

2024



Navigating Variance: Intersectionality in Criminology  
ANNUAL CONFERENCE | 4-6 DECEMBER 2024  
University of Canterbury | Ōtautahi Christchurch

# ABSTRACT BOOK

## Understanding Digital Resilience: A Multidimensional Study Of Victimization And Recovery In Sextortion Cases

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### Background / Purpose:

This research explores digital resilience in cyberspace, focusing on sextortion, an under-researched form of online sexual violence. While existing studies address online sexual perpetration, much less is known about victimization. This multidimensional study aims to understand the relationship between pre-existing trauma, sextortion, and victim resilience. The objectives are to investigate: (1) why some individuals engage in online sexual relationships; (2) why self-protective reactions vary during sextortion; (3) the effectiveness of self-protective measures; (4) the impact of these measures on victims' wellbeing; (5) factors contributing to resilience in cyber abuse victims; and (6) if changing perceptions of online victimization can enhance psychological resilience.

### Methods:

The project utilizes a multi-level theoretical framework to explain variations in victimization from sextortion. At the micro level, attachment theory suggests that disorganized attachment increases vulnerability to sextortion. At the middle level, cyber routine activity theory uses VIVA analysis to explain crime dynamics. At the macro level, Polk's resilience theory categorizes resilience into physical/psychosocial attributes, roles/relationships, problem-solving, and a philosophical component, demonstrating the synergy between individuals and their environment. A mixed-methods approach is utilized to obtain quantitative and qualitative insights from existing databases as well as data collected specifically for this project.

### Findings:

The research highlights the complexity of victim experiences in sextortion cases. The multidimensional framework reveals how individual, situational, and environmental factors collectively shape victim resilience.

### Conclusions / Implications:

The findings may inform treatment programs to foster digital resilience in survivors and guide law enforcement in developing victim-centered policies for handling cases of sextortion. By understanding the relationship between trauma, victimization, and resilience, interventions can be better tailored to support victims and mitigate the impact of cyber violence.

## Mapping Sex Offender Regulation and its Consequences in New Zealand

Dr Jordan Anderson<sup>1,2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Swansea University, <sup>2</sup>Victoria University of Wellington

Individuals convicted of sexual offences and released from prison are subjected to a number of regulatory measures within the community in New Zealand. De jure measures include parole restrictions on movement within proximity of certain areas (e.g. schools, playgrounds, parks), inclusion on the Child Protection Register (legislated in this country in 2016), and eligibility for Public Protection Orders (civil detention). A range of de facto community notification pathways also occur in New Zealand. The express purpose of this class of measures – within legislation, policy documents, and political discourse - is to protect public safety. This paper explores the impact of sex offender regulations, the nuance of their application within communities, and whether they effectively meet the purpose of protecting public safety. Case studies of the experiences of the communities of Ōtāhuhu and Whanganui with sex offender regulation will be examined in this paper, with particular consideration of the role of class and power in driving the lived reality of sex offender regulation in the community.

## **Navigating national frameworks and standards to provide relevant, quality education to young people in secure youth justice in Australia**

Dr Stavroola Anderson<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Australasian Corrections Education Association

The provision of education in secure youth justice settings in Australia is largely guided by two national frameworks. The Australian Curriculum outlines a developmental sequence of learning from Foundation to Year 10, as well as content and achievement standards for agreed senior secondary subjects. The Australian Qualifications Framework is the national policy for regulated qualifications in Australian education and training, including vocational education and training (VET) qualifications. Specific education provision within each secure youth justice settings is managed by a school or education and training unit, under the jurisdiction of the relevant state or territory government. The student cohorts are marked by disproportionately high rates of disability, mental illness, adverse childhood experiences, and disrupted early education experiences. Also, periods of school enrolment for young people in secure youth justice are often unpredictable and relatively brief. This presentation aims to provide a brief overview of the ways in which education providers strive to uphold the standards of Australian education frameworks, while managing the complex challenges of secure youth justice settings.

## Understanding & Finding Potential in the Law & Order Environment in New Zealand Today

Dr Jordan Anderson<sup>1,2</sup>, Dr Trevor Bradley<sup>2</sup>, Associate Professor Tamasailau Suaalii-Sauni<sup>3</sup>, Associate Professor Alice Mills<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Swansea University, <sup>2</sup>Victoria University of Wellington, <sup>3</sup>University of Auckland

### Symposium Abstract:

One year into New Zealand's new right-wing coalition government - which has kept many of its 'tough on crime' promises - this symposium looks at the lay of the land in law and order, and searches for opportunities to change things for the better. In this symposium, we project beyond problem definition toward finding pockets of evidence-based potential in the current law and order environment in New Zealand. Here, each of the speakers will acknowledge the respective state of play within policing; justice; youth justice; and corrections; and will then substantively address the potential they see for improvement. The roles of policy, the academy, and the community will be discussed in relation to each of these areas, as we collectively look with hope toward the future.

### Abstract 1: Exploring Possibilities in Policing - Dr Trevor Bradley, Victoria University of Wellington

The new Minister of Police doubled down on his 'get tough' election campaign rhetoric in an unprecedented 'letter of expectation' to the Commissioner. It made clear his dissatisfaction with the direction of policing under the previous government, and his demand that henceforth NZ Police get 'back-to-basics' via a return to a 'traditional' enforcement-led approach. To render NZ Police capable of meeting these expectations, the Commissioner has proposed NZ Police 'refocus' its work via a 'managed withdrawal' from incidents of 'social harm'. For many the Minister's directives represent a retrograde step that, inter alia, jeopardises NZ Police progress in informal resolutions for youth and closer engagement with Māori and Pasifika. However, the proposed withdrawal may also provide opportunities for communities to assume more control, and for Māori communities to assert tino rangatiratanga (self-determination), over local policing strategies. Alongside analysis of the costs of back-to-basics policing, this paper will consider possibilities for a more autonomous form of community self-policing.

### Abstract 2: Exploring Possibilities in Justice - Dr Jordan Anderson, Swansea University

The onslaught of legislative change within the realm of justice by the current government has been both broad and deep in its effects. The very foundations of New Zealand's legal system are being challenged, as the constitutional positionality of both Te Tiriti o Waitangi and the separation of powers have each been encroached upon by changes to the law. Here I will briefly acknowledge the current state of affairs within justice, and will substantively discuss the opportunities for positive change that are within reach. This discussion will draw on the contributions of the community and the academy over the last year, both sectors have been strong in their adherence to the evidence base and to the rightful place of Te Tiriti o Waitangi within conversations about both lawmaking and justice.

### Abstract 3: Exploring Possibilities in Youth Justice - Associate Professor Tamasailau Suaalii-Sauni, University of Auckland

The government's 'tough on serious youth crime' approach is to bring back the Three Strikes law and establish their version of 'boot camp' (Youth Military Academies) and a Youth Serious Offender category and declaration. The Minister for Children believes a lack of structure and routine lies at the heart of serious youth offending and that it is possible by 2030 to reduce current serious youth offending rates by 15%. Most of these youth offenders whakapapa to Māori and Pasifika whānau and many are wards of state and have serious and historical care and protection issues. They are the 'troubled teens' that without appropriate and sustained wrap-around interventions will likely end up in prison. It is generally accepted that the state has failed in its duty to protect our 'troubled teens', especially Māori. This paper examines this failure and reflects on how 'youth at risk' community-based programmes have remained optimistic notwithstanding.

### Abstract 4: Exploring Possibilities in Corrections - Associate Professor Alice Mills, University of Auckland

New Zealand's current government has repeatedly emphasised its commitment to enhancing public safety and delivering justice to victims by removing offenders from communities, as exemplified by the recent announcement

of an additional 800 prison places. Consistent with other recent legislative moves, Treaty of Waitangi provisions, that would have mandated improvements in outcomes for Māori, have been removed from the Corrections Amendment Bill currently under parliamentary review, and the government has pledged to adopt social investment approaches to deliver services to those who are incarcerated. This paper will provide a brief overview of current government policies concerning corrections, followed by an exploration of potential avenues for more positive changes, whilst acknowledging the continuing need for decarceration. It will consider contributions from the community sector to assess opportunities for enhancing prisoner rehabilitation and reintegration services, with a particular focus on aligning these efforts with the articles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

## **New Prison Masculinities in Carceral Spaces**

Mr Dwayne Antojado<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>University of Melbourne

This chapter delves into the intricate dynamics of masculinity within prison environments, challenging the prevailing narratives of toxic and hegemonic masculinity and unveiling a landscape rich with vulnerability and alternative masculine expressions, termed herein as new prison masculinities. Drawing on theoretical frameworks from scholars like Halberstam and Butler, alongside a comprehensive review of existing literature and the first author's autoethnographic insights from incarceration in Australian prisons, this work explores the multifaceted nature of masculinity as experienced by incarcerated individuals. It argues that prisons, often seen as epitomes of hyper-masculine environments, are in fact spaces where new masculinities—characterised by emotional openness, empathy, and mutual support—emerge and thrive. The chapter contends that recognising and fostering these new masculinities can have profound implications for the well-being of incarcerated individuals, the prison culture, and broader societal understandings of masculinity. It calls for a reevaluation of penal policies and practices to incorporate a more nuanced understanding of masculinity, aiming to support rehabilitative efforts and promote a healthier, more inclusive conception of masculine identity.

## No Laughing Matter? Humour, Jokes and Satire in Research on Social Harms

Mr Dwayne Antojado<sup>1</sup>, Professor Fergus McNeil<sup>2</sup>, Associate Professor Danielle Harris<sup>3</sup>, Dr Maggie Hall<sup>4</sup>, Associate Professor Suzanne Reich<sup>5</sup>

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This panel brings together diverse scholarly perspectives on the role of humour in the context of criminology, with a particular focus on its application during and after incarceration. Drawing from the ESRC/AHRC-funded 'Distant Voices: Coming Home' project (McNeill and Urie, 2020; Urie et al., 2017), we first examine how humour emerged in the creative process of songwriting workshops with justice-affected individuals, highlighting its function in mediating human connection and resisting penal power through satire. We then extend this exploration into the psychological domain, employing the "Psychology of Humour" (Martin & Ford, 2018) to analyse humour's role in life history interviews with justice-involved populations. It identifies humour as a multifaceted tool used to relieve tension, cope with trauma, and seek commonality, thereby contributing to the nascent discourse on 'Joke Criminology'. Through an autoethnographic approach, we then integrate Goffman's work on stigma, to explore humour's capacity to counteract societal labelling of formerly incarcerated individuals. By reframing the 'ex-con' identity through humour, we underscore the transformative potential of humour in facilitating social reintegration and challenging negative stereotypes. Collectively, these papers offer a comprehensive examination of humour's significance in the lived experiences of justice-involved individuals, its therapeutic potential, and its broader implications for narrative criminology and reintegration practices.



## **The future of prison visits? Autoethnographic perspective on the developments of prison visits during COVID-19**

Mr Dwayne Antojado<sup>1</sup>, Dr Nicole Ryan<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>University of Melbourne, <sup>2</sup>La Trobe University

This article explores the current status, evolution, and envisaged future of prison visits, analysing the shift in paradigm from traditional models to an increasingly digital format that demands specific policy amendments and fosters an empathetic approach towards incarceration. The discourse begins with an in-depth examination of the current prison visitation models, delving into the strengths, weaknesses, and potential of both in-person and video visitations. This exploration uncovers the critical shortcomings of in-person visits, such as limited accessibility due to geographical and logistical constraints, and the rising potential of video visits to bridge these gaps. Simultaneously, we highlight the challenges in implementing video visitation systems, focusing on issues such as equitable access to technology, appropriate surveillance, and privacy regulations. It underscores the need for considering both sides of the coin, i.e., the convenience and feasibility of video visits versus the potential risks to the privacy and dignity of incarcerated people and their families. The article then delves into the policy considerations necessary to ensure a smooth transition to video visitations, exploring regulatory and statutory amendments needed to safeguard incarcerated individuals' rights and ensure a more humane prison system. The analysis uncovers a pressing need for a robust framework that not only respects privacy rights and promotes familial ties but also supports an important goal of prisons – effective rehabilitation of incarcerated people. Proposing an idealised future model for prison visits, the discourse presents a hybrid approach that skilfully combines the strengths of both in-person and video connections. This innovative model reimagines the future of prison visits, suggesting a shift from punitive and impersonal methods to empathetic and relationship-focused practices that align with contemporary understandings of rehabilitation.

## The Good Police Officer: Amplifying Marginalised Perspectives

Mr Dwayne Antojado<sup>1</sup>, Dr Matthew Morgan<sup>2</sup>, Dr Michael Bryden<sup>3</sup>, Associate Professor Angela Dwyer<sup>4</sup>, Ms Jessica Budd<sup>5</sup>, Ms Leighann Spencer<sup>6</sup>

<sup>1</sup>University of Melbourne, <sup>2</sup>Australia Catholic University, <sup>3</sup>University of Technology Sydney, <sup>4</sup>University of Tasmania, <sup>5</sup>University of Queensland, <sup>6</sup>La Trobe University

The integration of Lived Experience Criminology (LEC) (Antojado, 2023) within policing paradigms offers a transformative approach to redefining police practices, theory, and policy through the empowerment and inclusion of individuals with firsthand experiences of the criminal justice system. This approach critically addresses the persistent gap in incorporating lived experiences in policing—a concept long acknowledged in broader criminological contexts but notably absent in policing discourse. By advocating for the involvement of both those policed and police officers in LEC, this chapter posits a dual pathway to enhancing policing effectiveness and legitimacy. In policing, the authoritative power granted to officers not only allows them to enforce the law but also places them in positions where their actions can significantly impact people, especially marginalised communities. Recent global events, heightened by media scrutiny, underscore the urgent need for policing that aligns with community values and justice. Engaging with people who have experienced police interactions from various perspectives—whether as formerly incarcerated people, perpetrators, victims, or witnesses—provides invaluable insights that challenge traditional power dynamics.

Our exploration delves into the potential of flattening hierarchical structures within policing by fostering a dialogic relationship where power is not merely held but shared. This involves re-evaluating the roles of those within police and those who encounter it, thus facilitating a mutual understanding and respect that transcends conventional policing strategies. The inclusion of lived experiences potentiates a more nuanced understanding of the complexities of crime, societal responses, and the human elements at play, which traditional empirical methods may overlook. Drawing on theoretical frameworks from LEC and practical examples where similar integrations have proven beneficial (e.g., Martinovic et al., 2022; Antojado, 2023; Doyle et al., 2021), this chapter argues for a reformed approach where the voices of the historically silenced are amplified. By situating police and policed as collaborators, rather than adversaries, we advocate for a policing model that not only addresses but embraces the diversity of human experiences. This reimagined approach aims to dissolve the binaries of police legitimacy and community trust, offering a pathway to a policing system that is responsive, reflective, and potentially empowering. Through this paradigm shift, we seek to answer what constitutes a 'good' police officer from the perspective of those with lived experiences of police interaction. Looking forward, the potential insights reflected upon indicate that effective policing should not solely focus on authority and control, but should equally prioritise empathy, understanding, and cooperation. By reconceptualising the role of police officers through the lens of lived experience, we lay the groundwork for a policing culture that is not only informed by the communities it serves, but also shaped by them.

First Nations people and policing

*Dr Michael Bryden, University of Technology Sydney*

Contact between the First Nations people in 'Australia' and police began with colonisation. Instead of exporting Sir Robert Peel's British consent-based model, colonisers instead imported his armed paramilitary model from Ireland. This model is exemplified by the Queensland Native Mounted Police who played a pivotal and violent role in expanding colonial territories and suppressing Indigenous resistance. Today, Indigenous people are overwhelmingly more likely to encounter police and be entangled with the criminal justice system. Extant research has largely overlooked the perspectives of First Nations people on the police and failed to adequately engage those with lived experience.

This chapter will discuss three key dimensions. First, it will explore the concept of police legitimacy in the context of settler colonialism. Second, it will provide a series of international policing examples from First Nation communities, including Aboriginal Night Patrols in Australia. Third, it will speculate about the empirical and practical implications of these dimensions, as well as their relationship to the notion of a 'good' police officer. It will make the case that First Nation voices, including those with lived experience, are necessary for achieving legitimate and effective policing. Rather than being prescriptive, this chapter makes the case for a culturally attuned, community-informed, and evidence-based approach to 'policing' (Bryden, under review). This argument seeks to reflect the likely

heterogeneous perspective among Indigenous communities and the ever-evolving conception of what good 'policing' should look like. In this sense, it draws on Bottoms and Tankebe's (2012) notion that legitimacy is an ongoing dialogue between police and the public. Arguably, then, the definition of 'good' policing will continue to evolve across generations but be grounded in self-determination.

Forensic Mental Health and Policing

*Jessica Budd, University of Queensland*

This chapter explores the complexities of police involvement with vulnerable people experiencing mental illness. Australian police services can spend anywhere between 10-30% of their time involved in the management of persons with serious mental illness for a variety of reasons, such as searching for absconded psychiatric service users, connecting people to mental health services, and/or responding to mental health crises. The latter often presents significant challenges for police, especially given vulnerable people in crisis can pose a risk to themselves and/or others around them. As such, police are significantly more likely to use coercive force with those experiencing mental health crises which is reflected in the significant overrepresentation of police custody-related deaths involving people with mental illness. Whilst there is a wealth of research encompassing police and other stakeholder perspectives of this phenomenon, the voices of those with lived experience regarding their interactions with police have largely been silenced in the literature.

This chapter explores the scant body of literature regarding the perceptions of those people who have encountered police because they are experiencing a mental health crisis. It will show that people in such vulnerable situations often experience feelings of being criminalised and stigmatised during interactions with police. This problem is fuelled by police misconceptions about mental illness that mirror public misunderstandings, alongside inadequate police policies, training, and interagency collaboration with the health sector. From the voices of those directly affected by this issue, this chapter provides recommendations for what makes 'a good police officer' in relation to procedurally just policing that encompasses a more empathetic and therapeutic response to those in need. Yet the chapter does not firmly lay blame on police and concludes with discourse on why police cannot be considered a viable replacement for an inadequate mental health system.

Women and Policing.

*Jessica Budd, University of Queensland; and Dr Matthew Morgan, Australian Catholic University*

This chapter discusses the intricacies of interactions between police and women, involving broader societal issues and gender dynamics. The gradual narrowing of the gender gap coupled with a net widening of policy shifts has seen more females encountering police than ever before. Whilst female offending has steadily increased in recent decades, for Australian women, statistics demonstrate (one in six women vs one in sixteen men) that they are significantly more likely than males to be victimised in the home. For First-nations women, they are 32 times more likely to have DFV result in hospitalisation. Yet such statistics must be understood in a context of chronic under-reporting, whereby most DV victims do not report their victimisation to police. Although there are several reasons for this non-disclosure (such as fear of retribution from the offender), fear of police inaction is a significant problem that hinders female DFV victims contacting police. Such issues are reflected in the recent *Independent Commission of Inquiry into Queensland Police Service (2022)*, which uncovered widespread police attitudes of misogyny and sexism that are allowed to be expressed, and at times acted upon, and left largely unchecked. Certainly, police organisations have traditionally recruited officers who are white, male, working-class, and often military experienced, and who possess desirable physical/mental characteristics inextricably linked to notions of masculinity and machoism. Whilst attempts to diversify police personnel have brought more female officers into police organisations, policing remains a hypermasculine profession and one that continues to grapple with highly politicised gendered debates such as DFV. This chapter highlights the perceptions of police from the perspective of women, showing a need for policy reform, greater community engagement, adequate training to improve responses and reduce bias, as well as improved accountability measures within policing organisations themselves. However, it is acknowledged that issues of gender are not exclusive to police, and that these issues are often complex and multi-faceted.

Transgender and Gender Diverse and Policing

*A/Prof. Angela Dwyer, University of Tasmania*

A growing body of research in this area has begun to elaborate the very challenging and violent experiences that transgender people have with police worldwide and the immense inequities they face in these interactions,

regardless of whether they are victims, offenders, or witnesses. How police treat transgender and gender diverse people has been found to substantially deepen inequities that transgender and gender diverse people experience. This is because police are the gatekeepers to the broader criminal processing systems, and they have the discretion to decide which transgender and gender diverse people enter the systems and how they do so. There is significant evidence now to suggest that most of the time, police will initiate an interaction with a transgender or gender diverse person based on a range of problematic stereotypes. Further to this, given the preponderance of racial profiling across other forms of policing, like stop and search, it is unsurprising that police decision making around this especially impacts transgender and gender diverse people of colour.

This chapter charts these types of key issues influencing how policing is experienced by transgender and gender diverse people. The chapter therefore overviews the key concerns impacting police interactions with transgender people, including issues such as being profiled as sex workers as an entry point to police experiences, violence experienced from police, and inappropriate searches, custody issues, and misgendering by police officers when they are being processed. These issues are unpacked using examples from transgender and gender diverse people who have been involved in research about their interactions with police in public and private spaces. It also considers different famous case studies to examine these issues. Although there is a lot of work to be done to improve transgender and gender diverse peoples' experiences with police, some police organisations have begun to do this work and the chapter will reflect on how police have sought to provide support to date. The chapter concludes with a consideration of the key issues related to police-transgender interactions requiring research into the future.

A 'Good' Police Officer in the Global South (Leighann)

*Leighann Spencer, La Trobe University*

This chapter draws from a sub-Saharan African viewpoint to demonstrate how the protection and promotion of human rights is the foundation of a safe and secure community. As per Article 1 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights: "All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood [gender neutral: community]." This aligns with African value systems shown through Ubuntu: that a person is a person through other people, and that community and humanity are of utmost importance. A 'good police officer' has a duty to protect their communities from violations of rights, and to ensure they are not violating rights themselves. Promoting such an atmosphere can in turn engender the holding of polices' rights. Indeed, when police disregard human rights it ferments distrust, tensions, and furthermore, increased crime and disorder.

This chapter examines the role of police regarding absolute and non-absolute rights. Absolute rights cannot be limited in any situation, such as the right to be free from torture. Non-absolute rights can, however, be limited as a balance in protection of others. For example, the right to the freedom of expression can be limited when it effects others' right to freedom from discrimination. It is the role of a 'good police officer' to ensure absolute rights are never violated, and non-absolute rights are balanced fairly. The latter can be achieved via the P.L.A.N. framework which entails consideration of proportionality, legality, accountability, and necessity (African Commission for Human and Peoples' Rights 2017; Commonwealth Secretariat 2006). Limitations of human rights must meet all four points to be justifiable. A common issue in the Global South (and the Global North) is that police officers may be legislated by the state to violate human rights. We have witnessed legislation that works against the rights of vulnerable populations, or against the right to assembly or expression to uphold the interests of the ruling regime. A 'good police officer' should not enforce such laws. Instead, they should promote equality before the law and act in the 'spirit of community'. This aligns with arguments put forth in this book regarding the treatment of vulnerable populations. It also signals the importance of decriminalisation and broader policy in the pursuit of safe and secure communities. Finally, to uphold human rights, decentralisation and divestment must be pursued in tandem with improved policing. The duty of upholding human rights cannot be solely placed on the shoulders of police. It is something that all members of the community should have the power and resources to achieve.

Is There Such Thing as a Good Police Officer? And What About Policy?

*Dr Matthew Morgan, Australian Catholic University*

Having heard from those with lived experiences of police interaction, this chapter explores the lived experience of police officers in their day-to-day role as custodians of preserving peace and order in the community. It will explore the humanising perspective of policing by demonstrating how the increasing professionalised role of police has presented significant challenges for officers in their ability to satisfy public expectations of policing. Certainly, the role of police has evolved significantly amid decades of neoconservative politics that posits all social problems as police problems. These challenges are reflected in government and policing policies mandating police to offer round-the-clock service for responding to calls involving marginalised groups as victims or perpetrators of crime, in addition to performing various expected welfare services. Whilst addressing the complex and ever elongating role of the police, this chapter explores concepts that nurture good policing in the eyes of those with lived experience, such as procedural justice, community-oriented policing, diversification of the police organisation, and empathetic training and policy. It also provides challenges to those 'tried and tested' strategies such as 'toxic' police culture, empathy fatigue and burnout, and high attrition rates in the service. Whilst there certainly is such a thing as a 'good police officer', their efforts are often neglected in public and media discourses and are overshadowed by commodifiable journalistic content conveying instances of police corruption, misconduct, or incompetence. This narrative fosters a culture of public distrust for police, particularly amongst marginalised groups who typically have less trust and confidence in law enforcement. These groups often view the police uniform as a symbol of institutional power and coercion, further amplifying feelings of mistrust towards the organisation. From its Peelian origins of 'the police are the public and the public are the police', this chapter concludes by arguing that police organisations need to return to this principle to diminish the 'Us versus Them' narrative that often dictates how the public and police interact with one another

## The 'Lived Experience Lens' in the Criminological Research Agenda

Mr Dwayne Antojado<sup>1</sup>, Dr Maggie Hall<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>University of Melbourne, <sup>2</sup>Western Sydney University

This paper posits that the lived experience of the criminal justice system introduces a unique epistemological perspective that significantly enriches criminological research. It explores how this perspective, termed the 'lived experience lens,' can transform qualitative criminological methodologies by generating new insights and fostering empathetic and inclusive approaches. The paper reviews the transformative potential of lived experience, highlighting its ability to elucidate complex social phenomena and challenge dominant narratives within the CJS. By integrating personal narratives and systemic critiques, the paper proposes a framework that centres lived experience in criminological research, advocating for its recognition as a legitimate and valuable source of knowledge. This framework aims to produce tangible social change by positioning individuals with lived experience as pivotal actors in research, thus broadening the scope and depth of criminological inquiry. The discussion also addresses the ethical and practical considerations necessary for incorporating lived experience into research, ensuring the protection and empowerment of participants. Finally, the paper calls for a continued dialogue on the theoretical underpinnings and practical applications of lived experience in criminology, urging for a more democratic and inclusive research paradigm.

## **Beyond crisis responses – sustainable housing solutions for women experiencing domestic and family violence**

Ms Grace Barham<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>University Of Newcastle

### Abstract:

Domestic and family violence (DFV) is a leading cause of homelessness among women in Australia. While housing has become a core government policy priority in efforts against DFV, these developments have transpired amidst chronic social housing shortages and an increasingly costly housing market. In the absence of secure and affordable housing, women escaping DFV are remaining in refuge and transitional accommodation for longer than the crisis housing system can sustain, or are forced to return to abusive relationships. While research has examined policy and service responses in this area, less attention has been paid to how these function in regional housing markets, and how socio-geographic factors may shape the housing experiences of diverse groups of women escaping DFV. This PhD project aims to address this gap by examining the experiences of both (1) women who have sought housing assistance after escaping DFV, and (2) housing and homelessness service providers in the Hunter region of New South Wales. The Hunter is unique in that its major urban cities (namely Newcastle) are often grouped with Australia's capital cities on major policy issues, while more regional areas are overlooked and often under resourced, despite higher than state average rates of DFV and high housing need. Utilising an intersectional lens, mixed methods approach and a purposive sampling technique, the project aims to address the following research questions:

How do women who have left DFV and housing service providers in the Hunter experience current housing policy and practice?

How are these experiences shaped by socio-geographic context?

To what extent are the perspectives and lived experiences of service users in the Hunter considered in housing policy and practice and what is the impact of this?

Which aspects of housing policy and practice do women who have left DFV and housing service providers in the Hunter value, and which areas need improvement?

It is anticipated that the findings of the research will provide insight into the housing needs of women escaping DFV who live in the Hunter, and regional areas more generally. These local insights could be useful in advancing policy recommendations that aim to improve women's access to safe, secure and affordable housing after escaping DFV.



## Benefits and challenges of government/ academic research partnerships: Reflections from the Justice Housing Program evaluation

Dr Helen Taylor<sup>1</sup>, Professor Lorana Bartels<sup>1</sup>, Dr Jess Rodgers<sup>2</sup>, Dr Simone Georg<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>POLIS: The Centre for Social Policy Research, Australian National University, <sup>2</sup>ACT Corrective Services, Justice and Community Safety Directorate, ACT Government

### Background/Purpose

This symposium will explore the benefits and challenges that can arise when government agencies partner with academics to undertake evaluations of their programs. We present a case study from the Australian Capital Territory (ACT), where the ACT Government and the Australian National University (ANU) are undertaking the Reducing Recidivism Research Collaboration. As part of this, ACT Corrective Services (ACTCS) contracted ANU to evaluate the Justice Housing Program (JHP). We use this example to highlight the different objectives and needs of government and academia in research partnerships of this nature.

### Methods

The JHP process evaluation involved interviews with 19 clients and 16 professional stakeholders involved in the program, as well as a brief survey with 17 clients, examining their housing history and level of social connection. The evaluation also including analysis of administrative data relevant policy documents and external observation of the JHP premises. The presentations from ACTCS will focus on policy and operational practice and explore the challenges and critical considerations with prison research from the organisational perspective.

### Findings

This symposium will discuss the key findings of the JHP evaluation and the benefits that flowed from the evaluation. It will also explore the challenges that can arise when doing research of this nature, especially as part of a longer-term partnership between academia and government. We reflect on the broader lessons for ensuring that research of this nature is of value to both academics and the partner agencies that fund them, as well as the clients for whose benefit such programs operate.

### Conclusions/Implications

In this symposium, we reflect on ways to maximise the advantages to be derived from research collaborations of this nature. This will enable the government agencies that function as gatekeepers to harness the skills and knowledge of researchers, without compromising academic independence.

#### 1. Corrections research: an inside view

*Jess Rodgers, Simone Georg*

Academics discuss the challenges of conducting research in corrections agencies. This includes the bureaucracy of seeking approval, research limited to foreseeable outcomes, and approval to publish. Meanwhile, the lived experience perspective often obtained by researchers is critical to finding 'what works, and governments value the role academics play in knowledge translation. This presentation uses ACTCS' external research access policy to provide insight into the underlying rationales and responsibilities. Ensuring research participation is accessible for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and other marginalised detainees is the responsibility of both ACTCS and researchers. Aiding detainee participation forms a key part of ACTCS' external researcher process, while this is accompanied by a host of ethical considerations. This presentation provides a corrections agency perspective of the processes, challenges, and key considerations when working with academics.

#### 2. Findings from the Justice Housing Program evaluation

*Helen Taylor, Lorana Bartels*

The relationship between homelessness or unstable housing and reincarceration is well documented. The Justice Housing Program (JHP), developed by the ACTCS, provides transitional accommodation to people leaving the



ACT's only adult prison. This paper presents key findings from a process evaluation of the JHP. Overall, participants were positive about the program, especially the quality and location of the houses and the support provided immediately after release from custody. They were mostly also positive about the support provided throughout the program, although some expressed a desire for more such support and for it to be provided for longer. The findings suggest that JHP appears to be filling a significant gap and is supported by both JHP clients and professional stakeholders. The preliminary lessons point the way for programs that do not merely provide a roof over someone's head — important though this may be — but also create a sense of coming home.

