



Fall 2007
NEWSLETTER 17:1
Division of Critical Criminology-
American Society of Criminology

The Critical Criminologist

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The Critical Criminologist

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Important Updates from the Division Chair

Colleagues,

The Division on Critical Criminology of the American Society of Criminology is undertaking some organizational initiatives that I want to bring to your attention. These activities are designed to grow our collective commitment to social change and justice in the work that we do as educators, researchers, and activists. Let me explain.

During the past year, with the assistance of our Executive Officers, Jeff Walker, and Bob Bohm, a strategy to integrate the Critical Criminology Section of the ACJS with the Division on Critical Criminology of the ASC has been developed. We are still in the discussion phase as these changes will impact the bylaws of these respective organizations. However, the broad issues under review include the following:

1. Members in good standing of either the CC Section of the ACJS or the CC Division of the ASC are eligible to be nominated and to hold elected office.
2. The nominations process commences following the ACJS Conference and extends through that academic year (i.e., May). The Nominations Committee is responsible for coordinating all nominations.
3. Members in good standing of the CC Section of the ACJS and members of the CC Division of the ASC can nominate candidates (for Vice Chair, Secretary/Treasurer, and Executive Officers at Large) during the nominations process.
4. In the case of the Vice Chair, the term is for one year to be followed by one year as Chair. Determining how best to handle the transition here is critical.
Recommendation: a Chair could be elected for 1 year. In addition, a Vice Chair would be elected that same year, would serve one year as Vice Chair, and then one year as Chair. During the year that Vice Chair served as Chair, we would have an election for a Vice Chair who would serve one 1 year as Vice Chair and 1 year as Chair. In effect, then, a Vice Chair would be elected every other year, much like the election of the Secretary/Treasurer and the Executive Officers.
5. **Ballots will be mailed out at the end of the nominations period to all CC members in good standing and must be returned to the CC Elections Committee Chair by September 30th of that following academic year.**



6. The Elections Committee reports the results of new officers at the November ASC CC general membership meeting.

During the ACJS Conference held in Seattle (2007), the Critical Criminology Section sponsored a social. It was well attended and represented an important opportunity to showcase the activities of our colleagues in the ACJS. Future efforts to integrate the activities of the Critical Criminology Section with the Division on Critical Criminology of the ASC will be planned. Creating this integration will promote greater continuity from one Conference to the next and will foster greater cohesion in the work that we all undertake. At this point, we have yet to determine how best to do this other than to sponsor a social. Critical Criminology members of both the ACJS and ASC are addressing this issue through an ad-hoc Committee.

I invite you to review the proposed changes and planned activities. Please feel free to offer comments. I look forward to seeing all of you at the upcoming ASC Conference in Atlanta

Bruce A. Arrigo
UNC Charlotte



[Call for Award Nominations](#)

ASC Critical Criminology Division

Please consider nominating folks for the following Division Awards:

- The Lifetime Achievement Award honors an individual's sustained and distinguished scholarship, teaching, and/or service in the field of critical criminology.
- The Critical Criminologist of the Year Award honors a person for distinguished accomplishments which have symbolized the spirit of the Division in some form of scholarship, teaching, and/or service in a recent year or years.
- The Undergraduate Student Paper Awards recognize and honor outstanding theoretical or empirical critical criminological scholarship by undergraduate students.
- The Graduate Student Paper Awards recognize and honor outstanding theoretical or empirical critical criminological scholarship by graduate students.

Nomination Materials:

To nominate for the Lifetime Achievement Award or the Critical Criminologist of the Year please send four copies of the nominee's vita, nomination letter and supporting materials. To nominate for the Undergraduate or Graduate paper Awards please submit four copies of the paper and a brief bio.

