Annual Report for the Scottish Centre for Crime and Justice Research

April 2010- March 2011
Introduction and Priorities for 2011

Welcome to the 2010-2011 Annual Report of the Scottish Centre for Crime and Justice Research (SCCJR)

SCCJR is an academic research consortium forged from a unique partnership between Glasgow, Edinburgh, Stirling and Glasgow Caledonian Universities, in alliance with Aberdeen, Dundee, Strathclyde and St Andrews Universities. SCCJR is core funded by the Scottish Funding Council and Scottish Government Justice Analytical Services Division, along with additional investment from the participating universities to support staffing and infrastructure.

SCCJR draws together individual researchers from Scottish universities to provide a point of reference locally and internationally for criminological research and scholarship. It has allowed for a ‘critical mass of criminologists’ working collectively across institutions to widen the research agenda, engage in international research endeavours, and take forward a programme of research. Now in our fifth year of operation, our main success has been to establish SCCJR as a multi-disciplinary and collaborative research centre, drawing together staff and postgraduates with cognate research interests from across Scotland, together with those working in policy and practice to plan and participate in research and knowledge exchange activities. Our main aims continue to be to:

- expand the Scottish research infrastructure in crime and criminal justice by integrating existing research capabilities and creating new expertise;
- carry out integrated programmes of research which stimulate theoretical discussions of crime and its governance and improve the evidence base of criminal justice policies; and
- make informed methodological, and analytical contributions to theoretical thinking and policy development, both nationally and internationally

In pursuit of these aims we have built important strategic relationships with academic and public sector research partners and policy groups within and outside Scotland.

Key events and priorities for 2011-12 include:

Continuing research excellence through generation of research income and an integrated programme of research. Our income from research activities has grown year on year, assisted by the cross-institutional arrangements which have allowed researchers to pool strengths, introduce economies of scale and successfully compete for more substantial sources of funding. An example is the securing of European Commission Freedom, Justice and Security funding for a project entitled ‘The Governance of Security and the Analysis of Risk for Sporting Mega-Events’ (involving Michele Burman, Simon Mackenzie, Chris Johnston, Niall Hamilton-Smith and Nick Fyfe of SIPR) aimed at monitoring, evaluating and informing the planning process leading up to the 2014 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow.

The continued development and implementation of innovative approaches to knowledge exchange/ mobilisation with a strong focus on enhancing the sharing and application of
knowledge, particularly within policy, practice and third sector communities. During 2011-12 this will include a number of collaborative projects with the Scottish Government focusing on agreed priority topics; including desistance and reducing reoffending, sentencing and the prison population, and organized and trans-national crime and control. Our work with practice this year will include an ESRC funded project (led by Fergus McNeil) to develop frameworks for desistance from crime between academics and practitioners. This year we will also strengthen our ties with the third sector by beginning a project, again funded by the ESRC, to explore and support the use of research within the third sector (Claire Lightowler).

Increased internationalisation, in terms of research engagements, impact and the attraction of postgraduate students. SCCJR has built important strategic relationships with academic and public sector research partners and policy groups at a national and international level and has a growing international profile that is reflected in its research outputs and participation in a number of international networks. Key events planned for 2011 include sponsorship of and contribution to an international conference ‘Punishment & Society: Politics & Culture’ (with contributions by David Garland, Loïc Wacquant, Shadd Maruna, Lesley McAra and Fergus McNeill); the hosting of the annual meeting of the European Society of Criminology Working Group on Community sanctions; and the hosting of a GERN (Groupe Européen de Recherches sur les Normativités) Interlabo on ‘Civic Criminologies for Late-modern Societies?: Evidence and Policy in European Perspective’. We are also thoroughly looking forward to our fifth annual lecture being held in May 2011, which will be delivered by Professor Jonathan Simon on the topic of ‘Restoring Legitimacy to American Prisons (the view from Castle Rock)’.

Enhancing inter-disciplinarity, broadening out beyond our social science base to engage in strategic collaboration with other disciplines to work on common research themes. This is reflected in inter-disciplinary research applications and events, including a recent application for a Leverhulme Research Programme on Science and Politics led by SCCJR (Sarah Armstrong, Claire Lightowler and Richard Sparks) in collaboration with four other Scottish Pooling Initiatives: Scottish Alliance for Geoscience, Environment and Society (SAGES); Scottish Imaging Network (SINAPSE); Scottish Institute for Policing Research (SIPR); and Scottish Universities Life Sciences Alliance (SULSA).

Building research capacity by attracting both young and more established scholars from beyond Scotland and expanding the number of PhD students in criminal justice and criminology. The collaborative approach in SCCJR affords opportunities for cross-institutional supervision of PhDs and research training events. These arrangements are likely to become more common following the establishment of a Criminology and Socio-legal pathway in the ESRC Doctoral Training Centre for Scotland in which SCCJR played a lead role.

More generally, we will be seeking further to consolidate our research programme, based on our strategic plan for the next three years. A key challenge and priority will be to secure the sustainability of SCCJR beyond its current period of core funding to build on its achievements to date and ensure that SCCJR continues to flourish.

Michele Burman, Gill McIvor and Richard Sparks (Co-Directors, March 2011)
About Us
The cross-institutional partnership arrangements have established SCCJR as one of the UK’s strongest and most high profile crime and justice academic research centres. SCCJR currently comprises 16 academic researchers, 43 affiliated PhD students and 60 associates from a number of organisations around the world.

Research Strengths
SCCJR has key strengths in a range of research areas, including: cultures and practices of penality and punishment; gender, crime, and criminal justice; youth crime and youth justice; community safety and (in)civilities, and; illicit markets, organised crime, security and policing. Our staff have demonstrable methodological expertise, in both quantitative (including survey design, longitudinal analysis and statistical modelling) and qualitative (including ethnography; oral histories, and discourse analysis) methods and analysis. One of our research leaders, Susan McVie, also heads the Applied Quantitative Methods Network (AQMEN), which is funded by the ESRC and Scottish Funding Council to build capacity in the use of intermediate and advanced level quantitative methods across the social sciences in Scotland. Further information about our areas of expertise can be found on our website (www.sccjr.ac.uk/subjects/).

Core Staff
We have three Co-Directors (Michele Burman, Gill McIvor and Richard Sparks); five research leaders (Jon Bannister, Liz Gilchrist, Niall Hamilton-Smith, Fergus McNeill, and Susan McVie); five senior research fellows (Sarah Armstrong, Alistair Forsyth, Simon Mackenzie, Margaret Malloch, Andrew Millie), a lecturer (Susan Batchelor), and two Research Assistants (Alistair Fraser and Sarah MacQueen). Our business and support staff include our Centre Administrator /Business Manager (Tim McBride), our Data Manager (Jackie Palmer), a part-time secretary (Karen Hegyi) and our dedicated Knowledge Exchange Co-ordinator (Claire Lightowler). Detailed staff profiles are available on our website (www.sccjr.ac.uk/subjects/).
Governance
SCCJR’s organisational structure includes a Management Committee, an Executive Committee and an external Advisory Group. The Management Committee provides overall co-ordination of SCCJR’s research programme; agrees SCCJR strategies; ensures appropriate governance arrangements are in place; monitors progress; and oversees the financial arrangements. The Executive Committee develops and oversees SCCJR’s day-to-day activities. The external Advisory Group is comprised of established international academics, and policy and practitioner experts, reflecting a range of perspectives. The Advisory Group provides strategic advice to the Management Committee in terms of the overall direction and quality of SCCJR’s work.

SCCJR affiliated postgraduates
We are proud of our active and growing postgraduate community; we currently support 43 affiliated postgraduates (supervised by one or more members of SCCJR, some of which are cross-institutional supervisory arrangements). Our postgraduates benefit from regular PhD ‘away days’ (in partnership with the Scottish Institute for Policing Research (SIPR)) where students can network, share ideas and engage with more experienced researchers. Our postgraduates are also active members of SCCJR reading groups, they get involved in various ways in our research and knowledge exchange activities and regularly attend SCCJR seminars and working lunches. For the names of all our PhD students and their research interests, see http://www.sccjr.ac.uk/postgraduates/.

SCCJR Associates
We have established an SCCJR associate scheme for active crime and justice researchers who want to become more closely involved in our activities, from simply keeping informed about our work to more active collaboration on research and publication activities and direct participation in the wider intellectual life of SCCJR. New associates are invited to present at an SCCJR seminar, attend our events and are kept in touch with our work through regular electronic updates. This is an opportunity to join a vibrant group of researchers, forge new research partnerships and expand research networks. For further details about our 60 associates, and for information about to apply, visit http://www.sccjr.ac.uk/associates/.