### 3. Research, policy, practice, participants: Closing the loop

*Jess Rodgers, Simone Georg, Lorana Bartels, Helen Taylor*

At the end of the research process lies a gap between translation to policy and practice. Academics sometimes raise concerns about policy-makers failing to utilise the evidence base. Yet, academics may seek research access to organisations, then produce outputs that are inaccessible for policy-makers and frontline staff. Accessible feedback of findings to participants also remains a gap. Closing the loop is critical to enhance organisational outcomes from research participation, and voices of Indigenous clients are particularly important for improving policy and practice. In any work involving marginalised groups, a range of considerations are necessary to ensure communication is accessible. This presentation outlines some of the steps ACTCS is taking to enhance the organisational value of research participation and support the reporting of findings to participants. The researchers who conducted the JHP evaluation will also reflect on how to enhance research outcomes, including feeding outcomes back to the government and research participants.

## Decolonisation, Biopolitics and Neoliberalism: An Australian Study into the Problems of Legal Decision-Making

Dr James Beaufile<sup>1</sup>, Dr Ian Warren<sup>2</sup>, Dr Tatiana Corrales<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>UTS Jumbunna, <sup>2</sup>Deakin University, <sup>3</sup>Monash University

### Abstract

This presentation examines the importance of decolonisation to counter the ongoing harms of state-sanctioned child removal policies that disproportionately affect First Nations families and communities in Victoria, Australia. Ongoing legacies of structural disadvantage, including drug abuse, mental ill-health, limited and conditional income support, and housing insecurity, are governed through a selective biopolitical vision that has informed child protection policies since colonisation. Family separation is assumed to protect both vulnerable children and the general community. We argue this logic reinforces structural inequalities that place unreasonable burdens on mothers to engage in 'desirable' and responsible parenting. We present current statistics on the over-representation of First Nations children in the Victorian child protection system, then describe how Western notions of biopolitics view family separation as a key approach to protecting children. This model now invokes neoliberal modes of governing through risk management, rather than supporting vulnerable families. We then briefly describe Victoria's child protection system, and critically examine key factual and procedural issues emerging from the application of the 'best interests' principle in four legal case studies involving First Nations families. We conclude by proposing decolonisation as a counterpoint to the current governmental rationality that endorses the protection of children through state-sanctioned family separation.

## Djambu Youth Justice (DYJ) First Nations project-based model

Dr James Beaufile<sup>1</sup>, Mr Wesley Shaw<sup>2</sup>, Mr Eric Brown<sup>3</sup>, Miss Lucy Simpson<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Jumbunna Institute for Indigenous Education and Research UTS, <sup>2</sup>Art Gallery NSW, <sup>3</sup>Natcha Tong Nong Ga,

<sup>4</sup>Gaawaa Miyay

Biography:

Dr James Beaufile is a Senior Research Fellow at the Jumbunna Institute of Indigenous Education and Research and the Faculty of Law University of Technology Sydney. He is a Gundungurra man from the Pejar area and Kanak from New Caledonia. James has researched in the fields of child protection, justice, criminology and education in Australia and the UK

Abstract

*Djambu Youth Justice (DYJ) offers a unique project-based model that supports Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people in the New South Wales Youth Justice System, in collaboration with the Art Gallery of New South Wales (AGNSW). The program promotes an appreciation for the diversity of Aboriginal art practice in the southeast region, provides opportunities to connect with culture within confined environments, and increases self-esteem and self-discipline, heightening the chances of successful rehabilitation.<sup>1</sup>*

The Gallery has identified that Indigenous young people in the New South Wales Youth Justice System (NSW YJS) detention are need of support. Detention rates for Indigenous children in Australia are currently 28 times greater than non-Indigenous children, and New South Wales has the greatest number of children in custody of any state. Indigenous children are particularly at risk of incarceration, being 3 times more likely than non-Indigenous children to be sent to court rather than be cautioned. Research suggests that participation in youth justice art programs results in increased self-esteem and self-discipline, heightening the chances of successful rehabilitation. Djambu Youth Justice aims to reconnect young people with art and culture to strengthen their sense of identity and belonging, along with giving them a positive outlet from within the confines of the New South Wales Youth Justice System.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.artgallery.nsw.gov.au/learn/our-projects/djambu/djambu-youth-justice/#history-and-development>

## Djamu Youth Justice (DYJ) Impact Report

Dr James Beaufile<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Jumbunna Institute for Indigenous Education and Research UTS

### Abstract

Djamu Youth Justice (DYJ) offers a unique project-based model that supports Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people in the New South Wales Youth Justice System, in collaboration with the Art Gallery of New South Wales (AGNSW). The program promotes an appreciation for the diversity of Aboriginal art practice in the southeast region, provides opportunities to connect with culture within confined environments, and increases self-esteem and self-discipline, heightening the chances of successful rehabilitation. The impact report has engaged Jumbunna at UTS, involving a qualitative piece of research, scoping of participant experiences, specifically focusing on the promotion, understanding and appreciation of the richness and diversity of Aboriginal art and culture through the participants engagement with DYJ. The report engaged Indigenous program participants from four Youth Justice NSW (YJNSW) Centres and the facilitators in semi-structured interviews. The report explored and compared participant experiences during their involvement with their program, seeking to gain information around the needs, impact and characteristics of the program. The project highlighted aspects of the participants motivation and required improvement in strengthen identity, belonging and providing a positive outlet.

## Investigating identity crime and misuse in Australia: The role of prevention technologies in victimisation

Dr Victoria Berezowski<sup>1</sup>, Dr Kamel Taoum<sup>2</sup>, Dr Joanna Wang<sup>2</sup>, Dr Philip Birch<sup>2</sup>, Dr Claude Roux<sup>2</sup>, Dr Angela Huo<sup>2</sup>  
<sup>1</sup>Deakin University, <sup>2</sup>University of Technology Sydney

### Background/Purpose:

Identity theft is a significant and growing issue in Australia, exacerbated by the internet and ease of sharing personal information. Beyond its financial impact, identity theft also causes emotional, psychological, and physical harm, making it a public health concern. To assess its prevalence, the Australian Institute of Criminology (AIC) conducts an annual survey, with the 2019 survey involving 9,968 respondents from a sample of 10,000. This study aims to statistically analyse the 2019 survey results to identify factors that are associated with an increase in the likelihood of identity theft victimisation.

### Methods:

The primary focus was on whether respondents had ever been victimized by identity theft and which characteristics, including demographics (gender, age, Indigenous status, education), income, computer usage, and preventive technology use, were significant indicators of future victimisation. Univariate analyses, including Chi-squared test and two-sample t-tests, and multivariate analyses, including a logistic regression, were run to highlight any statistically significant relationships between the chosen variables and (re)victimization.

### Findings:

The univariate analyses showed that each sub-variable was individually associated with victimisation. However, multivariate analysis found that only identifying as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, having an income between \$18,201-\$37,000, and using multiple preventive technologies were significant predictors of victimisation.

### Conclusions/Implications:

The finding that more preventive technology use correlates with higher victimisation risk is surprising and counterintuitive, contradicting the survey's indication that victims adopt more careful behaviour post-victimisation. While there could be plausible explanations for the finding, this discrepancy suggests a need for further investigation and replication of the results with more recent data. Nonetheless, this research offers the government potential directions to improve identity theft prevention strategies.

## Cyber Vulnerabilities and Technical Regulation of China-made CCTV IoT Surveillance Cameras in Australia

Dr Ausma Bernot<sup>1</sup>, Dr M. Arif Khan<sup>2</sup>, Dr Khurram Shahzad<sup>2</sup>, Dr Mert Karakaya<sup>3</sup>, Mr Conor Healy<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Griffith University, <sup>2</sup>Charles Sturt University, <sup>3</sup>IPVM

### Abstract:

Internet of Things (IoT) devices used on a wide scale are currently under-regulated in Australia. The deployment of IoTs on private property can pose data security problems if an individual becomes a target. When IoTs are installed in strategic sites, such as Commonwealth or State Government buildings, the likelihood of that location being a surveillance target increases. This research article addresses the recent national security concerns regarding China-made IoT CCTVs in Australia that had few technical evaluations of the cameras before their removal. This two-stage interdisciplinary research article proceeds in the following steps: first, by using the Common Vulnerability Scoring System (CVSS) framework, we assess the vulnerabilities of three IoT CCTV providers—Hikvision, Dahua and Avigilon—that have been installed on Commonwealth government buildings and, second, we evaluate those findings against Australia's existing IoT CCTV regulation frameworks. We detect vulnerabilities in all three systems, although there are no High or Critical vulnerabilities in Avigilon devices when compared to Hikvision and Dahua. We also find that the current Australian regulations simultaneously overlap and do not sufficiently cover the existing cyber-vulnerabilities. The overlapping security frameworks, guidelines and regulations address organizational cyber-hygiene and environmental security. Technical cybersecurity frameworks, however, are currently available only for select Commonwealth Government agencies on demand and are classified, excluding guidance for industry actors and State Governments. We conclude that unified and mandatory cybersecurity guidelines would benefit the clarity of IoT CCTV systems as well as support the consumer benefit.

## Focal Concerns in Coronial Inquests: Police Use of Force on Individuals with Mental Illness

Miss Jordie Bowyer<sup>1</sup>, Dr Shannon Dodd<sup>1</sup>, Dr Matthew Morgan<sup>1</sup>, Dr Bridget Weir<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Australian Catholic University, <sup>2</sup>Queensland University of Technology

### Background/Purpose:

Although rare, fatal police use of force disproportionately affects individuals experiencing mental health crises. In Australia, deaths during police operations or in custody are reported to the coroner, who assesses the justification of police actions. Coronial inquests are crucial for police accountability, providing impartial investigations into deaths and offering findings or recommendations regarding public health, safety, justice, and prevention. Previous analyses of coronial inquests seldom apply criminological or legal theories, missing opportunities to explore critical issues related to human rights and police powers. This research sought to utilise the 'focal concerns' perspective to analyse coronial reports on police use of fatal force against individuals with mental illness.

### Methods

A deductive, hypothesis-driven approach was adopted to analyse coronial inquest findings from an Australian jurisdiction. This method identified themes of *blameworthiness*, *community protection*, and *practical constraints*, thus determining how focal concerns informed coronial determinations in cases of police fatal use of force against people experiencing mental health crises.

### Findings:

The findings predominantly demonstrate how coronial findings emphasise the lack of police *blameworthiness*, asserting officers' actions as lawful and reasonable given the incidents' rapid and unpredictable nature. They highlighted that individuals in crisis, especially when armed, left officers no reasonable alternative but to use fatal force. Another key finding was *community protection*, which justified police actions as necessary to safeguard themselves, the public, and individuals in crisis, despite lethal outcomes. These findings highlight a tension between the police's protective role and their duty to safeguard vulnerable individuals, ultimately prioritising the safety of the responding officers and the broader community. *Practical constraints* identified include limited non-lethal options and insufficient support from mental health professionals or police negotiators during crises.

### Conclusions/Implications:

These findings underscore the need for improved training, resources, and mental health support to better align police practices with community safety and accountability.

## Protective factors that support non-violence among young people: a gendered analysis

Dr Hayley Boxall<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Australian National University

Life course criminology has largely developed in isolation from research on domestic and family violence, meaning that our understanding of the factors and life events that contribute to variation in perpetration risk and patterns over the life course is very limited. This said, the research which has been conducted has focused primarily on the factors that contribute to the *onset* of DFV offending behaviours within the general population, consistently findings that relative to the general population, people who have experienced adverse childhood experiences are more likely to engage in these behaviours. In comparison, very little research has focused on factors that have a 'buffering' effect; mitigate the risk effects of these life experiences.

The current study aimed to identify buffering protective factors in the lives of young people who were assessed as 'high-risk' for using violence in the home because of their experiences of child abuse. We were also interested in whether these factors were gendered, with certain protective factors being more or less important for young people who identify as male or female. Based on the analysis of a sample of over 1,000 young people (16-20 years) who participated in an anonymous online survey, we found that several factors buffered the impact of these early childhood experiences, including having a non-violent sibling, reporting their abuse to a formal service, and not living with their abusive parent. However, most of these factors were only relevant for females; very few factors were associated with non-violent for males. This analysis highlights the benefits of undertaking strength-based research with high-risk populations to develop the evidence-base to support the development of early interventions and programs.



## Safety Hubs and the promise of community self-policing

Dr Trevor Bradley<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Victoria University Of Wellington

### Background/Purpose:

This paper reports on an innovative community policing initiative in Aotearoa. A 'pop-up' Safety Hub, involving community patrols, Watene Māori, Pasifika Wardens, and others was trialled during the 2023 Women's World cup at Auckland's Queens Wharf. It aimed to improve public perceptions of safety by establishing a centrally located base from which volunteers would perform high visibility patrolling. Volunteers were also available to members of the public that felt unsafe or required assistance, connecting those in need with emergency and/or support services. More broadly, in bringing together an ethnically diverse range of volunteer groups, Safety Hubs also created opportunities for greater community involvement in local policing strategies. The 'highly successful' pop-up led to additional Safety Hubs in Auckland while attracting the attention of local authorities. In late 2023 Rotorua Lakes Council created a central city 'community hub' that similarly aimed to improve perceptions of safety and decrease anti-social behaviour by co-locating Safe City Guardians, Māori wardens and community support officers.

As currently configured, Hub volunteers provide a supplemental presence to the beat patrols recently reintroduced by NZP. In supplying a tangible, visible presence, they are a welcome addition to the broader efforts to improve public perceptions by reducing anti-social behaviour in the inner-city. However, with NZP proposing a managed withdrawal from a range of 'social harm' related incidents, the Safety Hub concept has potential to generate more meaningful opportunities for communities, particularly among Māori and Pasifika, to establish a greater degree of local control over policing priorities, targets and tactics. Given genuine autonomy, they may provide one solution to the 'over-policing' currently experienced by marginalised users of inner-city public space.

### Methods:

This paper draws on official documentation on the background to and establishment of the Safety Hubs and is informed by a series of interviews with key stakeholders.

## **The Impact of Sports Programs on Women Experiencing Gender-Based Violence: A Meta-Analysis**

Dr Gaelle Brotto<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Bond University

### Background/Purpose

Gender-based violence against women is a pervasive issue with significant negative impacts. Although various prevention interventions have been developed and tested, limited research has explored the potential benefits of sports programs for women facing gender-based violence. This study aims to provide a comprehensive overview of the existing evidence on the effectiveness of sports programs in reducing the negative impact of gender-based violence.

### Methods

A meta-analysis was conducted, including 10 studies selected according to PRISMA guidelines. A thorough assessment of the quality of the included studies was performed, considering heterogeneity, excess statistical significance, prediction intervals, and small effect sizes.

### Findings

The findings suggest that sports programs are effective in enhancing self-esteem and reducing symptoms of depression and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) among women who have experienced gender-based violence, especially if the program used a trauma-informed lens. Additionally, mindfulness programs (yoga and Qigong) and were identified as the most frequently studied intervention in this context.

### Conclusions/Implications

The study highlights the potential positive effects of sports programs for women victims of gender-based violence, especially if the program is trauma-informed. However, it also underscores the need for further empirical research to confirm these findings and to develop more effective, evidence-based interventions to support this vulnerable population.

## **A humanising dialogue: The voices of the police and the policed in 'Lived Experience Criminology'**

Dr Michael Bryden<sup>2</sup>, Mr Dwayne Antojado<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>University of Melbourne, <sup>2</sup>University of Technology Sydney

### Abstract

The relationship between the police and the policed remains an ongoing practical and moral conundrum. Too often the policed, and the police, are dehumanised and excluded from having a role in addressing the harm that pervades the criminal justice system. For the policed, this might include understanding the impact of aggressive and racially targeted policing. For the police, this might include the failure to recognise the humanity of individual officers and the harms associated with policing. We argue for the inclusion of both police and those policed in the discourse of Lived Experience Criminology (LEC), suggesting that this inclusion can deepen understanding and inform policy, particularly in addressing the moral and practical challenges inherent in the relationship between police and communities. We recognise the complexity and tensions involved in including power-holders in a space which has traditionally been reserved for those marginalised by policing and incarceration. The paper emphasises the importance of a collaborative and reflective approach in discussing the role and future of policing. We present a dialogue between two authors with contrasting perspectives on policing—one a policing scholar without lived experience and the other a criminologist with lived experience of incarceration. The authors explore their differing views on policing, shaped by personal and familial experiences, and the broader implications of police legitimacy crises, such as those triggered by events like George Floyd's murder.

## Leadership from Below? Networked Governance in Preventing Reintroduction of the Death Penalty in the Philippines

Dr Leavides Cabarrubias<sup>1</sup>, Assoc. Prof. Mai Sato<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Eleos Justice, Faculty of Law, Monash University

### Abstract

The Philippines remains an interesting field of study for death penalty scholars because of its many vacillations in its death penalty policy and practice. Although it was the first Asian country to abolish the death penalty in 1987, the Philippines reinstated the death penalty in 1993, and again abolished it in 2006 following strong abolitionist campaigns. In 2016, Rodrigo Duterte renewed the call for reintroduction of the death penalty, making the Philippines yet again an arena for heated debates, street protests, and legislative battles between pro-death penalty advocates and anti-death penalty actors. The study investigates the various forces that contributed to the successful campaigns to oppose the reinstatement of the death penalty in the Philippines during 2016-2022. Using the framework of 'networked governance', it examines how various organisations coalesced into broad coalitions and networks to oppose reinstatement. It draws on interviews with those involved in anti-death penalty advocacy on the ground in the Philippines, carried out in 2019, when Duterte was in power, and in 2023, post-Duterte administration. The study finds that the banding together of small organisations that would otherwise have little influence over policymaking can be crucial in steering the trajectory of the death penalty in the Philippines. By focusing on the pivotal role of small organisations working together in influencing death penalty policy and practice, the study highlights their leadership 'from below', challenging the 'leadership from the front' discourse in death penalty scholarship. The authors draw lessons from the experience of the anti-death penalty movement in the Philippines that may inform future anti-death penalty advocacy in the country as well as in other jurisdictions.

## **The Application of Ethical Scenarios in Values Education: From Ethical Reasoning to Crime Prevention among the Young Students**

Dr Wayne Chan<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Hong Kong Metropolitan University

This on-going study aims to explore the applications of ethical scenarios in values education. It attempts to divide the young students into two different study groups: one featured with the conventional pedagogy of values education while another with the applications of ethical scenarios for learning the cores values, such as empathy, diligence, respect for others, responsibility, commitment, and integrity, at schools, as promoted by Hong Kong's Education Bureau. Researcher would then look into whether these two different groups of students significantly acquired different views about the core values before and after the teaching and learning activities, and more importantly, how an ethical scenario play its unique role in cultivating those values.

In order to examine the dynamic relationships between various ethical scenarios and their impacts on the formation of core and positive values, this study was designed to adopt qualitative research method of in-depth individual interviewing with the students. The research targets were Hong Kong's students aged between 15 and 18, and interviewees comprised a total of 30 students from 5 different schools. It was generally found that the use of ethical scenarios could effectively operationalize the conceptual ideas of core values as some practical issues and certain problem-solving skills among the students. In addition, ethical scenarios had played a significant role in leading the young students to make the necessary decisions that were reflecting their formative values. In this connection, given proper guidance for the decision making, it would therefore become much more effective to instill certain values into the young students.

The ways by which the effective ethical scenarios were constructed will be discussed. In particular, the decision-making chain and its corresponding guidance for better dealing with ethical scenarios is to be further examined. Lastly, the application of AI technology, especially its large language model (LLM), to generate the ethical scenarios and conditioned responses for promoting values education will be also explored. Overall, this study is expected to make contribution to the cultivation of proper values among the young, thus playing a role in crime prevention.

## Challenges for the use of AI by law enforcement agencies and opportunities for NZ Police

Dr Andrew Chen<sup>1,2</sup>, Dr Cathrin Jordan<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>New Zealand Police, <sup>2</sup>Koi Tū: The Centre for Informed Futures, The University of Auckland

### Background/Purpose

New Zealand Police (NZP) recently completed two literature reviews on the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) by law enforcement agencies (LEAs). The reports look at both the use of AI tools to improve crime prevention, detection, and community safety (frontline), and to improve the efficiency and service delivery of law enforcement agencies (corporate and enabling functions). The reports not only identify a wide range of tools, but also discuss specific risks of using each tool. This paper seeks to draw from the reports to identify common challenges for the use of AI by law enforcement agencies, and how these could be proactively addressed in a NZP context.

### Summary of Main Points

While there are many frameworks for evaluating the use of AI, policing has a unique context that changes the way that proportionality should be considered. Challenges for the use of AI are identified against the ANZPAA AI Principles, the NZ Algorithm Charter, and the NZP Technology Assurance Framework. These include performance (accuracy, bias, reliability), transparency and explainability, privacy and safety, integration and scalability, and trust (internally and with the public). Importantly, partnership with Māori is also identified as an important factor in an Aotearoa NZ context. Opportunities for NZP to proactively address these challenges include post-implementation monitoring and evaluation of AI tools, developing publicly stated policy positions (such as keeping humans-in-the-loop), and improving communication around NZP's adherence to new technology principles by increasing transparency.

### Conclusions/Implications

With AI as a hot topic, there is both pressure for NZP to adopt these tools to help fight crime and keep communities safe, and concerns about potential harms that could accrue from poor use of these tools. This paper seeks to provide some steps forward for NZP to strengthen social licence and enable safe and responsible innovation.

## From Streets to Screens: The Co-Evolution of Protests and Policing in Hong Kong

Ms Lok Lee Cho<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>The University Of Hong Kong

### Background/Purpose

Hong Kong has witnessed significant social movements, such as the Umbrella Movement in 2014 and the Anti-Extradition Law Amendment Bill (Anti-ELAB) movement in 2019, driven by improper government governance and democratic reforms. These protests have led the Hong Kong Police Force (HKPF) to adapt its strategies. The enactment of the National Security Law and Article 23 have diminished street protests, pushing activists to digital platforms for mobilisation and expression. This research explores the co-evolution of protest tactics and policing strategies, focusing on the shift from street-level activism to digital mobilisation and its implications for civil liberties and state control.

### Methods

Using a qualitative, case study approach, the study analyses the evolution of protest tactics, policing strategies, and the impact of digital media. This analysis is supported by 51 in-depth interviews with police officers, protesters, and digital media platform operators. The goal is to provide a comprehensive understanding of these movements and contribute to the broader discourse on social activism and state responses, offering insights for future research and policy.

### Findings

The research reveals that Hong Kong protesters have increasingly used digital tools for coordination, making their tactics more decentralised and unpredictable. In response, the HKPF has adopted advanced technologies and robust crowd control measures. Digital platforms have become a new battleground, where the pursuit of liberal democracy and law enforcement strategies clash, creating significant debate.

### Conclusions/Implications

The National Security Law and Article 23 have shifted Hong Kong's protests to digital platforms, transforming social movements. The HKPF's enhanced digital surveillance and cyber policing raise significant privacy and civil liberties concerns, highlighting the urgent need for updated legal and policy frameworks. These findings emphasise balancing civil rights with public order in the digital age and call for continued research into the impacts of digital activism and state responses.

## Perceptions of the effectiveness of offences to address intimate image abuse in Hong Kong

Prof Thomas Crofts<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>City University

Many jurisdictions have enacted offences to address intimate image abuse. In doing so they often look to one another for examples of how to most effectively design offences to capture the full range of harms that may be caused by such behaviours without risking overcriminalization. In October 2012 Hong Kong enacted four new offences to address intimate image abuse. This paper will briefly highlight the similarity and differences between the HK offences and those in other jurisdictions before reporting on a study of stakeholder views (lawyers, magistrates, NGOs) about the effectiveness of these new offences. This will involve exploring views on the types of intimate image abuse behaviours (revenge porn, up-skirting, down-blousing, voyeurism, etc) that are occurring in Hong Kong, how such intimate image-based abuse behaviours have been and can be dealt with (particularly in the criminal justice system) in Hong Kong, whether the new laws have been effective in combatting intimate image abuse and whether any further legal or non-legal reforms are necessary.



## **A breach is a breach, regardless of quantum”: Exploring individual perception of databreach notification schemes**

Prof Cassandra Cross<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Queensland University Of Technology

Data breaches are a fixture to the cybersecurity threat landscape. With a large amount of information held electronically around the world and the commercialisation of internet technology, data breaches are a daily occurrence, with global numbers demonstrating upwards trends. Australia is not exempt to this. In recent years, Australia has experienced some of its largest data breaches: Optus (9.7 million victims); Medibank (9.8 million victims); Latitude Finance (14 million victims) and Medisure (12.9 million victims).

This presentation explores the perception of Australians to data breach notifications. Using an online survey panel, 2010 individuals were asked about their attitudes to notification schemes and personal experiences of data breaches. Results indicated mixed views as to whether notifications were desirable for all data breaches. The data demonstrates individuals hold nuanced views about data breaches, and this is influenced by a variety of factors. The presentation provides some initial insights into the attitudes and experiences of those receiving a data breach notification, and outlines what can be learnt to assist with future management of further inevitable data breaches.

## Investigating Systemic Racism against First Nations Peoples

Prof Chris Cunneen<sup>1</sup>, A/Prof Fiona Allison<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Jumbunna Research, UTS, <sup>2</sup>Jumbunna Research, UTS

In 2021 the Northern Territory of Australia introduced the Aboriginal Justice Agreement 2021-2027 (AJA). The Agreement between government and First Nations people has a primary goal of reducing the over-representation of Aboriginal people in the justice system and addressing racism, discrimination and barriers to justice. The AJA has three aims: i) reduce offending and imprisonment of Aboriginal people in the NT; ii) engage and support Aboriginal leadership; and iii) improve justice responses and services for Aboriginal people. A core part of the Agreement is to investigate, identify and eliminate systemic racism in 10 government agencies (including police and courts).

The authors were engaged by the NT government, as part of the AJA work, to develop a Framework Model for Investigating Systemic Racism. Our paper focusses on the methodological challenges in developing and undertaking investigations into systemic racism based on our experiences in the NT. There is surprisingly little work on methodological approaches to systematically investigate systemic racism in government, although the health sector is a possible exception.

We identify and discuss in our paper the high-level structural stages within government agencies through which systemic racism operates. These include legal and policy frameworks that either directly or indirectly lead to racially discriminatory outcomes, procedures which systemically limit access or entrench negative outcomes, resource allocations that structurally disadvantage First Nations communities/people and organisational culture and practice whereby laws, policies and procedures are routinely decided or interpreted in a way that has systemic negative impacts.

Our paper discusses some of the limitations and difficulties in undertaking investigations of systemic racism (lack of cooperation, access to data and other information). We also highlight the importance of the qualitative experiences of First Nations people in determining the nature, extent and impact of systemic racism within any government agency.

## **Anger, Fear, and Frozenness: Exploring the emotive aspect of anti-police sentiment**

Miss Katie Davenport-Klunder<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>University Of The Sunshine Coast

### Background/Purpose

Anti-police sentiment has emerged as a growing phenomenon, characterised by intense negative attitudes towards police from different cohorts in the community for varying reasons. Despite increasing scholarly interest, the lack of a clear definition of anti-police sentiment hinders conceptualisation, measurement, and comparison of findings across jurisdictions. This study aims to provide conceptual clarity by employing sentiment analysis to systematically and objectively explore the emotions underlying anti-police sentiment.

### Methods

This study conducted a sentiment analysis to identify the emotions expressed by posters about police in Australian subreddits. To do this, 1,140 comments were analysed using the NRC lexicon, which builds on Plutchik's psychoevolutionary theory of emotions, to provide objective measures of words and the emotions that they are commonly associated with including; anger, anticipation, disgust, fear, joy, sadness, surprise, and trust. In addition, intensity scores for each word within respective emotions were calculated to identify the high-intensity discourse in which we propose anti-police sentiment may be located.

### Findings

Analysis of the negative Reddit comments found that anti-police sentiment is associated with the emotions anger, fear, and frozenness, which may potentially trigger fight, flight, or freeze responses in citizens encountering the police. Further, analysis of frequent terms appearing at the higher emotion intensities highlights key social issues that may be driving anti-police sentiment, such as police responses to domestic violence and police misconduct.

### Conclusions/Implications

By mapping out these emotions and their predictable physiological outcomes, stakeholders such as policymakers, community leaders, and police agencies can better understand the root of public sentiment towards the police. This understanding is crucial for addressing the causes of anti-police sentiment holistically. It can lead to more empathetic and targeted reforms that consider the emotional impacts of policing practices, thereby not only responding to, but also pre-emptively managing community relations and improving the effectiveness of policing.

## The Effect of Racial Attitudes on Sentencing Preferences: A Vignette Experiment

Miss Caitlin Davey<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Griffith University

### Background/Purpose

Public opinion is often a driving force behind the creation of criminal justice policy. Therefore, understanding how crime is perceived among the public is critical, particularly given that politicians treating crime in a populist manner and the subsequent creation of criminal justice policies that reflect these attitudes is one of the primary drivers of incarceration rates. In Australia, First Nations Australians are overrepresented in the Australian criminal justice and are the most heavily incarcerated racial group worldwide. However, little attention has been paid to how preconceived racial perceptions from the wider public may shape punitive attitudes towards First Nations offenders and how this may translate to sentencing preferences among the public.

### Methods

Drawing on a representative survey of the Australian public that included a vignette experiment, this paper will examine differences in sentencing preferences for First Nations offenders compared to non-Indigenous offenders and determine if any differences are driven by racial attitudes or rather shaped by broader perceptions of crime and offending.

### Findings

Preliminary analyses show that respondents preferred punitive sentences for both First Nations and non-Indigenous offenders. However, if respondents assigned prison sentences, they did this more often for the non-Indigenous offender compared to the First Nations offender. There were no differences in the length of the suggested sentence for either offender. Analyses are currently being conducted to determine if racial attitudes and/or broader perceptions of crime and offending play a different role in assigning sentences to both offenders.

### Conclusions/Implications

Taken together, this paper fills a gap in the literature by providing an empirical understanding of the relationship between punitiveness and racial attitudes and how these may translate to sentencing preferences among the public.

