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THE BUON PASTORE INSTITUTE OF TURIN IN THE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURIES: MODELS OF NORMALIZED FEMININITY IN ITALIAN SOCIETY FROM THE UNIFICATION OF ITALY TO THE SECOND WORLD WAR

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The paper aims to present the first results of research carried out with a historical-sociological method on a semi-penal female institution active in Turin in the 19th and 20th centuries, the Buon Pastore. Girls who had engaged in non-conforming behavior – such as prostitution, out-of-wedlock sexual activity, vagrancy, theft – were confined in the Institute with the aim of being subjected to normalizing control. In 1896, one of the administrators of the Buon Pastore claimed that the purpose of the Institute was to improve women in order to improve society over which women exerted so much influence. As it has been pointed out, women’s reformatories promoted an ideal of femininity based on the double aim of “sexual and vocational regulation” (N. Rafter 1990). A similar ideal was also being promoted in the Buon Pastore Institute. Problematizing the concept of female identity (A. Howe 1994) and looking at the history of confinement focusing on gender (M. Bosworth 2000, 2001), the paper will highlight the ways in which the institution promoted a model of femininity useful to the post-unification Italian society. The paper will then highlight some continuities and discontinuities in the control exercised in the institution on the inmates in different historical periods, from its foundation to the Second World War. In fact, when it was founded, the Institute was a shelter for troubled girls run by a congregation of nuns. After the Italian unification, the Buon Pastore became a house of correction subjected to increasingly stricter state control.

Keywords:

female deviance; normalization; total institutions; semi-penal institutions; gender

EXCEPTIONALISM, AND THE CRIMINALIZATION OF THE OTHER'S LIES: A CRITICAL APPROACH TO THE DISINFORMATION THREAT

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In the last few years, the term “disinformation” has become a catch-all term for all the problems arisen from contemporary communication ecosystem, defined by the popularization of the internet and social media. There are dozens of empirical studies that have attempted to describe and analyze an issue that, despite still being in the process of definition, has been identified as one of the key COVID-19 cyberthreats by Interpol, is considered a threat to democracy by many states and supranational institutions and, as a consequence, is subject to regulation or even criminalization. These legislative and criminal policy interventions are the law's response to an alleged threat, but it is questionable whether these legal initiatives can really be successful or whether they form part of the first stage in the construction of a moral panic that may lead to the restriction of freedom of expression and information. In consequence, this paper will present the results of a systematic review of the literature and the results of a case study about a misinformation event on social media related to the anti-coronavirus vaccine movement. These results will be used as a basis for a critical reflection on the process of constructing fake news as a threat.

Keywords:

Exceptionalism, fake news, disinformation, threat.

SOCIAL CONTROL AND “REBETIKO” IN GREECE DURING THE INTERWAR PERIOD

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The 1.2 million refugees, the poverty, the degradation in the refugee dwellings of Athens and Piraeus, the unemployment and the oppressive working hours, the use of psychotropic substances, the forced prostitution, the corruption and the black economy in a state which – even then – was seeking to modernise itself, the violence in interpersonal relations and relations between the state and its citizens: all these show that the interwar period in Greece is not a story of a bygone age for the criminology researcher but an opportunity to understand the nature of crime today through tracing its roots in the recent past. An important aid to gaining this understanding is the ‘living’ musical culture of the poor working classes: the so-called ‘rebetiko’ song. The study of the interaction between popular culture and social control constitutes a contemporary trend in criminological thought, one which seeks to gain an understanding of the criminal phenomenon through the cultural creations of a (sub)culture.

The study of the factual material confirmed the working hypothesis that the integration of poor working classes, particularly refugees, into a nascent urban environment characterised by poverty, severe economic and political problems and anomie, is also undermined by the deontological model of a violent machismo. This model lies at the heart of the system of communal values – a system for facilitating coexistence and the settlement of differences – which at this time characterised the working classes, who resisted the transition to the institutionalised expression of sovereign violence displayed by the modern bourgeois rule-of-law state.

The cultural conflict was exacerbated by the social control of victimless crimes: a) vagrancy (a peculiar kind of lifestyle owing to its unique conditions); b) the use of psychotropic drugs, a means of alleviating the mental pain and personal alienation caused by a distressing and hostile social environment; c) prostitution, a means of survival for poor and socially excluded women.

Keywords:

popular culture; social control; refugees

CURRENT DYNAMICS OF SOCIAL CONTROL OF MENTALLY ILL OFFENDERS IN ITALY: RESULTS FROM AN EMPIRICAL RESEARCH

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In this paper, we will introduce the first results of a research on the Italian law reforms in the madness' social control. The Italian legal system provides a particular security measure reserved for persons sentenced as not guilty due to their mental conditions. For many years, when they were found to be dangerous, those people were confined in a specific criminal psychiatric hospital called Ospedale Psichiatrico Giudiziario (OPG). The reform established the OPGs closure favouring a complex system composed of territorial services, communities and a new psychiatric institution called Residenze per l'Esecuzione delle Misure di Sicurezza (REMS). In monitoring the reform impact, we moved from two main research questions. The first is about the supposed deinstitutionalisation process in the Italian practices of madness control. Firstly, we investigated if the reform could produce a significant outflow from mental hospitals to territorial services; secondly, we focused on the concrete everyday organisation of REMS, trying to understand if this new institution can be really considered more democratic than the old OPG. The second considered the reform impact in terms of criminalization processes and stigmatisation of mentally ill offenders. Moreover, the study analysed the capacity of the community service to encourage real forms of rehabilitation of people assisted. The results show a certain ambiguity of the reform impact. On one hand, the REMS admission trends suggest a process of relative deinstitutionalisation in the security measure area. On the other hand, we observed many attempts to introduce new institutionalisation practices in the system, with the request to build new REMS and many efforts to secure the REMS practices. Moreover, the system still seems to adopt a REMS-centric approach with poor attention to (and a lack of involvement by) community services.

Keywords:

mentally ill offenders; institutionalisation; criminalisation

REVEALING THE COMBINED EFFECTS OF THE AMENDMENTS IN THE FINNISH ALIENS ACT

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During and after the refugee “crisis” numerous amendments were made to the Finnish Aliens Act. The legislative changes aimed at “making the asylum process efficient” rather than protecting the applicants’ human rights. In our study (Pirjatanniemi et al 2020) we analysed the combined effects of the amendments for those seeking or receiving international protection. The purpose of this presentation is to illustrate how the use of mixed methods, the combination of legal and empirical analyses, enabled us to study the cumulative effects of several legal amendments made during and after the “refugee crisis” in the Finnish Aliens act. The study developed an innovative research design in order to build a broad understanding of the harmful effects of the amendments. To unpack the neutralized use of power embedded in legal language, it is important to analyse not only statutory law or its outcomes, but also the processes through which laws are made and the discourses in legal documents. We will also introduce the internationally unique research infrastructure LAW RADAR (lakitutka.fi), which we developed after repeatedly noticing the lack of law-drafting documents as empirical data, and introduce how the analysis of travaux continues in our ongoing project “Silent agents affected by legislation” (www.hiljaisettoimijat.fi).

Keywords:

Mixed methods, Travaux, Law-making, Refugees, Social harm

'CARCERALITY' AS A CONCEPT OF CONCERN

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In *Discipline and Punish*, Foucault (1977) coins the term 'carceral' to encapsulate the operation of disciplinary mechanisms and technologies of 'modern prisons' that have dispersed throughout society more broadly as techniques of control and normalisation. In recent years, the concept of carcerality has gained significant traction in academic scholarship aiming to complicate understandings of coercive confinement. The interdisciplinary field of carceral studies has developed with an effort to loosen the 'prison-centric' version of this concept and situate it within broader 'architectures' or 'geographies' of confinement (see Gill et al., 2018; Moran et al., 2018; Wacquant, 2000, 2001, 2010). While this research has been significant in developing more extensive theorisations of Foucault's concept, definitions of this term remain somewhat ambiguous. This presentation offers a theoretical discussion on some of the limitations and implications of mobilising the concept of carcerality. Of particular relevance to this presentation is the scepticism Armstrong and Jefferson (2017) pose towards carceral studies. They explain that while this research has a role in challenging the perceived givenness of prison, the idea of prisons are nonetheless central within either the background or foreground (or both) of this work. Thus, despite the attempt to move beyond prison, carceral studies captures the "analysis back towards it even in attempts to escape it" (Armstrong & Jefferson, 2017, p. 244). This raises a significant issue for critical research and the potential role it has in normalising the idea of 'prisons' by upholding it as a 'universal reference point' for thinking about and understanding coercion, harm, and social control.

Keywords:

carceral, critique, discourse, Foucault, knowledge production, prison

DARK CITIES: MONEY LAUNDERING, URBAN REAL ESTATE AND SOCIAL

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The invasion of Ukraine finally forced political action by elites to address the role of wealth elites and their entrance into political life. Yet, while questions were raised about sanctions the real question was how to address the scale and free 'play' of criminal monies through real urban estate, financial and political institutions. We focus on the question of urban assets (land, property, financial instruments, as well as offshore investments tied to the city) and networks (political and social connections) to identify the range and nature of harms generated by economic crime in urban settings. We develop a taxonomy of these harms: fiscal-public loss, ideological capture and network neutralisation. Each type addresses the ability of economic crime to reduce both the capacity and willingness of the state to address the social conditions and housing opportunities of poorer urbanites. These effects go beyond the 'traditional' harms associated with tax evasion and laundering, as well as the unwillingness of the capitalist (city) state to address harms and social need. Dark money impacts not only political life but also city life, creating a dark urban condition. Despite this, we offer an optimistic intellectual assessment of the prospects for social scientific efforts to mitigate the harms of life in dark cities for poor and middle income citizens.

Keywords:

Economic crime, Social harm, Cities, Elites, Wealth

UNIVERSITIES, SEXUAL VIOLENCE AND THE INSTITUTIONAL OPERATION OF POWER

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The extent of sexual violence experienced by women university students has, in recent years, garnered increased media, political, academic and institutional attention, in the UK and internationally. Despite this increased focus on the issue, much has remained the same and further issues have been documented with media reporting documenting its prevalence, inadequate institutional responses, staff sexual misconduct against students, the use of non-disclosure agreements to silence students and insufficient health, wellbeing and support services.

This paper presents findings from PhD research which explored the nature and extent of women students' experiences of sexual violence at one university in England and the institutional responses to this violence. The purpose is to consider these students' experiences in the particular context in which they took place and to explore the dominant discourses which shape university responses to sexual violence. Following an outline of the legal and policy context in which universities are responding to sexual violence, the paper will explore the dominant discourses through which students' experiences and testimonies of sexual violence are interpreted. These discourses are framed around two key themes: the role, place and ideological construction of the neoliberal university and the connections that can be made between criminal justice and institutional justice. Overall, the aim is to challenge neoliberal discourses on safety, responsibility and risk management in order to develop radical, theoretically informed, victim and survivor led responses.

Keywords:

feminist criminology, feminist praxis, gender, sexual violence, universities

FROM SYSTEMIC EXPLOITATION TO SOLIDARITY: SYRIAN REFUGEES IN THE INFORMAL LABOR MARKET IN TURKEY

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This paper explores the factors driving Syrian refugees into the informal economy in Turkey. The data was collected through semi-structured interviews with 39 Syrian refugees who fled from their home country and settled in Istanbul between 2011 and 2019. Moreover, interviews were conducted with representatives of Syrian community organizations and a Turkish non-governmental organization providing assistance to Syrian refugees.

The paper is divided into three sections. The first section explores the main reasons that led Syrian refugees to enter the informal labor market (e.g., the legal obstacles set up by the Turkish government; the reluctance of employers to apply for work permits; the unwillingness of Syrian refugees, both business owners and employees, to work with work permits; the lack of knowledge on labor regulation). The second section of the paper briefly examines how the Turkish authorities maintained a weak monitoring system for detecting labor violations in the informal sector, and thus enabled the exploitation of informally employed Syrians. The third section provides a few recommendations on how to increase the inclusion of Syrian refugees in the formal economy.

Keywords:

Syrian refugees, Turkey, informal work, reasons for informal employment, labor exploitation

CHALLENGING STATE TALK: COUNTER NARRATIVES AND RESISTANCE STRATEGIES IN THE WAKE OF DEATHS IN CUSTODY

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This paper will present early findings from a doctoral research project examining public contestation over deaths in custody in Britain 2000–2020, incorporating interviews with key actors involved in newsmaking and campaigning. Thousands of deaths in prison and police custodial settings in England, Wales and Scotland in the past two decades have raised issues about the use of force by state agents, as well as institutional neglect and racism, as well as the ongoing suffering inflicted on family members seeking answers and accountability. Some cases spark important campaigns and provoke public debate, but most do not become major news. This research explores the ways in which the legitimacy of state institutions is challenged and defended via news, media and other public contestation over these incidents. Previous work has suggested ways that these deaths can be legitimised or minimised, due to the tendency of state agents to inflate dangers posed by the deceased through ‘state talk’ (Pemberton 2008; Sim 2004), and because journalists’ reporting of such incidents may reflect a troubling respectability politics (Obasogie and Newman 2016). This research adds to this picture through an empirical investigation of the resistance strategies and counter narratives of families and other campaigners. Drawing on 24 interviews with key actors involved in contesting the deaths together with documentary analysis, it aims to give an account of how these contestations fit into overall processes of accountability and justice. Crucially, it also illuminates the silences that are created when this active contestation is muted or absent.

Keywords:

deaths in custody; justice; accountability

**A CRITICAL EXPLORATION OF THE PHENOMENON
OF 'NEEDLE SPIKING' OR 'INJECTION SPIKING'**

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Since 2021 reports of people being spiked by the use of injection needles as opposed to the more traditional administration of concealed substances into drinks began to occur. This presentation will reflect contextually on this seemingly recent but increasingly widespread practice as the UK, Germany, Belgium and other countries are reporting more cases. The presentation will draw on the work of Foucault amongst others to offer a critical reading of this apparently new trend.

Keywords:

foucault; needle spiking

COUNTERING AUTHORITARIAN POPULISM THROUGH DEMOCRATIC PRAXIS

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Despite assertions that neoliberal capitalism is on the wane, it would be premature to declare it dead. Nonetheless, it can be asserted that neoliberal hegemony is facing a similar conjunctural crisis to that faced by social democracy forty years ago with regard to the current form of the State, economic management, access to citizenship, the changing global order and political representation (as highlighted by Gamble 1994). As Stuart Hall et al. so eloquently explained in *Policing the Crisis*, when hegemony can no longer be maintained via consent, the State shifts to coercion, but it seeks to gain consent for that coercion by constructing moral panics about social problems to which law and order come to be seen as the only possible solution – this is ‘legitimate coercion’ around which a new hegemonic bloc can be constructed (Hall et al. 1978: 317–323). States today commonly resort to authoritarian populism which manifests notably as ‘penal populism’ (Bottoms 1995), ‘anti-immigration populism’ and nativist nationalism. The rise of the so-called ‘culture wars’ has provided a further opportunity for the neoliberal State to secure popular consent, asserting that people are now divided more along lines of values and cultural attitudes than class or economics.

Authoritarian populism led from above has come to eclipse democratic forms of populism led from below. This paper argues that it is only by harnessing the demands inherent in the ‘populist moment’ (Mouffe, 2018) for greater representativity and accountability that it might be possible to move beyond exclusionary penal and social policies and to seek progressive alternatives to punishment, prisons and detention. It might do this by fostering democratic praxis that discovers ways of incorporating all members of a polity in locally-based, inclusive, pluralistic associational agora which empower them to work together to harness the emancipatory potential of decentred politics. Perhaps democratic populism might represent the most significant challenge yet to neoliberal hegemony.

Keywords:

authoritarian populism; democratic populism; neoliberal hegemony; consent; justice

STATE, BUSINESS AND VIOLENCE BETWEEN THE LEGAL AND THE ILLEGAL: THE MILITIAS OF RIO DE JANEIRO

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In general, the militias of Rio de Janeiro can be defined as armed groups practicing various extortions and irregular exploitation of public services for profit, controlled by members of the police forces, and often with direct representation of parliamentarians, or even indirectly through their support. These groups has been gathering, in recent years, practices and forms of organization of heterogeneous criminal groups that range from groups of ex-policemen who organize to “put order” in the area to heavily armed groups and logistically well organized that act illegally and coercively on different fields, structured by economic and political network that reach the core of the state. Contrary to what conventional theories say about it, militias inform state-building practices that can be explained more by the state presence and less by its supposed absence. The implicit or explicit support to militias that was promoted by state representatives over time, together with the difference in treatment reserved by public security policies in relation to other phenomena (such as drug trafficking), point to a certain state sensitivity about its priorities in public agenda regarding the local urban violence. This, led militias to increase their border and their profits. Then, from interviews with people living in an ‘área de milícia’ (militia- controlled areas), ethnographic data collected in field work, documents and newspaper articles, this proposal examines the reciprocal relationships between the sphere of the legal and the illegal, business and practices intertwined with militias of Rio de Janeiro.

Keywords:

Rio de Janeiro; militias; violence; business; illegality

THE INVISIBLE MADE VISIBLE: THE SOCIAL HARMS OF UNDERCOVER POLICING

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The current British State Public Inquiry into Undercover Policing is revelatory of many previously hidden wrongs, stretching from 1968 to the present day. The Social Harms are multiple – and can be seen both legalistically as breaching human rights and as also as a reification of damaging power dynamics, exacerbating class and gender imbalances. It also speaks to the Surveillance State’s conservative bias, shredding the idea of political neutrality across the justice system. These social harms are felt both at individual and societal levels.

Although the police units involved were formed under the logic of the cold war- and fear of progressive change - it seems this aspect of the state is a constant one across the different iterations of the capitalist state.

This paper will elucidate the activist perspective of the proceedings of the Undercover Policing Inquiry to date and presenting the work of the activist-led Undercover Research Group through a social harms’ lense.

Keywords:

Social Harms, Undercover Policing, Class, Gender, Power

POLICING ECOCIDE: ABOLITION FOR ECOLOGICAL SURVIVAL

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The #nocopcity campaign in Atlanta is a rare example of a struggle that clearly articulates its opposition against ecological destruction and the police. Here, land defenders are resisting the destruction of 300 acres of forest to be turned into a 'tactical training compound featuring a mock city' by the Atlanta Police Department. The development, sited on land stolen from Muscogee Creek peoples, turned into a plantation, and later a prison farm, entails both the destruction of biodiverse habitat and the expansion of the police operations. It represents the imposition of a genocidal and ecocidal socio-ecological 'modern' order in so-called USA.

