
Australia & New Zealand Critical Criminology Conference 2009



Conference Program

WEDNESDAY 8th July 2009

Opening Plenary

Precrime: Imagining future crime and a new space for criminology.

Prof. Jude McCulloch

This paper sets out to describe the contours of the shift from post to precrime taking shape under contemporary counter terrorism measures and to map the implications of this development in terms of criminal justice and society more broadly. It argues that the move to precrime consolidates a trend towards integrating national security into criminal justice. The emerging hybrid national security and criminal justice framework has led to a number of tensions and contradictions in counter terrorism measures, including a tension between the ideal of impartial criminal justice and the politically charged concept of national security.

The shift from post to precrime and national security under counter terrorism frameworks encompass a temporal and geographic shift, the latter involving a blurring of the borders between the states' internal and external coercive capacities. The paper traces the antecedents of the shift from post to precrime arguing that the significance of this for criminology and society cannot begin to be understood unless the historical precedents and genealogies are also understood. It argues that the shifts that have advanced under the mantle of counter terrorism can be traced through a number of interlinking historical trajectories including the wars on crime and drugs, criminalization and at a deeper level in colonial strategies of domination, control and repression embodied in counter insurgency practice and theory. The paper identifies a number of challenges and opportunities for criminology in the shift from postcrime criminal justice to precrime national security.

10- 11.15am

Concurrent A: Exploitation & the transnational crime agenda

a. Subverting the transnational crime rhetoric

Sharon Pickering

The transnational crime has firmly established itself nationally and internationally as a dominant figure shaping the response to a myriad of issues. This paper draws on recent research to highlight the deficiencies and limits of this framework.

b. Trafficking reconsidered: the ways forward

Sanja Milivojevic

Trafficking in people and in particular sex trafficking has been positioned remarkably high on the agenda of both nation-states and the international community for over two decades. The approach to trafficking, however, was largely situated within law and order and moral framework of the "21st century abolitionist movement" (Ambassador John Miller, US House of Representatives' Subcommittee on Africa, Global Human Rights and International Operations 2006: 27) that can potentially collapse with recent changes, particularly in relation to the new Obama administration. This paper will discuss how current global and local political, economic and migration trends require re-thinking trafficking and anti-trafficking initiatives. It will investigate which important actors, silenced for some time, are emerging with these new trends, and which ones are disappearing from the national and international political agenda. This paper will also discuss possible changes the new administration both in Australia and the United States will undertake in relation to anti-trafficking and migration policies, and what role researches, academics and feminists can play in this process.

c. Illegal labour & labour exploitation in regional Australia

Marie Segrave

This paper draws on recent research on temporary migrant labour and exploitation in regional Australia. It highlights concerns regarding the language and definition of 'illegal' labour, the impact of contradictory regulatory efforts and the complex mixture of entrepreneurialism and vulnerability that have been identified as features of globalisation 'from below'. This paper also puts forward key concerns regarding the current shift internationally and in Australia to bridge the gap between the rhetoric of human trafficking and the regulatory emphasis on sex trafficking, to include trafficking into any industry.

a. Offending behaviour & psycho-social well-being: emotionally-based phenomena or economically-based rational choice?

Rosemary Ac

My view of rational choice does not focus on the procedure, mathematical or otherwise, but on the underlying norm, which is one of unadulterated self-regard, with any social connection being purely discretionary. It is a juvenile model of behaviour ('eat as much as you can') -- and as potentially harmful as this gluttonous phrase implies. (Avner Offer, Chichele Professor of Economic History, All Souls College, Oxford University and author of *The Challenge of Affluence: Self Control and Well-being in the United States and Britain Since 1950*).

The aim of this paper is to highlight the implications of rational choice notions in social policy strategies in the West which propose social motivation as purely instrumental and geared towards material gain. This assumption equates well-being with unfettered self-regard (impulsiveness, greed and selfishness) rather than with prudence (impulse control, restraint and reciprocal caring). As such, the new norm of rational choice advances the doctrine of self-interest where striving for money and status, via consumption, is seen not only the way of achieving well-being but also as a motive for opportunistic offending behaviour. Additionally, an adherence to this idea seems to require a judgmental view that antisocial behaviour stems from inherited personality traits and therefore offenders are to blame for their unwise choices. However, an even more worrying consequence of a focus on personal lifestyle choice and habitual satiation is an underestimation of the main source of social well-being and cohesion; social relationships (Offer, 2006). While ignoring the importance of relationships, it is suggested that neo-liberal capitalist ideas work against psycho-social well-being because they promote competitiveness and self-centredness; traits symptomatic of psychological malaise (Kasser et al, 2007). This is because striving for affluence breeds impatience and impatience undermines well-being (Offer, 2006: 1). So, although the real end of economic activity is well-being, a focus on economic growth has piled up unmeasured social costs (2007: 5).

b. Monsters within: dangerousness, sexual deviance & the 'ordinary man'

Mark Brown

Ten years ago John Pratt and I finished work on an edited collection titled *Dangerous Offenders: Punishment and Social Order* (Routledge, 2000). The focus of that collection was historical and contemporary formulations of dangerousness and the kinds of responses engendered by the spectre of dangerousness. Though much attention was given, particularly in essays by Pat O'Malley and John Pratt himself, to continuity and change in understandings of dangerousness, what stands out most to me now is the figuration of dangerousness as something apart and something distant. One important device for achieving this rendering was the representation of the dangerous as monsters: for O'Malley 'an image of evil that could not possibly be "us" and that is beyond the rational'; for Pratt it was 'embodied in the figure of today's "sexual predator", as if such monsters may surreptitiously move into our neighbourhoods, and against such eventuality the entire community must be mobilised'. My proposal in this paper is that the last decade has seen a decisive break with this long standing model of dangerousness. Across a variety of spheres -- from the enduring concern with child sex offending to much more recent anxieties about terrorists in our midst -- ascriptions of dangerous have increasingly worked not simply to justify our traditional mechanisms of exclusion (preventive detention, forms of civil commitment, etc) but to reflect a light back upon us all, thus moving from something that is beyond and apart to something that is within. I then proceed in two ways. First, drawing upon Michel Foucault's work on abnormality I illustrate how the allegorical device of the monster in fact relies upon, rather than breaches, the idea of the intelligibility of behaviour, and in so doing makes those so tagged an object lesson in dangers residing within us all. Secondly, I illustrate how this has more than purely theoretical or rhetorical significance by giving a case study of the way it has worked out in practice with respect to the regulation of 'ordinary' men's contact with children as a consequence of what sex monsters have 'taught' us. The same, I suggest, may be observed in readings of other contemporary figures of monstrosity, such as the foreign terrorist, and measures for the regulation of 'ordinary' folk within the population from which these figures emerge.

c. Stranger danger? Cultural victimology & the myth of the sadistic serial killers

Annette Houlihan

This paper explores the disruption between popular cultural constructions of crime victims from the corporeality of gendered, heterosexual violence. Within popular culture, women appear especially vulnerable to violence committed by serial killers with whom they have little or no relationship. However, most women are at a much greater risk of violence from someone they know, most especially an intimate partner or family member. This paper examines the most gruesome fantasy of violence, the sadistic serial killer who is commonly depicted in television crime shows. Popular culture uses sadism as a metaphor for extreme violence and torture displayed through the infliction of physical, corporeal suffering on the bodies of non-consenting, random victims. Sadism is very loosely based on character traits which have no bearing at all on sadomasochism, but rather anti-social or egotistical behaviour. Saturating popular culture with these distorted imaginations of violence silences the lived experience and voices of injury, harm and danger more often heard in the courts. Further, popular culture diverts attention away from actual violence within domestic, familial and intimate spaces.

a. Crossed Wires: Who's researching stun gun safety?**Emma Ryan**

This presentation analyses current debates around the safety of electronic stun guns, or TASERS. These weapons have undergone a significant amount of 'safety' testing, both medical and scientific, to support the notion that the weapons are 'non-lethal' and yet deaths continue to occur proximate to their use. Australian police who are utilising stun guns make persistent references to the amount of testing that has been conducted, and Taser International has relied on such research to avoid liability in several American court cases. In a pattern now familiar from our experiences of asbestos, tobacco and many pharmaceuticals, manufacturers themselves have funded much of the 'safety' testing of stun guns. Indeed, at least one of the prominent researchers can be shown to have had financial interests in Taser International. These significant ethical concerns will be examined here, along with questions around the prudence of adopting the weapons on the basis of laboratory-based tests 'proving' their safety in the face more sobering real world experiences.

b. Intelligence support to law enforcement- untangling the Gordian knot**Jeff Corkill**

A review of the literature on intelligence in the law enforcement environment will return information on "intelligence led policing", crime intelligence, crime analysis or it may lead us to "problem orientated policing". All of which mean quite different things all be it there may be commonality of objective. Why is it, the law enforcement community continues to struggle with both defining intelligence and just how intelligence supports the law enforcement function? This paper seeks to tease out what intelligence means to law enforcement. Intelligence as a function, process and a product is broadly understood within the military and wider national security community. The literature however seems to suggest that this is not the case within law enforcement. Intelligence is not evidence, it can become such and it may point to such however principally it is not evidence. Is it this that generates a response to intelligence varying from ambivalence to antipathy through to acceptance? Understanding these issues is important if law enforcement is to exploit intelligence effectively and appropriately.

