in mid-February 2016. It was attended by over 50 delegates from a variety of organisations including criminal justice agencies, NGOs and universities. Proceedings were kicked off by a *mihi whakatau* (a traditional Māori welcome) and speakers then covered a range of topics of criminological interest including police corruption in Indonesia (John Buttle) and young people's online safety (Claire Meehan). Keynote speaker, Professor Harry Blagg (University of Western Australia), convincingly argued that concepts such as 'justice', 'law' and 'policing' are profoundly embedded in a colonial world view and that holistic Indigenous knowledge has been de-privileged. He gave a number of examples of successful Aboriginal initiatives that have been introduced to tackle social problems in Western Australia, such as the 'granny patrol', run by older Aboriginal women, which has eliminated petrol sniffing and represents a model of policing based on consensus, healing and inclusion, rather than coercive power.



*Associate Professor Jan Jordan*



*The Symposium Venue*

After some lively discussions over lunch, Professor Rick Sarre gave us his top 10 ideas for future directions of criminological research in Australia and New Zealand. Associate Professor Jan Jordan (Victoria University of Wellington) then examined the recent 'Roastbusters' case and discussed her research examining how rape culture affects the environment both in which rape occurs and is responded to. Two speakers, Annaliese Johnston (Salvation Army) and Carey Ewing (Pathway Charitable Trust), both considered prisoner reintegration, with Annaliese focussing on the difficulties of reintegration when there is 'nothing to reintegrate into'. Carey noted the importance of building a 'coalition of support', using volunteers to walk the post-release journey with ex-prisoners, and of developing high quality relationships as this determines whether ex-prisoners will engage with services.



*Symposium organisers and speakers*

The conference was then rounded off by Kim Workman (JD Stout Fellow at the Stout Research Centre, Victoria University of Wellington) who spoke about the relationship between the state, criminal justice and Māori, and the damage caused not only by colonialism and punitive criminal justice measures but also neoliberalism and performance management. Julia Whaipooti, Chair of JustSpeak, then closed the symposium before delegates enjoyed drinks and nibbles at the end of the day.

*Dr Alice Mills, Symposium Convenor*

## 2015 Distinguished Criminologist—Professor Kathy Daly



The ANZSOC Committee of Management awarded two Distinguished Criminologist prizes at the annual conference in Adelaide. The two winners were Professor Kathleen Daly of Griffith University and Professor Janet Chan of UNSW. Janet will receive her plaque at a ceremony at UNSW in late April, and more will be said about that prize in the November 2016 *PacifiCrim*. Kathy received her prize at the 2015 ANZSOC conference dinner at the Mortlock library in Adelaide.

Kathy is Professor of Criminology in the School of Criminology and Criminal Justice at Griffith. She writes on gender, race, crime, and criminal justice, along with restorative, Indigenous, and transitional justice. Her most recent work is on conventional and innovative justice responses to sexual and violent victimisation in different contexts of violence; and on redress, restoration, and reparation. Her recent book, *Redressing Institutional Abuse of Children* (2014, Palgrave Macmillan), which analysed major Australian and Canadian cases of historical institutional abuse, was awarded the Christine M Alder Prize for 2015. Previously, her book, *Gender, Crime, and Punishment* (1994, Yale University Press), received the Michael J. Hindelang Award in 1995 from the American Society of Criminology.

Kathy is author or editor of six books and over 90 journal articles and book chapters. She is a past President of ANZSOC (2005-09), was elected a Fellow of the Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia in 2007, and also as a Fellow of the American Society of Criminology in 2014. She is a most worthy recipient of the prize.

*Professor Rick Sarre, President ANZSOC*

## Kent Roach Reflects on the 2015 ANZSOC Postgraduate Conference



What can a late-career professor learn from attending a conference for early career and postgraduate researchers? Plenty.

Fighting jetlag, I attended the conference for postgraduate and early career researchers held in Adelaide on 24 November 2015, the day prior to the Australian and New Zealand Annual Criminology conference.

Over 20 papers were given and their breadth and content were very impressive. The topics ranged from the staples of criminology such as policing, prisons and crime, to newer areas such as terrorism, animal cruelty, human trafficking and social media.

Even researchers who worked in traditional areas tended to take a fresh approach to the subject: papers about a program where inmates entered art competitions and another where they trained dogs stick in my mind months later.

In over four decades of attending academic conferences, this was the first I ever attended when a prize was awarded at the end of the conference for the best paper. It seemed a bit crass at first, but I grew to like the idea. To be sure, a few speakers shamelessly appealed for votes, but the overall result was to add a sense of urgency and immediacy to the presentations. For a Canadian, it was also an impressive of Antipodean democracy—Jeremy Waldron, the greater defender of voting, would have been proud.

Alas, the researchers had to listen to my closing presentation as the final votes were tallied and before UNSW’s Armin Alimardani, the eventual winner, was announced. I talked about the tensions that I have experienced throughout my career between the pulls of “pure” academic and “applied” or even “advocacy” research.

I chose this topic because I feared that early career researchers might not engage with applied problems and work with civil society groups because of the tremendous job competition and pressures to publish that they face.

My own career has been enriched by the ability to work with both civil society groups such as Aboriginal Legal Services and innocence groups, as well as work with various law reform groups. This work provided much raw material and passion for scholarship that emerged sometimes many years later.



*Armin Alimardani presenting his award winning paper*

For me, one of the best aspects of being an academic is the freedom to engage on important issues wearing multiple hats. The institution of tenure has helped protect not only my academic freedom as a researcher, but to participate in legal and civil society advocacy.

As a legal academic, I am convinced that occasionally arguing cases in court has made me a better teacher, researcher and writer. Working with public inquiries has given me unprecedented access to the work of, and pressures faced by, various security agencies and those who attempt to review their important work. This experience has informed and hopefully enriched much of my recent scholarship on counter-terrorism law and policy.

I feared that some of the opportunities that I was fortunate enough to have might not be available for the next generation.



*Monash Criminology HDRs enjoying the conference*

To be sure, the competition for jobs and the decline in the number of tenure stream and tenured jobs is worrying. Nevertheless, I left with the sense that my fears were probably exaggerated. The researchers I heard effortlessly combined scholarly agenda and rigour with passion and a desire to change things for the better.

The next generation as represented by what I heard at this vibrant and interesting conference for early career scholars does not at all seem beset by idealized or artificial views of what constitutes scholarship or the role of the university researchers, which may have beset older researchers such as myself.

*Professor Kent Roach  
Prichard-Wilson Chair in Law and Public Policy, University of Toronto, Canada*



*Armin Alimardani celebrates winning the Monash Criminology HDR Award*

## The 2015 European Society of Criminology Conference in Portugal



The Annual Conference of the European Society of Criminology ‘Eurocrim’ was held in Porto, Portugal from 2-5 September 2015. The ESC has been holding an annual conference for a decade and a half and it has grown to a size that flabbergasts. With more than 1,400 participants from 53 countries, seven plenaries, 334 parallel sessions and 1,136 conference presentations, Eurocrim 2015 was a criminology feast.

The conference offerings were vast in number, ranging from the obscure and titillating, to the sublime. Diligently, I studied my hefty conference handbook and manual of abstracts and circled the presentations I anticipated I would attend. I cross referenced papers, streams, calculated walking distances between the two venues and determined there were around 760 papers in which I was interested. I thought I could attend many and often failed. Getting between the two venues, Seminário de Vilar and the University of Porto involved the

negotiation of exquisitely cobbled, winding and steep mediaeval streets past Roman ruins littered with coffee shops and strewn with criminologists. One was easily distracted. Under lines laden with drying washing, and overlooking crumbling majestic buildings and graffiti-bombed walls, I shared wonderful conversations with colleagues. We all agreed—Porto was captivating.