## Interventions to prevent extremism among youth: a systematic review

Dr Bethan Davies<sup>1</sup>, Dr Lisa Tompson<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Cardiff University, <sup>2</sup>University of Waikato

### Background

While rare, terrorist attacks sometimes involve youth, with examples including a 17-year-old planning to attack a pop concert in Cardiff in 2017 and an attack on a bishop at a Sydney church in Australia by a 16-year-old in 2024. As terrorism does not operate in a vacuum, it interacts with and triggers governmental policy responses, with a push to do more and act earlier. For this reason, early interventions with youth, intended to prevent the onset of extremism, have become common in many countries. Yet, despite considerable criminological research on extremism and counter-extremism measures in recent years, our understanding of what types of interventions best prevent extremism among youth is not yet clear. Our research aims to address this gap with a systematic review centred on high-quality studies of intervention effectiveness.

### Methods

Systematic reviews are often used by policymakers and practitioners to make decisions on how to allocate scarce resources. For this reason, systematic reviews commonly aspire to be relevant to policy. Realising such an aspiration requires wide consultation and engagement across different constituent groups. This poster will set out the preliminary conceptual definitions and inclusion and exclusion criteria we intend to operationalise in our review. We will also provide a high-level summary of available studies. Our intention is to invite feedback from the audience about whether these definitions are fit-for-purpose or lacking important nuances. This research speaks directly to the whakahōtaetae (prevent) pillar of Aotearoa New Zealand's Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism Strategy, supporting both researchers and practitioners interested in effective long-term prevention for extremism.

## When “rapists” and “murderers” get what they deserve: Character attributions drive apathy towards incidental harms

Dr Melissa de Vel-Palumbo<sup>1</sup>, Dr Anna Barron, Dr Colleen Berryessa

<sup>1</sup>Flinders University

This presentation investigates people’s fail to sympathize with—and may even take pleasure in—*incidental harms* experienced by those who come into contact with the criminal justice system. Incidental harms are unsanctioned and legally unjustified forms of suffering (e.g., police brutality, negligence and neglect in prisons). These ongoing “hidden” punishments faced by those in the criminal justice system may frustrate social reintegration efforts and further entrench disadvantage for criminalised populations. We propose that people’s tolerance for incidental harms is driven by character-based attributions for crime. That is, labelling those who come into contact with the criminal justice system as fundamentally “bad” people leads them to be viewed as deserving of any suffering that may come their way. We find support for this hypothesis across a set of online qualitative and quantitative studies. In Study 1, members of the public justified a real-life occurrence of incidental harm as deserved punishment, and used character-based language in their accounts (e.g., “they are bad people”). In Study 2, experimentally manipulating character-based attributions for a crime increased endorsement of incidental harms. Implications of these results are discussed.

## **Moral Injury, suicide, and child sexual abuse in the Roman Catholic Church**

A/Prof Jodi Death<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>QUT

Recognition of child sexual abuse in the Roman Catholic Church is now internationally recognised with impacts on survivors and communities being increasingly recognised. Consideration for those who have not survived and have died through suicide or self-harming behaviour is less widespread. This paper explores the context of individuals exposed to abusive clergy who have died by suicide and self-harm in a wider context of moral harms. This is consistent with increased social and political recognition of institutional responsibility in addressing not only primary abuse but secondary traumas incurred through their responses when harms occur.

## **Punitiveness and Atrocity: Why do some Filipinos support mass violence?**

Dr Imelda Deinla<sup>1</sup>, Mr Jurel Yap

<sup>1</sup>University Of New England, <sup>2</sup>Ateneo de Manila University

Amidst the aftermath of the controversial war on drugs (WOD) during Duterte's presidency in the Philippines, this study seeks to understand characteristics of Filipino punitiveness. The institutionalization of state violence, historical context of authoritarian rule, and societal acceptance of extreme measures prompt an examination of public attitudes toward crime, punishment, and violence in the Philippines. This study used survey data on 1500 Filipino respondents and identified five distinct punitiveness clusters using latent class analysis. This study employed Kruskal-Wallis (KW) tests and Chi-squared tests to explore factors associated with differences in cluster characteristics. The analysis found that the extremely punitive group exhibited significantly higher levels of satisfaction with President Marcos Jr., a strong preference for authoritarian detachment, and lower trust in institutions compared to the other clusters. They support harsher penal policies including informal or extralegal methods such as torture, social cleansing and use of violence to attain social progress. This study confirms the convergence of punitiveness and penal populism, where extremely punitive individuals (EPI) endorse strong leaders and extralegal measures that result in atrocities.



## Community empowerment and crime prevention: Victoria's ongoing challenge

Anika Dell, Ruth Liston<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Victoria University

The Empowering Communities program in Victoria, Australia provides large grants to community-led action groups in select higher crime local government areas to foster local decentralised community-led crime prevention initiatives. Through our two-year embedded research with action groups in four locations, we found that while the program enabled strong community connections and supported smaller organisations, it also struggled with power imbalances, representation issues, and constraints imposed by governmental control. Our findings highlight the need for more sustainable, flexible approaches that genuinely engage and empower local communities, moving beyond the repetitive cycles of past efforts to create lasting impact in crime prevention. Building on earlier critiques by Sutton and Cherney of Victoria's "stop-start" approach to crime prevention, our research reveals the ongoing tension between the potential for genuine community empowerment and the persistent challenges posed by bureaucratic oversight, short-term funding, and the cyclical nature of policy-making in the state.

## **The Feminisation of poverty: Increasing vulnerabilities to gender-based violence and criminal justice involvement for women and girls**

Ms Felicia Djamirze

The feminisation of poverty is a global issue that magnifies women's vulnerability to violence, trauma, and exploitation. Drawing from both academic analysis and lived experience, I provide a unique perspective on how poverty exacerbates abuse, limits women's ability to escape violent relationships, and fuels intergenerational cycles of trauma. Globally, most of the 1.5 billion people living on one dollar a day or less are women. Over the past decade, the gap between men and women in poverty has widened, with women earning just over 50% of what men earn. Women living in poverty are denied access to essential resources like education, healthcare, and decision-making roles, reinforcing their economic dependence. Economic deprivation increases susceptibility to various forms of violence, including socio-economic violence, such as withholding earnings, denying education, and forcing unpaid labour. This dependency leads to related offending, and ultimately leads to imprisonment of women and girls. To break the cycle of feminised poverty, practical solutions are needed: improving access to healthcare, reproductive health and education, mental health care, legal support, education, and employment. Empowering women economically and ensuring their voices are heard in policymaking about issues that directly impact their lives is essential. Tackling socio-economic violence and dismantling the barriers that perpetuate poverty and harm is key to creating sustainable change and genuine empowerment for women.

## Freedom forgone: A systematic review of research on people in prison who waive parole

Dr Shannon Dodd<sup>1</sup>, Dr Michelle Sydes

<sup>1</sup>Australian Catholic University

This paper presents a systematic review of 18 studies about people in prison who forgo the opportunity for parole. Employing a Mixed Methods Research Synthesis, the review encompasses qualitative, quantitative, and mixed-methods studies that identify the factors and motivating reasons associated with parole waiver decisions, as well as recidivism outcomes for individuals who decide to forgo parole. Findings reveal a predominance of quantitative research that suggests that individuals who waive parole tend to be high-risk, violent offenders who are serving lengthy sentences. They are male, Indigenous, with a history of mental illness and/or substance addiction, and prior parole experience. Motivating reasons for avoiding parole include perceptions that prison is easier than parole and fear of parole denial and re-entry barriers. Studies also report less favourable recidivism outcomes for 'maxed-out' offenders. The study emphasises the necessity for additional in-depth research to understand motives and disincentives influencing parole engagement decisions. In particular, the need for research outside of North America and that uses sources other than administrative data is identified.

## **Building restorative opportunities in prison – insights from Aotearoa New Zealand and England**

Dr Katherine Doolin<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Waipapa Taumata Rau University Of Auckland

Restorative justice can take many forms in a prison setting, including a facilitated meeting between the victim, offender and others affected by the crime, addressing conflict within the prison community and dealing with prison discipline, building positive relationships between those living and working in prisons, and helping prisoners to repair relationships with family and loved ones in preparation for their release. Implementing restorative justice within prison, however, is not without its challenges. It may be difficult to implement restorative justice in an environment and culture, which is seemingly incompatible with restorative justice values, or in a space where using restorative processes might be seen as being inappropriate for serious offences.

Drawing on research findings on restorative practice in prisons in Aotearoa and England, this paper considers the appropriateness of using prison as a space for restorative justice. First, the paper unpacks the opportunities and risks for victims, offenders and prisons of using restorative justice in prisons, and proposes ways to minimise those risks. This is important given the vulnerabilities of those in custody, who often have complex needs and experience an often unsafe prison environment, and the vulnerabilities of victims who, in addition to the initial harm suffered, enter a challenging and, often, foreign prison environment. Secondly, the paper presents findings from interviews with victims and offenders to help us to better understand the motivations of, the gains and risks for, and the impact on, victims and offenders, who take part in restorative processes in prison, and to consider the ways in which the restorativeness of such encounters are affected by the space in which it takes place – the prison. The paper concludes that creating opportunities for restorative justice in prisons has the potential to be a humanising experience for victims and offenders in an often dehumanising prison environment.

## Help, evidence-based policing is coming! Arguments in a growing debate in continental Europe

Mrs Marleen Easton<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Ghent University

The state of police research in different countries and its translation into police practice is strongly influenced by the relationship between police and academia. Analysing 25 years of police research in Europe and the Anglo-Saxon world, Ponsaers & colleagues conclude that much of it is located within the police apparatus (i.e. research *by* the police). Independent research (i.e. *on* the police) is less common than expected. Often research is politically driven, i.e. commissioned, providing ad hoc expertise *for* the police. A growing rapprochement between the police and academia is producing more research conducted in collaboration *with* the police, such as Evidence Based Policing (EBP). All this goes hand in hand with an under-utilisation of foreign research and a global dominance of Anglo-Saxon research (Ponsaers et al., 2009).

In this paper we contextualise and describe the success of the Anglo-Saxon evidence-based policing movement (UK, Australia & New Zealand) in terms of its cultural strengths, institutional embeddedness and funding mechanisms. We offer a critical assessment of the kind of synergy between police and academia that this movement advocates, and touch on the fragility that it inhibits (Bacon et al., 2020). We then consider how evidence-based policing is attempting to take root in continental contexts, focusing on the Netherlands and Belgium and the dynamics and debate that are unfolding. We conclude with some critical reflections on the future of research on, for, by and with the police.

Bacon, M., Shapland, J., Skinnis, L., White, A. (2020). Fragile alliances: culture, funding and sustainability in police-academic partnerships. *Evidence & Policy*, p1-17

Ponsaers, P., Tange, C. & Van Oustrive, L. (eds.) (2009). *Insights on police, Quarter of a century research on police in Europe and the anglo-saxon world*, Bruxelles/Brussels: Bruylant, Ecole des Sciences Criminologiques Léon Cornil.

## Intersectional perspectives on police legitimacy

Dr Justin Ellis<sup>1</sup>, Dr Emma Russell<sup>La Trobe University</sup>, Mr Michael Bryden<sup>University of Technology, Sydney</sup>, Professor Nicole Asquith<sup>University of Tasmania</sup>

<sup>1</sup>University Of Newcastle

### Background/Purpose

The legitimacy of police action is grounded in law but is also shaped by how police cultures implement the law. Police practices in turn, impact on perceptions of procedural justice, trust and confidence in police, and police accountability. Public perceptions of police integrity are at 10-year lows across Australia (Productivity Commission 2024). These lows come after a decade of technological transformation that has played a substantial role in increasing public awareness of police operations and communications, and direct police access to the public through digital platforms. But it is just at this juncture of increased capacity to communicate, that the proportion of the general population in Australia who 'agreed' or 'strongly agreed' that police 'treat people fairly and equally' was 64% in the 2022-2023 reporting period, compared to a high of 78% in 2014-15. Perceptions of police also differ substantially across lines of race, class, sexuality and gender.

### Methods

Literature review and analysis (presentation 1); court observation and interviews and focus groups with legal practitioners (presentation 2); document and media content analysis (presentation 3).

### Findings

Current issues of police legitimacy raise a range of questions about how effective police responses have been in addressing legacy and current criminalization of populations such as LGBTQ+, the efficacy of police commitments to reconciliation with First Nations peoples, and unsettled aspects of bail that have yet to find a sustainable balance between public safety and human rights safeguards for those in custody.

### Conclusions/Implications

This symposium provides a forum through which to discuss these and related issues of police legitimacy and how recent drops in public perceptions of police integrity in Australia might be addressed.

### Presentation abstracts

#### *Presentation 1*

A decolonised dialogue: police legitimacy and Indigenous self-determination

Extant research on legitimacy has largely ignored Indigenous perspectives on policing and the wider context of settler colonialism. I argue that Indigenous self-determination cannot be achieved without legitimate forms of social control. Building on the theorising of Bottoms and Tankebe (2012), I suggest that decolonised legitimacy dialogues, which should include those with lived experience of being policed, are necessary to establish Indigenous standpoints on policing. I propose that police legitimacy can be enhanced via two approaches: (1) through reforms to the traditional state model and (2) through Indigenous-generated forms (e.g., night patrols). This dual strategy considers the importance of both community-informed and evidence-based practices in policing and social control. Here, I argue for 'epistemological consilience', integrating Indigenous and Western perspectives. The aim of this approach is to strive for as *little policing as possible*.

#### *Presentation 2*

Constructing the 'unacceptably risky' subject: Police legitimacy in the bail court

This presentation explores how police construct 'unacceptably risky' subjects in bail hearings. I draw on research conducted in Victoria, Australia, including court observation and interviews and focus groups with legal practitioners. Focusing on adversarial bail hearings in the magistrates' court, I outline the narrative techniques that police use to craft an image of abject and threatening individuals whose dangerousness is manageable only through carceral incapacitation. Through the repetition of these practices, the police worldview that crystallises is

one in which future uncertainty becomes certainty, and the legitimacy of policing revolves around protecting the community from crime that is yet to occur.

### *Presentation 3*

The New South Wales Special Commission of Inquiry into LGBTIQ hate crimes (1970-2010) as a form of police legitimacy

Transparency and accountability are dimensions of police legitimacy that are not easily measured. The NSW Special Commission of Inquiry into LGBTIQ Hate Crimes 1970-2010 was established in April 2022 to investigate unsolved suspected hate crime deaths of LGBTIQ people (or people who were presumed to be LGBTIQ) in NSW between 1970 and 2010. The Inquiry had extensive powers to compel witnesses to give evidence and to compel the production of documents. The deaths of 32 people were examined in 17 public, and 48 private hearings. The Inquiry was driven by a need to clarify aspects of previous investigations by the NSW Police Force. Drawing on analysis of the Inquiry's final report and related media coverage, this presentation provides an overview of the cultural and institutional factors that led to the establishment of the Inquiry and considers the Inquiry's role as a mechanism of police legitimacy.

## Emergency Service Hang-ups: Exploring How Staged and Authentic Calls End

Ms Serena Elms, Prof. David Clarke, Assoc. Prof. Mark Briskey, Prof. David Keatley  
<sup>1</sup>Murdoch University

### Background/Purpose

The information provided during an emergency call may be crucial in guiding the perceptions of first responders and may also prove valuable if the reported incident is later investigated or suspected to be staged. If an emergency caller prematurely hangs up, prior to the arrival of first responders and before sufficient information has been gathered, this may impact a dispatcher's ability to perform their role and limits the amount of information available to police if the call is later investigated. The focus of the current research is to develop an understanding of how emergency calls end by mapping the hang-ups of staged and authentic emergency calls.

### Methods

A sample of 40 real-world emergency calls (20 staged; 20 authentic) involving incidents related to health and welfare emergencies (e.g., heart attack, injury, death, suicide) were analysed with a measure known as Indicator Waves. This provided a means to identifying which linguistic indicators occurred above a level expected by chance prior to the end of staged and authentic calls.

### Findings

The results showed that the indicators proceeding the end of staged calls were centered around the staging aspect of the incident, such as the caller showing forensic awareness and detection avoidance. Whereas the indicators proceeding the end of authentic calls showed a relationship to the urgency of the situation and the condition of the person that they were assisting.

### Conclusions/Implications

The identification of indicators that occur prior to the end of staged and authentic emergency calls provides a potential insight as to the most salient features of the reported incident that is prioritised before a call ends. These findings offer the opportunity for further research and refinement of the identified indicators, which could lead to potential application in dispatcher training and police investigations.



## **An entity of darkness”: The Catholic Church as the perpetrator of spiritual violence**

Ms Jamie-lee Emmanuel<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Queensland University of Technology

### Background/Purpose

This research explores the spiritual trauma experienced by family members of victim/survivors of clergy perpetrated child sexual abuse (CPCSA) within Australian Catholic institutions (herein defined as CPCSA secondary victim/survivors). While these experiences have been described in media narratives and government inquiries they have not been represented in scholarly research to date. The present research is a critical step towards a more complete understanding the extent and impact of the harms caused by the actions of the Catholic Church.

### Methods

Seventeen siblings, parents, partners, and children of victim/survivors of CPCSA in Australian Catholic institutions contributed to this research through in-depth interviews and written submissions.

### Findings

Though contributors of this research experienced secondary CPCSA victimisation, this study is the first to recognise them as primary victim/survivors of spiritual violence perpetrated by the Catholic Church. While the interpersonal betrayal at the hands of the individual clergyman was certainly described as a source of spiritual trauma, the actions of the institutional Catholic Church and its’ representatives were found to have the most profound impact. Family members in this sample variously described being rejected, vilified, betrayed and/or abandoned by the Church, and by extension God. These were the outcomes of actions of the Catholic Church in weaponising its’ power and religious authority against survivor families. Importantly, these responses were received by those who sought spiritual guidance and pastoral care, as well as those who sought a criminal justice response.

### Conclusions/Implications

Through the construction of the institutional Catholic Church as the “victimiser”, this research speaks to growing discourses surrounding how we respond to crimes of the powerful, how we understand mass harms, and who “counts” as a “victim”. This research also contributes to the emerging literature on spiritual trauma and the ripple effects of CPCSA.

## Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Perspectives on Justice

A/Prof Christopher Emzin<sup>1</sup>, Dr Krystal Lockwood<sup>2</sup>, Dr Michael Bryden<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Queensland University Of Technology, <sup>2</sup>The University of Queensland, <sup>3</sup>University of Technology Sydney

In criminology, diverse perspectives are crucial for developing effective justice systems. This panel session, "Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Perspectives on Justice" features Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander scholars discussing their unique insights on the criminal justice system.

Our panel of academics and researchers will share their diverse views on Indigenous knowledge systems and cultural backgrounds. They will explore how the perspectives of Indigenous academics can inform and improve contemporary justice interventions, policy development, and criminological research.

This session will showcase Indigenous scholarship and facilitate a dialogue on: a) What Indigenous perspectives offer to criminology. b) The differences between Indigenous and non-Indigenous approaches to justice. c) How Indigenous knowledge can be integrated into broader criminological frameworks.

The session aims to highlight the importance of incorporating Indigenous perspectives into criminology, promoting a more inclusive and equitable justice system. This discussion will provide attendees with a deeper understanding of the role Indigenous knowledge plays in achieving justice.

## **Environmental Justice and Human Rights in Australasian Prisons: Navigating Challenges and Vulnerabilities**

A/Prof Helen Farley<sup>1</sup>, Dr Jayson Ware, Dr Marozane Spammers

<sup>1</sup>University Of Canterbury

This paper investigates the intersection of prisons, climate change, and disaster risk in Australasia, with a focus on environmental justice and human rights challenges. It explores the vulnerability of prison populations, the role of outdated infrastructure in increasing disaster risks, and the associated human rights concerns, including issues of torture, inhumane or degrading treatment, and health and safety risks. The analysis highlights environmental hazards affecting prisons, such as rising water tables, coastal flooding, and extreme weather events.

The paper gives special attention to factors that heighten violence in prisons, such as heat stress, and examines how overcrowding and inadequate resources further amplify vulnerabilities to climate and environmental threats. Drawing on international frameworks like OPCAT and the Mandela Rules, alongside domestic human rights and corrections legislation, this paper assesses the current regulatory framework and its effectiveness in addressing the complex challenges posed by the intersection of climate change and prison environments. Insights from Inspectorate Reports will be used to illuminate the present situation and identify opportunities to enhance safety, well-being, and human rights within prison settings.

## Sex trafficking and sex work: the right to work controversy

Dr Kanij Fatima<sup>1</sup>, Dr M. Ehteshamul Bari

<sup>1</sup>Australian Catholic University

### Abstract

There is an ongoing debate between feminist abolitionists and sex positivists on sex work and sex trafficking. While abolitionists argue that all sex work is a violation of human rights and it is no longer voluntary when it is a matter of survival, as such it should be abolished, sex positivists argue for the legitimisation and legalisation of sex work, as a livelihood choice. This distinction is very significant in sex trafficking context. However, the ambiguous definition of trafficking provided by the Trafficking Protocol does not make it clear whether prostitution and other commercial sexual exploitation including child sex tourism, child pornography will come under the definition of exploitation. This article critically investigates the gaps in existing international instruments. It argues how prostitution expands sexual exploitation and how criminalised sex work reduces the incidence of sex trafficking. There are a number of wealthy countries where prostitution is legal, and there is a demand for sex workers. This analysis explains how the demand of those countries fuels human trafficking from poor countries to meet the demand. In my analysis, I use feminist theory to identify the 'push factor' behind sexual exploitation and underscore the point that gender and gender-based inequality is pivotal to a full understanding of sex trafficking. This article also examines whether 'free choice' contemplated by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights is a meaningful choice by comparing the case studies of Australia (one of the destination countries of sex trafficking) with Bangladesh (one of the source countries of sex trafficking).

## Preventing sexual violence in licensed venues: an evaluation of the 'Good Night Out' training

A/Prof Bianca Fileborn<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>University of Melbourne

The night-time economy has been identified as a 'hot spot' of sexual violence, with previous research demonstrating the routine nature of this violence for women and LGBTQ+ people. Within the night-time economy, a range of social, cultural and environmental features coalesce to facilitate and normalise at least some forms of sexual violence. In response, several states within Australia have now committed to the introduction of mandatory anti-sexual violence training for licensed venue staff. Yet, we currently know little about the effectiveness of such training for improving staff skills in recognising and intervening in (or appropriately responding in the aftermath of) sexual violence. In this presentation, I draw on findings from the first Australian evaluation of the Good Night Out training program for licensed venue staff undertaken as part of *Project Night Justice*. I explore the impact of the training on staff knowledge and confidence, and argue that while such training tentatively appears to be beneficial, there is an urgent need for a more robust evidence base.

## Responding to the crisis of gender-based violence in Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand

A/Prof Bianca Fileborn<sup>1</sup>, Dr Samantha Keene<sup>2</sup>, Dr Sophie Beaumont<sup>2</sup>, Professor Nicola Henry<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>University of Melbourne, <sup>2</sup>Te Herenga Waka - Victoria University of Wellington, <sup>3</sup>RMIT

Gender-based violence (GBV) has been declared as a national 'crisis' within Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand. Indeed, in May 2024 an emergency roundtable was hosted in Australia to inform the urgent action required to stem men's violence against women, and the past few years have witnessed a flurry of legislative reform and government inquiries aiming to better respond to and prevent this violence. Despite years of feminist activism, political and legal reform, GBV remains something of an intractable problem. Mainstream responses to, and discursive framings of, GBV have also been subjected to significant critique, particularly from marginalised communities. Thus, despite apparent widespread recognition of the seriousness and urgency of this issue, how we 'should' collectively respond is far from settled. In this symposium – convened by the *Gender, Sex & Sexualities* Thematic Group – presenters reflect broadly on this crisis of GBV and how we might best move forward in seeking to prevent, respond and achieve justice in the aftermath of harm.

### Interrogating the rough sex 'defence' in Aotearoa New Zealand

Dr Samantha Keene (she/her)

Senior Lecturer

Institute of Criminology

Te Herenga Waka – Victoria University of Wellington

Aotearoa New Zealand

'Rough sex' is experiencing a cultural moment and has become an increasingly common term in our everyday vocabulary. Internationally, high levels of engagement in 'rough sex' have been reported among college samples (Herbenick et al., 2021), and depictions of 'rough' sexual behaviours – including choking/strangulation – are now common themes in contemporary movies, men's and women's lifestyle magazines, and popular song lyrics and videos. 'Rough' sexual behaviours are also eroticised in freely available mainstream pornography (Keene, 2023). While 'rough sex' can be experienced consensually, 'rough sex' can also be experienced as sexual assault. Increasingly, rough sex 'defence' narratives are being deployed during rape and intimate partner homicide trials to suggest that it was not 'rape', it was just 'rough sex'. This paper will interrogate the implications of rough sex 'defence' narratives deployed in Aotearoa New Zealand and consider how these may be responded to.

### The Social Acceptability of Gender-based Violence

Dr Sophie Beaumont

Institute of Criminology

Te Herenga Waka - Victoria University of Wellington

Aotearoa New Zealand

Gender-based violence (GBV) is, in many forms, still 'socially acceptable' in Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand. As such, addressing the 'crisis' of GBV requires a profound cultural shift. Speaking to data from my PhD research, a feminist mixed methods project that critically examined women's experiences of gender microaggressions, I will discuss the ways in which GBV is 'socially accepted' in Aotearoa New Zealand. I make the argument for the importance of recognising and countering the 'everyday' covert harms that women experience as part of the kaupapa to end GBV.

### Responding to sexual violence – the need for innovative and non-carceral responses

A/Prof Bianca Fileborn

School of Social & Political Sciences

University of Melbourne

Australia

This presentation draws together a range of recent projects to mount an argument for a shift to innovative and non-carceral responses to sexual violence. While recent law reform inquiries have recognised the need for innovative and informal responses to sexual violence, I argue that the criminal legal system (CLS) remains centered

within both government responses to, and feminist activism on, sexual violence, and there is an urgent need to develop modes of accountability beyond the CLS. In mounting this argument, I draw on critiques from First Nations, queer and abolitionist scholarship, scholarship on victim-centered justice, and my own research examining justice responses to marginalised forms of violence such as public harassment.

Image-based sexual abuse: Why does it happen and what can be done to prevent it?

Professor Nicola Henry

School of Global, Urban and Social Studies

RMIT University

Australia

Image-based sexual abuse (IBSA) is an umbrella term referring to the nonconsensual taking, creating, or sharing of intimate images, including threats to share intimate images ("sextortion"), pressuring, threatening, or coercing someone into sharing intimate images ("sexting coercion"), creating or digitally altering images ("deepfake porn"), as well as the unsolicited and unwanted sharing of intimate images ("cyberflashing"). Growing attention has been paid to the nature, scope and impacts of IBSA, but little attention has been paid to perpetrators and prevention. This paper draws on key findings from the empirical literature, including survey findings and findings from a digital ethnography to understand the "why" of IBSA. Although criminal laws are an important part of the solution, resources and attention need to invest in a range of non-criminal and non-legal measures for preventing IBSA.

## **Yeddung Mura External Reporting Site Pilot—providing culturally supportive case management in corrective services**

Dr Simone Georg<sup>1</sup>, Dr Jess Rodgers<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>ACT Corrective Services

### Background/Purpose:

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander over-representation in Australia's reoffending rates have been the focus on inquiries, policy reviews, and public debates. This prompts the question on how corrections could better enable engagement among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander clients. To address this, ACTCS have adopted a culturally reformed approach to working with our clients. In 2021, ACTCS reestablished the trial of the External Reporting Site model. In the pilot, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community corrections clients engaged in supervision and case management at a partnered Aboriginal community-controlled organisation (ACCO), Yeddung Mura Aboriginal Corporation.

### Methods:

ACTCS evaluated the trial of the External Reporting Site model at Yeddung Mura. The evaluation focused on understanding clients' perspectives on whether the model provided a socially and culturally supportive environment, improved engagement with clients, and improved access to co-located services. The methods used administrative data, qualitative semi-structured interviews, and in-depth case studies to understand the non-linear and varied rehabilitation journey that individuals can take. Ethical considerations were paramount to our approach.

### Findings:

Findings showed that clients were more likely to actively engage at the Yeddung Mura External Reporting. Services were also more likely to provide the necessary social, emotional, and cultural supports need to support their case management and supervision. Clients preferred the physical environment at Yeddung Mura, and valued the social supports and relationships that facilitated that ongoing engagement. The evaluation showed these clients were more likely to successfully complete their order and were at a lower risk of reoffending.

### Conclusions/Implications:

The External Reporting Site model highlights how partnerships between corrective services agencies and ACCOs can deliver better justice outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander clients. It further demonstrates how the voices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander clients can support cultural reform of justice institutions.



## Legacies of Violence, Racism and Trauma: Re-examining the structural and systemic causes of prison violence

Dr Kate Gooch<sup>1</sup>, Dr Katherine Doolin<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>University of Bath, <sup>2</sup>University of Auckland

Prison violence is a global problem, but the nature of that problem differs across time and space. Despite the extant research on prison violence, there remains a dearth of empirical research on prisons in Aotearoa New Zealand and Australia, and much of the available research on prison violence is US and Euro-centric. The available research primarily focuses on importation factors (i.e. identifying *who* might be responsible for prison violence), but without considering the relevance of life-course and trauma, or wider sociological, situational, economic, political and penological factors that may play an equal or greater role in explaining prison violence. These are conspicuous gaps, not least of all because of the over-representation of indigenous peoples in prisons in Aotearoa and Australia, the legacies of State violence and the ongoing effects of colonisation, and the adverse childhood experiences caused by the State (e.g. in the removal to, and abuse within, ostensibly welfare institutions).

As part of a wider comparative international study of prison violence, this paper draws on empirical research conducted in medium security prisons in Aotearoa and Australia to critically analyse the structural and systemic causes of prison violence. The paper is based on semi-structured interviews with prisoners and prison staff, surveys with prisoners and an analysis of the prisons' management information.

Although it was common to hear from staff and prisoners the patched 'gangs' (in Aotearoa), 'outlaw motorcycle groups' (dubbed the 'Bikies' in Australia) and street gangs in both jurisdictions being blamed for prison violence, such explanations served to distance responsibility for the situational and environmental causes of prison violence. Equally, it often overlooked the role of trauma in prisoners' lives, the histories of oppression and over-criminalisation, the normalisation of violence within State institutions and their role in creating gang membership, and the social distancing from prisoners by prison officers.

