

EUROPEAN GROUP FOR THE STUDY OF DEVIANCE AND SOCIAL CONTROL

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#police #brutality

SPRING NEWSLETTER II

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I. European Group Conference

Further information on the 42nd annual conference may be found at <http://www.europeangroup.org>. Please submit all abstracts by **31st May 2014** to the email contact provided under the stream you wish to present at. For all general enquiries please contact Anne Hayes at EGC2014@ljmu.ac.uk.

Some confirmed speakers: Paul Gilroy, Jo Phoenix, Joe Sim, Robert King AND...

Tony Ward, University of Hull, UK

Anne Alvesalo-Kuusi, University of Turku, Australia

Belinda Carpenter, Queensland University of Technology, Australia

Sunil Kukreja, University of Puget Sound, USA

Richard Wild, University of Greenwich, UK

David Whyte, Liverpool University, UK

Phil Scraton, Queens University Belfast, Northern Ireland

Samantha Fletcher, Stafford University, UK

Margaret Malloch, University of Stirling, UK

Maria Kaspersson, University of Greenwich, UK

Alexander Simpson, University of York, UK

Ivanka Antova Queen's University Belfast, Northern Ireland

Gilles Chantraine, *Centre Lillois d'Etudes et de Recherches*

Robert Andersson, Linnæus University

Tony Bunyan, Statewatch, UK

Stephen Ashe, Niall Hamilton Smith and Margaret Malloch, Stirling University, Scotland

Christina Ericson, The National Board of Health and Welfare, Stockholm

Helen Baker, Edge Hill University, UK

Felipe Motta, Federal University of the State of Parana, Brazil.

Mattias De Backer, Free University of Brussels, Belgium.

Tanya Serisier, Queens University Belfast, Northern Ireland

Fees and registration

	£	€*
Full delegate fee including 4 nights' accommodation and conference dinner	340	412
Full delegate fee including 3 nights' accommodation and conference dinner	290	350
Full delegate fee including conference dinner	145	175
Full delegate fee	105	127
Unwaged fee	35	42

*€ prices are quoted at time of publication. These are subject to change according to fluctuating exchange rates

Accommodation details

(for accommodation included in conference fee):

Vine Court, 35 Myrtle Street, Liverpool University L7 7AJ

4 nights: checking in 2nd Sept, checking out 6th Sept.

3 nights: checking in 3rd Sept, checking out 6th Sept.

(N.B. These days cannot be moved around)

The rooms are all ensuite and inclusive of a full 'English' breakfast.

The accommodation is situated right next to the main conference venue (John Foster Building, Mount Pleasant, Liverpool - 3 minute walk) and is a 5 minute walk from Liverpool's City Centre and cultural delights.

See link for details and map of accommodation:

<http://www.liv.ac.uk/accommodation/halls/on-campus-accommodation/vine-court/>

Other accommodation options will be proposed shortly.

Please **book on-line** by **30th June** at the latest: <http://buyonline.ljmu.ac.uk/>

Film Sessions

A number of film sessions will be organised during the conference with screening and discussion of

PO PO (by Ken Fero)

The Stuart Hall Project (by Jon Akomfrah)

Hard Time - about Robert King (by Ron Harpelle)/

The Black Panther Film Archives (Billy ex Jennings & Emory)

II. Comment and analysis

Lines of flight – on the desire to know but not know prisons

Andrew M. Jefferson

DIGNITY – Danish Institute Against Torture

On stepping inside

Way back in 2002 when I began my research on non-western prisons I sent out an email update to friends and family starkly stating that I was struggling hard to get into the Nigerian prisons. One EG member – Steve Tombs no less – quickly responded with a remark somewhere along the lines of ‘back here we normally talk about people struggling hard to get *out* of prison.’

This brief narrative offers some glimpses of the *insides* of prisons around the world reflecting, from a very personal perspective, quandaries about the desire to know and not know the horrors of confinement.

Over the last decade or so, my work with DIGNITY – Danish Institute Against Torture has taken me inside prisons in many different parts of the world. In the last six months alone I have been inside prisons in Tunisia, Jordan and Liberia and at the same time met with representatives of civil society organisations active in the field of prisoners’ rights from other countries too (Sierra Leone, Libya, Palestine, Lebanon, Iraq, Egypt and more).

In Tunisia I was part of a large group of civil society representatives from the Middle East and North Africa meeting to exchange experiences about how best to hold their respective states accountable to international human rights obligations in relation to prisons and how best to monitor prisons. In Jordan I was part of a training team with a much smaller group of people with the same overall aim. And in Liberia I met and familiarised myself with the activities of a local NGO called the Liberian Association for Psycho-social Services (LAPS) who run twice-weekly activities in a provincial prison situated three long, arduous hours’ drive from the capital, Monrovia.

For me, every prison visit features a mix of anticipation and trepidation. I admit to a fascination with carceral contexts but it is a fascination matched with abhorrence. I firmly believe that the character and climates of penal institutions in non-western countries are poorly grasped and that if we (or anyone) is to have any chance of alleviating human suffering, preventing torture and ill-treatment or ameliorating prison pain, then we will be well served by empirical research that seeks to make sense of such institutions (preferably from within and from the perspectives of their occupants). I also believe that a regular external, civilian presence in prisons is likely to curtail the worst types of abuse and that prisons (and other sites of confinement) ought to be subject to external scrutiny. But I am also well aware of the risks of bolstering dubious regimes simply by engaging with them, and the dangers of imaginary reform. Maintaining integrity is a tricky balancing act.

My wariness approaching prison is multi-faceted but it is typically rooted in anxiety about what I am to be faced with *this time*. What levels of degradation will I be exposed to? What will be required of me? To what will I be called to bear silent witness? How powerless or how compromised will I feel?

On stepping back

In Jordan, during a training visit for novice monitors to one of the country's oldest and largest prisons, I observed a human rights monitor we were accompanying step back defensively and raise her arms in horror as a detainee began to unbutton his trousers to reveal a bandage covering a wound in his lower abdomen which he claimed was causing severe discomfort. At the time I found her reaction somewhat melodramatic, perhaps even illustrative of the class differentials Magnus Hörnqvist (2013) has described at work in prison reform activities. But in hindsight her step back and her raised hands match pretty well my own desire to know but not to know the horrors of any given prison. Show me, I ask, but don't show me more than I can handle. But all too often the prison transgresses my self-protective boundaries even as it transgresses the boundaries of its occupants.