The struggles for the abolition of policing and prisons, and against ecological harm and climate catastrophe – both rooted in opposing the same colonial statist legacies and both becoming increasingly mainstream – are often perceived as separate issues by campaigners, land defenders, and abolitionists. However, policing – not just 'the police', but the logic of policing enforced by a myriad of public and private institutions and bodies – is also responsible for vast amounts of nonhuman deaths and destruction; the loss of habitats and 'existences', the oppression and exploitations of nonhuman animals, and the enforcement of ecocide across the world. The ecological footprint of policing – underexplored and invisibilised – is destructive and prohibitive, and policing enforces and protects ecologically destructive projects and animal exploitation across the world. But more importantly, policing protects a social order that is inherently (anti-)ecological; upholding the sacredness of property and growth, grounded in hierarchical ordering of human populations but also all life on the planet. Drawing on green anarchist and political ecology approaches, we argue for a 'total liberation' approach that illustrates that those who care about life on this planet must embrace abolition.

Keywords:

Policing, Abolition, Ecology, Animal exploitation, Total liberation

THE EURO-LIBYAN BORDER REGIME THROUGH THE LENS OF SOCIAL HARM: FOR A CRIMINOLOGICAL ANALYSIS OF THE BORDER EXTERNALISATION.

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The concept of border externalisation depicts the process by which migration management and border control practices are exported to extra-jurisdictional areas, sometimes encroaching those of third states. These processes create complex and transnational systems of control over human mobility, in which different sovereignties and regional and international actors are involved. Theoretical frameworks based on the notion of crime are often linked to the concept of state sovereignty and prove to be ill-suited to understand the complexity of these systems and identify responsibilities. This paper proposes the adoption of the Social Harm approach – which has recently received a renewed academic interest – to analyse migrants' severe human rights violations in relation to the Italian process of border externalisation. To this end, the first paragraph traces the origin and outlines the main points of the debate on Social Harm and Zemiology. The second one offers a context-informed investigation of the Italian process of border externalisation in Libya, highlighting the actors and interests involved. The third paragraph presents the main results of the analysis, aimed at investigating, through the concept of social harm, the causes of deaths and serious human rights violations related to torture and inhumane and degrading treatment suffered by migrants in Libya and during sea-crossing. The concluding paragraph summarises the main findings, identifies the various responsibilities, and provides reflections and insights for further research.

Keywords:

Border Externalisation, Social Harm, Migration, Human Rights, Libya

THE LABOUR MARKET FUNCTIONS OF THE CARCERAL STATE

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Claims of intervening within labour markets have been increasingly prominent in penal policy in England and Wales in recent years, ranging from assertions that prison expansion supports local economic growth to arguments that prisons facilitate labour forces of incarcerated workers able to meet economic needs and those of incarcerated people. This paper argues that such claims need to be taken seriously. For they are utilised to add weight to drives for carceral expansion. But it argues that the labour market functions of an expansive carceral state operate in radically different ways than is conceptualised in mainstream policy circles and narratives. Drawing on empirical work carried out in England and Wales, this paper argues that understanding the labour market functions of the carceral state is fundamental to resisting and combating its presence and logics.

Keywords:

carceral state, carceral expansion, labour markets, labour market institutions, carceral labour

THE LIMITS OF LAW: TOWARD A ZEMIOLOGICAL UNDERSTANDING OF TORTURE

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Social and judicial responses to torture remain dominated by legal definitions and debates around what constitutes torture. Based on three projects, this paper argues that the implications of this is a side-lining of survivor needs when people are subjected to forms of torturous violence that fall beyond narrow remits, but impact in ways which cause as much significant harm.

By recognising the torturous nature of many forms of violence, we can collectively challenge the silence which allows for cyclical abuses to continue, and that create barriers to support. If and when we explore experiences of violence from a 'torturous' lens and in the context of multiple dimensions of harm, we can most certainly dispel the myth that brutality is confined to areas of conflict or 'failed' states, but may be present in marriages and partnerships, or institutions and schools. Indeed, as this paper argues, torture and tortuous violence are issues for all of us, which benefit from collective recognition that its nature is pervasive, but never inevitable.

Drawing therefore from a zemiological lens, this paper will outline the limitations of law, and the value of combining a three-pronged epistemological approach to torturous violence. These I have termed orthodox legalism; legalist hybridity and experiential epistemologies, which, in combination, allow for a more nuanced understanding of torturous harms.

Keywords:

Torture, zemiology, violence, harm, persecution

IN SEARCH OF SEMINAL TEXTS IN CRITICAL HISTORICAL CRIMINOLOGY.
RE-READING CHAMBLISS' 1988 PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS TO THE
AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CRIMINOLOGY

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This paper argues that William J. Chambliss' 1988 Presidential Address to the American Society of Criminology on 'State-Organized Crime' should be regarded as a seminal text in critical historical criminology. Though Chambliss' address is justifiably said to have kickstarted the criminology of state crime, critical criminologists have overlooked the fact that Chambliss was making a set of historico-criminological arguments about crime and capitalist development and that his address was a masterful instantiation of a critical historical criminology of state crime. Chambliss focused on the history of criminality – drawing, among other things, on his own historical research on piracy and smuggling – and did so by staying truthful to the critical crime history of the 1970s, whose main lesson was and still remains that crime is "central to understanding the historical transformation to capitalism" (Cohen, 1986, p.469). This paper offers a re-reading of Chambliss' address from the perspective of a critical historical criminologist in an attempt to initiate a search for seminal texts about the criminological study of the past in critical perspective. In doing that, the paper shows that a sound understanding of dynamics of crime, harm, and social control in the transformation of capitalism demands an effective blending of critical criminology and historical criminology.

Keywords:

critical crime history, critical criminology, critical historical criminology, historical study of crime, Marxist historiography, state crime

CRIMINAL LEGISLATIVE POLICY IN BRAZIL AFTER THE 1988 CONSTITUTION: AN ANALYSIS BASED ON ECONOMIC CRIMINAL LAW

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This research is part of the so-called Criminal Legislative Policy. The analysis focuses on the legislative changes that have taken place in Brazil since the promulgation of the 1988 Constitution, particularly the economic criminal law. The research employs European doctrine, especially Spanish. In the first part of the study, we define what is meant by criminal legislative policy and economic criminal law in order to establish the theoretical framework and scope of the object. Next, we make a brief introduction regarding the Brazilian political environment since 1988; in particular, we highlight the innovations in the country's legal system brought by the Constitution. Then, we proceed to the analysis of the legislative changes that occurred in the field of economic criminal law – the Penal Code and special laws –, aiming to prove the initial hypothesis that there has been a steady expansion of criminalization in this area, as well as excessive use of problematic legislative techniques, such as blank criminal laws. At this point, the research focuses on gathering empirical data that can corroborate or not the abovementioned point of view, which is supported by a large part of the national doctrine. As a second goal, we aim to investigate the likely trends of future legal changes in this subject matter. The methodology consists of bibliographic review and legislative and document analysis.

Keywords:

economic criminal law; criminal legislative policy; Brazilian Constitution; legislative changes; expansion of criminalization.

THE CRUSADE AGAINST VAGRANTS: DECRIMINALISING OR CRIMINALISING HOMELESSNESS?

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The status of being homeless is not a crime, but through the construction of new laws and extension of old ones, the state seeks to regulate the activities directly associated with the very existence of homelessness in ways that make it extremely difficult for homeless people to go about their daily activities, without receiving some criminal punishment or injunction. Focusing mainly on the law of vagrancy, this presentation will discuss how vagrancy laws (in existence and withdrawn) tells an interesting history of the expansion of policing powers based upon how a person appears, not based on their action. For this reason, vagrancy laws carry an exceptional range of discretionary powers and one of the central appeals of this law lies in the slippery and nebulous concept of 'vagrancy', which has allowed governments and states to criminalise a wide range of marginalised groups, not just the homeless. In this paper, I will argue that the Repeal of the Vagrancy Act in England and Wales will not result in decriminalising homelessness, but will involve new ways of criminalising a wide range of marginalised groups.

Keywords:

homelessness; criminalisation; vagrancy

‘COVID-CORRUPTION’ AND THE ‘DESIGN OF MASS DEATH’ IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

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The UK government’s response to public health crisis during the Covid-19 pandemic exhibited its laissez-faire ideology in two prominent ways: firstly, in their initial preference for ‘herd immunity’ underpinned by a reluctance to enter societal lockdown, because this would interrupt economic activity, until the catastrophic alternatives were unavoidable. Secondly, government delayed and undermined logistical responses to scientific and international health warnings, so that the public health and social care provision entered the pandemic underprepared for the critical early months of epidemiological management. This paper connects these examples of studied indifference towards public survival as characteristic of the morbid – indeed, the necrophiliac – tendencies of contemporary capitalism. Operating under the cover of emergency pandemic planning, the UK government presided over historical levels of state-facilitated misappropriation and of avoidable deaths – which we argue are symptomatic of manufactured ‘failures of state’. To date, the UK government has largely deflected its obligations of political accountability or sanctioning of those responsible. This paper traces the opportunistic profitmaking and collusion between senior political figures and business associates as government hurriedly turned to ‘market supply’ for medical and personal protection equipment. The mass, corrupt transfer of capital is framed here as indicative of pervasive state violence consistent with UK government’s approach of ‘herd immunity’ or, the ‘design of mass death’. Indeed, when delaying national lockdown for the second time, Boris Johnson (Prime Minister) reportedly said, ‘let the bodies pile high in their thousands’. Taken together, it will be argued that the pandemic revealed the deathly consequences of contemporary ‘laissez faire’ elitism, which has materialised in the shattering of democratic accountability, the sharpening of violent austerity and mass deprivation, and a continuation of a record of ‘social murder’ from the aftermath of the banking crisis (2008–present) to the deaths of over 193,000 people with ‘Covid-19’ recorded on their death certificates.

Keywords:

corruption networks, public contracting, Covid-19, herd immunity, social murder

THE ROLE OF THE OMBUDSMAN IN PRISON

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The public sector Ombudsman is a long-time figure, introduced for the first time in Sweden, in 1809. Its main functions are resolving individual complaints and monitoring the “behavior” of administration, in order to avoid phenomena of maladministration. The Ombudsman has power of investigation, recommendation and reporting. They are all soft powers which make the Ombudsman a sort of «gentle justice» (Chidiac, 2004). In addition to this, the Ombudsman takes an informal approach to dispute resolution, and this approach aims at a quick solution that satisfies the parties involved, using the “problem solving” method. Its action – mostly based on the Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) model (Marshal-Reif, 1995) – is a far cry from the justice model and does not have as its primary objective the ascertainment of past facts and responsibilities but aims to remedy situations close in time. In this “quasi-jurisdictional” capacity, the Ombudsman can be considered a «guardian of substantive justice» (Napione, 1969). The reasons underlying this qualification are various but can be ascribed to the principle of informality that guides its action, in the twofold sense: 1) the Ombudsman does not have to comply with many formalities in the exercise of his functions and powers; 2) recourse to the Ombudsman is free of charge and there is no need for the help of a lawyer to file the complaint.

In most countries of the world prisons are run by a public administration, but «prisons are a unique form of public agency because they can fairly be described as “total institution”» (Groves, 2018). With this in mind, an attempt will be made to outline the role of Ombudsman in prison that it will be necessarily different compared to its role in other areas and embedded in the framework of human rights protection.

Keywords:

Ombudsman, prison, ADR, human rights, total institution

IMMIGRATION DETENTION IN NORTHERN IRELAND BETWEEN THE POLITICS OF BREXIT AND THE EXCEPTIONAL NATURE OF THE COVID-19 SYNDEMIC

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This paper aims to describe the situation of immigration detention in Northern Ireland (NI) at the exceptional time of the first lockdown for COVID-19, and with the ongoing Brexit negotiations. The Northern Ireland state is formally part of the United Kingdom (UK), but geographically is located on the island of Ireland. It is divided by the Republic of Ireland only by land border which had almost become invisible under the European Union (EU). Given the Brexit referendum, the land border has been “reactivated”, as a ‘site of distinction’ between the enemy and the friend (Schmitt), making the only immigration detention centre in Northern Ireland a more important centre for the detention of migrants. Yet, during the COVID-19 syndemic, as travels stopped, the centre became almost empty and mostly functioned as the back door of prisons in NI (UK) and a crucial site for the manifestation of bordering practices of expulsion rather than of subordinate inclusion. Mostly expulsions were of Eastern European foreign offenders making evident the function of distinction of populations within Europe as not so much between the Global North and the Global South, but between the West and the East of Europe.

Keywords:

borders; Brexit; Covid-19; immigration detention; sovereignty;

FLEXING THE MUSCLES OF POWER: POLICING URBAN ECO-JUSTICE ACTIVISM DURING THE PANDEMIC

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This presentation focuses on the policing of environmental activists during the COVID-19 pandemic. It draws on a 10-month ethnography in the city of Trento (Italy), formal and informal interviews and focus groups with eco-justice activists, and informal conversations with police officers in charge of public order in the city. The presentation ultimately aims to illustrate what changed in the policing of eco-justice activism during the pandemic and explains these changes through critical criminological perspectives on protest policing and criminalisation of dissent and eco-justice resistance.

Keywords:

policing; environmental activism; covid-19; dissent

“IT’S BEING ABLE TO SPEAK, TALK BACK MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE”: RETHINKING SAFETY, RISK AND VULNERABILITY WITH CISGENDER WORKERS AND TRANS AND NON-BINARY PEOPLE HELD IN A MEN’S

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In the United Kingdom, disputes over how to resolve perceived tensions between the needs and rights of trans and cis women prisoners have deeply divided criminology, feminist campaigners, and the public (see Lamble 2019). Cultural, media and political demonisation of trans women’s access to women’s prisons (as one of various single sex spaces) has focused on increased risk of sexual violence to cisgender women. In contrast, research has highlighted how trans prisoners are at increased risk of violence and harm in men’s prisons including physical and sexual victimisation, self-harm and suicide, inadequate access to healthcare, and restricted access to items necessary for gender expression (e.g., Sylvia Rivera Law Project 2007; Shah 2010; Oparah 2012; Simopoulos & Khin Khin 2014; Rosenberg & Oswin 2015; Disspain et al 2015; Jenness & Fenstermaker 2016; Nulty et al 2019; Suhomlinova et al 2021, 2022; Suhomlinova & O’Shea 2021). This focus on placement and competing claims of trans prisoners being a risk or being at risk sidesteps interrogation of how the structures of power that prisons uphold are the problem. In this paper I present some preliminary critical analysis of findings from fieldwork at one men’s sex offender prison in England, which includes interviews with 7 prison staff, 3 cisgender prisoners and 7 trans prisoners. This fieldwork was carried out during the height of the public consultation on the Gender Recognition Act (September–October 2018). I aim to focus on the harms of exclusionary processes; competing understandings of safety, risk and vulnerability; and how the role of prison in the perpetuation of sexual violence is concealed. I also hope to offer some reflections on the personal costs of working for trans rights within prisons, policy, and universities in times of heightened transphobia.

Keywords:

trans and non-binary genders, sexual violence, safety, transphobia, risk, vulnerability

COUNTERING THE HARMS OF PSYCHEDELIC CAPITALISM

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The resurgence of clinical and psychiatric work with psychedelic substances, often referred to as the ‘psychedelic renaissance’, has aimed to recast psychedelic substances as medicines. For many decades, some psychedelics researchers have argued that the ‘medicalisation–legalisation’ model, designed to change our conception of what psychedelics are and what they can do (much like cannabis), is the first step towards efforts to decriminalise drugs and prioritise harm reduction. However, as investors capitalise on the ‘psychedelics boom’ to promote the ability of psychedelic substances improve ‘wellness’, and optimise creativity and productivity in the workplace, it is clear that improving the lives of people with longstanding treatment-resistant mental health conditions, or ending the ‘war on drugs’ is not the primary goal. To turn psychedelic research into an industry not only subjugates the knowledges and practices of indigenous communities who have used these substances (and many of these same healing practices) for hundreds of years, but increasingly risks reducing access to psychedelics to elites while also doing little to reduce the harms caused by the overpolicing and criminalisation of drug users. I argue in this paper that to cede control over the psychedelic experience to Big Pharma, the ‘wellness’ industry and biomedical psychiatry is to lose the opportunity to change broader perceptions of what psychoactive substances can do, and how these changing perceptions may contribute to efforts around decriminalisation of drugs. I make some critical interventions as to how the narrative about psychedelics might be changed in the here and now.

Keywords:

Psychedelics, biocapitalism, harm reduction, war on drugs, decriminalisation

RESISTING THE LEGAL FICTION IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE REFUGEES' CRISIS. BORDERS AND THE TRANSITORY NATURE OF LEGALITY IN THE ASYLUM SYSTEM IN ITALY

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Differently from countries of the Northern Europe, the asylum system represents a relatively new chapter in the history of migration control in Italy. Since 2014, Italian shores have seen the arrival of hundreds thousands migrants. Some of them continued their journey through the North, some were removed, many others asked for asylum and remained as “refugees”, “asylum seekers”, “illegalized migrants”, or had to navigate a condition of weak legality. Against narratives of helping and protecting “victims”, the reception system includes acts of resistance, escapes and refusals enacted by those same people it is deemed to protect. In this paper, we present some case studies and we propose a situated critique of the reception system, taking (individual and collective) migrants’ acts of resistance as a vantage point. We will particularly focus on disobedient asylum seekers and refugees, who refused the hospitality gift and decided to place themselves outside the reception system: even whether legally present on the Italian soil, such decision weaken their legality, has a negative impact on their experience of police control and provokes their greater exposure to criminalization processes. The figure of the disobedient asylum seeker and refugees gives shape to a radical critique to the social trap represented by the reception system, sheds light on the transitory and contextual nature of certain legality, and it unmasks the legal fiction of bordering practices opposed to the reality of lived experiences of migration and mobility.