All materials should be sent no later than September 5, 2007 to:

Donna Killingbeck, Ph.D.
Eastern Michigan University
Department of Sociology, Anthropology & Criminology
712 Pray Harrold
Ypsilanti, MI 48197



From the Editors:

We would like to remind everyone several points:

- 1) Elections ballots will soon be coming out—please take the time to vote—your voice is heard through your actions and we need everyone to be active members;
- 2) The Critical Criminologists is only as good as we all make it together. In other words, take the time to submit things of interest to us. If you have a student that has a tremendous paper and would like to see them have the opportunity to have it in print—send it our way for consideration. In other words, we need your participation in making this newsletter useful for our division;
- 3) Please become active—we realize all of our schedules are busy with a lot of commitments, but one small contribution—be it voting, submitting to the web or newsletter, sharing in the email exchanges, or running for office, each and every dedication makes us stronger as a division;
- 4) Do not forget to pay your ASC registration dues for the conference—do not be stuck paying the higher amount at the door—also we hope you have made your reservations at the hotel;

Atlanta Marriott Marquis; 265 Peachtree Center Avenue

(404) 521-0000; (800) 228-9290

- 5) As the academic year is once again upon us all—we remind you to breathe and enjoy life—it is the reason.

Congratulations to Todd Clear as the newly elected ASC President

The Department of Sociology and Anthropology in the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences invites nominations and applications for the position of Assistant Professor of Sociology. Georgia Southern University, a member institution of the University System of Georgia, is the largest and most comprehensive center of higher education in the southern half of Georgia. Georgia Southern University is classified by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching as a Doctoral/Research institution. A residential university serving over 16,000 students in Fall 2006, Georgia Southern's hallmark is a superior undergraduate experience emphasizing academic distinction, excellent teaching, and student success. Founded in 1906, the University offers 123 degree programs at the baccalaureate, master's, and doctoral levels through eight colleges. The 675-acre campus is located in Statesboro, a community of approximately 30,000 residents, 50 miles northwest of historic Savannah, and 200 miles southeast of Atlanta.

Position Description. Reporting to the Department Chair, the Assistant Professor is expected to demonstrate excellence in teaching and scholarship. Responsibilities include teaching introductory and advanced courses in sociology of criminology and criminal justice, working closely with individual sociology majors, and participating in departmental and university affairs. The position is a 9-month, tenure track appointment, and the salary is competitive and commensurate with qualifications and experience.

Required Qualifications:

- A Ph.D. in Sociology, Criminology, or Criminal Justice by August 1, 2008.
- Academic background and expertise to teach the following courses: Introductory Sociology, Criminology, Deviant Behavior, Juvenile Delinquency, and Crime and Justice.

Preferred Qualifications:

College teaching experience.

Screening of Applications begins September 17, 2007 and continues until the position is filled. The position starting date is August 1, 2008. A complete application consists of a letter addressing the qualifications cited above; a curriculum vita; and the names, addresses, telephone numbers, and email addresses of at least three professional references. Other documentation may be requested. Finalists will be required to submit to background investigation. Georgia Southern University seeks to recruit individuals who are committed to working in diverse academic and professional communities. Applications and nominations should be sent to:

Dr. Nancy Malcom, Search Chair, Search #53853
Department of Sociology and Anthropology
Georgia Southern University
P.O. Box 8051
Statesboro, GA 30460-8051
Electronic mail: nmalcom@georgiasouthern.edu
Telephone: 912-681-5168

Special Issue of *Social Justice* Vol 33, No 4, 2006

Deaths in Custody and Detention

Guest Editors: Phil Scraton and Jude McCulloch

Recently published, this Special Issue focuses on state power and incarceration through analysis of deaths in custody and detention. It explores issues of power, justice, conflict and resistance within prisons in a broader social, economic and historical context.

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EXPLORING RELATIONS OF POWER

35rd Annual Conference of the European Group for the Study of Deviance and Social Control

30 August- 2 September 2007
Willem Pompe Institute of Criminal Law and Criminology,
University of Utrecht, Utrecht, Netherlands

CALL FOR PAPERS

Revealing and challenging the relations of power are central processes in the development of critical analyses of 'crime', 'deviance', 'conflict' and criminal justice. In terms of structure this has involved critiques of advanced capitalism, globalization, neo-colonialism and patriarchy emphasizing political, economic and ideological contexts. In terms of institutions, and connected directly to the structural, is the administration of power through state interventions. Power is also significant in interpersonal relations, in families and within communities, in the local state and local economy. As critical analysis of harm and social justice has established, wherever power is imposed there is personal and collective resistance. For the most powerless however, like children and animals, resistance is not an option. The conference will explore these issues in the context of regulation and criminalization, inviting papers on any aspect of the theme, including:

