The Scottish Centre for Crime & Justice Research
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Welcome to the 10-Year Anniversary Report of the Scottish Centre for Crime and Justice Research (SCCJR)

On behalf of all the staff and postgraduates of the Scottish Centre for Crime and Justice Research, we have great pleasure in welcoming you to our bumper 10-year SCCJR Report, which showcases the work we have done over the past year but also celebrates highlights of SCCJR work that has flowed from the innovative and strong research collaboration between the Universities of Edinburgh, Glasgow, Stirling and Glasgow Caledonian over the past ten years. SCCJR was established in 2006 with core funding from the Scottish Funding Council (SFC) and the Scottish Government Justice Analytical Services (SGJASD) and additional investment from the four partner universities to support staffing and infrastructure. Since 2013, it has continued to receive an element of core funding from the Scottish Government.

SCCJR represents a unique alliance of criminologists working collectively across Scottish universities with the aims of widening the criminological research agenda, increasing research capacity through PhD programmes and training, collaborating with local, national and international partners to develop programmes of methodologically rigorous research that stimulates theoretical discussions of crime and its governance, and finding ways of increasing the use of criminological research. We are delighted to announce that in 2016, SCCJR has been joined by a new partner institution, University of Strathclyde, which increases our staff capacity and deepens our research expertise.

We work from a range of theoretical perspectives and have a wide research capacity covering all aspects of criminal justice and criminology, with particular strengths in researching and analysing cultures and practices of punishment, gender, crime and justice; youth crime and youth justice; gendered violence; transnational crime and policing; organised crime; illicit markets; and rehabilitation and desistance. SCCJR staff and postgraduates have 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, as well as evaluation methodologies.

We have a commitment to producing high-quality, high-impact research that engages with current theoretical and methodological debates in criminology and social science more generally. We work closely with academic colleagues based in cognate research centres in the four UK jurisdictions, and beyond in Europe, Australia, New Zealand, North America and Hong Kong, and have several ongoing international research and knowledge exchange collaborations. At a national level, we work closely with the Scottish Government and local governmental bodies to create, share and apply research in criminal justice policy and practice. We also engage with policy and practice across the UK and internationally through our various collaborations.

We are also taking this opportunity to let friends and supporters of SCCJR know of our plans, after 10 full and eventful years, to step down as Co-Directors. We are extremely pleased to welcome SCCJR’s new Director, Dr Sarah Armstrong, to lead our excellent team and build on and develop SCCJR achievements in research, knowledge exchange and staff and postgraduate capacity.

We are tremendously grateful to have been given the opportunity to co-direct such a vibrant research centre and work closely with such marvellous colleagues across four universities. During the past 10 years there has been so much to learn from all those involved with and in criminal justice systems, about the nature and use of criminological research evidence and the nature of critical friendship. This Annual Report provides information on our major research and knowledge exchange activities and external research funding successes over the past year, and showcases the work of our growing community of postgraduates. It has been a very exciting and challenging decade for us. Looking back, the number and breadth of research projects, high-quality publications, presentations and high-profile events are impressive and reflect the vibrancy of the staff and intellectual environment that we aim to develop at SCCJR. It has always been our intention that our research makes a difference — both in advancing our academic disciplines and in constructively contributing to public debate and policy and practice development in relation to crime and criminal justice. To that end, this 10-year Report also tries to show the significance and impact of our work.

We hope you find this Report interesting and informative and that you may consider joining us as an associate member or signing up to our mailing list through our website to receive more information about the work of SCCJR. We continue to strive to consolidate and enhance SCCJR’s strengths in criminological research, to forge meaningful links with research in the broader fields of Sociology, Law, Social Policy and Social Work, and increase our capacity for collaboration with others. We are always looking for opportunities to work with others, whatever the nature of their engagement with the fields of criminology and criminal justice. For research colleagues from around the world, we offer opportunities for support to come and work with us through our Visiting Fellowship programme.

This Report is also an opportunity to thank the extraordinarily wide range of people and local, national and international organisations who have, in different ways, contributed to the success of SCCJR over the past ten years. Together, we have tried to make a difference by producing a body of research that is theoretically informed and of wide application. We are extremely grateful to Tim McBride our Centre Administrator and Business Manager who has been with us since SCCJR’s inception - he has provided oversight of our financial arrangements and ensured the smooth running of SCCJR on a day-to-day basis, attending to whatever required attention. We have benefited immensely from Tim’s steady hand and professionalism over the past ten years and it is with sadness that we see him leave. We wish him all the best for the future.

Outgoing Co-Directors: July 2016

Michele Burman
Gill McIvor
Richard Sparks
Sarah Armstrong

The Scottish Centre for Crime and Justice Research: Celebrating 10 Years

The Scottish Centre for Crime and Justice Research: Celebrating 10 Years
The Next 10 Years of SCCJR

Having joined the Centre in 2007, shortly after completion of my PhD, I have benefited enormously from the company of deeply intellectual, conscientious and supportive colleagues. I am now delighted to have been appointed Director, working with these colleagues and a generation of younger scholars to take SCCJR into its next stage.

Exciting developments are afoot, and not least of these is the welcome addition of the University of Strathclyde as a full partner in SCCJR from August 2016. Going forward, there is also a substantially revised governance structure in which the original system of Co-Directors, one from each of the main partner institutions, is being succeeded by a single Director working together with a set of Associate Directors from each university involved in SCCJR. Associate Directors will coordinate activity, such as research, internationalisation, postgraduate and early-career capacity development, communications and KE, community engagement and policy engagement. We believe that this will further hone our focus, working across four institutions, to achieve our aims.

And what are our aims? You can read our official statement of purpose and objectives on our website (www.sccjr.ac.uk/about-us); they have guided the Centre well and will continue to do so. But in addition to this, and reflecting on my own sense of SCCJR’s first 10 years, an overarching aim has been to support as best we can, in ways both large and small, the creation and practice of just societies. This is as much a matter of how we approach our work – creating a space for voices too often missing from debate, treating with respect all whom we encounter, maintaining and defending a critical and rigorous edge to our work – as to what our work finds. I look forward to working with all those, in and beyond SCCJR, who share our values and our hopes to contribute to justice.

Over the years, SCCJR has supported and hosted a range of colleagues, students and visitors who have now moved on to new adventures. Although there are too many to name, I personally am particularly grateful to have known and worked with Drs Alasdair Forsyth and Claire Lightowler, long-time SCCJR people who were important to building the Centre, and especially our Business Manager Tim McBride, whose ten years of service to SCCJR has been crucial to building a sustainable Centre.

Central, of course, to SCCJR’s success has been the work of its Co-Directors Michele Burman, Gill McIvor and Richard Sparks. Without their extraordinary dedication to building a Centre which has such international recognition and sustainable grounding, the job of SCCJR’s next set of directors would be much more difficult. Instead, they leave us an organisation that has achieved much and is primed to pursue ambitious things. On behalf of the new management team of SCCJR, we are excited and grateful to be continuing their work.

**Sarah Armstrong**

Director, SCCJR

July 2016
WHO WE ARE

SCCJR is a collaboration between the Universities of Edinburgh, Glasgow, Stirling and Strathclyde. It currently comprises 33 research staff, 70 postgraduate students, and a part-time knowledge exchange and communications assistant. Each year we also appoint two to three postgraduate interns to work with us on various research and knowledge exchange activities.

Over SCCJR’s 10 years, one person who has played a crucial role in making us who we are is Tim McBride, SCCJR Business Manager. Tim helped set up and has overseen the business systems of the Centre from the beginning, including its substantial work for the Scottish Government. He has built strong relationships with those in the Government and with staff and students in all the partner institutions. He is the person we have all turned to as the first port of call for issues big and small. He has had a positive impact and gained a reputation for reliability across the SCCJR universities, and has also created a strong sense of community among those in Ivy Lodge, SCCJR’s base at the University of Glasgow. It would be impossible to reflect on SCCJR’s achievements without recognising the significant – if often invisible to external audiences – role of Tim. It is with gratitude that we note Tim’s huge contribution and with sadness that we mark his departure as the first SCCJR Business Manager. Tim helped set up and has overseen the business systems of the Centre from the beginning, including its substantial work for the Scottish Government. He has built strong relationships with those in the Government and with staff and students in all the partner institutions. He is the person we have all turned to as the first port of call for issues big and small. He has had a positive impact and gained a reputation for reliability across the SCCJR universities, and has also created a strong sense of community among those in Ivy Lodge, SCCJR’s base at the University of Glasgow. It would be impossible to reflect on SCCJR’s achievements without recognising the significant – if often invisible to external audiences – role of Tim. It is with gratitude that we note Tim’s huge contribution and with sadness that we mark his departure.

David Strang
HM Chief Inspector of Prisons for Scotland

The Centre has also supported the development of innovative activities in prisons in Scotland. As HM Chief Inspector of Prisons for Scotland, I have seen the evidence of the value of initiatives designed to engage people in prison and to encourage them to explore aspects of life they might not have considered before. The Distant Voices project in partnership with Vox Liminis has been remarkably successful in encouraging collaborative song writing, allowing people to convert their life experience into words and music, in the process producing powerful performances.

Similarly, I have been impressed with the impact of the Paws for Progress programme in the Young Offenders Institution at Polmont. Through the activity of caring for rescue dogs, the young men are encouraged to take responsibility for their own learning in a unique setting, resulting in benefits for both the young men and the animals.

I am also aware of the valuable support the Centre provides in the area of leadership development, particularly in the public and third sectors. Its ability to bring experiences from different sectors together enables powerful learning to take place. A real strength of the Centre is the breadth of research activity, combined with positive relationships with practitioners. This provides opportunities to promote positive change in criminal and community justice in Scotland.

I congratulate the SCCJR on its first ten years of operation and look forward to seeing it developing new approaches to research and practice.

As Others See Us

Tom Halpin
Chief Executive, SACRO

Sacro is committed to working to the highest ethical and professional standards, delivering services in partnerships that contribute to the reduction of crime and harm within our communities. This provision of quality services requires a robust evidence base and innovation. In doing this, SCCJR is a key partner with Sacro. Together, we have collaborated to evidence what works, while ensuring that our practice and ambitions do achieve the best possible outcomes for those using our services.