a. Outside the Curriculum: informal learning in prison**Miriam Scurrah**

This article reflects on two key questions about the informal learning that prisoners engage in whilst incarcerated. Firstly, what do prisoners learn outside of the formal prison curriculum and secondly how can informal learning be enhanced within the prison environment. It is possible that prisons are a school for crime and that they damage to a greater degree than they heal (Abramsky, 2001). If this is the case it is probable that the 'school for crime' occurs as informal learning within the prison environment and that the damage is as a result of a combination of social acculturation, informal learning and a lack of rehabilitation. It is for this reason that informal learning, which is difficult to distinguish from social acculturation (Livingstone, 2001), warrants attention from the community and those concerned with the prison system. Data was gathered from semi structured interviews with fourteen staff and four prisoners and ex - prisoners within a regional prison in Australia. The research found that prisoners value positive and motivational informal learning which can be enhanced by staff working as mentors and the creation of a learning environment throughout the prison. Informal learning can be assisted by the development of positive peer programs and by ensuring staff have the time and resources needed to engage with individuals.

b. Seeing evil, hearing evil, speaking no evil: strictures on Australian courts' consideration of conditions of imprisonment**Mary Spiers**

In late 2008, the South Australian Supreme Court of Appeal reviewed a decision of a magistrate to mitigate a sentence of imprisonment on the basis of the conditions of imprisonment in this State's (specifically, that they are overcrowded). The Supreme Court found that the Magistrate erred in doing this, relying on a long line of authority. This paper reviews some judgments from Australian courts that relate to prisoners conditions of custody as they relate to a number of areas: the defence to a criminal offence of necessity, sentencing and applications for judicial review to enforce standards in prisons or "prisoners' rights". Courts have restrained from intervening, enforcing minimum standards or considering the nature and quality of punishment in a prison when determining whether to sentence an offender to a term of imprisonment. The paper considers the legal principle and policy underpinning these decisions, and the consequences for those seeking practical application of rights for those imprisoned. It also considers what, if any, impact the introduction of human rights legislation, such as that in the ACT and Victoria, may have on future determinations

a. Non-transparent justice & the plea bargaining process in Victoria**Asher Flynn**

“Because [plea bargains] are not conducted in court and are not, therefore, open to public scrutiny, it is extremely important that they be conducted in such a way that the community can be satisfied that the public interest is being properly served and that the rights and interests of the accused are not being abused” (Victorian Shorter Trials Committee, 1985, p. 143). In 1985, the Victorian Shorter Trials Committee outlined the importance of having transparency in the plea bargaining process, to enhance public understanding and confidence, and provide it with some degree of accountability. This suggestion was largely influenced by the potential efficiency motivations of resolving cases through plea bargaining, as opposed to a contested trial, being the sole factor informing the Crown’s unfettered discretionary decision to negotiate facts and charge(s) in exchange for a guilty plea. But almost twenty-five years later, plea bargaining remains a non-transparent process in Victoria. In 2009, plea bargaining is not recognised in any Victorian statute, and only very limited case law alludes to its occurrence. In line with the Shorter Trials Committee’s (1985) claims and using data from my PhD research, this paper argues that without transparency or accountability, public confidence in plea bargaining as a legitimate criminal process cannot be achieved. This paper also considers whether plea bargaining can ever be justified without formal recognition in statute, given the lack of control on prosecutorial discretion and the potential consequences resulting from its informality.

b. The challenging of mainstreaming speciality courts**Lorana Bartels**

This paper grapples with the challenges of introducing features of specialty courts into the mainstream criminal justice system. Specialty courts were first introduced in Australia in the late 1990s, in recognition of the fact that the social problems which may have contributed to an offender’s behaviour may require social, rather than legal, solutions. There are currently a number of specialty court and diversion programs in place in Australia. In most cases, however, these programs only deal with a small minority of offenders. In particular, specialty court programs such as resource-intensive drug courts tend to be focused in metropolitan areas and access is therefore restricted to urban offenders. Regional and rural offenders may face further disadvantage due to the comparative lack of appropriate services provided locally. Mainstreaming aspects of specialty court programs may promote more equal access to court innovations for a greater proportion of offenders. This paper examines three challenges associated with attempts at mainstreaming, namely: promoting equity, resource issues and the role of the judicial officer. Generic court intervention programs, such as the Victorian Court Integrated Services Program, will be considered, and the need for cohesive policies on the future of problem-oriented justice examined.

c. Punitive Rehabilitation in New South Wales: New developments in community corrections**Denise Weelands**

This paper will raise questions about the intensification of punitive rehabilitation in New South Wales by examining two new developments in community corrections, the Community Offender Support Program (COSP) and the proposed introduction of an intensive corrections order (ICO) to replace the periodic detention order. The Program is said to be able to offer short term and crisis accommodation for offenders, enhanced supervision for those experiencing difficulty on community orders, rehabilitative experiences, and assistance to make connections with community services needed for reintegration. COSPs are classified as residential centres for offenders on community based orders. However most of those to be built in 2009 are to be located in the grounds or adjacent to correctional centres and are best characterised as punitive not rehabilitative regimes. One of COSP’s purposes is to manage offenders who find it difficult to comply with the multiple and intrusive conditions of the ICO. I suggest that these developments are much more likely to recycle offenders through the correctional system than they are to reintegrate them.

a. Sentencing indigenous ‘rioters’ as if the death in custody never occurred**Thalia Anthony**

This paper will trace the shifting approaches to sentencing Indigenous people convicted of rioting in response to a local Indigenous death in custody. It examines the sentencing remarks and appeal cases of ‘rioters’ in Brewarrina after the death of Lloyd James Boney in 1992; in Redfern after the death of TJ Hickey in 2004, and in Palm Island after the death of Mulrunji in 2004. The trend in sentencing factors indicates a demotion of the factor of the death in custody – and most recently a blanket ‘ban’. This paper argues that sentencing approaches to riot offenders is part of a broader trend towards constraining Indigenous factors in sentencing, especially those factors relating to Indigenous communities. Rather than focus on the death in custody in sentencing, judges have turned to other factors, particularly the moral worthiness of the

police officers who are victim to the riot. Sentencing remarks characterise Indigenous as 'folk devil'-like character of the Indigenous offenders, Indigenous communities as illegitimate and the police as righteous.

b. The construction of the racially different Indigenous offender

Claire Spivakovsky

The over-representation and increased growth of Indigenous offenders in all Western criminal justice systems is longstanding and undeniable. In 2006 Victoria's Koori offenders were 12 times more likely to be sentenced to a custodial or community sanction than non-Koori people. Similarly, in New Zealand, Maori men account for 50 percent of the prison population but only 12.5 percent of the general population. Yet, it was not until the 1990s that the issues of Indigenous over-representation or expanding Indigenous offender populations began to be presented as a problem within the correctional literature. This paper will explore the parameters of these 'problems', and present the following three arguments: (1) the issues of over-representation was constructed within the correctional literature as a symptom of the different nature of Indigenous offending; (2) the different nature of Indigenous offending was in turn constructed as a problem of race; and (3) this construction of Indigenous offending is consistent with the contemporary constitution of mainstream offending behaviour. In concluding, this paper will discuss the implications of the emergence and sustained production of this figure of the Indigenous offender in relation to the capacity of criminologists to reconceptualise Indigenous offending.

c. 'Promise' or 'practice'? The past, present & future of restorative justice for indigenous juveniles

Kelly Richards

Restorative practices have often been considered both as emerging from the customs of Indigenous peoples, and ways of responding to crime that might be most suitable for Indigenous individuals and communities. This paper, which consists of two parts, will reconsider these claims from a critical perspective. The first part of the paper draws on my Ph.D. research on the emergence of restorative justice in Western criminal justice systems. It will argue that although many advocates of restorative justice uncritically and unproblematically accept that restorative practices emerged from the customs of Indigenous peoples, the relationship between Indigenous justice customs and the emergence of restorative justice is much more nuanced than proponents imply. The paper will examine, therefore, the legitimating rationalities associated with the diverse historical 'truths' obscured in advocates' accounts of the role of Indigenous customs and the emergence of restorative justice. The second section draws on the findings of recent research undertaken at the Australian Institute of Criminology, and will present data on the numbers of Indigenous juveniles who participate in restorative conferences in each jurisdiction. These data will be used to elucidate the disparity between the rhetoric or 'promise' of restorative justice, and its apparent impact in relation to Indigenous juveniles. This paper will conclude with a consideration of the continued relevance of restorative justice for Indigenous young people in Australia.

2:30-3:10pm

Concurrent A: *Change & policing organisations*

a. The best police force money can buy: the rise of police PR work

Alyce McGovern

In recent times the NSW Police Force has come under fire for their prolific spending on public relations and media communications. In 2008 it was estimated that Australia policing agencies were spending upwards of \$2 million each per annum in public relations (O'Brien 2008). At the same time as police are increasing their media and communications budgets, demand has never been greater for reality style television productions focusing on policing. It has been reported that the NSW Police Force have been earned over \$1 million in exclusive deals with television networks and movie production companies for cooperation in a variety of crime related shows (Lawrence and Bissett 2009). Coupled with this rise in police television deals, the increasing role of media relations departments within policing agencies is indicative of a growing trend within policing agencies: police public relations work. This paper aims to explore some of the ways in which the police, and their media units, have moved from simple information sharing to engaging in media management objectives. It will also examine to what extent this has had an influence on the police image in the media and public.

b. The failure of police corruption inquiries & how to introduce reform

Jann Karp

The majority of commentators on police management are observers external to police organisations. This article reports on two types of data, firstly, a police officer's observations of her organization conducted over 23 years of service (Karp 2008). Secondly, the analysis of Royal Commission documents which revealed the cyclical nature of inquiries and the lack of reform measures. The similarities of facts and recommendations contained within the inquiry reports were closely examined. A cycle of ongoing corrupt behaviours and management practices in spite of formal inquiries was derived from the analysis of the documents. The replication of human endeavour by criminal justice systems, police systems and individual officers has meant that corruption continues to be highlighted in police organisations as a major ongoing issue. The second part of the argument presented is how to introduce police management practices that will resolve crises. This

will stop formal oversight, media frenzies and other reoccurring aspects of inquiries for example, Royal Commissions. This 'insider' account challenges the use of value driven behaviours that are located in 'self preservation' rather than organisation commitment.