ANZSOC members were there in force, with President, Rick Sarre and academics and practitioners from almost every Australian institution attending. With ANZSOC members and colleagues from around the world, I dined on the local, indescribably delicious fish while listening to the slosh of the River Douro against the docks. I learnt that the local delicacy, the “francesinha” is best avoided, but one gains a lot of local kudos for giving it a try!

Observing the collegiality of ANZSOC members was a delight. At the farewell dinner and dancing extravaganza, a Polish academic earnestly asked me in a puzzled manner about the friendliness and collegiality of Australian criminologists. I laughed and gave him another glass of port. The 2016 ESC conference will be held from 21-24 September in Muenster, Germany. If you have a chance, it’s one not to miss.

*Dr Elizabeth Grant, University of Adelaide*



*Dr Elizabeth Grant enjoying the sites of Porto*

## Thank-you to the American Society of Criminology and the ACJS!



Every year the American Society of Criminology sponsors the ANZSOC ice-cream social. This is always a highlight of the conference.

For the Flinders ANZSOC conference, the ACJS also provided funding for the ice-cream so conference goers were doubly treated.

Be sure not to miss the ice-cream social at this year’s event—directly after the final session.

You can find out more about the American Society of Criminology here:

<https://www.asc41.com/>

In 2016, the 72nd Annual American Society of Criminology Conference—*The Many Colors of Crime and Justice*—is being held in the city of New Orleans (Louisiana) from 16-19 November 2016.

We hope to see many ANZSOC members in attendance.



*Prof Rick Sarre and Dr Lorenzo Boyd of the ACJS*

## An Interview with Patricia Aloi—2015 Student Paper Prize Winner

*Congratulations on winning the award. Your paper was taken from your LLM degree and published in the UWALR—can you tell us more about the article?* Thank you! I was absolutely thrilled and honoured to receive the prize. I prepared the paper as part of my studies in the LLM in a unit taught by visiting Professor Edna Erez (University of Illinois, Chicago). Professor Erez was inspirational. She has published extensively in the area of victimology and victim participatory rights in the criminal justice process and is a worldwide expert. I felt compelled to research and write about victim impact statements because of recent changes to the *Crimes Act 1914* (Cth), which for the first time recognised the need to take into account victim impact statements in the sentencing process for federal offenders. I was also inspired by the implementation of the Commonwealth DPP’s victims of crime policy and the recognition by the Commonwealth DPP that victims of federal offending have a critical place in the criminal justice system.

My paper points to the need for research into the effectiveness of the victim impact statement regime in superior sentencing courts in Western Australia and also victim satisfaction with the regime, particularly with respect to oral victim impact statements. Whilst my paper had a focus on Western Australia, the issues covered by it are not isolated to the Western Australian jurisdiction.

*What do you see as some of the key challenges for victims in the criminal justice system?* It is paradoxical that victims are both central to, but at the periphery of, the criminal justice system. As my paper highlights, a key challenge for victims is having a voice in that system and playing a meaningful role in that system. Christie (1977) is apt in his description of the situation as a “conflict theft”. Victims are centric to the criminal justice process but often have their matter “stolen” from them by other participants in the criminal justice process. As I point out in my paper, victims often feel they are robbed of the right to participate in their own conflict, that they are rendered irrelevant and that they are pushed to the outer edges of the criminal justice process. Whether this happens as a result of intentional or unintentional conduct on the part of other participants in the system, the end result is the same.

*What do you see as some of the most important contemporary issues in Criminology?* Understanding and addressing why people commit crime has always fascinated and challenged us. Technology, the Internet and the migration of crime online are forcing us to rethink traditional criminological concepts and to view alleged criminal conduct through a different lens.

Adequately addressing alleged criminality and the impact of that criminality on alleged victims in the cyber realm presents us with enormously complex challenges. Cyber-stalking, cyber-bullying, the distribution of offensive, exploitative or harmful material, revenge pornography and other similar Internet-facilitated conduct can have a profound impact on victims. At the same time, technology is moving at break-neck speed and society’s increased exposure to newer forms of media (such as mobile phone and social media applications) has had a somewhat de-sensitising effect, shifting societal norms on what is seen as offensive or harmful behaviour or material online. Regulation of the Internet and the criminalisation of online behaviour on the one hand, and a desire to ensure the Internet is able to flourish as a repository of human knowledge and information on the other, also presents us with greater challenges. The line between the need to regulate human conduct by way of the criminal law and censorship is becoming increasingly blurred. It is fascinating to be working on the cusp of all of these challenging issues at the moment.

*Can you tell us a little about your studies to date?* I am a life long learner committed to the pursuit of knowledge. I also have an insatiable need to understand the criminal justice system at a philosophical as well as practical level. I started my learning journey by completing undergraduate studies at the University of Adelaide. I completed a combined Bachelor of Commerce (Accounting) and Honours Degree Bachelor of Laws in 2001 and 2002. I then began my career in criminal prosecutions at the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions for South Australia in Adelaide in 2002, moving onto the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions Office in Adelaide in 2003. From there I moved to the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions Office in Perth in 2005 and have remained in Perth ever since.

In 2008, I completed a Master of Laws (International Organisations, International Criminal Law and Crime Prevention) at the University of Turin and the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute in Italy. I was very fortunate to have had the chance to spend almost a year in Turin walking through the famous porticos and squares that Lombroso himself walked through, and studying with 35 legal and academic contemporaries from all over the globe on the United Nations campus of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI). From 2014 – 2015, whilst on parental leave and ensconced in blissful family life with my amazingly patient husband and two awesome sons, I returned to study and completed a second Master of Laws specialising in Criminal Justice and Criminology at the University of Western Australia. Next, I plan on commencing a PhD with a focus on criminology and cybercrime.

*Patricia is a Principal Federal Prosecutor and Work Group Coordinator of the Commercial, Financial and Corruption, Revenue and Benefits Fraud and International Assistance and Specialist Agencies Work Group of the Perth Office of the Commonwealth DPP. She was formerly the Work Group Coordinator of the Illegal Imports and Exports, Human Exploitation and Border Protection and Organised Crime and Counter-Terrorism Branch of the Perth Office of the Commonwealth DPP. Admitted to legal practice in South Australia in 2003 and in Western Australia in 2005, Patricia has been employed in State and Federal DPPs in SA and WA since 2002. She holds LLMs from UWA and the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI) at the University of Turin.*



L-R: Dr Cassandra Cross, Patricia Aloi and Professor Rick Sarre

## ANZSOC 2016 Conference Update—Tasmania here we come!



This is an exciting year for the annual ANZSOC conference as we move closer to celebrating fifty years of Criminology in Australasia. This year's conference will be held in lovely **Hobart** city, capital of Tasmania—an island of great beauty and many surprises—from **Tuesday 29 November to Friday 2 December 2016**.

The conference theme is **Horizons Criminology**. The subthemes include topics such as Forensic Criminology, Green Criminology, Vulnerable People and Human Rights, Innovative Justice and Desistance, through to Indigenous Criminology, Restorative Justice and Justice Reinvestment.

We have an exciting program of speakers and workshops lined up. For example, the keynote speakers include Professor Sandra Walklate

(University of Liverpool and Monash University), Professor Jeff Ferrell (Texas Christian University) and Professor Koichi Hamai (Ryukoku University, Japan), who will be speaking on new ways of thinking about crime and the importance of global and comparative criminology. The first plenary session will be particularly compelling. During this session, the conference will be opened by the Governor of Tasmania, Professor Kate Warner, followed by the Attorney-General, The Hon. Vanessa Goodwin, and then ANZSOC President, Professor Rick Sarre—all criminologists and all making important and interesting contributions to criminal justice. The Governor has also graciously invited us to Government House on the Wednesday evening for a reception.