“Having such a world-class research capability on our doorstep with direct access to such eminent scholars is a real strength.”

Our collaboration with SCCJR is continuous, reflecting the link between SCCJR’s academic excellence and Sacro’s own commitment to excellence. Examples of working together include funded PhD research to fill identified knowledge gaps in what mentoring means for women within the justice system, PhD research into the effectiveness of early and effective interventions for young people who offend, and a number of evaluations that include the implementation of the Circles of Support and Accountability (COSA) model of support to sex offenders living in the community.

This collaborative work is also supported by other academic activities ranging from roundtable discussions on emerging research findings, to hosting Masters level studies and dissertation projects that provide postgraduate students with direct access to a robust evidence base.

Having such a world-class research capability on our doorstep with direct access to such eminent scholars is a real strength, creating an environment where best practice and knowledge is shared and extensively developed both in Scotland and internationally. Importantly, SCCJR nurtures and supports our ambitions for excellence, and having such a strong research centre locally means that issues around crime and justice are scrutinised when it matters.

“Having such a world-class research capability on our doorstep with direct access to such eminent scholars is a real strength.”

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“A real strength of the Centre is the breadth of research activity, combined with positive relationships with practitioners.”

The Scottish Centre for Crime and Justice Research: Celebrating 10 Years

10 YEARS OF SCCJR

The Scottish Centre for Crime and Justice Research is a well-established presence in the world of criminal justice in Scotland. I particularly appreciate the contribution it makes to the development of both policy and practice across the broad spectrum of the criminal justice system. Researchers from a wide range of disciplines are able to support practitioners to improve practice, based on rigorous applied research findings.

As a member of the Scottish Prisons Commission in 2007-8, I found the research provided by the Centre invaluable in the development of our thinking and conclusions, published in our report Scotland’s Choice. This report still remains relevant eight years on.
The mixed-methods approach of most of the research projects and the diversity of quantitative and qualitative research methods that are used extend the Centre’s scientific reach. Although there is a preponderance of qualitative research, which suits the culturally sensitive and constructionist approach of many research projects, the SCCJR also has very renowned quantitative scholars who play an influential role in the longitudinal study of youth transitions and crime.

But there is more: I see a genuine interest and investment in knowledge exchange with policy-makers, practitioners and the wider public. The website, the high-quality annual reports, the presence of SCCJR scholars on social media and their participation in the public debate reveal a true investment in the communication of research results and engagement in the public debate.

And last but not least: interactions and collaborations with artists in songwriting, photographing and filmmaking to connect with the lived experiences of punishment is becoming a unifying selling point of the Centre, and I hope that this path will be continued.

And not to forget: behind every strong research centre there is strong administrative staff. They make the difference and are indispensable!  

Dr Nick Bland
Co-Director, What Works Scotland, School of Social and Political Science, University of Edinburgh

I worked closely with the SCCJR in its formation and through its early years, representing the Scottish Government. Casting one’s mind back to that time gives pause to reflect on some of the original intentions behind the establishment of SCCJR and to appreciate how much it has grown and developed over the past decade.

SCCJR began in 2006 supported by funding from the Scottish Government and the Scottish Funding Council. A strong impetus for the funders was to help strengthen the connections between individual and small groups of academics undertaking research on crime and criminal justice in Scottish universities at that time, and to build on that to create a ‘critical mass’, if you will, of criminological research in Scotland.

SCCJR’s commitment to this ambition was evident in the relationships between the collaborating universities, and the emphasis at its inception on making appointments to new, full-time research fellowships and supporting funded PhDs.

The funders also hoped that the SCCJR would help enhance the contribution of criminological knowledge, expertise and research in criminal justice policy and practice in Scotland. To that end, SCCJR’s founding directors and I worked together to agree a framework that would provide the basis, we hoped, for close working between government and SCCJR.

“I was struck from the beginning by the directors’ commitment, goodwill and trust to work across institutional boundaries and join in such an innovative collaboration.”

The agreement respected and reflected the distinct roles, responsibilities, demands and expectations in government and academia. We worked through how to maintain central principles such as academic independence, opportunities for publication, and the practicalities – and challenges - involved in providing high-quality research contributions in policy timescales.

This was new territory for us all. I was struck from the beginning by the directors’ commitment, goodwill and trust to work across institutional boundaries and join in such an innovative collaboration. This was reflected by SCCJR’s researchers who were adaptable, imaginative and skilful in putting this into distinct and diverse effect across the range of criminal justice policy. Working in this way – holding a position that might be described as ‘critical engagement’ – is not easy; the knowledge and understanding from research does not necessarily support political or policy propositions.

In the latter half of SCCJR’s first decade, my roles in government took me away from close engagement with its work, but I retained a keen interest. Throughout, SCCJR has continued to make significant contributions to our understanding, and high quality applied research. It makes no small contribution to our aspirations for a fair, just and equitable Scotland.

The Scottish Centre for Crime and Justice Research: Celebrating 10 Years

The Scottish Centre for Crime and Justice Research (SCCJR) was established in 2006 with funding from the Scottish Government and the Scottish Funding Council. Its origins can be traced back to 1993, when the Scottish Office and the Ministry of Justice in England and Wales joined forces to create the Scottish Centre for Crime Analysis and Research (SCCAR). The Centre’s mission was to improve the quality and quantity of evidence available to the Scottish Government to inform its policy-making. Over the years, SCCJR has evolved into a dynamic and influential research centre, with a focus on criminology and criminal justice.

Scottish Centre for Crime and Justice Research: Celebrating 10 Years

The Scottish Centre for Crime and Justice Research (SCCJR) was established in 2006 with funding from the Scottish Government and the Scottish Funding Council. Its origins can be traced back to 1993, when the Scottish Office and the Ministry of Justice in England and Wales joined forces to create the Scottish Centre for Crime Analysis and Research (SCCAR). The Centre’s mission was to improve the quality and quantity of evidence available to the Scottish Government to inform its policy-making. Over the years, SCCJR has evolved into a dynamic and influential research centre, with a focus on criminology and criminal justice.

The key success factor has been the Centre’s ability to facilitate engagement with numerous different academic institutions, both within Scotland and further afield, which helps us to ensure that we are able to draw on a wide range of academic insight and expertise. Another key benefit of our collaboration has been the ability to be agile in the face of what is often high-speed policy thinking, enabling us to tap in to expert academic advice and knowledge at short notice.

Scottish Government Justice Analytical Services

The Scottish Government’s Justice Analytical Service Division has worked collaboratively with SCCJR ever since its inception, and we are extremely grateful for the support that we have received. This collaboration has enhanced the contribution of high-quality, social scientific academic knowledge, experience and expertise to policy and analysis across the criminal justice landscape, and represents a significant investment in developing capacity in crime and criminal justice research in Scotland.

Our engagement with SCCJR has resulted in a diverse range of timely, policy-relevant research and analysis – including evidence reviews and briefings, peer reviews, knowledge transfer activities, expert advice, and input to policy and research advisory groups. It has facilitated exchanges with the academic community around some of the Scottish Government’s key policy priorities, and contributed to a deeper understanding of the evidence base in a number of politically high-profile areas including policing, sentencing, and desistance.

“A key benefit of our collaboration has been the ability to be agile in the face of what is often high-speed policy thinking, enabling us to tap in to expert academic advice and knowledge at short notice.”

Of particular value is SCCJR’s ability to facilitate engagement with numerous different academic institutions, both within Scotland and further afield, which helps us to ensure that we are able to draw on a wide range of academic insight and expertise. Another key benefit of our collaboration has been the ability to be agile in the face of what is often high-speed policy thinking, enabling us to tap in to expert academic advice and knowledge at short notice. To have an impact on policy, evidence needs to be the right evidence, it needs to be produced at the right time, and be seen by the right people. A key challenge for the future is to continue to find ways to improve the communication of evidence, both to policy audiences and to the general public, and we look forward to continuing our close collaboration with the academic community in the future.
INFORMED
Supporting good policy and just societies through high-quality research

We are proud to support informed policy and action in diverse ways, by: conducting original research, commissioned studies, international literature reviews, ministerial briefings, advisory group support, seminars, training and evidence-giving. And through this work we have gained a reputation for strength and expertise particularly in: young people and the law; gender-based violence; understanding and tackling serious, organised crime; exploring and engaging communities and justice; promoting effective and fair penal policies; and improving and using data in research. It is difficult to choose only a small number of cases where we have believed we have made an impact to support just societies. Among these we include our work on and for the [Scottish Prisons Commission] and the [Scottish Parliament Commission on Women Offenders]; assessment of the [Whole Systems Approach]; development and use of the [Scottish Crime and Justice Survey]; understanding of young people in gangs and knife crime; sectarianism and hate crime; and support and evaluation of practices that address the needs of those affected by rape and domestic abuse.

INTERNATIONAL
Globally engaged and significant work

Our work aims for international engagement, recognition and impact. Some examples from our 10 years are: raising understanding and action on [Trafficking Culture (ERC)]; exploring and imagining justice through [Utopia], connecting Glasgow to Hong Kong by [Re-imagining Youth Leisure (ESRC)]; examining European practices of electronic monitoring ([European Commission funded]) and creating a [Network on Offender Supervision in Europe (COST Action)]; supporting democracy in European transitional states, feeding in to the [International Crime and Victimisation Survey (ICVS)]; building strong international research links and exchanges with Australia, Canada, Argentina and South America, Hong Kong, the US, New Zealand and Europe.

CAPACITY BUILDING
Growing criminological capacities and communities in Scotland

A founding aim of SCCJR was to build criminological capacity across Scotland. We have worked towards this on many levels: generating nearly £5 million in external research income; investing to recruit core academic staff, vastly increasing the number of criminological researchers trained in Scotland; growing a large and vibrant PhD student community (having overseen 39 PhD awards in ten years and hosting some 70 active PhD students today); making public research reports available to all on the SCCJR website; and providing seed funding to develop cutting-edge and important ideas through our capacity building fund.