The most vivid memory I have from Tunisia (apart from my surprise at the authorities' insistence on filming our group as we sought to monitor the extent to which the prison lived up to international standards and human rights norms) was of prisoners filing out of a cell and into a searingly hot exercise yard. We watched as they exited the cell one by one by one by one by one... They simply kept on coming. The slow, methodical, almost industrial emptying out of the cell dormitory was astonishing simply because it seemed never-ending. Eventually it did end and we ventured inside the cell to see three storey bunks pushed together to sleep nine instead of six. Metaphorically speaking, I stepped back and raised my hands.

In Liberia, in a relatively small prison (130 or so inmates, the vast majority awaiting trial) I witnessed LAPS counsellors providing around an hour's activities outside the cells for a series of groups of eight or so detainees. My colleague and I were surprised to find ourselves laughing, as the inmates themselves laughed exuberantly at the culmination of an activity designed to ease their pain and decrease the stresses of confined life. We had not expected to laugh. We had not expected them to laugh. But our laughter at least was a laughter tinged with pathos, set as it was against a background of their 23-hour lock up in dank, dingy, dark and over-populated cells. What kind of a life is this, we wondered. And what kind of laughter? I stepped back and raised my hands.

On stepping forward and reaching out

Being in prison, even temporarily, is an embodied experience. Being more or less dependent on the whims of the authorities, being under surveillance, being granted access to location A but not location B - all these experiences are experienced corporeally. It is perhaps no accident that I hit on a bodily metaphor to try to make sense of and communicate some of the quandaries of being inside prisons. I step back and raise my hands. But that is not the whole story. Raised hands are the classic gesture of surrender; clenched fists the classic gesture of protest. Might the prison scholar (or the prison monitor) step forward with clenched fists? Might the prison scholar (or monitor) reach forward in supplication or out in solidarity? This is my hope, my plea (as much to myself as to anybody else). This is the purpose of advocating for more knowledge about the logics and dynamics of non-western prisons. This is the point of trying to capture the experiences of the occupants of prisons, be these detainees or guards.

This is the point of trying to enhance the skills of external civil society monitors as they subject prisons to scrutiny and advocate for prisoners' rights.

For me, entering the prison, be it in west Africa or north Africa, Kosovo or the Philippines, involves stepping forward as much as stepping back. Each entry feels like two steps forward, one step back. A similar vacillation is involved on departure. The prison is not simply left behind. It becomes somehow inescapable. In the crucible of the prison something indefinable is left behind and an indelible, though hard to decipher, residue attaches itself. The prison leaves its mark, a mark that can be kept private or made public. This brief narrative represents an opening, a partial revelation, a making public of the *marking* of this prison researcher and an invitation to others to examine and make public the profoundly personal plays of desire when it comes to knowing and not knowing prisons. Sometimes words are not enough.

AMJ April 2014

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Author Biography

Andrew M. Jefferson is senior researcher at DIGNITY – Danish Institute Against Torture and specializes in studies of prisons and sites of confinement 'beyond the west' from an ethnographically-oriented perspective. He is co-founder of the *Global Prisons Research Network* (www.gprnetwork.org) and has been attending EG Conferences for over 10 years. Recent publications include a unique special issue of the *Prison Service Journal* on *Everyday Prison Governance in Africa*. For more information about DIGNITY's work against torture in places of detention see www.dignityinstitute.org.

Organisation, Operation and Effectiveness: Unanswered Questions about the Therapeutic Community for Substance Misuse

H J Gosling

This article illustrates some of trials and tribulations which surround the hierarchical therapeutic communities' pursuit to demonstrate treatment effectiveness.

The origins and development of the therapeutic community, or TC as it is colloquially known, can be traced to two independent traditions: the American hierarchical TC and the British democratic TC. The democratic TC most famously began with the work of Maxwell Jones during the Second World War and was developed at the Henderson Hospital during the 1960s (Rawlings 1998). It specialises in the treatment of moderate to severe personality disorders as well as complex emotional and interpersonal issues. On the other hand, there is the hierarchical TC which derives from Synanon, a self-help community that was established by Charles Dederich, an ex-alcoholic, in 1958 due to his perceived limitations of Alcoholics Anonymous (Rawlings and Yates 2001).

The hierarchical TC penetrated the British alcohol and/or drug treatment field during the late 1960s, providing a stark contrast to the alcohol and/or drug treatment programmes that were available during the time, which sought to limit the harm that emerged from substance misuse rather than achieve abstinence. It was initially integrated into the field with relative ease, accounting for approximately 250 residential beds in Britain by the end of the 1970s (Yates 1981). However, as an inexorable drift towards substitute prescribing as the treatment of choice for substance misuse swept over the alcohol and/or drug treatment field the hierarchical TC suffered a mixed bag of interest. There could however be a change in the tide as there appears to be a growing interest in treatment programmes that can help individuals achieve recovery from substance misuse (HM Government 2010), driven by a media-led dissatisfaction with the perceived failures of prescribing policies (Yates 2012).

Hierarchical TCs are just one of the many forms of abstinence-based residential rehabilitation programmes that are available for individuals who have a variety of problems associated with substance misuse including poly substance use, involvement with the criminal justice system and a lack of positive social support (DeLeon 2000). Treatment in a hierarchical TC is built on an autocratic, family surrogate model that requires a high level of self-disclosure and honesty as well as an unrelenting pursuit of truth surrounding an individual's thoughts, feelings and behaviour (Ravndal 2003, Perfas 2004).

Programme participants, or residents as they are commonly referred to, are expected to work their way up a hierarchical work structure which offers positions of increased responsibility as well as opportunities to carry out and manage different aspects of work such as cooking, cleaning and gardening. Substance misuse is defined as a symptom of an individual's underlying and/or outstanding difficulties (DeLeon 2000). This means that treatment strategies target the individual as a whole; identifying and addressing underlying and/or outstanding difficulties so that the need to revert to substance misuse is diminished.

Generally speaking, hierarchical TCs have a number of distinctive characteristics such as an alternative concept of individuals deemed to be *problematic* that is usually much more positive than prevailing beliefs. The activities of hierarchical TCs embody positive values, help to promote positive social relationships and state a process of socialisation that encourages a more productive way of life (Siegel and Senna 2007). Abstinence is not the primary goal of treatment in a hierarchical TC; it is a serendipitous outcome of overall

behavioural change. The fundamental goal of treatment in a hierarchical TC is to incite individual change by addressing the behavioural, attitudinal and lifestyle factors that contribute to an individual's substance misuse (DeLeon 2000).

Although it has been suggested that treatment in a hierarchical TC provides a significant facilitator of the recovery process (DeLeon 1997) and treatment effectiveness in terms of reduced substance misuse and criminality has been documented (Ogborne and Melotte 1977; Wilson and Mandelbrote 1978; Holland 1978; DeLeon, Wexler and Jainchill 1982; Wilson and Mandelbrote 1985; Page and Mitchell 1998; Condelli and Hubbard 1994; Toumbourou et al 1998) a conclusive evidence-base to demonstrate efficacy and value for money is yet to be established (Yates et al 2008).

