

Papers from the British Criminology Conference

© 2015 the author and the British Society of Criminology

www.britsoccrim.org

ISSN 1759-0043; Vol. 15: 4-6

Editorial

Editorial

Charlotte Harris

In 2015 the British Society of Criminology Conference was hosted by the University of Plymouth. Held from 30 June to 3 July, the conference team channeled the city's maritime heritage by choosing a theme focused around 'Voyages of critical discovery'. Keynote speakers Rowland Atkinson, Mary Bosworth, Ben Bowling, Elliott Currie, Kathleen Daly, Kieran McEvoy and Sharon Pickering entered into debate and dialogue in some lively plenary sessions with question and answer and interview formats. There was a wide array of papers presented from within and outwith academia, from practitioners and independent researchers as well as those employed by universities, from those just starting their criminological careers to well-established criminologists. There was a particularly strong postgraduate conference and here the plenary speaker, Joe Sim, was effusive in his praise of the papers, many of which he found even more exciting than those in the main conference! We pondered the reasons for this. Perhaps part of the reason is that postgraduate funding, being not as REF-focused, allows for more blue-sky, exploratory work?

The papers included in this volume reflect the spirit of the conference. Fifteen papers were submitted, with six being accepted for publication. As always the journal has a rigorous peer-review process but (hopefully) a sympathetic approach to authors - especially early career and postgraduate authors - with helpful feedback and advice, even if a paper is rejected. There is a tight timetable in order to publish the same year as the conference and so we are hugely indebted to the reviewers and the authors for

turning things around so promptly. Many interesting papers were rejected purely because tight deadlines did not allow enough polishing time.

Demonstrating the strength of the postgraduate conference we have two papers from the first day of the event. Sarah Watson presents an overview of a research project that explores comparative firearm control within the EU and the barriers to consensus in firearm law in “To what extent there is scope for a common EU policy of firearms controls?” while Helen Williamson examines the methodological challenges of investigating those involved in the modification and supply of illegal weapons including the emerging method of crime script analysis in her paper entitled “Criminal Armourers And Illegal Firearm Supply In England And Wales”.

The range of delegates to, and papers at, the BSC conference are amply demonstrated by the other four accepted papers. Independent researcher Jo Cursley opens the volume on a hopeful note with a persuasive argument for the role of group music performance in the desistance process looking particularly at the work of the charity Changing Tunes in “Time for an encore: exploring the symbiotic links between music, forming meaningful relationships and desistance”. Professor Marianne Hester provides an authoritative look on what a victim-focused criminal justice process might look like for the range of different rape victim needs in her article “Reflections on criminal (in)justice in cases of rape”. Early career criminologist Anna Sergi explores the provenance of the new organised crime offence categories in Section 45 of this year’s Serious Crime Act suggesting that they were informed more by political narratives on organised crime than by variations in the criminal panorama in “Perspectives on organised crime between policy and research: A criminological analysis of the new offences of participation in organised crime activities in England and Wales”. And finally conference regular James Treadwell and colleague Kate Gooch discuss the origins, rise and potential negative consequences of the ‘civil gang injunction’ (CGI) in England and Wales in “An ASBO for violent gangsters or just continuing criminalisation of young people? – Thinking about the value of “Gangbo”.

Next year’s British Society of Criminology Conference takes place at the impressive Nottingham Conference Centre and will be organised directly by the British Society of Criminology Conference Committee. ‘Inequalities in a diverse world’ keynote speakers already lined up are Kelly Hannah-Moffatt from the University of Toronto and

Will Hutton from Oxford University. The dates for your diary are 6-8 July 2016. We look forward to seeing many of you there.

We have been standing in as an editorial board in the absence of a Publications Committee chair this year. Following a recent election, Lizzie Seal from Sussex University will be taking on this role next year and we will pass the mantle of next year's publications into her capable hands.

Hopefully you will all find something of interest in this year's journal and we wish everyone a happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Dr Charlotte Harris, Executive Director, British Society of Criminology

Professor Peter Squires, President of the British Society of Criminology

Dr Helen Jones, Membership and Communications advisor, British Society of Criminology