Welcome to the Auckland conference edition of PacifiCrim!

This is the third time that an ANZSOC conference has been held in New Zealand, and the first time in Auckland – where the conference is being co-hosted by the University of Auckland and the Auckland University of Technology. The theme of the conference, ‘Public Criminologies: Crime, Power, and Marginalisation’, has topics of importance not only for New Zealanders, but also Australians and those from other countries who will be attending. I am grateful to the keynote speakers, William Chambliss, Meda Chesney-Lind, and Moana Jackson, for agreeing to participate in this, our 25th annual conference. I would also like to thank Antje Deckert and her colleagues for organising the 6th ANZSOC Postgraduate and Early Career Researcher Conference which is being held at AUTs Nga Wai o Horotiu Marae the day before the main conference.

Some of the attractions of the conference will be the screening of Errol Wright and Abi King-Jones’s documentary film of the Urewera-Four anti-terror raids, Operation 8, followed by discussion with the filmmakers. The conference dinner is being held at the Harbourside seafood restaurant on the waterfront and following dinner, I’ll be presenting the inaugural ANZSOC Distinguished Criminologist Award. This Award was created this year to mark an individual criminologist’s lifetime contribution to criminology in Australia or New Zealand. The Committee of Management has chosen someone who we all agreed has demonstrated outstanding, significant and sustained contribution to the discipline through teaching and scholarship, advancing international appreciation of criminology through research and publications, and involvement in criminology in public life. The other ANZSOC Awards will also be presented at the conference.

I’m sure that you’ll agree that PacifiCrim’s editor, Li Eriksson, has put together an excellent publication with papers written by some of our Award winners and reports on recent conferences that members have attended. There is also an item from the new editors of the Journal, Anna Stewart and Philip Stenning, who have agreed jointly to take over the editorship from Sharon Pickering who has completed her term. I’d like to thank Sharon for her skill in developing the journal’s standing over the last three years, and for guiding it successfully through the transition to SAGE as publisher.

As this is my last year as President, I would like to thank the Society’s Officers and Committee members for their support in helping to manage the Society during my term. I believe that the Society is flourishing at the moment with a substantial flow of new members, excellent income and financial reserves, a Journal to be proud of, and a full program of activities. I’d encourage anyone attending the Auckland conference who is not currently a member to consider joining the Society to enable it to continue its work for criminologists throughout Australia and New Zealand. I’m confident that under the Presidency of Professor Rick Sarre, ANZSOC will continue to expand and to develop.

Russell G Smith
ANZSOC President
Welcome to this issue of PacifiCrim. I’m excited to welcome many of you to the ANZSOC conference in Auckland. I’m very excited to visit New Zealand for the first time myself! Please feel free to come and see me at the ANZSOC stand at any time during the conference.

The Annual General Meeting will be held during the conference on 29 November 2012 at 10.15am. We encourage all our members to attend to find out what has been happening with the society for the previous year.

We have had many members renew their membership over the last couple of months and if any members have not yet renewed, please head online to renew or come and see me at the conference and I can help you with your renewal.

Likewise, any non-members out there I encourage you to join the society. There are many benefits of being a member including reduced conference fees, 25% discount on SAGE publications, and eligibility for ANZSOC Awards.

Speaking of the awards, please check out the award winners from this year featured in the newsletter. If you would like to apply for any of next year’s awards you can find information on the website about how to apply. For most awards, nominations will close in April 2013.

There is lots of other information at your disposal on the website including a special members area where you can get in touch with other members, review meetings, renew your membership – just remember to login with your email address and member number.

You can also update your details online, to ensure we can stay in contact with you. While you are online, don’t forget to check out the ANZSOC Facebook page and ‘like’ us! (Facebook.com/ANZSOC).

I hope you enjoy the conference!

Kate Hancott
ANZSOC Secretary
secretary@anzsoc.org

ANZSOC AWARDS 2012
Distinguished Criminologist Award 2012
The Allen Austin Bartholomew Award 2012
(supported by Sage Publications)
Adam Sutton Crime Prevention Award 2012
New Scholar Prize 2012
Student Paper Prize 2012
ANZSOC New Zealand Student Award for Best Abstract

For further information on the Awards visit the ANZSOC website (www.anzsoc.org) or contact the ANZSOC Secretary

Welcome to the 2012 conference issue of PacifiCrim. In this issue we have invited some of the award recipients to tell us more about themselves and their research. The Allen Austin Bartholomew Award is presented each year to the authors of the best article published in the Australian and New Zealand Journal of Criminology. In this issue of PacifiCrim the recipients of the 2012 award, Russell Hogg, Kerry Carrington and Alison McIntosh, provide an interesting thought piece on the importance of independent university research on mining in Australia. We also hear from the authors of the high commendation article, Joel Godfredson, Stefan Luebbers, Stuart Thomas and James Ogloff, who tell us more about their research within the Centre for Forensic Behavioural Science at Monash University.

The Adam Sutton Crime Prevention Award is given to the individual who has written the best publication or report in the area of crime prevention. We feature the winner of the award, Olga Camacho Duarte, who talks about her work within the Designing Out Crime Research Centre at the University of Western Sydney and the important role design plays in crime prevention strategies. Also in the area of environmental design, the high commendation recipient, Chris Butler, writes about his work at the engineering and design company Harrison Grierson.

Also featured in this issue is the winner of the 2012 New Scholar Prize, Meredith Rossner, who writes about her research on the emotional dynamics of restorative justice and other justice interactions, and the need for methodologies and theories that capture these dynamics. We also sit down with the winner of the 2012 Student Paper Prize, Vincent O’Kane, to hear more about his award winning paper and what the future has in store for him.

However, this issue is not only about awards. We also interview Mark Halsey, who recently received an ARC Future Fellowship, to hear more about his upcoming research project. The issue also introduces the incoming Editors of the Australian and New Zealand Journal of Criminology, Anna Stewart and Philip Stenning, who tell us about their vision for the journal and the future ahead.

I would like to thank the members of the PacifiCrim Editorial Committee, Rebecca Wallis and Chris Dowling, for contacting contributors and providing editorial support. I would also like to thank all of the contributors to this issue of PacifiCrim.

PacifiCrim requires ongoing input from our ANZSOC members and we warmly welcome your contribution to the next issue. We would love to hear about upcoming conferences, job opportunities, scholarships etc. We also welcome letters to the Editor. The deadline for the next issue of PacifiCrim is 18 January 2013.