CREATIVE & COLLABORATIVE
Engaging diverse partners and employing innovative methods to exchange knowledge and make an impact

We work with anyone and everyone who has something to contribute to just and fair societies. Our partners include other researchers, those involved in or affected by criminal justice, and a diverse set of policy makers, practitioners, artists, and media. Our collaborations often involve innovative methods like ethnography, podcasts, music making, storytelling and filmmaking. A small selection of those we have worked with include: [Sacro], the [UN], [Circles UK], [Rape Crisis], [Women’s Aid], [AQMeN], people in prison and on probation and their families, [Vox Liminis], the [218 Service], statutory agencies, museums and exhibition spaces.
10-YEAR STAFF REFLECTIONS

What are you most proud of in working within SCCJR?

- Playing a key role in developing, analysing and exploiting the Scottish Crime and Justice Survey (SCJS). This has allowed us to have an impact on the publication of official statistics on crime based on the survey and police recorded crime data. SCCJR researchers have taken a lead role in analysing SCJS datasets, including on drug use, partner abuse, sexual victimisation and stalking, which have been published by the Scottish Government. Our work in this area has contributed significantly to knowledge about crime and justice in Scotland, and been enhanced through SCCJR’s collaborative working with AQMeN.

- The package of organised crime work, starting with the development of the Scottish Serious and Organised Crime mapping process, in addition to work around community intelligence and organised crime performance measurement. It’s been very collaborative and a good example of partnerships with the police and Scottish Government.

- The broader grouping of our work around gender (specifically women) and justice that I think has been important.

- The Desistance Knowledge Exchange Project and Distant Voices (which are connected) and related work to support change in the Scottish Prison Service and in community justice.

- Establishing a strong research group on Trafficking Culture that is contributing both to scholarship and action in significant ways.

- Productive collaboration across universities, and with the Scottish Government. This includes our research on the Scottish Prison Service’s use of open prison and home detention curfew, as well as work on Circles of Support and Accountability (COSA).

- Our support for the Scottish Prison Commission, which raised fundamental questions about the use of prison and has shaped debates on punishment in Scotland and elsewhere ever since.

- Ground-breaking research and continuing engagement work on use of stop and search by police in Scotland.

- Growing a PhD community. Having so many bright, committed young scholars around us has been a highlight for me.

- What have been some of the challenges for SCCJR?

- What have been some of the challenges for SCCJR?

- Our efforts around issues of sectarianism and problematic identities which encompasses work on football banning orders, on marches and parades and on the Offensive Behaviour and Threatening Communications (Scotland) Act. This had important impacts for policy and thinking in these areas.

- Ensuring that, while we sometimes work closely with and have great respect for our colleagues in Government, we maintain a reputation for independence and critical distance.

- Having little control over the way our research is used.

- Time!
The Scottish Centre for Crime and Justice Research: Celebrating 10 Years

10 YEARS OF SCCJR

SCCJR REPORTS
2007-2016

In addition to our academic publications, the SCCJR produces research reports and briefing papers, often in collaboration with partner organisations, and makes these accessible online to engage those beyond the criminal justice sector and Scotland.

2007


2008


2009


2010


10 YEARS OF SCCJR ANNUAL LECTURES

2007
Critical Friends: The Honest Politicians Need For…
Rod Morgan
University of Bristol

2008
Persistent Offenders and the Uncertain Road to Desistance
Anthony Bottoms
University of Cambridge

2009
Resisting Punitiveness
Sonja Snacken
Free University Brussels

2010
What are Psychopaths for? Dangerousness and the Popular Imagination
Shadd Maruna
Queen’s University, Belfast

2011
Restoring Legitimacy to American Prisons (the view from Castle Rock)
Jonathan Simon
University of California, Berkeley

2012
Is there a right to expunge criminal convictions?
Elena Larrauri
Universitat Pompeu Fabra de Barcelona

2013
What Makes Prisons Survivable? Towards a theory of human flourishing in prisons
Alison Liebling
University of Cambridge

2014
What is Wrong with Penal Populism?
David Garland
New York University

2015
Moving Targets: Reputational risk, rights and accountability in punishment
Kelly Hannah-Moffat
University of Toronto

2016
Rethinking Punishment in an Age of Mass Mobility
Mary Bosworth
University of Oxford
I heard about SCCJR back in 2004, when I was doing a Masters in Criminology Oxford. I remember thinking “that’s for me” – a one-stop-shop for critical approaches to crime, criminalisation and justice in Scotland. I remember her showing me the tremendous office there, when space was less of an issue! I heard about SCCJR back in 2004, when I was doing a Masters in Criminology Oxford. I remember thinking “that’s for me” – a one-stop-shop for critical approaches to crime, criminalisation and justice in Scotland. I remember her showing me the tremendous office there, when space was less of an issue! The best thing about doing my PhD with the SCCJR was that the Centre’s structure allowed me to have supervisors in both Edinburgh and Glasgow, which was very helpful as I got the best of both worlds. I also really enjoyed some of the events put on for PhD students. Moving from Edinburgh, where I did my PhD, to Glasgow for my post-doc meant that I now have strong partnerships with students and academics at both universities, strengthened through attending and organising SCCJR working lunches. I have written and am writing articles with co-authors at both universities and am also developing funding bids with colleagues at Strathclyde. Returning to SCCJR as a lecturer, these benefits – of strength in depth in terms of expertise and support, breadth, and opportunity – remain, but I’ve also come to appreciate other benefits. The SCCJR staff are a tremendously engaged, creative and vibrant group, and the organisation has gone from strength to strength. The PhD community is large and diverse, and many graduates have now made their way into the world of criminal justice in Scotland – SCCJR now have real credibility and reach across a range of spheres both nationally and internationally. There is also real strength in depth in terms of expertise and support, be it for research, publication, or otherwise. Through SCCJR, I have also been able to develop some important international links. Initially through a Mac Robertson Travelling Scholarship as a PhD student, which allowed me to spend three months in Chicago, and latterly through an appointment in Hong Kong. SCCJR has helped me develop as an international researcher. This international role is something I hope to develop in future through my work with SCCJR. Hard to believe, but at the time I was one of two PhD students in criminology at Glasgow – once the other left, it was just me. Being part of SCCJR connected me with a wider PhD community in criminology and criminal justice across Scotland, through away-days and training sessions, as well as creating opportunities to attend seminars and lectures from leading scholars from both within and without Scotland. It also created work opportunities – I ended up being involved in a whole range of projects, first as a PhD student and latterly as a research associate. Returning to SCCJR as a lecturer, these benefits – of community, breadth, and opportunity – remain, but I’ve also come to appreciate other benefits. The SCCJR staff are a tremendously engaged, creative and vibrant group, and the organisation has gone from strength to strength. The PhD community is large and diverse, and many graduates have now made their way into the world of criminal justice in Scotland – SCCJR now have real credibility and reach across a range of spheres both nationally and internationally. There is also real strength in depth in terms of expertise and support, be it for research, publication, or otherwise. Through SCCJR, I have also been able to develop some important international links. Initially through a Mac Robertson Travelling Scholarship as a PhD student, which allowed me to spend three months in Chicago, and latterly through an appointment in Hong Kong. SCCJR has helped me develop as an international researcher. This international role is something I hope to develop in future through my work with SCCJR. Hard to believe, but at the time I was one of two PhD students in criminology at Glasgow – once the other left, it was just me. Being part of SCCJR connected me with a wider PhD community in criminology and criminal justice across Scotland, through away-days and training sessions, as well as creating opportunities to attend seminars and lectures from leading scholars from both within and without Scotland. It also created work opportunities – I ended up being involved in a whole range of projects, first as a PhD student and latterly as a research associate. Returning to SCCJR as a lecturer, these benefits – of community, breadth, and opportunity – remain, but I’ve also come to appreciate other benefits. The SCCJR staff are a tremendously engaged, creative and vibrant group, and the organisation has gone from strength to strength. The PhD community is large and diverse, and many graduates have now made their way into the world of criminal justice in Scotland – SCCJR now have real credibility and reach across a range of spheres both nationally and internationally. There is also real strength in depth in terms of expertise and support, be it for research, publication, or otherwise. Through SCCJR, I have also been able to develop some important international links. Initially through a Mac Robertson Travelling Scholarship as a PhD student, which allowed me to spend three months in Chicago, and latterly through an appointment in Hong Kong. SCCJR has helped me develop as an international researcher. 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SCCJR 2015-16

Awards and Achievements 2015-2016

Susan McVie of the University of Edinburgh was presented with an OBE for services to social sciences in the New Year Honours. She was presented with the award by HRH Prince Charles at Buckingham Palace in June.

PhD student Annie Crowley of the University of Glasgow beat off competition from around the world to be awarded the 2016 Feminist Criminology Graduate Research Scholarship. She received £5,000 for her research proposal ‘Protection For Whom? Responding to ‘At Risk’ Young Women in Scotland’.

Kath Murray, who completed her PhD about police stop and search with SCCJR, was awarded the Outstanding Early Career Impact prize by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC), in recognition of the huge impact her research had on Scottish society. Richard Sparks commented that ‘for a doctoral project to have initiated a major public debate on an aspect of police practice and led directly to a change in legislation is unprecedented in my experience.’

Two SCCJR colleagues were joint winners of the British Society of Criminology’s Criminology Book Prize: Beth Weaver of the University of Strathclyde, for ‘Offending and Desistance: The Importance of Social Relations and Alistair Fraser for Urban Legends: Going Identity-in-the Post-Industrial City.’ Dr Fraser’s book was also nominated for the Ethnography Award, presented annually by BBC Radio 4’s Thinking Allowed in association with the British Sociological Association.

Elaine McLaughlin, second right, is presented with her award.

From left, Beth Weaver, BBC Prize Convener James Tweedell and Alistair Fraser.

SCCJR Projects 2015-2016

Below is a brief summary of projects carried out in SCCJR during the year 2015-2016, and the key contact people for each project.