## Childhood Criminal Convictions and Visa Cancellations: Australian Jurisprudence

A/Prof Faith Gordon<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Australian National University

The deportation/removal of people who have resided in Australia for the majority of their lives, many since they were young children, has become a heavily criticised practice within Australian immigration law. From 2014 the Australian government forecast its intention, wherever possible, to remove non-citizens involved in crime. This punitive 'crimmigration' practice has resulted in families being separated and long-standing residents, refugees, First Nations people and suspected 'gang' members being deported/removed from Australia. Children and young people have been impacted by this 'crimmigration creep' (see Rathod, 2016; McNeill, 2021), which has extended to include the deportation/removal to Aotearoa-New Zealand of, for example, a 15-year-old boy who had grown up in Australia (Author, forthcoming). This has sparked criticism both at home in Australia and from the then New Zealand Prime Minister, with the practice clearly being at odds with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child 1989 (Author, forthcoming). The consideration in visa cancellation decisions, of offences committed when a person was a child, raises a number of significant questions regarding the 'crimmigration creep' and the enduring nature of criminal responsibility that follows children (see Arthur, 2024, forthcoming) into adulthood. It is against this backdrop that this paper will critically explore the following two recent Australian High Court decisions of: (i) *Minister for Immigration, Citizenship, Migrant Services and Multicultural Affairs v Thornton* [2023] HCA 17; (ii) *Lesianawai v Minister for Immigration, Citizenship and Multicultural Affairs* [2024] HCA 6. The two High Court decisions demonstrate the complexities of 'the overlay of attaching Commonwealth administrative consequences to State criminal laws' (Bones, 2024). Further they represent illustrative examples of the 'collateral consequences' of criminal records (Arthur, 2024, forthcoming; see also: Carr et al., 2015, Carr, 2019 and Sands, 2016), in the context of a climate of crimmigration.

## Limiting the 'double hit': Examining rural post-disaster alcohol and drug use prevention in Australia

Dr Andrew Groves<sup>1</sup>  
<sup>1</sup>Flinders University

### Background/purpose:

Many Australian rural towns and regions have faced large-scale natural and 'human-induced' disasters in the last decade, including bushfires, floods, drought and, of course, the global COVID-19 pandemic. These have contributed to a range of short- and long-term effects on the social, economic, and cultural wellbeing of individuals and communities. A growing concern for both is the problematic and/or excessive rates of alcohol and illicit drug consumption, which have been found to increase in these communities during disasters and in the resultant 'clean up', particularly among emergency service workers but also other vulnerable cohorts (either pre-existing or emerging).

### Methods:

This presentation recognises that Australian scholarship is sparse and dated, limiting knowledge and evidence that can be used to establish contemporary response strategies (particularly for COVID-19). Research has typically examined the consumption of alcohol and other drugs as issues secondary to broader mental and physical health, and/or crime-related concerns. This research then, employed a scoping review of Australian and international scholarship to identify key characteristics and challenges of emerging post-disaster drug and alcohol consumption.

### Findings:

This presentation draws on literature, current approaches, and examples to offer practical insights and strategies that may help rural communities recover through prevention or reduction of problematic forms of consumption, to avoid the 'double hit' associated with post-disaster recovery.

## **Student perceptions of crime: Can using Lego challenge stereotypes and foster better engagement in Criminology?**

Dr Andrew Groves<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Flinders University

### Background/purpose:

Criminology is a growing discipline, the study of which has been popularised in the last few decades, in part because of the sharp and sustained increase in – often fictionalised – crime-related television, movies, podcasts, news and social media. Such growth has borne global interest from thousands of prospective students (and their parents), enthusiastic about building careers in criminal justice and understanding crime and how it is ‘solved’ (thanks, Horatio Caine). This creates opportunities for misperception, influenced by assumptions and stereotypes about crime and its control. A fundamental vocational and pedagogical challenge for the discipline then, is confronting these assumptions and stereotypes to better articulate the value and capacity of criminology and to empower students who are both sufficiently skilled and critically minded to take on such careers.

Methods: This research builds on the nascent scholarship of teaching and learning literature in criminology, drawing from empirical evidence to offer strategies that foster greater engagement and career planning. The presentation reports on a content analysis of secondary school students’ perceptions of crime and criminology, as depicted through a Lego-based drawing activity, part of ongoing school outreach undertaken by Flinders University in South Australia and the Northern Territory.

Findings: This presentation offers critical insights, examples and discussion of how secondary students understand and visualise crime, as well as possible careers in criminology, and the barriers they see in addressing contemporary issues of criminal justice. Identification of these characteristics aims to guide future recruitment activities for universities, alongside possible development of course curriculum for codesign and delivery within secondary education to foster a better criminology.

## State crime and the legacy of Japan's Unit 731

Mr William Gulland<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Curtin University

Unit 731 was a Japanese military biological warfare production and testing facility that operated in occupied China during World War II. While Japan's High Court has acknowledged Unit 731's existence, accountability for war crimes committed by Unit 731 has not been accepted by the Japanese government. In addition, the United States allowed members of the Unit to avoid prosecution after the war in exchange for data they had collected. The purpose of my PhD research is to discover to what extent the Japanese state held responsibility for Unit 731's crimes, and how the failure to properly resolve liability for these crimes in the aftermath of the war has led to further issues. While Unit 731 has been studied by historians and legal scholars, the methodology of this research involves applying criminological theories to Unit 731. This includes measuring to what extent theories such as state crime theory are applicable and what can be learned from this application.

This project argues that the failure to prosecute Unit 731 personnel allowed them to later conduct both public and private medical research in Japan: some were later linked to other medical crimes, such as selling contaminated blood products in the 1980s. The Allies' failure to prosecute Unit 731 further meant losing the chance to prosecute a significant case of medical experimentation against civilians that could have contributed to the development of ethical principles. This also means that there was no opportunity to use Unit 731 as an example of a violation of medical ethics both in Japanese and US education, or to bolster laws against unethical medicine. These factors and the fact that the US and Japanese governments continue to ignore Unit 731 suggests indifference to past war crimes and rejects an opportunity to learn from past state crime.

## **Diversions Restorative Justice in a New Zealand Environmental Offending Context: An Exemplary Model?**

Dr Mark Hamilton<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Australian Catholic University

### Background/Purpose:

This presentation will explore the use of the front-end (diversion) model of restorative justice conferencing in a New Zealand Environmental Offending Context. Such conferencing sees the coming of relevant stakeholders to an offence to discuss the offending, its affects, and the repairing of harm caused by the offending. As such, it allows the opportunity for dialogue and voice (particularly victim voices) which are excluded in modern prosecution. The successful use of this model sees the steering of matters away from the courts. New Zealand is a world leader in this use of restorative justice, including this front-end (diversion) model, so it is important to explore the nuances of the model, especially on its home soil.

### Methods:

Exploration of research collected for an article that is forthcoming in the *New Zealand Law Review*.

### Findings:

The findings will explore the characteristics of the front-end model of restorative justice conferencing as used in a New Zealand environmental offending context, including an exploration of the benefits and limitations of the model.

### Conclusions/Implications:

New Zealand is a world leader in the use of the front-end (diversion) model of restorative justice conferencing. I will argue that this model should be adopted in Australia, and potentially elsewhere around the world. This is based on the advantages over traditional prosecution which will be explored in the presentation, including the fact that offender and victim dialogue and voice are facilitated; the expense of court proceedings are avoided; the repair of harm is more targeted because of victim input; and a better relationship can be established between the regulator and the offender.

## **Victim-Survivors' Perceptions of a Sexual Offence Interview Protocol in Australia**

Dr Gemma Hamilton<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>RMIT University

During a sexual offence investigation, victim-survivors may be interviewed by police using a cognitive-interview style protocol. These protocols are often based on research in cognitive psychology that has focused on enhancing memory, and in turn the accuracy and detail of interviewee's statements. There is minimal research, however, that has asked victim-survivors what they think about such interview protocols. Using an intersectional feminist lens, this qualitative research explored the perceptions of 25 adult victim-survivors of sexual violence in Australia. Drawing on a thematic analysis of in-depth research interviews with participants, this presentation sheds light on what victim-survivors liked and disliked about a police interview protocol, with a focus on recommendations for improvement. Implications for trauma-informed interview practices in various investigative contexts will be discussed.

## Understanding wellbeing, quality of life, and desistance from sexual offending

Ms Amanda Bodker, A/Prof Danielle Harris<sup>1</sup>, Dr Lisa Tompson  
<sup>1</sup>Griffith University

This symposium includes a series of four papers from a larger project funded by Westpac Bank's "Safer Children, Safer Communities" Research Grant Scheme. Adolescents are responsible for perpetrating a significant proportion of sexual offences. Targeted, child-centred, trauma-informed, and well-timed treatment for young people is especially effective in reducing their risk of further offending. Because research and practice focus almost exclusively on measuring recidivism as an outcome, little is known about the characteristics of individuals who respond well to treatment or the circumstances under which success is most likely. This study considered the broader aspects of a hard-to-reach group by focusing on the wellbeing, resilience, and desistance outcomes of intervention. This study constitutes a first-of-its-kind 20 year follow up of a large sample of men who—during adolescence—received GYFS treatment following adjudication for a serious sexual offence. Since 2001, GYFS has provided specialised assessment to almost 800 individuals and subsequently treated approximately 400 young men across the state. In this study, we reviewed the exit reports of 70 treatment participants and interviewed 13 current and former treatment providers to explore the psycho-social situations associated with resilience. To that end, we consider: *mastery* (e.g. employment, training, or education); *attachment* (e.g. romantic relationships, peer connections, or caregiving responsibilities), *connection to community/country* (e.g. sports, church, or culture); and *improved physical and mental health*.

PAPER 1: "What works? with whom? And under what circumstances?" Measuring treatment targets, stable vulnerabilities, and dynamic gains in adolescents who receive treatment for sexual offending

Background/Purpose:

Most research on juvenile sexual offending focuses on measuring recidivism as an outcome. Consequently, little is known about individuals who respond well to treatment or the circumstances under which success is most likely. This introduction presents the findings from an international literature review to contextualise the remaining studies.

Methods:

Contemporary research from criminology, social work, psychology, and public health was reviewed to explore the wellbeing, resilience, and desistance outcomes of therapeutic interventions for juveniles.

Findings:

Findings are presented in four domains: *mastery* (e.g. employment, training, or education); *attachment* (e.g. romantic relationships, peer connections, or caregiving responsibilities), *connection to community/country* (e.g. sports, church, or culture); and *improved physical and mental health*.

Conclusions/Implications:

This study creates a foundation for the: the creation and development of an assessment tool (for risk and desistance), analysis of 70 exit reports, and focus groups and interviews with clinicians who treat juveniles adjudicated for sexual offending.

Word count: 150

PAPER 2: Creation, coding, and inter-rater reliability of the Griffith Youth Forensic Service Exit Report-Tool (GER-T): Preliminary results from n = 70 Exit Reports

Background/Purpose:

Treatment programs that cater to individuals convicted of sexual offences have historically operated within a deficit-model framework, with a focus on reducing risk of sexual recidivism. In this study, we instead prioritise variables that measure growth, success, and wellbeing to examine factors associated with desistance.



#### Methods:

We developed an Exit Report-Tool (GER-T) to code the clinician-generated exit reports of 70 former clients who had successfully completed psychotherapeutic treatment following adjudication for a sexual offence during adolescence.

#### Findings:

Results highlight the substantial degree of risk present within the cohort across multiple domains, but also demonstrates improvements in functioning and wellbeing following treatment.

#### Conclusions/Implications:

This study underscores the value of considering quality of life measures in supporting desistance from future offending. In addition to greatly improving risk management, self-regulation, and caregiver supervision, improvements in factors related to positive family environments and prosocial attachments were observed.

Paper 3: "It might sound cheesy, but "hope": what works from a clinician's perspective: findings from Focus Groups and Interviews with treatment providers

#### Background/Purpose:

The success of psychotherapeutic intervention in justice-involved samples is most often measured by an absence of recidivism. This paper represents the third part of a larger project designed to operationalise "success" more comprehensively.

#### Methods:

We interviewed several current and former clinical staff who provide/d treatment to a representative sample of Australian adolescents adjudicated for sexual offences as teenagers. Our conversations with 13 clinicians were subject to reflexive thematic analysis and yielded 5 themes.

#### Findings:

Simply put, the overall themes that describe "what works" are: hope; 'someone in your corner;' professional support; meaningful ways to spend structured time, and; motivation to change.

#### Conclusions/Implications:

Adolescents are responsible for a sizeable proportion of reported sexual abuse, but that well-timed and targeted treatment can effectively prevent recidivism and produce other personal, social, and psychological gains. Future work should focus on alternative measures of "success."

Word count: 141

Paper 4: Implications and Research Directions of the Wellbeing, Quality of Life, and Desistance from sexual offending" study

#### Background/Purpose:

Treatment that targets multiple domains of wellbeing can bring about positive change for youths who perpetrate sexual harm. We propose a range of factors not often documented in the sexual recidivism literature.

#### Methods:

We summarise the practical implications and recommended future directions for research into treating adolescents. We consider variables such as physical health, financial insecurity, and engagement with allied health/disability services.

#### Findings:

Our research reinforces the need to deliver treatment to young people using a socioecological framework that considers the impact of social relationships with peers, family and the larger community. The observation of so few

such relationships at treatment start, indicates multiple opportunities to build resources sooner to buffer or ameliorate other risks.

Conclusions/Implications:

This initial implementation of the GER-T demonstrates its utility in assessing success of treatment beyond one's risk of recidivism. It is important to further investigate relationships between improved functioning and wellbeing following treatment.

Word count: 150

## The Language of Submission

Dr Tatiana Harrison<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>SCOE

### Background/Purpose:

Our purpose was to demonstrate that duoethnography can be both a collaborative research methodology and a pedagogical strategy for robust learning practices in secondary carceral settings. These settings are defined as those classrooms serving youth whose movement is limited by either being confined to a facility or being excluded from all other classrooms. This study explores our lived experiences, as a group of three carceral secondary school alumni and one teacher, of working together to connect Funds of Knowledge, Funds of Identity, and Translanguaging approaches to carceral classroom pedagogy.

### Methods:

This study was a four-way duoethnography that juxtaposes the perspectives of our multiple experiences of learning, development, and linguistic affordances. As duoethnographers, we compare and contrast our experience of one phenomenon: possible connections between pedagogy in carceral settings and the Funds of Knowledge, Funds of Identity, and Translanguaging literature and approaches to education.

### Findings:

Our research reports on how we benefited from Funds of Knowledge, Funds of Identity and Translanguaging approaches. We reflect, as representatives of carceral students and their teachers, on how we in turn could contribute to these traditions. Finally, our work demonstrates and models the pedagogic potential of bringing these approaches together. Specifically we analyze instances of language associated with criminalized behavior getting excluded from the classroom as well as language associated with police and political power getting rejected by students.

### Conclusions/Implications:

This study foregrounds the rarely heard voices of carceral students as we advance new approaches that connect the language of students' communities to secondary classroom language goals, and vice versa. In this way, our work helps ensure that student voice informs Funds of Knowledge, Funds of Identity, and Translanguaging pedagogy innovation for carceral settings.

## **Underaged & Digitally Engaged: Adolescent access and use of online ‘adult-based platforms’**

Dr Tahlia Hart<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Flinders University

### Background

Online ‘adult-based platforms’ (e.g. Tinder, Grindr, Seeking Arrangements, OnlyFans) appear to be growing in popularity. Platform Terms of Use require users to be aged a minimum of 18 years of age; however, minors appear to be illegitimately registering and engaging with these online adult spaces. Underage engagement may lead to a myriad of opportunities for youth transgressions and potential harms, including physical and/or psychological victimisation.

### Methods

This research is based on online qualitative interviews with young Australians aged 18 to 21 years of age who previously accessed and used these platforms as minors. The presentation will identify the ethical implications of research with minors in this area and the benefits of alternatively working with young adults.

### Findings

The findings relate to adolescent experiences before, during, and after their use of ‘adult-based platforms’ through the study’s uniquely developed ABCDE Model (drawn from aspects of Crime Script Analysis, Seductions of Crime, and Seductions of Cybercrime). The study explored aspects of adolescent development as well as the technical skillsets minors possess that assist them in navigating the technical and social constructs required to engage with ‘adult-based platforms’ whilst underage. The findings of the study ultimately suggest a range of policy recommendations that could be implemented in the online trust and safety industry, which focuses primarily on aspects of technology, education, and law.

## Under Surveillance: Does GPS monitoring reduce recidivism and what does dynamic risk assessment tell us?

Ms Anna Hawkes<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Corrections, <sup>2</sup>Otago University

Appropriate supervision and risk assessments are critical in offender management, but require effective tools and accurate risk assessments to guide decisions and interventions appropriately. This research sought to investigate the effectiveness of Global Positioning System (GPS) monitoring in preventing re-offending, whilst considering the impact of GPS monitoring on the offender's psychological and emotional wellbeing. The second aim was to evaluate the utility of the Dynamic Risk Assessment Offender Re-entry (DRAOR) in predicting future re-offending and examining whether such predictions were different in a matched sample of GPS monitored offenders ( $n = 220$ ) versus non-GPS monitored ( $n = 219$ ) over a 24-month follow-up period. All participants were male offenders released from prison within New Zealand. The results showed statistically significant differences for 'non-violent' and 'violent' re-offending rates, with GPS monitoring being associated with lower rates of recidivism. An unexpected finding of this study was the effectiveness of GPS monitoring to act as a deterrent for those who committed 'violent' offences. It is of note, the effect size in the logistic regression analyses, that 'violent' (0.38:1) was stronger than that of 'non-violent' (0.41:1), so individuals who are GPS monitored are 2.63:1 *less* likely to re-offend 'violently', whereas those same individuals are 2.44:1 *less* likely to re-offend 'non-violently'. The findings demonstrated that the DRAOR may be better at predicting violent and general recidivism, rather than technical violations and overall re-offending in this sample. There was no evidence of increased psychological distress in those men subject to GPS monitoring. The DRAOR's utility in predicting re-offending came primarily from the Stable scale, demonstrating the highest predictive accuracy for re-offending when compared to the Acute and Protective scales. The final assessment predicted re-offending better than the initial assessment. The amount of change on the DRAOR scores was dependent on the individual's re-offence status, in that the scores had decreased more substantially for those who did not re-offend compared to those who did, demonstrating the value in monitoring risk. However, the DRAOR's utility in predicting future re-offending was essentially identical across GPS and non-GPS monitored groups.

## Deaths in police custodial detention - a cross-national study

Dr Ross Hendy<sup>1</sup>, Prof Abi Dymond<sup>2</sup>, Prof Layla Skinns<sup>3</sup>, Dr Michael Bryden<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Monash University, <sup>2</sup>University of Exeter, <sup>3</sup>University of Sheffield, <sup>4</sup>University of Technology Sydney

Police custody (custodial detention) should be a place of safety for those arrested or detained in custodial detention settings. Official data consistently shows that deaths of those detained involve suicide, existing medical conditions, and/or the use of force by police, leading up to, and during, custodial detention. Our research proposes to examine the effectiveness of existing prevention strategies, as well as drivers and disproportionality, from policing jurisdictions in three nations: Australia, England and Wales, and New Zealand. In this seminar, we set out our research approach, including our primary research questions, methodological complexity of cross-jurisdictional research, and approach to engaging with communities and stakeholders.

Part 1. Introduction: key research ideas, general research questions (5 mins)

Legal, policy, and informal definitions of 'police custody' differ across jurisdictions. Our research focuses on preventing harm at police custodial detention (places where people are 'locked up', such as police cells, police watchhouses, and police gazetted gaols). We also set out to explore questions of drivers, causes and narratives of disproportionality of those experiencing custodial detention. This introductory session sets out our broad agenda for the research, starting with the discovery phase to identify best practices and weaknesses, leading to an implementation and evaluation phase of empirically-led improvements.

Part 2. Literature overview, emerging themes and questions (10 mins)

Deaths in or following police custody are an enduring problem, as well as a source of public concern and injustice to the family and friends of those who die. Yet the literature, particularly the comparative literature on this subject, is scant. In this paper, we examine emerging themes from this limited literature for England and Wales, and for Australia and New Zealand, comparing and contrasting themes such as the definition of deaths in police custody, the numbers of people that die, the stated causes of these deaths, the significance of race/ethnicity, as well as First Nation people/settler colonialism to these discussions, and the policies and practices which prevent deaths. We consider the implications of this literature for our deaths in police custody project.

Part 3. Research questions, theoretical frameworks (15 mins)

While 'guardianship' is often associated with 'crime prevention', an application to a 'harm prevention' framework provides an opportunity to weigh risks and design mitigation strategies in the police custodial detention setting. We propose that guardianship applies at three levels: individual level (risk assessment and decision-making of practitioners), institutional level (systems, laws, and procedures that govern practice and material conditions), and the cultural level (of practitioners and the diverse and intersectional social identities of those in care). When considering what causes deaths in police custody and the relevance and significance of race/ethnicity/First Nation peoples to these discussions, this requires conceptual frameworks that acknowledge police institutional racism and structural inequalities in society. This includes Critical Race Theory and Indigenous Criminology. Given the elevated vulnerabilities of those in police custody, a lack of healthcare equivalence is a further relevant conceptual lens. The social also interacts with the material, with oppressive custody environments, unnoticed cell call bells, ligature points etc. also contributing to the likelihood of someone dying.

Part 4. Methodological challenges, methods, sites, cross- and multi-jurisdictional research issues (15 mins)

In this paper we identify methodological challenges and lessons learned from two previous multi-jurisdictional research projects focused on the police. First, the [Lethal Force Monitor](#) aimed to monitor various dimensions of police lethal force across 16 countries in Africa, Asia, Australia, Latin America, the Caribbean and Western Europe to enable comparisons across jurisdictions. Second, comparative research on police detention in England and Wales, Ireland, and jurisdictions in Australia and the United States. This examined the conditions, routines and rituals in police detention, and suspect access to procedural safeguards. We discuss the implications of lessons learned from

these projects for our future work on deaths in police custody, research design and methods, and for work in this area more broadly.

#### Part 5. Stakeholders and audiences (15 mins)

While finding meaningful and authentic ways of engaging with stakeholders, audiences and 'beneficiaries' in research is often seen as critical – perhaps especially when dealing with sensitive issues in and around policing – it can be a controversial and sensitive endeavour that is not without its challenges. Drawing on the authors' previous research with various stakeholders, including Indigenous people in prison, Occupy Melbourne protesters, people with experience of police use of force, families who have experienced bereavement following police use of force, police recruits, Taser-trained officers, trainers and senior officials, this paper discusses the risks, challenges, benefits and knowledge acquired from these different research projects and methods of engagement. Implications for engagement with stakeholders and audiences for a future project on deaths in police custody – and the literature more broadly – are also discussed. Additionally, we will cover some of the basic Indigenous criminological principles (Cunneen and Tauri, 2016) and ethical considerations (Bargallie et al., 2020) that will inform this research.

#### Part 6. Wrap-up and Questions (30 mins)

In the final Part of our seminar, we combine strands from each paper and seek feedback and reflection from our peers.

## **From Evasion to Retaliation: Exploring the Complex Motivations Behind Police Assaults**

Dr Kelly Hine<sup>1</sup>, Katelyn Davenport-Klunder, Dr Catherine Creamer, Dr Kelley Burton, Dimitra Lattas

<sup>1</sup>University Of The Sunshine Coast

Recent high-profile attacks on police officers have emerged as a pressing concern, sparking significant public and academic interest. These incidents, often complex and multifaceted, have raised critical questions about the underlying motives driving such actions. While previous studies have primarily focused on the immediate circumstances or individual profiles of the offenders, there is a growing recognition of the need to understand a broader array of influences.

This study analyses the complex interplay between individual, environmental, and situational factors that shape the motives behind assaults on police officers. Utilising official data, we examined 170 confirmed cases of assaults on Australian police. Our analysis identified four primary motives: evasion resistance, retaliatory aggression, provoked aggression, and protective confrontation.

The findings highlight the multifaceted nature of these motives, emphasising how they are shaped by a combination of personal, contextual, and situational elements. This comprehensive understanding of the underlying drivers of police assaults offers valuable insights for the development of targeted policies and strategies aimed at prevention. By focusing on the root causes and specific circumstances that lead to such incidents, this research contributes to the ongoing efforts to enhance officer safety and reduce the frequency of assaults on police officers.



## **Implementing gender-responsive policing in Timor-Leste: Australia's role in police capacity development**

Dr Loene Howes<sup>1</sup>, Detective Sergeant Suzanne Preston<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>University Of Tasmania, <sup>2</sup>Australian Federal Police

Having gained independence in 2002, the island jurisdiction of Timor-Leste is characterised by democracy and optimism alongside the legacy of colonisation and occupation. Greater gender equality is needed to address key post-conflict concerns, such as complex matters of security and sustainable development. The Timor-Leste Police Development Program (TLPDP) is a partnership between the Governments of Timor-Leste and Australia. It is informed by a gender strategy that reflects international agreements on gender, security, and human rights. As the implementing partner, the Australian Federal Police supports the Polícia Nacional de Timor-Leste (PNTL) to develop capacity in areas of identified need, including increasing gender equality within the PNTL, reducing sexual and gender-based violence, and providing access to justice for all. This presentation draws on program design, evaluations, reports, and experience to document key initiatives and achievements of the TLPDP. It considers the role of strategic alignment, partnership and collaboration, and invites discussion about the prospects for long-term success.

## Here to Last: Local and Global Changes to Law Enforcement Cooperation after the COVID-19 Pandemic

Prof Saskia Hufnagel<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>University of Sydney Law School

While COVID-19 was detrimental for the global economy and had negative effects on businesses of all levels, its impact on law enforcement cooperation was not similarly severe. The pandemic undoubtedly led to delays in criminal justice. Many trials had to be postponed which created a backlog of cases that some systems are still working through. However, while affected by these developments, law enforcement cooperation was not a major contributor to them. Information needed across borders to conduct trials, in particular in the areas of serious and organised crime, was still exchanged and defendants were often even extradited. This paper assesses what helped – legally and practically – to keep cooperation going throughout the pandemic in several regions of the world: Australasia, North- and South America and the European Union. It particularly focuses on what strategies were used globally to maintain cooperation during the pandemic and which were specific to each region. Finally, it is assessed which strategies might be useful beyond the pandemic globally.

## Policy preferences for the legalisation and regulation of cannabis in South Australia

Dr Caitlin Hughes<sup>1,2,3</sup>, Professor Jacqueline Bowden<sup>4</sup>, Dr Simone Deegan<sup>1,2</sup>, Mr Nicholas Cowdery<sup>5</sup>  
<sup>1</sup>College of Business, Government and Law, Flinders University, <sup>2</sup>Centre for Social Impact, Flinders University,  
<sup>3</sup>National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre, UNSW Sydney, <sup>4</sup>National Centre for Education and Training on Addictions, Flinders University, <sup>5</sup>Faculty of Law, UNSW Sydney

### Background/Purpose:

The United Nations have long prohibited the cultivation, supply and possession of psychoactive substances such as cannabis. But the last decade has seen a profound shift in legal responses towards cannabis across the globe, fuelled by recognition of the ongoing harms from criminalisation. In 2020 the ACT legalised home cultivation and consumption of cannabis, but there remain gaps in knowledge about what reforms (if any) the public would support in other states. Conscious that cannabis legalisation is not a binary choice, and that public opinion is a key enabler or blocker for reform, this paper will analyse public attitudes towards cannabis legalisation and regulation in South Australia – one of the first places in the world to adopt a civil penalty scheme for home growing, possession and use.

### Methods:

An anonymous and encrypted panel-based survey was conducted of 3059 South Australians aged 18 and over. The survey assessed the perceived efficacy of current cannabis laws and attitudes towards different regulatory options for cannabis legalisation and regulation for recreational purposes including 1) which offences should be legalised, 2) policy goals, 3) how cannabis should be accessed and 4) accompanying measures that would be important.

### Findings:

Less than 25% of the sampled South Australia public view the current cannabis laws as effective, whilst over half support legalisation and regulation of cannabis for recreational purposes. The preferred models prohibit sales of cannabis alongside alcohol, but back a government monopoly and/or home cultivation, education/health warnings at points of sale, age restrictions and bans on advertising. Preferences of people who use (and do not) cannabis will be explored.

### Conclusions/Implications:

Public support for cannabis legalisation and regulation appears to be growing in South Australia, provided a regulated model is implemented. Policy preferences can be fed into policy deliberations and used to advance cannabis law reform discussions.

## The State of the Art of Police Auditing in the United States

Dr Allan Jiao<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Rowan University

Various programs have been implemented to improve police performance and accountability. This article is focused on a rarely examined area, police auditing, designed for the same purpose. Many police audits have been conducted over the years to address police efficiency, economy, effectiveness, and compliance. This study answers some basic questions on how police auditing has been used over the years in various police departments, what concerns and issues have led to police auditing, what subject matters have been investigated, and how personnel and entities engaged in police auditing are structured. A nation-wide police audit dataset and a quota sample of typical police audit offices/programs were used to develop a landscape or a broad review of police auditing in the United States.

## There and back again: conceptualising and calculating reconviction to imprisonment after preventive detention in Norway

Prof Berit Johnsen<sup>1</sup>, Post.doc. John Todd-Kvam<sup>2</sup>, Senior Research Fellow Catherine Appleton<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>The University College of Norwegian Correctional Service, <sup>2</sup>Norwegian University of Science and Technology

Although Norwegian sentencing and prison policies have gained significant scrutiny around the globe, little attention has been paid to its results. This paper addresses this lack of research by examining rates of reconviction leading to imprisonment among individuals who have completed a sentence of indefinite preventive detention (*forvaring* in Norwegian). *Forvaring* is considered Norway's 'ultimate penalty' – an informal life sentence that can be prolonged until a person dies in prison. It is imposed for serious offences when a determinate sentence is deemed insufficient to protect the lives, health, or freedom of others.

The analysis is based on a 20-year dataset of the *forvaring* population, spanning from 1 January 2002 (when the sentence was first implemented) until 1 January 2022. The sources for the dataset include register-systems within the Norwegian Correctional Service and records of *forvaring* sentences. The database includes variables such as background information, the index offence, criminal history, dates of conviction and release, as well as any new sentences imposed following the completion of a *forvaring* sentence.

The findings reveal that of the 346 individuals sentenced to *forvaring* (329 men and 17 women), 131 completed their sentences over the 20-year period and were released without further restrictions. Depending on how reconviction is defined – i.e. to include all offences or only the serious offences *forvaring* aims to prevent – and the length of the follow up period, reconviction rates vary from 2% to 37%. Reconviction for serious crimes mostly occurs beyond the most common follow-up periods of two and four years, and individuals convicted of sexual offences had a relatively high rate of reconviction for serious offences when compared to those convicted of other offences. These findings need further elaboration before having an influence on the policy and practice of the release from *forvaring*.