2:30-3:10pm

Concurrent B: Trial analysis

a. The governance of emotions in the courtroom: an evaluation of homicide sentencing hearings in the NSW

Supreme Court 2007-08

Tracey Booth

The intersection between criminal law, legal procedure and emotion has been well documented by emotion and law theorists during the last two decades (Pillsbury 1989, Kahan and Nussbaum 1996, Bandes 1999, Karstedt 2002). Having exposed the 'myth of dispassion' in criminal law and its institutions, the debate has shifted to consider which emotions are appropriately reflected or embedded in the law and its procedures and in which contexts (Abrams 2001-2002). This paper seeks to expand the debate and consider the governance of emotions in the courtroom in the context of sentencing homicide offenders. Using contemporary emotion theory (Karstedt 2002), this paper discusses findings from the observation of sentencing hearings in the NSW Supreme Court between July 2007 and December 2008.

b. 'Till death do us part: Judging the fathers who kill their intimate partners.

Kate Fitz-Gibbon

This preliminary research examined the construction of fatherhood in judge's sentencing remarks across a number of cases of male perpetrated intimate femicide sentenced between March 2005 and May 2007 in the Victorian Supreme Court. Using a narrative analysis of sentencing transcripts it investigated how ideals of hegemonic masculinity are used in judicial decision making to condemn or sympathise with male offenders of intimate femicide. The findings of this research illustrates the profound influence that traditional understandings of masculinity and fatherhood still have on current sentencing practises despite the current climate of homicide law reform both within Australia and overseas. Whilst this research did not directly assess the impact of recent homicide law reforms, specifically provocation, it is explicitly concerned with the continued influence of gender norms and bias at the sentencing stage of the legal process. As such, it provides a preliminary illustration of the key role that judges play in advocating or rejecting change within the criminal justice system, and more broadly influencing attitudes on the legitimisation of male violence against women throughout society. In condoning the use of extreme violence, in any context, judges send a dire message to society that such behaviour is acceptable and understood within the framework of the law, despite recent reforms to suggest otherwise.

3:30-4:45pm

Concurrent A: Reviewing post-release 'reintegration'

a. The years after release from prison for Aboriginal people- 'successful community reintegration'?

Megan Williams

This Aboriginal-led research takes a strengths-based approach: exploring the lived-experience of community reintegration post-prison release, and the loci of strengths drawn upon around this time. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are at least 11 times over-represented in Queensland prisons. Reference to a 'revolving door' of incarceration is regularly made, and current recidivism rates indicate a majority of people are not successfully reintegrated into the community after release. But there is little real understanding of what 'successful reintegration' means, or how to measure it, from an Aboriginal point of view. This paper presents insights from in-depth interviews with Aboriginal people in south-east Queensland, who had previously experienced imprisonment. Aboriginal post-prison release experiences are characterised on the one hand by poverty, discrimination and dislocation from family and country. On the other hand, themes emerge of resilience and self-development, determination to improve role modelling for younger generations, and instrumental connections with service providers across justice, employment, education, housing and health domains. Interview material is discussed in this paper in terms of implications for developing responsible service delivery and policy.

b. NSW Criminal Justice Program

Melinda Smith

People with an intellectual disability are over represented in the criminal justice system and have higher rates of recidivism than the mainstream population. The needs of people with an intellectual disability are not covered in many criminology courses. This presentation identifies the issues and challenges facing people with an intellectual disability who are in, or at risk of, contact with the criminal justice system. It also describes the NSW Government's service for people with an intellectual disability who are exiting custody, half way through its implementation phase. It identifies the varying needs of participants within the program and raises questions regarding the identification and treatment of this population throughout the criminal justice system. In 2006 the NSW Government funded a significant program of specialist accommodation and support for people with an intellectual disability leaving custody. The program is funded to grow by 40

places each year for five years, ultimately providing specialist accommodation, transition, clinical and case management support to 200 people across NSW. The CJP provides accommodation and support services across NSW ranging from high levels of behaviour support and supervision, through to semi independent living with active support and case management. The complex nature of supporting those with an intellectual disability who have offended requires consideration of best practice and emerging empirical evidence in both disability support and offender rehabilitation, such as the Risk-Need-Responsivity Model for Offender Assessment and Rehabilitation (Andrews, Bonta, & Hoge, 1990; Andrews & Bonta, 2006) and the Good Lives Model for Offender Rehabilitation (Ward & Brown, 2004; Ward & Gannon, 2006).

c. A faith-based model of community reintegration

Arthur Bolkas

Since the advent of the penal system there has been an abysmal failure to prevent released offenders from returning to prison. Prison based 'rehabilitation' programs alone have not worked. Long overdue, there is now a growing emphasis on helping prisoners to assimilate back into society. 'Transitional support', 'aftercare', 'reintegration', 're-entry' – regardless of the terminology used to describe the process of prisoners returning to the community, the outstanding challenge is how to effectively do it. Arthur Bolkas will present a model based on his 30+ year experience in corrections (5½ years as a prisoner) and the findings of a recent scoping study. A corrections-community partnership, the model entails two integrated parts: an intensive 14-week life-skills and mentor based pre-release component, followed by a holistic 9–12 month residential post-release phase – including ongoing support for program graduates. Apart from providing genuine 'throughcare' support, a unique feature of the program is its faith- and character-based approach to offender reformation – "religious programming easily the most common and pervasive form of correctional rehabilitation available to prisoners" (Clear et al, 1992). Whilst Christian oriented programming may not appeal to everyone, "today there is scientific evidence that programs do work, for some people, in some settings" (Petersilia, 2003) – a dedicated program for Christian inmates and 'spiritual seekers' serving a legitimate, and potentially salutary, purpose.

3:30-4:45pm

Concurrent B: Emerging analyses of imprisonment

a. Understanding penal exceptionalism in Scandinavia: a preliminary research agenda

John Pratt & Anna Eriksson

Scandinavian exceptionalism refers to the unique combination in these countries of low rates of imprisonment and humane prison conditions – at least in comparison with the Anglophone countries whose penal excesses form the other half of this comparative research programme. How, though, should we explain Scandinavian exceptionalism? An emerging literature has variously emphasised the importance of political economy, the unique features of the Scandinavian welfare state and political and judicial cultures in engineering this. However, the central hypothesis of this project is that Scandinavian exceptionalism - in just the same way as Anglophone excess - is likely to be the product of long term national and cultural histories (see, for example, Whitman (2003). In these respects, Scandinavian penal arrangements emerged out of the egalitarian and homogenous origins of these societies. The sources for this kind of historical research involve official documents but go much wider than this to include travelogues, diaries, biographies and other material that provides an understanding of the Scandinavian way of life and the way in which this has made the penal arrangements of these societies possible.

b. 'They died of a broken heart': Bearing Witness to Women's Post-Release Experiences of Survival and Death

Bree Carlton & Marie Segrave

While there is a growing and important body of research examining post-release support, survival and issues related to recidivism and desistance there remains a dearth of knowledge about post-prison mortality, particularly research that seeks to focus beyond statistical analyses, 'risk factors' and epidemiological approaches to examine individual experiences surrounding death. The death of women post-release in Victoria is a sensitive issue that is currently neglected and abandoned within official research agendas and policy. In the 1990s Sue Davies and Sandy Cook documented the disproportionate rate at which women were dying after release and drew attention to the systemic factors that gave rise to increased vulnerability and risk. Since this time, rates of imprisonment for women have doubled in Victoria, while rates for indigenous Victorian women have increased by 150%. Legal advocates in Victoria characterise the physical and mental health of women in Victorian prisons as a 'community and medical emergency'. However current circumstances surrounding post-release deaths among women are little documented. The 'Surviving Outside' research initiative commenced in 2009 with the support of multiple Victorian support agencies including Flat Out, Melbourne CityMission and VACRO. This paper will canvass methodological and ethical constraints faced by the researchers while highlighting preliminary themes and issues arising from the research to date.

c. Disabling the prison
Eileen Baldry

The prison has been developing into a mixed mode institution with large numbers of people with mental illness and cognitive disability being serially incarcerated at high rates. The characterisation of prison as a punishing but therapeutic community is bizarre but has its roots in 19th & 20th century colonial and welfare institutions, particularly those for women and children. Is prison in the early 21st century the last institution of control left in which to house those with mental, cognitive and other disabilities who prove too difficult to support in the community? This paper discusses this development of the prison and its effects.

Closing Plenary:

Reflections on Penal Culture & the Growth of Imprisonment in Australia
Prof. Chris Cunneen

The paper draws on work being undertaken as part of the Australian Prisons Project (www.app.unsw.edu.au). It reflects on the reasons for the growth of imprisonment since the 1980s, in particular the transformations in penal discourse since the 1970s in Australia. The paper grounds this reflection through a specific consideration of Indigenous imprisonment.