It is possible to suggest that there are two fundamental limitations of existing empirical evidence which hinder the hierarchical TCs' ability to demonstrate effectiveness. Firstly, evidence on the efficacy of treatment is limited due to the methodological weaknesses that characterise existing research, and secondly, from a theoretical perspective, there are problems with the criteria used to define and measure the effectiveness of treatment in a hierarchical TC. These fundamental limitations will now be explored.

The design and delivery of treatment in a hierarchical TC is guided by a generic theoretical framework which organises mechanisms used in a TC into three components: the perspective, the model and the method (DeLeon and Ziegenfuss 1986). The perspective describes the hierarchical TCs view of addiction, the individual and *right living*¹. The model outlines how the programme is structured and the method describes how the treatment approach should be applied to everyday life in a hierarchical TC. Although the theoretical framework which underpins the design and delivery of treatment has been documented, there is a limited insight into how components of this generic theoretical framework are translated into practice and applied to the front line delivery of treatment (Perfas 2012). It is not a theoretical framework in the formal sense of a systematic account of how and why people change. There are no explicit hypotheses nor are there specific cause and effect relationships postulated (Tims, DeLeon and Jainchill 1994). This means that questions such as how and why treatment in a hierarchical TC 'works' remain largely unanswered.

In addition to the methodological problems that need to be taken into account when conducting research in hierarchical TCs, researchers also have to contend with the complexity of the programme (Autrique et al 2007). The term *community as method* is used to describe the treatment approach used in hierarchical TCs. Community as method means teaching residents to use their time in treatment to learn about themselves and bring about positive change (DeLeon 2000). In a hierarchical TC the primary therapeutic tool is the community which consists of the social environment, treatment population and staff members. The environment is sui generis and consists of a complex matrix of therapeutic processes whereby the population being served and the setting in which the programme is based are interdependent and mutually reinforcing (Berg 1979, DeLeon 1997, Perfas 2004).

The reciprocal determinism between the treatment population being served and the setting in which the programme operates has created problems for evaluative research. While some interventions, such as the encounter group², are consistent with the theoretical

¹ The phrase *right living* means abiding by TC rules, remaining substance free, participating in daily groups, meetings, work and therapeutic functions, meeting obligations, maintaining a clean physical space and basic personal hygiene, taking responsibility and displaying socialised behaviour such as civility, manners, respect and keeping agreements. It is suggested that the daily practice of right living not only provides a positive prototype that can be referred to after separation from the TC but given time will evolve into a change in lifestyle and identity (DeLeon 2000).

² The encounter group is one of the primary therapeutic tools in a TC. An encounter group is usually peer-led (with a staff member acting as the overseeing facilitator) and consists of between 13 and 15 community members. The general purpose of the encounter group is to challenge negative behaviour, thoughts and feelings.

framework, others may only be identifiable within the context of the community to which it belongs and the peer group receiving it (Broekaert et al 2002). For instance, positive parenting programmes and family focused interventions are appropriate in family orientated hierarchical TCs which cater for women with young children. However such interventions would not be appropriate in prison-based hierarchical TCs due to the setting in which the programme is based and the population served. The interdependent relationship between a hierarchical TCs treatment population and setting means that therapeutic interventions in one hierarchical TC may not be transferable or indeed appropriate in different circumstances, situations or settings.

The practical need to evaluate treatment effectiveness has allowed a pragmatic approach to research in hierarchical TCs to surface. Although the generic theoretical framework suggests that effectiveness of treatment is portrayed through the process of individual change (DeLeon 2000) attempts to represent effectiveness through crude outcome measures such as relapse, reconviction and retention dominate existing empirical evidence. Outcome measures, such as relapse, reconviction and retention not only provide poor outcome measures, characterised by conceptual and methodological limitations, but fail to provide any insight into the design and delivery of treatment in a hierarchical TC on a day-to-day basis. There is an evident lack of practice-based research to sufficiently delineate the design and delivery of treatment in a hierarchical TC (Tims, DeLeon and Jainchill 1994, Rawlings and Yates 2001, Perfas 2012). This means that the black box of treatment, notably what work takes place within these settings and how staff and residents feel about it remains opaque, subject to debate and interpretation.

The evidence on the efficacy of treatment in a hierarchical TC is limited due to the methodological and conceptual weaknesses that characterise existing empirical evidence. Although there is a lack of robust research findings to demonstrate the effectiveness of treatment in a hierarchical TC, this does not necessarily imply that the programme is ineffective. Rather than reinventing the wheel and maintaining the status quo, researchers should seek to develop practice-based research that will not only contribute to the evidence-base that surrounds the hierarchical TC but go some way in reorganising mainstream conceptions of treatment effectiveness.

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The specific goal of each group however is to heighten individual awareness of specific attitudes and/or behavioural patterns that should be modified (Rawlings and Yates 2001).