Keywords:

Reception system, legal fiction, weak legality, disobedient asylum seekers

AFGHAN WOMEN REFUGEES ENDURING VIOLENCE IN A COUNTRY OF SANCTUARY

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This study examines the settlement experiences of Afghan women refugees following their migration into the UK. The findings highlighted how violence and oppression depicted many of the women's experiences prior to seeking asylum. This was found to persist when the women gained asylum in the UK, as many continued to face severe and enduring violence within their family, from both men and other women, as traditional patriarchal values involving physical and psychological violence remained. However, the findings indicated that violence within the home was less prevalent amongst women from the Hazara ethnic group who held a higher educational background. The research was designed within an interpretivist paradigm of inquiry and qualitative semi-structured interviews were conducted in Dari and English languages, with fifteen Afghan refugee women, based in a London refugee centre. The resulting data was analysed using thematic analysis. Reflecting the findings of a number of international reports on women's status in Afghanistan, the findings highlighted their experiences of violence and oppression in their home country prior to seeking asylum.

The study contributes new insights into the research on refugee women and the findings suggest that while some Afghan women refugees may be able to show adaptive and coping strategy upon resettlement, this is more difficult when traditional patriarchal values are enforced within the home, and women find themselves trapped in situations of familial power relations. Moreover, the research indicates that the ethnic / tribal origins of Afghan refugee women may impact on their experiences of integration. However, the analysis also highlighted the benefit of joining refugee organisation in providing social support and enhancing their confidence and resilience among Afghan women refugees.

Keywords:

Afghan women refugees, patriarch

ZEMIOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVES ON THE EDGES OF DEMOCRACY: THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE POLITICS OF PENAL HARM FOR MIGRATION AND SOLIDARITY

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The criminalisation of sea rescuers' solidarities towards irregular migrants provides critical insights into the limits that EU governments set to the free movement, speech, and action of their citizens and their consequences. Based on my MPhil thesis, this paper argues that, in a scenario of criminalisation, solidarities must come to terms with inherent contradictions, because the very nature of these solidarities, in terms of who can perform them, may reproduce specific dynamics of structural inequalities. Questioning who rescues in the first place, and who can rescue and who cannot, suggests the idea that solidarities, particularly visible resistance, might be, in this specific context, not democratic, but based upon privilege and capital. The democratisation of solidarities would entail everyone having the same possibilities and incurring the same risks if confronted with a scenario of criminalisation. But such democratisation is a chimera, meaning that there are social hierarchies of who is allowed to rescue, and who would have too much to lose. Drawing from a zemiological lens, this paper will outline an underexplored consequence of penal harm associated with migration and solidarity, that is the preservation of invisible structural borders intrinsic to democratic expression and participation. In most EU countries, structural borders intrinsic to democratic expression are also perpetuated through the categorical confinement of migrant populations themselves through mass incarceration. Using a multiple case study research design of two prisons in Italy, in the form of multiple semi-structured interviews with migrants detained in prison, and focus groups with prison staff and public defenders, my doctoral project intends to call into question the role of the most powerful and unearthen penal harm that is systematically enacted through criminal law. Drawing from a zemiological lens, the goal is to challenge state-level endorsed harms and the endemic logic of social indifference.

Keywords:

Migration, solidarity, zemiology, penal harm, democracy

ENTANGLED IN THE TECHNOLOGY-DRIVEN BORDERSCAPE:
BORDER CROSSERS RENDERED TO THEIR DIGITAL SELF

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This presentation is related to a recent published article on EU management of migration driven by the use of databases and information systems. The presentation discusses how data is transforming the border. In particular, it focuses on 1) how the EU JHA databases are evolving, from separate systems each with one purpose to multipurpose databases, and 2) how the new EU plan – the interoperability regulation – connects and merges biometric and biographical data, as part of a shift from a silo-based approach towards a single centralised information system. The presentation discusses the border crossers' role in challenging this digital border control, both in light of the current practices of data collection and processing and newly approved EU regulations.

Keywords:

borders, crimmigration, technology driven borderscape, European Union

POLICING THE POOR THROUGH SPACE: FROM CRIMINAL CARTOGRAPHY TO GEOSPATIAL PREDICTIVE POLICING

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Recent years have witnessed an explosion of interest in predictive policing, with a clear opposition emerging between supporters and critics of its implementation. While critical accounts conventionally centre on operational asymmetries and opacities of the algorithmic construct (biased training, feedback loop, etc.) or engage in debates on the different types of predictive modelling, I argue that a different deeper critique is preliminarily needed.

Focussing on place-based techniques, I maintain that contemporary predictive mapping reveals a basic continuity with the political and epistemic dictates which have historically framed the conceptualisation of crime in relation to space. Through a review of sources spanning from the Cartographic School to current predictive policing literature, I identify two main conceptual axes which validate and operationalise this heritage: firstly, an explanatory framework of crime that in its relational understanding with space has never split off from the socio-economic deficit archetype; secondly, an ontologisation of crime alternative to biologicist positivism, but still integral to the etiologic paradigm.

Finally, and as a corollary of the above, any attempt to keep a rigid distinction between place-based and person-based predictions – with the first ones conventionally regarded as a less invasive ranking of places – becomes meaningless, as it overlooks the rationalities unifying both approaches in favour of an artificial differentiation mirroring a legalistic understanding of profiling.

Keywords:

Predictive policing, crime mapping, place profiling, environmental criminology, crime prediction.

DISCUSSING SOCIAL HARM AND ZEMIOLOGY FROM A CRITIQUE OF CRIMINOLOGY

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Martin Jay (1973: 26–27) set out clearly the centrality that, especially for some members of the Frankfurt's School (from the Institut für Sozialforschung), theory occupied in the permanent interaction between scientific commitment and social praxis. The concept itself of praxis may be, however, potentially controversial.

Thus, in the first decades of XXI century, academia seems to have naturalised and accepted a mutually exclusive alternative between taking part in the praxis and contingencies of everyday battles or, instead, fathoming theory-laden issues related to long-lasting and radical problematisations of the very object of criminology.

Within the context of the annual meeting of the EG, and taking advantage of the opportunity to establish an open dialogue with one of the leading approaches emerged within its area of influence, that is, the social harm paradigm, the purpose of this contribution is to scrutinise some of its key issues. These are the abandonment of criminology in favour of zemiology, the substitution of the concept of crime with harm, and the intimate relation between harm and social practice. By recovering some of the issues raised by critical criminology in the 60s and 70s especially from southern Europe and Latin America, the aim is to point out possible gaps in the current approaches to social harm and zemiology, with a view to reconsider some of their postulates and thus pursue theoretical developments for a radical critique of criminology of our day.

Keywords:

critical criminology, zemiology, social harm, social theory, social change

A COLLECTIVE RESEARCH. GAZES ON JUVENILE PENAL SYSTEM

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The aim of this contribution is to describe the process of building a collective field of research carried on by a little group of workers in the juvenile criminal justice scene in Turin, Italy. This is a collective research path started from the need to intervene in the debate on juvenile justice. This need is the result of the experience gained in the field by the members of the "collective", who in various roles (training operators, researchers, social services collaborators, lawyers), found themselves working in such contexts (in particular in the Juvenile prison of Turin "Ferrante Aporti"). From these experiences we are convinced of the need for a wider reflection that holds together: i) the subjective experience of working in contact with adolescents subjected to judicial authority measures; ii) the need to test tools shared concepts able to critically analyze the situation of Turin juvenile justice. The collective effort wants to be a tool to rethink, starting from an ethnography of work in the context of services (and in particular of the Juvenile penal justice), on the one hand the methods of intervention, and on the other, the critical issues related to experiencing those contexts of suffering that appear unable to respond to the urgencies of the present. In this perspective, a shared methodology can highlight the set of individual positions that structure the field. In this sense, the ultimate goal of this research is to create a research path that have the analytical and political strength of creating narratives of the contexts of deprivation of liberty and suffering that disregard the normative vision dictated by the institutions. In the awareness of the need of a narrative that holds together the various levels of complexity that reality brings with it.

Keywords:

Juvenile penal justice, collective research, third sector, social work

TRANSFORMATIVE JUSTICE AND THE NEW BRAZILIAN PENAL ABOLITIONISM

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The purpose of this paper is to discuss the general lines of a new penal abolitionism emerging in Brazil, characterized by praxis, by the leadership of popular leaders and by bottom-up organization. Historically, even within the critical perspective on criminal justice in Latin America, penal abolitionism has never occupied a prominent place. The need to deal with the dictatorial past of state violence and the demand for transitional justice which included the punishment of authoritarian leaders isolated abolitionists from local human rights organizations. In addition, Brazilian penal abolitionism was merely an academic movement mainly linked to critical criminology and the field of law. Only more recently have works by American abolitionist researchers been translated and published, bringing the racial issue to light. Even so, the preference of the critical perspective is still to rely on the State to contain abuses ('criminal law minimalism'). In recent decades, however, research on penal abolitionism has broadened its horizon and projected itself onto the very political and social conditions that structure the punitive practices to be abolished. In this sense, a new generation of scholars and activists focuses more on the positive dimension of abolition. The common thread is the ethical-political resistance to the expansion of the prison system and the deconstruction of the penal rationale. Penal abolitionism is thus presented as a political instance which has to deal with the carceral attitude of the society as a strategy to reduce social inequalities. In Brazil, prisoners' families are organizing themselves into regional groups and recognizing themselves as abolitionists. Meanwhile, restorative justice practices are growing, though judges still play a leading role. The gathering of these movements can set a consistent and promising transformative justice. The paper claims that the new Brazilian penal abolitionism is characterized by an understanding of the criminal justice system as an important part of the legacy of slavery, authoritarianism and state violence, establishing a parallel with 19th century abolitionism and with the recognition of contemporary structural racism.

Keywords:

prison; penal abolitionism; transformative justice; Latin America; Brazil

YOUNG PEOPLE AND THE POLICE DURING THE PANDEMIC: THE CASE OF GREECE

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We interrogate the tension and conflict between young people and the police during the Covid-19 pandemic in Greece. As early as mid-March 2020, the aggressive lockdown approach featuring curfews and other restrictions on movement in public spaces brought the police to the foreground of pandemic control. Police actions affected young people severely as they involved disruptions in education, social activities, and lifestyles. Moreover, the government's narrative and police enforced policies led to a gradual redefinition of young people as a special risky and allegedly 'problematic' category in public discourse, furthering the economic and social marginalisation of young people since the onset of austerity in the 2010s. We argue for an understanding of the growing tension between young people and the police as an instance of the neoliberal management of youth populations in contemporary Greece.

Keywords:

police; Covid-19; youth

CYBERNETIC POLICING IN LATE CAPITALISM: ANALYZING POLICE-CORPORATE SURVEILLANT ASSEMBLAGES AND ITS PRODUCTION OF HARMS IN RELATION TO PROCESSES OF SUBJECTIFICATION

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Police departments play an important role in the emergence of the ‘surveillance society’ which arose from a complex of military and corporate priorities, dominated by a massive configuration of state and corporate power. This corporate–state nexus is characterized by both an increase in opportunities for exploitation and profit, as reducing uncertainties through extensively making use of surveillance practices. The absorption of surplus capital, as the source of profit, has shifted from wage exploitation to the sphere of circulation. As this form of exploitation just causes a crisis of consumption, the capitalist system can overcome this by accelerating the production–consumption cycle or by occupying new markets. This logic fuels the global boom in the production of corporate surveillance technology and its use by the police. In the US alone, surveillant monopoly capital is already (re)shaping police departments’ daily practices. Product design can determine how they use them, cloud–management services ensure long-term contracts, aggressive assertions of secrecy influence and shape public police. By doing so, these police–corporate assemblages which are driven by the logic of capital accumulation, cause new forms of harms and reshape the processes of subjectification. To theoretically grasp the harms and subjectification that are being produced by an assemblage of capitalism and technology through police surveillance, Tiqqun’s cybernetic hypothesis can offer a fresh perspective on this topic. The hypothesis considers cybernetics as the theoretical and technological outcome and continuation of a state of war, with stability and control as its objectives. Cybernetics is considered a political project that, through the acquisition of information and communication, melts human subjectivity into a stable and rationalised totality. This paper analyses contemporary police–corporate surveillance assemblage through the perspective of Tiqqun’s cybernetic hypothesis, discusses and criticises its new harms that affect processes of subjectification, and offers a reflection on its proposed possibilities to resist.

Keywords:

policing, capitalism, corporate surveillance technology, Tiqqun, cybernetic hypothesis, harm, subjectification

CHALLENGING REINTEGRATION DISCOURSES AND PRACTICES STARTING FROM THE GLOBAL SOUTH: ANALYSIS OF AN EXPERIENCE IN AN ALTERNATIVE TO PRISON IN BRAZIL

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Faced with the failure of prison reintegration and education policies, what are the possible alternatives? After a rebellion in a prison, a weapon-free prison run by volunteers and inmates was created in the state of Sao Paulo in 1972. This experience has spread and is today an experience from the Global South that inspires experiences of reintegration and education in the Global North. This presentation will analyse a part of the discourse of this experience that intends to change the paradigm from the certainty of punishment to the certainty of rehabilitation. The methodology employed in this study included a short ethnography involving 40 days of participant observation conducted while living inside two prisons indicated as models, with semi-structured interviews with prisoners, staff, and volunteers. A literature review of the research and an analysis of APAC documents were also carried out. From the outset, we can see that this experience is exceptional because it allows a high level of transparency in research and access to information, to the extent that people from outside are allowed to sleep in the structures. Trust in prisoners is also demonstrated in their participation in management and the low security measures present, even though people considered dangerous live in the structures analysed. Finally, this experience appears exceptional not only in the Global South but also worldwide. It has interesting parallels with the experience of deinstitutionalising asylums in Italy and can be applied as an intermediate step towards abolishing and reducing the use of prison. At the same time, it remains a disputed experience, and, although there seems to be an awareness of this risk among APAC administrators, there are operators in the judicial system who wish to use it as a measure to extend the network of social control.

Keywords:

Southern Criminology; social reintegration; social education; sociology of prison; adult education;

THE SAFEGUARDING DELUSION: SEX WORK AND POLICING IN WALES

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This paper explores the extent to which sex worker's accounts of living and working in Wales are compatible with the discourses of wellbeing, vulnerability and safeguarding that are increasingly utilised by governments and police forces to frame their interactions with sex work. In revealing a disjuncture between the declared aims of state-based institutions and sex workers ongoing experiences of repression and abandonment, the presentation challenges claims that a more enlightened and transformative approach to sex work is being realised in the United Kingdom as a product of updated policing guidance and Welsh legislative change. Drawing on data collected through a series of Freedom of Information requests distributed to Police forces and the Crown Prosecution Service, in addition to interviews with sex workers, massage parlour managers, local authority, police and third sector workers, the findings demonstrate two conflicting realities of the function of the state's interaction with sex work. It argues that the malleability and symbolic power of concepts of safeguarding and vulnerability enable the maintenance of an illusion whereby oppressive state practices are recast and presented as enabling progressive and benevolent outcomes for sex workers.

Keywords:

social control, sex work, policing, prostitution, repressive policing

POLICING IN WALES: IDENTITY, COMMUNITARIANISM, AND NEOLIBERALISM

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This presentation will draw on findings from empirical research that analysed public order (PO) policing in Wales, UK. Data were collected through a series of interviews and focus groups with command and frontline PO officers, as well as observations of PO events that included protests, sports events, and festivals. Initial analysis revealed that PO officers described and practised a ‘friendly meet and greet’ PO approach and that this was closely connected to their interpretation of Welsh identity. Officers described their identity as ‘friendly, talkative and welcoming’. These ‘Welsh’ characteristics closely resembled Evans’ (2019: 181) definition of Welsh identity which “embodied behaviours synonymous with working-class habitus...[including] positive connotations such as warmth, openness, community, and collectivism”. These traits and manifested behaviour closely resonated with communitarianism that place emphasis on police collaborating with communities in terms of developing fair and transparent policing approaches (Etzioni, 2015). In a PO context, communitarian policing includes engagement officers, known as Police Liaison Units, who interact with protest groups before processions to hold ‘meaningful dialogue’ to come to a collective agreement of how an event will function (Holgerson and Knuttsson, 2011). This negotiated management approach has been recommended in policing for several decades (Stott et al., 2013) but has recently been included in policing guidelines in the UK to primarily address concern that PO policing strategies were not compliant with human rights (College of Policing, 2022). Further analysis of the data identified contradictions of policing priorities in PO that moved away from the façade of Welsh friendliness and traditional communitarianism to a neoliberalist approach that placed emphasis on policing risk and underserving populations through enhanced surveillance (Kaplan-Lyman, 2012). Policing approaches were thus developed as much, if not more, around perceptions of dangerousness posed by certain groups and their impact on disrupting ‘order’ to the economy.

Keywords:

Public order policing, national identity, communitarianism, neoliberalism, surveillance.

TRAGIC TRIAGE IN MEDICINE AND THE ROLE OF GENERAL RULES

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The Covid 19 crisis intensified a debate on normative guidelines for medical disaster triage in circumstances of severely limited resources. Even though lives are at stake in such disaster situations, medical personnel must abandon some patients in favour of others.

The historical development and purpose of triage in medicine are to discriminate against some patients and triage them according to some chosen criterion. By leaving out allegedly irrelevant details, the adopted general rule inevitably makes a choice. Whatever criterium we prefer, it will – in concrete real life circumstances – favour some and be to the detriment of others.

Thus general ethical rules, including those for tragic medical triage, cut across the board. For example, utilitarianism and Kant's ethics represent two, albeit different, directions of such ambitious ethical universalism.

Even though human lives are at stake, no comprehensive agreement on normative guidelines in tragic triage exists. Furthermore, the problem may resurface even if we agree on the general rule as substantial disagreements may persist.

On top of this, experimental evidence shows a considerable level of distrust towards using general rules for addressing moral dilemmas of this gravity. The so-called generality effect reflects this concern about overregulation.

Keywords:

Limited resources in medicine, medical triage, general ethical rules, moral judgement, moral stress, effect of generality.

A QUALITATIVE STUDY OF WHAT REALLY MATTERS WHEN DEALING WITH DISCRIMINATION IN PRISONS?

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This paper focuses on how values that embody universal relevance such as equality and diversity are being translated into prison settings. Since the publication of the Equality Act 2010 prison governors in England and Wales have implemented the Discrimination Incident Reporting Forms (DIRF) system, under which those who are incarcerated and those who work in prison as well as prison visitors are protected from discrimination. The Discrimination Incident Reporting Forms are available to report any act that is perceived to discriminate against the nine protected characteristics: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage, or civil partnership (in employment), pregnancy or maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation. However, while the opportunity of reporting on these forms of discrimination can be seen as regulatory compliance, fair and transparent investigation procedures are of paramount importance when considering the reduction of discrimination within the prison settings.