Li Eriksson
PacifiCrim Editor
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News from the incoming Editors of the Australian and New Zealand Journal of Criminology

At the time of writing there were still three months until we officially assumed the roles as joint editors of the Australian and New Zealand Journal of Criminology. We are currently busy working out the ‘nuts and bolts’ of the role and wondering how we will manage all the processes. We feel very privileged to assume this important role of what is one of the longest established English language criminological journals, and currently ranked at 32 out of 50 in criminology and penology journals in the world (ISI Web of Knowledge, 2011). As editors, we believe that criminology is a ‘broad church’, a field of multi-disciplinary and inter-disciplinary research, rather than a discrete discipline itself. Indeed, our own research represents a range of different disciplinary, theoretical, methodological and substantive interests and approaches. In preparing for this role we reviewed the contents of the Journal over the last ten years and it appears that the three previous editors have shared this view, both of criminology and of the role of the Journal. The number of articles published by internationally recognised scholars during the last ten years, as well as the very high submission rates in recent years, speak eloquently of the status of the journal. So there is a tradition and a reputation to be lived up to, and we hope to continue this tradition and work to further enhance this reputation, rather than attempt to take the Journal in some radical new direction.

In terms of content, the ANZ Journal of Criminology meets the needs of a wide readership, from academics and research students, to criminal justice practitioners, and to criminal justice policy-makers, albeit with an academic readership as its first priority. To meet the needs of this diverse readership we hope to ensure that the articles in the Journal continue to reflect new and innovative ideas in the field of criminology, and emerging trends in crime and criminal justice, as well as building on more long established ones. One obvious example in this respect is the impact of ‘globalisation’ and of increased promotion of human rights and democracy around the world, and the related emergence of new forms of transnational crime and policing, and of international criminal justice institutions. We would want to see these trends and their implications discussed in the Journal during our editorship. However, we also recognise that much crime, disorder, policing and criminal justice remains local in character, and is influenced by local environments and cultures. Understanding these trends and their implications is essential for developing and implementing valid strategies for crime reduction and prevention. The strength of the Journal lies in its reach, publishing the best criminological research from Australia and New Zealand, as well as attracting submissions from international researchers, and having a world-wide readership.

The Journal has been fortunate to have some outstanding editors in the past. Professor Sharon Pickering has maintained this high standard of editorship. We have some large shoes to fill and are looking forward to working with you all to continue the traditions of this outstanding journal.

Anna Stewart and Philip Stenning
ANZJC Editors

Anna Stewart is a Professor in the School of Criminology and Criminal Justice at Griffith University. From 2008 – 2010 she was the Head of the School of Criminology and Criminal Justice. Prior to this in 2007-2008 she was the Deputy Dean (Learning and Teaching) in the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences. She has been a faculty member of the School since 1994 when she graduated from the University of Queensland with her PhD in psychology. Her research interests are diverse and include life course criminology, forensic psychology, risk assessment, mental health and offending, situational crime prevention, place based criminology, the research policy nexus and criminal justice administration. Much of her research uses government administrative data and she is interested in the use of computational modeling technologies. She has published over 60 peer-reviewed publications, government reports and non peer reviewed publications. She has been involved in partnerships that have obtained over four million dollars in National Competitive Funding, consultancies and other government research funding. Her work receives strong support from across Queensland Government criminal justice agencies. Her recent book ‘Evidence Based Policy and Practice in Youth Justice’ (2011) was co-edited with colleagues Troy Allard and Susan Dennison.

Philip Stenning is a Professor at the School of Criminology and Criminal Justice, and an Associate Investigator in the Centre of Excellence in Policing and Security, and in the Key Centre for Ethics, Law, Justice and Governance, at Griffith University. He obtained his doctorate in law at the University of Toronto in 1983. His principal research interests have included: public and private policing; the prosecution process; governance and accountability in the criminal justice system; firearms abuse and gun control; Aboriginal justice and policing; use of force by and against police; occupational safety and homicide of police officers and taxi drivers. He has recently completed a collaborative, EU-funded research project on gender-based violence against female university students in European universities. He is currently engaged in ongoing research on the governance of Vancouver’s Downtown East Side (one of North America’s most notorious ‘skid row’ areas), and a comparative study of relations between prosecutors and governments in a number of common law, civil law and international jurisdictions. He is assembling an international research team to undertake some ethnographic research on the transnational role of private security in the coming years. His most recent book is ‘The Modern Prosecution Process in New Zealand’ (Wellington: Victoria University Press, 2008).
The fate of independent intellectual inquiry in the age of ‘supercapitalism’: The case of mining in Australia

Editor’s Note: The recipients of this year’s Allen Austin Bartholomew Award are Russell Hogg, Kerry Carrington and Alison McIntosh for their article ‘The resource boom’s underbelly: Criminological impacts of mining development’ published in volume 44(3) of the Australian and New Zealand Journal of Criminology. In this issue of PacifiCrim we asked them to tell us more about their research agenda.

According to the US academic economist, Robert Reich, the age of democratic capitalism has given way to the age of ‘supercapitalism’, a phase in which economic power invades every domain of life, empowering people as investors and consumers whilst weakening our forms of collective life and public institutions.

The resources sector is presently operating at the frontier of supercapitalism’s transformative reach over Australia’s economy, society, politics and intellectual life. It is no accident that this coincides with the entrenchment of the ‘enterprise university’, a model that rests upon parsimonious public funding and concerted pressures on universities to attract industry money. Academic freedom and independence in relation to research and teaching is however seriously compromised as universities become increasingly dependent on external industry funding. Priorities are tailored to the short-term needs of private interests at the expense of the University’s traditional role in a democracy to produce and disseminate knowledge that advances the public interest. At the same time, substantially weakened job security in the university sector makes individual academics and researchers vulnerable to pressures to trim research and teaching to serve the demands of their private paymasters. These large scale changes carry serious implications not just for universities but for the wider society.

Symptomatic of the changes is a shift in attitude to university research. The value of research - even the meaning of research - is increasingly tied to one thing only – the funding it attracts. The opportunity this affords private corporate interests to extend their influence into universities has not been lost on the resources sector. The issue is not about the industry source of research funding - but the transparency and accountability of industry funded research (Carrington, 2012). Paul Cleary, one of the few researchers to critically delve into the impacts of the current mining boom, encountered a deep reluctance amongst universities to disclose anything about their relationships with the resources sector, including the extent of industry funding or the nature of the agreements involved (Cleary, 2011b; 2012). The blind of commercial-in-confidence is rapidly drawn when any such inquiries are made.