Other conference plenaries could include Historical criminology (convict histories, desistance, criminal careers); Horizon Policing (critical forensic investigations, collaborative environmental law enforcement, policing vulnerability); Indigenous Criminology (de-colonising perspectives, hyperincarceration and justice reinvestment, quantitative criminology and subterranean 'whiteness' ethics); Community Insecurity and Public Safety (guns laws post-Port Arthur, domestic violence campaigns, gun control); and Horizon Issues for Criminology (climate change, radicalisation, and assault on women globally). For the workshops, we also have various suggestions for themed sessions, such as one on the Royal Commission into institutional child sexual abuse—we could call it 'Looking Back, Looking Forward'.

The conference will begin with a Postgraduate Day on Tuesday 29 November, followed by the welcome drinks reception at the conference venue – the Hotel Grand Chancellor, which is located in central Hobart near Constitution Dock. The full conference opens on Wednesday 30 November, with a reception at Government House that evening. The conference dinner will be the highlight of the next day on Thursday 1 December (a pinch and a punch?!). Friday 2 December will see proceedings finish around noon, followed by the traditional ice cream social sponsored by the American Society of Criminology, and we have also booked the MONA ferry for early afternoon for those wishing to experience a unique take on 'sex' and 'death' by a visit to this world famous museum.

We are very grateful for financial assistance and sponsorship for this event from the Institute for the Study of Social Change, the Law Faculty, the Arts Faculty, the Attorney General's Department, and the University of Tasmania. The 'call for abstracts' is now open with a closing date for submissions of 30 June– visit [www.anzsoc2016.com](http://www.anzsoc2016.com) for more information. For any questions, comments or suggestions please contact the Conference Convenor, Professor Rob White at [r.d.white@utas.edu.au](mailto:r.d.white@utas.edu.au)



The 2016 ANZSOC Committee of Management looks forward to seeing you there!

# Research Snapshot—More than Revenge: Addressing the Harms of Revenge Pornography International Roundtable



*L-R: Prof Walter DeKeseredy, Prof Mary Anne Franks, Dr Anastasia Powell, Prof Clare McGlynn, Dr Nicola Henry and Dr Asher Flynn*

The phenomenon colloquially referred to as ‘revenge pornography’ has been increasingly identified as a significant and serious problem, not simply in the context of supposed revenge, but also as domestic violence or even ‘entertainment’. ‘Revenge pornography’ involves sharing private sexual images or recordings of a person without consent. While the practice is ever present, the topic is critically under-researched and as such, the extent and kinds of harms caused to victims remains poorly understood. Such image-based sexual exploitation is occurring globally and warrants substantive legislative reform and non-legal remedies to respond effectively to victims and perpetrators of these harms.

In February 2016, ANZSOC members Drs Asher Flynn (Monash University), Nicola Henry (La Trobe University) and Anastasia Powell (RMIT University) held a one-day roundtable as part of their CRG funded research project: *Responding to Revenge Pornography: The Scope, Nature and Impact of Australian Criminal Laws*. The program brought together interdisciplinary perspectives from leading international scholars and Australian legal experts who promoted creative reflections about reforming responses to this serious legal and social problem in Australia, the US and the UK. The event took place alongside the release of the findings from the Senate Inquiry into ‘revenge pornography’.

The speakers voiced recurring concern about the use of the phrase ‘revenge pornography’. While the act itself is not new, the use of the media-coined phrase ‘revenge porn’ only emerged relatively recently. It is a contested term that is too narrow in both breadth and focus, excluding a range of behaviours and circumstances, and focusing on a restrictive understanding of perpetrator motives. Moreover, the use of the word ‘pornography’ moralises the victim’s (potential) involvement in the production of the images. The term also fails to adequately capture the multitude of harms, both personal (such as physical, psychological, as well as those relating to dignity and sexual expression) and cultural (normalising non-consensual sexual activity and minimising/trivialising sexual violence) caused by this type of offending.

The roundtable addressed a number of key themes including: recent reform debates and the challenges, successes and lessons learned across national and international jurisdictions; the contested role of intent in ‘revenge pornography’ cases; and the need for a holistic

approach which features not just the development of informed criminal and civil remedies, but also the implementation of thoughtful architecture of the internet more broadly.

Speakers included keynotes from: Professor Walter DeKeseredy (West Virginia University, US); Professor Mary Anne Franks (University of Miami, US) and Professor Clare McGlynn (Durham University, UK).

Professor DeKeseredy explored the role of male peer environments in facilitating the dynamics in which men feel entitled and are encouraged to view ‘revenge pornography’. This male peer support fosters attitudes which support the abuse of women in general. DeKeseredy argued that having non-gendered terms for this type of conduct fails to recognise that it is inherently gendered and often occurs on a continuum of gendered violence overwhelmingly experienced by women at the hands of men.

Professor Franks explored resistance to legislation in the US because of the perceived contravention of freedom of speech, creating an erroneous binary between speech and gendered violence. Franks argued that this false dichotomy highlights that harms against women are generally ‘dismissed as natural, trivial or deserved’. Websites set up for the express purpose of sharing non-consensual sexual content invariably contain identifying information, which harms and silences women, forcing them to recede from important public spaces, such as in employment or online. Franks emphasised that in order to defeat this problem there must be global recognition that ‘women are fully human’.



*Victoria Police Sergeant Mark Higginbotham*

Concluding the keynotes, Professor McGlynn discussed the symbolic and expressive significance of legislative reform. She also reflected on the challenges and lessons learned through reform efforts in Scotland, England and Wales. She noted that in the UK, the reforms were implemented during an election cycle and therefore were rushed through without the harms to women being at the centre of the decision-making. Consequently, this impacted the breadth and strength of the legislation, which (inter alia) does not cover secondary distributors and focuses on perpetrator intent with a proof requirement in which the victim must demonstrate distress. In this way, McGlynn argued there is a lack of focus and recognition in the legislation as to the harms to victims.

The colloquium also heard from national panelists including: Fiona Mort, Director of Office for Women (SA); Sergeant Mark Higginbotham, Melbourne Prosecution Unit, Victoria Police; Alex Davis, Domestic Violence Unit, Legal Aid (NSW); and Professor Barbara McDonald, University of Sydney.

## Research Snapshot Continued

The Australian panelists discussed the issues raised across the day within the Australian context including reflections on some of the key issues occurring in practice. Fiona Mort began the discussions with a powerful reminder that this phenomenon occurs within the context of gender inequality and gendered violence. Sergeant Higginbotham emphasised that instances of ‘revenge porn’ are strongly linked with ongoing acts of domestic violence. Alex Davis noted a marked increase in women presenting with reports of technology-facilitated abuse, a claim echoed by Sergeant Higginbotham. Ms Davis continued that the law in NSW is insufficient to respond to the problem—and the burden lies with legal representation to use the law ‘creatively’ to help victims. Professor McDonald concluded the day by signaling the need for alternative remedies to harm outside the criminal justice sphere, specifically through civil tort actions, which can respond to the needs of victims not adequately met by the criminal law.

The roundtable culminated with the launch of *Rape Justice: Beyond the Criminal Law* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2015) edited by Drs Anastasia Powell, Nicola Henry and Asher Flynn. The edited collection explores the burgeoning interest in and need for alternative and innovative justice responses to sexual violence both within and outside the legal system and highlights possibilities for expanding how we conceptualise justice in the aftermath of violence.

*Rachael Burgin, Kate Burns and Madeleine Ulbrick, Criminology, Monash University*



*Prof DeKeseredy launches ‘Rape Justice: Beyond the Criminal Law’ (Palgrave Macmillan, 2015)*

and highlights possibilities for expanding how we conceptualise justice in the aftermath of violence.