THURSDAY 9th July

Opening Plenary: *Prisoner Futures: Sensing the Signs of Generativity*
Mark Halsey

In recent years, a small but critically informed literature has emerged which points to the link between opportunities to engage in generative acts and desistance from crime. This paper outlines the nature and limits of generative moments (conceived as the philosophy or practice of caring in non-violent and durable ways for self, other and future) with regard to the incarceration of a group of young males interviewed since 2003. Specifically, it poses the question of who or what it has been possible for these young men to care about within and beyond custody and explores the relationship between generative intentions or statements as against generative outcomes. In concluding, the paper examines some of the likely custodial and political implications were generative issues to be taken seriously in the context of imprisonment and release.

9:40-10:55am **Concurrent A:** *Issues in policing & marginalised groups*

a. Identifiable, queer & risky: the role of the body in policing experiences for LGBT young people
Angela Dwyer

This paper explores how the visibility of non-heteronormative bodies mediates policing experiences of LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender) young people. Research with LGBT young people has highlighted how embodying sexuality and/or gender diversity in schools (Hillier et al. 2005) and in criminal justice institutions (Curtin 2002) often makes these bodies the targets of abuse. Until now, no research had focused on policing processes. This paper addresses this gap by exploring how the non-heteronormative body mediates the policing experiences of queer young people. Informed by interviews with 26 LGBT young people and 7 service provider staff in Brisbane, Queensland, the paper demonstrates how the body performs and makes visible a discourse of 'queerness' in interactions with police for better and worse. Drawing on Foucault, Butler, and other queer theory and analysis (such as Mellor and Epstein 2006; Jackson 2003), the paper argues that the young non-heteronormative body performs 'queerness' in ways that are 'read' discursively by police officers and shapes how they interact with these young people. These bodies are particularly visible in public spaces, the most common space in which police interactions with these young people are forged. In addition, the paper shows how enacting 'queerness' is often combined with the visibility of being 'identifiably' young, and visibly 'at-risk' (as homeless for example) or 'risky' (as a potential criminal) in public spaces. The paper concludes noting the power of visibly non-heteronormative embodiment and the tensions produced for youthful LGBT bodies that are inscribed and 'read' by police in this way.

b. Multiple punishments: the detention & removal of convicted non-citizens
Michael Grewcock

Under the Migration Act, being imprisoned for a criminal offence can constitute grounds for visa cancellation, even for people who have spent most of their lives in Australia. 'Non-citizens' who have had their visas cancelled in this way are liable to detention on completion of their prison sentence; form a significant proportion of the current immigration detainee population and are routinely deported. Based on interviews conducted by the author at Sydney's Villawood immigration detention centre in 2009, this paper examines the punitive implications of this policy including: its impact on the parole process; the institutionalisation of double punishment; and the multiple mechanisms of disempowerment operating through the detention regime. While this is still work in progress, the paper argues that criminal convictions do not justify detention and removal, and suggests a framework for future research.

c. A Duty of Care? The mining industry & fly-in-fly-out workers
Garry Coventry, Glen Dawes & Robin Rodd.

This 'seeding' project focuses on a significant section of the mining sector's employees who "fly-in fly-out" from regional Queensland centres. There is considerable chatter on Townsville streets and in community agencies about violence in public and private space, associated with mining workers returning to the regional city after their shift work in remote mines. Of utmost importance, therefore, are issues concerned with 'troublesome' behaviours in these spaces and the socio-cultural consequences of such work lifestyles when these workers return to their 'home communities'. Mining companies do take a 'duty of care' to these workers on-site, particularly when one considers alcohol/drug testing at the mining site and their preparedness to fund community welfare programs in the towns and settlements close to their operations. Of course, the global fiscal crisis has trimmed these latter programs. Important for our argument is not legal responsibility, at this time, but the extent to which mining companies are willing to take on board a duty of care, at least on moral and ethical grounds, which might extend beyond the 'pits' to regional home communities. To our knowledge, no project has focussed on this issue. We intend to gather both quantitative and qualitative data to identify the extent of the problems of trouble and social dislocation that shape the lives of fly-in fly-out workers from agencies including the

Queensland Police Service, nongovernment community agencies and interviews with a sample of such workers. Townsville and the Bowen Basin will be the major areas for the study.

9:40-10:55am

Concurrent B: *Young people & systems of justice*

a. A critical analysis of shifting philosophies: legislation & the interests of the child

Diane Westerhuis

Recent changes in New South Wales legislation indicate shifting priorities in juvenile justice philosophies. Individualised justice grounded in the 'best interests of the child' derived from the CROC convention appears to be now diluted by 'new principles' of juvenile responsibility and reparation, and a shift of focus from the offending children to their victims. Changes also allow penalties imposed on children to be more like those imposed on adult offenders. Such shifts signal a return to discourses of accountability and responsibility described as by Muncie and Goldson (2006:206) as 'the growing hardening of public attitudes and criminal justice responses to young people'. They add the rider, 'even if not always reflected in growing rates of incarceration', but the shifts in discourse and legislation in New South Wales are actually accompanied by growing rates of incarceration of young people.

b. Welfare, punishment or something else? Sentencing minor offences committed by young people in Tasmania & Victoria

Max Travers

Criminologists often present young people as a deviant group requiring punishment and rehabilitation, or as victims of social control agents such as the police or magistrates. This, however, may exaggerate the seriousness of offending and the severity of the response in the majority of cases that come before children's courts. Drawing on observational research in Tasmania and Victoria, this paper describes the minor cases that come before magistrates, and the diversionary procedures and considerations employed in sentencing. Drawing on interactionism and the sociology of childhood (Waksler 1991), the paper argues that what takes place in children's courts can equally well be understood as culture contact in which adults spend considerable effort trying to socialise the young, often with limited success. This ethnographic approach raises difficult questions for conservatives who believe that juvenile justice should become more punitive, since the majority of offences are revealed to be quite trivial. Contrary to Livingston et al's (2008) study in Queensland, practitioners in these states report that most minor offenders appear in court once, and do not become hardened delinquents.

Waksler, F. 1991 *Studying the Social Worlds of Children: Sociological Readings*. The Falmer Press, London.

Livingston, M., Stewart, A., Allard, T. and Ogilvie, J. 2008 "Understanding Juvenile Offending Trajectories". *Australian and New Zealand Journal of Criminology* 41(3), pp. 345-63.

c. The anti-social behaviour pilot project & its surveillance assemblage

Craig Osmond

This paper considers the politics of procuring a secure order, within the context of NSW's 'Anti-Social Behaviour Pilot Project' (ASBPP) designed to intervene with "children and young people who are identified as being a risk to themselves or the community" (NSW Government). Anti-social behaviour is operationalised as an index of multiple, polyvalent, transferrable potential risks that may harm the young person, those who work with them, and the 'community'. In combating these risks, a temporary (but potentially indefinite) juridical exception is enacted in the 'public interest' to enable pre-emptive preventive risk management that relies upon the smooth flows of risk knowledge across governmental agencies. The ASBPP uses a risk assessment technique that negates the requirement for obtaining consent in cases where risk is linked to the 'public interest'. In these exceptional cases broad extra-judicial regulatory powers are granted to an equally exceptional 'bubble of government' established within scheduled Local Area Patrol Commands. This extra-judicial apparatus joins up the state's child protection, education, health, police and justice apparatuses to identify risks as a nodal failure where subjects are relayed into an exceptional network that functions as a 'calculable space' of diverse actors and authorities obligated to face the 'future and its uncertainty' and to begin more flexibly negotiating and planning for better outcomes. This surveillant assemblage is intelligible within the interstices of the pre-emptive security measures of the pre-crime era (Zedner, 2007) and the totalising virtual controls of the control society (Deleuze, 1992). It constitutes a 'no man's land' of excessive extra-judicial powers that affirm the politics of in/security that affirms "the state of necessity, on which the exception is founded, (that) cannot have a juridical form" (Agamben, 2005: 1).

a. Terrorism & corrections**John Paget**

Internationally and domestically what had become known, not without controversy, as the “War on Terror” has seen the incarceration of significant numbers of alleged and convicted terrorists and their supporters. The Commonwealth Attorney General’s Department website advises that 12 people have been found guilty or convicted of terrorism-related offences in Australia and more than 11 other defendants will appear before Australian courts on terrorism-related offences. Against this background, Australia is struggling to find community consensus in establishing a balance between an effective response to terrorism, while preserving hard won civil liberties and the rule of law. At the downstream end of the criminal justice system, correctional jurisdictions appear not well prepared to manage the complexities arising from the placement of alleged or convicted terrorists in their custody. Evidence of this can be found in the Victorian Supreme Court in Benbrika & Ors (Ruling No 20) [2008] VSC 80 which attracted extensive media coverage. This issue has been conflated with controversy surrounding the design and operation of Supermax facilities where those charged with or convicted of terrorism offences have been or are held. Terrorism is not a new phenomenon and, over time, has attracted extensive official and scholarly research and analysis. Since 9/11 there has been a significant expansion of the security industry world-wide which has been accompanied by a proliferation of security, terrorism or counter terrorism “think tanks”, research centres and “experts”. The vast body of security, counter-terrorism and the associated correctional literature which they have spawned is, however, of little help in guiding correctional centre staff and others in the management of alleged and convicted terrorists. Much of this literature simply identifies the problems presented by the presence this cohort in correctional centres, but offers little evidenced-based advice on how they should be managed. This deficiency in the literature raises two significant issues: first, what is the role of prisons within the overall governmental response to terrorism? The second issue is a consequence of the first, that is, how are those charged with, or convicted of, terrorism charges to be managed in a prison setting? It is the purpose of this paper to provide tentative answers these two questions.

b. Representations of indigenous offenders: the ‘gang of 49’, a media drive by?**Laura Swanson**