Academic recipients of mining largesse claim the industry ‘can’t buy results’, although this is difficult to verify one way or another given the apparatus of secrecy and non-disclosure. Buying results aside, it would strain credulity to assume that there is no impact on their interpretation or publication, no self-censorship, and no careful shaping of research agendas (Hamilton and Downie, 2007). It is appropriate at this point to comment briefly on the subject matter of our own research.

One of the most conspicuous features of the current mining boom is the rapidly expanding reliance on an essentially Australian-sourced non-resident (fly-in/fly-out (FIFO) or drive-in/drive-out (DIDO) workforce. This is in turn related to the intensification of the production process, the growth of contract labour at the expense of traditional employment relationships and efforts to minimize the intrusion of extraneous, non-economic factors on productivity: like the human solidarities and commitments arising from family, community, trade union membership and so on. This subsequently carries major implications for the sustainability of traditional regional communities at the frontier of resource extraction. Where communities are overnight made to play host to perhaps thousands of transient workers living in work camps on their fringes there are huge impacts on quality of life (including housing affordability, infrastructure, services and levels of violence and disorder). There are also significant concerns in relation to the impact on the long term health and well-being of non-resident workers and their families. These are issues we stumbled upon in the course of our ARC-funded research on men and violence in rural Australia (Carrington, Hogg and McIntosh, 2011).

This situation has been developing over many years but has accelerated with the recent resources boom. It would appear to be an obvious focus of inquiry for research funded by an industry that claims to place corporate social responsibility, social licence and communities at the core of their business. Not so. Virtually no research on this issue has been undertaken by those university centres funded by the resources sector.

This, however, does not stop them from offering authoritative comment on it. In its submission to the current Commonwealth parliamentary inquiry into effects of FIFO/DIDO on workforce practices on regional communities, the Centre for Social Responsibility in Mining (CSRM) UQ, which receives handsome funding from the sector, claimed ‘to be well positioned to provide balanced and independent insights into the socio-economic impacts, as well as the opportunities and challenges, associated with FIFO/DIDO practices’ (CSRM, Submission 73, 2011). Ignoring most of the social impacts of these practices but suggesting that FIFO lifestyles involve no particular stresses for individual workers, it cited as its sole authority unpublished research conducted by a research student at the University of Western Australia (also a major beneficiary of resource sector support). This seriously methodologically limited study (even by its own account), was elevated to ‘one of the few studies that has been undertaken in Australia that has sought to objectively evaluate stress impacts of the FIFO lifestyle’. The Queensland Resources Council (QRC) cited the same research in its submission to the inquiry.

Words like ‘balance’, ‘independence’ and ‘objectivity’ assume Orwellian significance when used to advance manifest self-interest and to imply that research critical of the social impacts of mining lacks scientific rigour and is driven by political agendas. On the question of FIFO/DIDO, the industry and its university partners cannot even provide a plausible estimate of the numbers of workers involved. In their respective submissions to the parliamentary
Russell Hogg, Kerry Carrington, Alison McIntosh

The implications of a weakened university sector, whose public role and responsibilities are compromised by the economic might of the resources sector are more disturbing in light of the other effects of supercapitalism. Paul Cleary points to the abundant evidence that governments and democracy in Australia have essentially been bought out by the resources sector and have abdicated their responsibility to properly regulate these industries and to compel compliance with laws and standards that safeguard the long term public interest (Cleary, 2012). He points to the DIY character of regulation whereby environmental impact statements are left to companies and growing corps of freelance consultants in their pay. There is also a paucity of independent, transparent monitoring of industry practices by state regulatory agencies.

It is clear that any regard for the overall human, social and environmental impacts of the mining boom are being subjugated to short term economic considerations, primarily those of industry profits and state governments greedy to get their hands on mining royalties. Although projects are proliferating with impacts across vast swathes of the country, there is no effective mechanism for assessing cumulative environmental, social or economic impacts even in the short, let alone the long, term. Little if any attention appears to be given to the impact on economic diversification, despite its importance for the long-term prosperity of localities, regions and the national economy. Similarly ignored has been the impact on communities when human service workers in areas like health care or education cannot afford the exorbitant costs of accommodation in the communities where they work with distorted local economic incentives dictating that they would be better off working in the mines than teaching children in local schools or meeting the health care needs of their community.

How far are governments going to permit this hollowing out of communities and institutions? Private corporations seeking to maximise their share price and their competitive position on the global stage cannot be expected, or relied upon, to weigh these considerations. They lack the expertise, as much as the incentive, to do so. It is the job of government to reflect and safeguard the public interest and compel adherence to it. Universities used also to be broadly aligned with this civic mission.

University/industry partnerships, such as those involving the resources sectors, obscure these realities. The oxymoron of corporate social responsibility simultaneously masks the private self-interest driving the corporate sector whilst it diverts public institutions from their essential responsibilities. Independent research is critical to informing the task of government to regulate in the public interest. The conditions of supercapitalism make this a more urgent imperative even as they also make it more difficult to achieve.

Russell Hogg, Kerry Carrington, Alison McIntosh

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Russell Hogg is an Associate Professor in the School of Law, University of New England. He is co-author of Policing the Rural Crisis and Rethinking Law and Order and has otherwise published widely in the field of criminology. His current research interests include the social and criminological impacts of the mining boom and the politics of crime and justice.

Professor Carrington is the Head of the School of Justice, Law Faculty QUT, Vice Chair of the Division of Critical Criminology, American Society of Criminology; Editor in Chief of the International Journal for Crime and Justice, Pacific Rim Editor of Critical Criminology and International editorial board member of Criminology and Criminal Justice.

Dr McIntosh is a Senior Research Fellow in the School of Justice, Faculty of Law at Queensland University of Technology. Alison is a human geographer whose research focuses on issues which impact upon the wellbeing of persons living in regional and remote Australia.
We would like to thank Sharon Pickering for her great work as Editor of ANZJC and extend a warm welcome to Anna Stewart and Phillip Stenning as new Co-Editors.

Australian & New Zealand Journal of Criminology is one of the world’s longest-running criminology journals, having been established in 1968. It is a leading international peer-reviewed journal for criminological research. The journal is dedicated to advancing research and debate on a range of criminological problems and embraces diverse, methodological approaches, being home to a wide range of criminological and, interdisciplinary work in the field of crime and criminal justice.

Impact Factor: 0.609
Ranked: 32 out of 50 in Criminology & Penology
Source: 2011 Journal Citation Reports © (Thomson Reuters, 2012)

Published 3 times a year: April, August, December
ISSN: 0004-8658

Allen Austin Bartholomew Award Winning Article 2012

Australian & New Zealand Journal of Criminology and SAGE award a prize to the best article published each year in the ANZJC. The winning article is selected by the board in the year following publication.