So what really matters for those who experience discrimination in the penal setting? The current qualitative research into three prisons based in the West-Midlands suggests that more attention should be placed on establishing consistent and transparent investigation procedures to ensure credibility in the DIRF system. In addition, the power imbalance between people who live and work in prison contributes to the situation where DIRFs received from the member of staff are successfully upheld. This is in stark contrast to the very small number of complaints against staff that are upheld. The power dynamics and unequal access to resources have led to a distorted system where there is substantial inequality in succeeding to prove discrimination cases.

Keywords:

discrimination; prison;

PROBLEMATISING PRISONER DISTANCES AND DISPERSAL IN ENGLAND AND WALES

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The dispersal of prisoners far and wide across the prison estate has become an almost inevitable and accepted feature of imprisonment in England and Wales. High rates of prison overcrowding since the early 1990s have been used to justify and legitimate the government's decision to house prisoners many miles away from home. However, despite this long-standing practice, academic researchers have tended to overlook the cascade of challenges associated with distances as well as the policies and processes that decide prisoner placement in England and Wales. Beyond academia, very little political attention has been directed towards the UK government's continuing failure to alleviate the distance problems facing thousands of prisoners. In this paper we draw upon official data to uncover the true extent of prisoner distance and dispersal in England and Wales. By drawing upon interviews with former prisoners we also reveal the problems presented to prisoners who are held in prisons many miles away from home. These include difficulties receiving prison visits, accessing 'through-the-gate' support services, as well as the challenges prisoners face when held in prisons outside of their home area or region. In addressing these problems, the paper seeks to challenge the government's continuing failure to tackle distances and dispersal while underlining the need for distances to be taken more seriously by academic researchers and campaigners.

Keywords:

prisons, distances, dispersal, accountability, punishment

POLICING IN URBAN PAKISTAN: FORMAL AND INFORMAL MECHANISMS OF SOCIAL CONTROL IN THE CONTEXT OF URBAN TRANSFORMATIONS

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In this paper, we critically study policing in Pakistan in the context of urban socio-political transformations. We map the radically altering socio-cultural and institutional landscapes of policing and securitisation to understand how these intersect with processes of capitalist-driven urbanization and associated socio-political change.

In contemporary urban Pakistan, state-driven policing structures (civilian police services, paramilitary, military, and smart-city technologies) overlap with public-private partnership institutions (e.g., the CPLC) and private security provision to constitute formal policing mechanisms. These intersect with popular, informal, community-led policing structures such as community watches, neighbourhood vigilance teams, and 'criminal' actors (e.g., gangs, mafias, and armed militants). The relationship between these formal and informal structures and institutions of policing is complex at best.

Furthermore, the Pakistani state is a hybrid regime, consisting of authoritarian and democratic centres of power which are often in conflict. This conflicted state power is mirrored in a divided institutional landscape of policing and social control. The landscape of policing is also constantly shifting and evolving, based on the political struggles of regime production, protection, and maintenance. Power and social control are thus contested between multiple stakeholders. In its interaction with these different interest groups, policing is thus a pluralised, fractured, and divisive practice, evidenced most starkly in cities and urban spaces, especially since Pakistani cities are becoming increasingly significant spaces of political expression, popular resistance, and contestation.

In mapping this institutional landscape, we explore (i) how policing and securitisation in Pakistan are connected to urban transformations, (ii) how these transformations intersect with experiences of governing and navigating urban insecurity and violence, (iii) how experiences of security and insecurity relate to urban inequalities, and (iii) finally, what does the policing landscape communicate about structures of power and control in Pakistan specifically, and the global South more generally.

Keywords:

Policing, urban transformation, securitization, social control, capitalism

MYTHOLOGISED THROUGH MEDIA: UNCOVERING POP-CULTURAL CHARACTERISTICS OF HACKING FORUMS

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Popular media mythologises hackers as living in exclusion and committing online offences as a way of life. However, many hacking communities consist of discussions worth researching about different mainstream topics in life, opposing media myths. Our paper contributes to the exploration of this topic by applying a perspective of cultural criminology of the internet (Yar 2018) and analysing discussions about pop-culture in online hacking forums. It provides a rather different view on hackers' cultural profile allowing to reconceptualise their current position with regards to mainstream culture. We focused our research on 20 predominantly English and Russian-language forums, dedicated to a range of computer-related activities, and including varying degrees of online offending and deviance. We applied mixed-methods content analysis of thousands of threads and messages showcasing cultural activities in order to understand hackers' consumption of pop-culture as a part of their everyday routines. The results focus on a thematically mapped clusters of hackers' consumption of pop-culture and the similarities and differences between forums, presenting a multi-faceted understanding where their culture stands. Popular media mythologises hackers as living in exclusion and committing online offences as a way of life. However, many hacking communities consist of discussions worth researching about different mainstream topics in life, opposing media myths. Our paper contributes to the exploration of this topic by applying a perspective of cultural criminology of the internet (Yar 2018) and analysing discussions about pop-culture in online hacking forums. It provides a rather different view on hackers' cultural profile allowing to reconceptualise their current position with regards to mainstream culture. We focused our research on 20 predominantly English and Russian-language forums, dedicated to a range of computer-related activities, and including varying degrees of online offending and deviance. We applied mixed-methods content analysis of thousands of threads and messages showcasing cultural activities in order to understand hackers' consumption of pop-culture as a part of their everyday routines. The results focus on a thematically mapped clusters of hackers' consumption of pop-culture and the similarities and differences between forums, presenting a multi-faceted understanding where their culture stands.

Keywords:

hackers; cultural criminology;

PRACTICAL AND THEORETICAL DISCUSSIONS OF INSTITUTIONAL SOCIAL REHABILITATION PROCESS FOR CRIMINAL ADOLESCENTS

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The author Michal Kranc outlines the structure of institutional social rehabilitation process for adolescents. He also provides a concise description of the current symptoms of social unfitness of adolescents. Special attention is drawn to the frequently diagnosed cases of mental distress of those adolescents. This justifies the importance of therapy, art-therapy in the operation of the social rehabilitation process. The author defines the concept of art-therapy, its teleology and describes the therapeutic measures. The presentation contains the results of research on the application of therapeutic measures for adolescents. The author provides his comments on those results as well as conclusions calling for concrete organizational and methodological changes in rehabilitation centers. The presentation explains the notion of individualization of the social rehabilitation measures. In addition the author refers to the findings of its own research of different forms of individualization of the social rehabilitation measures applied in practice in the rehabilitation centers. The author identifies the need for the rationalization of the social rehabilitation process in the researched centers through, among others, the introduction of the uniform daily schedules and the core curriculum of social rehabilitation. Such solutions should lead to better organization and specification of the social rehabilitation measures. Therefore, Michal Kranc proposes the following areas of rehabilitation measures: shaping pro-family attitudes, shaping social skills, shaping emotional self-control, shaping self-service activities, supporting interpersonal communication, developing intellectual activities, developing interests, prevention of addictions, health education and shaping physical fitness, shaping independence and preparation for the process of independence, preparing minors to care for their own and others' safety. With a view to optimally structure individualized rehabilitation measures, he also decided to construct, on the basis of the research, methodological areas important for the creation of a curriculum basis for rehabilitation education for the educational centers. The areas of rehabilitation measures enable and at the same time encourage the obligation of comprehensive discernment of diagnostic areas as well as the design and implementation of corrective actions in all areas of personal development of the student.

Keywords:

differential treatment, social rehabilitation process, social rehabilitation measures, therapy, antisocial disorders

BORDERS, VIOLENCE AND GAMES. AN ETHNOGRAPHY ON ILLEGAL PUSHBACKS FROM SLOVENIA AND CROATIA

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Seeking to reach Europe, thousands of people have been resorting to the Balkan Migration Routes. Here people on the move (POM) attempt multiple times the game to reach the EU while facing violence and pushbacks performed by security authorities. This paper offers an ethnographic investigation conducted for two months in Velika Kladusa with POM subjected to pushbacks and chain-pushbacks from Slovenia and Croatia towards Bosnia-Herzegovina. Engaging in participant observation and in-depth interviews, the paper's main aim is to investigate police violence (physical and psychological) delivered to the undocumented migrant population by bringing into the debate the knowledge produced on "the other side of the border."

To this extent, the first section discusses the need to look at police violence as part of a broader violent context made of limited regular means of entry to the EU, border securitization, criminalization of undocumented migration, and police impunity. The second section investigates how police violence is enforced and its role by drawing from the findings of the field. The study recognizes a recurring pattern in the way violence is implemented and provides that police violence has a specific role in pushbacks to the extent that it is recognized as a recurring pattern in the way such violence is enforced. Consequently, it is underlined the irruption of violence as a tool for controlling the migratory fluxes with the purpose of physically exhausting people on the move, slowing them down, and preventing them from attempting another game. Finally, the paper discusses that borders are not insurmountable, and POM eventually succeed in reaching the much-heralded EU. However, they access as wounded people with injuries on their bodies and minds and whose time has been stolen from the realization of their life potential.

Keywords:

Balkan migration route; pushbacks; ethnography; police violence; border control

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Criminological studies of social harms extensively document intersections of power and the production of harm, revealing how the actions of the powerful in the public and private sectors expose (typically) less powerful groups to harm often with impunity. Whilst this scholarship provides much needed insight into the often minimised or dismissed harms of the powerful, attention must also be paid to the agency of the victimised and the outcomes of their active efforts to resist such harms. To this end, this paper expands the criminological scholarship on social harms and the fast-growing field of online social resistance by providing new insights on how the dynamics of resistance by ordinary citizens, people not generally considered part of the powerful capitalist elite, can nevertheless produce social harms. The paper uses the example of online resistance to the COVID-19 digital tracing app in England and Wales to unravel how empowering social media affordances facilitate public agency by enabling resistance to the perceived harms of powerful actors whilst at the same time producing the social harm of information pollution.

Keywords:

Social harms; digital harms; COVID-19; resistance; information pollution

NARRATIVES OF BLAME AND ABSOLUTION: FRAMING AND MANAGING DIGITAL RISKS IN HARMFUL SHARENTING PRACTICES

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Harmful sharenting – that is, the harmful sharing of identifying and sensitive information of minors, who are often overexposed online by parents or guardians – is a matter of criminological interest not only for its criminogenic potential, but also as a digital behaviour that, while carried out by many and normalised in certain contexts, is evaluated negatively by others because of the potentially negative implications suffered by the minors exposed online. Developed in the context of the UK ESRC ProTechThem project, and by relying on a digital ethnography carried out on a range of social media (British and Italian) groups, this contribution focuses on the narratives and counternarratives used both by sharenters and by those condemning sharenting practices within the same digital spaces. By exploring these issues, the study advances current understanding of how social media user frame and manage digital risks, and provides new insights on the contested nature of what is or can be considered as ‘deviant’ or socially harmful in digital spaces.

Keywords:

sharenting; social harms; digital risks; digital ethnography; social media

DYNAMICS OF SOCIAL HARMS IN AN ALGORITHMIC CONTEXT

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Growing evidence suggests that the affordances of algorithms can reproduce socially embedded bias and discrimination, increase the information asymmetry and power imbalances in socioeconomic relations. We conceptualise these affordances in the context of socially mediated mass harms. We argue that algorithmic technologies may not alter what harms arise but, instead, affect harms qualitatively—that is, how and to what extent they emerge and on whom they fall. Using the example of well-documented cases of algorithmic failures, we integrate the concerns identified in critical algorithm studies with the literature on social harm and zemiology. Reorienting the focus from socioeconomic to socio-econo-technological structures, we illustrate how algorithmic technologies transform the dynamics of social harm production on macro and meso levels by: (1) systematising bias and inequality; (2) accelerating harm propagation on an unprecedented scale; and (3) blurring the perception of harms. The proliferation of algorithmic technologies has had and will continue to have an influence on the ability of nation-states to affect social harms. Thus, future research on social harms in environments affected by technological changes should consider the varying affordances for both harm production and alleviation that different technological configurations may have.

Keywords:

algorithms; social harm

FINNISH HARM REDUCTION REGIME: THE CASE OF AUTOMATION IN FINNISH IMMIGRATION SERVICES

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Since 2015, the decision-making process of Finnish Immigration Services has come under public scrutiny. First, because the numbers of applications for international protection and then for work-based residence permits have reached unprecedented numbers. Secondly, because the financial and personnel resources available to conduct the agency's operations have declined, leading to long processing periods and an array of harms among the applicant population. Automating part of the decision-making process offered a plausible solution to the efficiency problem; however, it was hampered by features inherent in the Finnish constitutional system. The applicants most likely avoided potential algorithmic harms of pre-maturely implemented automated systems. However, possible algorithmic solutions to pre-existing analogue harms have been prevented as well. We position this dilemma in a zemiological framework, drawing attention to the fractures in the features of Finnish harm reduction regime. The gaps between AI-policies and their implementation show that in Finland, the neoliberal voices are attracting stronger support. In addition, the analogue harms signposted in this paper are connected to inherent contradictions underpinning the welfare paradigm. The tension between restrictive immigration and welfare policies and the distinction between those deserving and those undeserving, undermines the alleviating qualities of Finnish system, posing a question to whom the harm reduction regime and solidarity of less harmful societies is extended. This, on the one hand, highlights the necessity to reassess the welfare state regimes based on the inclusion and exclusion of different migrant groups (Ustek and Alastalo, 2020), on the other hand, questions the less harmful society status of Nordic welfare states.

Keywords:

social harm, automated-decision making, AI-governance, algorithmic harms, zemiology

THE DE-INSTITUTIONALISATION OF THE ASYLUM AND THE RE-ENTRY PROCESS OF THE PATIENTS IN ITALY: A QUALITATIVE CASE STUDY

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By Law 81/2014, Italy established the definitive closure of the remaining 6 Judicial Psychiatric Hospitals (OPG), which were considered the residual asylums in contrast with the principle of voluntariness of the mental health care that underpins the so-called “Basaglia Law”. The Law 180 of 1978 first, and the Law 81/2014 later marked the separation between the penitentiary and the National Healthcare System and the beginning of the deinstitutionalization of all asylums in Italy. At the same time, in 2014 the Residences for the Execution of Security Measures (REMS) have been established as a transitional social measure addressed to those people assessed as not guilty by reason of insanity (NGRI) and socially dangerous. Our work aims to observe how the social order that objectified an individual as NGRI socially dangerous affected the everyday life of those who have transited through the OPG and the REMS, especially focusing on the subjectivation effects after the dismissal process. This qualitative research moves from the macro-analysis to the infra-politic of the everyday life adopting an approach that combine a socio-historical analysis of the Italian forensic institutions with qualitative data collected during a broader one-year ethnographic research conducted in local housing community. In particular will be show data collected using shadowing technique. The data analysis process has been driven by the works of Erving Goffman, especially the concepts of moral career and stigma. The case study of a patient who has experienced both confinements in the OPG and REMS, and who is currently engaged in a social reintegration path will be presented marking out how this specific moral career performs a transitional ontology despoiled of an objective referent but embodied in its pragmatic effects in terms of process subjectification that affect a dismissed person. The shadowing technique combined with a genealogy of the Italian forensic institutions turned out to be useful in delving into mundane patterns of everyday thought and action that characterized the re-entry process.

Keywords:

asylum; ethnography; shadowing; moral career; subjectivation processes.

“THEY WOULD THROW YOU INTO A ROOM...”. PRISONERS’ PANDEMIC EXPERIENCE WITHIN AN ITALIAN CORRECTIONAL FACILITY

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The coronavirus pandemic has been – and continues to be – a global phenomenon that has profoundly affected and changed various aspects of everyone’s life. However, its effects, as might be expected, have had particularly dramatic repercussions among marginalised, excluded and stigmatised social groups, such as imprisoned people. Starting from a qualitative study, conducted using semi-structured interviews (N=26) with a sample of male prisoners incarcerated in a northern Italy correctional facility, this presentation aims to trace their detention experience during the coronavirus pandemic. It will focus on 1) the first months of “closure” during the lockdown, which has seen at the national level a process of decarceration following the use of alternative measures to prison such as house arrest 2) the following year (summer 2020/summer 2021) during which the decarceration has stopped and the prison management has been characterised by a continuous alternation between hesitant attempts to re-open up (resuming the activities that had been suspended with the aim of returning, slowly, to an everyday prison life similar to the pre-pandemic period) and immediate closures (of the activities, the contacts with the outside world, and the opportunities for prisoners to meet) following the recurrent increases in contagions within the prison. The interviewees’ accounts open up a glimpse into the official narrative of pandemic management where the various restrictions imposed were justified as indispensable health protection measures. What such experiences tell us is the material management of this emergency that has generated further profound suffering on prisoners, reaffirming once again the dramatic construction of prisoners’ otherness, as inferiorised individuals considered deserving of degrading treatment and practices.

Keywords:

prison; pandemic; covid-19; suffering; Italy

THE IMPACT OF ACTIVISM IN CASES OF DISAPPEARANCES OF WOMEN AND LGTBQ+ PEOPLE. AN INTERPRETATION FROM AND ABOUT ARGENTINIAN REALITIES

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This presentation aims to address the relevance of the legal impact of social movements and other members of civil society in cases of women and LGTBQ+ disappearances. This is part of the activism that struggles to overcome the impunity that characterizes gender-based violence against women and the LGTBQ+ community in Argentina.

Social movements and members of the civil society are often considered to be irrelevant to account for the legal world. However, their activism and practices are an example of the way they contribute to make access to justice effective. They have built mechanisms to overcome impunity and discriminatory practices before the lack of judicial response to the disappearance of a young trans man. They also challenged the hermetic logic of the judicial system.

To this end, we will focus on a specific case study: the research and judicial proceeding regarding the disappearance of Tehuel. He is a trans man (22 years old) who has disappeared in March 2021 when he left his home to go to a job interview.

Although two people were charged with the crime of “doubly aggravated homicide”, Tehuel’s body has not been found. The presentation will be divided into three parts. First, we will briefly introduce the case and the situation of disappearances of women and LGTBQ+ people in Argentina. Second, we will focus on social movements and members of the civil society who have had a role in the struggle against impunity regarding the case. Finally, we will present short reflections on the way activism has impacted on the research of Tehuel and on the judicial proceeding.

Keywords:

civil society; activism; judicial system; impunity; LGTBQ+; disappearances; access to justice.