Over the last four years, the news media in South Australia have been reporting on the criminal activities of a loosely connected group of 49 Indigenous repeat offenders. Originally identified as ‘a list of 49 persons of interest’, they were later labelled the “gang of 49” by the police and local media. It seemed that after the term appeared in the news media, an Indigenous gang ‘crime wave’ occurred almost overnight. The image of gangs is a powerful one and can engender different types of social reactions. Further, it is apparent that definitions of gangs and groups have important implications for law enforcement and policy makers. This project’s key objective is to highlight the experiences of this group of urban Indigenous offenders identified as being associated with the so called ‘gang of 49’. Framed within a racialised media discourse that sees Indigenous offenders as deviant and dangerous, out of control and beyond help, the project aims to determine if they are indeed a ‘gang’ or a ‘group’. The key objective of the project is to broaden understanding of Indigenous groups and gangs by combining an assessment of existing criminological research with qualitative interviews with the offenders identified as the ‘gang of 49’. I will present a paper describing the progress of the project to date and report on my findings from my first fieldwork visits with the so called ‘gang of 49’.

a. Confidence in Justice Systems: Assessing Public Opinion**Murray Lee**

Public opinion – real or perceived - about crime and punishment is playing an increasing role in Australian criminal justice policy. The trend towards policy makers seeking to understand and respond to the public mood should on the face of it be welcomed. After all, is this not democracy at work? In reality though there are dangers; populist responses adopted for short-term electoral gain and the manipulation of public anger and fears for example. The criminal justice system is a vital tool of governance and social cohesion and the police and courts are public services. A wide discrepancy between the views of the public and the practice of the justice system undermines the legitimacy that institutions of criminal justice rely upon not only for their smooth operation, but also to foster public cooperation and compliance with the law. This paper discusses the pros and cons of the influence of public opinion and assesses what reliable and useful social indicators of trust in criminal justice might look like.

b. Cannabis decriminalisation & criminalisation in Australia: Two sides of the same coin?**Caitlin Hughes**

In drug policy arenas Australia has often been singled out for being one of the few nations where cannabis use, possession and cultivation has been decriminalised. Cannabis was first decriminalised in South Australia in 1987 and since then three

other jurisdictions have followed suit. Proponents argue that decriminalisation will reduce the cost to the criminal justice system and the social harms from cannabis use, including the harms associated with obtaining a criminal record and with obtaining cannabis through an illicit market. But such an argument assumes that decriminalisation states differ markedly to states that have not decriminalised, something that has become more questionable following the progressive roll out of police and court diversion programs through Australia. By outlining the criminal justice policies adopted in Australia as of 2009, this paper will argue that the boundaries between decriminalisation and criminalisation states have become increasingly blurred and that the major differences are in rhetoric, not practice. Implications for cannabis users and policy makers will be outlined.

1:30-2:45pm

Concurrent A: Emerging research on bail process

a. Critical reflections on bail & remand for young people

Julie Stubbs

Three decades after significant reforms to bail decision-making in NSW it is timely to reflect on those reforms. How do current practices measure up to the aspirations of that reform package? What does such a comparison tell us about shifting conceptions of justice and of criminal justice objectives? The author examines current data on bail and remand with particular reference to young people and argues that reform is long overdue.

b. Politician's justifications for bail law amendment across Australia

Alex Steel

This paper examines the rate of amendment of bail laws across Australian jurisdictions since the 1980's. It examines stated justifications for those changes by Parliamentarians in a number of jurisdictions and seeks to provide insights into the increasing rate of legislative amendment in some states in recent years. The paper analyses whether Australia wide trends exist or whether the reasons for amendment are more locally based. It forms part of the ARC funded Australian Prisons Project grant.

c. Police bail decision-making in Victoria: private decisions, public consequences

Emma Colvin

This paper will present the results of a Masters' thesis, which explored the importance of the bail decision in the criminal justice system, specifically in relation to police bail decision-making in Victoria. This study is imperative to discussions on bail decision-making as, not only is there a significant dearth of research on the police bail decision-making process in general, but there have been to date no studies conducted specifically in Victoria. Evidence suggests that in reality the majority of bail decisions are made in private, with a court hearing essentially representing a public agreement to the police decision. Without accountability and understanding, the police bail decision-making process may lead to infringements on individual liberties or endangering public safety. Additionally, prior research identifies the use of bail support services as a means to reduce the necessity of remanding some people. Two key findings were identified from the analysis of data. Firstly, it was established that while some police officers have knowledge of bail support services, information and training on bail support services is not disseminated consistently throughout Victoria Police. Secondly, it was found that bail decisions are made with an assumption of guilt on the behalf of the decision-maker and not with a presumption of innocence as deemed by Victoria's legal system.

1:30-2:45pm

Concurrent B: Victims & emerging justice issues

a. Integrating restorative approaches in victims' compensation & assistance

Tyrone Kirchengast

This paper provides a critical assessment of the legislation establishing criminal injuries compensation and victim assistance schemes across the states and territories of Australia. These programs are assessed in terms of the extent to which they limit the victim's participation in the criminal jurisdiction for an alternative administrative milieu that actually removes the victim from the criminal law. The extent to which this restoration occurs in an administrative framework as an adjunct to the criminal jurisdiction is assessed with the view to provide the victim of crime greater access to the criminal law as the site of the resolution of the criminal offence. Issues regarding the integration of victim interests such as the need to preserve defendant rights are discussed.

b. Adolescence, pornography & harm

Colleen Bryant

The widespread availability and ease of access of pornography are such that it is not if, but when, a person under 18 years – the legal age it is permissible to view and purchase such materials – will be exposed to pornography. Concern exists

among both parents and policymakers about the potential impacts of premature exposure to pornography on sexual attitudes and behaviours, intimate relationships and, from a criminological perspective, the perpetration of sexual violence. Assessing the validity of these concerns is difficult, owing to the problems of undertaking sexual based research within the relevant age populations. Moreover, as in the case of adult-based research, debates about the impacts of pornography exposure during adolescence cannot be separated from the broader philosophical issues of sexual ethics, freedom of sexual expression, notions of idealised human development, conceptions of harm, and how these are, or 'should be', regulated in society; issues that have coloured prior debates relating to pornography exposure among adults. This paper examines the complex interplay of demographic, social, and personal factors that individually shape risk of pornography exposure and problematic sexual attitudes, and how these intersect to potentiate harm. It highlights the need to move away from simplistic models toward a holistic examination of how adolescents' sexual expectations, attitudes and behaviours are shaped in our society. Such an understanding is necessary to equip young people with adequate skills and resources to successfully navigate toward a sexually healthy adulthood, and redress the barriers that prevent this from occurring.

c. Victimhood, sexual deceit & HIV prosecution

Stephen Tomsen

In recent years observers with awareness of the long-term local shaping of the Australian HIV epidemic as a health matter, have witnessed an unexpected run of legal complaints and cases that concern both homosexual and heterosexual transmission (Cameron 2008). As a consequence, gay men and HIV education and treatment sectors are witnessing courtroom discussion and even inflammatory press reporting about real, alleged or possible transmission same-sex scenarios. It is uncertain how many of these recent matters were truly victim-initiated rather than the consequence of zealous police activity. Nevertheless, it can be argued that some part of the social drive behind these claims is itself an unintended secondary effect of positive social movement activity that HIV activists and educators have been closely tied to. This apparent new confidence about reporting victimisation is a positive measure of the successful working of feminist, gay and lesbian, and HIV advocacy in the public sexual arena and politicising of sexual matters as extra-personal. The mixed and unintended social, cultural and political outcomes of such advocacy are now visible with individualised grievances and courtroom arguments that can now produce divisive public depictions about gay men's sex and racialised representations of male danger to heterosexual women.

Cameron, S. (2008) 'Criminalisation of HIV Transmission and Exposure – Risk Negotiation and Consent' HIV Australia Vol. 6, No. 4

2:45-3:35pm

Concurrent A: ***Vigilantism in Australia***

a. Vigilantism, the press & 'signal crime' in Australia 2006-07

Ian Warren

The term 'vigilantism' is problematic to define, yet is commonly associated with a growing neo-liberal trend in citizen responsabilisation, and community-generated surveillance to prevent crime, promote collective security and the use of self-help. Over the past decade or so, a growing body of criminological literature identifies the strong historical and contemporary connections between the label 'vigilante' and the media's use of the term when conveying information about major 'signal crimes' or minor incivilities seldom worthy of formal police intervention or prosecution. The breadth and imprecision associated with the term 'vigilantism' ensures its continued use in popular news discourse will generate consternation amongst critical media scholars, independently of its actual existence as a measurable or growing facet of community anxiety about crime, disorder and collective security. This paper documents the results of a study into the contexts associated with the print media's use of the term 'vigilantism' between 2006 and 2007. Over 50% of 'hits' in the newsbank database during this period used the term to describe community reactions over 'mundane' crime problems such as youth disorders, 'hooning', littering, using mobile phones while driving and water wastage. However, the remainder of 'hits' used the term to caution against aggrieved communities taking the law into their own hands in response to shocking crimes of violence, or 'signal crimes' (Innes, 2004). In these contexts, the term most accurately reflects Les Johnson's (1996) definition of 'vigilantism' as a spontaneous and violent community-based response to a crime, subject to criminal prosecution. This paper documents the major cases between 2006 and 2007 where the threat of community-generated vigilante activity received media coverage, the nature of that coverage, the role of police in cautioning the public to reassert their legitimacy and monopoly over the correct procedures for conducting criminal investigation and prosecution processes and the implications of each of these features on our understanding of responsabilisation strategies in an era of increased community concern about crime. The paper concludes with some musings over the phenomenon of vigilantism as a substantive issue of criminological concern, given the focus of most contemporary studies on its haphazard uses as a media catchphrase describing any community reaction to either a major or minor spate of criminal offending.