Visiting Scholars
We actively encourage applications from scholars interested in engaging with us by spending a period of research in one of our member institutions. In 2010-2011, we welcomed the following visitors from the United States and the United Kingdom and look forward to developing this aspect of our work further in the coming years:
2010/2011
Professor Jonathan Simon, University of California, Berkeley, USA
Professor John Hagedorn, University of Illinois-Chicago, USA
Professor Malcolm Cowburn, Sheffield Hallam University

For details on how to apply see: [http://www.sccjr.ac.uk/research/Visiting-Fellowships/](http://www.sccjr.ac.uk/research/Visiting-Fellowships/)
Summary of our year
This section summarises our major activities, outputs and achievements from April 2010 until March 2011.

Research Outputs
Our key successes during the period have been:

- Producing high quality academic research, including 22 journal articles, 20 book chapters and 5 authored or edited books
- Producing 15 research reports about a range of crime and justice issues, including: female imprisonment, social marginalisation and violence, drug courts, desistance and offender management, and user views of punishment
- Completing 16 research projects, on issues such as: penal policy, home detention curfews, gender based violence, human rights and incarceration, troublesome youth groups and gangs

Research Awards
- This year we have received funding to develop and support a portfolio of research projects from a range of sources, including: the European Commission: Freedom, Justice and Security, the Scottish Government, Dumfries and Galloway Constabulary, Audit Scotland, Institute of Advanced Studies and the Higher Education Academy.

Communicating and Engaging

- SCCJR has a number of mechanisms for dissemination and knowledge exchange: our web-site (www.sccjr.ac.uk) showcases a growing amount of information, and continues to facilitate access and engagement.
- Over 1200 people receive our monthly Bulletin, distributed by e-mail, which acts as a notice-board of upcoming events and disseminates information on SCCJR activities and plans.

- We are active on twitter (www.twitter.com/thesccjr) where we have over 250 followers, and on facebook (www.facebook.com/thesccjr) where 143 people ‘like’ our page.
- We have produced a range of video clips highlighting our research findings, which are available at www.vimeo.com/thesccjr, and we have been awarded funding to develop this collection further.
- SCCJR organizes a seminar seminar series inviting contributions from national and international speakers. We also host a weekly working lunch programme which encourages open, informal discussion on a range of research topics, facilitated by SCCJR staff and postgraduates.
Supporting Policy and Practice

- SCCJR organises regular events which bring together academics, policy makers and practitioners to discuss and debate areas of interest. This year we have held events about women and community sanctions; gangs; crime, disorder and policing; families and criminal justice.
- We have delivered a series of in-house seminars and workshops for Scottish Government policy officials and analysts on subjects ranging from gangs to offender management.
- This year we have undertaken a range of projects for the Scottish Government, including work about diversion from prosecution, female imprisonment, summary justice reform, victims and witnesses and reducing reoffending.
- We have been commissioned to undertake research by a range of criminal justice related organisations, including: EU Fundamental Rights Agency, Dumfries and Galloway Constabulary, South West Scotland Community Justice Authority, and Equality and Human Rights Commission.
- We are engaged in several projects to support the use of research in policy and practice, including projects about community policing (Simon Mackenzie), community safety (Jon Bannister) and offender supervision (Fergus McNeill).

It was very helpful session and I think gave some new thoughts to us all as well as reassurance around some of the conclusions from other research, and also around the design of some of the recent policy developments.
Research Snapshots
Our research publications and knowledge exchange activities have made a contribution to academic thought and debate at the international level. Our research has also been of benefit to those outside academia, provoking thought and debate, and supporting the development of legislation, guidance, policies and practice in various aspects of criminal justice. In this section, we profile some of our research activities, in order to demonstrate the range of work we have been undertaking and to illustrate its impact on academia, policy and practice.

1. Public Criminology? - Richard Sparks and Ian Loader (University of Oxford)

*Public Criminology?* is a book about criminology’s ways of relating to public life – to the arenas of politics and policy-making – rather than an attempt to influence policy or practice directly. It sets out some ways in which people working in the field have thought about these questions, and suggests one way of re-thinking them for today, by emphasizing the value of knowledge and informed debate to democratic politics.

**Key Points**
Amongst other things this book argues that criminologists of different ‘camps’ or schools of thought have a great deal to learn from one another, and from practice, than they are often inclined to think. For this reason respectful debate between them is infinitely preferable to some of the other options they seem tempted to explore, which we call ‘passive toleration’, ‘takeover’ and ‘divorce’. We thus characterize the book as ‘an argument in favour of argument’.

The further sense of this relates to the contributions criminologists can make to wider public and political debates. We argue that like other areas of knowledge today (such as climate science and other socio-technical discoveries) our field is inherently controversial and open to being politicized. The proper response, we suggest, is to see ourselves as workers whose special task is to raise the quality of political argument, not as experts external to those dialogues.

**Impact**
It’s perhaps too soon to tell what the impact of this work is. However, there is evidence to suggest that it is generating interest and debate within academic circles. For instance, the British Journal of Criminology is shortly to publish a symposium of seven reviews of the book, as well as review essay by Loic Wacquant.

**Related publications**


2. Women and Punishment: Imprisonment and community sanctions (Margaret Malloch and Gill McIvor)

Margaret Malloch and Gill McIvor have been involved in an international programme of work critically examining the treatment of women by the criminal justice system. This has included an analysis of the experiences of women made subject to community sanctions; an exploration of trends in the use of imprisonment (with Michele Burman); and a programme of seminars supported by the Institute of Advanced Studies (now Scottish Universities Insight Institute) which brought together academics, policy makers, activists and practitioners from across the UK, Ireland, Australia, Canada and Europe to consider the issue of women and punishment from a human rights perspective.

Key Findings
The analysis of trends in reported crime and prosecutions involving women, and the conviction and sentencing of women suggested that the growth in the female prison population was attributable to the increasing use of custodial sentences by courts rather than to changes in the pattern of female offending: courts had become increasingly likely to imprison women convicted of a range of offences, with this trend being more pronounced among older women. Although more use is being made of community penalties with women, they appear to be receiving these disposals at an earlier point in their criminal ‘careers’ and, if breached, are perceived to have quickly exhausted the range of non-custodial penalties available to the courts. Agency collaboration is vital in supporting women in the community given the complexity of criminalised women’s needs. A co-ordinated approach is necessary to tackle poverty, homelessness and the array of social disadvantage suffered by women when they return to their communities. Real change will only come about through sentencing reform and wider social changes that are required to address many of the issues which result in women’s involvement with the criminal justice system.

Impact
This programme of work has proved timely insofar as it relates to wider policy concerns about the increasing imprisonment of women. The document depository established on the IAS website provides a forum for the exchange and dissemination of relevant documents while the network that has been established will serve as a vehicle for ongoing collaboration and debate. An edited book based on the Scottish Universities Insight Institute programme is planned.

The research on the drivers of female imprisonment and women and community sanctions has fed into the Scottish Government’s Women Offender Strategy Group and Reducing Re-offending Strategy while
the key conclusions arising from the Scottish Universities Insight Institute seminar programme on women, punishment and community sanctions were presented at a meeting of the Scottish Parliament Scotland’s Futures Forum (http://www.scotlandfuturesforum.org/assets/library/files/application/W_P_HR.pdf). The research on the drivers of women’s imprisonment received wide media attention when published in March 2011

**Related publications**


The Edinburgh Study of Youth Transitions and Crime (ESYTC) is a longitudinal programme of research looking at patterns of criminal behaviour amongst young people. The overarching aim of the study is to explore some of factors that increase risk of criminal and risky behaviours amongst young people and also to identify why some young people are resilient against these risk factors. At the heart of the research programme is a major longitudinal study of a single cohort of around 4,000 young people who started secondary school in Edinburgh in the autumn of 1998. The young people were followed up over six annual sweeps using a self-completion questionnaire methodology, mainly undertaken in schools, but also tracking those who left school. In addition to the self-completion questionnaires, data were collected from a range of other sources about the young people involved in the study, including: children’s hearing and social work records; school records; interviews with parents; criminal records; and information about the neighbourhoods they live in.

The aims of the study are to investigate and identify the factors which impact on young people’s involvement in offending behaviour and their desistance from it. The study is particularly interested in examining the striking differences between males and females in terms of the extent and patterns of criminal offending. There are three different contexts in which the study considers people’s behaviour: firstly, the context of the individual’s developmental change through the life-course; secondly, the context of their interactions with agencies of social control, such as the police and other justice agencies; and, thirdly, the context of the social and physical structure of the neighbourhoods in which the young people live.