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Author biography

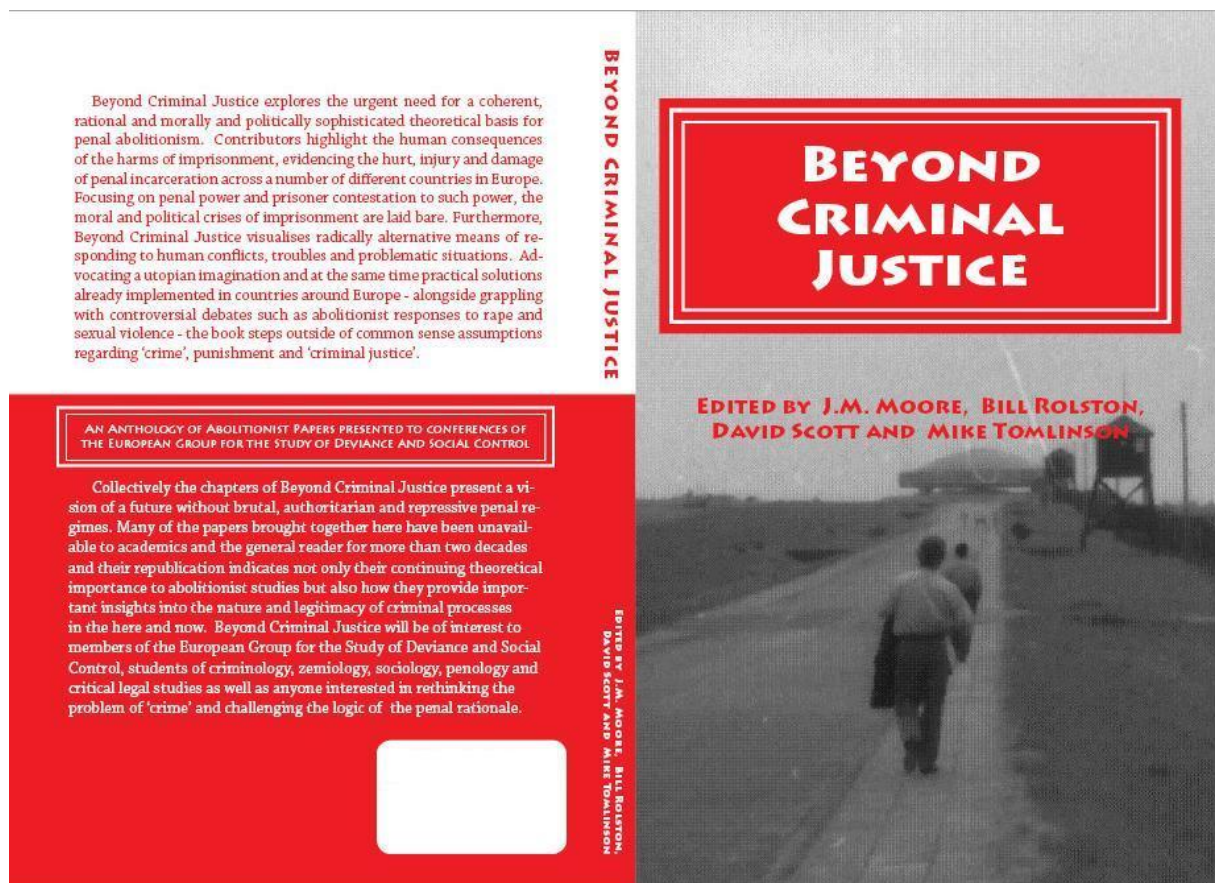
Helena Gosling is currently a sessional lecturer in criminology and criminal justice at Liverpool John Moores University and has worked in and around prison-based and residential hierarchical therapeutic communities for substance misuse. She is due to submit her PhD thesis entitled 'Therapeutic Communities: An Invitation to Change' which is an ethnographic account of a residential TC that opens up the black box of treatment through the use of recovery capital. Helena has a particular interest in the use of alternative approaches to offender rehabilitation and peaceful criminal justice interventions.

IV. European Group News

New European Group Publication

John Moore, Bill Rolston, David Scott and Mike Tomlinson have just finished editing an excellent anthology of abolitionist papers presented to conferences of the European Group for the Study of Deviance and Social Control over the past decades. A huge thanks to all those involved in putting together this valuable collection of abolitionist perspectives which provide important insights into how criminal processes can be challenged in the here and now.

We are now taking pre-orders for the book. Please just follow the instructions below. All profits will go directly to the European Group.



Beyond Criminal Justice:

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All pre-ordered books will be dispatched in May 2014

Recent publications by European Group members

Mark Brown (2014) *Penal Power and Colonial Rule*, Routledge-Cavendish.

Call for papers

We'd like to encourage academics, activists and those targetted by mechanisms of state control (people in prison, migrants, people who have come into conflict with the police etc.) to contribute short pieces of approximately 1,500 words to our **monthly newsletter 'comment and analysis' section**. Contributions from across the globe are welcome. Please contact Emma Bell at europeangroupcoordinator@gmail.com

First European Group Undergraduate Conference

The 1st European Group for the Study of Deviance and Social Control undergraduate conference was held at Liverpool John Moores University on Monday 7th April 2014. The conference was organised by students and staff at Liverpool John Moores University and provided an opportunity for undergraduate studying 'crime', deviance and social control at a number of universities in the North West of England to present papers based upon research undertaken for their dissertations. The quality of the papers delivered was excellent and the discussion lively and informative. The European Group plans to collect together the papers delivered in a **special edition of our newsletter to be published in July**.

New website

Our new website is now up-and-running at the usual address: www.europeangroup.org . Some pages are still being updated but soon you will be able to access lots of new material, such as podcasts from past conferences and European Group working papers.

Some pages will soon be available in Spanish. Should anyone else wish to volunteer to translate into other languages, please get in touch with Emma Bell.

British/Irish Section Conference

“Penal Law, Abolitionism and Anarchism” *an international conference, hosted by the British/Irish section of the European Group for the Study of Deviance and Social Control and the Hulsman Foundation [represented by Andrea Beckmann]*

A conference-report by Alma Agostini and Andrea Beckmann

The conference took place from the 26th – to the 27th April 2014 in the old Shire Hall, now a charity and museum called 'Galleries of Justice', in Nottingham.

The conference preparations had been overshadowed by both personal tragedy and the 'conditions of domination' and hard realities that are characteristic of our shared neoliberal capitalist academic contexts. The latter sadly implied a profound lack of funding for many of those who had submitted academic abstracts that were accepted for inclusion into the conference.

Despite these challenges, this event became a very stimulating, connecting, enjoyable and therefore successful conference that attracted great international interest and representation of critical researchers and academics. The shared felt impact of the problematic and devastating context of neoliberal corporate capitalism highlighted the importance of this event in

representing a possibility for exchanging concerns, 'subjugated knowledges' and alternative visions outside of corporate institutions.

The pre-conference programme included a very engaging town tour by Ade Andrews, alias 'Robin Hood', that was tailored to the potential interests of the delegates and that, despite much rainfall, was greatly enjoyed by a select group of the delegates that had ventured to Nottingham early.

The first morning session included a welcoming introduction by the representative of the British/Irish section of the European Group for the Study of Deviance and Social Control and the Hulsman Foundation, Andrea Beckmann, who referred to one of Vincenzo Ruggiero's (2010) works in which he had devoted an entire chapter to 'making amends' and suggested that abolitionists reject a consumerist logic which in this specific context can be interpreted as implying the adoption of an appreciative sense of the ability to exchange our ideas and concerns despite all the challenges outlined before [e.g. all accepted abstracts of the submitted papers were made available to all and distributed to all interested after the event].

This spirit and a sense of 'communitas' in the face of neoliberal penal and socio-cultural (war) fare politics set the tone for the unfolding of a very inspiring conference.

Jehanne Hulsman invited the delegates to contribute ideas for the preservation and the making accessible of Hulsman's and other critical criminological/critical social theorists' work. At present she has generated the support of local squatters in Dortrecht, The Netherlands are making parts of his work and collected documents accessible by offering movable cases that can be explored by interested parties.

Vincenzo Ruggiero explored important differences between classical and anarchist conceptions of utopia. Whilst classical utopias are in relation to an external entity and are reliant on the existence of 'experts', anarchist conceptions of utopia are creating their own object through collective interaction. Here, connections to abolitionist theories and politics become obvious.