Prize Winning Article: “The resource boom’s underbelly: Criminological impacts of mining development” by Carrington, Hogg and McIntosh. Visit the journal online to read the article for FREE.

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The Centre for Forensic Behavioural Science: Transferring academic and clinical excellence into practice

Editor’s Note: Joel Godfredson, Stefan Luebbers, Stuart Thomas and James Ogloff received a High Commendation in this year’s Allen Austin Bartholomew Award.

Monash University and Forensicare

“Advancing research and practice in forensic mental health and the law”

Four members of the Centre for Forensic Behavioural Science (CFBS) at Monash University (Joel Godfredson, Stefan Luebbers, Stuart Thomas and James Ogloff) received a high commendation in this year’s ANZSOC Allen Austin Bartholomew Award for their article “Police perceptions of their encounters with individuals experiencing mental illness: A Victorian survey, *Australian and New Zealand Journal of Criminology*, 44, 180-95.” This is the second time that CFBS staff have received a commendation from ANZSOC. Given the important work of the CFBS, and its relationship to criminology, the CFBS has been asked to provide an overview of the Centre and its work.

The establishment of the CFBS in 2007 marked the culmination of 15 years of excellence in the area of forensic mental health and forensic behavioural science at Monash University and the Victorian Institute of Forensic Mental Health (Forensicare) in Victoria. Forensic behavioural science concerns the study of factors that underlie offending and human behaviour in the legal system. Those in the field work to understand how individual characteristics interact with the environment to produce criminal behaviour, and what might be done to prevent such behaviour in the future. This work informs practice in forensic mental health and, more broadly, it concerns the way in which offenders are identified and managed by law enforcement, courts and the criminal justice system.

The CFBS brings together researchers, students, and clinicians from a variety of disciplines (psychology, psychiatry, nursing, social work, occupational therapy and law); providing a stimulating, rewarding and exciting environment that will continue to build a core capacity of academic and clinical excellence in forensic mental health research and practice within Forensicare.

CFBS activities include conducting research in aggression, mental illness and offending, policing, problem behaviours, and related fields; providing first rate postgraduate training in graduate programs in forensic mental health; providing continuing professional development workshops to enhance the knowledge and skill base of the work force; and providing expert consultancy and training to agencies in mental health, law, and related sectors.

The CFBS is strongly allied with Forensicare; however, additional relationships exist through affiliations established with agencies, such as the Victoria Police, the Department of Justice, and international organisations. A core element of the Centre’s mission is working to transfer this academic and clinical excellence into practice in Forensicare and beyond, into the health, community services and criminal justice sectors.

Further information regarding the CFBS is available at www.cfbs.monash.edu.au.

The article that received high commendation formed part of Dr. Joel Godfredson’s doctoral thesis and was from a program of research funded by an ARC Linkage Grant in partnership with Victoria Police. The authors of the article are described briefly below:

**Dr. Joel Godfredson** and **Dr. Stefan Luebbers** completed their doctoral training in clinical and forensic psychology at Monash University. Dr. Godfredson is a psychologist in Forensicare’s Problem Behaviour Program, providing forensic assessment and treatment services to clients referred by the courts, community corrections, mental health and other agencies. He also works in private practice as a clinical psychologist. Dr. Luebbers is a Lecturer in Psychology at Monash University who has had experience working at the CFBS and Forensicare.

**Associate Professor Stuart Thomas** specialises in mental health epidemiology and is Deputy Director of the CFBS. His research interests focus on the policing interface with vulnerable populations and outcome measurement. Trained as a lawyer and psychologist, **Professor James Ogloff** is the Director of the CFBS. He has broad research interests in forensic behavioural science and training postgraduate students and professionals. He is also the Director of Psychological Services at Forensicare.
Designing Out Crime: The role of design on crime prevention, urban renewal and community development

Editor’s Note: Olga Camacho Duarte is the 2012 recipient of the Adam Sutton Crime Prevention Award. In this article she talks about her work within the Designing Out Crime Research Centre at the University of Western Sydney.

The Community and Environment Project
I am a postdoctoral fellow from the Designing Out Crime Research Centre, DOC at the University of Technology Sydney, UTS. Part of my role involves the coordination of a partnership with Housing NSW and the University of Western Sydney, UWS. This three year partnership is entitled Community and Environment Project, CEP and began in April 2011. The partnership aims to develop innovative strategies from the design and social welfare disciplines that support and contribute to urban renewal and community development programs in Mt Druitt.

Mt Druitt is an area located in Outer Western Sydney comprising 11 suburbs. It has a significant concentration of public housing and it is considered to be one of the most disadvantaged areas in NSW. Despite these challenges, there are significant efforts from government, third sector organisations and local residents to work on and support urban renewal and community development. The partnership operates on a project-based approach that involves the participation of students from the Faculty of Design, Architecture and Built Environment at UTS and Social Work and Community Welfare Studies at UWS. The projects are developed within studio type units, internships and student placements.

The design projects based at DOC target existing spaces and initiatives, and focus on enhancing such spaces and programs through innovative design concepts. DOC focuses on design for safety, crime prevention through environmental design, socially inclusive design and urban design. The projects look at crime issues but the design concepts are expected to transcend countermeasures and focus on space activation and ideas that embrace the positive aspects of such spaces or programs. The experience of the past year has given me valuable experience in building relationships and links between three very different groups: UTS students, the DOC interdisciplinary team and the CEP partners (including government and non-government agencies as well as local residents in the Mt Druitt area). In this piece, I would like to share some of the key aspects that make this partnership worthwhile.

It is all about commitment
The parties involved in the CEP have a genuine interest in creating ideas that deliver positive concepts and tangible outcomes. Students who enrol in the DOC Winter School program (an intensive three week program that runs in July) do it out of genuine interest in the theme and the area. Students commit themselves to working long hours and listen to extensive feedback from clients and tutors. They have their moments of genius and also moments of frustration but overall, they end up with design concepts that are fresh, relevant, feasible and innovative. They value the opportunity to work with real clients and are excited about how their concepts may influence future change in the area.

DOC has a cross-disciplinary team of criminologists, psychologists, historians, architects, planners, industrial and visual communications designers. We are passionate about the urban environments in which we live and the communities we are part of. The DOC team is dedicated to teaching and learning and is always developing targeted teaching methodologies as well as research tools to lead innovative approaches to designing against crime. In the context of the CEP, the DOC team has developed tools to better understand the complexities of the area and create target briefs for the students’ projects. Creating the project brief is one of the core activities associated with the Winter School; and here is where liaising with the CEP partners becomes very important.