Key findings
The study has shown that, at face value, policing practice tends to focus on those young people who are engaged in the most frequent and serious forms of offending. However, individuals who have repeated contact with the police tend to be labelled by officers and this leads to their being subject to repeated contact, regardless of any change in their offending behaviour. The working rules of the police serve to construct a population of “usual suspects” amongst children, who are defined not by their behaviour but their social background, family circumstances and aspects of their lifestyle. This form of policing does little to reduce offending amongst young people. In fact, it propels certain young people deeper into the youth justice system where further labelling processes serve to constantly recycle them, whereas other equally serious offenders escape the notice of the formal system altogether.
Evidence from the Edinburgh Study shows that the deeper a child penetrates the formal system, the less likely he or she is to desist from offending. The study has shown that there are four key facts that need to be addressed by systems of youth justice, not just in Scotland but across the UK. Firstly, that serious offending is linked to a broad range of vulnerabilities and social adversity amongst young people. Secondly, early identification of at-risk children is not an exact science and runs the risk of labelling and stigmatizing young people further. Thirdly, pathways out of offending are facilitated or impeded by critical moments that occur in the early teenage years, in particular school exclusion, and this phase of development is where intervention is required. And finally, the study has shown that diversionary strategies that decriminalise and destigmatise are likely to be far more effective in facilitating desistance from offending than criminal justice approaches to offenders.

Impact
In terms of academic and intellectual quality, the study has been described as “one of the premier longitudinal studies in the world” and was rated as outstanding by the ESRC in 2003. The Edinburgh Study’s published work has made, and continues to make, an important contribution to the academic literature and several articles are considered to be leading pieces within the field. In particular, an article titled Youth Justice? The Impact of Agency Contact on Desistance from Offending (McAra and McVie, 2007) has consistently been in the top 15 most cited articles published in the European Journal of Criminology and has been reprinted in three separate edited collections.

The Edinburgh Study has also had considerable impact in policy terms. The findings have been disseminated widely to policy audiences in Scotland and the other three UK jurisdictions. Examples of policy impact across the UK include:

- The Irish Penal Reform Trust and the Irish Association of Young People in Care used findings from the Edinburgh Study as part of their campaign to shift resources from criminal justice to social justice to create better communities and a safer society.
- Children’s Charity Barnardo’s launched a campaign to get the UK Government to review the age of criminal responsibility in England and Wales. Reporting findings from the Edinburgh Study, the Barnardos report "From Playground to Prison" points out that "the deeper that children penetrate the youth justice system, the more ‘damaged’ they are likely to become and the less likely they are to stop offending and grow out of crime".
- Action for Children Scotland highlighted the Edinburgh Study findings in their report ‘Where’s Kilbrandon Now?’ which considered proposals for reforming the Children’s Hearing System. It states the Edinburgh Study is “of immense interest and use to
government, councils and panels in shaping the services needed and avoiding the mistakes of the past”.

Related publications
Publications and other outputs from the Edinburgh Study can be found on the study website at: http://www.law.ed.ac.uk/cls/esytc/findings/academic.htm
4. What do the Punished think of Punishment: Qualitative Research on Experiences of Short Prison and Community-based Sentences (Sarah Armstrong and Beth Weaver)

This research sought to document the experience and impact of the most typical punishments in Scotland - short prison and community-based sentences. The researchers interviewed 35 people who were in prison, on probation or doing community service to learn about the characteristic features of the punishment experience and how these experiences compared.

Key findings

The study revealed that among those with experience of short prison sentences their impact is cumulative and negative: doing any single short prison sentence was not felt to be hard, but these tend to be one among many served in a long-term cycle of short sentences which had the effect over many years of interrupting attempts to access education and employment and stressing family relationships. Another important finding was that, if given the choice, almost everyone interviewed would have chosen a community-based sentence over imprisonment, despite the widespread feeling that community sentences were harder to get through. Penal users felt community sentences were more meaningful and more likely to get them to think about the harm they had caused and to find ways of paying back to communities. The one circumstance in which prison was preferred over probation or community service was when a person was seeking a place to detox from drug or alcohol use, emphasising the pervasiveness of substance misuse as an underlying factor in criminal justice system involvement.

The key findings are:
1. The abiding feature of people serving short prison sentences is the presence of a serious drug and/or alcohol problem.
2. It is the cumulative effect of doing many short sentences, more than the experience of any single sentence, which carries the largely negative impacts of short-term imprisonment.
3. Imprisonment seemed to have positive and even life changing effects for some people but in a way that would be impossible to anticipate.
4. Prison time often is passive time.
5. The impact of community sentences was rated positively compared to the impact of prison.
6. Given a choice, almost everyone would choose a community sentence over a prison sentence.
7. People in prison felt they were being sentenced on their criminal histories to the exclusion of any progress they were currently making in their lives, and this negatively affected their sense of fairness and penal legitimacy.
8. Family relationships were important to nearly everyone.
9. Offenders with chronic substance abuse and offending problems were generally active and organised while in prison, and hoping for a life of work and family stability outside of it.
Impact
On the publication of the report, in November 2010, the research received considerable press interest in Scotland and beyond. Although it is perhaps too early to demonstrate a clear impact from the research, the authors of the report have been invited to discuss their findings with a range of policy and practice stakeholders, who are very interested in both the findings and in further examining the views of the punished. This has included a presentation to Government analysts on prisoners’ views of punishment and methods of engaging with these ‘users’.

Relevant Publications


These reports can be accessed via www.sccjr.ac.uk.
5. Troublesome Youth Groups, Gangs and Knife Carrying in Scotland (Jon Bannister, Jon Pickering, Susan Batchelor, Michele Burman, Keith Kintrea and Susan McVie)

This research (funded by Scottish Government) set out to:

- Provide an overview of what is known about the nature and extent of youth gang activity and knife carrying in a set of case study locations.
- Provide an in-depth account of the structures and activities of youth gangs in these settings.
- Provide an in-depth account of the knife carrying in these settings.
- Offer a series of recommendations for interventions in these behaviours based on this evidence.

The research was conducted in 5 case study locations, namely: Aberdeen, Dundee, Edinburgh, Glasgow and West Dunbartonshire. The research involved interviewing those engaged in the delivery of services designed to manage and challenge problematic youth behaviours, and the researchers gained access (via these services) to a large sample of young people.

Key Findings

1. Agency Perspectives
In each case study area ‘troublesome youth groups’ were recognized to exist, though to significantly different extents. The tendency to regard these as symptomatic of a youth gang problem, however, was variable. Everywhere there was a lack of a tight definition of a troublesome youth group or gang. Differences in definition seemed to arise, at least in part, out of the perceived political and resource (dis)advantages of recognizing gangs (or not) locally and not purely the reality of the behaviours of groups of young people.

Based on the views of agency representatives, troublesome youth groups or gangs across Scotland are not all the same. In the West of Scotland interviewees defined youth gangs according to their strong territorial affiliations and rivalries manifest in gang fighting. In contrast, interviewees in the East of Scotland mainly identified troublesome youth groups that were engaged in (relatively) low-level antisocial behaviour. Neither youth gangs nor troublesome youth groups held criminal behaviours as a reason for their existence. Far more youth gangs were identified in the West of Scotland than troublesome youth groups in the East.

Of those young people that were identified as engaging in violence, most did so collectively via gang fighting. Fighting was associated with alcohol consumption and / or drug taking, though these were not seen as causal factors. Knife (and other weapon) carrying and use was closely, though not exclusively, associated with those who engaged in gang fighting.
Some young people were identified by police as holding offending profiles, inclusive of violent / weapon carrying offences that were not linked to group activity.

2. Young People’s Views and Experiences
Whilst some young people referred to the groups they were involved with as ‘gangs’, in general they resisted the gang label, preferring to talk about the people they hung about with in terms of an ‘area’, a ‘team’ or a ‘group’. The groups were mostly small, with relatively narrow age ranges, though at weekends these groups might consist of as many as 30 to 60 young people.

The vast majority of the groups were mixed-gender, but predominantly male. Both male and female respondents reported that young men, in general, were more heavily involved in offending and violence than young women. Young women, in contrast, were perceived primarily as group associates. The groups can best be characterised as fluid and informal friendship networks that met regularly, but not in any formal capacity.

Group membership and, for some, violent group behaviour were regarded as a normal part of growing up in particular families and neighbourhoods. Young people articulated an interweaving of individual, friendship and group identities, which in the West of Scotland were further underwritten by territoriality. The significance of territoriality was not nearly so strong in the East of Scotland.