SIPR 2015-2016

The Scottish Centre for Crime and Justice Research: Celebrating 10 Years

The groups have been highly successful with lots of interest from both prison-based and non-prison-based students. Quotes from reading group participants featured in the March 2016 edition of Scottish Justice Matters, with one noting ‘Even though it technically is us and them, there is that elephant in the room, it doesn’t feel like that, it feels equal.’

Justice Stories
Sarah Armstrong, Anna Schliehe and Kirsty Deacon

In this project SCCJR researchers are recording ordinary people’s stories of justice. Recordings will be the basis of an online public archive aiming to share a wide set of experiences that can inform the debate about just societies. While much research focuses on the perspectives of professionals and those deeply involved in justice processes – judges, victims, police, ‘offenders’ – this project gives voice to the everyday experiences of a wide cross-section of people. These ordinary experiences shape understanding of what justice is and how all of us play a role in making it happen, or not. Participants have served on juries, lived near prisons, had family involved in trials, been affected by witnessing an arrest, and more. The premise of the work is that justice (or injustice) is not solely produced by officials acting in the public interest, and doing their work largely out of sight. Like good educational or health systems, effective justice systems are part of a wider social context in which communities are active, empowered and listened to. The main researchers are Sarah Armstrong (PI) and SCCJR affiliated doctoral students Ana Schliehe and Kirsty Deacon. It has received funding from Glasgow University’s College of Social Science Internship Fund and Sociology Research Incentivisation Fund. The justice stories collection ultimately will become a rich public and research resource. What’s your story of justice? To share your own experience or learn more about the project, contact sarah.armstrong@glasgow.ac.uk.

Prisoner Reading Groups

Sarah Armstrong, Marguerite Schinkel, Margaret Malloch, Susan Batchelor and PhD students across SCCJR

SCCJR continues to coordinate reading groups of PhD students and staff joining with prison-based students in peer-led academic reading groups. These groups have been running in a number of Scottish prisons since July 2014. Reading groups are a familiar and important part of academic life and nurture a sense of intellectual community for students, whether based inside or outside of prison. Reading topics change every month, with the entire group discussing and deciding the subject for discussion. Topics have included: metaphor, class, consumerism, representation of women in media, and the geography of space. Suggestions for topics come from personal interests and wider events. The initiative involves a partnership between New College Lanarkshire, which runs education in several Scottish prisons and SCCJR, or health systems, effective justice systems are part of a partnership between New College Lanarkshire, which runs education in several Scottish prisons and SCCJR, and university colleagues coming from different institutions and subjects. The groups are part of SCCJR’s developing work expanding support for and access to higher education. The reading groups are not part of a specific education or offender intervention programme, however, aiming instead to create a space of learning where those who experience and those who study prisons can encounter each other as equals with shared interests.
Learning Resources for Schools
Rebecca Foster, Greg Duncan and SCCJR staff

In 2015 the SCCJR produced a series of briefings for Scottish school pupils on popular topics relevant to the ‘Advanced Higher’ Modern Studies, National 5 and Higher curriculum. The briefings reflect some of the most popular topics that previous learners have chosen for their assignments and dissertations. The briefings were produced by SCCJR PhD student Rebecca Foster and Greg Duncan in collaboration with SCCJR staff. These briefings were designed to reflect a common shorthand in learners’ dissertations identified by the Scottish Qualifications Authority, which noted that pupils were overly reliant on general knowledge sites such as Wikipedia, as well as limited to various mainstream news websites such as BBC News. Instead, the aim of the project was to produce learner and teacher friendly learning resources for those studying and teaching the crime, law and justice elements of the Modern Studies subject area in Scotland. The resulting briefings covered a wide range of topics and aimed to add further depth and analysis to existing curricular material. The selected topics include those which learners cover as part of the formal curriculum. However, some of these topics were chosen because they were identified as being popular dissertation topics for those at Advanced Higher level, or were identified as being popular dissertation topics for those which learners cover as part of the formal curriculum. The selected topics include those which learners cover as part of the formal curriculum. However, some of these topics were chosen because they were identified as being popular dissertation topics for those at Advanced Higher level, or were identified as being more general interest to learners. These briefings were meant to be accessible to all and drew on a broad range of material, including criminological theory and empirical research, statistical bulletins, research and policy reports and legislation. They offered up-to-date information and analysis, and although largely focused on the Scottish/UK context, they made use of international comparisons. The remaining briefings are undergoing final review and will be published shortly, but feedback so far from teachers and pupils has been extremely positive, with the resources described as highly informative and accessible, ‘very helpful for pupils and staff’ and ‘absolutely brilliant’.

Distant Voices
Fergus McKenley

Distant Voices was developed in partnership between the SCCJR and Vox Liminis, funded by the Scottish Prison Service, the ESRC, and the University of Glasgow. It represents an on-going body of work that looks to explore crime and punishment through music, writing and film. The second phase of the Distant Voices projects ran from February 2015 to February 2016, exploring themes of re-entry and reintegration. The aim of this phase was to explore these themes by working collaboratively to write and share songs so as to enrich dialogue about re-entry. Working with HMP Castle Huntly, HMP/JOI Comintion Vale and with NCL at HMP Glenochil, phase II involved songwriting (The Vox Sessions) with prisoners often at the point of contemplating their own re-entry. The songwriting process took place first in groups of prisoners and then in mixed groups (of prisoners, former prisoners, criminologists and two prison officers). We also experimented with a songwriting project with men and their families in Castle Huntly, informed by another evolving Vox Liminis project. In turn, Two Vox Sessions were also held in Glasgow, with former prisoners and those with experience of community sentences, a criminal justice social worker and criminologists.

Leading on from Vox Sessions, Vox has now also established weekly Unbound meeting in Glasgow bringing together all the different elements involved in the Vox Sessions – former prisoners, a social worker, criminologists and musicians. In turn, these have led to the development of other Vox activity and public interaction, for example going to Solar Festival to work with members of the public to write songs in response to songs from prison, and organising the Distant Voices Festival at CCA. We have found that this new community has been met with overwhelming support as acts of co-creation-making and sharing things together – strengthen and deepen relationships between prisoners, prison officers and social workers, as well as the wider public. The work created through the above processes has since found a wider public audience through print and broadcast media. We have recently put our learning to good use in submitting a large research proposal to the ESRC for phase 3 of Distant Voices, with the support of the Scottish Prison Service, Glasgow Community Justice Authority and the Scottish Government.

Use of Electronic Monitoring in EU Member States
Gill McVey, Hannah Graham

Working with research partners in the University of Leeds in England, Wijse Universiteit Brussel in Belgium, Utrecht University in the Netherlands, and the University of Greifswald in Germany, this project has developed the Scottish component of the Use of Electronic Monitoring in EU Member States. The work in Scotland involved interviews with 30 practitioners working in diverse roles across the field of criminal justice, 53 hours of ethnographic observation, literature review and secondary data sources (e.g., statistics). The study has found that the use of electronic monitoring (EM) is increasing in Scotland, and this is likely to be influenced by a few factors. Recommendations arising from the Scottish research include support for the introduction of GPS tagging technology to complement existing tagging technology; stronger consideration given to learning from Scandinavian and Dutch approaches to EM; and introduction of the option of a supervision requirement overseen by Criminal Justice Social Workers and third sector support options for people on EM orders. Most importantly, the project indicated that “one size does not fit all”, meaning that the use of EM tagging and IOS should be tailored in response to the people, crime type, and circumstances involved.

Extensive dissemination activities have arisen from this project in 2016. The jurisdictional and comparative findings were presented in plenary sessions at two international conferences showcasing this research project in Brussels and London in February and March 2016, as well as three regional workshops in the Netherlands, Germany and Belgium. Across the five project events co-produced by all of the research partners, a total of 330 participants from 18 EU countries and 8 non-EU countries attended. Other activities include: releasing a Scottish research report, research briefing paper, comparative research report and comparative research briefing paper (in English, Dutch, French and German), academic publications and conference presentations, presentations at practitioner and policymaking forums, blog posts and Twitter. The findings and recommendations of this research have been welcomed as timely and informative by Advisory Board member Andy Bruce who worked in the Scottish Government Justice Directorate at the time, and members of the Scottish Government Working Group on Electronic Monitoring.

A Review of the Benefits of the Scottish Crime Campus
Colin Atkinson and Michele Burman

SCCJR researchers have concluded work on a research project to explore the perceptions of partners and users on the Scottish Crime Campus (SCC) based at Gartcosh in central Scotland. The SCC represents a significant financial and political investment in tackling serious organised crime and terrorism in Scotland. The ethos of bringing agencies together and promoting partnership working has remained constant throughout the development of the SCC and its emergence into practice. Whilst the benefits for those agencies based at the SCC have been recognised, the impact of the SCC on the wider community of partners remained previously un-assessed.

This project, undertaken by Michele Burman and Colin Atkinson, focused on the impact of the crime campus on communication, effectiveness, partnership working, and coordination between those agencies based at the campus and their external partners and users. The research team deployed a mixed methods research design – incorporating both an online questionnaire and a series of semi-structured interviews – which highlighted a key message: the impact of the SCC has resulted in broader and deeper partnership working between SCC-based agencies and those external partners of the crime campus. Whilst some challenges remain, external partners now feel they are ‘doing more’ and ‘doing it better’ since the implementation of the crime campus. The researchers remain engaged with the SCC in order to ensure the most effective dissemination of the research findings and maximise impact.
Evaluation of the Rape Crisis Scotland National Advocacy Project
Michele Burman, Dana Brooks, Lisa Bradley and Deborah Kyle

In February 2016 Rape Crisis Scotland (RCS) launched a new national project to provide support and advocacy to survivors who have engaged, or are considering engaging with, the criminal justice system following a serious sexual crime. Funding for the national advocacy project (NAP) has been secured from the Scottish Government until March 2018. The project will be delivered in partnership with 15 local support centres across Scotland, each of whom will employ Advocacy Workers to provide services at a local level. Through this service, Rape Crisis trained Advocacy Workers will provide advocacy support to victims/survivors of serious sexual crime in the expectation that it will enhance the support available to them and improve their experience of the criminal justice process. It is also anticipated that this will facilitate greater understanding of the decision made by the victim/survivor regarding whether to proceed with the criminal justice process and the impact that advocacy support may have on this decision.