THE ORGANISATION OF STATE-CORPORATE CRIME AND VIOLENCE IN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

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The COVID-19 crisis has brought to light numerous structural vulnerabilities within construction industries. Despite this potential for harm against workers due to 'endogenous' corporate-industrial-state processes, a significant amount of blame is instead allocated to individual 'cowboy builders' who exploit subcontracted workers, or 'exogenous' organised criminal groups who perpetrate crimes such as human trafficking. This blame on individual and external actors is unhelpful, because it shifts discussion on solutions away from deeper rooted explanations for crime and harm contained within licit state-industrial-corporate relations. Drawing on empirical work and secondary analysis from the UK and Finnish construction industries, the aim of this study is to contribute a deep-rooted analysis of construction industry harms that originate from corporate-industrial-state processes. The UK context arguably represents a classic 'neoliberal' system categorised by privatisation of services and minimal regulation, whereas Finland broadly provides a 'social democratic' alternative with its relatively strong national regulation and public sector oversight of industry. These concepts interlink strongly with the notion of state-corporate crime, since this perspective shifts attention away from individualistic explanations for harmful activity towards symbiosis between political and economic decision making (i.e. between states and corporations), which forms the theoretical contribution of this work.

Keywords:

covid-19; state-corporate crime; harm

WOMEN WITH CHILDREN SERVING NON-CUSTODIAL SENTENCES: LEGAL AND PROFESSIONAL CULTURE OF MAGISTRATES AND SOCIAL WORKERS

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This presentation proposal is related to a research project still in progress, entitled “Punished Mothers: Women with Children Serving Sentences”, which aims to conduct a socio-legal analysis of how the sentences of women with underage children are produced and enforced, and the repercussions on their conditions in prison or in non-custodial solutions outside, with particular reference to the situation in the provinces of Padua and Rovigo (Italy). The paper presents a qualitative analysis of the point of view of some specific operators involved in non custodial solutions outside prison (supervision by the social services, house arrest, and group homes): territorial social workers and social support providers at the UEPE (the local External Criminal Enforcement Office) and magistrates. The point of view of these operators was reconstructed through interviews and analysis of judicial files, aimed at highlighting their legal and professional culture. This is a particularly innovative aspect of the project, since the little sociological research on women sentenced for criminal offences has focused almost only on women in prison. The main findings show how elements such as ethnicity, geographical origin, legal status, social class, level of education and social network and resources availability, take effect in differentiating the sentences processes and the experiences of women, as well the treatment by the legal practitioners and social workers. In particular, what seems to really matter in influencing the sentencing process and the social workers’ and judges’ attitude is the possibility for the women to exhibit a series of elements of “social reliability”, which are represented by both “objective” elements (work, home, motherhood, previous penalties, etc.) and from “subjective” elements (attitude towards institutions, ability or not to perform the role of the “good condemned”). After a general analysis of these elements, the presentation will focus on the specific criminalization processes aimed at Roma women.

Keywords:

Mothers, non-custodial sentences, legal culture, professional culture, Italy

THE CULTURE OF WOMEN'S ANGER AS A RESPONSE TO THE RULE OF THE ULTRA-RIGHT IN POLAND

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In 1989 Poland went through a political transformation. After democratic elections, it began its new phase as a state under the rule of law. It had to separate itself from the past, leave the influence of socialist Russia and enter the circle of capitalist Western countries. The socialist economy was rejected and replaced by the invisible hand of the free market. The imposed supremacy of atheistic ideology was to be replaced by religious freedom. Sexual freedom for women was to be part of private life, abortion was to be allowed. However, in these last two areas, this did not happen. The political elite of the time made an unwritten pact with the Catholic Church. Firstly, in terms of values, the Catholic Church had a monopoly, which manifests itself in the preservation of 'sexual ethics', hence the anti-abortion law, the presence of religious symbols in public space and the power-backed hostility towards the LGBT+ community. In exchange for its privileged role, the Church alleviated the unrest and conflicts accompanying the political transition. Almost imperceptibly, Poland began to be a religious state. This became fully apparent when the Law and Justice party came to power in 2015.

When the restriction of the right to abortion due to fetal deformity began to be significantly debated in 2016, many women took to the streets to demonstrate against such a change. This was the beginning of a new feminist movement that became a mass movement. Women began to demonstrate their anger. This social movement was also reflected in art. Women's groups such as Black Rags, which began to exist in the public space, theatrical plays directly referring to this issue, as well as exhibitions such as Polki, Patriotki, Rebeliantki.

In her book *A World Without Women*, Agnieszka Graff argues that the lack of women in Polish public life, together with the domination of the Catholic Church, has led to the consolidation of forms of patriarchy which have directly translated into the restriction of the

Keywords:

political transformation, patriarchy, women's rights, abortion ban, culture of anger

COUNTER-MAPPING SECTION 60 ‘SUSPICIONLESS’ STOPS AND SEARCHES: SOME METHODOLOGICAL REFLECTIONS

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In 2019, to encourage police to conduct more stops and searches in the ‘fight’ against ‘knife crime’, the Conservative government relaxed their official guidance regarding the use of ‘suspicionless’ search powers – that is, search powers that do not require police to form legally articulable suspicion of wrongdoing before they are exercised. As a result, the number of searches conducted under Section 60 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 increased more than 5 times from the 2017–18 to 2018–29 financial year (from 2,503 searches to 13,175 searches). The Metropolitan Police conducted nearly three-quarters of all Section 60 stops and searches in that period.

But while police and politicians have maintained that Section 60 powers are necessary to combat ‘knife crime’, a low weapons ‘find rate’ (of approximately 2%) suggests that police are using their Section 60 powers to achieve other objectives like carrying out surveillance, gathering intelligence, and imposing their authority.

To determine where, when, and why police have used Section 60 powers following the repeal of the government’s guidance, I am using Geographic Information System (GIS) software to ‘counter-map’ every Section 60 order made in London from 1 August 2019 to 31 July 2020. Freedom of Information requests lodged for this project show that over 500 Section 60 orders were made in London during this period. A significant proportion of these orders were made in places where police have experienced multi-generational conflict with Black communities who have resisted police and state violence, including Tottenham and Hackney.

In this paper, taking my work on Section 60 as a case study, I will explore the methodological value of ‘counter-mapping’ police practice to illustrate the mutually constitutive relationship between ‘crime-prone areas’ and the deployment of police resources, and the (im)practicalities of turning police data ‘on its head’ to do so.

Keywords:

Stop and search; Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994; Metropolitan Police; counter-map; Freedom of Information

LOCKED DOWN AND LOCKED UP: PANDEMIC EXPERIENCES OF INCARCERATED PEOPLE

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Early in the Covid-19 pandemic public health authorities and human rights groups advocated immediate decarceration of overcrowded prisons to save lives and stop the spread of the virus. Globally, an estimated 6 percent of people in prison were released. Those who remained incarcerated were subjected to a “lockdown” regime bordering on long-term solitary confinement in many jurisdictions – including the site of our research HM Prisons England & Wales. Our original empirical evidence collected by peer-researchers across HMPPS estate during the Covid-19 lockdown outlines the ramifications of this decision, examining the social harms experienced by incarcerated people in that jurisdiction. The purported ‘rehabilitation’ function of imprisonment was eradicated and the foundations of ‘wellbeing’ stripped away. Contrary to the myth of ‘violence reduction’ widely circulated, we found that violence instead manifested in less transparent ways, while pent up frustrations increased the risk of violent outbreaks. With peers reporting the maintenance of harsh restrictions as lockdown restrictions lifted, the application of a ‘new normal’ of restricted regimes raises questions about this punitive turn, and the implications for the decarceration project.

Keywords:

Covid-19; prison; rehabilitation

POLICING FACES AND FEELINGS: FROM MUGSHOTS TO EMOTION DETECTION TECHNOLOGIES

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Following physiognomic and phrenological codes, the possibility of reading the inner character of an individual through their outer appearance was raised in the 19th century, making links between the human face and criminal behaviour (Lombroso, Galton, etc). While the 'science' of criminal anthropology fell into disrepute long ago, surprisingly the idea of the face as a window onto the criminal soul has not simply survived but gained momentum on account of the rise of artificial intelligence (AI), machine learning and big data. Bringing the camera upon the face of those deemed suspicious, different AI tools have been developed with the purpose of predicting and inferring criminality. Today machines are believed to be able to read facial features and make inferences about who we are. Consider, for instance, the police use of automated tools such as facial recognition. The development of these technologies is linked to the capability of matching a person's photographic image to an existing database. However, they can also be associated to claims that is possible to predict and infer criminality through analyzing micro-expressions of emotion on a subject's face (eg. Vibraimage). These claims are reinforced with black-boxed assertions and promises of scientific objectivity, accuracy and bias-free algorithmic decision making. This presentation aims to historically contextualise models that aim to infer criminality based on facial appearance and how their outdated logic still persists. Given the emergence of automated tools that aim to make probabilistic predictions regarding the subjects' inner feelings and future behaviour based on their facial features and movements, this will allow us to critically engage with old and new problems presented with the use of cameras in policing and security when trying to capture facial features and emotions .

Keywords:

artificial intelligence; emotion; policing

PLATFORM CAPITALISM AND LABOUR DISCONTENT

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Digital platforms have been big winners of the economic recession resulting from the pandemic that began in 2020. Capital in the recessionary phase is concentrated in fewer owners, increasing power over the market in fewer players. The large digital platforms, with their control of large amounts of data and their austerity in their own assets, seem a priori to be the best placed to take advantage of this type of crisis.

These large corporations aim to become large monopolies, at the expense of small businesses. In a process of wild accumulation of capital, they try to create new markets where their position is dominant, or if they participate in existing productive sectors, they are a great threat to competition. The classic example is the effect that Amazon has had on bookstores. At the same time, Jeff Bezos's company produces its own books (it allows authors to self-publish, skipping the step of belonging to a publisher) and markets its own electronic book reader. Amazon has become expert in generating its own logistics chain. In the same way, Glovo opens its own supermarket, to increase its profits by avoiding feeding other more traditional food distribution companies.

But the conditions of the workers on these platforms are truly miserable. In the case of Barcelona-based Glovo, it has repeatedly violated the laws which protect workers' safety, keeping them as false "entrepreneurs of themselves", and there have even been workplace accidents involving riders.

In May 2019, a Glovo driver died on the streets of Barcelona while transporting meals on his bicycle. He was hit by a garbage collection truck. What responsibility did Glovo assume for the death of PujanKoirala, a twenty-two-year man? No one. This would be to assume that there is an employment relationship and that not all "entrepreneurs of themselves" are brilliant young people who create a start-up in their garage, but rather young people who die because the new feudal lords do not consider it necessary to consider that their workers must have the appropriate security measures.

Recovering notions such as white-collar crime, social harm, or corporate crime, what damage do the emerging digital platforms cause to the rights of workers in accelerated postfordist capitalism?

Keywords:

Digital Platforms, Precarity, Postfordism, Social Harm, Smart Cities

POLICING THE POOR: AN INTRODUCTION TO PATRICK COLQUHOUN : CLASS WARRIOR AND AN ARCHITECT OF THE INDUSTRIAL CAPITALIST STATE

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Patrick Colquhoun (1745– 1820) appears in the histories of slavery, colonial North America, Glasgow, transportation, Chambers of Commerce, statistics, the industrial revolution, social policy, the reform of the English poor laws, education, labour regulation, British imperialism and the development of policing in London.

This paper provides a brief biographical sketch of Colquhoun, highlighting how his career developed and his substantial body of published writings. It argues that collectively these can be seen as linked interventions intended to fabricate the superstructure of the British imperial state in ways that facilitated the global development of British capitalism.

Michael Brogden (1982: 137) described Colquhoun as “the patron saint of the police institution” but my research indicates a much wider impact on state institutions. Colquhoun had a vision of a state that both liberated and supported capital accumulation and policed the poor. Much of his vision was achieved both in his lifetime and in the following two centuries.

Keywords:

Patrick Colquhoun; policing; police; fabrication of state institutions; developing the capitalist state.

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSIBILITY AND MYSTIFICATION IN UK QUALITY PRESS COVERAGE OF MIGRATION JOURNEYS

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This paper takes inspiration from Steven Box's (1983) work on the mystification of crimes of the powerful to help explain how systemic racism is reproduced in contemporary news media. It reflects upon how mystification might be understood to operate now by focusing, in particular, upon the obfuscation of racialised harms of hostile migration policies. Drawing upon an in-depth content analysis of mainstream 'quality' print news in the UK, the paper will first critically examine how life threatening migrant journeys have been framed in ways that routinely obscure crimes of the powerful. It will compare coverage in the Times and the Guardian newspapers since 2020, paying particular attention to the similarities and differences in newsworthy themes, narrative framing and the positioning of humanitarianism. It will consider the role of racialised crisis narratives that criminalise migrants and acts of undertaking, or assisting, such journeys. It will also examine how state bordering policies and practices that exacerbate dangers, such as 'push backs', are represented within public discourse in ways that journalists fail to challenge. In this, the aim is to critically assess both how forced migrant journeys are constructed in mainstream 'quality' news, and how this media holds state and other powerful actors to account for exercising (or not exercising) humanitarian responsibility in relation to those journeys.

Keywords:

migration, dangerous journeys, humanitarianism, media framing, mystification

UNDERSTANDING TOGETHER THE TRANSFORMATION OF CAPITALISM AND OF PENAL ABOLITIONISM: THE VALUE OF CONDUCTING A SOCIAL AND TRANSNATIONAL HISTORY OF ITS IDEAS AND MOBILISATIONS.

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Penal abolitionism is a social movement, a theoretical perspective and a political strategy situated at the crossroads of the academia and activism. It is committed to resisting and contesting penal logics, policies, and practices, as well as constructing and promoting other forms of social regulation. Since its inception at the turn of the 1970s, penal abolitionism has incorporated individuals and groups from across Western Europe, especially from the Scandinavian countries, the Netherlands, Germany, and the United Kingdom. Since the beginning of the abolitionist movements, several critical criminologists have played a significant role both in mobilisations and in the development of abolitionist theories and strategies. Some of them, such as Thomas Mathiesen and Louk Hulsman, held important positions in their countries' institutions and influenced penal reform. In this context of revolutionary optimism, many believed that prison would soon disappear.

However, from the mid-1980s, abolitionism entered a period of marginalisation in Europe under the impact of the economic crises, the rise of neoliberalism, and the concomitant penal intensification. From that moment on, in many countries, abolitionists were seen as "sociological dinosaurs, unreconstituted hangovers from the profound but doomed schisms of the late 1960s" (Sim, 1994). And abolitionism, as critical thinking about deviance and social control, has had to adapt, often in a defensive mode, to the transformations of capitalism, whether it relied on carceral, technological or penal populist tactics. How did this happen? My presentation, based on my dissertation work, will propose a useful methodology for understanding this complex history of abolitionism in Europe with the tools of the social sciences. In order to grasp together the transformations of capitalism and of abolitionist theories and strategies, it will demonstrate the value of relying on a social and transnational history of abolitionist ideas and mobilisations.

Keywords:

penal abolitionism movement, ideas, history

TOWARDS CRITICAL, SELF-REFLECTIVE NOMOI: NOMOS AS FOUNDATIONAL TO A GLOBAL CRIMINOLOGICAL IMAGINATION

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In a forest of problems for criminology 2 tower high: 1. Why is it so difficult to make critical perspectives bite with the public, and 2. What are the processes that reduce and limit any imaginative grasp we have of the world.

Common sense plays a constraining role, but what is it and how does it constrain? Against common sense I propose critical, self-reflective nomi. '[self]Reflexive nomi' combines two terms, nomoi, the plural of nomos and reflexive, denoting self-conscious, capable of reflection and possibly ironical as to its presuppositions and, in turn, temporal or transitional. The word nomos derives from the Greek νόμος, *nómos* (pl. *νόμοι*, *nómoi*) which means 'law' but also 'pasture, field; division, distribution; district, province'. It denotes that law is always an active thing, it involves living but within spatial, bounded horizons. But if we take the horizon as the total globe?

Localities in the world are specific yet interlinked and co-constituted places of normative understanding and life work, in other words, multiple specific nomos, a world of 'nomoi'. The word reflexive denotes that they are always fixed yet capable of self-reflection and change, stable yet fluid. The project begins by integrating the three main contemporary interpretations of nomos and applying it to criminology as a form of meta-language or meta-positioning making more visible the decolonial, the north south divide, the epistemological crushing of the indigenous and the search for cognitive justice.

These three are 1. Carl Schmitt (in particular his *The Nomos of the Earth*, 1950) on a global level highlighting multiple relations of 'lawful' dominance and subjection, 2. Robert Cover (*Nomos and Narrative*, 1983) at a nation-state level wherein we inhabit a normative everyday universe of right and wrong, of adherence to the narratives of our 'society/place'. 3. Peter Berger (*The Sacred Canopy*, 1967), wherein at an individual view of life and death, nomos is an eschatological shield against terror. Combined thus critical, [self]reflexive nomoi provides a metalanguage of normative positioning for actors doing criminology, both academically and 'publicly'. It enables a greater self-confidence for the 'critical'.

Keywords:

nomos; critical criminology

THE CRISIS OF THE PRISON AS A NOT REVERSIBLE PROCESS. OPEN QUESTIONS TO ABOLISH IT.

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This paper first aims to focus the roots of not reversible crisis of the prison. They can be discovered analysing the coexistence of structural and over structural processes. The structure can be referred to the combination of the ultimate crisis of the fundamental prison functions (retribution, re-education, prevention) with the persistent latent functions of it (mainly managing marginality control and public consent). The over structural processes have to do with the substantial failure of every reform attempt, the essential ambivalence of it, the impossibility of a real re-education in prison, the weakness of every attempt of implementing and protecting human rights in it. All that leads to the clear demonstration that the prison is a definitively obsolete institution, and it needs to be replaced with totally different approaches and means to the illegal and antisocial behaviour. All that opens a series of questions, like: is possible to dismiss the prison while preserving criminal law? What can be the possible steps of prison abolition; How is possible to conciliate the humanisation of the prisons, reduction of damage and an abolitionist perspective? According to which conditions the restorative justice can be applied in the abolitionist deal? And much else.

