



Mannheim Matters

No 4 2011

Meet....Kevin Stenson



My original discipline was sociology and my PhD on social work theory and practice was

supervised at Brunel by Nikolas Rose, now Professor of Sociology at the LSE. Much of my research has been inter-disciplinary, social problem solving and policy oriented; it was funded by the Home Office, police agencies, a charity, and a range of local authorities. Before becoming a visiting fellow at the LSE I was previously Professor of Criminology at Buckinghamshire New University and then Middlesex University. My empirical work has included studies of: young people's perceptions and uses of public spaces; social work, probation and policing practice (including stop and search and community policing); the link between inter-ethnic conflict and policing; urban development and social order; studies in social housing neighbourhoods in the Thames Valley of the links between deprivation, crime and other social problems; the development and evaluation of community safety policies and practices, and 'early intervention' parent support programmes.

My enduring theoretical interest has been in the politics of crime control and exploring the new forms of liberal governance that have emerged since the rise of New Right ideologies and administrations. I emphasise a need for a more grounded approach to theory construction and the need to counterbalance an interest in 'governance from above' by state, NGO and major commercial agencies, with a focus on 'governance from below', by a host of networks and agencies from religious and friendship groups to 'organised' crime, paramilitary and 'terrorist' organisations. For example, my recent article in Theoretical Criminology with Randy Lippert argues that governmentality studies share a number of features with social constructionist approaches in social science. Both schools need to embrace a more 'realist' approach to the analysis of governance. But further work remains to be done to develop what we mean by 'realism'. I am concerned that some theorists in the field are tempted to return to a formulaic 'critical realism', rooted in the Marxist distinction between the 'economic base' in society, as a source of causation, and a socio-cultural 'superstructure'. One of the virtues of the new governance studies is their

questioning of the utility of such a fundamental distinction.

I am currently involved in a large grant, inter-disciplinary study (£600k) funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council and the Economic and Social Research Council: 'Negotiating Identity: young people's perspectives on faith values, community norms and social cohesion.' This is organised from Brunel University by Prof. Nicola Madge. We are analyzing 10,500 completed on line survey questionnaires (undertaken in Hillingdon, Newham and Bradford) and a complementary sample of in depth qualitative paired and group interviews undertaken in each borough.

News

Robert Reiner wrote a piece entitled "Fewer police does not mean Christmas for criminals." This was in response by a comment from Nick Herbert, the police minister. Robert discusses whether cuts facing the police will cause crime to rise, a proposition about which he is dubious.

The article can be read at:

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2011/mar/10/police-crime-disorder-cuts>

Following the resignation of LSE's director, Sir Howard Davies, LSE's Council invited Lord Woolf to conduct an independent external inquiry into the School's relationship with Libya and matters relating to Saif Gaddafi.

The terms of reference for Lord Woolf's inquiry are:

'An independent inquiry to establish the full facts of the School's links with Libya, whether there have been errors made, and to establish clear guidelines for international donations to and links with the School. Lord Woolf is to make recommendations to the LSE Council as soon as possible. He is to have total discretion as to how he conducts the inquiry, and as to the matters on which he is to report.'

Lord Woolf, is a former Lord Chief Justice of England and Wales.

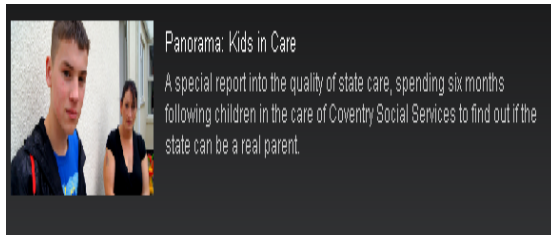
A website for the inquiry has been set up - woolfse.com.

In February 2011 the Royal Television Society (RTS) award for best UK current affairs programme was for Kids In Care. The documentary, made by Films of Record. Roger Graef and Eve Kay were the executive producers. The citation said

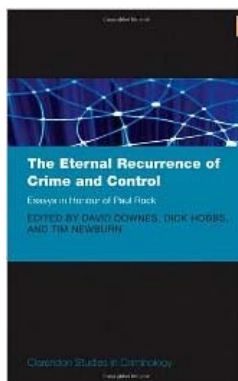
"An extraordinary documentary insight into the complex issues surrounding children in care in Coventry. This programme told its story in a way that stopped you leaving it and the emotional impact stayed with you long after you had finished watching it".