## The Asian Criminological Society 7th Annual Conference



*Prof Charles Hou, National Taipei University*

The Asian Criminological Society 7th Annual Conference was co-hosted by the City University of Hong Kong and the Chinese University of Hong Kong on 24-27 June 2015 at the City University of Hong Kong. The theme of the conference was “Criminology and Criminal Justice in a Changing World: Contributions from Asia”. It attracted more than 300 delegates from countries including Australia, China, Hong Kong, Japan, India, Indonesia, Italy, Macao, New Zealand, the Philippines, Singapore, South Korea, Spain, Taiwan, the US and the UK. As a former Assistant Professor at City University of Hong Kong and a key member of the Asian Criminological Society, I was heavily involved in the organisation of this conference.

Five keynote and six plenary speakers presented on topics related to the theme of the conference. The keynote opening speaker was Professor Robert Sampson from Harvard University. He spoke on delinquent behaviour and criminal justice sanctions, and how pathways to adulthood interact with race, ethnicity, social class and immigrant status. Professor Ko-lin Chin from Rutgers University presented on Chinese Women in the Sex Trade in Asia and the US. Other keynote speakers included Professor Sheldon Zhang from San Diego State University on Market Constraints and Entrepreneurial Solutions among Transnational Chinese Criminal Organizations; Professor Joanne Belknap from the University of Colorado who discussed significant changes in criminology research and the interface between research and practice; and Professor Sandra Walklate from Liverpool University on the global future of criminology. While the keynote addresses were very much western-country based, the plenary speakers were Asia-based academics, including: Professor Koichi Hamai (Ryukoku University) on crime and punishment in Japan; Professor Charles Hou (National Taipei University) on youth gangs in Taiwan; Professor Pi Yijun (China University of Political Science and Law) on private conduct and anomie in China; and Professor Qiu Geping (East China University of Political Science and Law) on private entrepreneurs’ crime in China.

Professor Chuen-Jim Sheu from National Taipei University (Taiwan) received overwhelming support and was elected as the next President of the Asian Criminological Society. I was also elected as an executive board member. It was also decided that the next conferences will be held in Beijing in June 2016 and Perth in 2017. The development of criminology in Asia as a field of study is clearly evident and in the very near future it is likely to become an important domain in criminological research.

During my trip to the Asian Criminological Society Conference, I also attended the 2015 International Conference on Cybercrime and Cyber Forensics, organised by the Asia Pacific Association of Technology and Society. This was the first conference in Asia to advocate bringing together academics and researchers working on cybercrime and cybersecurity and to foster inter-disciplinary dialogue. Most cybercrime researchers attended this conference in Macao then the Asian Criminological Society Conference in Hong Kong. The International Conference on Cybercrime and Cyber Forensics will also be held in Australia in 2017.

*Dr Lennon Chang, Monash University*



*Organisers and Delegates at the conference*

# Australian & New Zealand Journal of Criminology Report

## The Editorial Team

The Society has kindly extended our term as Co-Editors by a further three years to 2018. We would like to acknowledge and thank our Associate Editors, Rick Brown & Lizzie Stanley, our Book Review Editor, James Oleson, our Statistical Advisor, Mike Townsley, our Legal Correspondent, Rick Sarre, and last but certainly not least, our Managing Editor, Fiona Saunders. They have been an enormous support over the past three years. Our Editorial and International Advisory Boards have also been wonderful, reviewing papers and generally helping out. We have made a few changes to the Editorial Board so as to better reflect the variety of topics of the submissions we are receiving, and the regions from which they are coming (e.g. an increase in submissions from Asian countries), and to give some younger academics an opportunity to serve on the board. We would like to welcome Professors Tina Murphy and Sue Trevaske, and Drs Lennon Chang and Joe Clare, onto the Board, and thank Professors Harry Blagg, Gail Mason and Sharon Pickering for their past service.

## Recent Journal developments and performance

Early on in our Editorship we moved to publishing on Online First and in 2015, we moved to four hardcopy issues a year. This allows us to publish about 30 articles in hardcopy each year. However, a significant number of articles and book reviews are accumulating on Online First, awaiting publication in the hard copy issues (at the time of writing, this comprises 36 articles and 6 book reviews). At this rate, once accepted for publication, it will be approximately 18 months before an article appears in hardcopy. Articles are published on Online First approximately 10-12 weeks after acceptance, and this counts as "publication" for the ERA (Australia), PBRF (New Zealand) and REF (UK). In discussions with Sage about this, they suggested increasing the word length for each hard copy issue. We will explore this option further with them and the Society.

The majority (about 55%) of submissions that we have been receiving are from Australian-based authors, with 10% from New Zealand-based authors. A further 7.5% involve Australian-New Zealand and Australian-overseas collaborations. The remaining 27% are from authors based outside Australia and New Zealand, in all the other continents, which is encouraging from the point of view of our goal of increasingly 'internationalising' the journal's profile. We consistently publish about 40-45% of those submissions that we have made decisions on (20-25% are still in review at any given time). In addition, we publish 10-12 book reviews each year.

We would like to thank all our peer reviewers. We depend very much on their advice in making publication decisions. In our third year as Co-Editors, 108 people agreed to review 57 of the 79 submissions received (the others were 'desk rejected' as unsuitable without being sent for review, or not sent for review for other reasons). Sixty percent of these reviewers are based in Australia, and 6.5% in New Zealand. The remaining reviewers are from all over the world. In most cases, only two people are asked to do the first reviews for any one submission, but if those two reviewers substantially disagree, we usually seek the opinion of a third reviewer before making a decision. For every person who accepts our invitation to review a submission, however, there is another who, for various reasons, declines. We have now, finally, found a way to send to those who complete reviews for us, copies of all the reviews of the submission that they were involved in reviewing. Time in review has been kept encouragingly short, with 48% reaching final decision within three months, and 77% within 5 months.

In 2018 we will be celebrating the journal's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. ANZSOC's Management Committee has struck a small sub-committee to develop plans for celebrating the Society's and the Journal's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversaries. Philip is representing the Journal on this sub-committee. Sage has in principle supported the idea of a Special Online Issue of the Journal in 2017 or 2018, in which a collection of the best (most significant or influential) articles published during the last 50 years would be re-published, perhaps with some editorial comment on their significance. We are considering inviting the surviving former journal editors (as far as we know there are still seven of them) to join us in choosing the articles for this Special Issue.

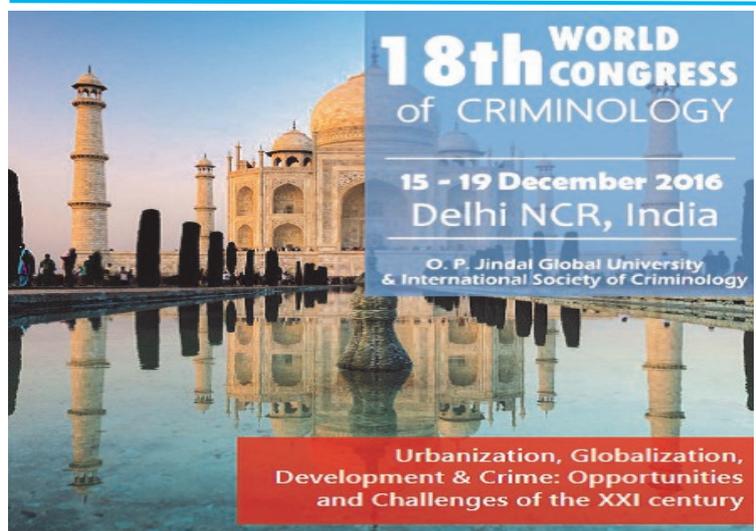
Our publisher (Sage) has advised us that downloads of articles from the journal, and registrants to the journal's e-alerts, have both increased. In discussions with our Editorial Board, it has been suggested that we explore creating a Twitter account or blog in which future articles that will appear in the journal can be highlighted for readers. We are also discussing with Sage the possibility of including a blog on the journal's website, in which comments on, and discussion of, articles that have appeared in the journal could be published.