Young people reported a sense of belonging associated with gang membership, the interlocking of friendship and gang identities taking place at an early age, that membership was sought for self protection and entailed backing-up your friends, and that fighting was seen as a way of developing a reputation and gaining respect. Essentially, gangs are not organised, but remain groups of adolescents looking for something to do, belonging, status and identity. Many aspects of their lifestyle are conventional and reflect those of other young people who do not associate with gangs.

Members reported participating in a range of anti-social and criminal behaviours including property damage, theft and public disorder offences, as well as violence. Drinking alcohol was a commonly identified pastime and recognised precipitator of violence. Drugs were readily available to young people but not everyone reported taking them. Very serious offending (including violent offending) was the preserve of a few ‘core’ gang members and did not necessarily take place within the frame of the gang.

Territorial fighting was the most common type of violence reported, particularly in the West of Scotland. Longstanding traditions and historical arguments were often mentioned as precursors to violence with a rival gang. In the East of Scotland, there was not the same degree of focus on the past battles or feuds. In addition, fights in the west were often orchestrated and planned, whereas violence in the east was more often described as opportunistic. Most fights were not serious and instead involved a great deal of bluster, posturing and stand-off. However, young people also reported occasions in which gang fights had led to serious injuries.
Attitudes towards weapon carrying and use varied enormously, with no clear trend or pattern being evident. Many carried weapons, but many others were opposed to the idea. Young people reported using a wide variety of weapons. Those that carried knives did so for a variety of reasons, as a means of self protection (with no intention of use), as a weapon (with the intention of use) and to promote their reputation (use and non-use).

Whilst many of those young people interviewed had not (yet) considered withdrawal, those that had were aware of there being significant barriers to exit. The intertwining of individual and gang identities acts as a significant inhibitor of withdrawal; to break from the gang requires a break from some of the key relationships in a gang member’s life. However, most were able to articulate a range of negative outcomes associated with gang membership. These negative outcomes centred on restricted physical mobility for fear of assault by a rival gang. As those gang territories based on residential neighbourhoods are characterised as lacking recreational, social and economic resources, restricted mobility essentially restricts the opportunities open to a young person.

Those interviewees who claimed to have withdrawn from gang membership reported significant lifestyle changes. Some had simply grown out of gang fighting; it no longer held the excitement that attracted them in the first instance. Others were increasingly aware of the negative consequences. Crucially, a seemingly successful exit strategy rested in the establishment of new social and economic experiences and relationships.

The publication discussed here is:


This report can be accessed from the Scottish Government website, www.scotland.gov.uk.
PhD Projects

PhD students are the lifeblood of any research centre, and SCCJR is no exception. Our 43 PhD students are based across our partner universities and are regularly involved in activities across SCCJR. In this section, we highlight the on-going work of some of our PhD students, which is at different stages of development.

1. Harbouring Global Insecurities: Constructing Security in Transnational Spaces
   (Yarin Eski, University of Glasgow: First year)
   Supervisors: Fergus McNeill and Simon Mackenzie

With this criminological project on port security I aim to research, interdisciplinarily, everyday lives of port personnel who construct security in the transnational spaces of European seaports. Analysing social realms of personnel in Clydeport, Port of Rotterdam and Port of Hamburg will shed light on how workers control and eliminate transnational insecurities at national seaport borders. It will contribute to a critical engagement within the prioritised theorisation of the globalised security society and of security consumerism.

Moreover, appreciating its more applicative aspects, this analysis of the everyday work-life of personnel engaged in constructing security in transnational spaces, elucidates the multitude of security agents at national seaport borders. Through the examination of the paradoxical and plural relations between policing, control and management of risks and threats through security consumption, and the insecurity of securing itself, making up and made by port security initiatives and activities, it becomes possible to see and break through security’s paradoxes and their unintended harmful effects by providing policy recommendations on managing and constructing sensible port security. This research could therefore have relevance for other (trans)national settings as well such as train-stations, airports, embassies and consulates.

To this point I have started to theorise security and methodologically frame certain techniques for data collection. I intend to use primarily ethnomethodological techniques and I am already in touch with public authorities and private security institutions in the Glasgow/Greenock, Port of Rotterdam and Port of Hamburg, for which I received ethical approval, which enabled me to commence my fieldwork at the Clydeport.

Forthcoming Publications

“‘Port of Call’: Towards a Criminology of Port Security’ in Criminology & Criminal Justice: an International Journal

International Justice Comparisons for Audit Scotland (with Sarah Armstrong)
2. Lap Dancing in Scotland  
(Billie Lister, University of Stirling: Third year)  
Supervisors: Margaret Malloch and Gill McIvor

Recently, there has been a rise in academic enquiry that explores the realities of labour carried out by female lap dancers in The UK (Colosi; Sanders, 2010). Despite this, little empirical research has been carried out specifically relating to Scotland aside from Bindel’s ‘Profitable Exploits’ study and the Adult Entertainment Working Group report which was published in 2006. The Adult Entertainment Working Group report received a very low response rate from dancers despite a widespread media advertising campaign, however there was a great response from women’s groups, which biased the report in the direction of a more abolitionist stance.

I identified a need to hear the voices of women in order to obtain a greater understanding of the nature of the industry in this country as it presently stands. Despite findings which indicated problems with regards to working conditions, no solid policy changes were made to address this which reflects the reluctance to define lap dancing as a form of labour. Since the publication of the report, there was a movement which was fronted by MP Sandra White which hoped to reclassify lap dancing venues as ‘sex encounter venues’, however there was no discussion on working conditions. It would appear that White had hoped Scotland would follow in the footsteps on policy changes in England and Wales that took place in 2010 and also reclassify the establishments. Such policy changes however fail to address industry conditions which appear to be declining. The title of ‘sexual entertainment venue’ is also problematic since it can be suggested that it serves to stigmatise women to a greater extent and this stigmatization is evident when one looks at ‘worker contracts’ provided to women from some of the chain based, ‘Gentleman’s Clubs’.

By speaking to women directly, I hope to show the changing nature of this forms of work and seek to uncover explanations for this by utilising social theory. This phase of my work is still very much under development.

I have completed thirteen semi structured interviews with lap dancers who have worked in a number of venues across Scotland. I spent a period of ten months recruiting and interviewing women using a range of different tactics, including online methods via my website www.lapdancingstudy.co.uk and advertising in student newspapers in Glasgow and Edinburgh. I have also presented details of my work in a number of conferences across the UK.

Initial observations
I am about to begin the data analysis segment of my Ph.D. but have done some initial analysis which enables me to make some initial observations.

My initial observations indicate that the popular portrayal of the existence of lap dancing as inherently problematic does not capture the reality of the labour for those who perform it. For example, many of my respondents consider this form of labour as something that is
empowering – and certainly more favourable than non deviantised forms of low paid service industry labour. However, attention has also been pointed towards somewhat unfavourable working conditions that can exist inside this unregulated industry. Interestingly, political focus to date tends to concentrate upon the ideology that lap dancing consists of an activity that is damaging to the community and encourages the continuation of a gender unequal society. Little to no attention has been paid by policymakers regarding the workers’ views and identifying ways in which the working environment can be regulated to ensure a fairer workplace. My findings to date indicate that the industry could benefit from strategies to improve working conditions.

However, my interviews reveal a working environment which can be highly exploitative – and this appears to be getting worse. Women point towards the unpredictable way clubs operate as opposed to gender inequality and dissatisfaction with performing erotic dance for customers. My research unveils a snapshot into the labouring realities for women by focusing on their individual experiences. Some themes that will be reflected on include emotional labour, themes of power and surveillance in the clubs and economic power. Participants also provide insight into the way working strategies have altered as they have found that lap dancing has become less financially lucrative in recent years.

Overall, the study aims to offer a snapshot into the realities for women who dance in Scotland’s lap dancing venues. In addition, the study also gives an idea of who labours in such places as the first decade of a new millennium draws to a close, and suggests ways in which working conditions for women who work in an environment which, although presently tolerated by policymakers, continues to operate within in an unregulated manner. This lack of regulation offers a variety of benefits to those who own the venues, often at the expense of dancers satisfaction at work.

