

The DCU logo is rendered in a large, bold, teal-colored font. The letters are blocky and modern, with the 'D' and 'C' being particularly prominent. The background is a dark blue gradient.

DCU

Ollscoil Chathair
Bhaile Átha Cliath
Dublin City University

**The 2023
North South
Criminology
Conference**
ABSTRACTS

15 and 16 June 2023



The 2023 North South Criminology Conference

The 14th North South Criminology Conference is hosted by the Dublin City University School of Law and Government on Thursday 15 and Friday 16 June 2023.

Plenary 1: Academic–Practice Engagement	2
Plenary 2: Policing and Prosecuting Rap and Drill Music.....	5
Plenary 3: Historical Criminology.....	7
Parallel 1.....	10
1A – Young Adulthood, Criminal Justice and Transition	10
1B - Drug Crime and Modern Slavery	15
1C - Extremism and Hate Crime	18
1D - Criminological Research and Methodology.....	21
1E - Social Bonds and Subcultures	25
Parallel 2.....	28
2A – Prison – Interventions	28
2B – Youth Justice.....	32
2C – Policing and Crime Prevention.....	35
2D - Sexual Violence and Abuse	39
2E – Historical Criminology.....	41
2F – Violence Reduction	44
Parallel 3.....	47
3A - Generational Harms, Trauma and Self-Harm	47
3B - Criminal Evidence & Forensic Psychology	50
3C - Life Sentence Management and Sentencing Sex Offenders	53
3D – Prison – Lived Experiences.....	56
3E – Domestic and Gender-based Violence, and Cybercrime Victimisation	59
3F – Community-based Interventions	62
Parallel 4.....	65
4A – Victims	65
4B – Border Criminology.....	68
4C - Criminal Records and Access to Higher Education.....	71
4D – Policing	74
4E – Proceeds of Crime	78

Plenary 1: Academic–Practice Engagement

Prof Elizabeth Aston, Director of the Scottish Institute for Policing Research and Professor of Criminology at Edinburgh Napier University

A seat at the table: reflections on police-academic partnerships

If ‘making a difference’ is what drives us as researchers and practitioners, then how do we go about it? Increasingly, there is an expectation that organisations should adopt an evidence-based approach and academics should deliver impact from their research. Interactive approaches that strengthen the links between research, policy and practice communities are an effective way to improve the use of research by public services (Nutley et al. 2007). Much of this is about building closer relationships, moving from co-operation towards collaboration and co-production. At the same time academic independence and criticality is crucial. In this presentation I consider the value of the infrastructure of police-academic partnerships and reflect on the challenges posed. I provide some examples of research, knowledge exchange and impact from the Scottish Institute for Policing Research. Finally, I conclude with some lessons learned and considerations for future paths. What values are important and how do you, the criminology community here, want to gear up to face the future?

Dr Ian Marder, Assistant Professor in Criminology at Maynooth University School of Law and Criminology

Co-creating principles for collaborative research

In Ireland, collaborative research on criminal justice is burgeoning. Now is an opportune time for researchers, policymakers, practitioners and civil society to reflect collectively on how we want to work together, and what we hope to achieve by doing so. This interactive plenary session will engage the audience in a process of identifying and discussing shared principles for collaborative research on criminal justice in Ireland. We aim to establish areas of common ground and consensus, and illuminate shared and differing understandings of the relationship between research and criminal justice policy and practice into the future.

Dr Sandra Peake, CEO of WAVE Trauma Centre and Honorary Professor of Practice at Queen's University Belfast

The Outworkings of Research on Practice

Every month, as a non governmental organisation working with victims and survivors of Northern Ireland's Conflict, WAVE is approached by researchers wanting access to individuals who have been bereaved or injured. This always raises questions. Ultimately there are benefits for the researcher, who will no doubt generate increased knowledge on the subject that can be shared through conferences and publications. But what is the likely impact of doing such work, both on the participant and the researcher? When the subject of the research is perceived to be 'vulnerable' or is living in a 'vulnerable position post trauma', is it an automatic no or should additional considerations apply? Kipnis (2001) argues that vulnerability should not be automatically viewed as stopping all research, rather it should be viewed as a signal to have proper safeguards in place for all participants. The need for safeguards applies equally for the researcher who may feel the burden of becoming a secret keeper (Dickson-Swift et al 2007).

In this presentation I will share two examples from practice and discuss the need for trauma informed practice to be enshrined in studies of this nature.

References

- Dickson-Swift, V., James, E., Kippen, S. and Liamputtong, P. (2007) 'Doing sensitive research: what challenges do researchers face', *Qualitative Research*, 7(3), pp. 327-353.
- Kipnis, K. (2001) 'Vulnerability in research subjects: a bioethical taxonomy'. In *The National Bioethics Advisory Commission, Ethical and Policy Issues in Research Involving Participants. Volume II*. Bethesda: National Bioethics Advisory Commission.

Plenary 2: Policing and Prosecuting Rap and Drill Music

Dr Lambros Fatsis, Senior Lecturer in Criminology at the University of Brighton

Policing Black Music(s) Here, There and Now: A Brief History in Three Beats

UK Drill music is regularly admitted as evidence of criminal offending, violence and aggression in Britain's courtrooms, through penal logics and tactics that perceive and pursue this new rap subgenre as 'gang related music'. UK drill, however, is neither the first nor the only Black music genre to attract police attention, as a source of danger and a symbol of trouble. Drawing on the long history of policing against Black/Afro-diasporic music(s), this presentation compares the suppression of UK drill, Trinidadian calypso and Jamaican reggae, to show how 'race' is policed through 'crime' – by making 'crimes' out of beats and rhymes. It will therefore be argued that the Crown's war against drill, tells us more about the racialised criminalisation of Black music(s) – than it does about the threat that any Black music subgenre ostensibly poses.

Dr Anthony Gunter, Senior Lecturer and Programme Leader for Childhood and Youth Studies at the Open University

Words, Sound and Vision of Gang Violence in Black and White [Lies]: Police Evidence as Storytelling in the English courtroom.

In this paper, I will argue that Rap/Drill music videos and lyrics are being deliberately and ‘emotively’ utilised in the English courtroom – often in tandem with antiquated joint enterprise laws – to prove the gang affiliations and gang-related motives of Black young men and boys’ accused of serious violence offences. However, it is imperative that this recent and worrying development is contextualised as part of the broader and more longstanding [50+ years] problematization and criminalization of Black children and young people in the UK. This encompasses the ‘mugging crisis’ of the 1970s, through to the ‘street gangs’ and ‘knife violence’ crisis of the present day. In order to illustrate its main arguments, this paper will draw on specific case examples where I have acted as an expert reviewer, on behalf of the legal defence, challenging the prosecution’s gang and Rap/Drill evidence based on biased police testimonies (or police derived ‘storytelling’) further corroborated by additional ‘expert’ witness statements.

Plenary 3: Historical Criminology

Dr Lynsey Black, Lecturer in Criminology at Maynooth University Department of Law

Historical Criminology? Telling Stories of Women and Punishment

If Ireland has become a byword for anything in recent years, it may be for the forbidding religious institutions in which so many women and girls were confined through the twentieth century. The cultural narrative of 'The Quiet Man' has been replaced by the more critical framing of 'The Magdalene Sisters' or 'Philomena'. How can criminology grapple with this history and this present, and what role should historical criminology play in this? Speaking on the case study of women prosecuted for murder in post-independence Ireland, I explore the use of historical approaches to crime and criminal justice, considering issues such as the ethics of the archive and the accessibility of historical records. Why, in these decades, were so many criminalised women ultimately sent to serve out their punishments in religious sites? What can investigation of this past tell us about contemporary criminological concerns? The talk explores the cases of women before the courts on a murder charge, considering the offences they committed and the punishments they received, and bringing in themes of gendered criminal justice and punishment, paternalism, postcolonialism, and religious involvement in the administration of criminal justice.

Dr Louise Brangan, Strathclyde Chancellor's Fellow in Social Work and Social Policy at the University of Strathclyde

Seeing like a stranger: Making sense of our penal pasts

Criminology might be distinguished among the social sciences for its pronounced sense of mission and activism: to make a difference in the world; to have a policy impact. But how does this *modus operandi* shape and direct historical research on crime and punishment? Drawing on two examples of punishment in twentieth century Ireland — the prison system and Magdalen Laundries — I will discuss the tensions and challenges the normative present can pose for the historical criminological imagination.

Making the most of historical criminology

It sometimes seems as if 'historical criminology' is everywhere today. Increasingly scholars are describing their work as studies in historical criminology and themselves as historical criminologists. The phrase has entered into the jargon of contemporary criminology via the titles of scholarly networks, special issues and books. The present moment is one rich with opportunity and excitement for those interested in historical aspects of crime and criminal justice, and especially for those concerned with the scope and significance of historical enquiry within criminology. Yet there are also potential pitfalls ahead for historical criminology: having stepped into the light, questions are likely to arise concerning both its internal coherence and its pretensions with respect to the wider field of criminology. This paper aims to address how we might best realise the promise of historical criminology while avoiding the pitfalls. I restate the case for an inclusive conception of historical criminology as one of a number of broad approaches to the study of crime and criminal justice. I stress the merit of conceiving and practising historical criminology as a scholarly disposition or sensibility, rather than as a sub-discipline, methodological specialism or insurgent movement. I suggest the virtue of recognising and appreciating unacknowledged examples of historical thinking in criminology. And I highlight the importance of demonstrating what new frameworks of historical thinking have to offer for established areas of interest in criminology. In these ways, we might collectively make the most of the present interest in historical criminology, and offer historical approaches to crime and justice the best chance of a fruitful future.

Parallel 1

1A – Young Adulthood, Criminal Justice and Transition

Dr Brendan Coyle, Ulster University

An Overview: Why Young Adults? Why now? Young Adulthood, Criminal Justice and Transition

In recent years, an increasing amount of academic attention across a diverse array of disciplines has focused on the transition to adulthood, and an apparent prolongation, fragmentation or disruption of this process in late modern societies. Traditional routines and milestones associated with adult status have been disrupted, corroded or delayed by a constellation of social, economic and cultural forces in Western society, rendering the process of entry into adulthood a more ambiguous, gradual, complex and less uniform process than it once was. Framed as a distinct new phase of the life course by many, this experientially complex period of ‘emerging’ or ‘young’ adulthood represents one during which identities and circumstances fluctuate and consolidate.

Simultaneously the most likely to both commit criminal offences and commence processes of desistance from offending behaviour, young adults (18-24) are disproportionately over-represented in criminal justice caseloads across the UK and Ireland. As such, there have been increasing calls to recognise young adults as a distinct group with distinct needs in criminal justice processes, along with vocal calls for a better understanding of the role that ‘maturity’ plays in young adults’ experiences of crime and criminal justice. This paper frames some of the emerging conceptual and policy debates on the interplay between young adulthood, maturity and criminal justice, and considers the impact of criminal justice transitions on a demographic variously described as ‘the invisible early twenties’ and the ‘lost generation’.