The CEP partners include government agencies, local government and NGOs. The partnership extends its influence to local residents and local community groups. These stakeholders have been pleasantly surprised with the design concepts that students generate. Partners define issues for consideration, for example graffiti, vandalism, and student projects offer not only design and strategies on how to address them but also a different way of thinking about such issues. CEP partners see the work of students as a wealth of fresh knowledge that supports the work they already do. Some partners began with a bit of scepticism as to what the design discipline could offer to their work. However, after seeing some of the outcomes partners have embraced ideas particularly as vehicles to drive change.

The role of design
The design professions are changing; they are becoming diverse and more engaged with real life scenarios and with diverse stakeholders. Logically, teaching and learning is adapting to the new dynamics and trends in the design arenas and that is the reason why it is important to work on partnerships such as the CEP. The feedback of the partners who are not design professionals highlight that there is a significant role for the use of design tools, methodologies and ideas to create greater links and clearer cross-disciplinary communication with practitioners in the contexts of crime prevention, urban renewal and community development.

Olga Camacho Duarte

Olga graduated as an Architect from the University of Los Andes in Bogotá, Colombia. In 2006 she was awarded her PhD in Management from the University of Western Sydney. Her thesis was an ethnographic study on spatial practice in public space in Latin American cities which included aspects of sense of security and perception of crime. Olga was a Teaching Fellow of Organisation Studies at the School of Management, UWS. More recently, she worked as a Strategic Consultant with DEGW Asia Pacific and as a Research Project Officer with the Urban Research Centre, UWS. At URC she was a lead officer in two projects on social aspects of housing and homelessness. Olga joined the Designing Out Crime as a Postdoctoral Fellow in October 2010. Her research agenda centres on social aspects of housing including: perception of crime, areas of disadvantage, crime prevention and the impact of design in addressing opportunistic crime in relation to low income housing.
A community approach to crime prevention and urban regeneration: A case study from Maraenui, New Zealand

Editor’s Note: Chris Butler received a High Commendation for his submission to the ANZSOC’s 2012 Adam Sutton Crime Prevention Award for his ‘Maraenui Shopping Centre Crime Prevention through Environmental Design Assessment’, prepared for the Napier City Council by Harrison Grierson Consultants Limited.

In early 2011, Harrison Grierson was successful in winning a tender for Napier City Council (NCC) to undertake a Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) assessment of Maraenui – a suburb of approximately 3,500 residents in which social and economic deprivation underpins high levels of criminal offending and a strong gang culture.

While a number of initiatives had been progressed in recent years to improve the amenity and safety of the shopping centre and surrounds, these had been imposed in an ad hoc manner with minimal involvement or ownership from the local community. This is evident in crime statistics which reveal the charge of willful damage to be twice as likely as any other offence in Maraenui. With traditional CPTED criteria only truly effective when there is a mutual understanding and appreciation between patrons and those who manage the environment as to how a space is to be used and looked after, public investment is often considered a prerequisite to achieving greater community buy-in. Our response to these particular challenges involved a collaborative exploration of the physical and social aspects of the environment to inform a design-led approach to crime prevention and safety. Engaging the community and having them take ownership of the project from conception through to implementation, was seen to be critical to the ongoing success of interventions.

Harrison Grierson developed both strategic and detailed recommendations for NCC which were underpinned by three core data collection methods; site observations, a literary review and an extensive programme of consultation, incorporating stakeholder workshops, focus groups and a community barbeque. The detailed CPTED recommendations were developed to provide retailers and the Council with some ‘quick wins’ as ways that shop owners and the Council could make a small yet immediate difference. These solutions, presented in both tabular format and through a concept plan, involved phased recommendations prioritised by effort, cost and impact. The benefit to NCC of this approach was that it enabled prioritisation of solutions and phasing of works, allowing for the upgrade to achieve maximum effect quickly and within a staged budget.

Secondly, a set of strategic recommendations was identified that provided an opportunity to integrate community safety and wellbeing within an overarching urban design framework. Out of this framework, a concept plan was prepared which reinforced the central green as the spatial and functional centre of the community. The plan illustrated the strategic principles for revitalisation reflecting social, cultural, economic and environmental themes and provided the community with an opportunity to advance broader social goals through physical improvement. At each stage of the green’s development a community project was to be undertaken, with projects to be developed and implemented by the community with support from Council. The first stage is currently underway with the construction of a new playground area and toilet facility – both identified as a top priority by the community. The second stage aims to ‘open up’ the central green space and will see construction of a new skate park and performance stage. The final stage is to create an entrance pathway and complete roading changes in the vicinity of the green and shopping centre.

Our approach to this project was to ensure there was a mandate for change from the community and to strengthen the resilience of those future changes. By empowering the community through decision making, we were able to offer them the opportunity to shape how space is used and the likely nature of social interactions. A collaborative process such as this is a key method in apportioning greater ownership and responsibility of the built environment, from local authorities to the community. The CPTED assessment prepared for Napier City Council was recently awarded a high commendation in a submission to the ANZSOC Adam Sutton Crime Prevention Award 2012, with the selection committee noting the ‘level of consultation, attention to detail and the thoughtful approach to practicality’ that was evident in the work.

Chris Butler

Chris leads the practice of Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) within Harrison Grierson, an Australasian engineering and design company, and holds qualifications and professional experience in geography, town planning and urban design. He has been involved in delivering CPTED assistance to local government and private sector clients throughout New Zealand on a range of projects including: residential, commercial, town centre and open space. Chris draws on a background in urban design and planning to help articulate recommendations at both a micro and macro level and to translate these into practical solutions. He recently devised a toolkit that provides a summary of international best practice as applied to well documented and problematic locations within our urban environments. Earlier this year, Chris was invited to present on the link between CPTED and Urban Design at Sydney University’s School of Criminology. Chris is a member of the International CPTED Association and ANZSOC.
ANZSOC members reporting from international conferences

Stockholm Criminology Symposium

The Stockholm Prize in Criminology was established in 2006, and this year it was awarded to Professor Jan van Dijk from the University of Tilburg, the Netherlands, for his sustained leadership of the International Crime Victims Survey since 1989. The Prize consists of 1000 000 SEK (about 150 000 AUD); not quite the Nobel Prize perhaps, but still a significant recognition of the importance of criminology worldwide. The main theme of the conference, in honour of van Dijk’s research, was ‘Focusing on victims of crime: Comparing crime patterns and improving practice’. Around 250 delegates presented papers in 65 sessions.