The main purpose of the evaluation is to: assess the impact of the NAP and the extent to which the key objectives have been met; identify the lessons learnt from the work, in particular, the delivery of the NAP model by partner organisations; identify best practice for wider dissemination; and identify the extent to which the NAP has influenced policy and practice within key justice agencies. The evaluation will incorporate the views of the survivors using the project, the Advocacy Workers, RCS Managers, the police, Crown Office and any other identified key stakeholders. Upon completion of the evaluation, the evaluation team will produce a full report that identifies key findings, lessons learned, best practice and recommendations for future developments.

Stop and Search
Kath Murray

The publication in 2014 of the findings of my PhD research on Stop and Search practices by the police continues to see changes and reform in Scottish policy in 2015 and 2016. On 31 March 2015, following a critical report by HMICS and an internal review by Police Scotland, the Scottish Government appointed an Independent Advisory Group (IAG) to review the future of stop and search in Scotland and draft a statutory Code of Practice. In order to better inform the direction and use of stop and search seemed unclear, I authored a report mapping out trends in the post-reform period. The analysis indicated that that stop search levels were falling, albeit from an exceptionally high baseline, which meant that search rates in Scotland continued to outstrip those in England and Wales. The report, published by the SCCJR in June 2015, gained media and parliamentary attention and the Scottish High Court Commission also drew on the findings to report Police Scotland to the United Nations Committee on Human Rights. This prompted the UN to advise the Scottish Government that it should abolish non-statutory stop and search.

The publication of the IAG report in September 2015 was followed by an announcement by the Scottish Government that it had accepted the Group’s recommendations in full; to end non-statutory stop and search, as well as recommendations relating to the Code of Practice, scrutiny and accountability, and the best interests of children. These were tabled as a package of amendments to the Criminal Justice (Scotland) Bill, which received royal assent in January 2016. My research has also looked to explore two themes of under-regulation, weak accountability as well as a low-scrutiny environment prior to police reform in 2013 which led to two separate publications. The research has also led to an examination of the prevalence of stop and search amongst children in Edinburgh and Glasgow, and children’s perceptions of police through the self-report survey, Understanding and Preventing Youth Crime (UPYC). A report on the UPYC findings, commissioned by the Scottish Police Authority, is due for publication in June 2016. I am also preparing an SCCJR report to inform the Scottish Government consultation on a power to stop and search children for alcohol.

Antiquities Trafficking and Art Crime
Donna Yates

The Free Online Course was developed on the platform FutureLearn to be a free, easy introduction to the different aspects of Antiquities Trafficking and Art Crime. The goal of creating this course has been to produce something public and accessible, that would directly report the outputs and conclusions (as well as the general trajectory of the research) of Dr Yates’s work and the Trafficking Culture Project. The Free Online Course contains three weeks of videos and activities related to three topics: Antiquities Trafficking, Art Crime, and Return (of cultural property). These materials aim to teach the subject matter through relevant and current research results. Students have the freedom to progress at their own pace but are encouraged to complete one section a week. SCCJR PhD students Meg Lambert and Christine Werich have been the teaching assistants for this project; they have helped develop some of the activities but most importantly all together they and Dr Yates form a team to answer student questions on the course online forums.

The course proved immensely popular. Nearly 11,000 students signed up for the first run of the course in February 2016 and another 5,000 signed up for the second run starting June. The team have been pleased with the global level of interest, as the students have come from all corners of the world (ranging from the UK to Australia to Zimbabwe). These students represent a whole range of learning levels and diversity of backgrounds, from teens to seniors, from undergraduates to PhDs to directors of museums to law enforcement professionals. Additionally some of the attendees of the course were also the researchers who featured in course activities, providing students with a more direct line in understanding and discussing the projects involved.

The feedback for the Free Online Course has been overwhelmingly positive; the most prevalent concern was that the course was not long enough to cover all the issues the students wished to explore. The whole process has proven very rewarding and easily paid off the time and effort that went into it. Dr Yates found having the opportunity to show her research to so many thousands of people and have them consider it, discuss it, challenge it, and debate it invaluable. This rich source of evolving dialogues has even influenced how she approaches her own research topics.

Lives Sentenced
Marguerite Schinkel

The Lives Sentenced research has just entered its final year, with the first follow-up interviews completed. In the first round of interviews, I spoke to 22 men and 15 women, all of whom had served many short-term prison sentences. Most were imprisoned at the time of the interview, but 12 were interviewed in the community. Common themes in their stories of punishment were that they were often given chances (i.e. community sentences) at the start, but that once they had been imprisoned, only further imprisonment followed, irrespective of gaps in offending or an increased desire to desist.

Many felt that prison had become a place they were used to, easier for them to navigate than the outside, and offended on purpose on occasion. Patterns of meaning attributed to imprisonment were persistent disruption of resources outside, seeing brief periods outside as a ‘holiday’, prison as a ‘poor’ resource – usually in terms of housing or drug rehabilitation, and imprisonment as the aftermath of some other traumatic event, such as a car crash or having children taken away. Another common theme was the way through the loss inherent in imprisonment, but also through police practices in which they, as the usual suspects, were especially targeted and sometimes provoked into police practices in which they, as the usual suspects, were especially targeted and sometimes provoked into
Poverty and Crime
Susan McVie and Lesley McAra

UK data shows that poverty has increased in recent years, especially in the wake of the financial crisis, and that young people have suffered the most. In Scotland, around half a million people, including 100,000 children, are living in ‘severe’ poverty. The Edinburgh Study of Youth Transitions and Crime has followed the lives of around 4,300 young people as they made the transition from childhood to adulthood. Using both self-reported data from the cohort members and linked data from a range of official administrative datasets, Professors McVie and McAra have studied the effect of childhood poverty on violence in the teenage years and examined its impact beyond into early adulthood. They have found that poverty has a significant and direct effect on young people’s likelihood to engage in violence at age 15, even after controlling for the effects of a range of other factors known to influence violent behaviour. Their findings are supportive of a theory of a range of other factors known to influence violent offending based on the concept of negotiated order: for young people from the most impoverished backgrounds, violence provides a touchstone through which identities are shaped, affected both by informal (peer reaction) and formal (police and teacher behaviour) interactions.

Problematic identities
Margaret Malloch, Niall Hamilton-Smith, Bill Murno, Jennifer Hoffischpan

Emerging from ongoing work conducted at the University of Stirling and with colleagues across SCCJR (Community Impact of Public Proceedings, Offensive Behaviour at Football Matches), our work on the construction of problematic identities has developed to consider the construction and reconstruction of identities in relation to legislation, policy and criminal justice practices. Our engagement with practitioners, policy-makers and academics resulted in a successful application to the SCCJR Capacity Building Fund which, along with support from the School of Applied Social Science at the University of Stirling, allowed us to host a seminar in December 2016. The key objectives of the seminar were:

- To consider the ways in which some individuals and groups become ‘problematised’ and subject to regulation as a result of their attachment to cultural and/or national constructs, while others may feel that their security is threatened by the same cultural and/or national constructs;
- To explore the gap between law and rights-based approaches to policy within specific cultural contexts;
- To examine the antinomies and contradictions surrounding ‘civic society’ and explore the efficacy of civic society approaches to challenging and addressing ‘tolerance’.

These objectives were derived from discussions and debates surrounding the meanings of identity and nationality which were heightened in the lead up to and in the aftermath of the Scottish Independence Referendum in September 2014. Building on these themes, this on-going project aims to unpack the ways in which identities are defined within cultural and policy contests and how they have resulted in problematic depictions, and consequent regulation, of individuals and groups. These issues are particularly reflected in the criminal justice system, raising concerns about processes of criminalisation, surveillance and access to justice.

Evidence Reviews of Prostitution
Margaret Malloch

SCCJR is working with the Scottish Government Justice Analytical Services (JAS) to: explore and summarise existing evidence on the nature and scale of prostitution/sex work in Scotland; and to examine the available international evidence on the criminalisation of the purchase of sex. Significant evidence gaps, where they exist, will be identified and their impact on understanding the criminalisation of the purchase of sex will be considered. The project, which started in 2015, is due for completion in autumn 2016. An expert Research Advisory Group is supporting the work of SCCJR.

Crime, Critique and Utopia
Margaret Malloch and Bill Murno

The concept of utopia covers a variety of meanings and interpretations which differ in content, form, political alignment and intention; however, one of the key characteristics of utopian politics lies in the imagining of political systems radically different from existing contemporary ones. This on-going and developing work which began in 2010 explores utopia as a means of reimagining the constraints on theory and practice within critical criminality and continues through on-going debate with colleagues within SCCJR and internationally, within the European Group for the Study of Deviance and Social Control (2016).

We have applied this work, which is a continuous thread in most of our developing work – in informing theory, practice and resistance, in a variety of ways which have included:

- The publication of an edited book, Crime, Critique and Utopia published by Palgrave Macmillan as part of their Critical Criminological Perspective Series in 2013;
- A Pecha Kucha presentation - ‘Finding ‘Justice’ in Utopia’, Utopias, Futures and Temporalities: Critical Considerations for Social Change; Bristol Zoo 19-20 May 2015 (organised by University of Bristol) (with Sarah Armstrong);
- Guest editorship of Scottish Justice Matters (March 2016); Reimagining Punishment and Justice;
- Contributions of articles to the forthcoming first edition of Justice, Power and Resistance, the journal of the European Group for the Study of Deviance and Social Control.

Offender Supervision in Europe
Fergus McNell

Having recently concluded its fourth and final year, the COST Action on Offender Supervision in Europe spanned 23 European countries and three working groups with a total of 64 active participants (with many others having contributed along the way in various ways). The collective expertise of those who were involved encompasses criminal justice, criminology, law, psychology, social work and sociology. This network of funding researchers highlighted the emergence of ‘mass supervision’ in European criminal justice systems. Rather than providing a less expensive and more effective approach to punishment, in most countries supervision has grown at the same time as imprisonment, creating more expensive and more expensive penal systems which permeate more deeply into the lives of increasing numbers of people. The pilot projects developed by the COST Action network looked at a range of issues involved in mass supervision, including developing both survey instruments and the use of innovative visual methods to explore and compare experiences of those subject to supervision across jurisdictions. Other projects looked at decision-making processes in breaches of supervision and management of compliance, and at first meetings between supervisors and supervisees, as well as using diaries to compare professional lives and routine practices of supervisors.