Dr Conor Murray, Ulster University

Northern Ireland: Young Men, Vulnerability, and Imprisonment

Based on a nine-month ethnographic study in Hydebank Wood Secure College, this paper explores the sources of vulnerability affecting young men in prison. Academic research in young men's prisons has focused on young men that idealise strength, stoicism, and autonomy; and depicted institutions where violence, bullying and victimisation are widespread. However, the prison is a transient environment and those young men that experience feelings of power and dominance in prison through the perpetration of bullying and victimisation are regarded as inherently vulnerable in the wider social context.

This paper seeks to expose and dissect the emotional underbelly of the highly macho young male prisoner society. It discusses how imprisoned young men of all types inner (and sometimes public) lives were dominated by feelings of vulnerability and their inability to cope with the rigours of imprisonment. While a range of sources of vulnerability affected young men in Hydebank, this paper will focus on three primary sources that were discussed most frequently by the young men themselves: physical and mental health; self-harm, including suicide; and medical and illicit drugs.

England and Wales: Young Adults' Pathways and Transitions in England and Wales Custodial Estates

In England and Wales, there has been a drastic decline in the number of children aged under 18 years entering the Youth Justice System. However, those within it are increasingly older, serving longer custodial sentences (YJB, 2022) and therefore likely to transition in the young adult/adult estate. Such transitions are disruptive, taking place at crucial period of the life-course, yet are harmful due to the numerous changes between institutions that overlook the complex needs of this cohort (Price, 2021a, 2021b; Price and Turner, 2021). Following a number of independent inspection reports (Harris, 2015; House of Commons Justice Committee, 2018a; HM Inspectorate of Prisons, 2019), there has been a growing focus upon young adults within the Criminal Justice System resulting in revised guidance for transitions between institutions and services (YJB, 2021; MoJ and HMPPS, 2022) and maturity focused initiatives (House of Commons Justice Committee, 2018b). Young adults continue to report poorer experiences than older prisoners and there is no distinct approach for this population resulting in numerous negative outcomes (HM Inspectorate of Prisons, 2019). This paper identifies young adults as priority group for contemporary criminology and explores how criminal justice systems might better support this populations' pathways and transitions through it.

- Harris T (2015) *Changing prisons, saving lives: Report of the independent review into self-inflicted deaths in custody of 18–24-year-olds*, (Cm 9087). London: Home Office.
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/439859/moj-harris-review-web-accessible.pdf
- HM Inspectorate of Prisons (2021) *Outcomes for young adults in custody*.
<https://www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/hmiprisons/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/2021/01/Young-adults-thematic-final-web-2021.pdf>
- House of Commons Justice Committee (2018a) *Young adults in the CJS: eighth report of session* (HC 419)
<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201719/cmselect/cmjust/419/419.pdf>
- House of Commons Justice Committee (2018b) *Young adults in the CJS: Government response to the Committee's eighth report of session 2017-19*. Fifth report of session 2017-19 (HC 1530)
<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201719/cmselect/cmjust/1530/1530.pdf>
- Ministry of Justice and Her Majesty's Prisons and Probation Service (2022) *Transition of Young People from the Children and Young People Secure Estate to Adult Custody Policy Framework*.
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1066602/2022-04-04_YCS_Transitions_PF.pdf
- Price, J. (2021a). The impacts of the drop in staffing provision in the transition between the youth custody estate and young adult/adult estate. *Prison Service Journal*, 256, pp. 23-29.
https://www.crimeandjustice.org.uk/sites/crimeandjustice.org.uk/files/PSJ_256_September_2021_0.pdf
- Price, J. (2021b) Violence, Control and Restraint: The Harms to Young Adults Particularly Upon Transition, *The Howard Journal of Crime and Justice*, <https://doi.org/10.1111/hojo.12418>
- Price, J. & Turner, J. (2021) (Custodial) spaces to grow? Adolescent development during custodial transitions, *Journal of Youth Studies*, <https://doi.org/10.1080/13676261.2020.1865525>
- Youth Justice Board (2021) *Joint National Protocol for Transitions in England*.
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/995933/joint-national-protocol-transitions-june-21.pdf
- Youth Justice Board (2022) *Youth Justice Statistics 2020-21*
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1054236/Youth_Justice_Statistics_2020-21.pdf

Republic of Ireland: Becoming an Adult in Prison in the Republic of Ireland

Between 2008 and 2017, the Irish Government approved the proposal to develop a single National Children Detention facility; St Patrick’s Institution was abolished, and all children serving a term of detention are now detained in Oberstown Children Detention Campus. Pursuant to Article 155 and 156 of the consolidated Children Act 2001, where a person held in a children detention school reaches 18 years of age before the period of detention expires, that person will serve the remainder of the sentence in a place of detention provided under section 2 of the Act of 1970 or a prison. This ‘cliff-edge’ effect that can occur when reaching the age of majority in the criminal justice system was summarised by the Irish Penal Reform Trust (IPRT) as a time when ‘he or she loses access to age-appropriate interventions, entitlements and supports overnight – both in the criminal justice system, and in services provided in the community’ (IPRT, 2015, p. 6).

The paper focuses on custodial transitions from Oberstown to prison experienced by young adults, aged 18 to 24 years – a cohort that accounted for 21 per cent of those committed to prison in 2020 (Irish Prison Service, 2020), with probation statistics reporting a reoffending rate of 36 per cent for males and 30 per cent for females in 2017 (Central Statistics Office, 2021). The Irish Youth Justice Strategy 2021–2027 contains a strategic objective, 2.13, which directly addresses this issue. The objective calls for specific protocols ‘for the management and care of young adult offenders aged 18–24 in the prison system’ and specifies the need for action in terms of ‘transitions from Oberstown to the prison system’. This paper aims to initiate more conversation on this topic and raise awareness of the unique needs of this cohort as they experience custodial transitions in the Irish criminal justice system.

- Central Statistics Office (2021), ‘Probation re-offending statistics 2017’, November, *Central Statistics Office*, available at <https://www.cso.ie/en/releasesandpublications/ep/p-prs/probationre-offendingstatistics2017/>
- Department of Justice (2021), *Youth Justice Strategy 2021–2027*, Dublin: Department of Justice, available at https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/3670e-youth-justice-strategy-2021-2027/?referrer=http://www.justice.ie/en/JELR/Pages/Youth_Justice_Strategy
- Irish Penal Reform Trust (IPRT) (2015), ‘Turnaround youth: Young Adults (18–24) in the criminal justice system’, *Irish Penal Reform Trust*, May, available at <https://www.iprt.ie/site/assets/files/6357/iprt-turnaround-web-optimised.pdf>
- Irish Prison Service (2020), *Irish Prison Service Annual Report 2020*, Dublin: Irish Prison Service

Legislative instruments

- Children Act, 2001
- Prison Act, 1970

Dr Siobhán Buckley, Maynooth University

Comparative: “Contrasts in Tolerance?”: A Cross-sectoral Analysis of Punitiveness in the Adult and Youth Criminal Justice Systems of Ireland, Scotland, and the Netherlands 1990 – 2015

Siobhán Buckley’s doctoral research concerns “Contrasts in Tolerance?”: A cross-sectoral analysis of punitiveness in the adult and youth criminal justice systems of Ireland, Scotland and the Netherlands 1990 – 2015. This paper will present the findings of the doctoral research which looks at differences of approach and transitions between the adult and youth justice systems and is supervised by Professor Claire Hamilton.

Dr Shane O'Mahony, University of Hertfordshire

From Social Deficits to Structural Violence: The Lived Experience of Drug-related Harm in Cork City

Over the last thirty-five years, academic researchers in Ireland have consistently demonstrated the relationship between social deprivation and the most severe instances of drug-related harm. More recently, researchers have begun to include the voices of drug users with lived experiences of harm in these discussions. However, these studies have more often tended to focus on drug users' views on alternative drug policy options, rather than their views on the social and economic factors relevant to their experiences of drug-related harm. Therefore, the current study conducted 12 in-depth interviews with drug users experiencing harm in an Irish city, in order to elicit their views on the specific role they believe social and economic factors played in conditioning their later experiences of drug-related harm. The study participants highlight harms experienced in the education system, the family home, and the local community as most relevant to later experiences of drug-related harm.

Furthermore, participants also discuss meaningful relationships as the last defense against these harms and argue that the loss of such relationships coincided with their most severe incidences of drug-related harm. The study concludes with a discussion of the conceptual framework of structural violence in terms of its potential for interpreting the participants' views and suggests several avenues for further research.

Dr Jane Mulcahy, University of Limerick

The Greentown Programme: Responding to the Problem of Child Participation in Drug Networks

Child involvement in criminal networks can be classified as a wicked problem. The Department of Justice in Ireland has funded the Greentown programme to operate two trial projects to operate two trial projects (in partnership with the Department of Justice, Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth, An Garda Síochána, Tusla – the Child and Family Agency, Probation and community-based organisations). The programme aims to a) reduce criminal network effects on children in the local community (frustrating grooming behaviour of network-involved adults who entice children into criminal activity) and b) provide meaningful and practical ‘routes out’ for children involved in a criminal network.

This paper will provide an overview of the four programme pillars: Intensive Family Support, Network Disruption, Community Efficacy and Pro-Social Opportunities. It will also present learnings from the first phase of programme implementation in the Whitetown trial site with particular focus on the Intensive Family Programme, including barriers and enablers.

Recommendations pertain to the importance of safety and relationship-building for effective interagency collaboration to address this wicked problem.

Dr Rhiannon Bandiera, Maynooth University

Does Ireland Need a Modern Slavery Act? Critical Reflections on Australia’s Modern Slavery Laws as State-corporate Benevolence

Internationally, Ireland has a poor reputation on modern slavery. The Irish Government’s Atypical Working Scheme was condemned by four of the UN’s special rapporteurs for breaching international human rights law in 2019, and labelled by the International Transport Workers’ Federation as “state-facilitated human trafficking” (Murphy, 2018). Until recently, Ireland had been on the US State Department’s Trafficking in Persons Report ‘Tier 2 Watchlist’ for failing to take meaningful action on human trafficking. By comparison, Australia, which is ranked Tier 1 by the US State Department, is claimed to have the strongest anti-slavery laws in the world following the passing of the Commonwealth and New South Wales Modern Slavery Acts. But to what extent do modern slavery laws, and the reporting of modern slavery risks by public and private entities, produce meaningful state and corporate change, namely, an impact on human rights through a reduction in modern slavery and slavery-like practices? This presentation adopts a critical, state-corporate crime perspective and argues that, far from being a model to follow, Australia’s Modern Slavery Acts allow the government and corporations to claim they are ‘benevolent’—that they are acting on modern slavery, when in fact, very few changes are taking place.