There is an abundance of data in relation to women work experiences. My study will contribute to knowledge by offering an insight into experiences as they are now, but more importantly, will document the changes that have taken place in the industry in a short period of time.
3. **Policing Rape in Scotland**  
*(Georgia Scott-Brien, Glasgow Caledonian University: Second year)*  
*Supervisors: Lesley McMillan and Jackie Tombs*

There is limited understanding around why levels of attrition in rape cases are high and levels of conviction low. In Scotland, the focus for this particular study, the proportion of rapes resulting in a conviction stands at 4.6 per cent. In addition, we know from previous research that many rape cases fail to proceed beyond the policing stage of the criminal justice system. Research to date, however, has primarily focused upon understanding levels of attrition during the latter stages of the criminal justice process; our knowledge about the earlier stages remains limited. In order to address this gap, this study has examined the policing stage of the process in more depth. The research adopted a mixed methods approach including in-depth interviews with police officers and complainers, case file analysis of all rapes reported to a Scottish police force within 2009 and documentary analysis of key guidelines.

This study involved three primary methods of data collection; case file analysis of all rapes reported to a Scottish police force within 2009, interviews with police officers both investigators and Sexual Offence Liaison Officers and interviews with complainers. All of this data collection work has been completed and the analytical process is in its early stages.

Each aspect of the research will be analysed alone in the first instance, then the findings from each aspect will be brought together to examine how they impact upon one another. Once this stage has reached completion the findings will be written up in preparation for submission and dissemination.

Research on the policing of rape and the problem of attrition in rape cases is relatively rare. Our understanding of why attrition levels are so high, and what might be done to improve conviction rates, remains limited. Available research primarily pertains to England and Wales with much of this research concentrating on the later stages of the criminal justice process. Therefore, there is a significant gap in our knowledge about the policing of rape in Scotland. This study has focussed solely on the policing stage of the criminal justice response and will provide an opportunity to investigate the ways in which a Scottish police force investigates rape cases and the way this process is experienced by women choosing to report to the police.

**Forthcoming Publication**

4. **Motherhood, Womanhood and Imprisonment: A Feminist Analysis of Women as Offenders and as Mothers**  
(Nadine Imlah, University of Glasgow: Third Year)  
*Supervisors: Michele Burman and Susan Batchelor*

This research is set against the backdrop of growing concern of the comparatively and disproportionately high numbers of women receiving custodial sentences and being held on remand, most often as a response to non violent low level offending. This research seeks to provide depth of sociological understanding of motherhood as it relates to female prisoners and offenders and their distinct experiences of ‘mothering’, alongside exploring the ways the criminal justice system constitutes mother- and womanhood, particularly as it relates to the current penal responses and a particular notion of punishment. Lastly, the ways in which mothers’ subjectively construct their experience of being in prison leading to a consideration of the implications of imprisonment for women, their children and families and more broadly society in general.

The research is purely qualitative and feminist founded, and sought out to recruit participants who were mothers of dependant aged children (within their care or not before custody) and who were imprisoned at that time, whatever the offence or sentence length, within Scotland’s only female prison, namely HMP&YOI Cornton Vale. In order to contextualise the current justice/penal climate and to understand the nature of the resources available, (or lack thereof), for women offenders and their children, semi-structured interviews with community based front line practitioners in prison and from the voluntary and statutory sectors were undertaken.

A further dimension to the project included critical reflection upon the entire research process from development of its central focus to the methodological approach, fieldwork and analysis. The topic under exploration was seen as potentially very sensitive one from the outset which in itself raises many ethical issues that must be appropriately addressed. I believe that the relationship between participant and researcher has the potential to be transformative for the participant, researcher and ultimately the knowledge that can be produced from the data. To add a further layer to the interview data by I reflectively recorded how I experienced the process of doing the research - from the mundane everyday events to debating ethical dilemmas. This also contributed to how I came to understand the powerful role that emotion was playing, emotions of both participant and myself as the researcher. All of these issues relating to the relationship and what took place within it has significant implications for qualitative methodological theory and feminist criminological theory.

**Emerging Findings**
- Overall, prison was clearly understood as solely punishment without adequate opportunities for rehabilitation or support with women’s multiple social, economic, health, familial and

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Ah’ve aboot forty-eight previous ah ‘hink...ah ‘hink they should work wi’ ye in the community like, an’ if that doesnae work then aye..send ye here but am in here aw the time fir like 3 months here then 6 months there..or a year..but they dinnae dae nuthin tae try n help sort yer life oot, so..its aw jist in then oot, then yer in again”.

*Young woman (non violent offending-related to drug dependency)*
personal problems. Women’s problems before custody are significantly exacerbated when released into the community.

- Over the life course most women had experienced a ‘series of victimisations’ including sexual violence, domestic violence and emotional abuse as well as ‘societal victimisations’ related to structural inequalities and marginalisation. However, as other work has also shown, women also demonstrated active agency, behaviours often not in accordance with overarchig social/cultural norms.

- A large proportion of women had experienced social work and/or Children’s Hearing system involvement due to child protection and care concerns, both as a child themselves and as a parent relating to their own child(ren). Issues for both included neglect, sexual/physical/emotional abuse exposure to drugs or violence.

- Difficulties in parenting children had often reported to have been linked somehow to the mother’s offending, however whilst most felt they deserved to be in prison, very few saw themselves as a significant factor in any problems experienced by their children (including child becoming involved in criminality; anti social behaviour; truanting; drug /alcohol misuse; self harm; suicide attempts) or if their children had been removed from their care by social work services.

- Overall, traditional or dominant conceptions of mothering and motherhood tended to be both passively and actively resisted, yet conversely stereotypical assumptions and ideologies around female criminality were accepted and at times negotiated to ‘fit’ with chosen elements of an essentialist constructions of a motherhood identity.

- There are very little mother specific services for women prisoners or their children. A few mothers (who met prison criteria) had access to child only visits in a child friendly setting. Problematically this was seen as a privilege to remove as a punishment for what may be a minor contravention. Results in negative implications for child and her relationship to mother.

- Methodologically – the relationship between researcher and participant proved to be hugely important in this sensitive research. Emotions of both parties were expressed and played out within and external to the research interview. These emotions were not avoided or negated, but recognised as an ethical issue but also as a crucial way in which to gain greater understanding of the participants’ views, experiences and identities.

- I am currently working on developing greater explanations and understandings of the transformative potential for enhancing the research relationship and therefore the type, nature and depth of knowledge produced by actively engaging in ‘doing’ emotion –ethically, empathetically, usefully - within qualitative feminist sensitive research.
Potential Impact of the Research

I hope that the work can contribute to the debates concerning the most appropriate criminal justice response to women, and this is not a punitive penal response, but for the vast majority of female offending, targeted community disposals which take account of the multiple offending related social problems of women offenders, and fully understand that to reduce re-offending, these problems must be adequately resolved in the long term. Disposals such as short prison sentences simply exacerbate women’s existing problems and do very little if anything at all to change women’s circumstances which lead them into offending behaviour time and time again, whilst having hugely negative consequences for their children. Questions must be asked about the current penal response’s effect upon women’s children – is it a catalyst for the creation of the next generation of offenders?
5. Understanding the Relationship Between Masculinity and Major Mental Illness in the Context of Violent Offending Behaviour (Christine Haddow, University of Edinburgh: Second Year) Supervisors: Lesley McAra and John Crichton

The aim of this research is to understand the interplay between cultural scripts of masculinity and major mental illness in the context of violent altercations and the offending histories comprising these incidents. Stereotypes lead many people to believe that mental illness causes violence. However, existing research indicates that the links between violence and major mental illness are small, and that often violent acts by individuals suffering from a major mental illness are driven by the same historical, dispositional, and contextual factors associated with violence in non mentally ill offenders.

As a factor in violent offending, a wealth of criminological literature exists which establishes links between masculinity and such behaviour. Such research suggests that violent acts are often attempts to assert and maintain a masculine persona, by displaying attributes such as power, dominance and physical strength. However, the influence of these masculine attributes on offending behaviour is yet to be examined in the mentally disordered context. This project explores masculinity as a factor in the violence of mentally ill males through a series of qualitative interviews with a group of mentally disordered male offenders. These interviews take a life history focus, exploring these individuals’ pasts and focussing on their accounts of their offending histories and the causes of their behaviour. This examination will clarify the development and causes of such offending histories and the violent incidents they comprise.

The project is currently at a midway point. At present, the interviews are being conducted with male patients in a medium secure forensic psychiatric hospital, with approximately half of these having been completed to date. This type of research poses a unique set of challenges, however there are also many benefits. The interviewees have so far proven to be insightful and engaging, speaking openly about their offending histories.