## **The voices of incarcerated Aboriginal women with disability: stories of violence, trauma and strength**

A/Prof Jocelyn Jones<sup>1</sup>, Ms Juliet Brook

<sup>1</sup>Edith Cowan University, Kurongkurl Katitjin

Due to the legacy of colonisation and the intersections of systemic racism, sexism and ableism, Aboriginal women with disability are one of the most marginalised and vulnerable groups in Australia. In 2023 we submitted our report to the Australian Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability, which explored the lived experiences of Aboriginal women with disability of family and domestic violence. However, due to time constraints, the voices of women in prison were missing. To address this gap, we have conducted in-depth yarning style interviews with 31 Aboriginal women in three prisons across metropolitan and regional Western Australia. In keeping with an Indigenous research framework, yarning sessions were conducted by Aboriginal Researchers and analysed using grounded theory. The women interviewed had histories of experiencing severe and prolonged violence throughout their lives, which for a number of women was the cause of their disability. They discussed their social and emotional wellbeing and experiences living with disability and trauma. They shared the circumstances which led up to their offending and their experiences in the criminal justice system, including their cultural needs and accessing support. Importantly, the women highlighted how they find strength and healing through their connections to their family and culture, and hopes for the future. We will explore the implications of these findings for the provision of culturally secure services and support to Aboriginal women in prison.

## Drugs and death in Malaysia: race, class and gender identities of convicted drug traffickers

Dr Thaatchaayini Kananatu<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Monash University

### Background/Purpose:

Reports indicate that over 60% of persons on death row in Malaysia are convicted for drug trafficking offences (under *S.39B Dangerous Drugs Act 1952*). In 2023, Malaysia abolished its mandatory death penalty, and those on death row are undergoing resentencing to a maximum of 40 years imprisonment. However, the discretionary death penalty continues to exist, and there are calls by Amnesty International and the Anti-Death Penalty Asia Network to address the issue of the “drug mules” convicted under this provision. Reports indicate that the drug mules are mostly persons from marginalised communities (from lower socioeconomic backgrounds or class; racial, ethnic and/or national minorities; as well as gender). This study examines the social and intersectional identities of persons convicted, from 1980 to 2024.

### Methods:

This study uses two methodologies: doctrinal analysis and legal archaeology. Using a collected sample of 915 legal cases reported in the Malaysian law reports from 1980 - 2024, doctrinal analysis of the legal cases was conducted in order to determine the changes in the law, legal arguments and judicial attitudes. A sociolegal methodology called ‘legal archaeology’ (Nottingham, 2022) was used to ‘dig deeper’ into the historical, social, political and economic climate of that period which spans 44 years.

### Findings:

The findings indicate links between the conviction rates and social, political and economic changes in Malaysia. There is a peak in convictions of foreign nationals in the early 1980s, during a time when national policy was emphasizing state sovereignty. A high conviction rate of racial minorities from lower socioeconomic groups in the 2000s indicate a link to national socioeconomic and development policies which favoured rapid urbanization.

### Conclusions/Implications:

By examining the phenomenon of drug trafficking convictions, this study questions the ‘mischief’ behind the provision *S.39B DDA 1952* which targets the ‘trafficker’ or drug mules from marginalised communities.

## **Gendered mobilities in urban neighbourhoods: Women's and men's risk of victimization and activity spaces**

Dr Chloe Keel<sup>1</sup>, Professor Rebecca Wickes<sup>1</sup>, Professor Jonathan Corcoran<sup>2</sup>, Professor Danielle Reynolds<sup>1</sup>, Professor Christopher Browning<sup>3</sup>, Dr Ying Lu<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Griffith University, <sup>2</sup>University of Queensland, <sup>3</sup>The Ohio State University

An individual's activity space captures their exposure to the urban environment including, potentially risky social and physical environments. There is an emerging literature to support the argument that mobilities are gendered. This is largely due to gendered household responsibilities, exposures to crime and violence and differences in perceptions of the risk of victimization between women and men. These potential predictors have not been tested in the context of individual activity spaces. This paper draws on individual GPS data for 365 participants over a seven-day period in Brisbane, Australia. It answers two research questions. Firstly, how do women's and men's actual activity spaces differ? Secondly, what drives gender differences in activity spaces during the day and at night? This paper contributes to scholarship on gendered mobility through considering activity spaces and perceptions of crime.



## Spatiality & Justice - Panel

Dr Carolyn McKay, Dr Caitlin Davey, Dr Justin Ellis, Dr Kyle Mulrooney

<sup>1</sup>University of Sydney, <sup>2</sup>Griffith University, <sup>3</sup>University of Newcastle, <sup>4</sup>University of New England

### Abstract:

Criminal procedure is framed by spatial, territorial and hierarchical concepts, such as jurisdiction, and has traditionally operated within the material and public spaces of courtrooms, filled with symbolic spatial signifiers. However, as society is rapidly embracing networked process-driven spaces and digital architecture, criminal justice spaces are also transforming. Consequently, through processes of digitalisation, disparate geospatial sites can now be connected by audio visual links, extending court space into non-judicial sites including private homes, offices, chambers, police stations and correctional facilities.

Drawing on my 2021-2024 ARC DECRA project and qualitative data from 200 interviews and surveys with Australian judicial officers and lawyers, I focus on the interplay between remote individuals, vulnerabilities and spatially dispersed criminal procedure. The data indicate clear tensions between the interests of spatially remote vulnerable prosecution witnesses and spatially remote vulnerable defendants. These tensions are analysed through 'digital vulnerability', a concept used to examine the relationships between digital communication technologies and vulnerable individuals in criminal justice: the new positive experiences as well as new potential harms and unintended consequences. What are the experiences of working with vulnerable individuals when they are remote from court space? How do the developing hybrid spatial arrangements support accessibility for vulnerable individuals, or exacerbate barriers to justice? That is, does spatial dispersal ameliorate or compound the vulnerabilities of remote witnesses and defendants? On one hand, audio visual links can be beneficial mechanisms providing physically and emotionally safe spaces for vulnerable prosecution witnesses to give their best evidence. On the other hand, while vulnerable defendants might find it convenient to appear in a remote courtroom from a custodial space, the spatial disjuncture may isolate them, diminish opportunities for confidential legal consultations, lead to disengagement and a lack of comprehension.

### Abstract 2

Name: Dr Caitlin Davey

Institution: Griffith University

Abstract Title:

Abstract: Punitive Attitudes in Australia: Investigating the Rural-Urban Divide

### Background/Purpose:

The Australian public are generally supportive of punitive responses to crime and punishment. Research has shown that the cultural, social, and political contexts of the community and wider nation influence punitive attitudes. Therefore, it would be reasonable to consider that locational context and cultural geography play an integral role in how people perceive crime, the need for punishment and the attitudes surrounding these. Moreover, international research suggests that there is a difference in punitive attitudes across different geographical locations, with rural residents tending to be less tolerant of crime and more likely to hold punitive attitudes when compared to their urban counterparts. Yet, we have little understanding of the factors influencing this difference.

### Methods:

Drawing on a representative sample of the Australian public ( $N = 536$ ), this study explores differences in punitive attitudes among rural and urban Australians and examines the factors which contribute to this, with specific consideration to demographic factors, crime-salience variables (i.e., perceptions of crime, fear of victimisation and confidence in the criminal justice system) and general perceptions of offenders (i.e., interpersonal trust, belief in redeemability, internal attributions of crime causation and attitudes towards First Nations Australians).

### Findings:

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Preliminary findings indicate that Australians hold punitive attitudes, with rural respondents being significantly more punitive than urban respondents. Moderation analyses are currently being conducted to determine if broader perceptions of crime and offending and/or perceptions of offenders can account for any differences in punitive attitudes across rural and urban areas.

#### Conclusions/Implications:

The findings provide support for the role of place and space in shaping attitudes towards, including those towards crime and punishment. The practical and theoretical implications of these findings will be discussed in the presentation.

#### Abstract 3

Name: Dr Justin Ellis (Justin.Ellis@newcastle.edu.au)

Institution: The University of Newcastle

Abstract Title:

Engagement with hybrid spaces: balancing LGBTQ+ expression, safety, and quality of life

Abstract:

Online and in-person public spaces can present challenges and opportunities for LGBTQ+ individuals and communities. LGBTQ+ peoples are particularly vulnerable to harassment and vilification online based on their sexual orientation and/or gender identity, and which have recently translated into an increase in in-person attacks. Online environments can also provide safe 'pockets', where identities can be explored through sending and responding to social signals. However, less well understood are the opportunities for safe expression that might be realised in 'hybrid' sites, where the use of technology in public spaces bridges the online and in-person worlds. Amid a wave of online anti-LGBTQ+ misinformation and disinformation, there is an urgent need to conceptualise these issues and to develop authentic, inclusive communication that maximises LGBTQ+ agency. Applying a digiqueer analysis to the contradictions within technology, identity, and access to justice, the article advances understanding of how LGBTQ+ people engage with urban hybrid spaces through a case study from Newcastle, Australia, and ways to enhance expression that do not negatively impact quality of life.

#### Abstract 4

Name: Dr Kyle Mulrooney (kmulroon@une.edu.au)

Institution: University of New England

Abstract Title: Balancing the Badge in the Bush: The dual dynamics of rural policing and officer well-being in Australia

Abstract:

Background/Purpose: The demands and occupational hazards of urban police work are well-researched, particularly concerning officer exposure to traumatic events and high-pressure situations and its implications on well-being. However, there is an emergent need to examine policing and its impact on well-being within rural landscapes. This study examines police officer well-being in the context of rural Australia, considering how it is uniquely shaped by geographic location and contrasting it against the backdrop of urban policing challenges.

Methods: Semi-structured interviews were conducted with police officers serving in rural Australia (N = 22).

Transcripts were subject to a thematic analysis and data extraction was performed in NVivo 12.

Findings: The findings reveal a complex dynamic within rural police work regarding officer well-being. On the one hand, a predominant sentiment was the allure of rural policing, which many officers lauded as "the best job in cops." This notion stemmed from experiencing fewer violent incidents, forming deeper community bonds, and receiving an appreciative welcome from victims. This was contrasted sharply with the urban policing experience. However, beneath this appealing facade lies a unique set of challenges. Officers are deeply integrated within the community, making them perpetually accessible even off-duty. This lack of distinction between personal and professional roles and the inevitable loss of anonymity influences their decision-making in law enforcement. This intricate balance can sometimes lead to negative outcomes, ranging from community ostracism to more severe threats against them and their families.

Conclusions/Implications: Rural policing in Australia offers an environment that many officers value. However, there are challenges rooted in the very essence of rural community life. Policymakers and law enforcement agencies must recognise and address these unique dynamics to ensure the well-being of officers and foster healthier community-police engagements in rural areas.

## **The challenges of teaching criminology sessionally in Australia and Aotearoa/New Zealand: Results from a mixed-methods study**

Dr Samantha Keene<sup>1</sup>, Dr Mark Wood<sup>2</sup>, Dr April Murphy<sup>2</sup>, Dr Rachel Loney-Howes<sup>3</sup>, Dr Kate Hutton-Burns<sup>4</sup>, Dr Jessamy Gleeson<sup>2</sup>, Deakin Mary Iliadis<sup>2</sup>  
<sup>1</sup>Te Herenga Waka - Victoria University Of Wellington, <sup>2</sup>Deakin University, <sup>3</sup>University of Wollongong, <sup>4</sup>Monash University

Despite the increasing presence of sessional criminology educators in Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand, little research has been conducted to understand the challenges they confront. This study seeks to address this gap by investigating the challenges faced by sessional criminology educators in these regions and examining the factors that contribute to these challenges. To address these aims, a mixed-methods approach was employed, including a quantitative survey completed by 76 sessional educators of criminology and subsequent qualitative interviews with 30 survey participants. The findings revealed significant dissatisfaction with the training provided by universities for teaching sensitive content in a trauma-informed manner. A majority of respondents expressed the need for improved support and additional training in this area. Moreover, limited institutional support for fixed-term and sessional staff was identified as a significant challenge, with participants perceiving discouragement in pursuing an academic career in criminology. Additionally, a substantial proportion of sessional educators felt burdened by an excessive administrative workload. These findings underscore the need for enhanced resources, guidance, and institutional support to address these challenges and alleviate the work-related pressures faced by sessional criminology teachers. The article concludes by discussing implications for policy and practice in higher education institutions to better support sessional criminology educators.

## Financial crime vulnerabilities – anti-money laundering law in context

Dr Jamie Ferrill<sup>1</sup>, Prof Christian Leuprecht<sup>3</sup>, Dr Milind Tiwari<sup>1</sup>, Prof Colin King<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Charles Sturt University, <sup>2</sup>University of Sydney, <sup>3</sup>Queens University

Biography:

Background/Purpose:

The Australian Government considers organised crime to be “a national security threat that threatens our way of life” (2018), and money laundering has been described as the “lifeblood of organised crime” (Australian Federal Police 2023). Notwithstanding various reviews (e.g. Attorney General’s Department 2016), parliamentary committees (e.g. Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Reference Committee 2022), and consultations (e.g. Attorney General’s Department 2023), there is still limited knowledge on money laundering vulnerabilities, anti-money laundering (AML) policymaking, and on implementation of AML obligations in different sectors. Most notably, there has been significant criticism of Australia’s failure to apply AML obligations to so-called tranche 2 entities (i.e. real estate agents; trust and company service providers, accountants, and legal professionals) – though reform in that regard now appears imminent. This panel will bring together experts in different areas of AML and financial crime, to explore new contexts and vulnerabilities and to consider enforcement and policy responses.

Anonymised for blind review.

Presentation 1

Trade-based money laundering (TBML) has emerged as a concept intending to describe the process of disguising the proceeds of crime by moving value through trade transactions to legitimize their illicit origins via misrepresentation of the price, quantity or quality of imports or exports. This paper critically examines the concept of TBML, arguing that the prevailing definition may obscure the broader exploitation of the trade system for illicit financial activities. By proposing an alternative regulatory model, the paper aims to enhance supply chain security and control illicit financial flows (IFFs) beyond the narrow confines of TBML. It deconstructs the mechanics of money laundering through international trade, questioning the rationale behind the specific labelling of TBML, as opposed to more general frameworks. This labelling, the paper argues, could inadvertently limit our understanding and control of such criminal activities, while neglecting other financial and adjacent crimes. The study finds that the TBML concept may impede effective enforcement and prevention, suggesting that a more inclusive regulatory model targeting key components of the trade system could better address these issues and enhance the overall fight against IFFs.

Presentation 2

Should NFTs be classified as ‘art’ and fall under art sale regulations, which make the art sector notoriously vulnerable to financial crime, or should they be regulated like other virtual assets and securities? Although the role of cryptocurrency in financial crime has received heightened scholarly and regulatory attention, the exponential growth of virtual assets as an enabler of financial crime has been highly disruptive to existing legal and regulatory frameworks. NFTs (non-fungible tokens) exacerbate this problem to the extreme. NFTs are situated in a liminal space between the fine art and financial sector, which makes them attractive to criminals in general, and for purposes of money laundering in particular: virtual assets do not need to be physically transported, payment can easily be exchanged between cryptocurrency wallets, and ‘one of a kind’ tokens can be sold for exorbitant amounts of money. This paper contends that the absence of adequate AML and KYC regulations in NFT marketplaces creates a uniquely unregulated financial ecosystem for criminals to exploit. As a proof of concept, this paper examines select cases of money laundering through NFT sales to show how the pseudo-anonymity of the blockchain propels financial crime.

Presentation 3

The metaverse, an immersive, interoperable, and decentralised 3D online environment, contributes to the emergence of various financial metacrimes, presenting unique challenges for metaverse policing.

However, the existing scholarship on metaverse policing has been limited, disconnected, and disorganised. To establish a comprehensive understanding of metaverse law enforcement as it related to financial crime, the study systematically reviews 33 selected studies applying PRISMA 2020 guidelines. The review identifies eight salient challenges for metaverse policing, including the absence of a legal framework, undetermined avatar liability, limited understanding of the metaverse and metacrime, underdeveloped policing capabilities, anonymity issues, difficulties in evidence handling, jurisdictional discrepancies, and ethical concerns. It also identifies four plausible recommendations, such as establishing clear avatar governance, handling privacy and security issues effectively, improving investigative methodologies, and defining accounting and taxation protocols. The findings underscore the urgent need for comprehensive research in metaverse regulation and the development of evidence-based policies to create a secure and well-regulated metaverse environment, addressing the unique challenges posed by financial metacrime.

#### Presentation 4

Anti-money laundering reform is underway in Australia, with estate agents, lawyers, and many more sectors expecting to be brought within the regime in 2025. This reform will result in significant change, with AML obligations such as KYC (know your customer) and reporting suspicious transactions. There are significant lessons that can be learned from other jurisdictions in this regard. This paper will consider what Australia might take from the UK AML regime – where AML obligations already apply in these sectors. Issues as to implementation in practice (specifically in the real estate sector) and effectiveness will be explored.

## A Decolonizing Lens on Hong Kong's Cure and Control Drug Policy

Professor Karen Joe-Laidler, Dr Kate Lowe, Ngai Ling Leona Li, Chun Wai Velda Chui

<sup>1</sup>The University of Hong Kong

### Background/Purpose:

Decolonizing criminology is gaining ground as emerging research unravels the intersections and continuity between past and present. Decolonizing analyses seek to redress the imbalance of the global north's knowledge hierarchies and has been instrumental in exposing the continuation of colonial power in international and domestic drug control systems. We adopt a decolonizing lens to highlight the 'connected histories' (Go, 2017) between colonial rule and contemporary manifestations of drug control policies, drawing on the case of Hong Kong - central in historical accounts of the international narcotics trade, yet marginalized in knowledge hierarchies regarding its domestic policies. We seek to explain why the state has resisted contemporary health strategies like harm reduction for psychotropic drugs.

### Methods:

Our analysis draws on historical documents and interviews with people who use drugs in Hong Kong (n75) and frontline workers (n17).

### Findings:

Our starting point is the emergence of heroin in Hong Kong in the 1930s, and colonial efforts, after WWII, to address the increasing visibility of heroin consumption. By the late 1950s, colonial authorities launched its prohibitionist campaign, including its plan to "cure" heroin addiction in a controlled prison setting. This regime – described as a medical response – occurred within a criminalized context. We shift to the present where this regime remains a key feature of contemporary drug policy, exploring the reasons for its persistence and the inability of harm reduction – a health-based strategy to gain ground. At the heart of this regime are assumptions about human nature and individual autonomy.

### Conclusions/Implications:

Despite changes in the types of drugs and people consuming, there has been continuity in Hong Kong's drug policies long tied to its colonial roots, evident in other Southeast Asian locales with a colonial past. We conclude with a reflection on how health strategies like harm reduction might operate within this regime.

## Onset and persistence among young offenders during an exceptional event: evidence from New South Wales

Mr Cameron Langfield<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>University Of Wollongong

Developmental and life-course criminologists have long been interested in the criminal careers of individuals, and particularly why an individual starts their offending, why they continue, and why they stop. Two of these criminal career parameters—known as onset and persistence—have perhaps been the most researched in the discipline. However, no scholarly work to date has explored how these two parameters were impacted during the COVID-19 pandemic. In this study, we use unit-record data for individuals born in 2004 in New South Wales to explore how the rate of onset and persistence were impacted during the first two years of the pandemic. We hypothesise that the rate of new onset among this cohort will have been substantially reduced while the rate of offending among pre-COVID onset high frequency offenders will have not been affected. Our analysis shows that the rate of onset, and the cumulative rate of onset, declined by 17 percent compared to a cohort born two years prior. We find that these declines are clustered mainly in property offending, such as stealing, with some smaller declines in onset witnessed for violent offending. However, we find very few impacts on the rate of persistent offending among this cohort—in fact, these offenders committed 10 percent more property offences during the COVID-19 period than their older counterparts. We think that the disruption to routine activities and guardianship are most likely responsible for the decline in new onset, but we do not think these same mechanisms are responsible for the limited changes among high frequency offenders. The implications of these results for the field are discussed and future research areas are identified.



## Examining the Eco-Mafia: Organised Crime and Illicit Plastic Trafficking in Australia and South-East Asia

A/Prof Mark Lauchs<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Qut

### Background/Purpose:

This paper discusses the crime script analysis of illicit plastic waste disposal on the role of organised crime 'eco-mafia' in illicit plastic waste trafficking in Australia and South-East Asia. This study forms part of a larger ARC-funded project integrating chemistry, law, and criminology to develop technologies for tracing illicit plastic back to its source.

### Methods:

The project gathered data from government publications, media reports and court judgements on illicit plastic waste crime from June 2019 to June 2024. This data aggregated to map the steps in the diversion of plastic waste from the licit to the illicit market. The aggregated map provides a strategic overview and a crime script of the industry in Australia and South-East Asia, mapping the organisational structures, operational methods, and transnational dimensions of waste trafficking facilitated by organised crime groups.

### Findings:

Preliminary findings reveal significant gaps in understanding the complexities of illicit plastic waste trafficking, particularly its links to organised crime. The map identifies the points of primary divergence and end-points of the illicit market allowing for strategic intervention by regulators and policing agencies to disrupt the illicit plastic waste industry.

### Conclusions/Implications:

Outcomes from this study contributed to developing a comprehensive criminological framework for understanding and addressing illicit plastic waste trafficking. The research explains the mechanisms of waste trafficking in Australia and South-East Asia, allowing policymakers and law enforcement to identify stages in the crime script for regulatory and investigative intervention. This project highlights the importance of interdisciplinary collaboration in developing effective strategies to combat environmental crime and promote environmental justice.

## Youth Crime: Addressing root causes through community-led interventions

Ms Anna Leask<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>University Of Canterbury

### Background:

Youth crime has become one of the most pressing social issues in New Zealand, with recent government initiatives focusing on punitive measures such as military-style boot camps. However, through extensive research conducted across New South Wales, Queensland, and Victoria between April and December 2023, this research explores alternative approaches to youth detention in Australia, focusing on innovative strategies that prioritise rehabilitation over punitive measures

### Methods:

Interviews with frontline workers, young offenders, reformed offenders, and experts revealed that the root causes of youth crime—poverty, mental health struggles, domestic violence, and intergenerational trauma—are often misunderstood or overlooked. These issues manifest in behaviours that are frequently labelled as criminal but are, in fact, symptoms of much deeper social problems.

### Findings:

The research emphasises the effectiveness of grassroots interventions that meet young people where they are, providing employment opportunities, mentorship, and a sense of belonging. Case studies from successful initiatives will be shared, alongside insights from key figures in the Australian justice system, including New South Wales Children's Court officials and the Queensland Youth Crime Task Force.

### Conclusions:

This research identifies the need for a paradigm shift in how we approach youth crime and advocates for a broader understanding of its causes and a focus on community-based, rather than punitive, solutions.

This paper explores alternative approaches to youth detention in Australia, focusing on innovative strategies that prioritise rehabilitation over punitive measures. It examines the historical context of youth justice in Australia, the limitations of traditional detention models, and the emergence of community-based programs, restorative justice, and therapeutic interventions. Drawing on case studies from various Australian states and territories, the paper highlights the success of these alternative approaches in reducing recidivism, promoting social reintegration, and addressing the unique needs of young offenders.

## A scoping review of sexual violence events perpetrated against older people

Miss Madeline Lee<sup>1</sup>, A/Prf Nadine McKillop<sup>1</sup>, Dr Emily Moir<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>University Of The Sunshine Coast

### Background/Purpose:

Although an estimated nine million older adults are victims of sexual violence and abuse (SVA) globally each year, this population is largely overlooked in criminological research. Given the known impacts of SVA, particularly for older victims, enhanced understanding of incident characteristics, and how events unfold, is crucial to improving prevention and response. Guided by environmental criminology, a scoping review was conducted to assess the extent to which older-victim SVA events have been empirically examined to gain an understanding of the immediate circumstances in which incidents occur and how this can inform early intervention and prevention.

### Methods:

Eight databases were searched, with records included if they reported older-victim SVA event characteristics, were original, peer-reviewed research, and published in English. After screening 1,278 records, 33 studies were reviewed. To enrich interpretations, data was collated according to key principles of environmental criminology (i.e., who, what, where, when, and how), thus enhancing understanding of these events.

### Findings:

This review found that SVA events against older people typically involve a female victim and male perpetrator (often a stranger, aged 30-50yrs), take place in the victim's residence during hours of darkness, and comprise severe forms of violence and victimisation. Few studies reported the methods and strategies used to perpetrate incidents, having no clear consensus. Prevention recommendations commonly included increasing awareness of this issue, and education and training for guardians on how to recognise and respond to abuse.

### Conclusions/Implications:

Findings demonstrate that considerable attention has been given to understanding who is involved in SVA events and what typically occurs. However, there is a dearth of information regarding when and how these crimes are perpetrated, and the situational factors influencing offending. Resultingly, prevention recommendations largely focus on actors (e.g., victims, perpetrators, witnesses), rather than the abuse environment, emphasising gaps in understanding and response to this growing issue.

## Images, Sounds, and Atmospheres of Incarceration: A Creative Workshop

Prof Murray Lee<sup>1</sup>, Dr Carolyn McKay<sup>2</sup>, Associate Professor Alyce McGovern<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>University Of Sydney, <sup>2</sup>University of Sydney, <sup>3</sup>University of NSW

### Background/Purpose:

Based around the themes of the violence, damage and indignities of incarceration, and questions of intersectionality that leads to the carceral over-representation of First Nations peoples and other minority groups, the workshop encourages participants to deploy their criminological imaginations to creative ends while tapping into key conference themes. This hands-on workshop employs the sonic, craftivism and image-based creative methods of the workshop organisers as the foundation for participants to produce a collective, textile-based artifact and soundscape which will, in turn, be exhibited in the conference common area. It is envisaged that the end-product will serve as a creative statement on the part of the workshop participants, and as an engaging commentary on the role of the prison and other forms of incarceration in late-modern society. It also seeks to demonstrate how creative methods and approaches in criminology can produce impactful and meaningful outcomes. It makes the case for NTROs and seeks to expand the methodological palate of ANZSOC criminology.

### Methods:

This is a hands-on creative workshop in which participants will be guided to apply their criminological knowledge and imaginings of carceral issues to a collective soundscape and textile-based artifact. If possible, it would be optimal for the workshop to be on Day 1 so that other conference attendees can incrementally engage with the outputs as well as contribute to them.

### Findings:

The findings of this project will be created iteratively in real time via the workshop. As Sawyer (2021) notes '*a process that is iterative and improvisational... doesn't start with a moment of insight; rather, ideas emerge while engaging in the process*' (p. 6). This is precisely what the organisers expect to happen. While the workshop organisers will also be presenting findings from their own creative works, the workshop outputs will be the key findings.

### Conclusions/Implications:

These will be the cooperative and collaborative work of ANZSOC participants.

## The Dangerisation of Drill: The Pre-Emptive Policing of Pacifika Youth in Western Sydney

Prof Murray Lee<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>University Of Sydney

Despite Australian legal systems being underpinned by a presumption of innocence that reserves punishment for individuals found guilty of committing crimes, laws such as the *Crimes (Criminal Organisations Control) Act 2012* may be seen to override these foundational doctrines. As pre-emptive policing practices are guided by police-defined markers of criminality, potential offenders are often identified culturally and aesthetically. This often criminalises particular iconographies and symbols that are only tangentially connected to offending behaviours. This presentation examines the development of such legislation and its implementation against certain genres of music and performing musicians as a mechanism of dangerisation. Through situating relations between New South Wales police and Pacific Islander background drill rap group ONEFOUR within recent legal and cultural history, and using documents procured through Government Information Public Access requests (GIPAs), the presentation argues that such laws and policing practices not only fail to enhance community safety but often uphold deeply entrenched colonial logics, exacerbating racial and socioeconomic inequity.

## Understanding Policing Delivery: Research into Equity and Fairness in Policing in Aotearoa New Zealand.

Dr Catherine Leonard<sup>1</sup>, Dr Anne Hynds<sup>1</sup>, John Leonard<sup>1</sup>, Letitia Goldsmith<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Ihi Research

### Background/Purpose:

Understanding Policing Delivery (UPD) is an independent research programme looking at fair and equitable policing for Māori and for other communities. This symposium summarises and discusses key results that emerged from a two-year investigation undertaken by Ihi Research in partnership with Police and community members to better understand equity and fairness in policing within Aotearoa New Zealand.

### Methods:

The research investigated three key areas of Police-community interactions: Who Police stop and speak to, and how Police engage with them, decision-making around the use of force, and decision-making around laying charges. The research was participatory, undertaken with New Zealand Police, over a two-year period (2022-2024), mixed method, sequential and phased. Data included analysis of public praise and dissatisfaction submissions (n=610) and 889 external complaints to Police over a three-month period. All TASER event events (n=786), and TASER discharges reported were analysed (n=132). In-depth interviews with communities identified in data were undertaken in phase two, alongside 5 Police innovations to achieve equitable delivery.

### Findings:

Phase 1 data highlighted variability in the quality of policing delivery, including Police behaviour that supports/erodes trust and legitimacy. Variability was also related to key themes (as well as gaps) in the data that emphasised how particular groups experienced Police encounters. These themes were related to racial inequities, wāhine Māori, tāne Māori, disability and neurodiversity, mental distress, rainbow community and the intersection of these experiences. Analysis of data indicates inequity does exist in the policing system and that it operates at differing levels; structural, systemic, institutional, and interpersonal.

There will be three presentations in this symposium.,

Lesson learnt from participatory research with Police

This paper examines the methodological approach taken by Ihi Research to examine equity and fairness in New Zealand Policing. The research was undertaken with a structure of an Independent Panel, and an Operational Advisory Group (OAG). Formed in early 2022 through the UPD programme to bring together a diverse range of operational police staff. The inclusion of operational police staff was to ensure the research into potential systemic bias was informed by frontline insights, observations, and advice from the police's operating environment. Police staff who engaged in the OAG come from different districts, and were diverse in rank and role, length of service, gender, ethnicity and perspectives. The presentation will examine the challenges and benefits of the approach and lessons learnt throughout the multi-year study from both the perspective of the research team and the OAG members.

### Structural, systemic and institutional bias within the NZ Police

Data from all phases of our research indicates there is inequity and bias across the Police system as well impacts from inequitable wider societal structures. Inequity and unfair treatment are evident across different levels; structural, systemic, institutional and interpersonal. Racial bias intersects with other forms of discrimination. Intersectionality holds that the traditional models of oppression impacting people, such as those based on race/ethnicity, gender, religion, socio-economic status, dis/ability, sexual orientation and age, do not act independently of one another. Rather these forms of oppression interact creating a system underpinned by multiple forms of discrimination. These levels influence fairness and equity in policing delivery are underpinned by assumptions of deservedness and justice. While, complaints and dissatisfaction are often expressed in interpersonal interactions, but these interactions are a result of the impact of the levels of inequity interacting to produce

inequalities.

Police innovation to support equitably practices.