Prof Amanda Haynes and Prof Jennifer Schweppe, University of Limerick

Institutional Bias in Criminal Justice Systems and Hate Crime Legislation: Implications and Perspectives

Scholarly debates on the benefits and risks of hate crime legislation have long been polarised. In the early decades of hate studies, this divide centred on legal debates as to the appropriateness of treating offenders differently based on the motivation for the offence (cf Hurd 2001; Talitz 1999). In these discussions, victims and offender statuses tended to be cast as mutually exclusive. More recently, opposition to hate crime legislation has cited risks to minority communities and has shifted to reflect a greater understanding of the fluidity of victim and offender statuses (Jennings et al 2012). Those who oppose the introduction or expansion of hate crime legislation particularly point to evidence that criminal processes internationally tend to disproportionately suspectify and penalise the very minorities that hate crime legislation seeks to protect (cf Spade 2008). While recognising their imperfections, those who advocate for hate crime legislation continue to argue that the criminal law is an essential tool in combatting the violent oppression of minorities (Walters 2018). This chapter seeks to engage with this debate, considering the merits of both perspectives. Most significantly, this chapter asks what lessons each perspective can draw from the other, and whether there are any spaces for consensus.

Seán Looney, University of Plymouth

Content Moderation through Refusal of Service: Content Delivery Networks and Extremist Websites

Considerable attention has been paid by researchers to social media platforms, especially the ‘big companies,’ and increasingly also messaging applications, and how effectively they moderate extremist and terrorist content on their services. Much less attention has yet been paid to if and how infrastructure and service providers, further down ‘the tech stack,’ deal with extremism and terrorism. Content Delivery Networks (CDN) such as Cloudflare play an underestimated role in moderating the presence of extremist and terrorist content online as it is impossible for these websites to operate without DDoS protection. This is evidenced by the takedown of a wide range websites such as The Daily Stormer, 8chan, a variety of Taliban websites and more recently the organised harassment site Kiwifarms following refusal of service by Cloudflare. However, it is unclear whether there is any formal process of content review conducted by the company when it decides to refuse services. This article aims to first provide an analysis of what extremist and terrorist websites make use of Cloudflare’s services as well as other CDNs, and how many of them have been subject to takedown following refusal of service. Following this the article analyses CDNs’ terms of service and how current and upcoming internet regulation applies to these CDNs. The article concludes by discussing how extremist website administrators may migrate to CDNs who operate in less stringent regulatory environments in order to avoid takedowns.

Dr John Morrison, Maynooth University

A Thematic Analysis of Being a Right-Wing Extremist

This paper analyses a series of semi-structured interviews with right wing extremists from Europe and North America. The analysis presented in this paper focuses on the question of what personal value participants gained from their membership of right-wing extremist organisations. The authors adopt a thematic analysis to analyse the data. Preliminary results will be presented.

Tobias Gunning, University College Dublin

Table Fellowship: A Method for Developing Inclusion

Criminological research enquiry has begun to draw on alternative methodologies, including painting, photography, and walking, to document and illustrate the interviewee's lived experiences. The current paper contributes by considering an original and innovative data collection method, termed 'table fellowship'. The purpose of this focus-group method is to incorporate the participant's senses and mobilities to conjure a sense of inclusion. Aiming to combine a culinary experience with the idea of table fellowship to create discourse and solidarity. The symbolic act of collaboratively preparing and eating a meal as part of an inclusive moral community. Evoking meaningful association with the past, while connected to the present. Tables, like communities, are locations where humans connect. From a research perspective, adopting this new methodology has added value. The table provides an ideal setting to investigate temporal identities and explore emotive behaviours. Such methodologies are designed to be participatory, co-productive and democratic. They lend themselves well to alternate modes of storytelling, producing rich data by creating a symbolic space where the research participants can feel safe expressing their narratives and sharing their lived experiences. Table fellowship cultivates a sense of community that encourages inclusion, companionship, and mutual understanding through ritual social action.

Dr Colette Barry, Ulster University

Researching Death in Punishment: Reflections on Emotion, Subjectivity and Post-research Encounters from Two Research Projects

This paper uses examples from interview data and reflective journaling from two separate research projects to consider how emotions permeate the experience and process of researching deaths in punishment. It draws on my experience of undertaking my doctoral research on Irish prison staff experiences of the deaths of people in prison in addition to a more recent project on probation staff experiences of working with people at risk of suicide in England and Wales. This paper reflexively recounts some of the methodological and emotional issues related to researching deaths in punishment. To do so, I utilise concepts and frameworks from the multi-disciplinary field of death studies to present a reflexivity of feelings that acknowledges the embodied, recurrent and multi-layered nature of emotions arising from my experience of death-related research. I also consider the methodological importance of making transparent the feelings that emerge through our research on death in punishment as an integral part of knowledge production in the field, as well as the development of our ethical sensibilities. Finally, I explore how the repercussions of doing research on death in punishment can linger into the post-fieldwork stages and beyond, re-emerging in direct and indirect contexts.

A Conceptualisation of Lived Experience Criminology: Actor-Network-Theory

Latour's Actor-Network Theory (ANT) is a theoretical framework that emphasises the importance of social networks and the relationships between human and non-human actors in shaping social phenomena. In criminology, ANT has been used to analyse how crime and deviance are produced and sustained through a complex network of actors and their relationships. Theorising lived experience in criminology through ANT involves examining how the lived experiences of individuals are shaped and influenced by the actors and networks that they are connected to. This includes not only human actors such as family members, peers, and law enforcement officials but also non-human actors such as technology, policy, and physical environments. For example, an individual's experience of being labelled a criminal may be influenced not only by their interactions with law enforcement officials but also by the policies and laws that define and categorise criminal behaviour. Similarly, an individual's experience of victimisation may be shaped not only by the actions of the perpetrator but also by the physical environment in which the crime occurs and the social networks that provide support or isolation.

By using ANT to theorise lived experience in criminology, researchers can gain a more nuanced understanding of the complex and interdependent factors that contribute to crime and deviance. This can inform the development of more effective and just policies and interventions aimed at reducing crime and improving outcomes for individuals affected by the criminal justice system. This paper seeks to conceptualised lived experience in criminology and criminal justice through ANT.

Dr Matt Bowden, Technological University Dublin

The Contours of Rural Criminology: Challenges and Scope in an Irish Context

Rural criminology is growing globally as evidenced in the emergence of new interest groups in international criminological associations (ASC and ESC) and a burgeoning of publications. A key question posed by the progenitors of rural criminology is that as criminological theory and research has largely been driven by urban based cases, what generalisation can be developed from rural studies in criminology? The paper scopes the contours of rural criminology highlighting some of the principal questions and strands from the literature. A key feature of this literature is the multidisciplinary nature and scope of rural criminology from geography, sociology, legal studies and anthropology. Critical also are the intersections with environmental criminology and its concerns with climate change, resource challenges and sustainability. The paper concludes with some challenges for the scope of rural criminology in Ireland.

Dr Megan Coghlan, Maynooth University

Insulation from Loss: Exploring the Role of Social Bonds at the Reoffending and Desistance Stages of the Offending Cycle

Liminality in the desistance process is well established (Healy, 2010, 2014), this paper explores experiences of loss during the reoffending and desistance stages of the offending cycle. The focus is on a person's ability to cope with changes to relationships during transitions in offending behaviour. This is important as isolation has been identified as a pain of desistance (Nugent & Schinkel, 2016) and anti-social peer relationships are linked to offending (Laub & Sampson, 2003; Warr, 1998). Tracking people's ability to cope with changes to relationships while reoffending and while engaging with desistance can provide additional information about the role of social bonds through the offending process which is critical as social bonds have different meanings for people depending on context (Cid & Marti, 2012). This paper presents data from semi-structured interviews with 28 people classed as primary desisters due to self-reported reductions in the frequency or severity of offending (McNeill, 2016). Findings highlight that people suffer the loss of anti-social peer networks in a context of change harder than the loss of pro-social relationships in a context of reoffending. This is salient as it provides a contextualised understanding of the impact of social bonds through the offending cycle.

Daniel McFadden, Queen's University Belfast

Trauma and Social Support Experiences of Imprisoned Men in Northern Ireland

Background: Social support has long been established as having a direct relationship to mental well-being and has been found to 'buffer' the negative impact of stressful life experiences.

Trauma can negatively impact upon social support, reducing the extent of social networks and ability of some trauma experienced individuals to sustain extensive social support networks.

Imprisoned men are disproportionately likely to have experienced a traumatic event when compared with the general population. It was found that traumatic events lead to a decrease in social support in imprisoned men and more research is needed to determine the impact of different types of trauma events on social support.

Method: A survey was carried out across the Northern Irish Prison system (n=310) from November 2022 to January 2023. Participants completed a Trauma History Questionnaire (THQ), Multi-dimensional Scale of Perceived Social Support (MSPSS) and the Warwick Edinburgh Mental Well-being Scale (WEMWBS).

Results: Inferential statistics will be conducted to understand the association between different types of trauma experiences, social support and mental well-being.

Conclusion: Findings will be discussed in terms of the implications for the Northern Ireland prison system.

Dr James Windle, University College Cork

'East End Kids are Hard and Fast': The Street Code in Oi! Punk

This paper is part of a wider comparative historical study exploring to what extent, and in what forms, the Code of the Street (Anderson, 1999) presents in two youth subcultures which originated in East London in the early-1980s (Oi! punk) and early-2000s (Grime). The paper presents a thematic analysis of 268 Oi! punk songs. Each song was searched for elements of Anderson's street code, including: respect, a willingness to use violence, the objectification of women, nihilism and problematic policing. Dovetailing the code, artists were preoccupied with both violence and respect, although they often demanded that their subculture, locality or country be treated with respect rather than demanding deference to the individual. The objectification of women was less common than in Anderson's study, although when women were objectified it followed a street code logic. The second and third most commonly mentioned themes were social injustices and subcultural resistance, which conflicts with the more nihilistic and individualist street code portrayed by Anderson. The paper concludes by drawing insights from Downes (1966) to argue that, while Oi! exhibited elements of the street code, the subculture was conscious of social injustices and presented subcultural solutions to problems experienced by the wider working class community.

Parallel 2

2A – Prison – Interventions

Dr Michelle Butler, Queen's University Belfast

Promoting Restorative Approaches in Prison: Exploring the Possibilities

Policymakers, practitioners and researchers are increasingly exploring the use of restorative approaches as a means of addressing harm and conflict in prison. For instance, restorative approaches in prison have been used to reduce violence and conflict, challenge harmful behaviour, promote change, repair harm, encourage reconciliation and enable people's voices to be heard. Yet, such initiatives can be small scale in nature or delivered intermittently, posing a challenge for endeavours to foster the use of restorative approaches as "second nature, not separate nature", as proposed in the Adult Restorative Justice Strategy for Northern Ireland (Department of Justice, 2020: 3). This paper examines the research evidence for the use of restorative approaches in prison, highlighting the lessons to be learned regarding best practices and the potential obstacles associated with attempts to embed their use in prison. Possible opportunities for promoting the use of restorative approaches in the Northern Ireland Prison Service, as well as the prospective challenges that may encountered, are discussed.