Potential Impact of the Research
As well as adding to our understanding of the causes and circumstances of violent offending behaviour by mentally ill males, the findings of this project may have implications for criminal justice and mental health service practice in terms of how we treat and manage these individuals. I hope that this project will widen the scope of our research into mental illness and violence and contribute to the existing body of work in this field. It may also have implications for practice and encourage a consideration of masculinity in developing and implementing the treatment and management of violent male offenders. Furthermore, an awareness that the factors driving violence by mentally ill males are often the same as those which lead to offending in the general male offending population may reduce the stigma attached to this group.
Across the globe, the phenomenon of youth ‘gangs’ has become an important and sensitive public issue. In communities from Chicago to Rio, Capetown to London, the local realities of violent groups present complex dangers and instabilities for children and young people, and generate high levels of public fear and anger. At the same time, myths and stereotypes relating to gangs circulate through the global media of film and TV, feeding a heightened global consciousness of gangs as a fundamental social evil. Added to this, a range of global and local actors – police, youth workers, academics, journalist and policy-makers, as well as young people themselves – define and respond to youth ‘gangs’ in different and often contradictory ways. Increasingly, multifaceted issues surrounding youth violence are viewed through the narrow lens of the ‘gang complex’, in which representation and reality merge and blur, making it difficult to determine fact from fiction.

To explore these issues, SCCJR organised a one-day conference held in Glasgow in December 2010, entitled ‘Gangs and Global Exchange: Confronting the Glasgow Gang Complex’. The conference sought to explore these issues by examining the past, present and future of the gang phenomenon in the city of Glasgow, through dialogue between relevant academic, community, media, policy, and practitioner audiences. The conference brought together cutting-edge criminological, sociological and historical research on the development of the gang phenomenon in Glasgow alongside key figures in public, media, policy and practitioner...
communities; in an effort to comprehend the competing demands of these diverse groups, and work towards more informed, evidence-based collaborations. These local responses were located within the global exchange of knowledge on the ‘gang complex’ through dialogue with international experts.

The idea for the conference came about due to a tendency in responses to the gang phenomenon – a tendency the organisers called the ‘gang complex’. Basically, this is the idea that stereotypes of gangs are incredibly powerful, and sometimes without knowing it, these stereotypes colour our judgements of young people; and in turn have an impact on how we respond to young people – in our communities, in our police forces, in our criminal justice system, and in our newspapers. This image – of a gang as a criminal, violent, and static entity, everywhere the same, and inherently dangerous – is an alluring image, but crucially one that doesn’t always match up with reality – and can in fact have a damaging and stigmatising effect on children and young people. The image reduces the diversity of young people’s experiences – differences of age, gender, social class, and ethnicity – to a set of violent stereotypes, resulting at times in our viewing of young people as ‘gang members’, not as individuals. Having looked in some detail at American responses to gangs, and the growing concern over gangs in the United Kingdom as a whole, it appeared that Scotland’s welfare-oriented traditions of youth justice (and also the groundedness of Scottish people) have prevented us from getting too carried away with the issue. So we thought that in inviting people from the key groups that respond to gangs in to discuss these issues, it might help inoculate us against excessive hysteria. The theme of ‘Gangs and Global Exchange’ was intended to bring out some of these differences in responses – with contributions from Chicago and London – as a way of locating our experiences in a broader context.

The day was structured around the past, present and future of the ‘gang complex’ in Glasgow, with sessions focusing on each in turn – book-ended by inputs from gang researchers from Chicago (Professor John Hagedorn) and London (Professor John Pitts). In the first session, papers from Dr Andrew Davies (University of Liverpool) and Dr Angela Bartie (University of Strathclyde) showed up well the changing ways in which gangs have been reported, prosecuted and used by different agencies during two periods of Glasgow’s history – the 1930s and the 1960s – in which media coverage of gangs were particularly pronounced, resulting in specific police and policy responses. In the second session, papers from Jon Bannister (University of Glasgow) and Dr Alistair Fraser (University of Glasgow) highlighted, respectively, the importance of geographical differences in studying gangs, and the often positive role that gang identities can play in young people’s lives. In the third session, workshop groups discussed the role of the media, the police, the criminal justice system, and the community in dealing with the gang phenomenon, before posing questions back to representatives from each agency: Karyn McCluskey (VRU) and Robert Stevenson (CIRV); Michael McCourt (Urban Fox); Sheriff Martin Jones QC; and David Leask (Herald and Evening Times).

Debate revolved around a number of key areas, emphasising that the problems associated with gangs, predominantly violence and territoriality, cause ongoing fears, harms, and anxieties for children and young people, and the communities they live in, across Scotland. However, going too far down the line of policies directed at gangs, rather than individual
behaviour or offending, may be counter-productive in encouraging young people away from violence. The point of the conference, then, was to cut through much of the myth, stereotype and hype that surrounds the issue of gangs, to talk about the real challenges faced by young people and communities, as well as police, criminal justice agencies and the media, in responding to the issue of gangs.
Research Projects
Below is an alphabetic list of current and completed SCCJR research projects, the people named are the key contacts for the project.

Current Projects

**Analysis of Supervision Skills by Juvenile Justice Workers**  
*Gill McIvor*  
This research, funded by the Australian Criminology Research Council, examines the nature and effectiveness of different styles of supervision of offenders. The research is being conducted in collaboration with the Department of Juvenile Justice in New South Wales and involves observation of 200 worker/client interviews, follow up interviews with the clients and the workers and outcome data from files and police records. The study provides information about what takes place in worker/client interviews and what works best in fostering compliance and reduced recidivism. This research is being conducted with Chris Trotter who is the project lead.

**AQMeN**  
*Susan McVie and Jackie Palmer*  
AQMeN is an ESRC funded network of people who have a shared interest in quantitative methods and who wish to refresh their existing knowledge or learn a range of new skills. The Network is led by a group of academics from eight of the Scottish Universities and its activities are aimed primarily at Scottish postgraduate students and academics of all levels. AQMeN organises a range of training and knowledge exchange events covering all social science disciplines. Specific examples of activities for those interested in crime and justice include: training to use the Scottish Crime and Justice Survey; and development of a training event for crime analysts. For more information, and to join the network, see the AQMeN website: [http://aqmen.ac.uk/](http://aqmen.ac.uk/).

**Building Safer Communities: ESRC Engaging with Scottish Local Authorities Initiative**  
*Jon Bannister and Nick Fyfe (SIPR)*  
This project is about bringing researchers and community safety practitioners together to share information about good practice in community safety. The project is led by Jon Bannister and is being conducted in partnership with the Scottish Community Safety Network.

**Community Policing in Scotland**  
*Simon Mackenzie and Alistair Henry*  
This AHRC funded knowledge transfer project runs from Jan 2009 to Dec 2011. It involves working with the Scottish police to interrogate available conceptual models of community policing and develop best practice in Scotland. The project has its own website at [http://police.sccjr.ac.uk/](http://police.sccjr.ac.uk/) where further details and project outputs can be found.
Collaboration of Researchers for the Effective Development of Offender Supervision (CREDOS)

Fergus McNeill

CREDOS is an international network of researchers, and policy and practice partners in research, who share a common interest in the effective development of offender supervision. It was established following a seminar in Prato, Italy in September 2007 and aims to support, encourage and engage in high quality, collaborative and comparative research and scholarship.

Crime, Critique and Utopia

Margaret Malloch and Bill Munro

This project involves an examination of the relevance of ‘utopian’ thought for Critical Criminology and the potential for social change. The key characteristic of utopian politics lies in the imagining of political systems radically different from existing contemporary ones. However, although Utopia has always been a theme in political science, its political status is structurally ambiguous. It can be argued that a significant contingency of what has been termed critical criminology, at least in Britain, followed older Marxist traditions that characterised utopianism as an idealism deeply and structurally averse to the political. We are interested in examining the relationship between utopia and critique, with their shared focus on the historically particular as a means of revealing the domination of existing social constraints. The relationship between Utopia and the political, as well as questions about the practical political value of utopian thinking for criminology is the central theme of this project. In particular we question whether criminology can be political, which is to say critical and even subversive, or whether it is necessarily re-appropriated and co-opted by the social system which it is part. We are also examining the applied potential of this approach through an examination of the blueprints and application (where appropriate) of new communities and grass-root organisations based upon visions of different ways of being; in essence utopian visions and their practical application.

Criminal Justice Interventions for Drug Users

Margaret Malloch

The review, Criminal Justice Interventions for Drug Users was commissioned by the SG to examine interventions for drug users as part of the criminal justice system in Scotland. The report highlighted the challenges of measuring ‘effectiveness’ in terms of reductions in offending and drug use; and costs. While identifying recent initiatives in Scotland and examining findings from evaluations, the review questions the knowledge-base currently available and the potential for comparing initiatives in terms of outcomes and costs. Due for publication by SCCJR in Summer 2011.