The first morning's parallel sessions reflected central themes of oppression, resistance, abolition and anarchism. In the old civil court room, the panel included Luca Follis who critically explored the notion of a punitive economy. This presentation argued for penal minimalism and suggested to make use of insights of interdisciplinary research in social psychology, law and behavioral science, and economics on happiness ("hedonics"), taking these insights as a starting point for changes in favour of increasing equity and justice.

Andrew Henley's paper focused on the pains and continuing 'collateral consequences' of the stigma of criminal conviction. As part of a wider decarceration strategy, Henley suggests that abolitionists must engage more closely with the issue of criminal stigma and the weakness of anti-discrimination legislation.

Patrick Wilson played the role of devil's advocate and challenged the possibility of ever abolishing the prison system, which of course provoked a very good debate where important issues were raised regarding the scope of abolitionism.

The parallel discussion in the Grand Jury room had Diogo Justino and Carlos Henrique Gondim addressing the protests, oppression and demonstrations that are happening in Brazil as well as the media's distorting reports about these. The media represent protesters alongside a binary drawn between 'legitimate protesters' and a so-called 'black block'. There are many harms arising out of the ways in which the government responds to the protests, not least the

fact that so-called 'Law and Order' operations in response to protests have seen the army used against citizens. However, the protests continue and there are so-called 'media ninjas' that provide alternatives to the dominant 'synoptic space'.

Patricia Faraldo-Cabana explored the genealogy of the fine in post-revolutionary Russia and its changing place in the criminal system that frequently is interdependent with the forms of production and consumption and the ideology that attempt to justify these. Interestingly, she finds that despite their differences there was no alternative theory and practice of using fines in 'marxist' societies.

Daniel Jiménez discussed the destructive impact of neoliberal totalitarianism in Spain. Pointing to continuities of fascism and outlining interconnections between economic growth and incarceration rates reveal a special kind of 'market-punishment', the underbelly of the 'Spanish Miracle' which also can be seen to have parallels with similar developments in the USA. Dani reflected on the continuing legacy of Franco's fascism in Spain whereby the scapegoats changed [e.g. from 'the junkie' to 'the immigrant'] but the oppressive policies and practices show continuities. Thus, in his conclusion he stated that fights for abolitionism are anti-fascist fights.

The Magistrates suite of the old Shire Hall was the venue for the conference's lunches on both days. The freshly delivered food triggered many positive comments of appreciation in relation to its quality and ecology.

The following plenary session addressed the scope and limitations of criminology as a discipline. After some considerations on classical anarchism, Azrini Wahidin wondered whether radical criminologists can develop libertarian criminology when so many in academia instead decide to remain 'zoo keepers of deviancy'. Azrini's concern is to reclaim the origins of radical criminology that she locates in anarchist theorising and to reflect upon the boundaries of criminology as a discipline as established in the Anglo-tradition, as well as to consider whether this conceptualisation [that stands in contrast to continental traditions that understand 'criminology' always already as an interdisciplinary field of study] can be adapted for and used by anarchists and socialists.

Alejandro Forero considered the question of what an anarchist criminology would entail and whether it can exist. There is criminological work which uses anarchist theory or anarchic ethics and indeed anarchism has always been abolitionist. Yet the development of criminology was through positivism which is of course highly problematic. Unfortunately to adopt the title of anarchism in the academic field of criminology is seen in a negative, dismissive light by those who do not know what it is, even within the radical strains. If a criminology of liberation is ever possible it must investigate the state and the crimes of the powerful as well as being able to address and abolish social injustices.

The many historical levels of meaning and associated practices of 'the power to punish' that are represented by the Shire Hall 'Galleries of Justice' were highlighted by a guided tour of the venue of our conference.

The first day of the conference was concluded with a session on gendered violence, sexual violence and men's violence against women. John Moore confronted the difficult and complex questions that are posed by addressing the question often posed by non-abolitionists of 'What about the Rapists?'. The so-called criminal justice system fails spectacularly when it

comes to sexual violence. Not only does it ignore profoundly harmful patriarchal structures and practices, take the conflict away from those involved and redefine it, it often leads to forms of secondary victimization, ignoring the right of the parties involved to define their own experiences of such problematic situations. Abolitionism seeks to provide support for both the victims and the perpetrators in an approach oriented toward relational forms of conflict-resolution rather than engaging with the retributive notions of blame and pain.

The notion that the criminal justice system creates the illusion of safety and claims to end sexual violence but in the end serves to legitimize the continuing existence of the institution of the prison was picked up and further explored by Giulia Fabini's analysis of the 'Femicide Law' in Italy. Giulia suggested interpreting Italy's 'femicide' legislation as an example of how the powerful use women's bodies as a tool in a patriarchal society where there is no space for women's self-determination and where the patriarchal and capitalist contexts of hierarchically ordered power relations are ignored. She concluded her presentation by emphasizing the importance of feminists and abolitionists working together.

The delicious and highly enjoyable conference-dinner took place in the Lace Market restaurant 'Aurora'.

Sunday's conference program started with a strong shared focus on the multiple forms of harm that are engendered by privatization.

Mary Corcoran's paper discussed and challenged diverse examples and destructive implications of a 'theft of the commons' (e.g. conflation of the public sphere with the 'open market', the re-invention of 'citizenship' in terms of neoliberal visions of communitarianism) and problematised the institutionalization of a politically domesticated 'penal voluntary sector' (a 'penal-industrial-charitable complex' in which neoliberal managerialism operationalises the UK into 22 contract-packaged areas).

Gregg Barak's presentation focused on the mystified and badly executed crimes of bankers and the need for a social revolution of redistribution. The continued curtailing of such crimes needs to be challenged as it operates to protect and reinforce legitimacy claims of the powerful and also implies the denial of the victimization of hundreds of millions of people worldwide. Gregg pointed to the need for a new paradigm that facilitates a bottom-up democracy as represented by the 'Occupy' movement, for example.

Joe Sim stated that while it is important to acknowledge many successes that abolitionists achieved in the UK, there are important foci of contemporary concern. Continued reflections of what shall be abolished in the light of a new range of institutions and powers of the state are crucial. As is the problematisation of a public pedagogy of 'disimagination' (Giroux) that in the UK can be seen to also be reflected in forms of 'institutionalized lying' by the powerful as well as in the manifestations of 'disciplinary welfare' and 'poverty porn'. The politics of dispossession as well as the medicalisation of an increasing variety of human behaviours were challenged in this presentation and Joe further pointed to the need to reveal points of contradiction in the operations of the powerful.