International Consensus Statement on the Delivery and Evaluation of Sport-based Interventions in Prison

The recent prevalence of sport-based interventions (SBIs) to promote social, psychological and physical well-being in prison settings has attracted increased public and political interest. However, evidence of the benefits and outcomes of SBIs in carceral settings is limited, and programmes to date have been conceived, designed, measured, delivered, theorised, and evaluated in different ways. While researchers have advanced a range of recommendations on good research practice, no consensus exists regarding how SBIs in prison should be designed, delivered and evaluated. Those involved in prison-based SBIs, including practitioners, policy makers, sporting professionals and academics, would benefit from finding a common position on these points. Consensus is required on: the definition of ‘sport-based interventions in prison’; research design and evaluation; intervention programme design; the competencies of those delivering and designing intervention programmes; participant inclusion; programme oversight and stakeholder involvement; and sustainability and impact.

This paper is based on an international consensus statement which discusses evidence-based guidance on designing, implementing and evaluating SBIs in prison settings. It examines definitions, programme content, and methodological approaches. It aims to assist programme designers, researchers and policy makers to identify, impact and report on the proposed goals and intended outcomes of SBIs in prisons consistently, thereby permitting key stakeholders to improve these interventions based on reliable, comparable evidence.

A Humane Approach Directly Correlates with Reducing Recidivism - Who Knew?

What helps individuals desist from crime? In addition to areas already widely researched, we have discovered motivation, effective relationships and hope for the future. These are just a fraction of the positive outcomes of rehabilitative support. This paper will focus on rehabilitative programs that are run in prison and in the community for men on probation in the United Kingdom, which, if incorporated into the Irish reform system, show statistical promise in reducing reoffending, and improving individual mental health.

I deliver a 10-week Mindfulness Based Yoga course (Noela Yoga) in prisons. This specialised course has shown great promise in improving overall wellbeing in the offender population. It focuses on desistance with the use of the growth theory along with mindfulness and yoga, to support identity transformation and personal development. Post-programme data revealed that there was an improved sense of mental and physical wellbeing, it reduced anxiety and participants found healthier coping strategies to manage their mental health.

Working as a practitioner for a Rehabilitative Service to deliver wellbeing support to Service Users subject to Probation supervision in London which is aimed at supporting effective community integration, has highlighted the importance of wellbeing support especially when faced with adverse challenges.

Sarah-Jane Winders, Irish Prison Service

An Evaluation of Primary Care Interventions Provided by Assistant Psychologists in the Irish Prison Service

Evidence suggests that the prevalence of mental health problems among people in custody is higher than in the general population. The majority of existing research focuses on secondary care interventions or focuses on reducing recidivism rather than addressing mental health difficulties. Less is known about the effectiveness of primary care interventions in the custodial environment. This study aims to assess the effectiveness of primary care interventions delivered by Assistant Psychologists in the Irish Prison Service. This will be done by analysing pre- and post-intervention outcome data, using The Burns Anxiety and Depression Checklist and CORE-OM (Clinical Outcomes in Routine Evaluation - Outcome Measure). It also aims to further explore additional factors in the delivery of these interventions, such as waiting times and disengagement reasons. Finally it aims to examine factors that might impact the effectiveness of the intervention, including offence category and the referral pathway.

Dr Mary-Louise Corr, Dr Siobhan McAlister, Dr Cate McNamee and Dr Michelle Butler, Queen's University Belfast

‘The Great Unfulfilled Promise’: Using Equality Monitoring Data to Examine Overrepresentation in the Youth Justice System

The criminal justice system, as is the case with other public bodies, is responsible for monitoring and ensuring equality of service provision and treatment. Section 75 of the Northern Ireland (NI) Act 1998 requires designated public authorities to mainstream equality considerations into their activities and reflect on how their policies and practices may affect minority groups. Despite the ‘great promise’ of Section 75, and equality as a fundamental pillar of youth justice systems, concerns remain about some groups of young people being overrepresented at each stage of the system in Northern Ireland.

This paper draws on an analysis of administrative data from the Police Service NI, Public Prosecution Service NI and Youth Justice Agency NI, and interviews with key stakeholders, to examine potential overrepresentation. It presents what existing equality monitoring data contribute to our knowledge of the representation of young people in the youth justice system and assesses the challenges in, and commitment to, collecting such data. It concludes with reflections on the implications of existing practices for what we can ascertain about the overrepresentation of young people within the system and raises broader questions about the efficacy of equality monitoring in the criminal justice context.

Orlaith Rice, University College Dublin

Youth Justice in Transition: Penal Populism and the Decline of Nordic Exceptionalism in Sweden

The Nordic model of youth justice is highly regarded for its high age of criminal responsibility and low incarceration rates. However, violent crime has been rising in Sweden in recent decades, particularly in the suburbs of large cities, and this increase has been capitalised upon in order to marginalise Sweden's expanding immigrant population. In response to escalating gun violence and gang activity, into which young people – particularly from marginalised and vulnerable groups - are being increasingly recruited,

the Swedish government has abolished the automatic sentence reduction young adults receive for serious crimes. This paper analyses the political response to this trend through the lens of penal populism. This research is informed by qualitative focus group data collected in Sweden in 2021 and 2022, within the framework of a European Research Council-funded project on the 'Foundations of Institutional AuThority' (FIAT). This paper is based on a chapter in the Elgar Research Handbook on Youth Criminology, forthcoming 2023, and co-authored by Orlaith Rice (first author), Dr Silvia Gagliardi and Dr Daniela Rodriguez Gutierrez

Dr Siobhán Buckley, Maynooth University

'Hard Cases', 'Exit Points' and 'Instant Adults': Examining the Boundaries Between Adult and Youth Justice Systems

While much academic ink has been spilled on developments in youth justice from the 1980s to the present time (see, most recently, Goldson et al, 2020), few studies have examined 'contrasts in tolerance' (Downes, 1988) within the justice system itself. This lacuna was addressed through PhD research comparing and contrasting the youth, adult and young adult systems in three countries, namely, Ireland, Scotland and the Netherlands. All of these countries have reputations for progressive or innovative youth justice systems, although the same cannot always be said of the adult or young adult justice system within the same countries.

Drawing on empirical research carried out in these countries, this paper argues that the criminological literature to date has not paid sufficient attention to the boundaries between the youth and adult systems, the 'exit points', and the way in which they constitute one another. By examining who is included or excluded from the youth justice system there is an opportunity to learn about a system's values and assumptions. Ultimately, when thinking about penal change, this paper argues that there is a need to move away from a dualistic approach (punitiveness in the adult or youth justice sector) and towards cross-sectoral analysis.

Cillian Blake, University of Limerick and An Garda Síochána

Are the Legal Standards for the Permissible Use of Force by Gardaí Adequately Clear to Protect Society from Excessive Use?

The use of force by Gardaí on a citizen is one of the most primitive methods to achieve compliance with the law. For this reason, its use must be strictly proscribed. The use of force cuts to the very core of human dignity and its misuse is a serious breach of the fundamental nature of human rights. Furthermore, force by a police service on the citizens of a State has the potential to erode public confidence in the ability of the police to protect society. The use of force in policing is receiving significant international attention to the extent that the use of force by the police has been described by many as police violence. It is for this reason that the rules that regulate the use of force by the police must be clear to all in society so both Gardaí and society understand their permissible boundaries. Moreover, the rules regulating police use of force stretch beyond the domestic sphere and into international human rights law. The paper will consider the obligations of policing in society and the boundaries on the force that can be used in meeting those obligations.

Dr Ariel Athwal-Yap, Maynooth University

Policing and the Pains of Administrative Detention

This article will build on Diarmaid Harkin's (2015) conceptualisation of 'policing as punishment' to examine the pains resulting from police use-of-force as the first link in Singapore's detention chain. The punitive nature of policing will be examined in relation to the lived experiences of former detainees (n=65), their family members (n=43), and their close friends (n=27) who were interviewed for this project. The analysis will focus on police actions during the early stages of the administrative detention process. Through this study of the punitive impacts of policing in Singapore, I aim to advance the understanding of police powers. In particular, the harms resulting from the practice of surveillance, routine questioning, police custody, police raid, and police appropriation of personal belongings, work permits, and identity documents.

Dr Artur Pytlarz, Independent Researcher

Crime Prevention and the Liquid Rural. Towards the Informational Governance of Security in the Irish Countryside

A recent study of strategies of resilience in the Irish countryside suggests security is built around informational networks. Those are either the official Text Alert Networks, overseen by An Garda Síochána, or privately run Facebook or WhatsApp groups. This might signal the emergence of what can be called liquid security forms based on access and participation in the information flow. Security moves from its hard or solid form such as an alarm or reinforced windows, etc. towards soft or liquid strategies built around the exchange of information. This can be viewed as evidence of deeper rural transformation, which means that many communities, especially in commuter belts of the near urban hub, start to organise themselves around the flows of resources, transportation, work or power. Such a shift into a space of flows together with informational governance of security suggests the transformation of the Irish countryside into a new form of liquid rural.

This paper presents the findings of the recent study focused on strategies of resilience implemented in rural Ireland. During this project, qualitative data was collected from two rural communities and during meetings of Text Alert Groups and the findings suggest the shift towards informational governance of security.

Dr Matt Bowden and Dr Nicola Hughes, Technological University Dublin

Farm Crime in Ireland: Findings from a National Survey of Farmers on Victimisation, Experiences of Crime, Attitudes to Police and Justice

There has been a growing public discussion about rural crime in Ireland emerging in recent years that presents rural areas as under a sustained crime wave in which farmers, farm machinery and livestock are the targets for mobile criminals. While farm based crime is only one dimension of rural crime, it is nonetheless the subject of ongoing media and political discussion which often raises untested assumptions about the nature of victimisation. Despite this there has been very little investment in studies focusing specifically on farm crime as a contemporary phenomenon.

The paper reports from the findings of a survey of 1,333 farmers in the Republic of Ireland carried out in the Autumn of 2022. Findings indicate that while farmers are in favour of taking crime prevention measures themselves, comparatively few report that they implement measures on their farms. In addition, there is relatively low take up of some organised crime prevention interventions, property marking for example. The paper considers some policy and practice measures along with directions for further research.

2D - Sexual Violence and Abuse

Kirsten McGregor, Queen's University Belfast

Feasibility of the use of Restorative Justice for Serious Sexual Violence in Northern Ireland

In 2019 the Gillen Review was published, investigating the law and procedures of how sexual violence cases are handled in Northern Ireland. The review was extremely thorough and made over 250 recommendations covering all aspects of the criminal justice process.

Recommendations 243 and 244 are of particular interest as they suggest the Department of Justice (DoJ) explore the use of Restorative Justice (RJ) for such cases.