Early and Effective Intervention Services in Dumfries and Galloway

Alistair Fraser, Sarah Macqueen and Michele Burman

This project is funded by Dumfries and Galloway Constabulary. It involves reviewing early intervention services for young people implemented in Dumfries and Galloway. It includes an exploration of multi-agency case progression and diversion from prosecution. The project involves research, statistical analysis and process evaluation.
Economics of Crime
Jon Bannister and Mark Livingston
Running from June 2009 through to 2011 the economics of crime project seeks to extend the current knowledge on the economic impact of crime. The project hopes to further understanding by combining two unique data sets one on crime and the other on house sales in the same geographical area. The outputs from the project will involve academic papers and research proposals to extend the research further.

Edinburgh Study of Youth Transitions and Crime
Lesley McAra, Susan McVie, Sarah MacQueen, Aileen Barclay and Jackie Palmer
The Edinburgh Study of Youth Transitions and Crime (ESYTC) is a programme of research that aims to address a range of fundamental questions about the causes of criminal and risky behaviours in young people. The core of the programme is a major longitudinal study of a single cohort of around 4,000 young people who started secondary school in Edinburgh in the autumn of 1998. The aims of the study are to investigate and identify the factors which impact on young people’s involvement in offending behaviour and desistance from it. The study is particularly interested in examining the striking differences between males and females in terms of the extent and patterns of criminal offending. Patterns of offending are explored in three different contexts: individual development, interactions with agencies of crime control and the social and physical structure of neighbourhoods. The outputs from the project include a large number of published research digests, journal articles and book chapters. For further information go to: http://www.law.ed.ac.uk/cls/esytc/.

Evaluation of the Women in Focus Programme
Gill McIvor, Margaret Malloch, Cheryl Burgess, Susan Batchelor and Fergus McNeill
The Women in Focus Programme is aimed at reducing the number of women imprisoned from the South West Scotland Community Justice Authority area by offering additional support within the framework of a statutory order. The research, funded by the South West Scotland Community Justice Authority, is assessing the effectiveness of the programme in reducing levels of breach and levels of custody for women offenders, reducing rates of re-offending and re-conviction and effecting positive community integration. The report is due for publication in late summer 2011.

Evaluation of Football Banning Orders in Scotland
Error! Reference source not found., Error! Reference source not found., Error! Reference source not found., and Nick Tilley
This project is an evaluation of the operation and effectiveness of legislation relating to football banning orders in Scotland. The evaluation involves a review of administrative data (including conviction records and case files) and relevant documentation (including legislation); and interviews and focus groups with strategic and operational stakeholders. The fieldwork was conducted between August 2010 and January 2011, and the report will be published in summer 2011.
Evaluation of Up-2-Us Young Women’s Project
Susan Batchelor, Michele Burman and Nadine Imlah
This is an evaluation of the Up-2-Us Project, which is an intensive intervention project for young women at high risk of admission to secure care or custody. The research, which entails a set of interviews with the young women attending the project and professionals working with them, commenced in May 2010 and runs through to May 2011.

Knowledge Brokers in Higher Education
Claire Lightowler and Christine Knight (University of Edinburgh)
Knowledge brokers” are intermediaries who work to promote the use of academic research by non-academics, such as government policymakers, practitioners involved in service delivery and businesses. Despite an increase in people fulfilling these roles, there is currently limited evidence about who they are, the issues they face and “how [knowledge brokering] works, what contextual factors influence it and how effective it is” (Ward et al. 2009, p. 274). Given that both universities and research councils are investing in social science knowledge brokerage, an increased evidence base is highly desirable. This qualitative study will contribute to this evidence base by systematically capturing and sharing the experience and knowledge of knowledge brokers themselves. The project involves interviewing knowledge brokers based at the University of Edinburgh (UoE). The project began in January 2011 and will be completed by August 2011.

Organised crime, community intelligence and engagement
Niall Hamilton-Smith and Simon Mackenzie
This project will run from March to December 2011. The project has been funded by the Scottish Government, and is part of a wider community intelligence pilot being undertaken with colleagues from the Scottish Institute for Policing Research. The purpose of this component of the wider pilot is to assess the extent to which a standardised technique for improving the ‘capture’ of community intelligence can be adapted to also provide useful intelligence on organised crime within the pilot area. The project is being conducted with the support and involvement of Strathclyde Police.

Pathways into organized crime: lifecourse interviews on organized crime careers
Simon Mackenzie, Niall Hamilton-Smith and Susan McVie
This project is supported by the Scottish Government and Lothian and Borders Police. The project will run from January to December 2011. The project aims to examine the criminal careers of organised offenders through a combination of interviews and an analysis of offender records. The objectives for the research are to determine in what ways the lifecourse and criminal careers of organised criminals may be different to those of other offenders, and to identify possible opportunities for early interventions to prevent vulnerable young people from embarking on similar criminal careers.
Recording Crime and Justice Exchanges
Claire Lightowler
This project, funded by the Higher Education Academy’s C-SAP network, involves recording a number of small group discussion sessions where academics explore key crime and justice ideas and issues with other academics and with those outside academia. The project will run from February – July 2011 and the recorded forums will be available on-line.

Restorative Justice Survey for Criminal Justice Professionals
Jenny Johnstone, Steve Kirkwood, Niall Hamilton-Smith and Yulia Chistyakova
Members of the Restorative Justice Research Working Group are currently working to develop an online Restorative Justice Survey for Criminal Justice Professionals in Scotland. The survey is aimed to explore the attitudes of restorative justice professionals towards the use of restorative justice. It will be distributed in May-June 2010 and the outputs will inform the work of the Restorative Justice Champions Group as well as research proposals to extend this research further.

Restorative Practices for Serious Adult Offenders
Niall Hamilton-Smith, Jenny Johnstone and Yulia Chistyakova
The Scottish Government commissioned SCCJR to undertake a literature review of international evidence of restorative practices for serious adult offenders. The review focused on restorative practices that are embedded in any stage of the criminal justice process as well as post-sentence practices, and looked at both sources available via electronic databases and any ‘grey literature’ (via contacts with restorative justice practitioners). The review is aimed to inform the work of Restorative Justice Working Group and Restorative Justice Champions group.

The Governance of Security and the Analysis of Risk for Sporting Mega-events: Security Planning for the 2014 Glasgow Commonwealth Games
Michele Burman, Simon Mackenzie, Error! Reference source not found. in collaboration with Prof Nick Fyfe (SIPR) Prof Chris Johnson, Computing Science, University of Glasgow and Prof Allan McConnell, Dept of Government, University of Strathclyde
The Commonwealth Games will be held in Glasgow in 2014 (G2014), and policing and security planning arrangements are co-ordinated through a Strategic Security Committee. This project will monitor, evaluate and inform the planning process leading up to the Games and has, in principle, been given access to specific security and policing planning and preparations. Drawing on the model driving the process of planning, maintaining and directing security at G2014, the project will monitor and evaluate how the model is used to identify and respond to specific securitisation problems. Particular attention will be paid to the governance arrangements that lie behind the coordination of the securitisation planning for G2014, as evinced by the multi-level (central and local) government relationships, and the public-private partnerships that pertain in relation to policing, security and surveillance technologies, and the training of security personnel. The project commenced in Dec 2010 and will run until June 2013.
Completed Projects

A Comparative Analysis of Community Service in Belgium, Holland, Scotland and Spain
Gill McIvor
This project was undertaken for a special issue of the European Journal of Probation. An analytical framework was adopted to describe the development, implementation and evolution of unpaid work by offenders in each country and to identify contemporary issues and challenges. A further comparative paper focused on identifying similarities and differences across jurisdictions, and how these reflect wider penological and political concerns. This work was conducted with Kristel Beyens, Ester Blay and Miranda Boone.

All Change
Margaret Malloch
This research developed from an examination of the development of 'holistic' responses to address offending behaviour and other social 'problems', and work which originated from the Pathways to Recovery seminar series. Drawing on the lived experiences of respondents actively involved in 'grass-root' community based support groups, the research examines processes of transformation (individual and social), how these changes are supported within communities, and the wider implications of these experiences. This study was supported with funding from the Carnegie Trust.

Diversion from Prosecution to Social Work
Ben Bradford and Sarah MacQueen
The SCCJR were asked by the Scottish Government to examine the use of diversion from prosecution to social work in Scotland. This project involved analysis of recent patterns of use of this form of diversion across Scotland, and an in-depth study of working practices in three Community Justice Authorities. The research report was published in January 2011, and is available on the SCCJR website.