This session was followed by an engaging discussion of transformative political change and the enacting and exposing of violence as well as an exploration of the complex relationships between different representational regimes and the ways in which they constitute what counts as 'violence' and what as 'resistance'. Laura Naegler and Bronwyn Dobchuk-Land respectively offered insights into different forms of direct action in response to gentrification

processes in NYC and the complex interrelationships between diverse forms of 'crime prevention' and the 'colonial imagination' in Winnipeg.

After lunch, David Scott provided an overview of 'Beyond Criminal Justice', a book co-edited by him and fellow European Group members John Moore, Bill Rolston and Mike Tomlinson. As a development of abolitionism should importantly involve both an engagement with critical social theory that facilitates the challenging and deconstruction of forms of categorization and their associated institutions as well as a de-colonization of the 'self', this publication offers many contributions that facilitate such processes and that approach abolitionism from a socialist perspective.

This presentation was followed by Simone Santorso's paper that focused on the relation between state, prison and social structure and the potential and need for abolitionism as a political strategy. Experientially grounded in a research context in a prison in Venice, Italy, his presentation explored processes of 'normalization' in this context. Simone concluded his presentation by emphasizing that the praxis of abolitionism has to overcome its preoccupation with criminology as its only field of action.

Marilia De Nardin Budo's presentation focused on Brazil and the hegemonic discursive constitution of 'crime' in the 'synoptic space' of mainstream media and its contestation in new alternative media forms. Her example concerned the disappearance, torture and killing of a young man called Amarildo as one example of institutionalized state violence in Brazil that was brought to light by alternative forms of new social media. In contrast to hegemonic representations of mainstream media the alternative constitution of Amarildo as an 'ideal victim' (Christie), this led to an important shift in representation which has to be supported by other forms of subversion and protest in order to achieve genuine change.

The final plenary in the Civil Court room began with the showing of a Jake Chapman video installation called "Fucking hell" (2008) that served as a platform for a complex interrogation of the 'anarchy of the state' as well as of the interrelationships between modernity, authority, obedience and violence.

After this, Hugo Durieux's philosophical explorations entitled 'From blind Justice to Silence' followed a metaphorical level of analysis, highlighting parallels that can be drawn between Louk Hulsman's abolitionism [representing a negative critique at the same time as offering positive constructions of alternative ways of relating to problematic situation labelled 'crime'] and the late John Cage's critique of traditional limitations and concepts of music and his notion of 'music as process'. Hugo emphasized that Cage's concept of silence implies not a void but the totality of not-intended sounds whereby a form of order emerges from noise. Hugo connects both approaches to (traditional) anarchist theories about social order and law but also demonstrates the differences between the two.

In the concluding reflections on the conference the organizers, Andrea and Tony were thanked and the diversity of presentations as well as the collective exchange and enjoyment of the event clearly marked it as a positive contribution to the continued commitment and work of the British/Irish section of the European Group for the Study of Deviance and Social Control as well as of the Hulsman Foundation.

Amelie Beckmann-Cooper, who helped and caringly supported the running of this event voluntarily, addressed all delegates by thanking each of them for their attendance, hoping that they had enjoyed their time in Nottingham and by inviting those with time to spare after the

conference to gather [which interestingly occurred in the 'Cross Keys' where our event began on Friday the 25th of April 2014]. Thank you so much for being there, Amelie!

Summing up the ideas in relation to taking the aims and ambitions for change via praxis that the delegates at this conference clearly expressed, it was suggested to:

- a) generate and collect ideas for the implementation of anarchist concepts into educational praxis
- b) to publish the accepted papers either with Cambridge Scholars [usually only in expensive hard back book but still to be considered] and/or with the European Group's own publications [cheaper and thus more accessible]
- c) organise another conference with similar foci next year at a potentially less interesting but more economical venue as there was clearly lots of international and national interest and a lack of alternative events in existence
- d) As announced at the beginning of the conference, all abstracts together with their authors' email addresses were provided and will further be circulated and serve as a platform for exchange and future collaboration.

V. News from Europe and the World

Belgium

Seminar

Vous êtes cordialement invités à l'Interlabo GERN '*Répondre à de nouvelles « menaces » ? Institutions de polices et « transitions » sociétales. Perspectives sociohistoriques, Europe, 19^e - 20^e siècles*' qui se tiendra le vendredi 13 juin 2014. Cette journée d'étude est organisée par le Centre d'histoire du droit et de la justice (Université Catholique de Louvain) au Musée de la police intégrée à Bruxelles. L'inscription est gratuite, mais obligatoire avant le 1er juin chez Magali Dupont (m.dupont@uclouvain.be) Pour plus d'informations, voir <http://www.uclouvain.be/467361.html>

Europe

Report

Statewatch report on EU Justice and Home affairs legislation under the 2009-14 term of the European Parliament is available to download here: <http://www.statewatch.org/analyses/no-243-jha-measures-2009-2014.pdf>

Greece

Activism

DON'T EVEN THINK ABOUT IT!!! About the bill introduced by Dendias/Athanasiou (Minister of Protection of Citizen/Public Order and Minister of Justice)

In the beginning of Greek Presidency and on account of a few convicts and prisoners having escaped, we are today witnessing the revival of terror-hysteria and a new campaign against terrorism.

The final aim is the extermination, on a suppressive and a symbolic level, of the “inner enemy”, i.e. the most radical parts of society, who resist, struggle and fight.

Within this context, the state attempts to rearrange, invert, and reconstruct the entire legislative frame of police, judicial-penal and disciplinary suppression. In the past few years, the so called “State of Justice” was subverted and gave its place to “the State of Law and Order”. Terror-Laws, Special Laws, “Hood”-Laws, incriminatory conditions, and the rigidity of the laws, all compose the new repressive setting.

The notorious bill about regulating disciplinary suppression is about to be passed and it provides for the following, among other measures:

High Security Prisons of type C, anywhere in the Greek territory, and self-contained units of type C inside the existing prisons, so that this detention model shall enter and prevail in every prison, “a jail inside a jail”! The aforementioned prisons shall include convicts but also people in custody for terrorism, high treason and other offences concerning criminal organization. These will be sentenced from minimum 10 years of imprisonment, with no benefits considered, inside these prisons, and with the right to reconsider their transportation to other types of prisons two years after the decade – in other words a state of continuous hostageship! Apart from the above category of prisoners, type C prisons shall include prisoners who are considered a threat to national security and public safety, as well as prisoners who are considered dangerous for the safety and order of the prison in which they are kept. This continuous threat of transportation to high security prisons or high security wings aims to terrorize the prisoners, and to prevent them from any individual or collective claim of any right inside the prison.

- This special category of prisoners will be totally denied any right to prison leave.
- They shall be totally deprived of any kind of semi-free living.
- They will have no right to wage-earning.