The review recommends that the DoJ explore the potential use of RJ for sexual violence cases operating both within the criminal justice system, and outside via a self-referral scheme. While we are beginning to see an increase in the use of RJ for sexual violence cases across the world, it remains an under researched concept which sparks a large amount of debate. Particularly questions regarding the potential feasibility and viability of the use of RJ for cases of sexual violence.

The Research Aims:

1. Assess the views and opinions of victim-survivors, offenders, and criminal justice practitioners in Northern Ireland.
2. Determine and describe the associated implementation and operational challenges of such systems in Northern Ireland.
3. Provide guidance on ways forward to address the two recommendations made by Gillen (243 and 244).

Dr Maggie Brennan, Dublin City University

Facilitation of Online Sexual Abuse and Exploitation of Children in the Philippines: Offence Pathways, Priorities and Challenges in the Formulation of a Response Mechanism

The Philippines is described as the global epicentre of Child Sexual Abuse Material and live-streaming production, major forms of OSAEC. Recent studies suggest Filipino OSAEC presentations differ from 'traditional' OSAEC cases as they are largely facilitated by female, 'supply-side' traffickers with 'demand-side' offenders located in Western countries and that up to 20% of Filipino youth has been affected by OSAEC. Notwithstanding this novel presentation, limited research has examined OSAEC facilitation in the Philippines. This multi-part study seeks to understand the factors that contribute to the facilitation of OSAEC, offending profiles and associated behavioural trajectories, with a view to identifying pathways to better detection, deterrence and prevention. Our paper reports the findings of the first phase of this study – drawn from thematic analyses of (n=41) key informant interviews and a secondary dataset of (n=35) Filipino post-conviction offending case files. Findings demonstrate that OSAEC facilitation is financially-motivated, with a bi-directional dependence between facilitators and victims/survivors. Family dysfunction, lags in detection/prosecution and innovations in ICT and payments technologies are facilitating factors. In this paper, we describe such factors, facilitation offence presentation, as well as identified priorities and challenges in the development of a response mechanism against the background of Routine Activity Theory.

Dr Mark Coen, University College Dublin

Lateral Thinking and Luck: Researching Donnybrook Magdalene Laundry

The Magdalene Laundries operated in Ireland from the 18th century until 1996. Much academic research has been produced about the Magdalene system as a whole. Given the shared characteristics of the institutions and the links between them, it is certainly important to examine them in this way, as part of an interlocking network of confinement. However, it is also necessary to examine institutions individually, as this is how they were experienced by the people detained in them. No two institutions are exactly the same, with differences such as those of personnel, location and built environment shaping their atmosphere and modus operandi. An in-depth examination of a particular institution also necessitates a more defined research focus that can reveal unexpected data.

This paper discusses some of the research methods and sources used to research Donnybrook Magdalene Laundry, which was run on its Dublin 4 site by the Religious Sisters of Charity from 1833 to 1992. With one limited exception, the nuns declined to share their archival material. They also declined to be participate in an oral history project. In the absence of access to institutional records, a wide variety of sources were consulted to piece together the story of the laundry. Many of the sources consulted are in the public domain but had not been used to research Donnybrook previously. The presence of significant amounts of public material relating to a Magdalene laundry also underscores how visible these institutions were while they were in operation. They leave behind a breadcrumb trail for the researcher because at one time they featured prominently in the public sphere. The paper will also discuss how luck also played its part in bringing us into contact with financial records that an official State committee had said had not survived.

Shauna Armstrong, Maynooth University

The Birth of the Care System: From the Brehon Era to the Children Act 1908

The relationship and intersection between State care of young people and young people who find themselves involved with the youth justice system has been largely understudied in Ireland to date. Ireland has a long history of youth care which has had a complex and multifaceted trajectory throughout history. The Irish Poor Law Amendment Act 1862 was the cornerstone of the contemporary foster care system in Ireland. Indeed, the number of children in the care system has grown exponentially since this time, with foster care now being the dominant form of care in Ireland. . However, Ireland has a previous history in the area of caring for children, namely care for young people during the Brehon era. This paper will map this historical trajectory of the care system in Ireland from the Brehon era to the Children Act 1908 with the aim of identifying where the intersection between the care system and the youth justice system emerged in terms of both legislation and socio-ideological undercurrents.

Prof Jayne Mooney, City University of New York

Remembering, Suffering, and Resistance: Towards an Understanding of the Impact of Incarceration in New York City

This paper explores the history of exclusion and incarceration in NYC and its role in the development of the city. One of the themes is that of invisibility. For it is significant that there is a dearth of published scholarship on the history of penal institutions in NYC, which is extraordinary when you think of the numbers who have been affected by incarceration. Within the city there are few signifiers to the locations of early institutions of confinement – only a small plaque to Blackwells’ penitentiary exists on Roosevelt Island - and many the more privileged New Yorkers remain unaware of the location of the notorious Rikers Island jail complex. The study focuses on the stories of those who have been incarcerated over the years and aims to contribute to the wider conversation on the politics of historical memory, and what we choose to memorialize. By building on historical memory, critical punishment memorialization studies, and the work of E.H Carr (1961), it suggests that the telling of carceral history is potentially a powerful weapon capable of shaping unfolding events, as well as, helping to preserve the memory of those who have suffered and resisted the practice of human caging.

2F – Violence Reduction

Prof Iain Brennan, University of Hull

Violence Reduction in England and Wales, 2017-Present

In 2018, prompted by a ten-year peak in the number of homicides and a series of high profile fatal stabbings of teenagers, the government of England and Wales launched a Serious Violence Strategy. This strategy sought to replace the dominant police-led enforcement approach with a preventive ‘public health’ approach to violence prevention. Since the inception of the strategy, almost one billion pounds have been allocated in support of violence interventions.

The flagship activity arising from the Serious Violence Strategy is the Violence Reduction Units programme whereby local units were tasked with reducing serious violence in 18 police force areas.

In this paper, I will describe the activity and characteristics of VRUs, outline the contribution of contemporary criminological theory to their ethos and work and then describe a summative evaluation of the effectiveness of VRUs in reducing serious violence to date.

The paper will conclude with a discussion of VRUs and the public health approach to prevention within the broader context of youth violence in England and Wales.

“I’ve Lived and Bred Violence My Whole Life”: Understanding Violence in the Irish Prison Service Through the Lens of the Power Threat Meaning Framework

In the Irish Prison Service (IPS), a small cohort of men repeatedly engaged in serious violence are managed under the Violently Disruptive Prisoner (VDP) policy. In 2018, the IPS opened the National Violence Reduction Unit (NVRU), aiming to work with this group in a psychologically-informed way in order to understand and ultimately reduce their violence.

Adopting a qualitative methodology, this study recruited prisoners residing in the NVRU during the first year of its implementation. These participants (n=3) engaged in semi-structured interviews informed by the Power Threat Meaning Framework (PTMF) in order to explore their subjective understandings of the origins, experiences and expressions of their violence.

Reflexive thematic analysis and codebook approaches were integrated to identify both a priori elements of the PTMF, and novel additions. This resulted in 6 themes: (1) Power, (2) Threat, (3) Meaning, (4) Threat Responses, (5) Functions of Threat Responses, and (6) Moderating Factors.

This study has important implications for policy and practice, within and beyond the IPS. Crucially, it addresses the issue of prison violence, an enduring pressure-point in modern custodial environments. In doing so, it prioritises the voices of prisoners, who are integral in any pathway to change.

Dr Emma Regan, Irish Prison Service

'Pathways to Change' Programme

Engaging people in custody, openly and honestly, about the potential for (risk of) future offending is a priority in any contemporary Criminal Justice System.

Based on a group programme developed in Lambeth Hospital, London, the Irish Prison Psychology Service runs a motivational, insight-oriented group called Pathways to Change, which is designed to sensitively open up conversations about the potential for future violence.

The 'Pathways to Change' group is structured around the Historical Clinical Risk 20v3 – a structured professional judgement assessment and management plan, covering key risk factors for violence.

Toward the end of the group, participants develop their own unique psychological formulation in addition to a 'sentence plan', which guides their engagement in key prison and community in-reach services over the course of their sentence.

The group uses key mental health and offence related outcome measures, in addition to qualitative feedback post-group. Currently, in conjunction with University College Cork, research is evaluating this data, taken from Pathways to Change groups which running from 2016 to 2023 (N = 200).

This presentation will include some preliminary findings from this research. Recommendations in relation to the group structure and content, participant criteria, and methods of measurement and evaluation will be discussed.

Parallel 3

3A - Generational Harms, Trauma and Self-Harm

Dr Jane Mulcahy, University of Limerick

The Limits of Reason: Removing the Trauma Blindfold

Despite increasing recognition of the importance of human rights in recent years, most legal systems are currently trauma blind, with grave implications for trauma survivors who come before the courts. The establishment of the Judicial Council provides Ireland's judiciary with an opportunity to become a global leader in the development of a neurodevelopmentally-aware, trauma-responsive, restorative model of justice with benefits for individuals, society and professionals interacting with the court process. Law students and would-be solicitors and barristers also need trauma training as a matter of urgency.

Drawing on PhD research on long sentence male prisoners, this paper makes the case for legal education and judicial training on the limits of reason and the impact of a high level of stressors in childhood (e.g. due to poverty, disrupted attachment, maternal mental illness, parental separation, imprisonment of a family member, exposure to domestic violence, emotional neglect, multiple complex bereavement, community drug use) on human functioning, relational ability and social behaviour.

To advance more effective responses to relational woundedness manifesting in the criminal courts judicial education and training on attachment, neurophysiology, Adverse Childhood Experiences, survival responses, state-dependent functioning and the importance of safe, reciprocal relationships in healing from trauma is crucial.

Dr Siobhan McAlister, Dr Mary-Louise Corr and Dr Clare Dwyer, Queen's University Belfast

The Generational Harms of Armed Conflict: Conflict Legacy and Children's Rights

Political violence, armed conflict, and human rights while marginal in mainstream criminology, are of criminological importance as they engage with fundamental issues of power and social (in)justice, enable an understanding of harm beyond that defined by the law, and expose States abuses and obligations. Examining conflict legacy through critical criminology and children's rights, therefore, provides a vantage point for understanding generational harms and reframing the needs of the current generation as rights.

While it is internationally recognised that conflict can have devastating effects on children and young people, and thus on the realisation of their human rights, research has focused predominately on their rights as participants in conflict, or as victims/ witnesses during and immediately following conflict. What is largely absent from the research is a critical examination of the legacy of conflict on the rights of children 'not of the war' generation. Using Northern Ireland as a case study, and drawing on recent empirical research, this paper outlines some of the transgenerational harms of armed conflict. It contends that understanding conflict legacy as a children's rights issue elevates the voices, experiences and entitlements of 'post-conflict' generations thus prioritising the obligations of duty bearers.