This paper presents results of five innovation within NZ Police designed to reduce inequities in Policing delivery. Innovative case studies demonstrate the effectiveness of community-based, relational policing approaches. Co-location and place-based approaches allow officers to work alongside community members to build trust. The influence of police leadership committed to equity and fairness is demonstrated in innovation cases. Conversely, the lack of support from police leadership in innovative spaces appears to limit the ability of officers to use alternative policing approaches. Analysis suggests there is a connection between leadership support in innovative spaces, adequate resourcing, managing high workloads, and aligning of Police and community values.

Conclusions/Implications:

The research has resulted in over 40 recommendations to achieve more equitable Policing in Aotearoa New Zealand. This symposium presents an overview of the research methodology, the approach, findings and future focus for NZ Police.

## Academic Strains and Student Violence in Greater China

Prof Spencer Li<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>University Of Macau

Student violence has drawn growing attention in China in recent years. Among other factors, the public often blames academic strain for this type of violence. However, few studies have systematically examined the variety of academic strains and their influences on adolescent violence in schools. Additionally, there has been insufficient attention to student violence from a cultural perspective, despite the common recognition that students' experiences in Eastern cultures may differ significantly from those in Western cultures.

To address these gaps, this study proposes a model that explains how academic strains are related to student violence in various cultural settings. The focus of the study is on the indirect relationship between academic strains and adolescent violence in schools, as mediated by psychological stress, hostility, and pro-violent attitudes. We collected survey data from a random sample of approximately 9,000 students attending secondary schools in three culturally diverse cities in the Greater China area to test the theoretical model. The survey included measures that captured multiple domains of academic strain, such as poor grades, inability to complete homework, low academic efficacy, school disciplinary problems, and bullying victimization. We employed structural equation modeling to analyze the effects of academic strains on student violence and to assess the roles of the mediators in these structural relationships.

This study offers significant theoretical and practical implications for the prevention of student violence in Greater China.



## Law-and-Order Politics on Public Perceptions of Safety in Australia and the US

Dr Kai Lin<sup>1</sup>, Dr Chloe Keel<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>University Of Technology Sydney, <sup>2</sup>Griffith University

Comparing Wave 6 (2011-2012) and Wave 7 (2017-2018) of the World Value Survey (WVS) data collected in Australia and the US, the current study seeks to quantitatively investigate how public perceptions of safety, and its associated predictors, evolve over time. In particular, this study focuses on exploring whether and to what extent public perceptions of safety had become more divided along demographic, socioeconomic, and political lines between Wave 6 and Wave 7 of the WVS in Australia and the US. The comparative analysis found that law-and-order politics, neighbourhood contexts, as well as society-level social cohesion differently shaped public perceptions of safety in these two similarly situated countries during this pivotal time of political polarisation in the 2010s.

## Applying cultural safety in undergraduate criminology curriculum: Centring First Nations perspectives and pedagogies

Dr Krystal Lockwood<sup>1</sup>, Madeleine Bennet<sup>2</sup>, Deb Woodbridge<sup>3</sup>, Dr Alanah Cronin<sup>4</sup>, Dr Stephen Corporal<sup>5</sup>  
<sup>1</sup>ARC Centre of Excellence for Indigenous Futures, University of Queensland, <sup>2</sup>School of Justice, QUT, <sup>3</sup>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies Unit, The University of Queensland, <sup>4</sup>School of Criminology and Criminal Justice, Griffith University, <sup>5</sup>Indigenous Data Network, The University of Melbourne

Criminology suffers from *epistemic injustice* - a process that excludes knowledges and misrepresents meaning to devalue differing perspectives. This is exemplified with the marginalisation of Indigenous knowledges, worldviews, and perspectives. A direct approach to improve the field is through culturally grounded teaching and learning. The demand of criminology courses and professionalisation of the field has grown since the 1990's. This rise has had limited engagement in cultural competency training or cultural safety- practices which equip professionals with the awareness, tools, and skills to work respectfully in intercultural environments. In this presentation, we share our experience as First Nations teaching team in the development of a First Nations and justice course in an undergraduate criminology degree in Queensland Australia. First, we will share our experiences of developing and delivering the course and outline the integral components of culturally grounded curriculum drawing on Indigenous worldviews. Then we will share outcomes from an evaluation we conducted over the first two years of delivery. The evaluation incorporated a pre-post Criminology Cultural Capability Measurement Tool that we adapted, as well the analysis of student's pre-post critical reflections. Our experiences and outcomes from our evaluation can inform criminology teaching practices that improve the cultural competency of the criminal justice workforce.

## Colonialism, Consistency and Change: Foreign Nationals, Drug Trafficking and Drug Policy in Hong Kong.

Dr Kate Lowe<sup>1</sup>, Professor Karen Joe-Laidler, Dr Verity Smith, Ngai Ling Leona Li, Chun Wai Velda Chui

<sup>1</sup>The University of Hong Kong

### Background/Purpose:

Criminology is beginning to unpack colonialism's impact on contemporary and historical policies and practices, recognizing its resulting harms (Moore, 2023). Such efforts have led to discussions concerning policies and penal law, and ideas and practices rooted in colonial thought like race and otherness, and the invention of the criminal (Agozino, 2003). This paper builds upon these efforts through a historical and contemporary exploration of the role foreign nationals have played in drug trafficking and drug policy in Hong Kong.

### Methods:

We draw upon an analysis of two sources: historical documents and legal cases from the Hong Kong Judiciary online archive of judgments.

### Findings:

We begin with the evolution of Hong Kong's drug policy, exploring the move towards harsh penal laws. The colonial government monopoly over the legal distribution of opium was threatened by emerging illegal supplies in the early 1900s. The Chinese, crossing the border were identified and sanctioned as the main suppliers. This was the start of the British Empire's efforts to contain competing "illegal" drug markets. Subsequently, Southeast/East Asians became the new threat as they brought in heroin from the Golden Triangle and took centre stage as the "other." Since the late 1990s, with the diversification of the drug market, foreign nationals are the newest "other", bringing in cocaine, ice, and cannabis from South America, Africa, India, and within the Southeast/East Asia region.

### Conclusions/Implications:

We argue that despite changes, Hong Kong's drug policy remains rooted in its colonial past. We suggest that the "colonial logic" has been repurposed (Harry, 2023) through the steadfast, prohibitionist approach to drug policy and through consistent discourses of the "othering" of foreign nationals sentenced for drug trafficking. Such logic has been historically used as a tool to preserve, justify and fortify the government's anti-drug stance and role in the "war on drugs."

## Understanding the Nature of Vietnamese Cannabis Cultivation in New Zealand

David Coombridge, Chat Le Nguyen, Dr Hai Thanh Luong<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Griffith University

While Vietnamese-born prisoners' drug-related offences have been considered at the highest rates in Australia, this data is still not yet recorded separately in the New Zealand prison statistic system. It could lead to difficulty in assessing the trend and pattern of this syndicate in comparison to another group. Appearances of Vietnamese-ethnicity groups involved, either directly or indirectly, in cultivating, manufacturing, and trading cannabis were concerning for law enforcement in New Zealand in recent years. As 'crop-sitters', Vietnamese illegal employees in New Zealand are employed to stay in the grow house to take care of cannabis plants, which is ongoing. Based on previous empirical studies, Luong (2014, 2017, 2019, 2020) tested and clarified family ties and fellow-countrymen associations as the most prioritised forms of those Vietnamese drug trafficking networks. Taking open-access resources on the New Zealand Legal Information Institute (NZLII, like AustLII in Australia), this first study uses the court's judgements to analyse the basic characteristics of Vietnamese syndicates in illegal cannabis markets by comparing them to the Australian context for testing structure and operation. Strong evidence confirms the structure of Vietnamese groups in New Zealand is quite similar to the Australian market, including three levels – *head* (whom they organise and manage the whole process), *facilitator* (whom they provide spiritual or material assistance in cultivation), and *crop-sitter* (whom they look after cannabis plants). The study calls for further consideration of challenges and barriers to investigating Vietnamese cannabis syndicates for New Zealand law enforcement.

## Unveiling the Nature of Scam Forced Criminality in Southeast Asia

Dr Hai Thanh Luong<sup>1</sup>, Dr Chat Nguyen<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Griffith University, <sup>2</sup>University of Canterbury

Nearly five recent years in the post-pandemic of COVID-19, thousands of victims in Southeast Asian and beyond have been trapped in the closed cycle of pig-butcher operations in Cambodia compounds. As new forms of scam-forced criminality via trafficking in persons operated by Chinese-related syndicates, traffickers use social platforms to pose as job recruiters and post fraudulent employment opportunities in cyberspace. Unlike other traffickers, however, scam operations target educated victims with exploitable skills and promise attractive salaries for customer service jobs, IT, computer programming, and related industries. Our study combined 10 selected cases (2018-2023) and interviews with Vietnamese police officers to analyse the nature of the scam-forced Vietnamese labour (SFVL) operated by the Chinese cyber-enabled crimes (CCEC). Findings demonstrate the structured networks of the multiple layers in one scam syndicate with Chinese leading with their accomplices, either Vietnamese or others. Also, utilising the crime script analysis, this research illustrates what and how the CCEC groups established the step-by-step process to target SFVL by recruiting Vietnamese in internal/external Vietnam territories, mostly in Cambodia.

## **Criminogenic collectables: illicit markets in antiquities, fossils and rare wildlife**

Prof Simon Mackenzie

Symposium background/purpose:

This symposium is based around the theme of a project that has been funded by the European Research Council, called Trafficking Transformations (<https://traffickingtransformations.org>). The project takes an object-centred approach to researching regional and global trafficking in a variety of commodities that are rare and collectable, and mostly discovered 'in the wild' but then commoditised due to their value and sold into specialist consumer markets around the world. The papers presented here are a snapshot of some of the themes of the overall project, each looking at a different market, dealing with some of its key features and the questions it generates for contemporary criminology. In discussion, and with participation from colleagues in the audience, we can then think about what these markets have in common, as well as where they may differ. Increasingly, studies of trafficking, illegal markets, and grey economy are moving away from the traditional mode of studying particular types of market in isolation, and towards more comparative or holistic work that aims to bring research on multiple types of trafficking to bear on the big issues in theory and practice that can be observed to affect them all. The aim of the symposium is to continue that work of analysis, and synthesis, through a series of individual presentations and then collegial discussion about the whole.

### Paper 1:

Title: How to deter antiquities looting and trafficking

Methods:

The purpose of this paper is to contribute to the debate on illicit antiquities and deterrence. First, we will examine what has been said about deterrence in the illicit antiquities literature. Second, we will look to the criminological research literature on deterrence in order to define the concept and its mechanics. Third, we will consider what this criminological knowledge base means for deterrence in the field of illicit antiquities.

Findings:

There are several features of the illicit antiquities trade which take the sting out of the deterrent prospects of the most popular current intervention strategies.

Conclusions/Implications:

While current approaches might make sense in political, legal and diplomatic terms, from the perspective of criminologists interested in deterrence we can clearly see ways in which they can be improved.

To follow:

One paper abstract on the illegal fossil trade

One paper abstract on the illegal wildlife trade

Maybe one further paper on object theory and 'the social life of objects'.

## Unearthing Truths: Human Rights Forensics and Post-Transitional Justice

Dr Natalia Maystorovich Chulio<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>University Of Sydney

This paper explores the role of human rights forensics (Smith, 2017) and international collaboration in addressing forced disappearances through archaeological excavations and the identification of the deceased in post-conflict societies. While the historical and political legacies of past conflicts have garnered significant attention across the humanities and social sciences, the often-buried material remnants of these atrocities have been less examined. Central to this discussion is the pursuit of transitional justice for historical crimes. Funding for activities aimed at preserving historical memory often depends on the support of states that were complicit in these disappearances. My research revealed that post-violence state-building efforts were prioritised over locating the disappeared. Consequently, victims and their families were denied the opportunity to resolve the past. In the absence of state responsibility, NGOs have shouldered this burden, facing numerous challenges in their pursuit of redress (Chinchón Álvarez, 2008; Martín Pallín & Escuerdo Alay, 2009; Druliolle, 2015; Galella, 2015; Maystorovich Chulio, 2019). This paper interrogates the strategies adopted by NGOs and civil society groups to navigate the obstacles encountered during exhumations. Spain's experience with exhumations, unconnected to criminal prosecutions, serves as an exemplar of humanitarian forensics (Smith, 2017). In this context, identifying the disappeared helps alleviate survivors' grief (Humphrey, 2018: 457) through the location and dignified burial of the dead. This process exemplifies post-transitional justice exhumations, which often occur under the hegemonic political silencing of the past resulting from negotiated transitions (Kovras, 2012). By shedding light on the experiences of survivors and advocating for a grassroots approach to the repatriation of remains, this paper highlights the importance of exhumation practices in Spain.

## Aboriginal children's incarceration in West Australia - The imperative of urgent reforms

A/Prof Hannah McGlade, A/Prof Jocelyn Jones

<sup>1</sup>Curtin Law School

This presentation will focus on the circumstances surrounding the death of 16-year-old Cleveland Dodd at Banksia Hill's Unit 18 in 2023 and examined by the coroner in 2024.

Cleveland was the first child death in custody in Western Australia, a state which has consistently recorded the highest level of Indigenous youth incarceration, and whose treatment of Indigenous youth has been strongly criticised by UN Treaty bodies.

At the time of his death, he was incarcerated in a separate wing (Unit 18) of an adult male maximum-security prison, Casuarina.

Aboriginal health and justice leaders had strongly opposed the state's decision to establish Unit 18 as a risk to the children and youth, mainly Aboriginal, and a breach of their human rights under the Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).

The circumstances of Cleveland's death included solitary confinement, in breach of both domestic and international law. Cleveland's disability and separation from his family and culture also increased his trauma. Although Cleveland voiced feelings of self-harm his emotional and psychological needs were not met.

In this presentation we will:

Identify the background to Cleveland's incarceration at Unit18.

Highlight the human rights obligations on the state that were not adopted.

Analyse the imperative of culturally safe care for Aboriginal youth detainees.

Urge lessons from Cleveland's death, reforming youth justice to prevent such deaths in future and uphold human rights of Indigenous children.

This presentation engages with the situation of Indigenous children and youth in contact with the criminal justice system and who are particularly vulnerable due to the intersectionality of both race and age. The rights and specific needs of Indigenous youth require far greater attention, including trauma informed and culturally safe responses.



## **Females' engagement in offline and online sexual offending and interactions with the criminal justice system**

A/Prof Nadine Mckillop<sup>1</sup>, Dr Lara Christensen<sup>1</sup>, Ms Isabelle Hull<sup>1</sup>, Dr Susan Rayment-McHugh<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Sexual Violence Research and Prevention Unit, University Of The Sunshine Coast

### Background/Purpose:

This study extends limited extant knowledge of female-perpetrated sexual offences, including child sexual abuse material (CSAM) offences, that enter the criminal justice system.

### Methods:

Sexual offences actioned by the police in one Australian jurisdiction between 2012 & 2021 (N = 37,864) were analysed to explore: (1) the overall prevalence of sexual offences and types of sexual offences perpetrated; (2) the relationship between perpetrator gender, age, and offence type; and (3) the relationship between perpetrator gender, age, offence type, and likelihood of law enforcement action (N = 34,835).

### Findings:

Males (predominantly adult males) were responsible for majority of sexual offences before police. Although females were responsible for 12.2% of all offences that came to the attention of police over this period, it was juvenile females (10-17 years) who were implicated in a significant proportion of these offences. Juvenile females were responsible for the majority of assaultive CSAM offences, whereas juvenile males mostly perpetrated offline child sexual abuse offences. Regarding adults, there was a minimal, statistically significant difference between gender and offence type. The odds of perpetrating an online assaultive CSAM offence were 20 times higher for juvenile females compared to both adult males and adult females, and 7.69 times higher for juvenile females compared to juvenile males. Finally, for the same offence type, gender and age differentially impacted law enforcement action; for all offence types, enforcement of further action and the gravity of actions (e.g., arrest, referral to court), were significantly lower among all females and juvenile males compared to adult males. Juvenile females were least likely to have any serious action taken.

### Conclusions/Implications:

Findings provide a seminal platform from which to expand much-needed research on female-perpetrated sexual offending to inform policy and practice, particularly policing strategies to address increasing rates of juvenile-perpetrated online sexual offending behaviour.

## Trauma-informed Criminal Justice: Aspiration, Reality or Oxymoron?

Dr Katherine McLachlan<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Flinders Criminology & Parole Board Of SA

### Background/Purpose:

Trauma-informed care and practice were developed 20 years ago and are emerging as important ways of working for the police, in corrections and courts, and in broader contexts such as health and education services.

Nevertheless, few academics have examined whether trauma-informed practice exists across criminal justice agencies or in sentencing.

### Methods:

This presentation considers whether taking a trauma-informed approach makes the aim of the criminal justice system (CJS) a reality.

Trauma-informed practice requires that service providers realise the potentially traumatic impact of adversity, recognise the relationships between trauma and crime, respond in ways that are safe and trustworthy, and promote choice, collaboration, and empowerment while also resisting further traumatising (SAMHSA, 2014).

The CJS and its agencies aim to “contribute to a safe and secure community and promote a law-abiding way of life”. Often, however, the CJS is known to re-traumatise and cause secondary victimisation to the people who come into contact with the system.

### Findings:

This presentation will draw from examples of current practices of police, courts and corrections to consider whether trauma-informed criminal justice is an aspiration, a reality or an oxymoron.

## **Intersecting the Shadows: A PESTLE Analysis of Sex Trafficking in Texas and Lessons for Australia**

Ms Katherine McLerie<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Murdoch University

### Background/Purpose:

Australia and Texas have differing legislative and socio-political methods for addressing sex trafficking. This presentation aims to identify lessons learned from the successes and failures of the Texas approach to combatting sex trafficking and apply them to the Australian context.

Texas has some of the harshest laws and penalties in the United States of America to address sex trafficking, including the criminalisation of prostitution and restrictions on pornography. However, Texas continues to be a central hub for sex trafficking. In contrast, Australia has adopted alternative socio-legal approaches to Texas for addressing sex trafficking.

It is hypothesised that systemic and situational vulnerabilities contribute to the push and pull factors observed in sex trafficking. It is further hypothesised that Australia's legal frameworks and societal attitudes towards sex work and human trafficking generate vulnerabilities within societal structures.

### Methods:

This research adopts a PESTLE analytical framework. This framework enables a structured analytical discussion of the political, economic, social, technological, and environmental factors that influence sex trafficking. PESTLE factors are shown to compound each other and interact concurrently due to how society is structured and developed. Descriptive, content, and trend analyses inform the PESTLE framework.

### Findings:

The research underscores that systemic and situational vulnerabilities create push and pull factors that may contribute to potential victimisation. The findings indicate that understanding the prevalence of sex trafficking remains challenging due to legal frameworks, first responder training, victim identification (self-identified or by authorities), and the covert nature of sex trafficking.

### Conclusions/Implications:

Texas and Australia are similar in population size and experience similar PESTLE factors, yet they approach sex trafficking in vastly different ways. This study highlights the need for further research that adopts a holistic approach to determine and devise effective strategies to prevent, disrupt and prosecute sex trafficking.

## Exploring criminal deportations from Australia and New Zealand

Prof Leanne Weber, Prof Alison Gerard and Dr Rebecca Powell.

<sup>1</sup>Australian National University

From deterrence to containment: indefinite detention in Australia as 'enemy crimmigration'

In November 2023, the High Court of Australia ruled in the case of *NZYQ* that administrative detention of non-citizens awaiting deportation, where there was no reasonable prospect of removal, was punitive in character and hence unlawful, thereby limiting the unfettered control governments had previously exercised over this powerful tool. In the following days, political leaders from both major parties launched an alarmist narrative about the existential threat posed by the 92 detainees who were the first in line for release, even though some had only minor convictions or no known criminal offending at all. Exceptional measures were hastily imposed in the following weeks, justified on the grounds of community safety. This paper - part of a wider project '[Criminal Deportation: Analysing interactions between migration control and criminal justice systems in Australia](#)' - presents a socio-legal analysis of these events using an original theoretical framework we call 'enemy crimmigration'.

Professor Marinella Marmo, Flinders University; Professor Alison Gerard, University of Canberra

The role of gender and the criminal deportation regime

This presentation explores how non-citizens might be treated differently on the basis of their gender through the visa cancellation process. This offers a space to reflect on the way gender may possibly produce a difference in terms of the approach to process, evidence presented at/ or outcome of AAT. It also explores gendered aspects to trauma, including impact on family, and support services available. It is argued that while gendered trauma in s501 cases echoes what happens throughout the criminal justice system as a whole, in the criminal deportation regime there is a further degree of inequity and a disparity of treatment, because the outcome is removal from own family and community.

Dr Lin Mussell, University of Canterbury; Dr Josephine Varghese, University of Canterbury; Ariela Zibiah, University of Canterbury; Laura Johnstone, University of Canterbury

Critical Discourse Analysis of Labour, Criminalisation, and Deportation of Pacific Peoples by New Zealand and Australia

Despite being called upon to address labour shortages in New Zealand and Australia, Pacific Peoples endure heightened scrutiny from law enforcement and immigration authorities, and high rates of imprisonment and deportation. Between 2013-2018, NZ alone deported 1,040 people to Pacific nations (namely Samoa, Tonga, and Fiji). We seek to answer, to what extent do contemporary discourses about labour, detention, and deportation echo or diverge from earlier policy discourses (e.g., Dawn Raids policy decisions enacted between 1974-1976, and the Pacific Islander Labourers Act of 1901) in these two countries? This paper employs critical discourse analysis and postcolonial and penal nationalist theories, drawing on documents sourced from government, media, and non-profit organisations published over the last 10 years. Key inquiries include discerning dominant and counter discourses surrounding this issue, assessing the continuity or disruption of present political rhetoric with historical precedents, and evaluating whether these discourses seemingly justify or challenge ongoing deportation and criminalisation.

Dr Henrietta McNeill, Australian National University

The effects of criminal deportations to the Pacific Islands

Criminal deportations to the Pacific Islands region—particularly Tonga, Samoa and Cook Islands—from the United States, Australia and New Zealand have increased significantly over the last decade. Often framed in the media as 'forever criminals', this paper will explore the implications for people deported who face challenges in reintegration in these countries due to stigma, language and cultural barriers in addition to the trauma of deportation and family

separation. It will look at mechanisms for reintegration to prevent reoffending following deportation, and the structural hinderance or support these mechanisms—and in turn, the people who have been deported—receive.

Presenters:

Professor Alison Gerard

Alison Gerard is a Professor in Law/Criminology at the University of Canberra and is currently CI of the ARC Discovery Project '[Criminal deportation](#)': *Analysing interactions between migration control and criminal justice systems in Australia*. Alison's research examines the criminalisation of certain populations including non-citizens and children. Her work has also examined how legal education can contribute to structural change.

Professor Marinella Marmo

Marinella Marmo is a multiple award-winning tertiary education academic, with over 50 publications on the area of human mobility, human rights and gendered violence. Her research has been cited worldwide also by policy makers, profiled by several prominent international media outlets, and used to inform documentaries in Britain and Australia. She is a CI of the current Discovery Project '[Criminal deportation](#)': *Analysing interactions between migration control and criminal justice systems in Australia*.

Laura Johnstone

Laura Johnstone is a PhD Candidate in Criminal Justice at the University of Canterbury. I hold a Bachelor of Arts, a Bachelor of Laws and a Master of Criminal Justice (Distinction) (University of Canterbury) and my interests lie in prisons, punishment of criminal offending, and criminal justice systems. Prior to returning to academia to undertake my graduate studies, I practiced law and worked across various state agencies in Aotearoa New Zealand as a public servant.

Dr Henrietta McNeill

Henrietta McNeill is a Research Fellow (Pacific Security, Regionalism, Geopolitics) in the Department of Pacific Affairs at the Australian National University. She completed her doctorate on the securitisation of criminal deportations from the US, Australia and New Zealand to Tonga, Samoa and Cook Islands. Her research focus is Pacific regional security and the security-migration nexus, particularly transnational crime, criminal deportations, border security, citizenship, and security cooperation.

Dr Lin Mussell

Lin Mussell is a Lecturer in Political Science and International Relations at the University of Canterbury. My teaching and research interests are centred broadly in the political science subdiscipline of public policy. Of focus in my work is social policy, meaning policies that seek to meet or respond to human needs, in countries including Aotearoa/New Zealand, Australia, Canada, the United States, and the United Kingdom. More specifically, my work focuses on carceral politics, policies, and institutions—those that centre dynamics of punishment, separation, isolation, and rehabilitation. This includes studying issues of imprisonment, policing, state guardianship, and involuntary hospitalisation.

Rebecca Powell

Rebecca Powell recently submitted her PhD on the deportation of convicted New Zealanders from Australia under Section 501 (s501) of the Migration Act which mandates visa cancellation or refusal on character grounds. Extending the conceptual framework of crimmigration, her research explores Australia's criminal deportation system including the evolution of legislation and policy, visa cancellation decision making practice at the Administrative Appeals Tribunal and the human impacts of s501 deportation on New Zealanders and family members of New Zealander deportees.

Dr Josephine Varghese

Josephine Varghese is a Lecturer in the Language, Social and Political Sciences at the University of Canterbury. I am interested in critical studies around colonialism and capitalism (and the overlap between the two). My writing, teaching and research explore inequality, poverty and how these link to local and global structures, especially in the global south. My current research focus is on labour policies and institutional violence against Pasifika migrant workers in New Zealand. I am a publicly spirited academic with interests in geopolitical analyses using postcolonial and Marxist theories. My areas of expertise include Indian society, imperialism, migration, gender and structural violence.

Professor Leanne Weber

Leanne Weber is a Research Professor in Criminology in the Canberra Law School and a Research Associate at the Centre for Criminology, Oxford University. She researches policing and border control using critical and human rights frameworks. She is the lead author of two winners of the Christine M Alder Book Prize and Lead CI of the current Discovery Project 'Criminal deportation': Analysing interactions between migration control and criminal justice systems in Australia.

Ariela Zibiah

Ariela Zibiah is a PhD Candidate in the Macmillan Brown Centre for Pacific Studies at the University of Canterbury studying Development, Gender and Public Diplomacy (Image Cultivation). She has been a development sector practitioner for more than two decades, with a focus on strategic communications and advocacy, and early career in mainstream national, regional and international print and broadcast (radio and television) media.

## **The value, challenges and opportunities in partnership working between prisons and community sporting groups.**

Dr Rosie Meek<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Royal Holloway University of London

There is a growing recognition of the value and role of sport and physical activity in our prisons (Meek, 2013). In this paper I outline the ways in which structured and unstructured sport and physical activity programmes and experiences can and do contribute to efforts to promote wellbeing, identity transformation, therapeutic relationships and desistance in our prisons. With a particular focus on the value, challenges and opportunities of partnership working between prison staff and community groups and organisations, I summarise the parkrun initiative which operate across British and Australian prisons, outlining how the perceived impact of this walking/running/volunteering initiative links to desistance and the development of a rehabilitation culture in prison settings.

Reference:

Meek, R. (2013). *Sport in Prison: Exploring the Role of Physical Activity in Correctional Settings*. Abingdon: Routledge

## Fire-Associated Homicide in Australia 2010 – 2024: Prevalence and patterns

Miss Lucy Melocco-Cook<sup>1</sup>, Miss Isabella Crebert<sup>1</sup>, Associate Professor Xanthe Mallett<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>University Of Newcastle

Contemporary media reports have documented multiple accounts of fire-related homicide, such as the 2020 case of Hannah Clarke and her three children in Queensland, Australia, and anecdotally police are reporting that fire as a direct means of murder are on the increase. Previous research, based on data supplied to the Australian Institute of Criminology (AIC) by the National Homicide Monitoring Program, has provided information across two distinct reporting periods: 1989-2005 and 2005-2010. This research revealed a 44% increase in frequency of fire-related homicides between 1991-2000 and 2001-2010, however the criminological literature lacks empirical analysis of more recent fire-associated homicides, to determine if patterns have changed since 2010.

The aim of this study is to bridge the gap observed in the reported data on fire-related homicide in Australia from 2010 to 2024, using comparative data from the AIC. In addition to absolute numbers of fire-related homicide, an intersectional analyses will be presented that highlights patterns of offending (age and sex of offender for example, as well as geographical patterns), and victim-offender relationships, such as intimate partner or intrafamilial. This research will augment the existing data to provide a contemporary representation of trends and patterns in national fire-related homicide, and can be used to inform national policies and investigative procedures.



## **Australian news media framing of correctional officers and prison work: Negative, neutral, or positive?**

Dr Olivia Miller<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Queensland University Of Technology

### Background:

Correctional officers (COs) do important work to support the health and rehabilitation of people experiencing incarceration. Yet, the public tend to have negative and/ or inaccurate perceptions of prisons as well as the people that work and live inside them. One potential reason may be the way that prisons and COs are portrayed in the media. Therefore, the current study aimed to understand how COs are depicted in Australian newsprint media.

### Methods:

The ProQuest Newsstand (Australia and New Zealand) database was searched to generate a large systematic random sample of Australian newsprint media ( $N = 412$ ). This media underwent ethnographic content analysis to explore how COs were framed and the extent to which COs were given voice in articles about their work.

### Findings:

Most news articles (74%) portrayed COs in a negative light, with a strong focus on the dangerousness of the job (theme 1), CO misconduct or poor behaviour (theme 2), poor prison management (theme 3), and deaths in custody (theme 4). Neutral (16.4%) and positive (15.5%) depictions were far less common. Additionally, COs were rarely given voice in media about their work (8.6%). Where COs were given voice, they most often spoke negatively about their workplace and chose to remain anonymous.

### Conclusions/Implications:

This study does not argue that COs should not be held accountable for their actions. Instead, it is argued that the efforts of COs to rehabilitate prison residents and promote public safety go largely unrecognized due to a heavy bias toward negative reporting. A more multi-dimensional approach could highlight the complexities facing prison staff, including the systemic issues that not only affect people experiencing incarceration but also the people working within prison walls.

## High risk, low reward: A mixed method exploration of correctional officer mental health

Dr Olivia Miller<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Queensland University Of Technology

### Background:

Correctional officers (COs) support the health and rehabilitation of people experiencing incarceration. During their work, they can be exposed to unique workplace demands and have little control over an unpredictable environment. Such working conditions have previously been linked to CO symptoms of psychopathology. However, limited research has explored the effect of unique correctional job demands and resources on positive mental health outcomes.

### Methods:

A concurrent mixed method design was adopted where quantitative and qualitative data were collected simultaneously through an online survey. A total of 82 Australian COs completed the Mental Health Continuum Short Form (a measure of positive mental health) and provided qualitative data to an open-ended question asking about their experiences of prison work. Quantitative and qualitative data were analysed separately before being integrated to develop novel insights into CO mental health.