- The time limit for release from prison for those that serve life imprisonment for participating in terrorist organization rises from 16 years to 20 years.
- Deprivation-restriction of the right to communicate by telephone or face to face with friends and relatives, which shall be formed, in an unclear way, by the internal regulation of the Prison, imposing a new condition of arbitrariness and subjectivity.
- Provision of “favourable treatment” for those cooperating with authorities. Those who are guilty of any criminal act (apart from participating in terrorist organization) and provide information or contribute in any way to the breaking of terrorist organization or the arrest of fugitives from justice or absconders for terror acts of article 187A, are rewarded with discharge from prison, remission of criminal prosecution, release! Therefore, the role of the informer is established, and, by the formal exhortation of the State, “criminals” become “head hunters” of political fighters, under the bait of favourable treatment!
- The District Attorney, according to the conviction or custody order, orders the transportation of prisoners and indictees for crimes under article 187A and relevant crimes, to type C prisons or wings. Moreover, the same Attorney has the absolute power to judge which kind of prisoners are to be considered as a threat not only to the order and security of the prison but also to the public safe and order, so that they shall be transported to prisons of type C.
- Policization of guard and custody. A special police force –the regulation of which shall be confidential and shall not be published–will carry guns, and be responsible not only for the external and circumferential guard of the prison, but also monitor whoever and whatever gets into the prison.

This attempt of the government to “isolate the prisoners”, this return to Alcatraz-like penitentiaries, this “turning into a jungle” of the relations between “political prisoners” and “criminals”:

- is the absolute opposite of sentence and disciplinary individualization.
- establishes a state of emergency, a condition of discrimination against a particular category of prisoners and indictees.
- is an act of revenge against the opponents of state legality, in order to intentionally annihilate and destroy their personality.

These special and exceptional prisons and wings, isolation, life without day life, smells, sounds, all these are an absolute torture. Moreover, the isolation from friends and family by limiting phone or face to face communication, violently breaches the prisoners' contact with the present and future.

Against these new barriers, against the new, Dark Age, every political organization, every union trade, every conscientious and sensitive person must raise their voice. This is no time for silence and indifference.

For this reason we resist and fight against the special-exceptional and unfair treatment of the political prisoners and those that are labelled as dangerous by the sole judgment of the district Attorney, and we stand opposed to the logic of collective responsibility, revenge, blackmailing dilemmas and State terrorism.

Against the materialization of these obscurantist plans, the solidarity of those “outside prison” accompanies the resistance and the combativeness of the “imprisoned”.

So, DONT EVEN THINK ABOUT IT!!!

INITIATIVE FOR RESISTANCE AND SOLIDARITY

Ireland

Activism

Bill Rolston writes about use of murals as a form of resistance inside Northern Ireland's prisons in latest *Social Justice* blog:

<http://www.socialjusticejournal.org/?p=2173>

Conference

The Centre for Criminal Justice and Human Rights (CCJHR) at University College Cork is pleased to announce its 8th Annual Graduate Conference which will take place on the **5th and 6th June, 2014** and is putting out a call for papers. See:

<http://www.ucc.ie/en/ccjhr/news/fullstory-426331-en.html>

Norway

You are all welcome to join a relatively new Scandinavian network on solitary confinement.

You can find a presentation of the Network here at our English web page:

<http://www.jus.uio.no/ikrs/english/research/projects/isolation/index.html>

Our Scandinavian/Norwegian web page:

<http://www.jus.uio.no/ikrs/forskning/prosjekter/isolasjon/index.html>

Portugal

For the first time, Portuguese-speaking countries (Portugal, Brazil, Angola, Mozambique, Cape Verde) come together to debate and share knowledge and experiences about crime and justice.

"I Fórum Internacional de Criminologia de Língua Portuguesa: Políticas Criminais e de Segurança" – **8th-9th May**.

See: https://sigarra.up.pt/fdup/pt/noticias_geral.ver_noticia?P_NR=6514.

Spain

Publication

The *Observatory of the Penal System and Human Rights from the Barcelona University* has published a new issue of the Journal *Critica Penal y Poder*. You can access to the content in www.criticapenaly poder.com

We take this opportunity to remember everybody about the next special issue for September 2014 on social harm (n° 7, 2014, Social Harm: its causes and its victims, more info, and call for papers in www.criticapenaly poder.com). We wish you find this new publication interesting and we are looking forward to receive your works for further numbers.

Conference

The political economy of punishment today: Visions, debates and challenges, International two-day conference, **18-19 September 2014**, Law School, University of A Coruna, A Coruna, Spain

Over the last decade, several key texts have sought to examine the recent transformations of penalty, most prominently among them mass imprisonment, through Political Economy conceptual tools. Hence, this literature, which is fairly heterogeneous both in perspectives and conclusions, contributed to updating the theoretical framework of Political Economy of Punishment, which was crucial to reframing critical thought on punishment in the 1970s and

1980s. Moreover, those recent works have coincided with the unfolding of a theoretical line aimed at explaining the rise of punitiveness of the last decades from the standpoint of the rise of neoliberalism, understood both as a political project and as an economic *doxa*. By contrast, another prominent body of literature has tended to emphasise the cultural and/or political components of the evolution of penalty – and hence its variability - to some extent side-lining the political economic analysis.

Taking account of this theoretical context, it appears to be particularly timely to reflect on the current condition of the analytical field of the Political Economy of Punishment from the plural perspectives that arose from these *new* contributions on the subject.

First, the Conference aims to debate whether those recent texts are shaping *new* theoretical tools for the political economic analysis of punishment. Second, the Conference seeks to analyse whether and how the recent Political Economy of Punishment literature may be related to the texts on neoliberalism and punishment and to those which are focused on the cultural and political elements of the contemporary penal trends. Last, but not least, the Conference is aimed at examining to what extent the Political Economy of Punishment literature may contribute to critically analyse the evolution of penalty since the onset of the so-called Great Recession.

Therefore, we will consider contributions on a wide range of issues that encompass the broad theme of *The political economy of punishment today: Visions, debates and challenges*, particularly on the themes of:

- Variants of capitalism and punishment: versions and relations
- Contemporary transformations of capitalism and penalty: postfordism, neoliberalism, etc.
- Great Recession and penal policies
- Economy, culture, politics and punishment: theoretical tools, dialogues and conflicts

Closing date: 15 June 2014

Decisions about the acceptance of the papers will be made by the end of June 2014.

Switzerland

Seminar

Un séminaire GERN sur « L'intervention et les intervenants psycho-médico-sociaux dans le système pénal : considérations conceptuelles, empiriques et théoriques », 2^o volet : dimension empirique, se déroulera à l'Université de Lausanne, les **26-27 juin 2014**.