Beyond these pilot projects, the network ran three international conferences, eight Management Committee Meetings, eight meetings of the working groups, nine short-term scientific missions (which allowed one researcher to visit another), and four core group meetings, as well as a ‘Training School for post-graduate and early career researchers. The final report was published on 15 March 2016 and the third and final book produced by the project, titled The Enforcement of Offender Supervision in Europe: Understanding Breach Processes, is currently being edited by Miranda Boone, Niamh Maguire and Gill McIvor and will be published by Routledge in Spring 2017. Hannah Grahame and Gill McIvor have also been involved with the COST Action’s largest on-going spin-off project on the Use of Electronic Monitoring in EU Member States (see above). All the work of this prestigious network can be found on the project website: http://www.offendersupervision.eu/
Justice, Civic Engagement and the Public Sphere: Mapping Democratic Transformations in Scottish Society
Margaret Malloch, Bill Manno, Ashley Rogers

This study, which began in 2015 and is funded by the British Academy/Leventhalme, aims to examine the ways in which a re-invigorated public sphere shapes concepts of social justice and active citizenship. It examines the extent to which civic participation is sustained following the 2014 Referendum and explores the relationship between concepts of ‘justice’ and citizenship, and the institutional structures of governance (civil society) which sustain them. It draws upon our previous work which involved an examination of concepts of ‘justice,’ ‘public sphere’ and ‘civil society’ (within and beyond nation states) and discourses surrounding these in terms of social cohesion and critical reflection through an analysis of processes of criminalisation within Central and Eastern European societies (Manno, 2013; Goodall, Malloch and Murno, 2013). The recent Referendum which took place in Scotland in 2014 provides a significant opportunity to examine the application of these key concepts (‘justice’, ‘public sphere’ and ‘civil society’) in a notably different context – and links in with our ongoing work on the ‘construction of problematic identities’. In contrast to the often, different context – and links in with our ongoing work on the

A Systematic Review of the Effectiveness of Asset-based Interventions Against Organised Crime
Simon Mackenzie, Nail Hamilton-Smith and Colin Atkinson

SCCJR researchers remain on course to deliver a systematic review of the effectiveness of asset-based interventions against organised crime, as part of a broader project led by the What Works Centre for Crime Reduction to develop and embed evidence into everyday policing. This systematic review seeks to identify and evaluate the evidence relating to asset-focused interventions against organised crime, and in doing so answer a specific question: ‘Are asset-focused interventions effective in reducing the level of threat and harm posed by organised crime groups and networks?’

Answering this question is particularly timely given not just the increasing deployment of asset-focused interventions against organised crime, but also the ways in which such interventions have been explicitly targeted in some jurisdictions as measures to mitigate the harms caused by organised crime. This systematic review aims, where possible, to identify the causal mechanisms through which asset-focused interventions are expected to reduce crime and the conditions under which such interventions have been found to be effective, ineffective and/or to produce unintended negative effects. The project remains ongoing, with the results of the evaluation to be delivered in summer 2016.

(Re)imagining Youth: A Comparative Study of Youth Leisure in Glasgow & Hong Kong
Susan Batchelor, Alistair Fraser, Leona Li Ngai Ling and Lisa Whittaker

This ESRC-funded project to examine youth leisure in Glasgow and Hong Kong involved concurrent, qualitative research in two comparable case-study locations. A total of 14 focus groups and 30 individual interviews were conducted with young people, alongside 15 interviews with local stakeholders. In addition, we gathered approximately 500 images (photography and drawing) and 200 online survey responses. Over 280 young people, aged 16-24 years, took part in the study in total (159 in Glasgow and 125 in Hong Kong). Key findings suggest four conclusions for the analyses of youth in a global context:

- There is nothing radically new about contemporary patterns of youth leisure across both contexts, place has remained a central driver of identity-formation, particularly in those areas of the city in which opportunities for economic and social mobility are limited.
- Fluctuations in economic strength impact the economic and social landscape of city-spaces and in turn the geographical isolation or economic exclusion of young people. The city plays a central role in refracting and filtering transnational processes of globalisation, precariouslyness and neoliberalism.
- The transformation of online communication facilitates real-world engagement where these emergent ‘spaces’ of youth represent a critical mediating point between the ‘spaces of place’ and ‘spaces of flows’ in which place-based identities are less fixed and different ways of thinking and being possible.

These conclusions suggest the need to decentre and recalibrate the contexts through which studies of youth, place and space are situated. Whilst funding for the study came to an end in August 2015, an exhibit showcasing Jephcott’s groundbreaking photography from the 1960s along with contemporary pieces was presented in the ESRC Festival of Social Science. The exhibition sought to compare the post-industrial cityscape of Glasgow with the globalised density of Hong Kong, the exhibition interrogated questions of globalization, inequality and social change in a way that was grounded in the experiences of young people. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive, indicating that the public thought the project was a ‘very interesting study and great to learn about Hong Kong’, “A GREAT exhibit which opened my eyes to Glasgow’s youth and beyond” and “Excellent - haven’t seen research findings presented in a way that engages so many groups in a public space”.

Evaluation of the Effectiveness of the Use of SmartWater by Police in Domestic Abuse Cases
Colin Atkinson, Christine Goodall

In partnership with Dr Christine Goodall of the Dental School at the University of Glasgow (and co-founder of the charity Medics Against Violence), this project aims to evaluate a police initiative to tackle domestic abuse in Glasgow. This initiative involves the use of SmartWater – a forensic traceable liquid that is odourless and visible only under conditions of ultraviolet light – to enforce bail conditions in domestic abuse cases where there was a condition for an alleged perpetrator to stay away from a particular locus, such as a home address. The rationale for the deployment of SmartWater in such cases is undertaken to protect and reassure the victims of domestic abuse and assist in the detection and prosecution of offenders where offences occur. This evaluation project involves the analysis of police data, as well fieldwork with those individuals involved in cases where the technology has, and has not been implemented. The project remains ongoing, with the results of the evaluation to be delivered in autumn 2016.
Communicating and Engaging

The SCCJR has several channels for communicating about its activities: our website (www.sccjr.ac.uk), which features news, events, publications and profiles of staff and students; our Twitter feed (@TheSCCJR), which keeps nearly 1700 followers up-to-date on developments in criminal justice in Scotland and beyond; and our quarterly e-newsletter, which is sent to more than 1,300 subscribers.

Domestic abuse in the Scottish Context – What Works to Reduce Incidence and Harm

The SCCJR organised a one-day domestic abuse summit in October 2015 on behalf of the Scottish Government, bringing together academics and practitioners to share knowledge and ideas. SCCJR staff and students acted as scribes and facilitators for workshops covering four areas: working effectively with perpetrators, criminal and civil justice responses to domestic abuse, ‘What Works’ in interventions in domestic abuse, and responding to victim/survivors.

Constructing ‘Problematic’ Identities

This event in December 2015 brought together academics from across Scotland and the UK with practitioners and policy-makers to debate and discuss how the state and civic societies respond to social divisions in increasingly diverse and multi-cultural societies. In particular, the uses, benefits and limitations of the law were considered in relation to other forms of social policy and civic society approaches. The day was funded by the SCCJR Capacity Building Fund with support from the School of Applied Social Science at the University of Stirling.

Reimagining Custody, Community and Citizenship for 21st century Scotland

The Scottish Prison Service hosted a symposium in Edinburgh in June 2016, organised with collaborative input from SCCJR in response to national and international commitments to explore new approaches. The event was funded by the SCCJR Capacity Building Fund with support from the University of Stirling.

In 2015-2016, SCCJR undertook 14 projects under the Collaboration Agreement. These were:

- SCOTSTAT Crime and Justice Committee – Building Safer Communities Programme (McVie, SCOTSTAT Crime and Justice Committee (MacQueen), Juries Research (Armstrong, Leverick and Chalmers)), Domestic Abuse Event (Burman, MacQueen, Craven, McFeeley, Proctor, Whitburn, Foster, Forbes, Robertson, Gormley and McBride), International review of the law relating to smacking, and approaches to disciplining children (Burman, Robertson and Craven), Review of effective service responses/better practice with regards to specialist services for older problem drug users (Armstrong and Atkinson), International review of the use of Electronic Monitoring (McVor and Graham), Scottish Crime and Justice Survey: Drug Use (Robertson), Scottish Crime and Justice Survey: Self-completion sexual victimisation and stalking (McVie and Murray), Scottish Crime and Justice Survey: Partner Abuse (Burman, McVie, Murray and MacQueen), Research into Sex industry/Prostitution (Molloch, Smith, Forbes, Robertson and Burman), Hate Crime (Armstrong, McBride and Murray), and McBride (T), Effectiveness of mediation in the context of domestic abuse (Brooks) and Refreshing Serious Organised Crime Group mapping.

SCCJR 2015-16

We are very pleased to say that in February 2015 SG JASD provided £110,000 of continued core funding to SCCJR for a further 12 months to continue this work.
In 2015-16, SCCJR welcomed five international visiting fellows.

Professor Robin A Robinson, of the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth, visited the SCCJR for two weeks in May 2015. Her work concerns gender, crime, and justice – specifically, girls in care and correctional systems. Her Visiting Fellowship focused upon a project that will provide systematic consideration of how the clinical phenomenon of vicarious trauma (VT) affects staff who work with girls in such facilities and systems, and how VT challenges the foundations of treatment that staff must provide for troubled and troublesome girls in conflict with their families, communities, and the law. Robin was based at the University of Glasgow.