L-R: Prof Philip Stenning, Prof Anna Stewart and Fiona Saunders

Finally, we take this opportunity to thank our contributing authors and all our loyal subscribers and readers for their continued interest in the journal. This, of course, is what keeps us in business.

*Philip Stenning and Anna Stewart*  
Co-Editors, Australian and New Zealand Journal of Criminology



# Where Are They Now?

## *Profiles in Criminological and Socio-Legal Adventures*

In 1999, ANZSOC established the Student Paper Prize and the New Scholar Award. Since then, there have been about 25 recipients. This is the second instalment in a series that asks, what have the award winners done since receiving their ANZSOC accolade? What criminological and socio-legal adventures have they had? Where do they live and work today? In this instalment, we meet Amanda Alexander and Heather Nancarrow, Student Paper Prize winners, and we learn what the first three New Scholar Award winners are currently doing.

**Amanda Alexander** won the Student Paper Prize in 2002 for her essay, “Sex, crime and the ‘liberated’ woman: the *Virgin Bride* and *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*”, which she wrote when she was a law student at the University of New South Wales. Amanda published the paper, as sole author, in the *Australian Feminist Law Journal* (2003), Vol 18: 77-91.



Today, Amanda is a law lecturer at the Australian Catholic University, Thomas More Academy of Law in North Sydney.

Toward the end of 2001, Amanda recalls that “I was in a hurry to finish my undergraduate degree, after years of taking too many Arts subjects and not enough Law”. She decided to enrol in David Brown’s summer course, The Criminal Justice System.

“Although the name of the subject was not entirely promising, the subject itself was fascinating. I remember reading a lot about popular representations of crime”. For their assessment, students were asked to write an essay on a topic that interested them. What was Amanda’s interest at the time? “In 2001, it was *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* and theatre, in particular, the Swedish playwright Strindberg, who was an insane, mystical, misogynist playwright from the turn of the last century”. To the “amusement of my classmates”, she decided to write about “representations of female criminality in *Buffy*—a popular television series—and one of Strindberg’s more obscure plays, *The Virgin Bride*—a highbrow cultural product”. When writing the paper, Amanda remembers that it was “one of the more enjoyable assessments to work on”. After it was finished and marked, and on David Brown’s advice, she submitted it to the *Australian Feminist Law Journal* and in 2002, it was awarded the student paper prize.

After Amanda finished her law degree, she “travelled for a while in Europe”. Then she enrolled in the University College London, having been awarded a Commonwealth scholarship to undertake an LLM on Legal Theory and History. She remembers that “at first, I was completely taken aback by the different approach to law and theory at UCL compared to UNSW. The subjects at UCL seemed so traditional: more Enlightenment philosophy instead of poststructuralism; analytic legal theory instead of social theory; and Bentham instead of Foucault”. One she got over this initial surprise, “I really enjoyed my studies in London, and I left a committed Benthamite”.

Amanda returned to Australia in 2004 and enrolled in a PhD at the Australian National University on the history of international law, with supervisors Clifford Shearing and Hilary Charlesworth. “In the middle of the PhD, I took a long break when my children were born in 2006 and 2008.” In 2011, she moved from Canberra to Sydney and began to work again on her thesis. When she was finalising it, she “heard that the Australian Catholic University was starting a new law school”. She contacted the school and learned that it was “looking for someone to teach criminal law. Because I had published on criminal law, it seemed a good fit”. She began teaching at ACU in 2014 and has worked there as a lecturer ever since.

Amanda draws strong connections between the paper she wrote in 2001 and her ability to “start and consolidate an academic career” more than 10 years later. The published paper “helped me get my current position at a difficult time of trying to re-enter academia after a break”. Indeed, Amanda recalls that “the fact that I had written a paper about *Buffy* gave me a certain type of credibility in some quarters, although it probably dates me now”. Of particular importance for her professional identity today, she recalls that “writing that paper showed me that I could think about, write about, and even publish work on something that fascinated me. This was what attracted me to an academic career in the first place and has kept me following that path”.

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**Heather Nancarrow** won the Student Paper Prize in 2004 for her Masters (Hons) thesis\* in Criminology and Criminal Justice, Griffith University, “In search of justice in domestic and family violence”, under the supervision of Kathy Daly and Elena Marchetti. The work investigated how and why Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australian women held different views on the role of criminal justice and restorative justice practices in responding to violence against women. Heather published an article from the thesis, as sole author, in *Theoretical Criminology* (2006), Vol 10(1): 87-106.

Today, Heather is CEO of Australia’s National Research Organisation for Women’s Safety (ANROWS) in Sydney, an organisation charged with producing and translating evidence to policy and practice in support of the Council of Australian Governments’ (COAG’s) *National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2010-2022* (the *National Plan*).



When Heather won the prize, she was foundation Director of the Queensland Centre for Domestic and Family Violence Research (CDFVR) at Central Queensland University in Mackay. She and her young son moved to Mackay in 2003 from Brisbane, where she had spent more than 10 years as Director of the Queensland Government’s Domestic Violence Policy Unit. Before then, she had worked for 10 years in community-based domestic violence services.

\* Note: Since Heather won the award, eligibility for the prize is limited to student papers of no more than 8,000 words.

## *Where Are They Now? Continued*

### *Profiles in Criminological and Socio-Legal Adventures*

Of the many initiatives she developed at CDFVR, Heather is especially proud of the annual Indigenous Family Violence Prevention Forum, established in 2004, and running to the present day. She was also “very happy with the large tropical garden I built around my home in Mackay, and adored the abundant wildlife that came to enjoy it with me”.

In 2008, Heather was appointed Deputy Chair of the National Council to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children, which produced *Time for Action*, the blueprint for COAG’s *National Plan*. “Although this was a huge workload on top of my role as Director of CDFVR, producing *Time for Action* with my colleagues on the National Council was probably the most important, and rewarding, task I’ve ever been given”, Heather said. “Having COAG—the Commonwealth and all state and territory governments of Australia—agree to a 12-year plan based on *Time for Action* is no small thing”.

In February 2014, Heather said she “packed up my Honda Civic Sport and drove the 2,000-plus kilometres from Mackay to Sydney” to take up her CEO position at ANROWS. The organisation was established by the Commonwealth and the state and territory governments to build evidence, and facilitate its uptake, in support of the goals of the *National Plan*. “This job allows me to use the range of skills I have developed in research, professional development, and leadership, and to work in partnership with colleagues in research, policy, and practice across Australia”, Heather said. “More than 100 people are involved in delivering the *ANROWS Research Program 2014-2016*”. And, in addition, “there is the knowledge translation and exchange work, which most recently took me to Marninwuntikura Women’s Resource Centre at Fitzroy Crossing in the beautiful Kimberley region of Western Australia”. In February 2016, it was announced that ANROWS was funded to continue its work for 6 more years, to 2022.

Reflecting on her time as a student at Griffith University, Heather believes that “feminist and critical criminology have been key to my professional success today”. She remains “passionate about ensuring that the well-being of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women is not unintentionally jeopardised by mainstream feminist approaches”. She is nearing completion of her PhD in Criminology and Criminal Justice at Griffith, supervised by Professors Daly and Marchetti.