b. Vigilantes Unmasked: an Exploration of Informal Criminal Justice in Contemporary South Africa
James Martin

Vigilantism is a practice with unique relevance to the Republic of South Africa. As crime rates have soared since the end of the Apartheid regime, so too have the incidences of private citizens banding together to dispense their own 'street justice'. From the flourishing of local 'people's courts' to the meticulously planned religious terrorism of organisations such as People against Gangsterism and Drugs, vigilante violence has further traumatised a country that is already tragically well acquainted with brutality and injustice. Media outlets consistently report vigilante events whereby individuals, often refugees or other disadvantaged peoples, become the hapless victims of mob violence intended to punish crimes ranging from pick-pocketing to witchcraft. This paper will explore how vigilantism represents a systemic, conditioned response to crime, fear, poverty and other socio-cultural and historical factors. While in the past, scholars investigating South African vigilantism have tended to focus on the practice in terms of its criminality and threat to state legitimacy, recent studies suggest that the reality of contemporary vigilantism may be more complex and ambiguous. In the context of state failure to provide security and reliable criminal justice mechanisms, vigilantism has, in some communities, come to be a respected home-grown response to criminality and deviance. This paper will examine the emergence and evolution of vigilantism in South Africa, and seek to address crucial questions regarding its legitimacy and role in South African life.

2:45-3:35pm

Concurrent B: *Emerging perspectives in critical criminology*

a. Hybridity, liminality and Incommensurability: putting the Post-Colonial into Critical Criminology.
Harry Blagg

This paper draws on themes developed in a recent book *Crime, Aboriginality and the Decolonisation of Justice* and argues that a critical criminology relevant to Aboriginal self-determination and empowerment must engage with issues of colonialism and post-colonialism. The struggles currently taking place in the Northern Territory are best understood as part of the unfinished business of colonisation, an attempt to dismantle the Aboriginal domain. Critical theory and practice has to operate from within Aboriginal terms of reference rather than impose modes of understanding devised from western forms of knowledge alone. It has to acknowledge the existence of Aboriginal law as a structuring force in the lives of remote, rural and urban Aboriginal peoples. We should not colonise Aboriginal domain, rather we should partner with Indigenous people in the complex liminal space between white-fella and black-fella domains. This is a rich area for what I term 'creative hybridity' - we see examples of this hybridity in Aboriginal courts and circle courts, community owned justice mechanisms, night patrols and family healing initiatives.

b. Waste not, want not: commodification & environmental harm
Rob White

This paper provides a theoretical exploration of how waste is linked to both processes of commodification and to environmental harm. One recurring question is why and how waste is socially constructed as a problem. For instance, is the issue one of legality (e.g., unscrupulous businesses engaging in illegal dumping), or does it pertain to sustainability and the basic means of production that generate the problem to begin with (e.g., consumption patterns in one country that depend upon production of high levels of carbon dioxide emissions in exporting countries)? From a criminological perspective, the concept of harm can be mobilised to illuminate these and other issues. The paper examines the implications of commodification for waste production and removal, and the interface between the legal and illegal which contributes to the transference of harm worldwide. Among topics to be discussed are the status of waste as a commodity, the waste crisis and public accountability, the class dynamics that shape the practical mechanics of waste disposal, and the paradoxes and contradictions arising from efforts to deal with waste – as a commodity – in the context of climate change. The paper attempts to frame the problem of waste through the analytical lens of green criminology. In so doing, it broaches matters pertaining to harms stemming from the production, exchange, distribution and consumption of waste at the local through to the global level.

Closing plenary:

Dealing with Human Rights Victims in New Zealand
Lizzie Stanley

Based on new and ongoing research, this presentation examines the violence and injuries suffered by children and young people in state-run welfare institutions in New Zealand. The paper begins by providing a preliminary indication of the extent and nature of harms inflicted against this population; this will include discussion on the long-term ramifications of violence in terms of the progression of children and young people from institutions of 'care and protection' to penal establishments. Following this, the paper focuses on two main points: (i) how this group of rights claimants, and the harms inflicted against them, have been represented and dismissed by official agencies, individual workers as well as by the 'victims' themselves; and, (ii) the stance of the NZ government to close down avenues of truth or redress for this group. In short, this paper exposes how human rights victims in New Zealand have been subject to state-led techniques of criminalization, denial and impunity.

Participant Biographies

Rosemary AC *University of Tasmania*

Rosemary completed a Master of Criminology and Correction in 2008 at the University of Tasmania. I have undertaken 3 major papers; an Honours dissertation using secondary quantitative attitudinal data and qualitative age cohort interviews and a Field Project and Masters thesis incorporating interviews with practitioners on antisocial behaviour and parenting issues. I have worked as a case manager in Child Protection with 'Child and Family Services' Department of Health and Human Services in Hobart for 12 months in 2005. My interest is in the implications of parenting style on offending behaviour and more recently, Rational Choice implications in social policy and criminological research.

Thalia ANTHONY *Faculty of Law, UNSW*

Dr Thalia Anthony is a Lecturer in the Faculty of Law, University of Sydney. Her research is focused on criminal procedure, public interest litigation and legal claims of Indigenous peoples. Thalia has published and edited a number of books and articles, including the *Critical Criminology Companion* (with Chris Cunneen, 2008 Hawkins Press), *Connecting with Law* (with Michelle Sanson and David Worswick 2009 OUP) and *Indigenous Legal Issues* (with Garth Nettheim et al 2009 Thomson, forthcoming). Her research relating to Indigenous stolen wages claims is the subject of a potential test case and government inquiry.

Eileen BALDRY *Ass. Prof. School of Social Sciences & International Studies, Associate Dean (Education), Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences UNSW*

Eileen is working on a number of projects including People with Mental Health Disorders and Cognitive Disability in the Criminal Justice System; The Australian Prison Project; and Working from the ground up: community development in social housing neighbourhoods.

Lorana BARTELS *Australian Institute of Criminology*

Lorana Bartels is the Criminology Research Council Research Fellow at the Australian Institute of Criminology. She has previously worked in research and policy positions in NSW at the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, Public Defenders Office and Attorney-General's Department. She holds Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Laws and Master of Laws degrees from the University of New South Wales and a PhD in sentencing law from the University of Tasmania. She is admitted as a legal practitioner in NSW and is the Acting Postgraduate Representative on the Australian and New Zealand Society of Criminology Committee of Management.

Harry BLAGG *Research Consultant*

Dr Harry Blagg was Senior Research Fellow and Director of Studies at the Crime Research Centre University of Western Australia until 2007. He now works as a consultant, He has worked on projects monitoring the recommendations of the 1991 *Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody*, the impact of policing on Indigenous and other marginal youth, Indigenous self-policing initiatives in Australia, the impact of family violence on Indigenous communities, and violence prevention programs for Indigenous communities. He has published widely on these issues: including a number of critiques of "restorative justice" as it impacts on Indigenous people. From 2001-2005 he was Research Director on the West Australian Law Reform Commission's project: *Aboriginal Customary Laws*. His latest book, *Crime, Aboriginality and the Decolonisation of Justice* (Federation Press, 2008) has been favorably reviewed as a seminal text.

Arthur BOLKAS *Consultant to the Board – Prisoner & Aftercare Support Services (PASS)*

Raised on welfare in a Greek migrant family, Arthur managed to excel at school. A popular student, successful athlete, head prefect and dux of his final year, Arthur's future looked promising. However a few years into an Arts/Law degree his life was a mess. Seeking fulfillment in a 'jet-set' lifestyle, Arthur had many negative experiences, including imprisonment, but ultimately managed to overcome them. Released from prison in 1983, Arthur has experience as a taxi driver, men's group facilitator, youth worker, church pastor, university guest lecturer, professional speaker, restorative justice practitioner, prison program director, and featured in the general media on prison reform and youth issues. Arthur currently works as a consultant criminologist and freelance writer/speaker, and is writing a book based on his prison journal. A graduate of Melbourne University (MA Criminology) and Winston Churchill Memorial Fellow, Arthur is married to Andrea and has two sons, Demitri and Daniel.

Tracey BOOTH *Faculty of Law, University of Technology Sydney*

Tracey is a Senior Lecturer in Law in the Faculty of Law at the University of Technology, Sydney. She has published widely in the area of crime victims and criminal justice and is currently completing a PhD that is investigating whether victim participation in the sentencing of homicide offenders is a decivilising trend in criminal justice.

Mark BROWN *School of Social and Political Sciences, The University of Melbourne*

Mark Brown teaches criminology at the University of Melbourne. He has written on a number of aspects of punishment, penal history and theory. He is currently engaged in research projects on the process of desistance from offending, on the

modern history of the prison in Australia, on the jurisprudence of offender risk and is writing a book on penal power and colonial rule in India.

Colleen BRYANT *Australian Institute of Criminology*

Colleen Bryant is a research analyst at the Australian Institute of Criminology, where she has worked on topics as diverse as bushfire arson, Indigenous victimisation, pornography and sexual violence, and child victimisation and offending.