Chief Superintendent Sharjil Kharal from the Pakistan Police Service visited the SCCJR from July to September 2015 in a trip made possible by the SCCJR’s second Commonwealth Professional Fellowship award. Sharji was ranked as a Deputy Inspector General and currently works for the Sindh Police force based in Karachi. While in Glasgow he researched ‘The challenges to forensic investigation in Pakistani law enforcement: A way forward’. During his visit he met with representatives from the Scottish police and leading academics in the area of forensic science. Sharji was based at the University of Glasgow.

Professor Mark Findlay, Professor of Criminal Justice at the University of Sydney and Professor of Law at Singapore Management University, made a three-month visit to SCCJR from October to December 2015. During his stay he worked on questions of corruption and globalisation, criminal enterprise, and the regulation and governance of global crime, with special reference to human trafficking. Mark was based at the University of Edinburgh School of Law.

Professor David Garland, Professor of Law and Sociology at New York University, visited the University of Edinburgh in May and delivered a week-long course on Michel Foucault at the Law School.

Professor Maria Carmen Navarro Villanueva, Professor of Prison Law and Criminal Proceeding at the Autonomous University of Barcelona, arrived at the SCCJR in May 2016 and is visiting until December. Her research is centred in women’s prisons, and during her stay her work will revolve around the influence of the motherhood in relation to desistance. Carmen is based at the Faculty of Social Science at the University of Stirling.

Professor Julie Stubbs, a criminologist and professor in the Faculty of Law at the University of New South Wales, in Sydney, Australia, visited the SCCJR in June 2016 as part of her research on alternatives to women’s imprisonment. Much of her research focuses on women and criminal justice including women’s imprisonment, justice reinvestment, restorative justice, domestic violence law reforms, homicide, battered woman syndrome and sexual assault.

31 March 2015: Kath Murray’s research on stop-and-search features in a Guardian article on the appointment of Howard League Scotland chairman John Scott QC to the inquiry into the police practice.

14 April 2015: The Scotsman publishes a front-page-linked article on the work of Christos Tsirgiannis titled Exposed: Christos’ criminal treasures, and a leading comment describing Christos as “a modern-day Indiana Jones.” The story is picked up by numerous other media including the Daily Record, Scottish Legal News and Archaeology News Network.

7 May 2015: The evaluation of the pilot project Support to Report (S2R) received media coverage in The Herald, The Courier and various online media outlets. The project, which offers an advocacy service to victims/survivors of rape, was evaluated by Oona Brooks and Michele Burman with assistance from PhD student Deborah Kyle.

27 May 2015: Fergus McNeill’s evidence to Scottish Parliament’s Justice Committee on plans to end automatic early release for prisoners attracts extensive coverage and comment in The Herald.

6 July 2015: Findings from AQMeN’s research on changing patterns of victimisation are featured in a Holywood Magazine article titled Crime fail to record low – but who benefits? The article, which focuses on a recent paper published in Scottish Justice Matters by Susan McVie, Paul Norris and Rebecca Pillinger, highlights the rising inequality in risk of becoming a victim of crime in Scotland during the recent crime decline.

10 June 2015: Susan McVie is interviewed by Ani Shaparo on National Public Radio in the US about her views on how Glasgow shed its reputation as ‘The Murder Capital Of Western Europe’. In the interview, which also features John Carcochan of the Violence Reduction Unit, Susan speaks about how Glasgow’s homicide rate has been reduced by two-thirds over the past decade.


30 August 2015: The work of the Trafficking Culture team is the subject of an article in the Sunday Herald headlined Scotland’s elite archaeologists target global tomb raiders.

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26 August 2015: Research on electronic monitoring (EM) by Hannah Graham and Gill McIvor is mentioned in a range of media following the announcement of the Scottish Government’s EM strategy, including coverage from BBC Scotland, The Herald, The Scotsman, and Daily Record.

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6 November 2015 – The (Re) Imagining Youth exhibition is covered in The Scotsman under the headlines ‘Researchers reveal what connects youth of Glasgow and Hong Kong’ and ‘Staying is in the new going out for Scots youths’. In addition, Alistair Fraser wrote a comment piece for the paper that appeared under the heading ‘A year is a really, really long time in politics’.

13 November 2015 – The publication of the Scottish Justice Matters edition on Poverty, Inequality and Justice receives significant press and social media coverage. Susan McVie is interviewed on the topic of poverty and the justice system by the BBC Radio Good Morning Scotland programme and there is also coverage on the BBC website, STV, Radio Clyde and in The Herald.

14 November 2015 – The Distant Voices Festival culminates in a concert that receives a four-star review from Fiona Shepherd in The Scotsman, who says “the spirit of the enterprise and the quality of the songs shines through”. The Daily Record also runs a detailed, positive article about Distant Voices.

1 March 2016 – Donna Yates talks about major museum thefts on Radio 4’s Today programme and STV news after 14 members of organised crime gangs are convicted of stealing artefacts from museums worth nearly £60 million.

14 March 2016: Fergus McNeill appears alongside Alison Ure of Vox Liminis on Sunday Morning With...Ricky Ross on BBC Radio Scotland to talk about Distant Voices. The segment, for which a reporter attended a Vox session in Castle Huntly prison, also includes interviews with prisoners and Louis Abbott performing the Distant Voices song Breathe Life.

24 January 2016 – Donna Yates’s new free online course on FutureLearn, Antiquities Trafficking and Art Crime, is the subject of articles in the Sunday Herald and Evening Times.

19 March 2016: PhD student Maureen McBride is quoted in articles in The Herald and Evening Times about policing arrangements for Easter Rising Celebrations.

7 February 2016 – Alistair Fraser’s research into gangs in Glasgow is the subject of articles in the Sunday Herald, The Scotsman and the Evening Times. Alistair also appears on BBC Radio Scotland’s Kaye Adams show and STV’s Scotland Tonight to discuss his findings.

December 28 2015: PhD student Martin Cathcart Froden of the University of Glasgow is the subject of The Herald’s Face to Face feature, in which he discusses his work in prison and his PhD responding creatively to prison architecture.

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Research Awards 2015-2016

Michele Burman and Prof Robin Rubin of the University of Massachusetts (who was an SCCJR Visiting Fellow in 2015), along with PhD student Annie Crowley, have been successful in obtaining a Welcome Trust Social Science and Humanities Award (£50,000) to carry out research on the experiences and effects of vicarious traumatisation amongst those who work with offending young women and girls. The project will commence in autumn 2016 and run for one year.

Michele Burman and Oona Brooks along with Lisa Bradley and PhD student Debbie Kyle have been successful in obtaining Rape Crisis Scotland funding (£39,950) to conduct an Evaluation of the Police Scotland/Rape Crisis Scotland Pilot Advocacy Support Service. The project commenced in January 2016 and is due to be completed by February 2018.

Michele Burman along with Colin Atkinson received £14,500 of funding from the Scottish Crime Campus/Police Scotland to undertake research titled ‘Scottish Crime Campus User Perceptions’. The final report was submitted in May 2016.

Michele Burman along with PhD students Annie Crowley and George Walters-Sleyn received £2,062 from the Scottish Prison Service to provide assistance in the preparation of the report on the SPS Symposium ‘From Vision to Reality – Transforming Scotland’s Care of Women in Custody’.

Margaret Malloch and Bill Murto were awarded £7,000 from the British Academy/Leventhalme for their project Justice, Civic Engagement and the Public Sphere: Mapping Democratic Transformations in Scottish Society.

Oona Brooks and Nancy Lombard received funding of £23,000 from the Sir Halley Stewart Trust for a four-month feasibility study analysing the correlation between football and domestic abuse in England and Scotland. They will be working with Dr Emma Williamson from the University of Bristol.

Simon Mackenzie and colleagues at UCL, Birkbeck, LSE, ITM, Surrey, Dundee, Cardiff and Southampton Universities are collaborating on an ESRC-funded research project titled ‘University Consortium for Evidence-Based Crime Reduction’. The Glasgow element of the funding award is £32,028. The project commenced in 2015 and is due for completion in February 2017.

Fergus McNeill was awarded a European Cooperation in Science and Technology (COST) grant of £60,000 for his European network on offender supervision. This was the final year of the four-year project.

Fergus McNeill was the recipient of £14,001 from the ESRC-IAA fund to continue the ‘Mass Supervision: Seen and Heard’ project. These funds supported innovative knowledge exchange activities linked to the cost action on Offender Supervision in Europe work on experiencing supervision. Specifically they funded a song-writing workshop and exhibition of photographs and performance of songs inspired by them. The photographs were taken by people on supervision or supervision.

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The SCCJR PhD Community

We are very proud of our active and growing postgraduate community. We currently support a large group of affiliated postgraduates (supervised by one or more members of SCCJR, some of which are cross-institutional supervisory arrangements).

Our postgraduates benefit from PhD ‘away days’ 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 as paid interns, and they attend and participate in SCCJR seminars and working lunches.

There were six PhD completions during the past year. Warm congratulations are extended to:

- Emma Smith of the University of Stirling, for her thesis titled ‘Violence can mean a lot of things can’t it?’ An exploration of responses to harm associated with indoor sex work in Scotland
- Shadi Whittburn of the University of Glasgow, for her thesis titled The War on Drugs producing refugees? The impact of drug violence around the US border communities
- Jessica Bird of the University of Edinburgh, for her thesis titled The Wall & The Bridge: Scottish Approaches to Labour Migration and the different interactions between women and family
- Gemma Flynn of the University of Edinburgh, for her thesis titled The Political Communication of Crime
- Ashley Varghese of the University of Edinburgh, for her thesis titled Constructing Family in the Context of Imprisonment: a study of prisoners and their families in Scotland

The SCCJR PhD Community continues to grow steadily, with new doctoral students joining us each year. In the session 2015-16, we were successful in obtaining a number of prestigious funded PhD studentships, from the ESRC/Scottish Graduate School Doctoral Training Centre to the Criminology and Socio-legal Studies Pathway and the Scottish Government co-funded Studentships. These studentships, which in some cases continue our tradition of cross-institutional supervisory arrangements, also reflect our ongoing engagement with policy and practice communities.

PhD Poster Competition

The SCCJR’s second annual PhD poster competition was held in 2015, and as with the inaugural contest the standard of entries was extremely high. First prize went to Emiline Smith of the University of Glasgow for her poster on Cultural Property in Transit: A Case Study of Hong Kong, and runner-up was Ali Malik of the University of Edinburgh for Exploring the landscape of Police Governance and Accountability in Scotland.