Contacts : Bastien Quirion, Université d'Ottawa (Bastien.Quirion@uottawa.ca); Manon Jendly, Université de Lausanne (manon.jendly@unil.ch)

Turkey

EUROPEAN WEEKEND SCHOOL 2014: “Minority Rights Protection in the EU”, **15-17 May 2014**, Center for European Studies, “Jean Monnet Center of Excellence”, Boğaziçi University, Istanbul, Turkey. See <http://acmof.wordpress.com/2014/02/28/european-weekend-school-2014call-for-application/>

United Kingdom

Conferences/lectures/workshops

The University of Sussex will be hosting a conference entitled 'Understanding Hate Crime: Research, Policy and Practice' from **8th-9th May** 2014. See <http://www.sussex.ac.uk/law/newsandevents/hate>

Reclaim Justice Network event, Liverpool: "What will it take to have a shrinking criminal justice system?", Date: Thursday **15th May**

Venue: Black-E, The Gallery, 1 Great George Street, Liverpool L1 5EW

Time: 6.30-8.00pm. See: <http://downsizingcriminaljustice.wordpress.com/>

The Centre for Crime and Justice Studies and the University of Liverpool will be hosting a conference entitled 'How violent is Britain?' on Friday **16th May**. For more details, see <http://www.crimeandjustice.org.uk/civicrm/event/info?reset=1&id=35>

Public lecture by Tony Bunyan, Statewatch, as part of the Jean Monnet Summer School on the European Union's Area of Freedom, Security & Justice, School of Humanities, University of Dundee, Saturday, **14th June 2014** from 18:00 to 19:30. See <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/public-lecture-by-tony-bunyan-statewatch-tickets-10854132001>

Human rights in prisons in the UK and Europe: what would the highest standards look like? On **27th June 2014** the Reclaim Justice Network will be holding an event at HMP Grendon to consider how to improve conditions and human rights in prison. The day will be divided into three parts, aimed at practitioners, prisoners, their friends and families, and prison administration staff. [Register here.](#)

The University of Sheffield will be hosting the 5th Annual Conference 'Theorising Normalcy and the Mundane - more questions of the human' from **7th-8th July** 2014. See <http://www.sheffield.ac.uk/whatson/conferences>

British Society of Criminology Conference, Hosted by the Department of Sociology, Social Policy and Criminology, School of Law and Social Justice, The University of Liverpool. **10-12 July** (preceded by a postgraduate conference on **9th July**). For further details see: <http://www.liv.ac.uk/law-and-social-justice/conferences/bsc/>

BISA IPEG annual workshop 2014: IPE and the New Normal - Open Conflict After the Crash **5th-6th September** 2014. See: <http://www.polis.leeds.ac.uk/about/events/ipe-and-the-new-normal-open-conflict-after-the-crash.php>

Job Opportunities

Vacancy - Lecturer in Criminology, University of Chester, UK.

The Department of Social Studies and Counselling offers a range of taught programmes within the broad area of the Social Sciences. The Department seeks to appoint a lecturer who can contribute to teaching in criminology.

You will hold a PhD in Criminology or be nearing completion of a PhD. You should have a thorough knowledge of theory and an ability to critically relate theory to policy and practice.

You will be a critical criminologist with a broad range of skills. More information can be found at: <http://www.chester.ac.uk/node/24436>

Closing date: **6th May**

Senior Research Fellow in Criminology (0.3 Fractional)

University of Westminster -Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities

The Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities at the University of Westminster invites applications for this permanent fractional post.

The postholder will play a leading role in developing Criminological research at Westminster, by producing his or her own high-quality outputs, but also by performing a mentoring, supporting and facilitating role for less experienced colleagues. He or she will also be expected to attract and supervise PhD students.

Applicants will be established and experienced academics, with a substantial record of publication in Criminology, to an international standard of excellence. They will have experience of leading research teams and/or projects and a record of securing external research funding.

Job reference number: 50038343

Closing date: **Monday 5th May 2014**

Lecturer in Criminology

University of Westminster -Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities

Applicants should have a good first degree and a PhD in Criminology or a related field and teaching experience at degree level, along with a commitment to delivering high-quality research. We would like to hear from outstanding candidates with a broad knowledge and experience of their discipline and are particularly interested in those who have an ability to teach both quantitative and qualitative research methods, criminological psychology and/or penal policy.

Job reference number: 50038340

Closing date: **Monday 5th May 2014**

Post-Doctoral Teaching and Research Fellow in Criminology

University of Westminster -Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities

The Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities at the University of Westminster invites applications for this post, which will be of two-years' duration in the first instance. Applicants should have a good first degree and a PhD in Criminology or a related field and teaching experience at degree level, along with a commitment to delivering high-quality research. We would like to hear from outstanding candidates with a broad knowledge and experience of their discipline and are particularly interested in those who have an ability to teach both quantitative and qualitative research methods, criminological psychology and/or penal policy.

Job reference number: 50038341

Closing date: **Monday 5th May 2014**

The Hillsborough Testimonies

Currently at the Hillsborough inquests bereaved families or their representatives are reading such testimonies accompanied by photographs, submitted as evidence, before the Coroner, the jury and the public. This will ensure that at the outset of inquests probably lasting a year, the 96 men, women and children are remembered as individuals, the testimonies written by those closest to them. What is acknowledged publicly is the profound sense of loss and its impact endured by loved ones for 25 years. These testimonies have been delivered with the remarkable dignity that hall-marked the families' and survivors' unrelenting campaign for justice for the 96 men, women and children who died at Hillsborough.

These carefully prepared testimonies are public documents. They provide depth and insight impossible to achieve in brief news coverage and are posted in full on-line each day at: www.hillsboroughinquests.independent.gov.uk. Click on 'Hearings'.

USA

Conference

6th Annual International Crime, Media and Popular Culture Studies Conference at Indiana State University. Abstracts are due by **May 5, 2014**. Presenter Registration payments are due by May 19, 2014. Non-Presenter registration is Due August 12, 2014. Conference Dates are : **September 22-24th, 2014**. See: <http://www.indstate.edu/ccj/popcultureconference/index.htm>

International

Interview

To commemorate the **20th anniversary of the genocide in Rwanda** on April 7th, a survivor, activist, and now diplomat discussed its personal and political legacies with Tony Platt. The interview can be accessed here: <http://www.socialjusticejournal.org/?p=2191>

**A BIG THANKS to all the European Group members for making this newsletter successful. Please feel free to contribute to this newsletter by sending any information that you think might be of interest to the Group to Emma/Monish at :
europeangroupcoordinator@gmail.com
Please try to send it in before the 25th of each month if you wish to have it included in the following month's newsletter. Please provide a web link (wherever possible).**