Keywords:

Crisis, structure, overstructure, abolition, questions

POLICE ABOLITION AND RACIALIZED STRUCTURES IN THE SCANDINAVIAN WELFARE STATES

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This presentation will put forward for discussion some preliminary results from a study of police abolitionism in the context of racialized structures in Scandinavia. Through a genealogy of penal abolitionist ideas and a review of police research in Scandinavia as related to the USA, we aim to highlight two central differences which have characterized these fields of abolitionism. 1) There is a long tradition of penal abolitionism in Scandinavian research and activism. This has predominantly focused on the prison system. The police have often been included in penal abolitionist thought, but predominantly only as a part of a general critique towards the criminal justice system. Police as an institution has not received much attention in Scandinavian abolitionism. The US penal abolitionism has, on the other hand, channeled its police critique toward calls for a fundamental change of the police as an institution, through the defund and abolish the police approaches. Furthermore, the US penal abolitionism rests on a fundament of critique of the inherent racism within the police, while racism has mostly been absent from Scandinavian abolitionism. 2) In both Scandinavia and the USA there are seemingly a high trust in the welfare state as a solution, although in different ways. One strain in the US police abolitionist debate is the call for replacing the police institution with welfare state institutions as a manner of addressing social harm. While in Scandinavia there are already strong welfare state institutions in place, which has not necessarily solved the issue of racialized structures and biases in social control, and abolitionist thought has also been directed towards other institutions of social control. In the presentation we wish to discuss these differences and use them as a looking glass for highlighting strains and trends within penal abolitionist thought as it relates to racialized structures in Scandinavia.

Keywords:

Police abolition, penal abolition, welfare state, racism, Scandinavia.

EVANGELICAL WINGS, STRATEGIES OF ORDER MAINTENANCE.

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This presentation approaches the question about the governmental dynamics in “evangelical wings”. An “evangelical wing” is an area of cells within a male prison in certain provinces in Argentina which has a peculiar hierarchy among the inmates and a set of rules, dynamics and activities legitimized through religion. This area enjoys considerable autonomy from prison officers and authorities. However, the limits to such autonomy become evident in different ways and at different moments. The first evangelical wings emerged in the country during the 1980s. Since then, its number multiplied, particularly in some provincial prison services. This phenomenon has an increasing complexity and acquires a peculiar importance in terms of the articulations it generates with regard to prison governance. This presentation explores this phenomenon, first briefly describes the characteristics of the prisoners’ hierarchy within an evangelical wing, indicating their different positions and roles. Then, It analyzes in detail the different strategies and practices—proactive and reactive—of order maintenance within this type of area. Finally, It introduce some comments about the main terms being use –by the literature on prisons in Latin America– to abord the problem of inmate’s participation in the prison governance. This presentation based on a fieldwork made from November 2018 to April 2019 in a male prison in Santa Fe, Argentina. Altogether, eleven in–depth interviews were carried out to inmates and nine interviews were carried out to prison officers and authorities working at this prison.

Keywords:

Prison, Co–Governance, Religion, Evangelical Wings, Social Order

DISRUPTING REFORM NARRATIVES IN THE CARING STATE: GRASSROOTS AND ABOLITIONIST ACTIVISM IN 1970/80S AND PRESENT-DAY SCOTLAND

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In Scottish penal reform, the language of community, partnership, second chances and service provision pervade, how then can anti-carceral activism and scholarship be made visible, to deepen our understanding of liberal reform and strengthen efforts to resist and transform? This research develops a vital challenge to benevolent state discourses and serves as a caution to those aspiring to Scottish exceptionalism.

Grounded in a critique of Scottish 'Community Justice' reform, this research seeks out challenges and disruptions to penal expansion, austerity, and narratives of individualised and community deficit. It brings together for the first time, prisoner protest, anti-carceral campaigns and abolitionist movements in Scotland from the 1970/80s and the present-day. Combining interviews with contemporary and archival material to explore how such movements resist co-optation, expose harm and proffer alternative conceptualisations of 'community justice'.

This paper will explore these disruptions and how they can strengthen resistance to the cycles of reform which have failed to reduce the highest prison population in Europe for decades. As abolitionist perspectives galvanise research and resistance worldwide, it is necessary to reflect upon their resonance in outside of the usual context, in states with progressive reputations.

Keywords:

archive, abolition, activism, community justice, Scotland

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Extant research has established that a tipping point of penal convergence occurred during the global pandemic, evidenced via the implementation of draconian measures. Yet, existing research has not assessed the impact of these shifts in mitigating or exacerbating harms within prisons, nor has research monitored whether draconian measures have been normalised in the post-COVID-19 context.

This paper examines how emergency powers implemented and sustained in prisons, in response to the pandemic, signal penal transitions towards authoritarianism. Utilising a social harm lens, we chart how countries responded to the COVID-19 pandemic in prisons worldwide. Drawing upon official statistics and multiple policy sources from countries capturing the spectrum of democracy/authoritarianism, we answer the following questions:

- What is the relationship between handling the COVID-19 pandemic, political economy, and democracy?
- To what extent do the countries that are more prone to authoritarian measures readily replicate the draconian COVID-19 measures in prisons?
- How do these transitions produce intended (e.g., a better-than-projected rate of COVID-19 infection and deaths) and potentially unintended harmful outcomes (e.g., violence) for prisoners?
- What evidence is there that draconian measures adopted in the context of a national emergency have become normalised in the post-COVID-19 context?
- How could we ensure that the emergency measures are rolled back, considering the crisis has subsided?

Keywords:

Global pandemic, penal harms, authoritarian

BRAZILIAN NECROPOLITICS: WHAT CAN BE LEARNT FROM TRANSLATING CONTEXTS?

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For this presentation I am proposing an exercise which consists on bringing some recent production in Brazil that is dealing with necropolitics framing. Understanding framing as power dynamics and as an epistemological issue (Butler, 2009) I dialogue with three recent Brazilian texts from different perspectives. In fact, since Mbembe's *Necropolitics* [2003](2016) was translated in Portuguese, a lot of production is arising to explain different realities from various disciplines. One text is interrogating colonial slavery heritage that led to actual power of the Brazilian state to kill and incarcerate black people (BENTO, 2018). The second text starts in the military dictatorship in Brazil to explain ordinary police violence and racism against trans people in the streets (CAVALCANTI et al 2018). The last and latest text is a collective production – gathering activists, academics, sex workers, trans and cis authors – that during the pandemic context in Brazil are arguing about labour rights for sex workers as a response to state necropolitical violence (SANTOS et al, 2021). So in this presentation I want to question if it is possible to translate this contexts and how could they be understood in complete different contexts – such as in Italy. From an intersectional, decolonial and transfeminist approach I would like to discuss how does necropolitics and consequently the debates and terminology it entails can communicate in the “global north”.

Keywords:

Brazilian Necropolitics; intersectional, decolonial and transfeminist approach

'STATUE WARS': PUNITIVE RESPONSES TO ANTI-RACIST CULTURAL ACTIVISM IN THE US AND THE UK

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In the wake of the Black Lives Matter protests in the summer of 2020, statues became a focal point for global debates about histories of colonialism, slavery and racial violence, and their imbrications with contemporary structural inequalities. Across the world, monuments have come under increasing scrutiny, leading to topplings by activists, removals by local authorities and a wide range of reviews and commissions to consider their future.

Drawing on research conducted with the Centre on the Dynamics of Ethnicity, University of Manchester, this paper looks to the UK and the US to trace how governments have responded to this upsurge. In both contexts, the state has reacted swiftly to punish anti-racist activists targeting statues through harsh criminal justice measures, alongside the introduction of broader anti-protest legislation. The paper examines the narratives and imaginations that have been mobilised in political and public debate about contested monuments, identifying a series of recurring, interconnected and sometimes contradictory narratives that have been vital in justifying and normalising the harsh punishment of activists. By claiming that those contesting statues are seeking to erase history, that they are immature and unreasonable, and that cultural activism around contested monuments is destructive and nihilistic, conservative politicians and commentators have secured a narrative that has been reproduced and entrenched in punitive policy and political responses to the protests. Yet these claims, I argue, are rooted in strategic denial, amnesia and obfuscation.

The paper situates these responses within a broader reactionary political project that denies or dismisses structural inequalities, delegitimises anti-racist politics and normalises discriminatory and punitive policy reactions. In doing so it argues that strategies of ignorance, broadly conceived, are vitally important to current 'culture wars' around cultural activism and contested heritage, and to the contemporary politics of punishment.

Keywords:

Black Lives Matter; activism; statues; punishment; ignorance

FROM ANOTHER PLACE: FEMINIST PERSPECTIVES ON THE EFFECTS OF THE PANDEMICS ON GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE IN ITALY

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Based on the literature on gender impacts of health emergencies, this paper focuses on interventions aimed at protecting women victims of gender-based violence during the Covid-19 pandemic in Italy, from the point of view of the AV centers practitioners surveyed by the National Research Council during the 1st phase of the health crisis. AV practitioners are historically at the forefront in supporting women survivors of male violence, and hold a “borderline” position, which lies between the political role of social transformation and that of an actor of the private social provider of an ‘essential’ public service. The survey underline the structural problems that the pandemic has amplified and the possible actions to be undertaken in order to promote a structural change that incorporates a gender perspective.

This perspective is consistent with Sandra Walklate’s methodological and epistemological reflections on “lessons from the global pandemic for criminology” and analyses of the gendered impacts of health crises in recent years, arguing for the importance of adopting a feminist perspective in the criminological analysis of pandemic effects on gender-based violence. Unlike the emergency, gender-neutral approaches used by positivist mainstream criminology, feminist perspectives are characterized by an experience-based reflexive methodology and a policy approach aimed at social and cultural change. It is precisely “from this place” that practitioners have been able to interpret the relationship between pandemic and increased violence as “internality,” questioning the “emergency-inside-the-emergency” paradigm, and unraveling the links between pre-existing structural inequalities and violence, and producing knowledge, practices, and recommendations aimed at structural change.

Keywords:

Gender-based violence, Covid-19, Emergency, Anti-violence Centers, Feminist criminology

FROM “ANGELS” TO “NO VAX”: THE CASE OF HEALTH WORKERS BETWEEN MORAL PANIC AND PUNITIVE HEALTHCARE CULTURE.

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I will examine the turn in the public representation of Italian health workers from November 2020 – when the Covid-19 immunisation campaign started in Italy – to the introduction of mandatory vaccination for medical staff in May 2021. Confronted with the spread of the pandemic, media outlets have first presented health workers as national heroes or “Covid-19 Angels” committed to a fight against death. The opening of the vaccination campaign dramatically changes their position in public discourse. A new faction emerges within the army of “angels”, the so-called “no vax”. The latter is the label for professionals working within the Italian national health system who have refused to get vaccinated. Their vaccine hesitancy has raised a wave of social anxiety fostered by media. The latter have turned this group into a potential threat to national health – and by doing so, they have overlooked decades of budget cuts that have made our national health system unable to react to the pandemic efficiently. I intend to analyse this transformation of medical heroes into villains as a case study of moral panic in the age of the new pandemic normality. Drawing upon classic studies on moral panic (Cohen 1971 – Hall et al. 1978) and recent contributions on moral regulation, (unhealthy) risk society and discourse analysis (Critcher 2003) – I will first provide a summary of the development of events that have generated concern about medical workers and led to the birth of the ghoul of the “no vax”. Second, I will illustrate the key features of the DL 44/2021 and the disciplinary measures introduced against unvaccinated health professionals. The decision of the Italian government is of utmost relevance. Italy has been the first country in Europe to make vaccination against Covid-19 compulsory for healthcare workers. For this reason, the law deserves closer scrutiny and careful assessment of its social effects. Finally, I will briefly consider the implicit healthcare model underpinning this government decision: we are moving towards a punitive healthcare culture that will integrate the present culture of control (Garland 2001) with a specific new focus on non-conformist health behaviours.

Keywords:

Moral Panic; Covid-19 Angels; Punitive Healthcare Culture; Health Workers; Mandatory Vaccination

“SAFETY FROM BELOW”: COMMUNITY-BASED ALTERNATIVES TO THE POLICE FOR MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS

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According to recent statistics, a third to half of all people killed by law enforcement officers are those who had been living with a mental health disability. If we are looking towards carceral abolition, the duty of responding to instances of mental health crisis (MHC) is a low-hanging fruit in terms of pinpointing roles that can (and should) be taken away from the police. Although today most people think of police as the only way to respond to MHC, a half a century ago that wasn't the case. There is no alternative to 9-1-1 for crisis situations because the crisis is constituted by the very act of calling 9-1-1—that is, by the willingness with which we invite the police into our communities, our schools, and our homes to resolve issues through the use of force. Because of the expectation that police are able to resolve any crisis that might emerge, people call on them without recognizing the hyper-vulnerability of certain groups to state-sanctioned violence. An effort to dismantle the construct of “mental health crisis” must begin by recognizing it as a misnomer. Influenced by Stuart Hall, I consider Mental Health Crises “as a social relation,” rather than as the crime that the state has defined. In an effort to grapple with the ‘historical conjecture’ of the present, I identify three arcs of carceral history that resulted in the policing of mental health crises: deinstitutionalization of mental asylums; the real estate boom & squeezing of marginal spaces; and, the militarized expansion of the police. Ultimately, I demonstrate that the state—through both deliberate action and more passive neglect—has created the conditions for police abolition.

Keywords:

Abolition, Policing, Mental Health, Historical Conjecture, Carceral State

JUVENILE RE-EDUCATIONS AND THIRD SECTOR. AN ETHNOGRAPHY OF JUVENILE PENAL SYSTEM IN A WELFARE MIX FRAME

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The aim of this contribution is to approach to the juvenile penal system from a different point of view that bring together the dimension of the experience of detention and the world of the third sector (including Civil society actors, volunteering, no-profit organization etc.) in a welfare mix frame.

The field of the juvenile penal system can be understood as an extended situation (Zigon 2015) for the coexistence of different groups of interests in which the subjects, depending on the moment, can create alliance relationships or intergroup opposition. These relationship are influenced by individual goals, roles played, personal expectations and cultural paradigms of reference, as well as the dynamics that influence the labor market. This mechanism can be understood as a non-totalizable assembly (Collier & Ong 2005) where the system of ties, juxtapositions, alliances and clashes cannot be fully understood if not inserted in situation of a larger scale.

If we start from the wider literature that sees the state as inscribed in bodies and in the daily relationships (Fassin 2013, Dei 2017) we can also see it as founded in those relations created ad hoc by the devices that are activated in particular situations. It is therefore not a matter of conceiving the state in the relationships that pre-exist, but of conceiving it as created in the relationships and creator of new relationships.

The objective of an ethnography of the juvenile re-educational scene is to understand through which regimes of truth (Foucault 2014) the presence of the subjects on the ground is affirmed, and how these affect the possibilities of being, say or do. In this context, there seems to be a lack of in-depth reflection on the role of third sector entities that is able to highlight the transformative role that these actors have in the process of slipping the penalty from hard forms such as detention to soft forms such as those of the extra moenia punishment.

Keywords:

Juvenile penal system, third sector, labor market, ethnography

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Sustainable development promises a wave of new approaches to environmental and social issues due to its perceived holistic nature. New ways of producing and consuming are purported to pave the way for smooth and consensual governance and the reduction of conflicts. The diversion of finance towards sustainable development may also impact on financial crime, at least in the views of optimists who focus on the connections between the two. It is felt that there is no really sustainable finance (the alignment of financial operations with sustainable development) without developing strong and efficient means to fight financial crime. This paper examines such optimistic views, providing, first, an account of institutional strategies relating to sustainable finance, and second, an analysis of some forms of financial crime. Focusing particularly but not exclusively on the UK, a final hypothesis is then formulated around the scenario we are likely to face in the near future if the financial sphere is coopted into the arena of sustainable development.

Keywords:

Green Capital; Financial green crimes; financial crimes.

THE POWER OF THE PEN: EXPLORING ISOLATION IN PRISON THROUGH A LETTER-WRITING PROJECT

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My PhD focuses on experiences of isolation in Scottish prisons through the qualitative research means of the letter. Why the letter? My PhD journey began in September 2019. By March 2020 the first Covid19 national lockdown had been imposed, resulting in my research plans grinding to a halt due to prison access for researchers being forbidden – at the time – indefinitely. With no other viable options, I had to think creatively of alternative ways to collect my data. The letter came to mind thanks to my previous experience as a prison lawyer for 15 years, when my principal means of communication with clients was by letter. Could this means of communication shift from the professional realm to a research context? This was achieved by way of a correspondence project with 26 participants over a period of 12 months. The project is now well under way, having commenced in October 21 following an advert recruiting participants placed in the UK prison newspaper Inside Time. The choice of research means posed a number of questions. Would – and could – it work? Would the participants engage with the project for its entirety? Would I be able to extrapolate the same level of data I would have done through interviews? Eight months on and my initial findings, both in terms of the research itself as well as in terms of the choice of qualitative method, are enlighteningly positive and compelling. The letters have so far indicated that the effects of Covid19 on prisoners were (and continue to be) pervasive and affected each individually as well as collectively in different ways. Intimate experiences of isolation were shared by letter which perhaps would not have been so openly shared in interview, changing the dynamic of letter writing to one apt for research on sensitive topics.

Keywords:

Prisons; Isolation; Covid19; Qualitative methods; Letter-writing

THE DETECTION OF THE ILLEGAL, UNREPORTED AND UNREGULATED (IUU) FISHING IN COSTA RICA: LEGISLATION, POLICIES, AND DISCOURSES

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In this article the author analyses the Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) fishing that is carried out as an organized crime by fishing companies in Costa Rica. By doing so, he shows the existing discrepancies between the importance given to the phenomenon by the central government and the legislative branch of the State and the lack of mechanisms of detection of such activity formally established by national authorities. On one hand, public policies and political discourses emphasise the negative effects of IUU fishing, which is also prohibited by current legislation. However, on the other hand, there are no clear guidelines or laws that indicate how to efficiently detect it. Specialized literature highlights the importance of ensuring law enforcement in order to fight IUU fishing by reinforcing the chain of prevention, repression, and detection. For this reason, the author demonstrates that, by not stipulating clear and effective tools of detection, national authorities jeopardize the efficacy of the State in solving this issue. The considerations presented in this article are the result of research that was carried out by using theoretical inputs of green criminology, analysing current national laws, and using critical discourse analysis to examine the presidential official statements and public policies implemented by state governments from 2010 to 2021.

Keywords:

illegal fishing, surveillance, blue crime, fishing legislation, policing, public policies

THE POLITICS OF PRISON CROWDING. FROM THE HARM DENIAL TO THE MANAGERIAL TURN

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This presentation explores the transformations in Italy's penal system to make the key analytical observation that conditions of overcrowding have become the 'new normal' under which the modern prison system continues to operate and deliver punishment. In doing so, I argue how the politics of overcrowding offers a powerful standpoint on the penalty and how engaging with the politics of crowding entails a direct and pertinent engagement with the modern state's politics of criminal justice and social control. The presentation aims to discuss how, after an initial phase of harm denial, the Italian Government's response to the critical condition of the prison system led to a managerial turn in their administration.