The film can be viewed at:

http://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/b00v77vn/Panorama_Kids_in_Care/



David Downes, Dick Hobbs and Tim Newburn's edited collection in honour of Paul Rock was published as one of the Clarendon Studies in Criminology in 2010. Ian Loader, the general editor, refers to Paul as a tenacious champion of sociological criminology. The book, intended as a festschrift, is an important contribution in its own right.



When Paul joined LSE, Karl Popper and Herman Mannheim were on the staff. One of his contemporaries amongst the student body was Mick Jagger whose luminary career took a rather different path. Paul's doctoral topic was debt collection and his preferred methodology is a modified version of grounded theory to access the messy, contingent and unstructured real world. His immersive methods are being used to good effect in his latest project with Tim Newburn and David Downes which is a history of criminal justice in Britain since 1959. The authors of the festschrift collection cover topics such as redevelopment of Holloway prison by

Elaine Genders, Robert Reiner's new theories of policing, P.A.J. Waddington on MacPherson and Rachel Condry on secondary victimization.

Books received

White paper on crime 2008: The circumstances and attributes of elderly offenders and their treatment published by Research and Training Institute of the Japan Ministry of Justice. The introduction notes that not only is the ratio of people aged 65 or older rapidly increasing in Japan, so too is the ratio of elderly offenders and prisoners. The report is a compendium of statistics covering organised crime (Boryokudan), drug and violent crime. The elderly offenders are likely to live alone in isolated and unstable environments having a history of substance addition. The elderly were disproportionately victims of homicide with "exhaustion from nursing care" being cited as the main reason for the murder.

This report is available in the Mannheim Office 2.53 in the Department of Social policy if anyone would like to consult.

What if series

Progress is being made in developing this initiative. It has been agreed that Robert Reiner will present the first of these around the proposition that fire brigade policing should be celebrated not condemned, replacing the current emphasis on crime control. A date is still to be set, but we hope to organise for October this year.

A Letter from... Oxford

By Lucia Zedner



These days I work as a Professor of Criminal Justice at Oxford University but I began my academic career as a Lecturer in the Law Department (1989-1994). I was lucky enough to be involved in the very founding of the Mannheim Centre in 1990 and I served as its Assistant Director from 1991-1994. I still recall that period with enormous affection and no little gratitude for the fantastic opportunity it furnished to interact with colleagues across law, sociology, social policy and social psychology and to debate matters of mutual criminological interest. The MSc in Criminal Justice Policy and the forum for research students, which the Mannheim Centre made possible was a trailblazer for graduate teaching in criminology – at that time virtually unmatched elsewhere. It was not by chance that when I later moved to Oxford I was, with colleagues, instrumental in establishing a similar masters program there.

Although it is nearly 17 years since I left the LSE I have maintained links by giving papers at the Centre, by contributing to several wonderful Festschriften for Mannheim colleagues, and by helping to set up the Clarendon Studies in Criminology

Series (published by Oxford University Press as a collaborative venture by LSE, Oxford and Cambridge) of which I am now General Editor. My recent work on 'The Legal Construction of Crime' was co-written with Nicola Lacey (who has only recently returned to Oxford from LSE) and commissioned by Robert Reiner for the Oxford Handbook of Criminology. So my Mannheim roots run deep. And presently I am working with Andrew Ashworth – an old friend from over the road at KCL – with whom I taught for many years on the London LLM.

We are engaged in a three-year study of 'Preventive Justice' generously funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council. The project re-assesses the foundations for the range of coercive measures that states now take in the name of crime prevention and public protection. We are joined in this research by a post-doctoral research officer, political philosopher Patrick Tomlin. Our approach is interdisciplinary and includes cross-jurisdictional comparisons made possible by the collaboration of leading scholars in law, criminology, philosophy, and political theory from around the world. Our collective aim is to develop an account of the principles and values that should guide and limit the state's use of preventive techniques that involve coercion - for example, the expansion of criminal liability to merely preparatory acts, the extension of liability for offences associated with terrorism, and the development of civil-criminal hybrid orders such as ASBOs, Control Orders, and Serious Crime Prevention Orders.

It is a taxing project and one that daunts me daily – but it does occur to me that its interdisciplinarity and ambition owes more than a little to my formative years at the Mannheim Centre. For which I continue to be grateful.

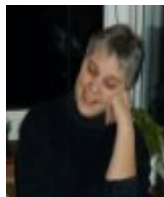
Lucia Zedner

Recent events

Mannheim/BSC Wednesday Seminars

16 March 2011

Professor Jennifer Brown (Mannheim Centre)
'Policing Sexual Violence'



Jennifer Brown talked about three gaps when conceptualising the policing of sexual violence: the definitional, justice and implementation gaps.