Stockholm, the capital of Sweden and with its origins in the 13th century, proved a much appreciated venue by the large number of international conference participants. But as the Swedish people cautioned to exclamations about the city’s beauty: “you should experience it in winter…” When the temperature is -15, the sun almost non-existent, and the charming cobble stone streets covered in ice, it tends to be less enjoyable. But this was June, early summer, and the city showed itself from its best side. The Australian representatives were myself and Dr David Backer from Monash University, and a significant contingency from Griffith University, with whom much merriment was had.

The conference is a high profile event in Sweden, actively supported by the Ministry of Justice, and the Swedish Minister for Justice Beatrice Ask not only opened the conference, but took part in debate and panels. The support provided to the conference was also evident by the person who awarded the Prize to Jan van Dijk on the stage of the China Theatre, Her Majesty the Queen Silvia of Sweden. She also stayed around to join us all for the conference dinner, which was held at Bern’s Salonger, a beautiful venue build in 1863. For many of the international delegates I spoke to, the dinner, which was held at Bern’s Salonger, a beautiful venue build in 1863. For many of the international delegates I spoke to, the dinner was indeed one of the highlights of the conference in ice, it tends to be less enjoyable. But this was June, early summer, and the city showed itself from its best side. The Australian representatives were myself and Dr David Backer from Monash University, and a significant contingency from Griffith University, with whom much merriment was had.

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Anna Eriksson
Monash University

British Society of Criminology

The annual British Society of Criminology (BSC) conference was held at Portsmouth University from 4 to 6 July 2012 with BSC postgraduate conference spanning 3 and 4 July. Both events were hosted by the Institute of Criminal Justice Studies (ICJS). The theme for the main conference was ‘Criminology at the Borders’ and the conference programme reflected a strong emphasis on policing and related matters. Plenary speakers at the BSC included Professor Katja Aas, Emeritus Professor Roger Hood, Professor David Garland, and Sharon Shalev (Fellow at the Mannheim Centre for Criminology, LSE). All delivered informative presentations on, respectively, globalisation and the Northern penal state, capital punishment, penal populism, and supermax prisons. A highlight of the conference was the presentation of the British Society of Criminology Outstanding Achievement Award to Professor Jock Young. Professor Young accepted the award with good grace and related several humorous anecdotes drawn from the breadth of his career. One of these included rumination on the (vastly) different discourses framing criminological research and the meanings/implications of such. Professor Young recalled that he and his colleagues once hypothesised that should most (if not all) previous articles appearing in the British Journal of Criminology have been initially sent for review to Criminology, they would very likely not have been published. Similarly, most work appearing in Criminology was unlikely to have been published in the British Journal of Criminology. Professor Young continued to say that this raises important issues surrounding the meaning and practice of critique and how social, political and cultural climates irrevocably shape the production of what counts as “knowledge”. He called, specifically, for criminology to resist positivist approaches to studying the antecedents of crime and lamented the rise of predictive and statistical models for thinking through complex criminological/social problems. A further highlight of the conference was the dinner held aboard HMS Warrior (built 1860) moored adjacent to the historic Portsmouth dockyards. Around 200 delegates attended pre-dinner drinks on the upper deck and enjoyed (at last) some fine weather! Dinner was subsequently served below deck in an impressive naval setting. The plenary by Sharon Shalev was a fitting close to the conference. Through an outline of the plight of supermax prisoners, she reminded the audience of one of the key political functions of criminology – to give the marginal and invisible a more prominent place in public discourse.

Mark Halsey
Flinders University

Lorraine Gelsthorpe, from Cambridge University and BSC president, seen here advising incoming ANZSOC president on how to steer into unchartered waters

H.M. Queen Silvia together with the 2012 prize winner Jan van Dijk (photography by Pernille Tofte)
This year’s ESC conference was held in Bilboa, a delightful city close to the northern coast of Spain. The theme was *A Necessary Balance between Freedom and Security*, which was rather appropriate given the troubled history of this Basque region in recent decades. The organisers did, indeed, address domestic terrorism, choosing Jose Luis de la Cuesta Arzamendi of the Basque Institute of Criminology to give one of the keynote addresses on the subject of the battles fought by ETA and the Decree 107 of 2012 that sets out the terms of settlement between ETA and the government.

The organisers told me that this was the largest conference that had been convened in the dozen years of the ESC’s existence. Over 800 delegates would choose from more than 700 papers delivered over three days in two sites. The receptions and the dinner were highlights, as was the position of the conference venue, nestled in between the astonishing Guggenheim Museum and the Fine Arts Museum. To give you some idea of the range of topics and the nations represented in the delegate ranks, allow me to mention some of the more memorable papers in sessions that I attended: Maija Helminen on the role of non-state actors in modern policing in Finland; Jan van Dijk on the diffusion of benefit arising from strategic crime prevention initiatives in The Netherlands; Tim Newburn on the British riots of 2011, highlighting the results of interviews conducted with over 200 rioters (available at http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/series/reading-the-riots); Marleen Easton on a similar theme: the dynamics of disorder in multicultural neighbourhoods in Brussels; Caroline von der Heyden from Germany whose PhD studies are bringing together all of the costs of crime surveys that have been carried out; and, finally, Marlene Matos who looked at the issue of stalking and victimisation in Portugal. The conference also included the General Assembly meeting of the European Society of Criminology (which all members of the ESC can attend). Professor Roger Hood, Research Associate at the University of Oxford and formerly Professor of Criminology and Fellow of All Souls College, and former Director of the Centre for Criminological Research, received the European Criminology Award.

Don’t come to the ESC if you are uncomfortable with variety. Indeed, I would certainly encourage any Australian and New Zealander criminologists (there were ten of us in Bilbao) to attend future conferences (next year is in Budapest). It is not difficult to follow: the entire conference is held in English.

Rick Sarre
University of South Australia

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**European Society of Criminology**

**ANZSOC 2013 Conference**

Tuesday 1 - Thursday 3 October 2013

Welcome Reception and Postgraduate Conference
Monday 30 September 2013

Brisbane, Queensland

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Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre

6th WORLD CONGRESS ON FAMILY LAW AND CHILDREN’S RIGHTS
March 17 - 20, 2013
Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre

ARC CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE IN POLICING AND SECURITY (CEPS) HUMAN RIGHTS AND POLICING CONFERENCE
April 16 - 18, 2013
The Rex Hotel, Canberra

STOCKHOLM CRIMINOLOGY SYMPOSIUM
June 10 - 12, 2013
City Conference Centre, Stockholm, Sweden

2nd CRIME, JUSTICE AND SOCIAL DEMOCRACY CONFERENCE
July 8 - 11, 2013
Queensland University of Technology, Brisbane

26th ANZSOC CONFERENCE
October 1 - 3, 2013
Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre
Interview with Future Fellowship recipient Mark Halsey

How does it feel to be the recipient of an ARC Future Fellowship grant?