Melissa Meyer, University College Cork

When Violence Is Turned Inward: Exploring Self-harming Behaviours and Addictions as Products of Social Suffering Rather than Individual Pathologies Through Interviews with Irish Counsellors

Contemporary neoliberal society places the individual at its centre, with all responsibility for success, and blame for failure, resting on the individual alone. There is a remarkable weakening of support structures on both micro and macro scales over the past 30 years in Ireland, and seeking out support is likened more to weakness than external factors. As a result, there is an increase of young adults turning their frustration of increasingly higher goals and harder falls inward through self-harming behaviour, which include cutting, eating disorders, and addictions. Through interviews with Irish counsellors, and using a revitalised model of strain theory, this presentation will show how reimagining self-harming behaviours are products of larger societal ills that result in internalised violence. On the surface this manifests as high rates of depression, anxiety, and self-harm, however, we cannot hope to effectively address the matter by considering it as individual psychiatric problems when they are, in fact, social pathologies.

Keywords: self-harm; addictions; mental health; young adults; social pathology

Dr Liz Heffernan, Trinity College Dublin

Hearsay in Criminal Trials: Adapting Traditional Thinking to Present and Future Contexts

Our common law adversarial trial system is grounded in the assumption that fact-finding is optimised when courts have the benefit of seeing and hearing witnesses deliver their evidence directly in the courtroom. The legendary rule against hearsay prohibits the admission at trial of a statement that was made outside the courtroom where the court is being asked to accept the statement as true without having had the benefit of assessing the source first-hand. Of course, there may be situations where hearsay evidence is the only or the best available evidence and there are cogent reasons for believing that the statement is reliable notwithstanding that it was made or generated out-of-court. One of the ways in which courts have sought to restrict the rule is by narrowing its potential scope.

This paper will explore the application of the hearsay rule to technology, focusing in particular on the role of the Irish courts in delineating the scope of the rule. In recent years, the courts have been asked to determine whether the hearsay rule extends to information generated by a range of technological sources including computers, emails, social media, mobile phones and CCTV. The judicial response has been to apply the traditional evidentiary classifications of real evidence, original evidence and hearsay evidence. The paper will explore the case law in this area with a view to analysing the efficacy of this adaptation of traditional thinking to present and future technological contexts.

Dr Lauren O'Connell, Technological University Dublin

Multi-Level Managerialism in Criminal Justice: Insights from the Republic of Ireland through DNA Database Policy and Practice

Contemporary criminal justice policies and practices have witnessed an increasing preoccupation on managerialism since the 1990s, most notably in Anglophone jurisdictions (see Garland, 2001; Hoggett et al. 2020). Rhetoric pursuing crime control can often come at considerable expense, prompting efforts to reduce costs or increase the speed at which people are moved through the system. In light of this, managerial ends can include the prioritisation of efficiency, effectiveness and improving value for money. This paper provides a nuanced and multi-level analysis of managerialism through the lens of Irish DNA database policy and practice. Within criminal justice systems, DNA databases offer a method to conduct automated comparisons between DNA profiles that are typically collected from crime scenes and certain groups of people. Through matches and eliminations, there are opportunities for reduced costs, increased efficiencies and potential future savings. This empirical research illustrates and explores the inherent nuances and challenges in relation to managerialist practices in Ireland through this lens.

Inside the Mind of a Criminal: The Art and Science of Criminal Profiling

Criminal profiling is a complex and multi-disciplinary field that involves the application of both scientific and artistic methods. The scientific aspect involves the use of evidence-based practices and statistical analysis to identify patterns in criminal behavior. The artistic aspect, on the other hand, involves the use of intuition and expertise to interpret and synthesize the information gathered from the crime scene and other sources. This article explores the history and evolution of criminal profiling, including various methodologies and theories that have been developed over the years. It also highlights the challenges and controversies surrounding the practice, such as questions around its reliability and validity, and discusses the importance of incorporating both the art and science of criminal profiling to ensure its effectiveness. The article concludes by highlighting the future directions of the field and the ongoing need for research and development to advance the art and science of criminal profiling.

Key words: Criminal profiling, theories of criminal profiling, science of criminal profiling, forensic evidences, offender profiling, profiling techniques

3C - Life Sentence Management and Sentencing Sex Offenders

Anna Flynn, Irish Prison Service and University of Limerick

The Management of People Serving Life Sentences in Ireland: A Multidisciplinary Pathway from Committal to Release

In 2017, the Irish Prison Service (IPS) Psychology Service and the Probation Service developed a new pathway for people serving life sentences, applicable to those sentenced after 01/04/2017. The pathway involves early multidisciplinary assessment, engagement, and sentence planning rather than delaying intervention until the first Parole Board review. This was a priority in the context of the Parole Act 2019, which moved the first Parole Board review from year seven to year 12.

Using quantitative and qualitative methods, this PhD research explores the sentence management of men serving life sentences in Ireland, with particular focus on the new pathway. Data was collected from the IPS Prisoner Information Management System on every male in custody serving a life sentence. The aim was to identify key strengths, needs, and risks that would guide priorities at different sentence stages (early/middle/late). Semi-structured interviews were also conducted with men serving life sentences at different sentence stages. The aim was to explore the experiences of those sentenced both before and after the implementation of the pathway on 01/04/2017.

Findings to date will be discussed. This quantitative and qualitative data will be used to meaningfully inform the future development of life sentence policy and practice in Ireland.

Dr Conor Connolly, Irish Prison Service

“You Have to Make the Open Prison Work for You”. A Grounded Theory of the Transition to Open Centre Settings for Life Sentence Men in Custody

Background: The transition from prison to community is well researched, with structured support programmes available to aid this. The transition within prison from closed settings to less secure, open conditions is less researched, but poses a potentially stressful transitional period in a person’s sentence progression pathway, particularly for people in custody for many years.

Aims: This study aimed to develop an understanding of how men serving life sentences experienced the transition to open centre settings from closed prisons.

Method: A constructivist grounded theory approach was used to analyse nine, telephone conducted, semi-structured qualitative interviews.

Results: ‘Embracing the Journey’ described the experience of the transition including opportunities for progression and self-growth and challenges from accessing services to missing closed prison structures. The support system and institutional system impact on this lived experience of transition.

Conclusions: The transition to open centres poses personal and system level challenges and pressure points for men serving life sentences. Prioritising support systems can lead to a more positive transitional experience. Future research on the breakdown of transitions and exploring if an overlap exists between risk factors associated with recidivism and risk factors relating to transition breakdowns could prove beneficial in informing future service provision.

Dr Diarmuid Griffin and Anthony O'Shea, University of Galway

'Irreconcilable, Unscrupulous and Criminal': Initial Findings from an Empirical Study of Sentencing Rationales in Relation to Serious Sex Offenders

This paper will explore the factors influencing trial judges in imposing a long-term determinate sentence or life imprisonment for serious sexual offences. Trial judges in Ireland are primarily guided by judicially developed principles when sentencing but there remains considerable discretion in determining the quantum of punishment. Since 2014, a series of judgments by the appellate courts have developed guidelines on sentencing for specific offences (including rape and defilement of a child). This paper will focus specifically on the most serious sexual offences, namely those that have been sentenced to 15 years to life imprisonment. It will present initial findings from an empirical project examining sentencing practices at trial level, as well as tracing cases through to the appellate process to determine the outcome on appeal. The findings indicate that lengthy determinate sentences are selectively employed. Sentence selection is frequently influenced by the multiplicity of offending in an individual case, the exceptional nature of the crime(s) and the vulnerability of the victim(s).

3D – Prison – Lived Experiences

James Leonard, Two Norries Podcast

Utilising Lived Experiences in the Irish Prison Service: Listening, Learning and Leading the Way

‘The Two Norries’ is an organisation set up originally as a podcast by James Leonard and Timmy Long. Since June 2020 the podcast, which focuses on crime, mental health, addiction, and social and health issues has reached thousands of people in Ireland and around the world.

Now, in a unique collaboration, both James and Timmy are helping the Irish Prison Service (IPS) enhance existing initiatives and develop new programmes to support prisoners. As ex-prisoners themselves, they have a lived experience perspective which can only serve to enhance the IPS’s work toward safer prisons and safer communities.

James Leonard, Timmy Long and Dr Emma Regan (IPS) wish to introduce the audience to this collaboration; it’s inception, challenges, outcomes to date, and plans for the future.

Consultation with experts by experience is now routine in healthcare settings. This collaboration, a first for the IPS, can help pave the way for prioritisation of lived experience input to contemporary criminology.

*Dwayne Antojado, Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology University, and Diane Khan,
Executive Director of Humans of San Quentin*

Humans of San Quentin: Humanising Incarcerated Identities

The criminal justice system is often criticised for dehumanising individuals who are incarcerated. Those entangled within the CJS are often viewed as faceless, nameless, and inhuman, reduced to their crimes and stripped of their identities as individuals with hopes, dreams, and struggles. This dehumanisation contributes to a culture of stigma and discrimination that perpetuates the cycle of incarceration and hinders the successful reintegration of individuals back into society. Humans of San Quentin, a story-telling project established in the United States uses social media advocacy to counter the negative stereotypes proliferated in mainstream media about people who are involved in the CJS. Social media advocacy has emerged as a powerful tool for humanising incarcerated identities and challenging negative stereotypes.

By using social media platforms, Humans of San Quentin amplifies the voices and stories of incarcerated individuals, showcasing their experiences and highlighting their humanity. This approach helps to counteract the dehumanisation that often occurs within the criminal justice system and fosters a more empathetic and compassionate understanding of incarcerated individuals. Humanising incarcerated identities through social media advocacy also has the potential to promote more effective criminal justice reform. By increasing public awareness about the inhumane treatment and conditions faced by many incarcerated individuals, advocates can pressure policymakers to implement more just and equitable policies and interventions. This approach can also encourage a shift in public attitudes towards individuals who are incarcerated, reducing the stigma and discrimination that often accompanies the label of "criminal" and promoting a more inclusive and compassionate society.

*Dr Katharina Swirak, University College Cork, Dr Gillian McNaull and Prof Shadd Maruna
Queen's University Belfast, and Kathleen White, University College Cork*

Emancipatory Pedagogy in Prison: Participatory Action Research and Prison/University Partnerships

Increasingly researchers, practitioners and policy makers in the fields of criminal justice, criminology and associated professional practices are realising their responsibility to consider their roles in reinforcing, mediating or dismantling the persisting power differentials that remain between those 'delivering' criminal justice interventions and those receiving them.

What might appear as a 'lofty' and abstract ideal, is however neither novel nor unique. Research and practice traditions which draw on 'lived experiences' of criminal justice in the co-production of knowledge, including Convict Criminology, are increasingly finding their way into mainstream policy, practice and academic research.

This paper draws from the North-South TOGETHER collaboration, which seeks to research and share with others on the island of Ireland transformative teaching and research practices in university-prison classrooms. Co-produced learning can break down the barriers between those affected by the criminal justice system and those who are not. We invite readers to consider how the methodological approach of Participatory Action Research (PAR) can produce 'symmetrical reciprocity' in the relational field of research, while concurrently feeding into professional praxis, in our case as educators, but equally imaginable for those practicing criminal justice in different capacities. We suggest that pedagogy emphasising relationship building, mutuality and conviviality, foundational elements of participatory action research, can produce more meaningful types of knowledge or 'evidence', transforming our individual praxis and reimagining design of the delivery of justice.