Bree CARLTON *School of Political & Social Inquiry, Monash University*

Bree Carlton has undertaken extensive research and published widely in the area of history and prison studies nationally & internationally. To date Dr Carlton has published articles in journals such as *Current Issues in Criminal Justice*, *Social Justice* and the *Prison Service Journal*. In 2005 Dr Carlton was a recipient of the Australian Academy of Humanities Travelling Fellowship for her research on women and political imprisonment in Northern Ireland. Her current research is focused on prisoner survival after release in Victoria. Dr Carlton's book, *Imprisoning Resistance: Life and Death in an Australian Supermax*, was published by the Sydney Institute of Criminology Series in 2007 and nominated in the True Crime category of the 8th Davitt Awards in 2008

Emma COLVIN *School of Political & Social Inquiry, Monash University*

Emma completed her Masters of Criminology at the University of Melbourne in 2008. Her thesis examined the police bail decision-making process in Victoria. Since then she spent some time working on a bail/pre-trial detention project for a human rights organisation in Ghana, Africa. She returned to Australia in January 2009 and has been working at Monash University as a Research Assistant, in addition to sessional tutoring at both Monash University and La Trobe University.

Jeff CORKILL *Edith Cowan University*

Jeff Corkill is a Lecturer at Edith Cowan University in Perth where he lectures in Intelligence and Security. Jeff is a former Army Intelligence Officer who after twenty years in the military made the move to the private sector in 1998. Jeff has held a number of security management roles in the resource sector and consults in the security and intelligence field. His previous consultancy work has included working with the UN and the Government of Sierra Leone to establish a specialist diamond sector policing capability. His PhD research is exploring the concept of Professional Intelligence Judgement within the law enforcement context. His additional research interests are in the areas of human factors analysis and intelligence as an aid to CCTV surveillance operations and intelligence analysis particularly source and information evaluation.

Garry COVENTRY *School of Arts & Social Sciences, James Cook University*

Garry Coventry has developed and taught criminology courses in eight Australian and US universities since 1974. At James Cook University since 2005, Garry has been developing a unique criminology program which focuses on peoples, places and criminal and social justice problems in the tropics. His immediate past and current research interests include youth crime prevention, objective prison security classification schemes, reintegration of prisoners into communities following release and Australian-Sudanese experiences of the criminal justice system.

Angela DWYER *School of Justice, Faculty of Law, Queensland University of Technology.*

Dr Angela Dwyer is a sociologist and lecturer in the School of Justice, Faculty of Law, QUT. She is an author of *Sex, Crime and Morality* with Sharon Hayes and Belinda Carpenter to be published in 2010 with Federation Press. Angela is currently conducting two research projects. The first project investigates how queer (that is, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, queer) young people experience policing in Brisbane, Queensland. The second project records the histories of LGBT police officers in Queensland post WWII. She completed her doctoral studies in the Faculty of Education in 2006. Angela was recently elected as General Member of the The Australian Sociological Association (TASA) Executive Committee for 2009-2010 and is Editor of the TASAWeb (www.tasa.org.au). In this role, she has established a scholarship for Sociologists Outside Academe to maximise the participation of non-academic sociologists with TASA.

Anna ERIKSSON *Political & Social Inquiry, Monash University*

Anna Eriksson is a lecturer in Criminology at Monash University. She holds a BA in Criminology/BA Behavioural Science from Griffith University, an MPhil from Cambridge and a PhD from Queen's University Belfast. She has recently completed her monograph entitled *Justice in Transition: Community Restorative Justice in Northern Ireland*, published with Willan Publishing. She is currently working together with Professor John Pratt on a major comparative project on penology and Scandinavian Exceptionalism.

Kate FITZ-GIBBON *School of Political & Social Inquiry, Monash University*

Having completed preliminary research on the construction of four models of masculinity in judicial responses to male perpetrators of intimate partner femicide last year, I am now conducting doctoral at Monash University. My research is focused on the influence of masculinity in judicial decision-making throughout cases of intimate femicide in three different climates of homicide (specifically provocation) law reform.

Asher FLYNN

School of Political & Social Inquiry, Monash University

Asher Flynn is a nearly completed PhD candidate with the Department of Criminology at Monash University. Her research examines the absence of formality surrounding plea bargaining and prosecutorial discretion in Victoria, and the impact of this informality on the efficiency of the Victorian indictable court system, the long-standing adversarial legal culture, the current Legal Aid funding structure and the pre-trial process. Asher has had two peer-reviewed articles accepted for publication in highly ranked journals and has presented her findings at conferences.

Michael GREWCOCK

Faculty of Law, University of New South Wales.

Michael Grewcock teaches criminal law and criminology at the University of New South Wales. His book, *Border Crimes: Australia's war on illicit migrants*, will be published shortly by the Institute of Criminology Press.

Annette HOULIHAN

Criminal Justice, Monash University

Annette Houlihan is a Lecturer in Criminal Justice at Monash University, Gippsland Campus. Previously, she taught in Criminology at the University of Queensland and Law at Griffith University. She has researched and published in the area of HIV and law. Her other research interest is violence, law and culture. This work examines socio-legal processes surrounding domestic/family violence. Her research includes analysis of case law and legislation in these areas, along with cultural and media images of HIV and violence (e.g. film, television, news media).

Caitlin HUGHES

National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre, University of New South Wales

Caitlin Hughes is a Research Fellow at the National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre, The University of New South Wales. She obtained her PhD through the Department of Criminology, The University of Melbourne in 2007 and has since worked since as part of the Drug Policy Modelling Program, a multi-disciplinary research and practice endeavour aimed at improving Australian drug policy. She has undertaken research into diversion of drug and drug-related offenders and the impacts of the Portuguese decriminalisation of illicit drugs and is currently involved in modeling the Queensland Cannabis Diversion System.

Jann KARP

Social Justice & Social Change Research Centre, University of Western Sydney.

Dr Karp worked as a sworn officer with the NSW Police from 1983 to 2005. She worked as a general duties, plainclothes officer and policy/researcher at different times during her career. The majority of her service occurred at inner Sydney police stations. Her ongoing interest in corruption began in 1985 when she was part of, Task Force Two established as a result of the Lusher Inquiry, which examined the connection between serving police and organised crime activity in the legal gaming industry. Jann is currently working on her new book titled:- *Looking at Life Through Glass: Conversations with Truckies*, and her biography:- *The Blue Door* will be released later this year.

Tyrone KIRCHENGAST

Faculty of Law, UNSW

Dr Tyrone Kirchengast lectures in criminal law and procedure in the Faculty of Law at the University of New South Wales. His primary research interests focus on the integration of victim rights in criminal law and justice.

Murray LEE

Sydney Law School, University of Sydney

Murray Lee is senior lecturer in criminology and co-director of the Sydney Institute of Criminology at the University of Sydney Law Faculty. He is author of *Inventing Fear of Crime: Criminology and the Politics of Anxiety* (2007 Willan) and *Fear of Crime: Critical Voices in and Age of Anxiety* (2009 Glasshouse/Routledge).

James MARTIN

School of Political & Social Inquiry, Monash University

James Martin is a PhD student at the Monash University Criminology Department. He has a long-standing interest in the study of vigilantism and organised crime, and is currently preparing for his first field-trip to study South Africa's vigilantes.

Alyce McGOVERN

School of Social Sciences and Liberal Studies, Charles Sturt University

Alyce McGovern is a lecturer in Justice Studies in the School of Social Sciences and Liberal Studies at Charles Sturt University. At CSU Alyce teaches at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels of criminology and policing. Together with her teaching experience, Alyce has also worked extensively in the research field, most recently at the University of New South Wales and University of Western Sydney. She is currently awaiting her PhD results, with her thesis topic examining the relationship between the police and the media in NSW.

Sanja MILIVOJEVIC

School of Social Science, University of Western Sydney

Dr Sanja Milivojevic is a Lecturer at University of Western Sydney in Criminology and Policing Studies, School of Social Sciences. Sanja holds LL.B and LL.M from Belgrade University's Law School, and PhD from Monash University. Her doctoral research 'Sex Trafficking in Serbia and Australia' is in the field of sex trafficking in these two countries, with a particular

focus on how victims of trafficking have been constructed in Serbian and Australian culture, and what are its implications to women's status inside the criminal justice system and anti-trafficking initiatives. Sanja has worked as a researcher on various projects with the Institute for Criminological and Sociological Research in Belgrade. She was also one of the founders of the Victimology Society of Serbia, and was instrumental in establishing the first Victim Support Service in the Balkan region. In 2001-2002, Sanja was a Public Interest Law Fellow at Columbia University Law School in New York City, USA. Finally, Sanja has participated in several international and domestic conferences and has published in both Serbian and English.

Craig OSMOND *School of Social Sciences, UWS*

Craig Osmond is a lecturer in Criminology at in the School of Social Sciences at the University of Western Sydney.

John PAGET *Consultant*

Dr John Paget is a consultant specialising in correctional matters. He has extensive correctional experience in three Australian jurisdictions and has held the positions of Assistant Commissioner in the NSW Department of Corrective Services and Chief Executive Officer in the South Australian Department for Correctional Services. In the ACT, John was the Director of the Alexander Maconochie Centre project, which was the first prison in Australia to be conceptualised and designed under a framework provided by human rights legislation, the ACT Human Rights Act 2004. John has a masters degree in environmental law from Sydney University Law School and a doctorate from Charles Sturt University. His thesis was on prison architecture and human rights.