The focus of the presentation is on three main questions: first, the impact of the changes in the Italian penal strategy occurring in the 1990s; second, how institutional narratives define prison capacity, how crowding standards have been established and the harm caused by this condition denied; and lastly, the policies and interventions devised to cope with the crowding crisis and its impact on the idea of punishment. The overall aim is to explore the prison crowding crisis and the reforms following it as part of the same penal strategy in which the Italian prison system faces a shift toward a managerial understanding of punishment.

Keywords:

Italian penal system; Prison crowding; Managerial of punishment

METAMORPHOSIS OF PRISON CONFLICTS BEFORE AND AFTER THE PANDEMIC?

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The paper presents a critical sociological reflection on violence and conflict within the prison setting before and after the recent pandemic.

Starting from an analysis of the various facets that violence can assume within a total institution, the authors will reconstruct the patterns of prison conflicts before and after february 2020 in the Italian prisons.

As the Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT) stated in its January 2020 report on Italy, Italian prisons had experienced an incredible increase in internal conflict related to a number of factors: return of overcrowding, management of a multicultural context, shortage of resources and dedicated staff, and penal populism. The paper would like to analyze the forms of conflict present before the pandemic and compare them with the impact of the pandemic event on the prison. In spring 2020, in Italy, 49 penitentiary institutions were the scene of riots, which led to the death of 14 people. In addition, in June 2021, a video emerged of violence at the hands of the prison administration carried out at the Santa Maria Capua Vetere institution. Are there differences or is it possible to reflect on a continuum of conflictuality in prison? Which are the different rationalities of these events? What type of violence happened in the penitentiary before and after the pandemic? The paper will try to answer those questions and reflect on models and social changes.

Keywords:

Prison; Violence; Conflict; Pandemic

THE HONOUR OF THE ARMA. THE CASE OF THE CARABINIERI IN PIACENZA

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Since 2001, when the 20 years old activist Carlo Giuliani was killed by the Carabinieri, that is the military branch of Italian police, during the G8 demonstrations in Genoa, the Italian public opinion has focused on police brutalities. Such outstanding cases as the violent deaths of Stefano Cucchi, Federico Aldrovandi and Riccardo Magherini, have triggered a mobilisation of civil society to shed a light against the misconduct of police forces. This paper will discuss a case of multi-layered misconduct by police forces. In summer 2020, the judges indicted 5 members of a Carabinieri barrack in Piacenza, a middle-sized Northern Italian city, for a plurality of crimes: the Carabinieri of this barrack were engaged in drug dealing, and used their prerogative to arrest the members of rival criminal groups, who were taken to the barrack and brutalized. Moreover, in order to dodge the lockdown restriction, the indicted Carabinieri filled the forms to justify their movements with false information, claiming they were on duty, whereas they went to buy and sell drugs. This paper will discuss the illustrated case by using the categories developed by Robert Reiner, focusing on the dimensions of isolation and machismo.

Keywords:

Misconduct by police forces; Machismo; Isolation

SPACES OF HOPE: ABOLITION, FEMINISM, COMMUNITY

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In this paper I will explore the place of hope in feminist abolitionist scholarship and praxis, centring emotion and affect. Abolitionist work offers analysis on injustices – in relation to the criminal justice system, the carceral state, state violence, capitalism and structural inequalities – not only to document, to raise awareness, to legally challenge, to educate and to archive but to contribute to struggles for new systems, new relations and for a new world. Globally, an abolitionist movement is gaining traction. Led by Black feminists such as Angela Davis, Beth Richie and Ruth Wilson Gilmore, this movement recognises the failure of the prison on the terms of its liberal justifications and highlights the personal and communal devastation caused by imprisonment, which disproportionately affects women of colour. Abolition feminism is the response: “a feminist politic and praxis that explicitly rejects any form of arrest and incarceration as legitimate; aims not to reform but rather to dismantle jails, prisons, and policing; and actively works to build a liberated world without prisons” (O’Brien et al 2020: 5). I argue that the presence and deliberate maintenance of hope in abolitionist feminist thought serves to generate a particular kind of affect (Ahmed 2004; Anderson 2006) that pivot us towards constructing a new future. This paper will draw out how hope structures and sustains abolitionist work.

Keywords:

Abolition; Feminism

SURVIVING RAPE IN PUBLIC: THE AFFECTS AND EFFECTS OF SPEAKING AS A SURVIVOR

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This paper considers the experiences of ‘public survivors’ of rape, and their impact on social and cultural responses to sexual violence. I use the term ‘public survivors’ to refer to individuals who construct a recognised persona as a survivor of sexual violence through speaking publicly about their experiences. As I have shown in my previous work on ‘speaking out’, the public speech of survivors has been central to feminist politics around sexual violence (Serisier, 2018). The past decade particularly has seen increasing numbers of women and others speaking publicly about experiences of rape, with significant cultural effects (Mendes et al, 2020). Public survivors have played a pivotal role in contemporary debates about sexual violence, from the actresses associated with #MeToo to Chanel Miller, survivor of the Stanford Swimmer rape whose Victim Impact Statement was shared millions of times on social media and was read on the floor of the US Congress. I argue that exploration of the experiences of public survivors offers essential insight into contested cultural understandings of sexual violence. I am broadly interested in three main questions. What can public survivors tell us about contemporary politics of sexual violence, and, specifically, attempts to challenge the ‘cultural scaffolding’ which normalises and enables sexual violence (Gavey 2005)? What is it about this moment that makes the figure of the public survivor so prominent? What epistemological forces to individuals mobilise to obtain authority to speak on sexual violence, and what forces constrain this authority?

Keywords:

Rape; Public survivors; Speaking out

PREVENTING SOCIAL HARM WITH A SHORTER WORK WEEK

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Research indicates that long working hours are a socially harmful phenomenon. Firstly, they prevent workers from developing interests and capabilities outside of their external work environment, thereby limiting their autonomy; secondly, they endanger individual's physical and mental health as well as the quality of their family and friendly relations. The struggle for shorter working hours became more prominent in the 1920s, when labor movements fought to reduce 14-hour working hours, which became increasingly common due to industrialization in the countries of the Global North. In 1935, ILO established a 40-hour weekday as an international standard. Despite the rapid development of technology and the changed way of working (for example, in the course of the 20th century, the share of white collar and service workers rose from 24% to 75%, while the share of workers in agriculture, construction, manufacturing and transport fell from 76% to 25%), the 40-hour weekday and the 8-hour workday remain a constant. This paper presents core arguments for shortening the working hours and consequently reducing the social harm that occurs due to the nature of work in contemporary neoliberal societies.

Keywords:

Social harm; neoliberal society; working hours

ENVIRONMENTAL BORDER HARMS: THE CASE OF LAMPEDUSA

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The Mediterranean island of Lampedusa has long been a transit point for sea-crossers travelling from the coast of North Africa into Italy. Far from an accident of geography, Lampedusa's role within Mediterranean migration has been shaped by the ever-increasing securitisation of the European Union's external border, which designates peripheral islands as ideal places for the containment and identification of irregular migrants. While the socially harmful consequences of these processes of "borderisation" attract increasing scholarly attention, their environmental impact has so far remained unexplored. This presentation draws on findings from an ethnographic study of Lampedusa to explore some of the environmental harms linked to the island's borderisation, their complex structural causes, and the conceptual challenges they pose for both green criminology and zemiology. Border control in Lampedusa, while lacking man-made physical barriers, relies on a routinised state of emergency to circumvent not just migrants' rights, but also environmental regulations, cyclically generating environmental crises. Discourse on the structural causes of environmental harms often focuses on the zemiogenic nature of economic systems, as capitalism's global role in producing environmental harm cannot be disputed. In Lampedusa, however, environmental border harms appeared uncoupled from the island's economic system; the generative mechanisms leading to the environmental border harms seemed rooted not in socio-economic structures, but in the legal and political expediency of exempting border practice from scrutiny by exploiting loosely defined emergency exceptions, allowing for environmental protections to be bypassed. Environmental damage was thus intrinsic to the island's borderisation, a constituent part of the persistent state of crisis on which borders rely. This presentation will explore how environmental border harms may fit within our current understanding of environmental justice, and unpack the mechanisms through which peripheral communities are routinely inflicted long term social harms by institutional actors seeking to pursue supranational agendas.

Keywords:

Environmental harm; Lampedusa; borderisation; migration; crisis

DRUGS WARS AND ECO-BIO-GENOCIDE: THE PIONEERING WORK OF ROSA DEL OLMO

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In the context of new Presidential leadership and prospects for drug policies in Colombia, this paper revisits a classic work by the pioneering criminologist and activist, Rosa del Olmo (1937-2000), and reminds us of her work on the environmental harms and victimization caused by the 'drugs wars'. It first provides some commentary to update del Olmo's work in relation to 'drug wars' and in relation to environmental harms, and second, makes connections with recent work on a southern green criminology, the challenge of climate change, and how the continuation of drug cultivation and eradication, deforestation and resource extraction, are making countries of Latin America pay a high price for meeting the demands of consumer economies of the global north.

Keywords:

Latin America; Drug wars; Green criminology; Southern criminology; Climate change

PRISON IN PILLS. WHAT PSYCHOPHARMACOLOGICAL CONSUMPTION CAN TELL US ABOUT LAW AND IMPRISONMENT

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Psychotropic drugs appear to be the most used category of medicines within Italian penal institutions (Ronco 2018). The reports of some NGOs provide estimates of a massive use of those (Associazione Antigone 2021). Adopting a materialist ontology that gives attention to forces and objects that influence social worlds, this contribution aims to analyze the possibilities of studying prison and its functioning by moving from the meanings and practices that take shape around the use of psychotropic drugs. Drawing from an ethnographic research conducted within three prisons in northern Italy between 2017-2019, this contribution aims to highlight the complex social phenomena that emerges around psychopharmacological substances.

The research has shown, indeed, how the use of substances reveals some inherent sociological characteristics of the prison environment. Each drug is indeed re-signified by prison social actors basing on the institution's own symbolic horizon. This leads to different effects, all of which are significant in illustrating some essential characteristics of the prison. In this sense, it is possible to notice how the prescription of psychotropic drugs comes to develop in a triangular network of interactions between the inmate who requests them, the healthcare provider with "prescribing power" and prison officers. This triangular interaction that revolves around the pill highlights on the one hand the unforeseeable and noncompliant uses that prisoners might make of them to achieve excitatory or narcotic effects; on the other, the local reconfiguration of official professional hierarchies that come to be reconfigured according to variables having to do with a specific and experiential prison knowledge.

Keywords:

Italian penal institutions; Psychotropic drugs; experiential prison knowledge

STATE-CORPORATE CRIMES AND GERMAN OCCUPATION OF GREECE. A CASE STUDY.

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The present case study is included within the context of the study of the participation of businesses in international crimes and the overlap of the criminological study of international crimes and the study of state-corporate crime. Business involvement in international crimes is defined as a business behavior that allowed, aggravated, or facilitated international crimes committed by the Nazi regime and its agents. Involvement is defined as an enterprise that contributes to committing these crimes by the primary perpetrator or perpetrators while knowing (or should have known) that its conduct contributed to committing these crimes. With raw material from the criminal activity of the company ELAION that operated on Lesbos island during the German occupation, we interact with the respective (few) international investigations into the state business crimes of World War II, but we will also submit thoughts and suggestions for the concept and the view of state-owned business crime.

Keywords:

State-corporate crimes; German Occupation; World War II

EXPLORING PERCEPTIONS, CONCERNS, AND ATTITUDES TOWARD PRIVACY, SECURITY, AND SURVEILLANCE: RESULTS FROM AN IN-DEPTH INVESTIGATION OF ONLINE PRIVACY CONCERNS.

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The development of mass surveillance technologies and big data analytics, coupled with the perpetuation of control ideologies, have been paving a monotonous path toward Orwellian dystopias. Privacy, as an individual right and as a collective value, is being compromised in the name of security, notably crime prevention, and our physical and digital worlds are increasingly becoming more massively surveilled. But do people care? This study is about privacy concerns of people who use digital communications. As online privacy concerns have been mostly studied quantitatively (mostly as an independent variable hypothesized to affect online behavior), the present inquiry investigates perceptions and attitudes of internet users in an open mode to study how citizens perceive the current state of digital communications with respect to personal data sharing and the consequences of access to such data by other individuals, corporations, and governments. Thirty-seven semi-structured interviews with participants from the general population of internet users in Cyprus were conducted. The structured part of the interviews included five themes (perceptions, concerns, sources of concern, media used, and information types), allowing for (and aiming at) the emergence of categorical ramifications as well as new conceptual elements. The data were initially analyzed by open-coding and then mapped by predominantly inductive conceptualization. Findings show partial knowledge and awareness of the possibilities and current practices of individuals, governments, and corporations in gathering, analyzing, and sharing personal data and they are overall consistent with conceptualizations such as the privacy paradox (despite concerns, internet users allow sharing of personal information), privacy cynicism (not much can be done to defend privacy), privacy fatigue (privacy protection is annoyingly boring), and the “nothing to hide” mentality. The privacy-security tradeoff and the connection between electronic surveillance and social control are further investigated.

Keywords:

Privacy concerns, security concerns, mass surveillance, privacy paradox, privacy cynicism, privacy fatigue, nothing to hide, privacy-security tradeoff, social control.

SCIENCE OR SCIENCE FICTION: MACHINE LEARNING APPLICATIONS IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE SETTINGS

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Research on tools for facilitating police work has been an ongoing effort since the advent of crime statistics. Lately, there has been a growing interest in the application of machine learning algorithms to analyse crime data and move law enforcement agencies towards the platformisation of police work, when its organisation is based on the output of software systems. The field has developed in numerous directions, with particular emphasis on a) predicting the distribution of crime in space and time, b) profiling offenders and predicting the risk of future (re)offending, and c) profiling victims and predicting the risk of future victimisation. At the same time, there has been an ongoing more general discussion about the bias, subjectivity and lack of transparency in machine learning, as well as the risks and limitations of algorithmic decision-making. Many of these risks and limitations are also applicable to the reliance on machine learning in criminal justice settings.

In my presentation I will draw on personal experience as an observer of a team prototyping a machine learning tool for the police, and on results from a series of exploratory discussions with members of civil society organisations, law enforcement and policy-making institutions about what is needed in order to make such systems more trustworthy from the perspective of social justice. I will critically discuss the tension between currently known best practices of reducing harms of risky machine learning applications, and the potential conflicts of interest and misunderstandings of technology in criminal justice institutions.

Keywords:

Criminal justice settings; Machine learning applications

HATE SPEECH IN SPAIN: HOW THE NEO-NAZIS ARE BEING PROTECTED BY THE SPANISH PENAL SYSTEM WHILE ACTIVISTS ARE BEING PROSECUTED

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The fight against hate speech has a large and persistence tradition in Europe among the last 70 years, since the IIWW and the crimes of the Nazism. From then, international organizations and different actors have impulse some strategies and commitments to afford them from different perspectives. One of these strategies is to combat it through the penal system. Nowadays, this approach has arrived at the national legislations in Europe, and therefore we should watch this closely with caution. The Spanish case is one that deserve to be study because in the last years, since 2015, there are an increasing number of cases detected and prosecuted by the penal system. The main problem is that more and more cases appear where there are activists from different movements (Catalan independentist, LGBTQ+ activist, antifascist)prosecuted by these laws. More serious seems to be that also there are people from neo-Nazi movements that appears in these cases as victims of the offense. So, how is it possible that the people in whose image and likeness these criminal figures were created appear now as the main victim of these offenses? By this contribution, I will try to illuminate this question and analyse how the configuration of the penal prosecution of hate speech in Spain has configured such situation where the Spanish penal systemend protecting to neo-Nazis as victims of hate speech crimes. For that, we need to look at how the Spanish legislation goes away from the lines that the UE stablish related to the fight of racism and xenophobia and, overall, ask ourselves why the ideology is a factor of victimization, introduced autonomously by the Spanish penal code, considering its recent history.

Keywords:

Hate speech, Spain, political prosecution, criminalization, neo-Nazi movement.

PRISON WORKERS AND CRITICAL CRIMINOLOGY: A POSSIBLE RELATIONSHIP?

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This work is a systematization of experiences, data and concepts which have been elaborated in the last 10 years by a group of workers in a supermax prison for young people located in the city of Rosario, Argentina. The process of creating a new professional in dealing with young people is described: the Juvenile mentor and the reflections that these workers made both on their role and on the problems faced by young people: torture, criminal selectivity, violent deaths and social and media stigmatization.

Based on simple calculations, the concept of Juvenicidio (Valenzuela Arce, 2018) is used to describe the situation of many young people in the city of Rosario. In addition, interviews with criminologists both at a national and international level are the focus to discuss the importance of the role of civilian workers in prison and their possible contribution both to practical interventions and to the study of criminology itself. Finally, as a conclusion, a proposal is made and articulated in 4 key points: the ideological basis, the investigation process, intervention and the anti-prison discursive front.

Keywords:

Prison workers; Critical criminology; Juvenicidio

COVID- 19 AND THE CRIMES OF THE BRITISH STATE

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This paper argues that COVID- 19 provided a key moment of exposure and consolidation for the UK state and its commitment to reproducing a particularly virulent form of capitalist social order. On one hand, the state facilitated the systematic corruption of the COVID economy to produce what may be measured, in cash terms, as the greatest single example of fraud in UK history. On the other hand, the social production of COVID- 19 deaths is unprecedented in modern times as an example of state-facilitated killing. The paper will focus on 2 aspects of the key role that law played in those state-facilitated crimes. First, we explore the regulatory politics that emerged in response to COVID- 19, a form of regulatory politics that subordinated basic public health and life-saving measures to the interests of capital and its investors. Second, we explore the presences and absences of state activity, not least through law, and their role in maintaining state and corporate power in the UK during the course of the pandemic. The paper will show how economic and class interests were prioritised over public health at every stage in the crisis.

Keywords:

State-corporate crimes; COVID; capitalist social order

IS THE SAVAGE-VICTOR-SAVIOUR (SVS) METAPHOR STILL VALID TO STUDY ATROCITY CRIMES IN GERMANY TODAY?