- **Theorising power, authority and legitimacy**
- **Power, knowledge and hegemony**
- **State theories and civil society**
- **Researching the 'powerful'**
- **Discipline, punishment and institutional power**
- **Class, poverty and marginalization**
- **Gender, power and feminist critiques**
- **Neo-colonialism, migration and borders**
- **Criminalising children and young people**
- **Deconstructing 'crime', theorizing 'harm'**
- **Environment, pollution, speciesism and the politics of food**
- **Challenging the language of 'crime' and criminology**
- **'Truth', acknowledgement and resistance**

Abstracts submitted by: 30 June 2007. **Full Details:** Philo van Lenning, European Group 2007, Willem Pompe Institute for Criminal Law and Criminology, Janskerhof 16, 3512 BM Utrecht, The Netherlands. Tel: 0031 30 253 7149 Em: P.vanLenning@law.uu.nl

Bearing Witness to Institutionalised Neglect

*In this brief article **Phil Scraton** discusses the case of Roseanne Irvine who died in custody at the time he was conducting primary research in the prison. Along with his co-researcher, Linda Moore, he gave extensive evidence at the subsequent inquest.*

She ate with her fingers. They'd taunt and laugh at her by blowing smoke through the door ... She tried to hang herself and three of us saw her getting out of the ambulance. They walked her across the tarmac in February with a suicide blanket on. They all had riot gear on. She was crying. They were bringing her back from hospital and she was put back in the punishment block. We just kept our heads down. Just did our time.

A woman prisoner describes the treatment endured by an emotionally disturbed older woman in the Mourne House Women's Unit at Maghaberry jail in 2004. Assessed as a volatile suicide risk she was locked in the punishment block for 23 hours a day; epileptic, diabetic and requiring a colostomy bag. When we interviewed her she could not understand why creams for her painful skin condition had been withdrawn. A heavy smoker, she was limited to ten cigarettes each day. To encourage compliance with the regime she had been deprived of tea for three days.

Also down the block a 17 year old young woman was held in strip conditions to 'manage' her self harm. She was lacerated from feet to hips, from hands to shoulders. Skin between cuts was scoured raw. Deprived of underwear, even during menstruation, her anti-suicide gown was held in place by cello tape. A bare cell - no mattress, no pillow, nothing except an 'anti-suicide' blanket and a small cardboard potty for defecation. She slept on a concrete plinth. Locked in isolation 23 hours each day her situation was desperate.

Self harm was her 'only way of coping ... I shouldn't be down here. There's nothing to do. It's worse in the night. I hear voices and see things. But no-one helps me ... I've had no counselling since I've been in here.' She was accused of inciting others self harm. Her 'care plan' recommended 'optimal contact' but she was isolated from other prisoners and had minimal interaction with staff. According to an officer women 'down the block' were checked 'two or three times an hour' through the day and 'roughly once an hour at night' by 'looking into the cell' through a spy-hole. Walking from the cells the emotional mix of sadness, anger and incredulity was overwhelming. This represented the 'duty of care' provided to women and girls imprisoned within an advanced democratic state that proclaims values of 'moral responsibility' and 'respect'.

That evening I received an email from a prison visitor. It read:

We have been deeply saddened to hear this evening that there has been a death in custody. Roseanne Irvine was a deeply disturbed woman, in Mourne mainly because there was no other place for her ... She should have been in hospital ...often threatened suicide out of desperation ... C1 conditions at their most basic are grim ... Prison is not the place for so many women.

On the day she died we had planned to interview Roseanne but she had been moved

from the block to the committals landing. By the time we left the block it was lock-up and we were unable to visit Roseanne. Could we have helped her? A question that will remain with us for all time. Born October 1969 in Belfast Roseanne was the youngest in a family of seven children. She enjoyed school, left at 16, enrolled on a youth training scheme and worked in a local factory. In 1991 she became pregnant. Soon after the birth of her daughter she suffered depression and developed alcohol dependency. In seven years she was treated on 38 occasions for anxiety, depression, alcohol intoxication, overdosing, self harm and attempted suicide. Numerous admissions to hospital, mental health and psychiatric units followed. A consultant psychiatrist diagnosed 'chronic psychosocial maladjustment', interpreted as 'borderline personality disorder'.