### Findings:

Most COs were classified as moderately mentally healthy (50%) as opposed to flourishing (26.8%) or languishing (23.3%) and viewed their work as a frontline job (Theme 1) of high risk (Theme 2) and low reward (Theme 3). Public stigma was identified as a novel job demand negatively impacting CO mental health. Officers who were able to derive meaning from their high-risk work experiences were more likely to flourish than languish.

### Conclusions/Implications:

The findings provide guidance on supporting the mental health of COs by reducing the demands or risks associated with prison work and enhancing the rewards or resources available to COs. Enhancing the public image of prison work is one important avenue to pursue.

## **Narratives of jealousy: Gender, relationality, and limits to criminal justice responses**

Ms Jenna Mizzi<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Flinders University

### Abstract

Jealousy, an umbrella term encompassing a range of interpersonal conflicts, has been cited as a main form and cause of harm for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities across the Northern Territory in Australia. Guided by Indigenous criminology principles and a decolonial framework, this presentation explores jealousy as a social phenomenon in its own right. Drawing on research conducted in Darwin, composed of discussion groups with men and women with lived experience, and conversations with correctional, social, and health service providers, and cultural mentors, this presentation will situate jealousy as a highly contextual concept and experience. Narratives of jealousy revealed gendered dynamics and the central role of relationships. I will discuss how the relationality and social dimensions which contextualise jealousy, starkly highlight the limitations of current criminal justice responses in attending to the interpersonal dimensions of conflict.

## “Disaster Strains” An exploratory, comparative, thematic analysis of the 2010-11 Brisbane floods and COVID-19 pandemic

Suaditya Mohan

<sup>1</sup>The University of Queensland

Disasters are captured as one large *objective* strain – a traumatic event for an individual. This presentation qualitatively explores the types of strains and strain responses individuals *subjectively* experienced in the 2010-11 Brisbane floods and the COVID-19 pandemic, through Agnew’s General Strain Theory (GST). The first (floods) study is a thematic analysis of secondary data – 45 interview transcripts of participants who experienced the 2010-11 Brisbane floods, collected by the Australian Community Capacity Study (ACCS). The second (pandemic) study is a thematic analysis of primary data – 22 interviews conducted with participants who experienced the COVID-19 pandemic. All participants were from Chelmer-Graceville, Tennyson, and Goodna suburbs in South-East Queensland. Key strains include mistrust in communications, increased perceived injustice, the presence of multiple strains, and persistence of negative emotions over time. Strain responses include reframing negative disaster experiences into neutral or positive cognitive appraisals of the crises, with individuals collectively coping to manage strains. The themes created were further compared to understand how similar / different these strain experiences and responses were across these two disasters. The comparative analysis revealed that strains first experienced during disasters can persist, compound, and evolve into other strains throughout the recovery phase. Secondly, support is often framed in a positive light. However, support that is provided under short, intense periods to overcome immediate challenges, can reduce sensitivity towards survivors and their needs, resulting in increased frustration and dissatisfaction for survivors in the long-term. Thirdly, individuals apply elements of cross-hazard learning across both disasters by leveraging their work and social identities to manage uncertain times. Within the floods study, past experiences of floods served as effective coping mechanisms for future flood experiences. Finally, mental health was consistently overlooked in the aftermath of both disasters. These insights can support long-term recovery in post-disaster contexts and in understanding future disaster preparedness.

## **“It’s not active talking, it’s active listening”: Police negotiator training for de-escalating crisis situations**

Dr Matthew Morgan<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Australian Catholic University

Police are significantly more likely to use coercive and lethal force with people suffering mental health or psychosocial crises across Australia and in other Western nations. Police use of force has been linked with reduced public trust in police, the psychological distress of police, and diminished staff retention in the police role. Police negotiators are specially trained to peacefully resolve dangerous incidents involving people suffering psychological crises such as people threatening suicide, barricaded individuals, and/or hostage situations. Despite their efficacy in de-escalating crisis situations, they are often unavailable to attend in regional and remote areas. Therefore, police negotiators provide specialist training for general duty police to equip them with communicative de-escalation tactics to peacefully manage such situations. This research utilises a mixed-methods approach to evaluate the quality of police negotiator training for frontline police. Using procedural justice and andragogy as lenses, this research assesses whether the training equips officers to respond more professionally and safely to crisis situations, thus potentially increasing job satisfaction, staff retention, and the overall safety of the community. Preliminary findings suggest that frontline police significantly value negotiator training when delivered using adult learning principles (andragogy), stating that they often lead to reduced use of force in practice and increased compliant behaviour.

## Carl Schmitt – Moana Jackson: counter posed whatukura\* in understanding Aotearoa in the Nomos of the Earth?

Prof Wayne Morrison<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Queen Mary University of London

"[T]he constitutive process of a land-appropriation is found at the beginning of every settled people, every commonwealth, every empire. This is true as well for the beginning of every historical epoch. Not only logically, but also historically, land-appropriation precedes the order that follows from it. It constitutes the original spatial order, the source of all further concrete order and all further law" (Schmitt, *Nomos* [1950] 2003, 48)

"Nomos is the immediate form in which the political and social order of a people becomes spatially visible" (Ibid., 70).

'The Minister has made it clear that while he supports the need to make the legal system sensitive to Māori values and needs, he believes it is essential that New Zealand retains one legal system in which everyone is equal under the law'. (Rejection of the Jackson Report, preface, Jackson, 1988, 3)

Prisons are receptacles of confined experience. They are institutions of stone, concrete and wire but most importantly they are holders of flesh and blood. They are holders of whakapapa. They are peopled. In [New Zealand] they are largely holders of Māori flesh and blood and going even deeper than that, they are holders of particular veins of Māori society. (Tracey McIntosh para 57, 2019)

New Zealand has seen considerable social and legal change since the advent of the Waitangi Tribunal settlement process. Voices celebrate a country that has allowed its indigenous peoples to claim, and win, justice. Such congratulatory speech fades when confronted with the gross over-representation of Māori in Penal measures. How do we whakapapa our contemporary?

I contrast the right wing German legal theorist Carl Schmitt (1888-1985) - with particular reference to his *The Nomos of the Earth* ([1950] 2003) - to the Māori legal theorist Moana Jackson (1945-2022). Schmitt theorised the creation of the imperial world with an honesty never after matched. Strangely he does not appear to have been picked up to describe New Zealand but his argument on land appropriation (and use of treaties) and his statement that justice is bound to the land provide a fascinating – although probably unintended - introduction to the constitutional position of Moana Jackson.

Jackson, determined that the solution to Māori over-representation was not criminological – criminology being part of the 'wording' of the world with colonisation (a basic premise of Schmitt) – but constitutional. Māori as tangata whenua and as promised te rangatiratanga (self-determination) in Te Tiriti, should have a dual justice system.

This was, and remains, rejected. Jackson did several trips to study the path of powers that created New Zealand's particular concrete situation. While this process was described by Schmitt, Jackson never seemed to have read him. Perhaps understandably: Jackson worked within tikanga, Schmitt was in love with original powers, Tāwhiri not Tāne.

\*\* In the great whakapapa narrative, the whatukura were the two stones of power/significance that Tāne brought back along with the three baskets of knowledge from his ascension to the twelfth realm.

## **Justice Reinvestment: Origins, objectives and guidelines for authentic implementation.**

Dr Peter Norden<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Deakin University Melbourne

### Background/Purpose:

Australia and New Zealand, like many western countries, are both determined to address the overuse of imprisonment by local community strategies that are founded on alternative programs built on diversion, crime prevention and community strengthening. How could this be achieved successfully to truly address these objectives?

### Methods:

Building on the research findings of the late Professor Tony Vinson, mapping the intensity of local social disengagement according to more than twenty disadvantage factors, from low birth weight through to mortality rates, this paper will explore the development of the concept of 'Restorative Justice' and identify the key characteristics that must be included in the task of implementing that model at the local community level. Measurement will focus on past and current imprisonment rates for communities of entrenched disadvantage and an assessment of any diversion of funding to address underlying causes.

### Findings:

Statistical data from the Australian Institute of Criminology will indicate any short-term change in imprisonment rates in the key identified communities. Evaluating recent initiatives attempting to implement Restorative Justice responses in Australia, this paper will then focus on measuring outcomes by assessing whether any funding initiatives addressed the key determinants of imprisonment, locally: namely health, housing, education and employment.

### Conclusions/Implications:

Available evidence suggests that, to date, restorative justice identified initiatives in Australia show no significant evidence of change in imprisonment rates nor a diversion of funding to address the key determinants of imprisonment in areas of key social disadvantage.

## Harnessing Technology in Prison to support Desistance

Ms Patricia O'Hagan<sup>1</sup>

### Background and Purpose

This workshop explores the integration of technology into correctional practices, guided by desistance theory, to support the reintegration of justice-involved individuals. Desistance theory emphasizes the importance of individuals constructing new, positive narratives about themselves, a process that technology can significantly enhance. This initiative aims to harness digital tools to aid individuals in transitioning away from criminal behaviour and towards constructive, contributing futures.

### Summary of the main points

The initiative utilizes technology to document and track the experiences and progress of individuals over time, providing tangible evidence of personal growth and achievement. This helps in fostering a positive self-image and reinforcing the desistance process. Digital communication tools are employed to maintain and strengthen social bonds with family and community, which are critical in the desistance journey. Moreover, secure internet access is provided, allowing individuals to access essential services, job opportunities, and educational resources, crucial for their successful reintegration into society.

A key innovative element is the emphasis on cultural sensitivity and accessibility. Digital resources and training programs are tailored to meet the diverse needs of justice-involved populations, ensuring that interventions are relevant and inclusive. Collaborative efforts among justice agencies, community organizations and people with lived experience are crucial in crafting responsive interventions. Additionally, stringent data privacy and security measures are required to build trust in technology-enabled services.

### Conclusions and Implications

The presentation demonstrates that technology can play a transformative role in supporting desistance and reintegration, offering justice-involved individuals equitable and supportive environments. The workshop underscores the importance of continuous evaluation and adaptation of digital interventions to maximize their impact and sustainability. The findings suggest that future research should focus on optimizing these technologies' cultural responsiveness and effectiveness. Policy implications include advocating for broader adoption of technology-based interventions within correctional systems to enhance rehabilitation outcomes and promote social equity.



## The Role of Technology in Preserving cultural Identity of Indigenous People in Prison

Ms Patricia O'Hagan<sup>1</sup>

**Background and Purpose:** The presentation examines the use of technology to support Indigenous people in preserving their cultural identity within the prison system. Indigenous people are disproportionately represented in prisons and often face challenges in accessing culturally appropriate resources. This proposal aims to leverage digital tools to bridge these gaps and foster a more equitable correctional environment.

**Summary of Main Points:** The workshop highlights several key areas where technology can play a transformative role:

**Education:** Digital platforms provide access to culturally relevant educational programs, including courses on Indigenous history, traditions, and arts. These resources help maintain cultural identity and offer pathways to higher education, as seen in initiatives like the ITEC course in Australia.

**Connectedness:** Digital communication tools enable connections with family, community, and Elders, facilitating virtual participation in cultural ceremonies and spiritual guidance. This technology helps mitigate the isolation faced by Indigenous people in prison.

**Equality of Opportunity:** By providing tailored digital resources and training, the initiative promotes inclusive access to health services, legal support, and cultural programs, ensuring that Indigenous inmates receive support aligned with their specific needs.

**Conclusions and Implications:** The presentation underscores the importance of culturally sensitive approaches in the implementation of technology within the prison system. It highlights the potential of digital tools to enhance the well-being, rehabilitation, and reintegration of Indigenous people. The presentation calls for ongoing collaboration between correctional institutions, Indigenous communities, and service providers to ensure that interventions are respectful and effective. Further research is needed to optimise these technologies and expand their reach, particularly in bridging the digital divide and supporting remote Indigenous populations.

## **Forensic DNA analysis: New techniques, legislative gaps, and complexities in the criminal justice process**

Mrs Tersia Oosthuizen<sup>1</sup>, Dr Loene Howes, Prof Rob White

<sup>1</sup>University of Tasmania

### Background/Purpose:

The rapid expansion of forensic DNA analysis techniques, driven by scientific and technological advancements, has significantly bolstered crime prevention. However, these developments also introduce the potential for intrusive surveillance practices that challenge individual rights, particularly privacy. Although the collection of buccal swabs is no longer considered invasive, the data derived from such samples remain sensitive and demand robust protection under international human rights standards. This presentation critically examines the use of forensic DNA analysis within the framework of Australian legislation, highlighting the role of legal safeguards throughout the criminal justice process—from police investigations to laboratory analyses and court proceedings. Case studies reveal gaps in current legislation that risk undermining human rights, particularly concerning DNA ownership and the use of discarded DNA. The presentation emphasises the urgent need for legislative reform to address these issues, especially in light of recent changes in Australia that permit the collection of DNA without consent and enable extensive data mining from DNA databases. These reforms, implemented without sufficient public debate, have profound implications for individual rights and the ethical use of forensic DNA techniques.

### Methods:

This presentation considers and reflects on how the undebated inclusion or unregulated use of advanced DNA techniques within the investigation process of crime will impact the human rights of all, specifically how the disadvantaged and vulnerable, who are overrepresented in criminal DNA databases, are left open to mistreatment by the system, making use of a critical criminology lens.

### Findings:

The presentation highlights the current imbalance in forensic DNA and human rights use.

### Conclusions/Implications:

The presentation advocates for a nuanced, multi-level legal framework to protect human rights while balancing the needs of law enforcement.

## Does technology facilitate or solve crime? Exploring the experience of law enforcement in three countries

Dr Becky Phythian<sup>1</sup>, Prof Stuart Kirby<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Edge Hill University, <sup>2</sup>University of Central Lancashire

### Background:

Environmental factors have facilitated the rise in Serious Organised Crime (SOC) in Europe, North America and Australasia, having been reported as increasing in frequency, harm and transnational nature. Specifically, the study aims to establish how Information Communication Technology (ICT) has evolved to play a part, both in facilitating this type of crime and used by law enforcement agencies, to tackle it.

### Methods:

A qualitative approach was adopted. 62 practitioners from law enforcement and partner agencies, from the UK, Australia and New Zealand, who had experience of tackling SOC took part in semi-structured interviews. Data was thematically analysed.

### Findings:

The thematic analysis found a consensus across several points. First, SOC had significantly increased across each jurisdiction and had become increasingly transnational. Second, this had been facilitated by ICT, specifically digital communication and the rise of the internet which has enabled offenders to travel both physically and virtually to connect with offenders and potential victims. Third, whilst law enforcement practitioners appreciated increased technology could improve information management, systems based upon human relationships continued to dominate. The reasons behind this international trend in law enforcement are explored.

### Conclusions/Implications:

In summary, this research provides original evidence from three countries to show similarities concerning the management of information underpinning intelligence-led approaches, which has significant impact on the prevention of crime, as well as perspectives surrounding the use of ICT by offenders and law enforcement.

In light of this project, the researchers question the ability for indigenous communities with limited access to resources and strained relationships with law enforcement to develop and implement ICT to manage and share information, as well as to use such ICT to improve analysis in showing patterns in victimology.

## Golden Age of Serial Killing - Establishing a timeline

Tash Press<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Murdoch University

### Abstract

Before we continue profiling 'serial killers', it would help to ensure that researchers are all using the same terms, defined in the same ways. This is a fundamental, necessary step in rigorous scientific research. This research explores the use of the phrase the 'golden age of serial killing' in popular culture and the subsequent uptake in use by researchers. In identifying the increased usage of the phrase over time, the genre usage, and the citation linkage this research establishes the historical and social growth leading to the legitimacy of the time period being useful in analytical endeavours. This research identifies the disparity in the stated timeline across sources and consolidates a specific period of time to accurately represent the historical period known as the 'golden age of serial killing'. In doing so, the research provides a point of reference for analytical and investigative endeavours.

## Restorative Justice and Gendered Harm: Bridging Gaps and Building Resilience

Prof Meredith Rossner<sup>1</sup>, Dr Jane Bolitho<sup>2</sup>, Dr Fernanda Fonseca Rosenblatt<sup>3,4</sup>, Dr Sally Eales<sup>1</sup>, Professor Miranda Forsyth<sup>1</sup>, Professor Lorana Bartels<sup>1</sup>, Dr. Janet Hope<sup>5</sup>, Dr. Helen Taylor<sup>1</sup>, Dr Karen Gelb<sup>1</sup>, Ms Rebekah Ruddy<sup>6</sup>  
<sup>1</sup>Australian National University, <sup>2</sup>Victoria University Wellington, <sup>3</sup>Universidade Católica de Pernambuco, <sup>4</sup>International Institute for Restorative Practices, <sup>5</sup>University of Canberra, <sup>6</sup>Griffith University

This symposium aims to bring together scholars from Australia, Aotearoa/New Zealand, and Brazil to explore the ways restorative justice practices have evolved and expanded to respond to sexual harm and gendered violence. As the conventional criminal justice system often falls short in addressing the needs of survivors and promoting accountability, restorative justice offers an alternative framework centred on healing, dialogue, and community and family involvement. This symposium will feature a series of presentations that examine diverse approaches to integrating restorative justice practices.

Presentations will include a series of case studies and research findings exploring the creation, reimagining, development, and implementation of restorative justice for sexual and gendered violence. A critical discussion on the ethical and practical considerations of implementing restorative justice in cases of sexual harm will be a central theme, addressing concerns such as power imbalances, ongoing trauma, voluntariness, and ensuring procedural safeguards. The symposium will also explore the role of community and family, emphasizing the importance of building resilience and fostering a culture of accountability and support. We aim to bridge gaps between theory, research, and practice, exploring how restorative justice can be effectively and ethically applied in cases of sexual harm and gendered violence.

### Paper 1: Community-based restorative justice in response to sexual harm

This presentation will explore some of the complexities and joys of working in the community with transformative and restorative justice approaches following sexual violence. Drawing on the experiences of the newly-formed Transforming Justice Australia (TJA), it will offer some insights into why people refer, what 'victim-centred' actually means, and how to invite those responsible for harm into spaces of accountability when not under the shadow of the law. TJA is a community-based organisation providing restorative justice practices for people harmed by sexual abuse, those responsible, their families and community. It represents a unique collaboration between academics, lawyers, and other practitioners.

### Paper 2: Restorative justice and gendered violence: Lessons from Brazil

The intersection of gendered violence and restorative justice remains contentious within legal and academic circles. This presentation leverages insights from Brazil's implementation of its domestic violence legislation and broader legislative discourse to explore the transformative potential of restorative justice in cases of gendered violence. Drawing on empirical research, it highlights the limitations of conventional punitive justice systems, particularly in addressing the complex needs of domestic violence victims. Emphasis will be placed on restorative justice in providing holistic healing, reducing secondary victimization, and promoting victim agency and participation. Additionally, the scepticism and concerns voiced by legislators regarding the potential risks of restorative practices, such as revictimization and favouring perpetrators, will be integrated into the discussion. This presentation aims to offer a nuanced approach to implementing restorative practices. It will further suggest that the North might learn from the experiences and innovations emerging in the South.

### Paper 3: Survivor-centred restorative justice in response to sexual harm: Insights from practitioners across diverse settings

This paper presents findings from a qualitative interview-based study exploring the potential for survivor-centred restorative justice in addressing sexual harm both within and outside the justice system. We conducted interviews with professionals across the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) who work directly with victim-survivors in various

contexts, including justice, universities, community and religious organizations, workplaces, and health settings. Our research aims to understand the needs of victim-survivors and envision restorative pathways tailored to these needs.

Our findings reveal broad support for an expansive vision of restorative justice. Practitioners across different settings are adapting their practices to forge restorative pathways, emphasizing healing, accountability, and community involvement. This study highlights the importance of a survivor-centred approach, offering insights into how restorative justice can be effectively implemented to meet the diverse needs of victim-survivors.

#### Paper 4: Restorative justice and gendered harm: Insights from Queensland

What does best practice in restorative justice look like when supporting vulnerable, marginalized, and/or diverse groups? What tensions arise as restorative justice evolves to both (1) expand access to broader populations and (2) promote inclusivity by adopting culturally safe and trauma-informed practices? We explore these and other questions in our study of best practice and barriers to expansion of adult restorative justice in Queensland. We conducted interviews with 17 RJ professionals and service providers across a range of sectors who support people who have caused and experienced harm, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, people in remote and regional communities, victim-survivors of domestic, family, and sexual violence (DFV), culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) groups. In this presentation we will focus on responding to sexual and family violence, including the successes and challenges of co-design, community involvement, flexibility and tailored approaches. We conclude with recommendations to promote the successful growth in the use of adult RJ conferencing.

## Normalising Infrastructures of Violence

Dr Emma Russell<sup>1</sup>, Professor Elizabeth Stanley, Laura Johnstone, Dr Lin Mussell, Dr Jessica Evans  
<sup>1</sup>La Trobe University

This symposium explores how infrastructures of state violence are forged, maintained and normalised in liberal settler states. It engages broader questions of how mass social harms become acceptable and interrogates the conditions of (in)tolerability for violence at different scales and in varying contexts. In particular, the structural violence of incarceration is scrutinised by several speakers in this symposium, who attend to the ways in which carceral infrastructures and economies rooted in exploitation, abandonment and punishment are made to seem necessary and inevitable.

### Individual Papers

#### Managing Tolerance for State Violence

Author: Elizabeth Stanley, Te Herenga Waka-Victoria University Wellington

How is it that state violence is so tolerated? Why do populations frequently accept, adjust to, acquiesce, put up with and even permit and encourage conditions and treatments that are harmful for us and others? This paper reflects on how the acceptability of state violence is maintained on a daily basis. It considers how the states of Australia and Aotearoa NZ engage narratives and frameworks to make violence far more likely, and to also make it accepted, such that egregious harms are even deemed necessary.

#### The Violence of State-Coerced Prison Labour in Aotearoa: Experiences of the Incarcerated

Author: Laura Johnstone, University of Canterbury

Labouring at the whim of the state has long been part of incarceration in Aotearoa. After the signing of Te Tiriti in 1840, British colonisers began to violently impose the introduction of formalised prisons and in turn, prison labour. The incarcerated, often Māori men, were forced to build the cities and roads of Aotearoa in chain gangs. Today, the exploitation of prisoner bodies for work is reframed as a rehabilitative opportunity. The incarcerated must either endure the cruel boredom of day after day in a cell, or toil for just 60 cents an hour at most. In this paper, I discuss findings from my research investigating the accounts of formerly incarcerated men who have worked in engineering workshops, kitchens, laundries and construction yards behind the wire.

#### Post-Crisis Economic Recovery Through Penal Expansion in Ontario: A Critical Political Economy Analysis

Authors: Lin Mussell, University of Canterbury and Jessica Evans, Toronto Metropolitan University

Despite a decline in crime rates over the decades, the expansion of detention facilities persists. This is true in multiple contexts responding to economic and social pressures post-COVID-19 pandemic, including Aotearoa New Zealand, Australia, the United States, and the United Kingdom. We draw on the example of Ontario, Canada, as a case study to illustrate this trend and speak to political motivations. Canada lacks private prison industries and is largely interpreted as lacking carceral-capital economic dynamics. Yet, we identify that in recent years carceral expansion has increasingly taken place and is normalised in Canada through public private partnerships (PPP), job creation strategies, and as a key pillar in economic recovery. Penal expansion is rationalised as serving the public good, including human rights and security. We argue it is instead motivated by neoliberal ideology and the need to absorb 'surpluses' in the forms of labour, finance, land, and state capacity.

#### The Choreography of Carceral Consent

Author: Emma Russell, La Trobe University

Community participation in infrastructure planning processes is widely regarded as a positive development. However, critics suggest that in practice, community involvement is often tokenistic and tightly controlled by state and corporate interests. In this paper, I explore the role of community consultation processes in carceral infrastructure planning, using Australia's most recent mega prison as case study: the 1248-bed maximum-security Western Plains Correctional Centre, sited on Wadawurrung country in Victoria. Analysing the meeting minutes of

the emergent prison's 'Community Advisory Group', I highlight the forms of micromanagement and arts of persuasion that delimit and suppress opportunities to contest carceral development. Mapping how community consent for new prison projects is carefully choreographed from the outset, I argue that the state institutionalises community consultation processes to pacify localised dissent against the harms of carceral expansion.



## **Art of the state? Exhibiting art made in prison**

Dr Jeremy Ryder<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Flinders University

Background: This presentation draws on my PhD research for which I produced a series of annual exhibitions of art created in prison from 2012-2019 based on the model developed by Koester Arts in the UK. I surveyed people who created art and the public who viewed and responded to the art.

TITLE: Art of the state? Exhibiting art made in prison and the conditions of re-entry

Temporary public exhibitions of art created within prisons typically involve the display of a variety of objects, images and texts created by different people experiencing state punishment. These cultural events present relatively rare opportunities for people serving time in prison and people in the community to encounter, engage, communicate and even trade with each other through the medium of art.

These encounters are, however, heavily regulated to manage the risks connected to the spoiled identities of the artists. Exhibitions are publicly sanctioned representations of identity of the institutions that present them, that ultimately wish to influence those who engage with them (Ferguson, 1996). This article will draw on observations and research on seven annual public exhibitions of art, based on the model developed by Koestler Arts, from the South Australian adult prison system called Art by Prisoners (AbP) to explore the conditions under which exhibitions of art are produced, what people in prison and the institutions that manage them want temporary exhibitions to communicate, and how the public respond.

This article will argue that for the state, public exhibitions of art from prison are an opportunity to communicate useful and strategic messages about crime, punishment and reform. Within these constraints, the creators of the work saw participation as an opportunity to communicate a multiplicity of messages to the public with the power to challenge negative stereotypes and assumptions the public associate with the label of 'prisoner' or 'criminal'. These events were rituals of temporary status elevation and de-stigmatisation for people in prison albeit generally as an anonymised collective.

## Improv(e) your tutorial icebreakers and warm-ups

Dr Jeremy Ryder<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Flinders University

TITLE: Improv(e) your tutorial icebreakers and warm-ups

In 2024 I began taking classes in improvisation (improv) theatre in order to improve my spontaneity, creativity and communication skills. Improv has been popularised by such television shows such as *Whose line is it anyway?* where performers act out structured scenes to entertain an audience. Improvisation games involve the development and practice of a suite of important micro skills that involve listening, presence, communication and connection. They are also fun. Improvisation games have been used in tertiary education in disciplines other than the performing arts for example in tourism and hospitality and business and management to develop communication skills and foster positive and supportive organisational culture. I have begun integrating improvisational games in my tutorials as an effective way to build energy and connection between students to create a positive and supportive atmosphere in which to facilitate student discussions which, in criminology, can often involve heavy content. In this workshop I will demonstrate and teach you to a suite of improvisation games that I have used and adapted to the tutorial/workshop setting so that you too can use and adapt them if you want.

## Witch-hunting in the form of technology-facilitated sexual violence against women in India

Dr Sahana Sarkar<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Flinders University

As the use of the internet and social media has surged in India, there has been a corresponding rise in technology-facilitated sexual violence. This paper demonstrates that one of the common ways in which women experienced technology-facilitated sexual violence in India was in the form of *witch-hunts* for having a voice against dominant Hindu patriarchal structures. The paper identifies that survivors experienced witch-hunt in the form of cyberstalking, image-based sexual abuse, doxing, unsolicited contact, gender-based sexualised vitriol and physical violence for expressing their opinions on social media. It also demonstrates that Dalit, Muslim, lesbian and bisexual women experienced multiple layers of technology-facilitated sexual violence due to their marginalised identities. This paper is informed by 20 semi-structured interviews with women survivors of technology-facilitated sexual violence. The paper uses the theoretical frameworks of continuum of violence and intersectionality to unpack how experiences of technology-facilitated sexual violence is not an isolated incident but a pattern of structural oppression and violence against women who are seen as modern witches. The paper calls to attention the diversity of violent experiences that women face in contemporary India and the need for diverse response systems to address this.

## The Honest Politicians Guide to Crime Control, updated

Prof Rick Sarre<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>UniSA

In 1970 firebrand criminologists Norval Morris and Gordon Hawkins published a book widely revered as a punishing critique of Western justice systems. Their work, *The Honest Politicians Guide to Crime Control*, set out what they believed (in the context of the United States) was working to reduce crime and what was working to frustrate crime reduction efforts. They proposed 43 “ukases” or decrees. My paper, fifty four years on, is a more modest attempt in the Australian context in the twenty first century. I set out 10 priorities, all of them based upon a social justice framework and using my writings over the past 40 years. It is a summary of my new book *Preventing Crime: what we know and what we need to do* (Palgrave, 2024). There is, I surmise, far more value in tackling the societal factors that allow crime to persist than applying a strict application of the criminal law and the justice system that feeds upon it. That system (incorporating police, prosecutions, courts and corrections) is necessary, but not sufficient. In fact, elements of the system are often counter-productive. Indeed, not one of the 10 priorities involves manipulating either of the two levers (police numbers and imprisonment sentence length) that politicians (and hence the public at large) believe are the crucial components of crime control.

## Queering police legitimacy theories: (dis)trust, context, and visibility

Mr Ben Scott<sup>1</sup>, Dr Naomi Pfitzner<sup>1</sup>, Associate Professor Kate Fitz-Gibbon<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Monash Gender and Family Violence Prevention Centre, <sup>2</sup>Monash University Faculty of Business and Economics

### Background

Police legitimacy theories have predominately been conceptualised, and used, to understand perceptions of police among heteronormative communities. This work has often failed to consider the views and experiences of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and other non-heteronormative (LGBTQ+) people. Building upon existing critiques of police legitimacy theories, and drawing from a recent manuscript, this oral presentation examines the shortcomings of monolithic conceptions of police legitimacy when applied to non-heteronormative communities.

### Methods

The manuscript from which this presentation is drawn utilised a (critical) queer criminological lens, to explore the perceptions of police legitimacy among 148 LGBTQ+ people in Victoria, Australia. An anonymous online survey combining quantitative and qualitative questions was utilised to collect data. The quantitative survey data was analysed descriptively in Excel, while the qualitative survey data were thematically analysed to develop a rich description of LGBTQ+ peoples' perspectives on, and trust in, police

### Results

The results indicate that police legitimacy should be understood as a multifaceted and dialogical phenomenon that is spatially and temporally contingent. Furthermore, that current conceptualisations of 'legitimacy' in a policing context, may not have the intersectional scope required to fully explain legitimacy in non-heteronormative contexts. Our analysis identified that participants' perceptions of police legitimacy were informed by their direct and indirect ('vicarious') interactions with police. Furthermore, we found that participants expressed a strong distrust of Victoria Police, and that this distrust was more of a concern for participants who were 'visibly' queer or 'different'. Throughout the survey, participants also spoke about the role of intersectionality in dictating the positive or negative trajectory of their interactions with police, emphasising the importance of context when theorising police legitimacy.