Aisling McNally, University of Galway

From Love to Lethal Violence: Analysing the Responses to Domestic Violence

Domestic violence and intimate partner homicide are pertinent social and criminal issues facing Ireland. This paper will analyse how various stakeholders respond to this form of violence, from NGO's such as Women's Aid, Men's Aid, AdVic and An Garda Síochána. The introduction of the Domestic Violence Act 2018 provided a significant change in how the criminal justice system responds to domestic violence. Whether the Act goes far enough to acknowledge the seriousness of domestic violence and address this crime appropriately will be explored. Intimate partner violence has been characterised primarily as an issue that disproportionately affects women, with women accounting for the majority of intimate partner homicides worldwide. In evaluating the responses of key stakeholders in Ireland, the matter of gender will be examined to identify if differences exist depending on gender. The methodology of phenomenology and theoretical framework of general strain theory and life course theory shall provide the context for this research project exploring how stakeholders respond to intimate partner violence. Equally, whether the present legislation influences these responses.

Dr Parantap Kumar Das, Shobhit University

Violence Against Women in India: An Analysis for Handling the Threat in the Society

The value of a civilization can be judged where a women is placed in the society. In India the old orthodox society places the women in a very high respects, the Vedas consider that the women as the creator and worshipped her as a “Devi” or Goddess, but the condition of women in modern society of India have become a matter of grave concern. In the today’s scenario, the women are harassed, tortured, abused and maltreated in the society at the very high level. One of the main evil of the society is Dowry system in India. Dowry is a social evil in Indian society that has caused unimaginable tortures and crimes against the women and polluted the Indian marital system. Any form of violence against women is a serious violation of Articles 14, 15, and 21 of the Indian Constitution, which safeguard women's human rights and fundamental rights.

In this article the Author will have an analysis to provide a comprehensive review of what defines violence against women, and to study the many categories of crimes committed against women as defined by the Indian Penal Code (IPC), and Special and Local Laws, and the evolution of various laws and legislations aimed at ensuring the safety and protection of women in India.

Self-Disclosures on Snapchat and the Potentiality for Cybercrime Victimization

Social media has had an enormous impact on society, evolving from a simple mode of communication, to the behemoth it is today. Present day social media outlets, while intended for use with benevolent motives, does allow for new opportunities for cybercrime victimization, and even shapes human interactions, reality, and normality as we know it worldwide. This study seeks to explore people's experiences of crime on Snapchat and the self-disclosures they make on Snapchat. Few studies have examined Snapchat usage or the factors that can influence vulnerability to cybercrime victimization on Snapchat. This study seeks to address this gap in knowledge to inform our theoretical understanding of this phenomenon and help develop interventions to reduce cybercrime victimization. Using an online survey conducted with n=634 participants from 66 countries, with an age range of 18-61 years, the findings explore the prevalence of crime on Snapchat, the types of disclosures people make on Snapchat and the factors influencing people's self-disclosures and vulnerability to victimization on Snapchat. These findings are discussed in relation to wider society issues such as social norms, privacy concerns, incivility and trust.

3F – Community-based Interventions

Prof Mario Papanozzi, University of North Carolina

Improving Client Services in Community Corrections: Unmasking and Solving Impediments to Evidence-based Practices

This paper addresses elements of the current problems associated with delivering appropriate client services and suggests what is needed going forward. Three fundamental and longstanding problems related to providing services that target criminogenic needs must be unmasked and solved for probation and parole supervision to achieve its full potential as a mechanism for enhanced public safety and justice for all; they are as follows: a) community-based treatment programs and services remain in short supply; b) the quality of these programs and services regarding adherence to evidence-based practices (EBPs) is, for the most part, unknown, and c) there is often a culture of reluctance by practitioners and policymakers to fully embrace EBPs, especially because new policies and practices often require a rethinking of agency goals and longstanding practices. Professional values and skills are the last frontier of “what works” in reducing recidivism for conditionally released clients supervised in the community.

Fiona Ní Chinnéide and Lena Timoney, Probation Service

Putting Community Back into Community Service - A Review of Community Service Policy, Practice and Structure

Emerging policy consensus is that community-based sanctions are a more effective response to less serious offending with lower recidivism, more pro-social outcomes, and reparation to the community. However, this depends on access, availability, consistency, and quality in the delivery of the sanction.

Published in November 2022, the Probation Service study 'An Evidence Review of Community Service Policy, Practice and Structure' (Kennefick, L and E Guilfoyle, 2022) examines the national and international evidence to support current justice policy on community service, along with best practice in delivery. The study proposes a tripartite strategy for community service in Ireland framed around desistance, restorative justice, and social justice, and makes a series of recommendations to achieve these aims. The second stage of the research has seen the Probation Service commission an operational review of community service, which is for publication in spring 2023.

Taken together, this provides an example of criminological research providing the evidence base to inform practical implementation of policy and practice in criminal justice in Ireland. In the context of identifying evidence-informed solutions to post-Covid pressures across the criminal justice system, the paper responds directly to the Conference theme of 'Facing the Future: Pathways, Priorities, and Pressure Points in Contemporary Criminology'

Niamh Wade, Maynooth University & Solent University

A Feasibility Study on the Introduction of a Community Court in Ireland: Findings and Recommendations

Recommendations were made to introduce a pilot community court in Ireland in 2007 and in 2014, and a working group was set up to further investigate the court model. However, the findings of this working group have never been published and the initiative never progressed in Ireland. This research employed a mixed methods approach to explore whether it would be feasible to introduce a community court in Ireland, based on a comparative analysis of the Neighbourhood Justice Centre in Australia and the North Liverpool Community Justice Centre in England. The planning and operational experience of the two chosen models were examined and used to inform recommendations aimed at Irish policymakers and all potential community court planners.

This paper will detail the lessons we can take from the Neighbourhood Justice Centre, which still operates successfully, and the North Liverpool Community Justice Centre, which was closed after eight years of operation. The research findings will then be used to determine whether a community court is feasible in an Irish context.

Parallel 4

4A – Victims

Liam O'Driscoll, Dublin City University

Violence, Victimhood and Suffering: A Trauma-informed Legal Analysis of the Procedural and Eligibility Criteria in Relation to State-funded Criminal Injuries Compensation

The Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme was established in the Republic of Ireland in 1974. An equivalent scheme was established in Northern Ireland in 1968. Each of these schemes allow victims of violent crime to apply for compensation from the state in respect of injuries sustained in the commission of violent criminal acts. Since their initial establishment, the underlying operational principle of these schemes has been based on the concept that only truly innocent and blameless victims of violent crime are 'deserving' of the State's social solidarity in the form of monetary compensation.

In this manner, victims are regularly excluded from accessing state-funded criminal injuries compensation because of restrictive procedural and eligibility criteria. Examples of such criteria include strict limitation periods for the submission of applications and victim blaming provisions which allow awards of compensation to be denied or reduced based on victims' conduct, character and way of life. This paper will demonstrate that this important state support for victims does not take into account some of the key principles of a trauma-informed approach. Additionally, this paper will demonstrate that comparative best practices, particularly in the Netherlands, can offer useful guidance on bringing about a trauma-informed scheme in the context of proposed reform in Ireland.

Dr Ciara Molloy, Crime Victims Helpline

Implementing the Victims' Rights Directive in the Republic of Ireland: Continuities, Changes and Challenges

Drawing on findings from the BeneVict project (an EU-funded initiative launched in 2022 across 26 member states and spearheaded by Victim Support Europe), this paper analyses the current state of play regarding the implementation of the Victims' Rights Directive (VRD) in Ireland. It analyses the impact of legislative change on victims' rights since 2018; assesses change and stagnation in relation to the implementation of Articles 2, 4, 7, 8, 9, 12, 16, 22 and 25 of the VRD (deemed as 'priority articles' under the BeneVict project); and examines apparent instances of best practice surrounding the protection of vulnerable victims. It argues that in spite of various positive developments, lacunas resulting from governmentality gaps and problematic definitions of the 'victim', in addition to the presence of various barriers inhibiting access to rights, mean that rhetoric rather than reality often characterizes the implementation of the VRD in an Irish context. The paper suggests a number of reforms, both in policy and practice, which will help to ensure full compliance with the current Directive and prepare for future obligations under its revised format.

Rosemary Mangan, University College Dublin

The Experiences of Family Members of Homicide Victims in the Irish Criminal Justice System

There is a growing interest in capturing the victim journey through the Irish criminal justice process (O'Malley, 2020). This paper will explore the international literature on the experiences family members of homicide victims undergo when engaging with the criminal justice system. It will assess highlighted points of this group's dissatisfaction with the criminal justice process that is consistent across the international literature. It will explore the ramifications of their dissatisfaction in terms of secondary victimisation and how this may be reflected in an Irish context.

The Criminal Justice (Victims of Crime) Act 2017 provides that where the death of a victim is caused directly by an offence a family member may be nominated to avail of rights in place of the deceased victim. The recent inclusion and recognition of this group in legislation (including the Parole Act 2019) is significant and speaks to an awareness of their wider needs and concerns. This paper will discuss some of those needs and concerns and will outline plans for further in-depth Ph.D. research in this area within the Irish context.

Dr Matt Bowden, Technological University Dublin and Dr Amanda Kramer, Queen's University Belfast

The Post-Brexit Security Field on the Island of Ireland: The Role of Civil Society in Everyday Security - Introducing Project BORDEX

Based on its history of colonisation and prolonged periods of conflict, security has long been of critical interest on the island of Ireland. The instability following the Brexit vote in the UK and more recent significant events (such as the collapses of the NI Assembly, responses to the NI Protocol, and the review of policing in South Armagh) have fuelled renewed concern about the future of peace, stability and security on the island of Ireland. Recognising that we are currently at a critical juncture in relation to security – and that there is an important gap in the literature on the scope and role of ‘informal security’ actors, we developed a project that aims to map the role of informal actors in security production, detail their interactions with formal security actors, develop an understanding of current practice, and assess the relative value of this sector to security production. While the project is currently in the early stages, this paper will provide an overview of what we intend to do, the methodology we will use to carry out the research, and provide an update on our current progress.

Dr Lynsey Black and Danielle C Jefferis, Maynooth University

Penal Nationalism and the Northern Ireland Border

This presentation lays out the framework of CONSPACE, an IRC-funded project which takes Northern Ireland's border as an organising concept. The work investigates successive phases of penal nationalism, each of which has been distinguished by the centrality of the Northern Irish border – a border which has been a locus of security, penalty and crime control since its inception a century ago and which achieves an urgent timeliness post-Brexit. CONSPACE takes a multi-strand approach to the research; this presentation will address two strands of the work, border living and sovereignty. The border living strand will investigate the ways in which ordinary people have lived and continue to live under border security regimes, as well as the experiences of those who have and continue to police the region and the role/s of border policing and penalty in the social and legal contributions of identity. The question of sovereignty will be examined by an historic case study of conflict at the border, encompassing also consideration of more recent conflict in relation to the so-called 'Irish sea border'. The work employs the field of border criminology, and the concept of penal nationalism, turning the analytic capacity of these lenses to an under-studied region.