To view the winning entries please visit: www.sccjr.ac.uk/news-events/news/phd-poster-competition-2015-the-winners/

PhD Snapshots

In the following section, we are proud to showcase some of the PhD work currently being conducted by our second-year and third-year students. This is followed by a full list of PhD students, their topics and supervisors.

Legal Consciousness and Subjectivity: An exploration of women’s rights and violence in La Paz, Bolivia

Ashley Rogers, University of Stirling
Supervisors: Samantha Punch and William Munro
This ESRC-funded, socio-legal PhD explores women’s rights and subjectivities in Bolivia through the framework of legal consciousness using ethnographic methods. Ashley is currently in her third year of the doctorate process.

Aims

The aim of the research was to utilise an ethnographic approach to the study of legal consciousness and highlight the relationship that women have with their rights. The first focus was on the structural conditions of society that predicate the development of legal transitions in Bolivia and the second was the everyday lived experiences of the law, explored through a framework of legal consciousness in order to uncover the relationship between women’s rights and subjectivity.

Fieldwork

Twelve months of fieldwork in the city of La Paz was conducted between October 2014 and October 2015 in order to uncover the ways that women experience law and their rights, and how this in turn influences – and is used to construct – subjectivities. La Paz was chosen due to the diversity of its residents. Participant observation was conducted in two women’s centres, as well as interviews and in-depth life stories in order to explore the presence and meaning of law in women’s everyday lives. Interviews were conducted not only with women but also with civil society organisations and government bodies to provide greater understanding of the structural conditions of society and the role that organisations play, in an attempt to map legal consciousness.

Whist the primary aim of the research was to focus on women’s rights and the human rights paradigm more generally, it came to be shaped by the women included in the research – as well as through informal observations and interactions with others – to have more of a focus on the recently enacted Comprehensive Law to Guarantee Women a Life Free from Violence (Law 348). Whilst this law was enacted in 2013, it was evident that there had been little progress in its implementation. Women now have a route to justice, but it is an ambiguous and challenging one.

"Working as part of SCCJR for my PhD provides exciting networking opportunities and inspiration through engagement with other people’s work. This is greatly influenced by the supportive environment that is created. Being part of SCCJR is to be part of a creative, dynamic and influential group.”

Ashley Rogers
Preliminary Findings

The discrepancy between law on paper and in practice impacts women's experiences and trust not only in the state and non-state legal systems but also the State itself. Women's relationship to their rights reveals that at different times different subjectivities are at play. Interactions and engagements with the law inside and outside of formal legal spaces shows that there are important relationships between such engagements and the influences they can have on subjectivity. Law and legal knowledge do not necessarily mean that legal texts become meaningful, practical or useful; but it is the subjectivities that are adopted by women, or those forced upon them by the structures of society, that reveal whether law and legal transitions are of importance, or are in some cases, irrelevant. An examination of legal consciousness through women's narratives highlights the intricacies of the relationship between law and subjectivity, which consequently reveals understandings and interpretations of women's relationships with the broader structural conditions of society through periods of legal transition.

Internalisation of law is a process, and it is one that will impact on and be shaped by subjectivity formation not only of the individual member of society, but of society as a whole. In turn, this can affect the law. It is a cyclical process whereby at times particular voices and subjectivities are more or less important depending on engagement in and with formal legal spaces. Through legal consciousness, the radiating effects of the law are revealed and whilst the implementation of Law 348, for example, has been poor, there is still an underlying belief in the moral and ethical nature of the law, and of living together respectfully as human beings. Law, therefore, remains a meaningful but often contradictory presence in Bolivian women's lives.

Exploring the ‘pains of imprisonment’ beyond the prison: an ethnographic study with prisoners’ visitors at a Scottish Prison

Rebecca Foster,
University of Glasgow
Supervisors: Sarah Armstrong, Michele Burman

Overview

Often considered the ‘hidden’ or ‘invisible’ victims of imprisonment, prisoners’ families were overlooked for many years. Lately, there has been growing research and policy attention given to prisoners’ families in Scotland and in other jurisdictions; this attention is coupled with a commitment to better understand how the families of prisoners ‘do time’. My research adds to this growing body of literature which recognises that state imposed punishment goes far beyond the legal offender. My research aims to uncover the lived experiences of imprisonment for families, with a particular focus on families’ experiences of visiting their incarcerated loved one(s). Visits to prison are often the principal form of contact between prisoners and their families. Increasing importance is attached to their role in maintaining family ties and thus helping to foster desistance upon release, yet the experiences of prison visiting are under explored.

In order to understand imprisonment’s effects on families, I conducted field-work in a prison visitors’ centre (at HMP Edinburgh). Prison visitors’ centres are designated waiting areas in which families wait prior to entering the prison where their visit takes place. These are also the spaces families return to after their visit, to collect their belongings. There is considerable variation between prison visitors’ centres in the UK, with differences in roles, budgets, staffing, the physical building and the services provided. In this case, the Visitors’ Centre (the Centre) is a purpose built building, and managed by a voluntary sector organisation, independent of the Scottish Prison Service.

In my research, I aimed to explore the dynamics of visiting for all family members; how the Centre is experienced by both parents and carers; and what differences there are between those who visit alongside their loved one(s). Visits to prison are often the principal form of contact between prisoners and their families. Increasing importance is attached to their role in maintaining family ties and thus helping to foster desistance upon release, yet the experiences of prison visiting are under explored.

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In exploring families’ experiences of visiting, a complex picture has emerged of not only how they experience ‘the visit’ but of how the imprisonment affects and shapes their daily lives. This picture has a range of theoretical and policy implications. These include:

- Families’ experience of prison visiting is highly diverse; each visit can be experienced differently for an individual family member or family; and the overall experience can vary between families. In addition to external factors (for example, travel and financial issues), these experiences are shaped both by the physical environment of the spaces encountered when visiting, and the interactions that take place within these. The Centre supports families in various ways, but some families require and use this support more than others.
- Though the prison is a spatially bounded site, it reaches into the home lives of families in unique and complex ways, altering and re-arranging family life. An example of this is how the prison both impacts and takes away families’ time; for instance, in the ways in which families juggle home life to fit in with prison phone calls and visits. However, families do attempt to reclaim their agency and resist this institutional power.
- Imprisonment imposes on families a number of hardships, and also exacerbates existing disadvantage experienced by some families. These effects include; the stigma of imprisonment and the experience (or fear) of receiving unwanted attention in light of it; the disruption to relationships; and the effects of imprisonment on children.
- While my findings have broadly lent support to the view that imprisonment’s effects are pernicious and sometimes lasting, what is also clear is that some families do not experience these quite so acutely. There are various reasons for this; one is that imprisonment has become a normal or familiar feature of their lives; this may be due to the experience of the imprisonment of other family members, the salience of prison in their particular community, or both. However, if imprisonment is not experienced in this way and is instead experienced as normal, even banal, this is socially traumatic with far-reaching implications.

Therefore, my research adds to the literature in demonstrating that imprisonment tends to be experienced as a negative force in the lives of most family members. My research also supports the work of others in emphasising the diversity of prisoners’ families and the diversity of the experience of imprisonment, for families, as well as prisoners. This has implications for not only how punishment is considered theoretically, but also for how families, and prisoners, are supported during and after the imprisonment.

Implications

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A study of patterns of sexual offending and re-offending

Debbie Kyle
University of Glasgow
Supervisors: Fergus McNeill and Susan McVie

General patterns of offending and desistance often do not appear to apply to sexual crimes. It is often hard to reconcile what appears to be a fundamentally different causal process with conventional criminological and desistance theories. Moreover, sexual offending has often been studied from a psychological rather than socio-structural perspective. However, general criminological theories can be applied regardless of the potential causes of sexual offending, since the emphasis is often on why a person commits this act even though it is a crime, rather than why they are interested in committing the act. There is a well-documented connection between sexual offenders and other offenders; people who commit sexual offences very often commit other offences and general anti-social behaviour has been found to be a significant predictor of sexual recidivism. This suggests that those who do not have a propensity towards general criminal behaviour are less likely to take the opportunity to commit a sexual offence. This is an important point since this suggests the desistance process may be similar for sexual and non-sexual offences, and therefore similar techniques can be employed when working with people who are trying to desist.

There has been a relatively large amount of research into patterns of general offending, using these patterns to inform theory about causal and re-offending/desistance processes, however this has been less common in relation to sexual offending. Many studies have advocated the life-course theory, i.e. that most people stop committing crime as they get older. Some research has found that the risk of sexual recidivism decreases with age; however in general, the evidence is less clear for sexual offences than for other offences. Trajectories of sexual offending appear to be dissimilar to general offending, according to the latest research. It is thought that certain risk or protective factors may be involved, and that these may occur at different times for those who have committed sexual offences.
The judicial perspectives on the sentencing of minor drug offenders in Indonesia

Cecep Mustafa
University of Stirling
Supervisors: Gill McIvor and Margaret Malloch

The purpose of this study is to explore the judicial perspectives on the sentencing of minor drug offenders, to understand the aims that Indonesian court judges are trying to achieve when sentencing minor drug offenders, and to understand the factors that judges indicate influence them when sentencing minor drug offenders in Indonesian courts. In order to understand the judiciary perspectives, it is important to explore the judicial perspectives under social conditions where they operate.

Initial findings
Judges perceive drug offences as global concern and more serious. Judges feel being constrained by prosecutorial discretion, appelate procedure, medical assessment, and the availability treatment facilities. Rehabilitation for minor drug offender is seen as being in the interests of judges and the society.

The SCCJR has a dynamic and supportive PhD community and has helped me enormously through the PhD journey. I have been fortunate to work alongside academic staff in various research projects, which has given me valuable experience of research outside of my own PhD, and I have had numerous other opportunities such as teaching, engaging with criminal justice professionals and also a three month internship with the Scottish Government.”

Deborah Kyle
# SCCJR PhD students 2015-16

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