Roseanne was considered a loving, caring mother but 'repetitive episodes' of self harm and alcoholism caused her daughter to be placed on the Child Protection Register, cared for within her the extended family. In February 2002 Roseanne's brother died in a hostel fire. She attempted suicide and was admitted to hospital. On discharge she drank heavily and set fire to her home. She had no record of offending behaviour but her self harm was interpreted as arson. Remanded to prison, an IMR21 (prisoner at risk of suicide) was opened. She was located on the committals landing and assessed by a nurse officer. A second IMR21 was opened six days later confirming she was a 'potential suicide risk'. She was not examined by a doctor on either occasion.

In April 2002 a Prison Officers' Association (POA) representative informed the Governor that during night lock-up Roseanne had strangled herself. She was examined by a doctor who recommended her transfer to the male prison hospital for 'special care' (the purpose-built healthcare centre in the women's unit had been mothballed). This did not happen. Clothed in an anti-suicide gown, without underwear, she was

placed on 'suicide watch' in a punishment block strip cell.

There followed a protracted exchange between the POA and the Prison Governor regarding the treatment of prisoners at risk. The POA issued a 'failure to agree' notice, stating:

Hospital management are continuing to ignore the regulations governing the treatment of prisoners who are attempting self-harm. This is placing an intolerable burden on discipline staff by placing these prisoners in residential units instead of the healthcare centre. Prisoners deemed to be at risk of self-harm by medical staff should be placed in the prison hospital.

In October 2002 Roseanne was sentenced to two years probation and admitted to a therapeutic community for women with complex mental health needs. Despite settling she breached her probation order and returned to prison in August 2003, immediately placed on an IMR21. Within a month she was discharged, time served. Without a therapeutic facility available she lived in a hostel where her dependency problems worsened. Transferred to another hostel she feared the residents, all of whom were men. One night she was expelled from the hostel and left on the streets and in January 2004 she was attacked by another hostel resident. Frightened, she asked to be taken to prison for safety.

Following a further suicide attempt, Roseanne was admitted to hospital. Withdrawn, depressed and without medication, she was discharged from hospital to the care of the community health team. Again, she was allocated to a hostel where she was 'very frightened'. Vulnerable and unprotected, her condition deteriorated rapidly. A chaplain found her 'depressed, suicidal and unable to stand, her eyes rolling'. Within a week she was in police custody and 'appeared in court in her pyjamas'. She had set fire to

her room at the hostel, was charged with arson and returned to prison on remand.

On reception Roseanne was 'health screened' by a Nursing Officer. Despite recording an attempted hanging the previous week and extensive self harm three days earlier, the Officer entered: 'No risk indicated at present'. No mention was made of information provided by the police or other agencies regarding their concerns. Yet the PACE form accompanying Roseanne was explicit. Under the heading 'May have suicidal tendencies' the police had handwritten three ticks and two asterisks. 'Physical illness or mental disturbance' was ticked. In the section 'Supporting Notes' SELF HARM was entered in capitals, underlined, with two asterisks. In red ink, underlined with accompanying asterisks was the comment: 'Informed C.P.N that she would cut herself if the opportunity arose'. Incredibly the prison 'health screening' ignored the warning.

On 1 March Roseanne told a prison officer she intended to hang herself. An IMR21 was opened and Roseanne was put in an anti-suicide gown, her underwear removed, supplied with an anti-suicide blanket, potty and a container of water and transferred to the punishment block. During the following morning two Governors and a Senior Officer discussed the case but she remained down the block. A Nursing Officer stated that Roseanne had threatened to set fire to herself. In line with IMR21 requirements she was scheduled to attend the doctor's 'sick parade'. It was cancelled, the duty doctor remaining unaware of her condition. The IMR21 healthcare section remained blank. Later an officer noted Roseanne had torn hair from her scalp.

At risk and without medical examination Roseanne was returned to an ordinary cell. It had many ligature points and she had access to multiple ligatures. The next sick parade was also cancelled. Officers reported her 'calm' and 'in good form'. She met with the prison probation officer who informed Roseanne that her social worker had sched-

uled a meeting to arrange a visit from her daughter. She stated Roseanne was given a handwritten note to that effect. The note was never found. After the meeting Roseanne was visibly distressed, stating that she might be prevented from seeing her daughter.