I feel privileged to be awarded an ARC Future Fellowship. It’s a rare opportunity to devote one’s time and energies to researching one particular criminological/social issue in an in-depth and sustained fashion without having to balance teaching, administration and other commitments or duties. But I owe the success of the application to some very supportive colleagues and my University more generally.

Your project examines intergenerational incarceration. Tell us more about this project.

There has been little research nationally or internationally on the topic of intergenerational incarceration (which I see as related to but somewhat distinct from intergenerational offending). The first part of the research will involve a saturated survey of all people (juveniles and adults) in custody on a single day in one Australian state. The survey will ask participants to record the extent and nature of intergenerational incarceration within their family. On the basis of survey responses, a number of respondents will be invited to participate in an interview to explicate in greater detail the social, economic, educational and cultural impacts of incarceration through generations. Participants will, ideally, be stratified according to gender, age and race as well as the “depth” or reach of intergenerational incarceration within each family (second, third, fourth generation prisoners). The aim is to discern the direct and indirect ways that incarceration constrains opportunities for social inclusion and mobility through time (and, as would seem likely, across various custodial eras).

What are some of the implications your project may have for policy and practice?

A key part of the project is to engage relevant stakeholders to encourage/facilitate the collection and annual publication of national intergenerational incarceration data. Subject to results, it is probable that new initiatives or, at very least, a redirection or refocusing of resources may need to occur in relation to families who have struggled disproportionately with incarceration and its effects over many decades.

Your previous research has examined incarceration and recidivism among young male offenders. How did you first become interested in questions relating to imprisonment?

One of my enduring childhood memories is staring out the car window (at roughly the same time each week) and being intrigued by the “big building behind the big fence”. I really only knew it then as “the place you don’t want to end up in” which, I guess, only heightened my curiosity. But my interest deepened much later when I began to understand that what happens inside those buildings only happens due to the most extreme exercise and circulation of state power. It was ultimately as part of a research project that had little if anything to do with incarceration, that I had the opportunity to interview a number of male juveniles in a youth training centre. That experience taught me there are so many issues worthy of exploration in these young men’s lives that seem not to be on the radar. For one thing, it was clear that very few people had ever asked them about their lives prior to, during, and subsequent to being locked up. Why, for example, would someone who had served two years in detention find themselves locked up within a week of release? Why would a facility enforce a long-standing policy of non-contact visits on its residents? I wanted to try and respond to these questions using the words of young people in detention. So I spoke to the managers of the training centre and subsequently designed a project that, hopefully, proved to have a good mix of academic rigor and practical application. Those initial meetings were over a decade ago and I’ve been incredibly fortunate to be able to build on that research since such time.

You must be looking forward to the next few years ahead. What does the future have in store for you?

In the shorter term, I need to oversee and conclude my current ARC project which examines generative opportunities among a small cohort of young male (ex)prisoners (several of whom I commenced interviewing in 2003/2004). Over the longer term, I’ll be working to transfer the research design on intergenerational incarceration from the page to the field.

What advice would you give to researchers thinking of applying for the ARC Future Fellowship round next year?

I think the key is to clearly and concisely articulate the research problem one is interested in and to clearly justify why it is of national (and where possible, international, significance). I also think it is important (but not essential) to show how one’s past or current research builds the foundation on which to pitch for a Future Fellowship. Being able to demonstrate concrete relationships with prospective agencies/industries relevant to conducting the research is also relevant.

Mark Halsey is a Professor in the Law School at Flinders University. His areas of interest include youth offending, repeat incarceration and desistance from crime. Mark has undertaken consultancies for state and local government in areas ranging across graffiti vandalism, restorative and therapeutic justice and serious repeat youth offending. He serves on the editorial boards of the International Series on Desistance and Rehabilitation and the Australian and New Zealand Journal of Criminology. From 2003, funded by Flinders University and the Australian Research Council, Mark was the Chief Investigator on a five year study examining the experiences of repeat incarceration as narrated by young males in South Australian juvenile and adult custodial facilities. From 2009, he has been Chief Investigator on a further Australian Research Council Discovery Project which aims to explore social connectedness and exclusion in the lives of young incarcerated males and their significant others. In 2012 Mark was awarded an ARC Future Fellowship for his project ‘Generations through prison: a critical exploration of the causes, experiences, and consequences of intergenerational incarceration’. 
Emotions and criminology: Methodological challenges and theoretical clarifications

Editor’s Note: Meredith Rossner is the recipient of the ANZSOC New Scholar Prize 2012 for her article 'Emotions and Interaction Ritual: A Micro Analysis of Restorative Justice', published in (2011), vol 51, British Journal of Criminology, pp. 95-119.

Most criminologists accept that emotions are an important part of crime and criminal justice. We concede the emotional components of an act of crime or deviance, an arrest, a trial, and a sentence of prison or community supervision. At each point in this process our emotions are impacting how these justice interactions play out. Emotions are bringing people together, engendering commitment to large-scale social structures and cultural systems. They are also a source of conflict, leading to fractures between individuals and groups with long-term negative impacts.

At the same time, there is an underlying tension between our recognition that crime and criminal justice are deeply emotional experiences, and a criminal justice system that is founded on the basis of creating a rational, orderly, and controlled system. Are these two forces irreconcilable?

Emotions are part of criminological theory, from Durkheim’s theory of crime, punishment, and social cohesion, Merton’s classical strain theory and its contemporary iterations, and Braithwaite’s theories of shame and shaming. However, I think that emotions are still undertheorized in criminology. We haven’t yet made sense of how to study emotions, systematically and empirically, and account for their role in the justice process.

One way of framing the study of emotions in criminology is to borrow from the ‘radical microsociology’ of the social theorist Randall Collins. Radical microsociology is a theoretical commitment to the study of micro-level interactions, moving outward from there to macro-level structures. This perspective forces us to closely examine the rituals people develop and sustain as they interact with each other, whether they be in informal ritualized encounters or formal justice rituals such as a court hearing. A radical microsociology zooms in to evaluate the success of the interaction in terms of shared emotions, the co-production of identities, and group cohesion, drawing out implications for macro-level social and cultural institutions.