In addition to her role as CEO for ANROWS, Heather is currently Deputy Chair of the COAG Advisory Panel on Violence against Women. The CEO and Deputy Chair roles place “exceptional demands on my time, and as a result, it has taken me longer to complete my PhD than I or my supervisors would have liked”. On the upside, Heather was awarded Griffith’s Criminology and Criminal Justice Alumnus of the Year Award in 2014.

*Professor Kathy Daly, Griffith University*

## **New Scholars: What are they doing now?**



*Prof Mark Israel*

**Mark Israel** won the New Scholar Award twice.

He was the inaugural winner in 1999 for ‘Crimes of the state: victimisation of South African political exiles in the United Kingdom’, *Crime, Law and Social Change* (1998), 21: 1-29. He won the award again in 2001 for ‘The commercialisation of university-based criminological research in Australia’, *Australian and New Zealand Journal of Criminology* (2000), 33(1): 1-20.

Mark is Professor of Law and Criminology, Faculty of Law, University of Western Australia.

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**Jennifer Balint** won the New Scholar Award in 2002 for her paper, ‘Law’s constitutive possibilities: reconstruction and reconciliation in the wake of genocide and state crime’. In Emilios Christodoulidis and Scott Veitch (eds), *Lethal Law: Justice, Law and Ethics in Reconciliation* (2001), Hart Publishing, Oxford (pp. 129-149).

Jennifer is Senior Lecturer in Socio-Legal Studies, Criminology Program, School of Social and Political Sciences, University of Melbourne.



*Dr Jennifer Balint*

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**Elizabeth (Lizzie) Stanley** won the New Scholar Award in 2004 for her paper, ‘Torture, silence and recognition’, *Current Issues in Criminal Justice* (2004), 16(1): 5-25.

Lizzie is Reader, School of Social and Cultural Studies, Victoria University of Wellington.

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*Dr Lizzie Stanley*

*Reported by Professor Kathy Daly, Griffith University*

## An Interview with Dr Anastasia Powell—2016 DECRA\* Recipient

\* DECRA stand for the Discovery Early Career Research Award

*Congratulations on receiving a DECRA. Can you tell us a little more about your project 'Crime and Justice by Social Media: Citizen Engagement and Participatory Justice Online'?* Thank-you! Yes, the project seeks to examine the promise, perils and tensions of citizen engagements with crime and justice issues via social media and other forms of online participation. While much criminological research has investigated, for example, cybercrime, police engagements with social media, and the disruptive use of social media by jurors, little research has explored how those not directly engaged in crime or justice processes may nonetheless influence justice debates, as well as political and policy outcomes. At the heart of this project is a recognition that technology may enable a more participatory mode of justice (in its broader social meaning), but that this potential is inherently contradictory.

*What are some of the implications for policy and practice that may come out of your project?* The anticipated outcomes of this project lie foremost in the development of a new conceptual framing of citizen or participatory justice, as well as advancing social media research methodologies within Criminology as a discipline. Unfortunately, Criminology, perhaps moreso in Australia than elsewhere, is far behind many other disciplines in engaging meaningfully with online participation and in developing methods for analysing big social data. It is my hope that this DECRA project will enable me to tackle this emerging field in a way that contributes to the development of both conceptual and empirical frameworks within Criminology. There are also more applied outcomes, particularly identifying legal gaps and educative needs within the broader Australian community.

*Why this research area?* This project arose out of both my research and teaching over the last five years. Following my doctoral research on sexual violence, I became concerned with the ways that technology was contributing to and extending the harms of sexual violence and harassment against adult women. I presented that early work on 'technology-facilitated sexual violence' (TFSV) at the *Critical Criminology* conference in 2010, and later developed a research project with Dr Nicola Henry (La Trobe University) to further explore what was then a newly emerging legal and social problem. We applied in 2011 and in 2012 for an ARC Discovery Project examining TFSV, which was very luckily successful the second time around, and we've undertaken that research from 2013 to 2015. Alongside that project, I started exploring the more 'positive' side if you like, which was the ways that technologies were also enabling new modes of informal and participatory justice for victim-survivors of sexual violence, as well as young women's engagements in justice activism more broadly. At the same time, I have been teaching a core course in Criminology at RMIT, *Crime and Information Technology*, over the last three years which has allowed me to broaden my thinking beyond gender-based violence and to examine some of the parallels and critical differences between both cybercrime and justice activism across different crime and justice issues.

*What do the next three years look like for you?* I am so incredibly excited about this research and about the opportunity that the DECRA provides for me to really focus on this research for the next three years. It feels like an amazing reward for a lot of hard work that I have put into my career and into building my track record. It is also incredibly humbling to receive this fellowship specifically in Criminology. I had been advised by some senior colleagues and by my research office *not* to position this DECRA application within

the 1602 FOR code, due to the very poor record of Criminology projects being funded. I decided not to take that advice! And instead I took inspiration from leading women in Australian Criminology such as Professors Fiona Haines, Sharon Pickering and Kerry Carrington who have each had amazing ARC grant success.

*Who have been some of your key inspirations in Criminology?* I think we are very fortunate in Criminology in Australia to have such amazing and very supportive women mentors who are leaders in our discipline. It has been very important to me as an early career woman not only to receive mentoring and advice from senior women in Criminology, but also to see other women role models and senior colleagues experience success. I have been very much encouraged by Professors Fiona Haines (who co-supervised me at The University of Melbourne and introduced me to sociological theory), Sharon Pickering (who strongly encouraged me to apply for the DECRA) and Kerry Carrington (whose passion and research regarding women and justice I have found very inspirational). I also want to acknowledge peer to peer mentoring and support. I am so appreciative for the way that my research, theorising and written capabilities have developed and grown through researching and writing collaboratively with colleagues. Foremost among these collaborations have been Dr Nicola Henry (La Trobe University) and Dr Asher Flynn (Monash University), but also more recently with Dr Georgina Heydon, Dr Robin Cameron, Dr Gregory Stratton and Dr Larissa Sandy (RMIT University). I have learnt so much from working with such wonderful, talented and supportive peers. Finally, foundational to my passion for criminological theory, research and public policy engagement, was my PhD supervisor Professor Adam Sutton. Adam had a wonderfully unique, sometimes disjointed and sometimes blunt, way of both challenging and inspiring me throughout my doctoral research. He was influential in my development as a Criminologist in so many ways, but I think one of the most inspiring for me was his commitment to a public and applied Criminology at a time when those concepts were highly criticised in the field.

*What advice do you have for others?* Publish, publish, publish! There is no doubt that publication track record counts for so much in these applications, and publishing in quality journals in the discipline is particularly important in the eyes of reviewers. Mentoring and feedback on early and complete drafts of the application is really critical. There is no doubt a bit of luck is also involved in identifying the 'right' project at the 'right' time; but a strong track record and a well-designed project are key. In particular though, for ECRs who have more recently completed their PhDs, forward planning and timing are crucial.