Sharon PICKERING *School of Political & Social Inquiry, Monash University*

Sharon is an Associate Professor in Criminology at Monash University (Melbourne, Australia) who researches issues of policing, human rights, criminalisation and state crime. Sharon has written for the British Journal of Criminology, Policing and Society, Journal of Refugee Studies, Forced Migration Review, Women and Criminal Justice, Journal of Violence Against Women, Current Issues in Criminal Justice and has authored the books Women, Policing and Resistance in Northern Ireland (2002, Beyond the Pale) & Refugees and State Crime (2005, The Federation Press). She has also co-authored Critical Chatter: women and human rights in South East Asia (with Lambert and Alder, 2003, Carolina Academic Press) and Counter-Terrorism Policing (with Wright-Neville and McCulloch, 2008, Springer). In 2004 she co-edited, with Lambert, Global Issues, Women and Justice (Federation Press) and, with Weber, co-edited Borders, Mobility and Technologies of Control (2006, Springer). She is currently working with Dr Leanne Weber on a book about Deaths at the Border and is writing a monograph on Women at the Border (2008),

Kelly RICHARDS *Australian Institute of Criminology & RegNet, Australian National University*

Kelly Richards completed a PhD in criminology from the University of Western Sydney in 2007, after being awarded the University of Western Sydney Medal for her Honours thesis in 2001. She has lectured in Criminology at the University of Western Sydney and Sydney University, and has worked on criminological research projects at the University of Western Sydney, Sydney University, and the University of Technology, Sydney. She is currently a Research Analyst at the Australian Institute of Criminology and a Visiting Fellow at the Australian National University. In 2006, she co-edited a collection of postgraduate work in the social sciences.

Emma RYAN *School of Political & Social Inquiry, Monash University*

Emma Ryan is a PhD student and Assistant Lecturer in the Department of Criminology at Monash University. Her interest in police accountability and use of force forms the basis of her PhD research looking at the use of sub-lethal weapons use by Australian police. Her Masters degree looked at the role of the coroner in cases of police use of deadly force. She has been involved in the evaluation of several criminal justice programs, including post-release and Indigenous community justice initiatives. Emma has tutored criminology students for a number of years and is looking forward to completing her degree and having everybody call her Doctor.

Miriam SCURRAH *Australian Prison Foundation*

Miriam Scurrah is the President of the Australian Prison Foundation, founding the organisation in 2008 with support from other board members and her family. Her interest in prisons began after the incarceration of a family member and this led her to discovering her passion for prison research. She holds an Honours Degree in Adult and Vocational Education, her thesis focus was on prisoner learning, a Masters in Business and Technology and a Graduate Certificate in Human Resources. Believing in lifelong learning, she is currently studying a Graduate Certificate in Criminology and pursuing a PhD, which will focus on prisoner learning.

Marie SEGRAVE *School of Political & Social Inquiry, Monash University*

Marie Segrave (PhD) is a lecturer in Criminology at Monash University and researches in a wide range of areas including migration, exploitation, criminalisation and regulation. Marie has written for *Women's Studies International Forum*, the *Australian Journal of Human Rights*, *Current Issues in Criminal Justice*, *Social Alternatives* and the *Australian Feminist Law*

Journal. She is co-author (with Milivojevic & Pickering) of *Sex Trafficking: international context and response* (Willan, 2009).

Melinda SMITH *NSW Department of Ageing Disability and Home Care (DADHC)*

Melinda Smith has a background in intellectual disability and criminology. She has been working in the disability field for more than 15 years and currently provides policy and service planning advice within the NSW Department of Ageing Disability and Home Care, regarding the needs of people with an intellectual disability in, or at risk of, contact with the criminal justice system.

Mary SPIERS *School of Law, University of Adelaide*

Mary Spiers Williams has practiced for 10 years in criminal law, primarily as a defence lawyer, and briefly prosecuted. Originally she practiced in NSW (starting her career in Walgett). During this time, she also lectured criminal law at the University of Sydney Law School. In 2002, she was seconded from the NSW Legal Aid Commission to work for the Criminal Law Review Division in the NSW Attorney General's Department, a specialist criminal law policy and advising unit. In 2004, Mary returned to the Northern Territory, where she worked as Barrister and Solicitor for the NT Legal Aid Commission and then the Central Australian Aboriginal Legal Aid Service. In 2007-2008, Mary worked in aboriginal community development, primarily with Warlpiri communities and in Alice Springs Town Camps. The justice projects included the facilitation of the Community Courts (Circle Sentencing) and conducting legal education in relation to legal rights and responsibilities. This year, Mary has joined the University of Adelaide Law School, and lectures there in criminal law, sentencing, indigenous people and the criminal justice system and related areas

Claire SPIVAKOVSKY *Deakin University*

Claire Spivakovsky is a Lecturer in Criminology at Deakin University, and is currently completing a PhD in criminology at the University of Melbourne. Claire has researched and published on the conceptualisation of the Indigenous offender in theory and correctional practice, and her PhD thesis explores how correctional agencies in Victoria, Australia and New Zealand have approached the offender rehabilitation principle of responsivity in relation to Indigenous offenders.

Alex STEEL *Faculty of Law, UNSW*

Alex Steel is a Senior Lecturer in the School of Law, Faculty of Law at the University of New South Wales.

Julie STUBBS *Criminology, University of Sydney*

Julie's research and publications are primarily related to violence against women, including domestic violence law reforms, defences to homicide and the battered woman syndrome. She has also published research concerning: child contact in the context of post separation violence; (a critical appraisal of) restorative justice; sexual assault; juvenile justice; cross-cultural issues in the legal system; and, bail. Julie is an adviser to VicHealth on its violence against women research program, a member of the NSW DV Death Review Advisory Panel and was a member of the NSW Criminal Justice Taskforce on Sexual Offences. She is Professor of Criminology in the Faculty of Law at the University of Sydney.

Laura SWANSON *Faculty of Arts, Education & Social Sciences, James Cook University*

Currently enrolled in a PhD at James Cook University Townsville, Laura graduated from Adelaide University with a Bachelor of Arts (hons) majoring in anthropology. Her PhD research examines Indigenous offenders, the media and the criminal justice system, specifically looking at how definitions of gangs and groups affect these offenders. Laura is employed as a research assistant on a CRC funded project titled "Sudanese Interactions with the Criminal Justice System". She is currently co-authoring the forthcoming book chapter with Dr Garry Coventry "Boot Camps, Brats and Bungee Jumping" in the book *A Clinicians Handbook for the Treatment of Conduct Problems in Youth*, Springer Press. Her other research interests include human rights, criminal justice issues for refugees in Australia and the privatisation of prisons.

Stephen TOMSEN *School of Social Sciences, UWS*

Stephen Tomsen is Professor of Criminology and Criminal Justice at the University of Western Sydney. His research interests include violence, hate crimes, masculinities, sexuality and social movements, and the political and collective emotional dimensions of victimhood. He is currently researching aspects of safety and danger in Sydney's night time economy. Stephen's recent publications include *Crime, Criminal Justice and Masculinities: a Reader* (Ashgate, 2008) and *Violence, Sexuality and Prejudice* (Routledge 2009).

Max TRAVERS *School of Sociology and Social Work, University of Tasmania*

Max Travers is Senior Lecturer in the School of Sociology and Social Work, University of Tasmania. He qualified as a solicitor before completing a doctorate in at the University of Manchester, UK examining the work of criminal lawyers from an ethnomethodological perspective. Publications include *The Reality of Law* (1997), and *The New Bureaucracy* (2007) a study of quality assurance regulation. He has recently written a textbook, *Understanding Law and Society* (to be published by Routledge-Cavendish in August).

Ian WARREN *School of History Heritage and Society, Deakin University*

Dr Ian Warren lectures in the criminology program at Deakin University and has ongoing research interests in the media depiction of crime, the intersections between public and private forms of law enforcement and governance, the regulation of emerging global digital technologies and cross cultural criminology. In 2008, along with Dr Darren Palmer and Peter Miller, also of Deakin University, he was awarded a Criminology Research Council grant to investigate the utility of electronic scanning technologies as a harm reduction method in and around regional licensed premises.

Denise WEELANDS *School of Social Sciences, UWS*

Denise Weelands is a lecturer in criminology and law in social and welfare work in the School of Social Sciences at the University of Western Sydney.

Diane WESTERHUIS *School of Social Sciences and Liberal Studies, Charles Sturt University*

Diane teaches criminology and social research methods at Charles Sturt University. Her research focuses on the relationship between the state and young people, discourses of delinquency and recidivism and historical and contemporary shifts in criminalization.

Rob WHITE *School of Sociology & Social Work, University of Tasmania*

Rob White is Professor of Environmental Criminology in the School of Sociology & Social Work at the University of Tasmania. He is the author of *Crimes Against Nature: Environmental Criminology and Ecological Justice*, and editor of a forthcoming book, *Environmental Crime: A Reader*. He has a keen interest in fostering eco-global criminology, a field that deals with the nature of and responses to environmental harm.

Megan WILLIAMS *School of Population Health, Faculty of Health Sciences, The University of Queensland*

Megan's work life has been a combination of social science and action research, health promotion with drug users, and capacity building among service providers in the area of drugs and hepatitis C prevention. Megan is currently an Associate Lecturer in the Indigenous Health Unit, School of Population Health, The University of Queensland, and is a link-person to the Cooperative Research Centre for Aboriginal Health. Megan is undertaking a PhD investigating the role of social support in the post-prison release period among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, with support of Buranga Widjung Justice Group, and ANTaR Queensland who have initiated a campaign to honour the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Justice Agreement (Qld) and end over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders in prison. Megan is a descendent of the Wiradjuri people from Cudgegong River in central New South Wales on her father's side. Her mother's family came from England after World War II. Megan's story includes a brigadier, a bushranger, Stolen Generations, boats and rock'n'roll... a wonderful mix that extends into current work life.