During a short evening unlock Roseanne told officers she had taken '5 Blues' which they assumed to be diazepam. In fact they were Efexor. Her medication included Efexor, omeprazole, diazepam, chloral betaine, chlorpromazine, Inderal LA and Largactil. The Mourne House Governor, located in the male prison, was informed of the alleged overdose. He ordered an immediate cell search. It did not happen and the Unit was locked for the night. The Night Guard stated she was unaware that Roseanne was on an IMR21 and had taken a drugs overdose. At approximately 9-15pm Roseanne, sitting writing a note, asked for her cell light to be switched off. The note contained her last words to her daughter. Just over an hour later she was found hanging from the ornate bars of the window. The noose was a draw cord from her pyjama bottoms.

On 13 February 2007 following a week-long inquest a Belfast jury returned a damning narrative verdict. It concluded: 'The prison system failed Roseanne'. She had taken her own life while the 'balance of her mind was disturbed'. Reflecting on extensive and contradictory prison officers' and managers' evidence that revealed a fatal mix of complacency, incompetence and negligence, the jury noted the significance of 'the events leading up to her death', her mental ill-health and her treatment immediately prior to her death. 'Defects' in the system were: 'Severe lack of communication and inadequate recording'; 'The management of the IMR21 (failure to act)'; 'Lack of healthcare and resources for women prisoners' each contributing to Roseanne's death as follows: 'All staff were not aware of Roseanne's circumstances and could not act accordingly'; 'Priority should have been made to see a doctor'; 'Hospital wing was inadequate for

female prisoners’.

The jury listed four neglected ‘reasonable precautions’: ‘Could have been taken to an outside hospital/ out of [hours] call doctor’; ‘Full briefing during handovers’; ‘Decisions to be moved from C1 to C2 should not have been made by a non-medically trained qualified staff member’; ‘To be paired up with friend in cell – more checks’. ‘Other factors’ were: ‘Prison is not a suitable environment for someone with a personality/ mental health disorder. The Coroner, who had previously concluded that women prisoners were treated as ‘second class’, stated he would write to the Director of the Prison Service and the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland.

The jury, visibly moved, left the court to spontaneous applause from Roseanne’s family. Our evidence to the inquest had exposed systemic failings in a prison previously severely criticised by the Prisons Inspectorate. At the time of the research, far from an improved regime, Mourne House had deteriorated further and vulnerable women bore the consequences. The Human Rights Commission reiterated its call for a public inquiry into the circumstances surrounding deaths in custody encompassing the broader issues of institutional failings, managerial incompetence and regime breakdown. In March 2007 the Northern Ireland Affairs Committee announced an inquiry into health care in Northern Ireland’s prisons.

Phil Scraton is Professor of Criminology, Institute of Criminology and Criminal Justice, School of Law, Queen's University, Belfast and was commissioned by the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission (NIHRC) to research women in prison in Northern Ireland with Dr Linda Moore, NIHRC Investigations Worker, focusing particularly on Articles 2 and 3 of the ECHR.

This statement, and other empirical material throughout the article, is taken from: Scraton, P. and Moore, L. (2005) *The Hurt Inside: The Imprisonment of Women and Girls in Northern Ireland*, Belfast: NIHRC. Their follow-up research is published in July 2007: Scraton, P. and Moore, L. *The Prison Within: The imprisonment of women in Hydebank Wood 2004-2006*, Belfast: NIHRC. Both reports are available free from the NIHRC. See also: Scraton, P. and Moore, L. (2005) 'Degradation, Harm and Survival in a Women's Prison' *Social Policy and Society*, 5:1, 67-78.

Annie Kelly took her own life in Mourne House in September 2002. Both researchers gave evidence at her inquest. The jury's extensive narrative verdict severely criticised the Northern Ireland Prison Service. See: Scraton, P. (2006) "They'd all love me dead ...": The Investigation, Inquest and Implications of the Death of Annie Kelly' *Social Justice*, Special Issue, 33:4, 118-135.

A full analysis of this research is included in: Scraton, P. (2007) *Power, Conflict and Criminalisation* London: Routledge and Moore, L. and Scraton, P. (forthcoming) in Scraton, P. and McCulloch, J. (eds) *The Violence of Incarceration*, London: Routledge.