Dr Dyuti Chakravarty, University College Cork, Dr Niall Gilmartin, Ulster University, and Dr Theresa O'Keefe, University College Cork

The Border Problem: Gender and the In/visibility of the UK-Irish Border

A key principle underpinning the 1998 Good Friday Agreement was the 'bi-communal' resolution of the 'constitutional question', therefore rendering the UK-Irish border as politically and symbolically less important. The subsequent 'demilitarisation' of state border infrastructure from 2004 onwards gave way to a set of prevailing narratives suggesting that not only had policing of the border ceased, but that the border itself ceased to be a political and social relevance in the everyday lives of people. The propagation of the 'borderless' narrative on the island of Ireland is underpinned by an assumption that the ending of traditional forms of border control and surveillance synonymous with the Troubles and the political accord between nationalism and unionism on the constitutional question erased the UK-Irish border as a significant factor in the lives of those who cross it, are policed by it or live in its shadow.

Based on our current research project, *Women of the Borderlands: A Walking Biographical Study of Women's Everyday Life on the UK-Irish Border*, this paper uses an intersectional framework to offer a reconceptualisation of the UK-Irish border from the perspective of women, including racialised/and migrant women. We contest what we consider to be the androcentric and ethnocentric construction of the UK-Irish border as invisible by drawing on women's embodied experiences of the border and the ways in which it has served to restrict mobility and police women's daily life.

4C - Criminal Records and Access to Higher Education

Dr Joe Garrihy and Dr Ciara Bracken Roche, Maynooth University

Unlocking Potential: Boxed Out of Higher Education by Criminal Conviction Records and Perceptions of Risk

Recent scrutiny of Higher Education Institutions' (HEI) admissions policies for people with conviction(s) (PWC) is justified but it remains critically under-researched in an Irish context. This paper will present early findings from a collaborative study with the Irish Penal Reform Trust (IPRT) which constitutes the first empirical research on HEI admissions policies and practices regarding PWC in Ireland. This paper examines the basis for admissions policies from a comparative and an empirical perspective. The paper assesses, through the findings of primary data collection, the ways that perceived risk discourses and narratives inform and impact HEI admission policies and practices, and benchmarks this against what is known about the effectiveness of conviction policies in international literature. Finally, it will present data from PWC, including their perceptions of risk and the ramifications of questions about convictions at the admissions stage of the application process. Education is a protective factor which reduces recidivism and supports desistance from crime and reintegration, but barriers and stigmatisation are pronounced for PWC. Thus, these findings form an evidence base for the reform and development of fair admissions policies and practices to counteract the primacy of risk-based approaches.

Charlotte Brooks, University of Nottingham

Navigating University Admissions with a Criminal Record

Applicants to non-regulated degrees in the United Kingdom (UK) are no longer required to disclose criminal records that are unspent under the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act (1974), on their university application form. Yet my ongoing doctoral research has found that most universities still require applicants to disclose at a later stage in the admissions process.

Preliminary findings from qualitative interviews with university staff and people that have recently applied to university with a criminal record, have illustrated that the requirement to disclose convictions is usually driven by unfounded concerns about safeguarding, risk and possible impacts on an institution's reputation. These concerns can result in people with a criminal record being rejected from enrolling on a degree programme. The paper will introduce the concepts of stigma and stigma management to illuminate the ways in which people with a criminal record experience and navigate the university admissions process.

This paper will contribute to the growing scholarship related to the 'collateral consequences' of a criminal record, by demonstrating how a criminal record can limit educational opportunities in the UK.

Dr Andrew Henley, University of Nottingham

Principles for Fairer Treatment of Criminal Records

This paper will critically question the assumed public protection benefits of ubiquitous criminal background checks and discuss the limitations of legislative measures designed to mitigate the stigma of criminal records in the UK and Ireland. Rejecting the utilitarian moral basis of many calls for reform, which centre on ‘reducing reoffending’ as the primary motivation for restricting criminal record disclosure, the paper will argue for a renewed focus on justice as the imperative for an alternative approach. It will then set out a range of principles which might be used to inform a more tightly regulated system of disclosure which promotes the social inclusion of people with criminal records.

Dr Shane Mac Giollabhui, Ulster University

Cops or Spies? The Culture of Police Surveillance Units in the UK

The vast majority of the literature on police culture is based on the uniformed officer, largely the patrol officer, whose centrality in ethnographic studies of police culture is iconic to the point of becoming a 'literary trope' (Manning 2010:215). We know very little, in contrast, about specialist units, especially specialist units who use covert investigatory techniques. This imbalance is an important one, because the use of covert techniques, especially surveillance, has become increasingly 'normalized' (Loftus 2019). What type of culture characterizes the work of police officers who inhabit an environment of 'radical secrecy' (Brodeur 2010: 230)? Is this culture different and, if so, how does it matter? This paper presents findings from a two-year ethnography of covert policing in an English police service.

Prof Conor O'Reilly, University of Leeds

Re-Imagining High Policing for Mexico's Multiveillant Society

To date, high policing scholarship has concentrated its research attentions on either oppressive regimes with authoritarian tendencies, or dubious intelligence action in democratic settings. Significantly less research interest has been brought to bear on how we might examine, and theorise, high policing within atypical security settings such as Mexico. This context, which Müller has termed a 'negotiated state' (2011) due to fluid configurations of power and (in)security governance, necessitates novel thinking regarding how high/political policing protects the status quo of power arrangements. By examining contextual complexities in Mexico, this paper works to re-conceptualise existing theoretical approaches and to adapt them towards this polycentric security terrain where high policing action occurs within twilight spaces between the legal and the extra-legal. It highlights how intelligence actions, resources and technologies in Mexico have been co-opted by powerful interests at blurred intersections between diverse state and organised criminal interests. In so doing, it spotlights how Mexico has emerged as a crucible for surveillance experimentation. Whether to confront crime or to facilitate it; whether to suppress dissent or to resist oppression; whether to protect clients or to target victims: high policing and surveillance take on new characteristics.

Habitus, Practice and Resilience in Police Culture

Police culture is often referred to as a useful predictor of officer behaviour and is generally portrayed as a series of police values or attitudes acquired through on-the-job socialisation. Police officers bring the bodily dispositions of primary habitus acquired in their formative years to their training and work. This research applies Bourdieu's theory of practice, and concepts of habitus, capital and field to explore how police officers come to develop a disposition towards policing. It examines the degree to which the dispositions of primary habitus correspond to the culture and practices of the police service and explores how primary or general habitus transforms into a specific police culture. The sample comprised 21 self-selecting Gardaí comprising two distinct cohorts (police family background n=10; non-police family background n=11). Interview questions were structured to follow the lifespan of participants and ranged across family, school, peer and community interactions and experience from childhood to the present. Themes were developed using NVivo. Research found that the social capital benefit of potential or actual resources provided a possible benefit and that children of police-families appear to have a 'feel for the game' and find it easier to navigate the policing system.

Ilayavel Shanmugam, Geetha Suresh and Madhava Soma Sundaram, MS University and University of Louisville

Police Atrocities go Unchecked and Unabated: Police Discrimination and Brutality Against a Section of Indigenous Community in Tamil Nadu, India

Even after 75 years of Independence, a section of Indian population known as 'kuravas', experience police atrocities and suffer under extreme police discrimination. Research studies on the police discrimination and prejudice against this triple marginalized group, with no voting rights, are very limited. The naked reality is that the Tamilnadu, India police and justice system branded them as the 'primary suspect' of certain criminal activities.

This qualitative study brings to the limelight the hidden facts of police brutality. This research initiative explores their victimization under police custody. The challenging experience of the respondents revealed the fact that how the social stigma has a devastating impact on the life, individual rights, discrimination and police brutality.

Prof Colin King, University of London

An Empirical Analysis of the Proceeds of Crime Act

The Proceeds of Crime Act enables confiscation of assets without criminal conviction on the civil standard of proof. While this has attracted considerable academic criticism, it has been upheld by the judiciary - in Ireland, numerous other countries, and by the Strasbourg Court. While there has been extensive analysis of relevant legislation and caselaw, there is a dearth of empirical research on civil forfeiture. More than two decades since its introduction, this presentation will examine civil forfeiture drawing upon perspectives of enforcement officials, legal practitioners, and NGOs. In particular, it will explore the contention that civil forfeiture was a necessary – and pragmatic – response to organised criminal activity.

Criminal Assets Bureau: The Risk of Moving to Target Income Based Outcomes

The Criminal Assets Bureau (CAB) was established at a time where there was a felt societal need to establish mechanisms to target and defeat organised criminality which, it was claimed, were beyond the ordinary operational procedures and traditional tools of the criminal justice system then in operation in Ireland. In the period since its creation it has established itself as a key agency for the proactive targeting of criminality. Currently any income generated by CAB is returned to the central exchequer. This paper will consider the nature of CAB and the financial results of that activity much of which was achieved using the asset profiler framework that CAB has conceived, evolved and implemented to execute its statutory powers. A consideration of this approach will form a basis for the later part of the paper which raises concerns about the future direction of CAB. In particular, it will consider whether any change in the allocation and distribution of the income it receives will change the nature of the agency. Such issues are a concern as its own Performance Delivery Agreement uses current trends in returns as one of the performance indicators or targets to assess efficiency and effectiveness for future years.

Dr Mike Omilusi and Dr Temitope Akinyemi, Ekiti State University

Mapping the Intersection of Illicit Financial Flows, Trust Deficit and the Management of Recovered Assets in Nigeria

For many years, illicit financial flows which involve trade mispricing, tax evasion, and money laundering, provide windfall profits for political, military and business leaders in Africa. Despite the seemingly functional anti-money laundering and counter-terrorist financing regimes, funds are still being laundered with disguised points of origin while technological sophistication and humongous resources of perpetrators continually inhibit repatriation of stolen assets. This study makes a case for the prioritization of Nigeria's internal socio-political, institutional and legal frameworks of action on illicit financial flows as a major step to curbing illicit financial flow in Africa. The broad aim of this study is to investigate the contextual enablers of illicit financial flows by examining the legal, institutional and sociocultural dynamics of the phenomenon by analyzing the agencies and processes of tracking, recovering, repatriation and post-recovery management of illicitly transferred assets in Nigeria. Adopting the Need, Creed and Greed theoretical construct advanced by Spaling & Wood (1998) and William Zartman (2000), this study provides a key insight to existing literature by taking a novel perspective on the issue of IFFs. Its new insight derives from its focus on the domestic sociocultural, institutional and leadership factors which come to play in the prevalence of IFFs.