### Conclusion

The study reveals a strong distrust in Victoria Police amongst LGBTQ+ people as well as a preference to avoid interacting with police officers whenever possible. The findings indicate that an intersectional interrogation of police legitimacy theories is required to understand the nuanced ways in which legitimacy is experienced by diverse community groups.

## The intersection of social harms and legal responsibility for forest crime

Dr Alex Simpson<sup>1</sup>, Dr Hannah Harris

<sup>1</sup>Macquarie University

This paper adopts a social harm perspective to examine the widespread impact of illegal logging forest crime in Papua New Guinea (PNG). The forests of PNG cover more than 70 per cent of its land area and are renowned for their biodiversity, in addition to providing social, cultural, and financial security for millions of Papua New Guineans. Every year, PNG exports an average of 3.52 million cubic meters of round logs, making it one of the world's largest exporters of tropical logs. Despite the existence of a complex forest law framework in PNG, corruption and fraud have been linked to widespread non-compliance, with a significant portion of PNG's log exports are considered illegal, despite forest operators appearing to hold the relevant licenses required to operate legitimately. Estimates suggest that up to 70% of the country's timber may be produced illegally. The mismatch between apparent legality and actual legitimacy of forest operations raises the importance of adopting a harm based analysis. The value of a harm-based approach is further enhanced by the fact that many of the critiques levelled at the PNG forest law framework are generalisable to other States with substantial forest resources.

Traditionally, the global scale of the forest crime challenge, as well as the transnational nature of forest supply chains, have led legal and criminological scholarship to focus on the financial harms of forest crime – viewing it as an extension of corporate crime. In this paper, we use the perspective of social harm to widen the scope of existing scholarship and establish a more holistic understanding the non-financial impacts of illegal logging and forest crime – utilising the case study of PNG. This approach allows us to highlight the existing limits of legal frameworks targeting forest crime and illegal logging – demonstrating how both legal and illegal logging practices can contribute to significant harms - including stoking social conflict, perpetuating state violence, displacing and disenfranchising local communities, undermining legitimacy of legal, political and social institutions, and contributing to loss of biodiversity and long-term ecological damage.

By emphasising harm, this perspective advocates for more nuanced and responsive legal approach and aligned enforcement practices that respond to the financial incentives that drive harmful logging practices, but also consider the wider non-financial harms that result from unconstrained exploitation of forest resources. We argue that the law and enforcement response to illegal logging and forest crime in PNG would be valuably enhanced through more expansive consideration of harm, which may result in a reconceptualisation of how legality and legal responsibility is established and attributed for forest crime – both in PNG and transnationally.

## Queer digital homing and gay dating apps: Responding to victim-blame

Dr Rahul Sinha-roy<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>La Trobe University

Gay dating platform related victimisation receive considerable victim-blame, as gay dating platforms are considered inherently 'risky'. This perception and consequent victim-blame causes significant secondary victimisation for gay dating platform users who experience such harms/crimes, and impede help-seeking/reporting. In this paper, I refute victim blaming narratives that permeate such victimisation by invoking the queer homing metaphor. Building upon the theories of homing and homemaking, I argue that gay dating platform-related interactions are queer homing practices that deserve empathy and protection; in the face of queer-exclusionary and queerphobic social conditions.

To demonstrate this argument, I use three distinct forms of gay dating app-related interactions—hooking up, building a casual sexual relationship, and looking for love; and victimisation that may happen during such interactions. Towards this end, I draw from 14 semi-structured interviews conducted with gay dating platform users in India who experienced victimisation. By exemplifying the homing contexts within which the crimes/harms transpire, I defend the profound need for queer people to engage in such practices in an otherwise queerphobic society. As such, I offer an alternative way of thinking about gay dating platform-related interactions that urges us to rethink victim-blaming narratives through an empathetic lens and make help and support more accessible for queer people.

## Tracing Vietnamese Wildlife Trafficking Groups in South Africa? Transnational media and challenges in Policing

Dr Michael Smith<sup>1</sup>, Dr Hai Luong

<sup>1</sup>Griffith University

### Abstract

The transnational rhino horn trade between South Africa and Vietnam has caused a frenzy of rhino poaching in South Africa, where most of the world's rhino population resides. Organised criminal networks involving Vietnamese nationals operating in and between the two countries are key offenders. This chapter explores the Vietnamese wildlife trafficking gangs based in Africa recorded in Vietnamese digital newspapers as a serious transnational organised crime. As a triangulated qualitative collection data, we use a mixed sample framing analysis of 1) reporting on the rhino horn trade in four Vietnamese digital newspapers from 2016 to 2020 and other information resources, 2) observation participation (through investigative journalism activities of the first author), and 3) focus-group discussion (through chairing and discussing among policymakers, practitioners, and academic by the second author). Our findings highlight some main challenges to law enforcement agencies (LEA). One is Vietnamese operatives in Africa who arrange for Vietnamese couriers to transport rhino horn for a small fee, leading to their fluidity and unpredictable movements compared to LEA's monitors. Two, the couriers are sometimes described as migrant workers, exploited by a Vietnamese handler, identified only by their first name, on the African side leading to difficulties in verifying their identities. While some evidence demonstrates the nexus of criminal motivations (why the couriers agree to carry rhino horns) and personal needs (debts or wish to visit family in Vietnam), their 'real' bosses are still at large, creating barriers for further investigations. We argue that in an increasingly transnational public sphere (Fraser 2007), analysing Vietnamese digital news reports and primary documents sourced by journalists in Vietnam such as publicly available police reports or court transcripts may help better understand the modus operandi of Vietnamese organised crime groups based in Africa; however, policing activities will continue to utilise mutual legal assistance. Implications for further research includes the cross referencing of news in South Africa and Vietnam to better understand Vietnamese transnational crime groups based in Africa and framing analysis of rhino horn trade news stories in Vietnam to better understand public deliberation on international cooperation and its relationship with MLA.



## Identifying Protective Mechanisms That Promote Desistance from Sexual Offending

Ms Tamara Smolinski<sup>1</sup>, Dr Gwenda M. Willis<sup>2</sup>, Dr Sarah M. Beggs-Christofferson<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>University Of Canterbury, <sup>2</sup>University of Auckland

Current research alludes to protective factors that may mitigate sexual reoffending risk. Correlational analyses often inform such findings and thus do not provide a causal explanation as to how protective factors operate. We propose that a shift in focus from correlates to mechanisms will provide insight into the causal processes that result in desistance. This presentation proffers two studies that aimed to: identify mechanisms that promote desistance from sexual offending; and develop a way to reliably identify these mechanisms within participant narratives. Study one involved a systematic review in which thematic synthesis was applied to findings from  $N = 32$  studies to infer protective mechanisms. Study two aimed to develop a coding protocol to identify the presence of these mechanisms and evaluate its interrater reliability. Participants were biologically born males ( $N = 16$ ) living in the community following a prison sentence for a sexual offense conviction. Intraclass correlation coefficients were calculated to assess the reliability of the ratings. Eight mechanisms were identified, broadly separated into two groups that seemed to differentiate between those who ceased sexual offending and lived a prosocial and adaptive life (active mechanisms), and those who ceased sexual offending but experienced less prosocial change (passive/avoidant mechanisms). A coding protocol was then developed and interrater reliability ( $k = 2, N = 16$ ) was demonstrated at the good to excellent range. The findings are the first to offer empirically informed mechanisms for how and why individuals desist from sexual offending, and a coding protocol to identify the presence of these mechanisms that has demonstrated reliability in initial studies. Further research is currently underway and utilises the coding protocol on larger sample ( $N = 100$ ) to determine what, if any, variance the mechanisms account for when considered in conjunction with established risk and protection assessment tools for sexual recidivism risk.

## Warfare, Law Enforcement, and Serial Killers: Exploring the use of Photographs as Trophies

Miss Meghann Sutton<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Murdoch University

### Background/Purpose:

Photographs taken during or after the commission of crime can hold significant meaning that may only be known by the photographer. Sometimes referred to as a 'trophy shot,' a photograph that functions as a trophy often depicts a moment in time one wishes to memorialise, often through self-projection or of an offence.

### Methods:

With the emergence of research highlighting serial killer trophy-taking, exploring how photography conveys meaning within the context of warfare and policing may bring insight into the purpose of the photograph as a trophy.

### Findings:

Within warfare and policing, the trophy shot allows the opportunity for others to engage in the politics of self-representation as, more often than not, the photograph contains conflicting dynamics and context. In contrast, a photograph that functions as a trophy purpose may not be for the public's eye or shared with others. Therefore, the need or desire to self-project is void, the photographer knows it is for them and the meaning behind it.

### Conclusions/Implications:

The motivation and purpose behind the photograph may be the distinguishing factor between a trophy shot and a photograph that functions as a trophy. Nonetheless, by highlighting the similarities and differences between a photograph that functions as a trophy and a trophy shot may provide insight into the reasons why some offenders desire having a memorialised evidence of an offence.

## Treeless in Gaza: responding to arboricide by giving legal rights to trees

Prof David Tait<sup>1</sup>, Dr Munzer Emad

<sup>1</sup>Anu

### Background/Purpose

Crimes involving trees can involve property theft, destruction of natural environments, and vandalism of culturally or spiritually significant landmarks. The widespread destruction of olive groves in Gaza and the West Bank combines all of these. This paper frames its discussions in terms of New Zealand legislation in 2014 that granted legal personhood to a forest, Te Urewera. Trees form forest communities with underground fungal networks. Trees are also part of the wider communities or eco-systems to which all living things may be said to belong. We show how critical olive groves are to Palestinian livelihoods and identities and how their destruction is being implemented as an instrument of occupation. We examine the implications of treating trees and forests as living entities with rights, and show how this might inform responses to arboreal violence.

### Methods

Information is reviewed about forms of violence against trees, including Marx's discussion of wood theft, the attack on Sycamore Gap tree on Hadrian's Wall, Agent Orange and the destruction of Amazon rainforest. Viewing trees as agents rather than property, we propose a strategy for legally representing olive groves either at a war crimes trial, or a traditional Bedouin tribal gathering.

### Findings

With a legal identity recognised for the Te Urewera forest, it is entirely thinkable that olive groves could be legally represented in court cases. Our analysis encourages the process of making this happen..

### Conclusions/Implications:

Trees are central to the identity of many groups, as well as essential to the health of the planet. By examining what would happen if we accorded olive groves legal personhood, we contribute to debates in environmental humanities about how to re-think the relationship between human and non-human, promote ecological justice, and incorporate indigenous knowledge.

## **Rolling out the 'Pacific Criminology' mat – Furthering our talanoa on visions for, and potential directions and likely challenges of a Pacific criminology in the 21st century**

Moses Faleolo, Dr Sailau Tamasailau<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>University Of Auckland

### Symposium Abstract:

This symposium invites anyone interested in 'Pacific criminology' to join us 'on the mat' to engage in a talanoa (talk-story) about what a 'Pacific criminology' might entail, its conceptual, intellectual, and social justice parameters, visions, directions and challenges. The talanoa invites members of our newly established ANZSOC 'Pacific Criminology Thematic group' to meet and share story about their experiences of the Pacific, of Pacific criminological issues, and of collaborative initiatives (potential and actual) that they have been involved in that reflect innovative Pacific research, and Pacific-led crime prevention and justice strategies and solutions. The facilitators will begin the talanoa by providing background context to the establishment of the Thematic group and the Pacific Criminology Collective, documented in the latest International Journal for Crime, Justice and Social Democracy (IJCJSD) Special issue titled 'The emergence of a Pacific criminology' (Sept, 2024).

## **The Migration/Trafficking Dilemma: the case of Ethiopian domestic workers in the Middle East**

Dr Adie Teshome<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Australian Catholic University

Lured by false promises of good jobs, high salaries, and a better life, every year thousands of Ethiopians, mostly women, leave the country under the guise of overseas employment and end up in exploitative situations. For example, according to Jones et al, 1,500 Ethiopian girls and women leave the country each day to work as domestic workers in the Middle East. The vulnerability of Ethiopian jobseekers to trafficking emanates largely from the victims' 'precariousness' that is: a congruence of 'poverty, underdevelopment, and lack of equal opportunity'. Such factors of vulnerability create conducive environments for traffickers who can easily abuse the persons' vulnerable positions and use deceptive means to control them for the purpose of exploitation. With a focus on Ethiopian women jobseekers, this article articulates the concept of vulnerability to trafficking in persons that arises primarily from a congruence of economic factors. Although the trafficking of Ethiopians is addressed broadly, the thematic focus of this paper is on the factors that render Ethiopian women vulnerable to exploitation in the Middle East and Gulf countries in the context of trafficking for domestic service. This presentation considers the vulnerability factors and how the desire for a better life, the hope for a new future, and a positive perception towards migration, can all be manipulated by traffickers during the recruitment process.

## **The Unheard Voices on Country: Aboriginal women's views of accessing postrelease supports in Western Australia.**

Ms Emma Tufuga<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Murdoch University

### Abstract:

The link between Indigenous overincarceration and the problematic effects of colonisation on Indigenous culture, land and communities are well established. Despite the large volume of research on Indigenous people and their involvement within the criminal legal system, as well as many calls for reforms and diversions over decades in the hope of closing the gap on Indigenous offending across Australia, there is truly little evidence of privileging Indigenous peoples' views and perceptions of how to achieve improvements in this area. This presentation prioritises the voices of Aboriginal women and their communities about their unique experiences of accessing services and supports post-release in Perth metropolitan area. Of further importance, the significant role of family and culture in fostering healing and support are outlined, and the views from service providers of the gaps and barriers within the reintegration space. Through the yarning methodology, stories of post-release women who have remained in the community crime free were thematically analysed. Their unique stories of strength and resilience, provides us with critical insights and lessons of how to achieve improvements in an area of profound costly and inequity.

## **Dating app safety among older women in Australia: Using informational videos for effective safety messaging**

Dr Emma Turley<sup>1</sup>, Dr Nichola Corbett-Jarvis<sup>1</sup>, Dr Jan Cattoni<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Central Queensland University

### Background:

The advent of dating apps has ushered in a new era of relationship dynamics, characterised by increased use of technology-mediated interactions to facilitate people's dating experiences. Often excluded from research, our study includes older women who are increasingly embracing online dating as a means of finding casual hook ups, companionship, and/or romance. While dating apps can offer numerous benefits for these users, they also carry risks, particularly in relation to sexual harassment and financial scams.

### Questions:

The research questions we aimed to address in this study were two-fold. First, the study aimed to understand the dating app safety concerns of Australian women aged 55 years old and above. Second, we aimed to explore the modalities of effective educational messaging regarding dating app safety for this cohort of women.

### Methods:

A qualitative methodology was used for the study. One hundred and twenty-one Australian cisgender women aged 55 years old and above were recruited to take part which required completing a survey hosted on the Qualtrics platform. Participation entailed watching three educational videos, which adopted a character-driven storytelling approach, about dating app risks and safety, and responding to a combination of open and closed questions about the content of the videos and risk and safety around dating apps more generally.

### Findings:

Data were analysed using Reflexive Thematic Analysis (RTA). Four themes were generated from the data; safety concerns about dating apps, modalities of safety messaging delivery, using safety videos for knowledge building, and behavioural changes among women aged 55 and over, and will be discussed in the presentation.

Implications: The implications of this study can apply to various stakeholders across community, organisations, and education providers. The study's findings can be used to inform effective intervention development for targeted groups of people, providing memorable visual alternatives to traditional text-based safety information.

## Accessing Support for Family Violence in the Context of Migrant Precarity: Women's Experiences in Australia

Dr Stefani Vasil<sup>1</sup>  
<sup>1</sup>Australian Catholic University

### Abstract

Feminist scholarship that brings issues regarding legal status to the forefront contributes to our understanding of the diverse and specific experiences of migration in relation to domestic and family violence. Scholars taking an intersectional approach have examined how migrant women with insecure status confront a series of barriers in their daily lives, impacting their ability to seek help and exacerbating their experiences of violence and abuse in receiving contexts, such as Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and the United States. While existing studies have generated important findings, limited research has been conducted with victim-survivors to understand their help-seeking pathways. This presentation reports on findings from an interview-based qualitative study that sought to contribute to existing scholarship by examining how women with insecure migration status in Victoria, Australia, accessed support for domestic and family violence in the context of migrant precarity. It highlights that, despite their limited entitlements, victim-survivors sought out formal assistance and in doing so, worked with different stakeholders to negotiate a pathway towards support and safety. It also highlights that women had different outcomes and that while some were able to begin to rebuild their lives, others were faced with further legal, social and economic precarity and continued to live with the threat of removal from the country. These findings suggest that understanding women's intersectional location in society is required in the design of effective policy responses that seek to address domestic and family violence at the national level.



## Immigrant women, DV and the state: a contextual global analysis of the US and Australia

Dr Stefani Vasil<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Australian Catholic University

### Abstract

Researchers, activists, practitioners, and other stakeholders in different contexts have worked across the globe to ensure that the problem of gender-based and intersectional violence remains a public issue and on the policy agenda. Researchers and community-based organizations have sought to acknowledge and document the gendered impact of policies and laws and the ways these disadvantage different groups of women, including those who experience multiple forms of marginalization. They have also continued to push for structural and systemic reform. While countries are increasingly recognizing domestic, family, and sexual violence as a policy issue, rates of violence continue to remain high.

Drawing upon a *contextual global sociology* and a review of the scholarly and grey literature, media reports and policy documents, this presentation examines the framing of domestic violence in the contexts of the United States and Australia with a focus on the critical issue of citizenship status. It focuses on some of the policies, processes, and practices connected to both contexts to better understand the setbacks and gains in addressing domestic violence for immigrant women. In doing so it draws attention to the structure of the migration program and the types of factors that can compound the violence women experience in their intimate lives and make them vulnerable to prolonged violence. It also focuses specifically on the precarity of visa status and how this has emerged as a central organising principle that frames immigration to both contexts over the past two decades. The presentation concludes by emphasizing the importance of collaborative and interdisciplinary research for a more comprehensive contextual global understanding of domestic violence to enhance policies and practices for immigrant women.

## Older Offenders: A UK and Australian Approach

Dr Azrini Wahidin<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>School Of Social And Political Sciences, Faculty Of Arts And Social Sciences, The University Of Sydney

This paper is based on extensive research on female older offenders in prisons in England and Wales and the USA correctional system. It will critically explore the world of older prisoners to provide a more nuanced understanding of imprisonment in old age by integrating a gerontological and criminological/sociological perspective. The purpose of the paper serves to open up a discussion to address policy in relation to the growing ageing correctional population in Australia. It is by creating a gender and age-sensitive approach to this growing minority that initiatives and good practices will stem the tide of older offenders coming into conflict with the law by repositioning the discussion to reduce the pains of imprisonment, increase rates of desistance and create fit for purpose in places of detention.

## **The importance of between-session homework tasks in the treatment of convicted individuals**

Dr Jayson Ware<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>University Of Canterbury

The importance of between-session homework (BST) in psychological treatments is well-supported, with meta-analyses demonstrating that higher levels of BSH, both in terms of quantity and quality, lead to better treatment outcomes (e.g., engagement, treatment change) across many problems (Kazantzis et al. 2016). This is under-researched in correctional contexts, where there are significant challenges to practicing BSH (e.g., in a prison setting).

Within this study a significant number of New Zealand correctional psychologists and programme facilitators were surveyed and interviewed as to their use of, and attitudes towards, between session homework in prisons settings. Results suggest that the use of BSH differs across contexts, that there remains a need to increase focus on the quality and quantity of BSH and removing barriers for clients. I report also on what predicts New Zealand correctional psychologists and programme facilitators believing that BSH is important to treatment outcome and engagement.

## Building a research agenda for a human rights centered criminology

Prof Leanne Weber<sup>1</sup>, Professor Marinella Marmo, Professor Elizabeth Stanley, Dr Claire Loughnan  
<sup>1</sup>University Of Canberra

Crime control and criminal justice are key sites where the dynamics of state power and human rights play out in the lives of victims, communities, suspects and incarcerated people. Viewed from a human rights perspective, urgent questions arise about the use of coercive power; equitable access to social, cultural and economic support; systemic discrimination within legal systems and the wider society, and the relationship between states and various categories of citizens and non-citizens. The practical failings of the current international human rights system are all too apparent, and many conceptual and ideological criticisms can be made as well. Still, the relative lack of engagement with the theory and practice of human rights by criminologists leaves a significant gap in the discipline.

In *A Research Agenda for a Human-rights Centred Criminology*, editors Leanne Weber and Marinella Marmo argue that human rights issues are too pressing to be left solely to lawyers, and that criminologists have a vital role to play in bringing empirical research to bear on human rights questions. In the book, authors with expertise across a range of criminological topics have set out their vision for a program of scholarship that fulfils this role, while also identifying some harms and limitations of human rights frameworks.

You do not need to be a devotee of human rights or expert in the international legal system to attend this session. We are looking to use the Research Agenda book as a starting point for a broad discussion of what criminology can do for a critical practice of human rights, what better knowledge about human rights could do for the discipline of criminology, and how the teaching of criminology might better prepare human rights aware criminologists for the future.

## **Navigating inclusivity: the reintegration of LGBTQIA+ sexual offenders through Circles of Support and Accountability (CoSA)**

Dr Bridget Weir<sup>1</sup>, Professor Kelly Richards<sup>1</sup>, Dr Emma Turley<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Queensland University Of Technology, <sup>2</sup>Central Queensland University

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, Asexual+ (LGBTQIA+) individuals are overrepresented in prisons compared to the general population. While recent attention has been directed towards understanding the experiences of LGBTQIA+ individuals within the criminal justice system, there remains a lack of research examining their reintegration following incarceration, particularly for persons convicted of sexual offences (PCSOs) within this community. This study aims to address this gap by examining the reintegration experiences of LGBTQIA+ PCSOs, focusing on their participation in Circles of Support and Accountability (CoSA), a community-based, post-custodial program for sexual offenders aimed at preventing recidivism and promoting desistance through volunteer-based support.

This study represents findings from a larger study on community-based, post-custodial programs for sexual offenders. It utilised a cross-sectional mixed methods approach which included interviews with LGBTQIA+ PCSOs (CoSA core members) and the first international survey and interviews of CoSA volunteers and staff, to identify the unique reintegration needs and barriers to support for LGBTQIA+ PCSOs.

The findings highlight specific reintegration challenges unique to LGBTQIA+ PCSOs, including increased social isolation due to sexuality or gender identity, concerns regarding a 'one size fits all' approach to reintegration, and the impact of potentially triggering supports such as faith-based organisations or individuals with homophobic biases. Recommendations emphasise the need for those involved in the reintegration process to have relevant experience and training or be members of the LGBTQIA+ community themselves, to provide support that is sensitive to the unique gender and sexual identities of LGBTQIA+ PCSOs. By shedding light on the experiences of LGBTQIA+ CoSA participants, this research aims to develop more inclusive and effective reintegration strategies for this marginalised population.

## Uiuinga tiaki taiohi o Aotearoa – The New Zealand Youth Safety Survey

Dr Susann Wiedlitzka<sup>1</sup>, Dr Angela Higginson

<sup>1</sup>The University of Auckland

### Abstract:

The New Zealand Youth Safety Survey (NZYSS) explores young people's experiences of diversity, identity, and conflict in Aotearoa, and is unique in also collecting the incidence of youth hate crime victimization and perpetration in Aotearoa. The survey replicates the Australian Youth Safety Survey but has been amended to fit into the Aotearoa context. The NZYSS also includes elements of a strength-based approach. It was designed to explore young people's community resilience and effective support and coping strategies. The survey provides an opportunity for written storytelling to capture and subsequently highlight stories of coping with safety concerns, with a focus on improving wellbeing and interpreting data in positive and productive ways. This presentation will highlight the process of translating an Australian survey into the Aotearoa context and will discuss the importance of considering data sovereignty in survey design. Preliminary findings of the first wave collected between May and June 2024 as well as plans for additional survey waves will be discussed.

## From demonising to dehumanising: gang legislation in Aotearoa

Angie Wilkinson<sup>1</sup>, Harry Tam<sup>H2R Research and Consulting Ltd</sup>, Joanna Wilkinson<sup>H2R Research and Consulting Ltd</sup>  
<sup>1</sup>H2r Research And Consulting Ltd

Since the Marzengarb Report of 1954, gangs in Aotearoa have been the target of political rhetoric and media sensationalism. Politicians and the press have fuelled an environment of hysteria and moral panic by painting gangs as threats to be eradicated, seldom acknowledging the state's role in the formation of indigenous ethnic gangs through the systemic abuse of Māori in youth institutions. This narrative has bolstered support for stricter laws and more stringent policing since the 1950s, during which time the collective demonisation of gang members has evolved into profound dehumanisation. Public acceptance of gang members as societal villains has meant contemporary policies that perpetuate the regime of suppression, marginalisation, and objectification have mainly gone unchallenged despite being grossly ineffective in addressing 'the gang problem'.

Our experience draws on 50 years of engagement with Indigenous ethnic gangs in Aotearoa, and we have witnessed first-hand how an intervention approach transforms communities. We use a process of penetration, engagement and mobilisation to support hard-to-reach Māori communities design and deliver services that positively impact individual identity, whānau health, and community well-being. At Kahukura, a methamphetamine rehabilitation programme created and run by leadership of the Mongrel Mob's Notorious chapter, we empowered participants to manage their well-being, make good choices, and take responsibility for their actions. We've also facilitated youth development programmes, ensured peaceful resolutions in gang mediation processes, and supported community action during the global pandemic by building on the strengths and capabilities of local leaders.

The coalition government's recent Gangs Legislation Amendment Bill reflects and reinforces the dehumanisation of gang members. We argue that failing to address the social and economic factors underlying gang violence and formation will not solve the problem—it will exacerbate it. Our approach recognises people change because they have a reason to, not when coerced, demonised, or dehumanised.

## **Harm, risk, and technology: police responses to technology-facilitated domestic violence**

Ms Jessica Woolley<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Deakin University

### Background/Purpose:

Technology-facilitated domestic violence (TFDV) has been identified as a growing issue in Australia, and indeed globally. There have been concerns raised with how police address TFDV, with past literature indicating they may minimise victim/survivors' experiences of TFDV, look to prosecute other forms of domestic and family violence, or not actively manage the risk associated with TFDV.

### Methods:

Drawing from the perspectives of 10 police officers and 12 domestic and family violence practitioners from Victoria, Australia, this presentation offers a thematic analysis of the circumstances where police are likely to actively respond to TFDV.

### Findings:

According to the case studies explored, police officers were most likely to respond to TFDV through family violence intervention orders or criminal charges where they could foresee an outcome of physical violence or lethality. The presentation will offer critical insight into how cases of TFDV are prioritised, providing an overview of how the detection and documentation of harm influences police understandings and assessment of TFDV, and their subsequent decision-making.

### Conclusions/Implications:

This presentation highlights a notable disparity between police responses to foreseeable physical and non-physical violence; that is, harms that are 'spaceless' and those that are physical. Therefore, it presents scope for potential enhancement of police understandings and attitudes towards different forms of domestic and family violence, acknowledging its potential to cause harm and pose risk to victim/survivors.



## **From victim to offender: The integration of traumagenic dynamics model and etiological perspective of sexual offending**

Dr Yi-ling Yeh<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department Of Guidance & Counseling, National Changhua University Of Education

### Background/Purpose:

The issue of cycle of sexual assault and the related factors of offending has been in the spotlight in sex crime. However, the men as a victim of sexual assault and the traumatic experience has been ignored due to the gender stereotype. Therefore, the purpose of the study is to explore the distal risk factors of sexual assault and the pathway from victim to offender of child predators via integrating the traumagenic dynamics model and etiological theory of sexual reoffending.

### Methods:

The semi-structure interview approved by the ethics committee was conducted in this study. Four male sex offenders with the records of molesting and sexual assaulting children and adolescent under 16 years-old were selected from the correctional institutions in central and southern Taiwan. The data was analyzed via the framework of "integer-content" of narrative inquiry.

### Findings:

The results indicate early sexual traumatic experiences among male child predators may cause different levels of negative affect and may promote psychological compensation by pursuing the outstanding academic and sport performance. The distal risk factors of child sexual reoffending include long-term ignoring needs for daily life, rejection from family, attachment issues, inappropriate parenting style, physical and psychological bullying by peers and siblings, and negative school experience. All these factors demonstrate the experience of poor social interaction with peers and intimacy deficits in adult among male child predators. Meanwhile, the predators also have learned, by the traumatic experience, that the skills of grooming youth.

### Conclusions/Implications:

The study supports the developmental risk factors for child predators and integrates the relationship between the traumagenic dynamic concepts and their offence. The role of childhood maltreatment and psychological bullying are both the important risk contributors. Furthermore, the results have significant implications for improvement the practices of family sexuality education, prevention of childhood maltreatment and treatment of child predators.

## **Innovative Responses to Men Using Violence: Supporting help-seeking to develop safety**

Kelly Dingli, John Leonard, Michelle Royes, Dr Amy Young<sup>1</sup>, Professor Elena Marchetti, Professor Patrick O'Leary, Michelle Royes, Dr Kelly Dingli

<sup>1</sup>Griffith University

### **Background/Purpose:**

This symposium outlines the design and implementation of an innovative pilot, the START program, which aims to engage men using violence in a short-term telephone based program, addressing the service gap between a one-off service, and an ongoing intensive program. It brings together presentations from researchers and practice leaders to outline how the program was designed and implemented, the challenges in engaging this cohort, and the importance of engaging evidence based content, including the use of the Inner Boy App.

The START program is a 6-session program, which aims to provide men with case-management, strengthen their support networks and help-seeking skills, and provide them with resources to gain insight into their behaviours. The program is designed to increase men's visibility in the integrated service response and to ensure that they are better prepared to start longer terms interventions such as Men's Behaviour Change Programs.

### **Methods:**

The research team undertook a review of deidentified caller data, logged calls and case-file reviews to develop a profile of those accessing Mensline, and to develop a typology of clients suitable for START. This symposium will also report on the development of the Inner Boy content, and the practice developments that underpin START.

### **Findings:**

Call data indicated the complex intersecting needs of men using violence with limited system visibility. The lack of supporting information from other sources has implications for risk assessment. Addressing the intersecting needs of men, including mental health, addiction and previous trauma need to be balanced with accountability to ensure engagement with the client, and safety for women and children.

### **Conclusions/Implications:**

This ongoing pilot program has implications for practice, policy and content development when engaging men using violence in interventions that promote readiness for engagement.