Such a perspective presents a challenge to traditional quantitative and qualitative methods in criminology. How do we capture such dynamic encounters? How do we analyze them? Is there a way to create an empirical base to the study of how emotions work at the micro-interactional level? These challenges force us to look beyond traditional criminological methods, bypassing an old debate of qualitative versus quantitative methods to ask what is the best approach to thinking about, studying, and theorizing emotions in crime and criminal justice?

I have been trying to develop this framework in my research program on the emotional dynamics of restorative justice and other justice interactions. I incorporate a variety of eclectic methodologies and approaches that, while certainly not new, have not been a common component to criminological research. There are two parts to this strategy, largely influenced by the works of Erving Goffman. The first is to view the encounter, rather than the individual, as the unit of analysis. The second is to break down the ritual elements of justice interactions. This is often missing from criminological theory, and can yield insights into the way we think about a range of criminal justice interactions, from courtroom hearings, jury deliberations, police interviews, and restorative justice conferences.

As a guiding concept, I have re-imagined restorative justice conferences as a specific type of justice ritual, with its own structure, patterns of communication, emotional dynamics, and power and status rituals. One can empirically observe and document the dynamics of interaction ritual through micro level observations of facial expressions, demeanour, discourse, and paralinguistic cues, conversation analysis, the use of metaphors of dramaturgy and game-playing, and phenomenological approaches about the experience of feeling. Through such analysis, we can see how restorative justice conferences work (or fail) to move participants from conflict to solidarity.

Restorative justice is not the only area of criminological enquiry that can benefit from micro level attention to emotions. Street level interactions between police and civilians, courtroom interactions, jury deliberations, and other justice innovations such as drug courts can all benefit from microsociological analysis.

Rather than accept this irreconcilable tension between a justice system that is perceived as rational and orderly, and its actors who are largely motivated by emotion and micro-level situational variables, we can ‘bring order’ to emotion with careful systematic study. In closely examining criminal justice encounters, we can see how order is socially produced through people working collaboratively to achieve successful justice rituals. This is the heart of the criminal justice system, and I hope my research highlights the relevance for criminological theory.

Meredith Rossner

Dr Meredith Rossner joined the Justice Research Group at the University of Western Sydney as a Research Fellow in 2009, after receiving her PhD in Sociology and Criminology from the University of Pennsylvania. Dr Rossner has conducted research on the emotional dynamics and crime reduction potential of face-to-face restorative justice meetings with offenders and victims of serious crime. More broadly, she is interested in how people think about, talk about, and create ‘justice’ in our society. Her research interests include restorative justice, criminology theory, social interactions, and the sociology of emotions. In her forthcoming book ‘Just Emotions: Rituals of Restorative Justice’ she uses a range of methods to explore in-depth how emotions work in restorative justice conferences, how participants work together to co-produce just outcomes, and the relationship between powerful justice rituals and re-offending.
Postgraduate and Early Career Researcher corner

2012 Student Paper Prize winner: Vincent O’Kane

Congratulations on winning the Student Paper Prize! How does it feel to receive this award?

I’m very happy that the committee selected my paper. I think that non-Anglophone and non-European jurisdictions are very challenging and rewarding sites for today’s criminological scholarship, so it’s nice to see that a paper about India has been judged as valuable and interesting. I think in a previous year the selection committee gave the award to a paper about Timor-Leste; hopefully this encourages criminology students to conduct more good research into non-Anglo/Euro jurisdictions – particularly as it is the uni student years when most people are excited and able to take up new languages and to begin an interest in unfamiliar cultures and histories.

Tell us more about your paper. What practical implications do you think it might have?

The paper used an historical perspective to explore Indian approaches to controlling opium production. The key issue was how opium production – the classic extractive colonial economic activity— survived into independence. A crucial factor was how medical discourse was pressed into service by all sides engaged in an international debate about whether and how Indian opium should be controlled. As a result, British colonial figures tried and struggled to defend the trade and consumption of smoking opium on quasi-medical grounds. However, standard bearers of the Indian independence movement and the international anti-opium movement also had to acknowledge a space for legitimate opium production for medical purposes. Immediately after independence, ‘medical purposes’ provided a new moral and legal justification for the new Indian state, which thought itself fiscally reliant on opium production.

The result is that raw opium continues to be produced in the Republic of India – but its production and trade is designated for and legitimised by pharmaceutical rather than recreational purposes. The continuity has also been maintained by a second crucial factor – shifts in the international power structure. Declining British Imperial power and rising American power propelled the anti-opium activism and diplomacy of the early 20th Century. Yet American interests have also played a major role in sustaining post-colonial Indian opium production. Eighty percent of the US market is reserved for Indian and Turkish opiate material. Contrast this to current poppy crop eradication efforts in Afghanistan!

The practical implications of my paper are to highlight the usefulness of historical perspectives for today’s debates about drug policy alternatives. It can give us some clues as to why policies change and why they don’t. To some extent these historical insights could provide some strategic guidance for those who seek to influence such debates.

For instance, consider how battles over discourse and power balances have deeply shaped the course of the fascinating recent struggles over marijuana in California. In recent years there has been a distinct move from recreational to medical, fiscal, and industrial justifications for decriminalising or legalising various kinds of cannabis production. Struggles between municipal, state and federal authorities have also been a key feature. To the extent that the prerogatives of federal agencies such as the DEA are reshaped through litigation following these struggles, shifts in power could influence the future course of drug policy in California.

Another practical example is the debate over poppy production in Afghanistan. Proposals for crop legalisation as an alternative to crop eradication have been subject to strong contestation and once again, battles over medical knowledge are a key factor. A prominent issue is the question of whether there is enough demand in the world market for opiate analgesics and other opiate products to sustain pharmaceutically-driven, legalised poppy production in Afghanistan. A very similar question was addressed in India – indeed Mohandas Gandhi argued that world production of opium in the 1920s was far in excess of the medical requirements of the time. The ‘winners’ of this debate are likely to affect the legitimacy of crop legalisation proposals in Afghanistan. However, medical discourse is not necessarily determinative. Another important factor is the power of US forces to determine official policy in Afghanistan, as against European allies or other foreign interests, let alone the power of Taliban and other actors within and around Afghanistan.

What does the future hold for you?

It’s time to earn a crust full-time for a bit – I’m currently working in a government oversight body. But I strongly intend to return to academic research at some point in the not-too-distant future, and one of my goals is to conduct fieldwork in India. I’m interested in the licit and illicit political economy of drugs, corruption and integrity, and prisons. Hopefully I can pursue these themes in the future!
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