The first is the gap between people's subjective "lived" experience of being the subject of sexual violence and the rather more codified legal definitions; the second also referred to as attrition, is the loss of cases as they proceed through the CJS; the third is the gap between policy recommendations and working practices. She outlined different categories of sexual behaviours: normative, compliant, unwanted, unacknowledged and coerced suggesting that the anchor points are relatively consensually agreed but the CJS has particular difficulty in the more ambiguous categories. She drew attention to the failures of implementation, particularly the lack of research into causative pathways resulting from inadequate conceptualisations of the problems in the commission, identification and successful prosecution of sexual violence. The Q and A session brought out several interesting issues:

why is there such apparent touching faith in the CJS to get this right; attrition is a feature of the CJS so what's special about sexual violence; the distributed risk of sexual violence, and a suggestion that the affluent are too well behaved to engage in such behaviours.

The resources Jennifer drew on when making the presentation can be found in the forthcoming edited collection: Brown and Walklate (in press) *Handbook on sexual violence* to be published by Routledge.

Forthcoming Events

Mannheim/BSC Wednesday Seminars

Dr Wendy Fitzgibbon (London Metropolitan University)
Date: 18 May 2011

Time: 6.30-8

Title TBA

Location: London School of Economics, EAS (East Building), Room E304 . Some of



Wendy's recent publications include:

Fitzgibbon, W. and Lea, J..(2010) 'Police, probation and the bifurcation of community'. *Howard Journal of Criminal Justice* 49(3), 215-230.

Fitzgibbon W. (2010) 'Risky or vulnerable: the pre-emptive criminalisation of people with mental health problems.' in Bettina Paul & Henning Schmidt-Semisch (Eds.)

Risiko Gesundheit. Über Risiken und Nebenwirkungen der Gesundheitsgesellschaft, Wiesbaden : VS Verlag

Fitzgibbon W. (2009) 'Mentally Disordered Offenders in England and Wales and the Parole Process' European Research Institute for Social Work Web Journal
http://eris.osu.eu/dokumenty/webjournal/mentally_disordered_offenders.pdf

Specialty Seminar

Adrian Leppard, recently appointed Commissioner of the City of London Police



will give a presentation about the policing of fraud.

Professor Jonathan Fisher QC will act as discussant



Date: 16th May 2011

Time: 5.30-7.30

Location: NAB Moot Court Room

Research Groups

The Cardiff Centre for Crime, Law and Justice undertakes theoretically informed, policy focused, methodologically rigorous interdisciplinary research. CCLJ is a collaboration between the Cardiff School of Social Sciences' [Crime and Justice Research Group](#) and the Cardiff School of Law's [Procedural Justice Research Group](#). The Centre's research programme consists of work in the following areas:

- Policing and the Governance of Security
- Community Safety and Crime Prevention
- Offending, Offender Management and Identities
- Transnational Crimes and their Regulation
- Courts & Access to Justice
- Comparative Criminal Justice
- Youth Justice & Family Law
- Restorative Justice

The Centre has attracted funding from various Government departments, charitable foundations and other bodies including: the Economic and Social Research Council, the European Commission, the Home Office, the National Assembly for Wales, the Ministry of Justice, and the Department of Constitutional Affairs. It has established research and policy links at the local, national and international level. Members work closely with the Welsh Assembly Government, local authorities and charities as well as engaging with both national Government (Home Office and Ministry of Justice) and a number of European

agencies (the Justice, Freedom and Security and the Research Directorates-General of the European Commission; and GERN - Groupe Européen de Recherches sur les Normativités: www.gern-cnrs.com/). CCLJ has a thriving research culture supporting the work of over 30 doctoral students. Students are actively encouraged to take part in the Centre's activities and regularly present work in progress with academic staff at tri-weekly meetings. The Centre works closely with the British Society of Criminology (Wales branch).

Aims

- To conduct high quality empirical research into key local, national and international influences over crimes and their governance
- Within this, to work collaboratively to attract research funding from a range of sources in order to develop a programme of research projects that build upon our established reputation in particular fields
- To develop links with policy-makers and practitioners at the local, national and international level
- To combine a strong focus upon policy-relevant research with a significant contribution to key theoretical and policy debates within criminology, criminal justice and socio-legal studies.
- To build capacity in criminological research and teaching by

including research students, post-docs and researchers in the work

The Centre is directed by Trevor Jones of the School of Social Sciences in Cardiff, with Stewart Field of Cardiff Law School as Deputy Director.

Trevor Jones

And Finally



A propos of culture, David Nelken's photo of the Bologna youth prison above shows the door of its workshop with the legend 'working makes you tired'.