*Dr Anastasia Powell is a Senior Research Fellow in Justice & Legal Studies at RMIT University*



## Research Snapshot—Sexting and Young People

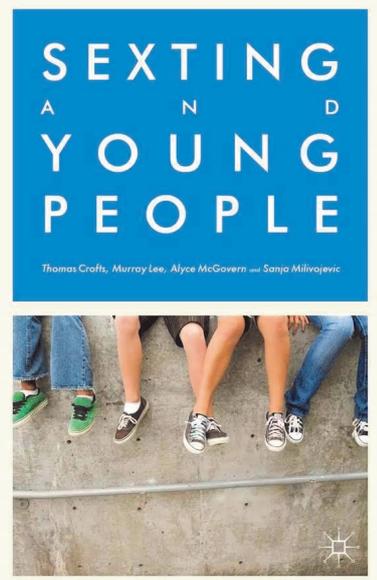
Sexting can be defined as the digital recording of sexually suggestive or explicit images and their distribution by mobile phone messaging, email, or through the Internet on social networking sites. It is a term that originated in the media—a neologism created by collapsing the terms sex and texting. Sexting is also sometimes described as a ‘more technological approach to sending a flirtatious note’ (Ostrager 2010: 713). The definition is often extended to the sending of sexually suggestive texts. As the Law Reform Committee of Victoria noted, the term ‘sexting’ is evolving and ‘encompasses a wide range of practices, motivations and behaviours’ (2013: 15). These range from a person sharing a picture with a boyfriend or girlfriend, the boyfriend or girlfriend showing the picture to someone else, to the recording of a sexual assault, or even to an adult sending an explicit text to ‘groom’ a child (Law Reform Committee of Victoria 2013: 19).

The Sexting and Young People project was funded by a CRG and aimed to investigate the phenomenon of sexting by young people—largely from the perspective of young people. Sexting was examined through an inter-disciplinary and multi-method framework by asking the question: are the current legal and policy responses to sexting reflective of young peoples’ perceptions and practices of sexting? As such, the research had three specific aims: (i) to document young people’s perceptions and practices of sexting; (ii) to analyse public and media discourse around sexting; and (iii) to examine existing legal frameworks and sanctions around sexting and develop recommendations for an appropriate and effective legislative policy response to the practice by young people. The project has to date generated the book *Sexting and Young People* (Palgrave, Macmillan, 2015), a *Report* and *Trends and Issues Paper* available on the AIC website, and numerous peer reviewed articles in international journals. There is also a Facebook site dedicated to the project.

Methodologically the project used an online survey, focus group interviews, media analysis, and legal analysis with a member of the team leading each of these interwoven projects. The survey aimed to produce data on young people’s motivations for and perceptions of the sending and receiving of sexually suggestive images. Questions were developed over a twelve-month period and trialled on young people between the ages of 13 and 18 in consultation sessions with the NSW Commission for Children and Young People’s Youth Advisory Group. The survey was made available online through the University of Sydney Law School Survey Monkey platform. It was promoted via the Triple J Hack program, Facebook, Twitter, the Universities of Sydney, Western Sydney and UNSW, as well as a large range of youth service providers. The focus group component of the project sought to gather the responses of young people in relation to their perceptions and practices of sexting. Eight focus groups were held with young people between the ages of 18 and 20 from the University of Sydney, Western Sydney University and TAFE NSW. Participants were asked about their use of information technologies, the negotiation of their online identity, how they conceptualised sexting, what informed their knowledge on the topic, and the prevalence of sexting practices among their peers. They also commented on second-hand (hearsay) and personal sexting experiences, and intersections of age, gender and sexting (in terms of pressures for sexting, sexting experiences, and views on victims and offenders), and their opinion on criminal justice responses to sexting cases in Australia.

The media component of the project aimed to gain an understanding of the role of the media in framing knowledge around the issue of sexting, and the implications of this media framing. To do this, Australian and New Zealand media reports on sexting from between 2002 and 2013 (inclusive) were collated in order to explore the ways in which sexting has been articulated in the media, and what definitions and explanations of sexting were being employed in these news reports. The legal analysis component of the project consisted of a review and examination of the legal approaches to sexting focusing on child pornography offences, given the media attention on these offences.

The results of the project shed new light on young people’s practices and perceptions of sexting. The survey indicated that there was a high prevalence of sending and receiving sexual images amongst young people. However, while roughly 50% of young people between 13 and 18 years old had sent images, most did so irregularly—for example, the majority of this active cohort had sent only one or no images in the 12 months leading up to the survey. In short, most were sexting within a romantic relationship, with only a small number sexting with multiple partners. Contrary to much of the media and political discourse on sexting, very few respondents who sent sexts reported feeling pressured or coerced into the practice—including young women. Indeed, most suggested they participated to send a sexy message to a boyfriend or girlfriend, to be fun and flirty, or to feel sexy and confident. However, the overall cohort of respondents tended to judge the actions of others more harshly and were critical of peers who sent sexts, suggesting that young women were coerced to do so and that young men were showing off or seeking attention. These mixed messages were fleshed out further in the focus groups, who elaborated on the fact that there was a gendered double standard operating around sexting where young women were judged much more harshly when sexting went wrong, than were young men. Interestingly, for most participants (again contrary to popular opinion) sexting did not go wrong in many cases and only small numbers of participants ever sent images to third parties without consent.



*Palgrave Macmillan, 2015*

The media analysis illustrated starkly how sexting entered into public discourse quite suddenly, following the advent of smart phone technology and social media in the late 2000s. It also mapped the ways in which a moral discourse about the dangers of sexting for a young person’s reputation shifted to concerns that young people could be prosecuted under state and commonwealth child pornography laws. Indeed, in most states, while young people between 16 and 18 years can have consensual sex, if they were to send a nude image to their sexual partner they could be prosecuted. Interestingly, our legal analysis also indicated that police and prosecutors were reluctant to use such laws as they were aware that most sexting by young people did not fit the definition of child pornography, a point that our overall project clearly indicated.

*Prof Murray Lee, USyd and Dr Alyce McGovern, UNSW*

## An Interview with Armin Alimardani—2015 Monash HDR Award Winner

*Congratulations on winning the Monash Criminology Postgraduate Prize. Can you tell us a little about your presentation?*

Thanks! My presentation was about using Fuzzy Logic, a common approach in Electrical Engineering, to measure the degree of criminal responsibility. When the accused has some mental disorders, experts express an opinion regarding the degree of mental impairment. The degree of mental disorder can reduce the sentence as it might mean that these disorders contribute to the commitment of the crime, and the accused is not fully responsible. Therefore, the court would punish the accused according to their degree of guilt. But, there is a problem in experts' reports. To clarify the problem at this stage, I prefer to give you this example: I woke up "early" this morning. Early can have different meanings for different people. Early means 6am for me, but it might be 8am for someone else. In experts' reports, there are similarly vague concepts such as "severe", "mildly" and "poor". These concepts can have different meanings for judges and juries. It results in different sentences in similar situations. Fuzzy logic quantifies uncertain concepts to numbers. Like "early" to "6am". This number has the same meaning for everyone. My approach similarly would change fuzzy concepts like "severe" to numbers, and courts would not make different inferences.

*You are currently undertaking a PhD at UNSW—what is your research focused on?*

My PhD is about using neuroscientific evidence in criminal courts. Neuroscience, in short, is the study of the brain. Some studies indicate that brain impairments can contribute to criminal behaviour. For instance, one of the responsibilities of the prefrontal area of our brain is controlling behaviour, but impairment in this area can result in impulse control disorder. Therefore, someone with this impairment has less control over his/her behaviour, which can lead to aggressive and criminal behaviour. In these cases, brain scans can prove this impairment and lead to decreasing the responsibility; however, brain scans have some issues. One of the biggest issues is the reliability of this evidence. There are cases where the scan indicated the abnormality of the brain, but there were no behavioural problems. For this reason, my PhD focuses on how we *should* use brain scans in criminal courts properly.

*Who are some of the people that have most inspired you in your transformation into Criminology?*

One of the very first researchers who inspired me was Dr Ali M Ardekni—the supervisor of my Masters' degree. Part of his interest was in the area of genetics and crime. He passed on to me his passion for this area. His encouragement helped me through many hardships.