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This presentation celebrates the 20th anniversary of Mutua's work on the Savages–Victims–Saviors (SVS) Complex. The study does so by expanding the original analysis to analyze if, and how, does the SVS Complex work in terms of international criminal justice, ICJ, (rather than on international law and human rights) and in an increasingly globalized scenario (rather than the prior stricter division between saviours exclusively set in the North and victims and savages in the South). To address these inquiries, the presentation looks at the ICJ–SVS complex in relation to Germany through the analysis of three cases currently handled under its jurisdiction: crimes against humanity and war crimes in Syria; genocide in Namibia; and crimes against humanity perpetrated by a member of the Argentine Navy. Notably, these cases allow us to examine three distinct ICJ mechanisms: universal jurisdiction, historical justice, and extradition. The presentation will also examine if ICJ and the specific mechanisms of universal jurisdiction, historical justice and extraditions are intrinsically neocolonial instruments, or if they can also be deployed in a counter–neocolonial manner as empowering tools, breaking with the ICJ–SVS complex.

Keywords:

international criminal justice (ICJ); Crimes against humanity; War crimes; Genocide

CRIMINALIZATION OF ACTIVISM

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The presentation will explore the content of the book *Criminalization of Activism* edited by myself and published by Routledge in 2021. The book draws on a multiplicity of perspectives and case studies from the Global South and Global North to show how protest has been subject to processes of criminalization over time. Contributors are made up of scholars and activists from different disciplinary backgrounds, with a balance between authors from the Global North and the Global South. The introduction written by me frames the topic within critical criminology, while also highlighting the possible disciplinary approaches and definitions of criminalization of resistance/activism. The introduction also investigates the particularities of the current times in comparison to dynamics of criminalization in prior stages of capitalism, as well as the connections between historical criminology, indigenous studies, gender studies, critical criminology, southern criminology, and green criminology for a comprehensive understanding of how dissent has been and continues to be the target of the criminal justice system at both sides of the Equator.

Keywords:

criminalization of resistance/activism

POLICING ACUTE AND CROWDED CRIME SCENES: CONFLUENCES OF PROACTIVE AND REACTIVE POLICE WORK

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The crime prevention strategy of the Norwegian police mandates for proactive and reactive units to be on duty at all times. In anticipation of busy weekend nights, the Oslo police schedule additional personnel to be on duty in the capital city centre. Proactive units are present at crime hotspots, while reactive units patrol the city or await incident alerts at the local police station. When acute and serious events occur, and there is an immediate need for law enforcement personnel at a given location, (proactive) crime prevention work is temporarily paused, as those resources are re-delegated to the new scene. While both reactive and proactive units undertake policing tasks at the acute location, such as handling or looking for suspects and witnesses, forensic and investigatory personnel with resources for collecting and securing evidence are also delegated to the new location. Yet despite dedicated investigatory resources, crime prevention personnel are continuously given new reactive tasks at the scene and remain present for long periods of time – aiming to prevent the loss of potential evidence. Crime investigations in crowded 'crime hotspots' poses a range of challenges that are discussed in this paper. Drawing on fieldwork from an acute violent crime scene in the Oslo city centre, we sketch out three distinct challenges to police efficiency and investigatory outcome: (1) human resource exhaustion, (2) crowd-management and (3), evidence volume expectations, and argue that temporarily de-prioritising proactive police work in favour of reactive tasks changes the core functions of crime prevention.

Keywords:

State-corporate crimes; COVID; capitalist social order

«THAT'S THE WAY THINGS WORK IN HERE»: CHALLENGING THE IDEOLOGY OF EDUCATION BEHIND BARS

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Discussing the relationship between university and prison involves focusing on an elastic space at the interface between these two institutions. How they intersect can be variously shaped, and it can considerably influence their levels of mutual independence from the organizational standpoint. The development of university branches inside prisons can serve as an excellent observatory for analyzing how their interaction can be arranged as a form of cooperation but also charged with troublesome elements, tensions, and contradictions. Much the same dynamics affect all the activities that go on behind the prison walls, whenever they are at least partly managed by individuals who do not belong to the prison administration, whether they teach academic subjects or sports or provide vocational training. These dynamics interfere with the classical concept of total institution. The degree of autonomy in this sociological setting derives not only from the reference legislation and the formal relationships between the institutional actors but also and above all – as we have learned from the sociology of prison life – from its characteristic elements of situated and continuous negotiation. My presentation aims to identify and analyse these elements in the light of interviews and conversations with university students in prison, and with lecturers involved in prison education projects.

Keywords:

prison education; university; autonomy.

THE ITALIAN PRISON SYSTEM AND THE MANAGEMENT OF FOREIGN NATIONALS

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This paper is a sociological analysis based on a research project undertaken in three Italian prisons. The study takes a look at the way in which the Italian penitentiary system manages multiethnic prison context. Currently, in Italy there are approximately 17.000 foreign detainees, and their percentage represents more than 33% on the total of the prison population (Ministero Giustizia). This statistical evidence shows that the number of foreign inmates is very high. Indeed, in the last 30 years the social composition of the prison population has dramatically changed, and the overrepresentation of foreign nationals is nowadays one of the typical traits of the Italian prison system. This noticeable growth – which seems to be significantly related to the Italian immigration and criminal laws (Maculan 2014; Maneri 2019; Melossi 2008) – has an impact on prison and on its social dynamics. On one hand, the multiethnicity of the context has an impact on social relations both in the case of interactions between prisoners and in the case of relationships with professionals (Sbraccia 2007); on the other hand, from a more pragmatic point of view, the ethnicization process has an influence on prisoners' rights and needs. That is particularly true with reference to the effective access to some penitentiary services and benefits such as alternative measures. Furthermore, there are some specific essential rights which are not given sufficient consideration by the administration. Among others it is worth underlining the rights to healthcare, to worship, to have contacts with their own countries and relatives and to have a linguistic support to be able to communicate.

Keywords:

prison; multiethnicity; rights; foreign nationals; sociological analysis.

CARE', COERCION AND CONTAINMENT - DEATHS AND PSYCHIATRIC DETENTION

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Psychiatric detention represents a hidden and underexplored element of the detention estate. Deaths here rarely break through into public and political discourse, yet they form a significant proportion of all deaths linked to conditions of detention and control. According to the Care Quality Commission, 490 people died in England alone while detained under mental health legislation in the year ending March 2021. As part of a wider study of harm, responsibility and regulation, the paper argues that the circumstances surrounding these deaths share much in common with other forms of state and state-corporate violence seen across the (in)security estate, including in formal policing, prisons and immigration settings. However, deaths under psychiatric detention take place amidst additional obstacles, further frustrating attempts to seek truth, accountability and justice.

Keywords:

Psychiatric detention; State-corporate violence; Accountability; Justice

ORGAN TRANSPLANT ABUSE AND CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY: EVIDENCE FROM THE INDEPENDENT TRIBUNAL INTO FORCED ORGAN HARVESTING FROM PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE IN CHINA⁷.

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The International Coalition to End Transplant Abuse in China (ETAC) is a coalition of lawyers, academics, medical professionals, researchers and human rights advocates dedicated to ending forced organ harvesting in China. They reported significant evidence of systematic murder and mutilation of individuals falsely imprisoned by the Chinese State in concentration camps. Practitioners of Falun Gong in particular have been targeted and killed for their organs. More recently there is evidence that this horrific practice is also in use against prisoners of conscience, Uighurs and other minority groups. The harvested organs, kidneys, livers, hearts and corneas, are sold on and transplanted as part of a highly profitable international trade. This paper will present the evidence from first hand testimonies given to the China Tribunal and examine prospects for ending these crimes against humanity.

Keywords:

Abuse; Crimes against humanity; Organ Harvesting

PANELS AND ROUNDTABLES

1.

CRIMINALISATION OF DISSENT IN THE ‘LIBERAL’ STATE: COMPARISONS, PATTERNS AND CIRCULATIONS IN THE TRANSFORMATION OF CAPITALISM

The last two decades have been marked by increasing tendencies of ‘liberal democratic states’ to criminalise political activism and restrict the right to protest. Repressive and violent policing on occasion of global summits or widespread national protests, arrests of environmental and Black Lives Matter activists and the use of counterterrorism legislation to place under surveillance and prosecute activists are only some examples of these tendencies. Some states have introduced new pieces of legislation limiting the rights to express dissent, and significantly expanding police powers in managing protests (such as the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill in the UK). Similarly, a number of European states have introduced new criminal offences in the context of migration policies, thus criminalising acts of solidarity with and support given to migrants and asylum seekers. Most recently, the Coronavirus pandemic, and the subsequent implementation of stringent public health measures and exceptional legislation, has accelerated and publicly legitimated the closure of protest space by dramatically limiting the democratic right to protest.

Legislative provisions that limit the expression of dissent and legitimate repression of protest are not new. Historically and primarily associated with authoritarian regimes and colonial settings, in the last decades they increasingly find commonplace at the heart of ‘liberal democracies’, and function as a way to disqualify, marginalise and exclude, if not silence, voices of dissent. They operate as a deterrent, by limiting de facto the meaning and forms of legitimate political engagement to voting in elections thus framing other forms of participation and expression of dissent as a threat to democracy rather than a constitutive element of it. Some authors (Bruff and Tansel, 2019) have identified a turn to “authoritarian neoliberalism” in liberal democracies under the double influence of 9/11 and the global financial crisis in 2007, while others (Çalışkan and Callon, 2009; Brown, 2015) have pointed at the ‘economisation’ of all social and political spheres, and the use of legal tools to further neoliberal principles as processes that ‘undo the demos’.

This roundtable brings together scholars working in/on different geopolitical contexts to explore and discuss how the transformations of capitalism and the development of new tools of social control have shaped and limited the right to protest and dissent. It aims to think historically and comparatively about changes in legislations, legal and political practices, tools and process that have led to an increasing criminalisation of activism over the past 30 years. The following questions will be framing the roundtable discussions: how does comparative and historical research can help develop new approaches to the study of criminalisation of dissent? What theoretical and methodological frameworks can help understand the continuities and transformations of processes of criminalisation of dissent alongside (and linked to) the transformations of capitalism? To what extent laws, practices and policies travel between different location, and across different historical epochs (namely between the colony and the metropole), and what are the implications of this on the nature of the so-called ‘liberal democratic’ order?

Chair: Federica Rossi (rossif3@lsbu.ac.uk)

Participants: Tracey Davanna (davanna@lsdu.ac.uk);

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2.

SOCIAL HARMS IN ALGORITHMIC CONTEXT

The emergence and proliferation of ADM and AI inevitably lead to social change, transforming everything from work and leisure to communication patterns and social and political organisations (Floridi, 2014). Consequently, the transformation into digital societies (Powell et al 2018) gives rise to a new set of questions concerning the conceptualization, control, prevention and study of social harms and crimes of the powerful. The proliferation of AI and algorithmic technologies has had and will continue to influence the ability of nation-states to mediate social harms.

Examples of algorithmic systems applied in public and private domains range from simple object recognition and classification algorithms to data-mining algorithms, and from recommendation systems to personalization and filtering algorithms. Ultimately, possibly someday, to imaginaries of general AI capable of genuine learning and creativity. These systems, on the one hand, could work to increase the efficiency, reliability and traceability of operations and decision-making. On the other, a growing number of studies from a range of disciplines reveals the socially harmful potential of AI, algorithms and smart technologies. Understanding the patterns of algorithmic transformation will enhance studies on the production and mitigation of harms in modern societies.

This roundtable brings together contributors to the Special Issue of the *Justice, Power and Resistance Journal: Social harms in algorithmic context* and scholars studying harms produced at the state-corporate and technology nexus to reflect on the role of algorithmic technologies in harm production and alleviation, in particular whether technology should be (de)centered in analysis of social harm.

The roundtable should be organised in a hybrid format, with participants joining online and on campus. Due to the ongoing blind peer review process the participants of the Roundtable should remain anonymous.

Chair: Hanna Malik (hanna.malik@utu.fi)

3.

CORPORATE CRIMES AND ENVIRONMENTAL VICTIMS

Critical criminology has addressed for the last fifty years the importance of going beyond the traditional criminological approach to understand how the penal system accomplishes functions of perpetuating social inequalities. Inside this field, a dialectical perspective has been also developed, allowing that many deep criticisms from inside and from the outside proportionate the change of routes both in the academy and in activism. Whiteness, androcentrism, and colonialism are some of those characteristics that challenged in the last decades and pushed – with contradictions and conflicts – critical criminology to be less racist, sexist and colonial. Those structures of oppression have the characteristics of being less perceptible, because they are also reproduced inside the same social class, and in the big picture they reveal the importance of understanding the intersection of multiple perspectives to develop criminological theory. Epistemicide is one of the consequences of coloniality of knowledge, where only white men from global north have the access to science. In the last decades critical criminology has also been criticized for its anthropocentrism and speciesism. In a period when the most concrete risk to life in the Earth is global warming, it's important that criminology turn its focus to understand how social harms are perpetrated against nature. That's the focus of green criminology.

This roundtable has the objective of debating how capitalism and the power of great corporations and the State, based on androcentrism, racism and anthropocentrism have been promoting this global menace. The participants, researchers and representatives of a grassroots movement (associations of victims and citizens) will discuss on some main questions, as: which were the accomplishments of green criminology since Michael Lynch incited the field to address green issues in the 90's? For example: How the relationships of power between North and South have been developed during this stage of capitalism? How to resist to the power of great corporations? What are the challenges for criminology to research on social harm in cases of corporate green crimes? Who are the environmental victims? What methods of research are capable to reveal both the experience of environmental victimization and the hidden truths of the routine of corporate crimes? How does environmental activism impact how people mean environmental harm and victimization? In the round table we will present a well-known case of corporate crime (Eternit of Monferrato city) with important implications related to a number of criminological issues, and particularly to how the interests of communities affected by industrial pollution (which caused an extensive toll of deaths and illness) became organically involved in the public sphere and incorporated in legal and policy decisions. We will focus on the role of a victims' group and its connections to others local actors (doctor, scientists, etc.) for the criminalization of the Eternit case. The identification of the social mechanisms that favored the mobilization and the surfacing of demands for justice from this specific point of view, through research and analysis, could be a useful tool to raise awareness not just among the victims (be they potential or actual victims) but also in the community as a whole.

Chair: David Whyte (david.whyte@qmul.ac.uk)

Participants: Rosalba Altopiedi (rosalba.altopiedi@unito.it); Marília de Nardin Budó (mariliadb@yahoo.com.br); Anna di Ronco (a.dironco@essex.ac.uk); Representatives of the Casale Monferrato Victims Association (AFEVA) (vertenzamianto@gmail.com; afevasanita@gmail.com)

4.

RESISTING THE PENAL MODERNISATION AGENDA

Panel Overview

The three papers in this panel will collectively problematize the UK HM Prison and Probation Service's [HMPPS] consistent use of the term 'modernisation' to justify prison expansion. The origins of the 'modernisation' agenda and the promise of 'modern prison places' in England and Wales can be found in Prison Service reports dating back to the 1980s, and especially with the reorganization of the prison administration from 1992/93 onward. More than 40 years in the making, the language of penal modernisation and its punitive undertones continue to be championed in the UK Government's recent campaigns for penal expansion, beginning in 2013 and again used in 2017 and within the recent 2021 Prisons Strategy. However, despite the UK Government's use of 'modernisation' as way to legitimate penal practices in England and Wales, very little attention has been directed towards penal modernisation and what it means. The three interlinked papers in this panel look to address this gap by offering a critical examination of the 'modernisation' agenda by drawing upon secondary sources to further understand 'modernisation' and to underline the limitations associated with the UK Government's prison building strategy (e.g. HMP Berwyn in Wales) and current attempts to create 20,000 new prison places (e.g. Wigan and Chorley in North West England).

- What is modernisation?
- Why is it problematic?
- What does this mean?

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THE MODERN PRISON AGENDA IN ENGLAND AND WALES (ROBERT JONES)

Over the last decade, the UK Government has embarked on a relentless quest to 'modernise' the prison estate in England and Wales. While its plans have included the closure of older prisons no longer deemed 'fit for purpose', at the very heart of the UK Government's agenda has been a programme of major prison building in England and Wales. In this opening paper we will look to explore the origins of the UK Government's 'modernisation' agenda by drawing upon Prison Service reports and official documents from the 1980s onwards. The paper will then reflect upon some of the arguments behind the Westminster government's decision to create 10,000 new prison places. This will include exploring the ways in which 'modernisation' has replaced 'overcrowding' as a means to justify and legitimate further prison expansion in England and Wales.

CASE STUDY: HMP BERWYN AND THE FAILURE OF THE MODERNISATION AGENDA (EMILY HART)

The opening of the UK's first 'mega prison' HMP Berwyn in Wrexham, North Wales in February 2017 marked a key moment in the Conservative government's expansion of the penal landscape. Holding over 2100 Category C men, the prison was promoted as a flagship resettlement institution and was described by the UK media as the 'poster child of Britain's super prisons' (BBC, 28 Feb 2017). Harnessing the latest technology this 'modern' and 'efficient' approach to incarceration had the central aim of aim of developing a rehabilitative culture and moving away from the use of old Victorian prisons. This paper will outline how 'modernisation' was used to encourage local people and stakeholders to support the building and construction of the prison, how 'modernisation' was harnessed to create a public facing narrative around the 'effectiveness' of the prison and how 'modernisation' is being harnessed by academics keen to promote the role of architecture in building large prisons. This paper will also present clear evidence of how five years on from the opening, the Berwyn project has failed on all measures and metrics including the governments own modes of evaluation.

“PRISON IS NOT PAINFUL: PENAL MODERNISATION AS SILENCING” (DAVID SCOTT)

The final paper in the panel will further reflect upon the impact of the modernisation agenda on critique and dissent to the current prison building programme. It will offer first a brief reflection on the meaning of penal modernisation (and its inevitably punitive underpinnings as discussed in the previous presentations), before connecting this with the key ideas of Stuart Hall (1988), Stan Cohen (2000) and Thomas Mathiesen (2003) to argue that the penal modernisation agenda is 'regressive', resulting in 'interpretive denial' of the pains of imprisonment and the 'silencing' of alternative, critical voices. The paper will draw upon examples of discourse from those advocating penal modernisation, especially those claiming to effectively design out the pains of imprisonment, and also draws upon direct experience of the campaign against penal expansion in the North West of England in the last five years. The paper concludes with a discussion of how, by exposing the limits and contradictions of the 'penal modernisation' agenda, activist scholars can work towards 'breaking the silence'.