Ethnography of Penal Policy
Sarah Armstrong
This project, funded by the ESRC, used the techniques and perspective of ethnography to study penal reform at a key moment in Scottish history. An ethnographic approach involves close up observation and immersion in the world it aims to document. Over the past two years Sarah has been both working on and tracing the changes taking place in penal policy as various actors - civil servants, politicians, academics, local residents, prisoners, professionals, among others - participate in efforts to change Scotland’s entrenched pattern of high prison populations. The project thus takes an anthropological approach to the study of policy, for example by treating policy documents as cultural texts. The research is also informed by an actor network theoretical orientation that views policy documents and other materials and practices as essential to making sense of change as the people who generate them. The aim of the project is to provide a holistic and integrated account that can answer a very simple question: how do you get things to change? The project began in September 2008 and finished in September 2010.
Evaluation of the Effectiveness of Home Detention Curfew (HDC) and the Prison’s Open Estate
Sarah Armstrong, Margaret Malloch, Paul Norris and Mike Nellis
The Scottish Government has contracted the SCCJR to evaluate the effectiveness of two schemes of graduated release from prisons. The evaluation involves statistical analysis of the trends of use and breach of HDC and open prisons, an assessment of the costs and benefits of the schemes and qualitative exploration into the perspectives of those who administer, experience and are affected by their use. The report will be published in summer 2011.

Evaluation of the Grampian Return Home Welfare Interview (RHWI) pilot
Margaret Malloch
This evaluation examines the operation of Grampian Police RHWI pilot in two pilot areas. The RHWI has been introduced to provide a more effective response to young people who are reported missing either from home or who are looked after and accommodated. The evaluation has been commissioned by the Scottish Government and was completed in May 2010. This is a joint evaluation with Ipsos MORI Scotland and also involves Cheryl Burgess and Fiona Mitchell (Stirling University and Scottish Child Care and Protection Network).

Implicit Thinking in Intimate Partner violence
Liz Gilchrist
This pilot study involved data collection from two sites, one in England & Wales and one in Scotland. The work was supported by the Scottish Prison service (SPS). The work is producing the first dataset describing the implicit thinking of Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) offenders and the results will be presented at both national and international conferences in 2010. The work done to date forms a pilot study for what is hoped will be a larger project looking to explore implicit associations utilising innovative methodologies.

Incarceration, social control and human rights.
Fergus McNeill and Richard Sparks
This project formed part of the International Council on Human Rights Policy’s inquiry on Social Control and Human Rights. The work informs the Council’s recent report: The Widening Web of Control: A Human Rights Analysis of Public Policy Responses to Crime, Social Problems and Deviance, which has now been published and widely circulated. To view the report online go to: http://www.ichrp.org/en/projects/126?theme=8

Learning about alcohol: Influences of family context
Alasdair Forsyth
This project was completed in 2010, and was funded by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation. Alasdair Forsyth is a co-applicant along with Derek Heim of Central Lancashire University, principle investigators being Oona Brookes, Douglas Eadie, Susan MacAskill and Sam Punch of the University of Stirling. The project built upon a previous study, in which Alasdair was an advisor, and in this he examined how child agency impacts upon parental drinking patterns. The report based on this research was published by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation in November 2010 and is available on the Joseph Rowntree Foundation website.
Policy Responses to Gender Based Violence in Scotland

*Michele Burman and Jenny Johnstone*

Michele Burman and Jenny Johnstone in collaboration with Janette de Haan and Jan Macleod, of the Women’s Support Project received a research grant from the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) for a project entitled *Responding To Gender-Based Violence In Scotland: The Scope Of The Gender Equality Duty To Drive Cultural And Practical Change*. The project summarised current Scottish devolved policy and legislation on violence against women in all its forms; critically examined the arguments for and against a gender statutory aggravation as a criminal justice response to gender-based violence, and; explored the impact and future scope of the GED as a policy tool for driving change in the way criminal justice bodies and other public authorities tackle gender-based violence. This work involved a set of interviews with criminal justice stakeholders and third sector groups working with those who have experience gender-based violence. The report based on this research entitled ‘Responding to Gender Based Violence in Scotland’ was published in January 2011 and is available on the SCCJR website.

Racism and social marginalisation research study

*Susan McVie*

Discrimination and social marginalisation are major stumbling blocks to integration and community cohesion. In particular, discrimination and racial abuse can lead to social marginalisation and alienation that, in turn, might be one set of factors leading some individuals to develop attitudes, and even activities, supporting criminal movements and their use of violence. With funding from the European Union Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA), Susan McVie and Susan Wiltshire carried out a collaborative project with researchers from England, Spain and France to explore the relationship between young people’s experiences of discrimination and social marginalisation, including racism, and the development of attitudes, and potential activities, in support of violent criminal acts. The report was published by the Fundamental Rights Agency in October 2010, and is available on the SCCJR website.

Understanding the drivers of the female prison population in Scotland

*Gill McIvor and Michele Burman*

SCCJR undertook an analysis aimed at identifying factors that may have contributed to the increased use of female imprisonment in Scotland. The number of women imprisoned in Scotland has risen dramatically over the last 10-15 years (as it has done in other western jurisdictions) prompting questions as to the factors that have brought about this change. In seeking to explore this issue attention needs to focus on explanations related to offending (for example, more women committing more serious crime) alongside systemic factors (for example, changes in sentencing powers, increasing punitiveness among sentencers). This project consisted of analysis of statistical data and reviews of existing data and literature. This work was conducted at the request of the Scottish Government and the report was published in March 2011.
User Views of Punishment
Sarah Armstrong and Beth Weaver
Sarah Armstrong (Glasgow University) and Beth Weaver (Strathclyde University) conducted research, in cooperation with the Scottish Prison Service, into the experience of doing short prison sentences and community-based sentences (probation, community service). This research aims to explore what those affected by these punishments are going through and how such sentences help or hinder the ability to reduce offending and get people’s lives on track. The report was published in November 2010 and is available on the SCCJR website.

Women, Punishment and Community Sanctions - Human Rights and Social Justice
Gill McIvor and Margaret Mallach
The core objective of this programme of events funded by the Institute for Advanced Studies was to draw upon international knowledge and expertise to critically assess cross cultural responses to lawbreaking by women with a particular emphasis upon human rights and social justice. The programme focused, during three two-day seminars in summer 2010 upon comparative experiences of community sanctions for women, an area that has received relatively little academic and policy attention. In doing so it drew on, and extended, existing academic debates about women’s imprisonment and human rights, and provided a forum for academics, practitioners and policy makers to participate in the development of knowledge for policy, practice and research.

Youth Gangs and Knife Carrying in Scotland
Jon Bannister, Michele Burman, Susan Batchelor, Keith Kintrea and Susan McVie
In 2008, SCCJR were awarded a research grant of £155,000 by the Scottish Government to undertake ethnographic research exploring the nature of youth gang involvement, and the nature of knife carrying by young people in Scotland, and the roles that such activities may play in young peoples’ everyday lives. The research took place in five locations across Scotland and involved a multi-method approach, combining sets of interviews with young people, police, community and youth workers and other local area ‘experts’, and documentary analyses. Two draft reports were submitted to the Scottish Government in spring 2010: the first providing a qualitative account of young people’s involvement in youth gangs, and offering a series of recommendation for intervention based on the research, and; the second drawing on an analysis of quantitative data from several sweeps of the Edinburgh Study of Youth Transitions of Crime (ESYTC). Findings from the research were published in September 2010 and are available on the SCCJR website.

Youth Violence in Scotland
Alasdair Fraser, Michele Burman, and Susan Batchelor, with Susan McVie
In November 2009, SCCJR were commissioned by the Scottish Government to identify and collate available qualitative and quantitative research data and information about youth violence in Scotland. The review draws on available sources of data from administrative sources (recorded crime, criminal proceedings, school exclusions, referrals to the Children’s Hearings System) and from the Scottish Crime and Justice Survey (SCJS) in order to construct a picture of what is known about youth violence using official data sources. It also draws on the range of primarily, but not solely, qualitative research studies that have been undertaken within Scotland over the past 15-20 years. These studies have been funded by a
range of sources, including local and central government, research councils and charities. Whilst some have focussed specifically on youth violence, others had a broader research remit in relation to youth offending in general, or were focused on aspects of youth lifestyles, or youth identities. The report from this work was published in 2010 and is available on the SCCJR website.
Publications (April 2010 – March 2011)

You can access many of our publications directly or find information about where to purchase them on our website, www.sccjr.ac.uk/pubs/. Authors who are members of SCCJR are highlighted in bold. Whilst many of our co-authors are associate members of SCCJR, to save confusion, this is not highlighted in the list below.

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