I have always been influenced by Cesare Lombroso, known as the father of criminology. Lombroso claimed that criminal behaviour has roots in biological factors. He stated that criminality has innate roots (which would be genetic) and also he performed some autopsies on criminals and found some abnormalities in some brain areas (which represents Neuroscience). His theories—although some are wrong and controversial—are related to my research. Finally, my supervisors at UNSW, Marc De Leeuw, Allan McCay and Gary Edmond, are undoubtedly the reasons behind my strong progress; they showed me the right path to do a great job.

*What are your key interests in Criminology and how did these transpire?* I believe the main reason that I am interested in criminology is my passion in both science (including Mathematics

and Medicine) and the law. Interestingly, I started taking IT (Information Technology) courses while studying law to subside my interest in science; however, the first day that I went to the Criminology class, I found my way to study both law and science in one major and left IT forever. Criminology, for me, is the most interesting discipline that connects the disciplines that I like the most. Moreover, I believe, studying the law without adopting other disciplines, in many cases, is not right. In Criminology, we are talking about crime; a type of behaviour. To study this behaviour, we need fields that tell us how it develops, can possibly be predicted and ideally prevented. Genetics and neuroscience are two disciplines that highly contribute to this area. It is noteworthy that I don't overlook environmental factors and know them as inevitable part of forming the behaviour.

*What does the future hold for you?*

As I am so inspired by this field, I want to pursue my studies in this area. Whether I become an academic at a University or work in an institute is not important; what is necessary for me is contributing to this area. I have also considered the possibility of continuing my research in areas of philosophy, neuroscience and criminal responsibility in Post-Doc Studies. People usually wonder how I'm not tired of conducting research and thinking of completing a Post-Doc. But you really don't get tired doing what you are passionate about.

*What advice do you have for other ANZSOC postgraduates?*

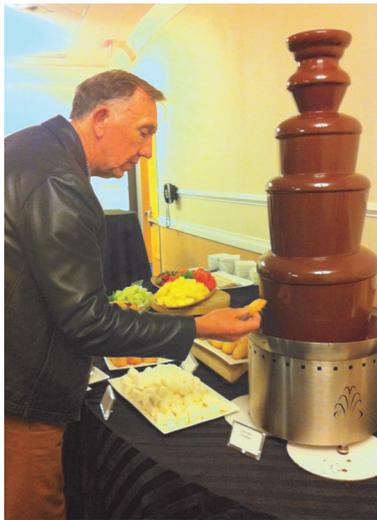
Participating in the ANZSOC postgraduate conference is an invaluable experience, where you can test your abilities in writing and presenting academic work. More importantly, there are many students who share their experience in carrying out research. Many of them talk about mistakes that they made and how they addressed their problems. This is information that we can't always gain access to easily.

*Armin Alimardani was born in Iran in 1989. His whole life changed when he was accepted in NODET (National Organisation of Developing Exceptional Talents). Following High School, he was accepted into Law, but his passion for science and mathematics led to him studying IT in conjunction with his legal degree. When he became familiar with Criminology, Armin abandoned IT and pursued research in Criminology. In his Masters, he studied Criminal Law and Criminology. His Masters' thesis was on genetics and crime, and resulted in an introductory book titled, "Genetics and Crime". Armin then applied for a PhD at UNSW to research neuroscience and the criminal law.*



# An Australian's Perspective on the 2015 ASC Conference

Presenting at the American Society of Criminology Annual Presenting at the American Society of Criminology annual meetings (i.e., conferences) is a formidable challenge for this particular Aussie, and it doesn't seem to have become easier over the 15 years that I have been going, on and off. But it is always worth the stress and expense (of which more below) because it is invariably enormously stimulating, not least because of the unparalleled networking opportunities that the conference provides. If you throw yourself into the rich array of panels, informal events, papers, division meetings, and roundtables that ASC offers then you can have a truly marvelous time.



*Prof Ross Homel enjoying the Griffith chocolate fountain*

But the operative word is 'if.' It takes an effort to navigate the enormous program, which last year stretched across three and a half days (not counting the pre-conference events), starting at 8am in the morning and continuing without any break until 6.30pm – with plenary events to follow, not to mention university department receptions and idiosyncratic activities like 'Criminologists and classical music: An informal salon,' held one evening from 8 to 10pm (which I wish I had attended but didn't). The increased availability of mobile apps to plan one's time at the conference is a

great advance, but I would recommend setting aside at least an hour or two whatever the software.

When planning one's time, electronically or otherwise, *my chief recommendation is to allow time for meeting with people that you don't normally meet or may have never met.* Any senior American who regularly attends ASC meetings will tell you that they don't go for the program but for their students, and for the networking. You will see people at ASC – if you are not overwhelmed by the hundreds milling around the hotel foyer! – that you will probably not see anywhere else. If their research or book matters to you, then email them in advance and suggest a time and place to meet – preferably NOT in the lobby! – then enter that time into your personal schedule.

My experience with American academics over many years is that they are enormously generous with their time and are only too happy to talk with Australians about their work. I remember years ago being introduced at ASC to the late, great Joan McCord, who was genuinely excited that I knew her work. We subsequently invited her to Australia, and we had started to develop a strong friendship until her death in 2004. I did not know her for long, but what I learned has stayed with me, and it all began with a chance meeting at ASC.

The **2016 British Society of Criminology Conference** is being held at the Nottingham Conference Centre from 6-8 July. Keynote speakers include Professor Kelly Hannah-Moffat (University of Toronto) and Professor Will Hutton (Oxford University). ANZSOC members will receive the same registration rates as BSC members. Simply enter your ANZSOC membership number when registering. For more information on the conference, visit the BSC website at: <https://www.britisoccrim.org/conference>.

Another recommendation I would make is to *join an ASC Division.* I belong to the International, Experimental and the Developmental-Life course Divisions, and try to attend their lunches, receptions, panels, and so on. Other Australians that I know belong to the Critical Criminology Division and help organize their events. I find a balanced approach works best, but *a general rule is that you get more out of ASC if you do work with others in organizing something.*

Last year Abby Fagan (from Florida) and I were frustrated by the fact that nowhere on the program was there space for papers on crime and violence prevention, so we organized a roundtable to discuss the barriers within criminology to doing prevention research. We had some wonderful speakers – all organized in advance of course – including Rick Catalano, Denise Gottfredson, Brian Bumbarger, and Friedrich Lösel, but attendance was disappointing at 15-20. Encouragingly, most of those who came were PhD scholars or postdocs, and all had a keen interest in finding out about prevention research and how to get into it, which I take as a promising sign for the future.

I mentioned challenges in my opening sentence. I have already alluded to the size of the program and the sheer volume of delegates. Last year the conference attracted more than 4000 people and the Washington Hilton was barely adequate. Maybe the chief challenge is to meet the deadline for submission of abstracts, always due in March when the conference itself is not until mid-November.

Another challenge, not often mentioned, is that getting to ASC is expensive. It's not so much the registration fee, which because of the scale of these meetings is pretty modest, but the airfares and particularly the hotel and associated costs. For that reason I don't make ASC an annual event, and in recent times have found better value in ANZSOC and specialist conferences like the Applied Research in Crime and Justice conference that was recently held in Brisbane (bliss! A local conference with one's own bed at home each night ... Am I sounding old?).

So is ASC worth it? For all the reasons I have discussed it absolutely is worth all the effort, but bear in mind my main message – *benefit derived is proportional to effort expended.* The ASC Annual Meeting is unique in our field, with no other conference coming near it in terms of scope, diversity, openness to novel ideas, and networking opportunities, not to mention the excellent quality of the majority of papers and events. My advice is to jump in and make the most of it.

*Professor Ross Homel, Griffith University*



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Inequalities in a diverse world  
6 - 8 July 2016

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Mail: Secretary ANZSOC, Australian Institute of Criminology, GPO Box 1936, Canberra, ACT 2601, Australia

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