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Correctional and Forensic Psychology

FOCUS ON STUDENT RESEARCH— THE NEW PRISON MODEL IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC: RESEARCH ON A UNIQUE PRISON REFORM PROCESS



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The Dominican Republic is rapidly gaining international prominence for its remarkable achievements in building a new kind of prison system—with a focus on human rights and rehabilitation, not repression. Since 2003, the Dominican Republic has developed a “New Prison Management” model, which aims to apply international principles of human rights and the United Nations Mandela Rules (Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners), as well as experiences from other countries, to the local Dominican context. This is an ongoing process of reform, which has expanded gradually but only covers part of the Dominican prison system. The older and the newer types of prisons co-exist in parallel—which is a unique setting for a research project. Over the past two years, through my doctoral dissertation project, I have been studying the Do-

minican prison reform experience, with a focus on the views of people who are incarcerated.

The Dominican New Prison Management Model began as a pilot in one facility in 2004 and has since expanded gradually over fifteen years. Through a combination of renovating older facilities (usually a police or military barrack) and new buildings, the Dominican government has established 22 Centers for Correction and Rehabilitation (CCRs). In stark contrast to the unreformed prisons, the CCRs operate with a mandate to avoid overcrowding; they do not accept people beyond their bed capacity. In addition to large-scale closed prisons with a mix of medium- and maximum-security areas, these CCRs also include a house for women in semi-open sentence phases who work or study in the local community and a facility composed of small cabins for sentenced men over 50 years old. In all of the CCRs, programs are extensive, including education, vocational training, arts and music activities, and therapeutic communities. After 15 years of gradual development and expansion, the CCRs under the New Model now hold about a third of

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INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR CORRECTIONAL & FORENSIC PSYCHOLOGY

The IACFP Newsletter is being published twice during 2018 and will return to its normal publication schedule in 2019. The current newsletter will be available on the website: www.myiacfp.org. An archive of prior newsletters is available to IACFP members in the members only area of the website. Members who require a printed copy of the newsletter should contact executivedirectoriacfp@gmail.com.

Comments and information from individual members concerning activities and related matters of general interest to international correctional mental health professionals and others in international criminal and juvenile justice are solicited. The IACFP is particularly interested in highlighting promising research, programs, and practices that are consistent with our vision of engaged criminal justice practitioners implementing innovative and humane practices worldwide. Toward that end, we also aim to spotlight those members who are doing great work. All materials accepted for inclusion in *The IACFP Newsletter* are subject to routine editing prior to publication. Opinions or positions expressed in newsletter articles do not necessarily represent the opinions or positions of the IACFP. Please send materials or comments to Dr. Robert R. Smith at smithr@marshall.edu and Cherie Townsend at executivedirectoriacfp@gmail.com.

Deadlines for submission of all material are:
February 2019 issue—

January 15

May 2019 issue—

April 16

August 2019 issue—

June 15

November 2019 issue—

September 15

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FOCUS ON STUDENT RESEARCH

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the country's incarcerated population, while the other two-thirds reside in traditional prisons.

Another key feature of the New Prison Management Model is the personnel: a civilian correctional officer corps known as Penitentiary Treatment Officers or VTPs (*vigilantes de tratamiento penitenciario*). Trained at a National Academy of Penitentiary Administration in correctional practice and human rights principles, as well as specialized tasks ranging from high-risk security guards to contract administration, these officers serve in most positions at CCR facilities and at headquarters. Certain roles, such as attorneys, doctors, psychologists, and teachers, are typically non-VTP professionals. Meanwhile, in the traditional prisons, police and military officers continue to manage security roles, but the government is also expanding programs and other services run by civilian professionals. These include a country-wide literacy initiative, vocational training courses, campaigns to address transmissible diseases, and a brand-new mental health center, with counselling staff, at the country's largest prison.

In my research project, which I developed in collaboration with government authorities who oversee both the traditional and new model prisons, I visited more than twenty prisons across the country over about a year. I observed daily activities and held focus groups and interviews with incarcerated people and staff. Building on the initial themes I found in this process, I developed a survey about incarcerated people's experiences, based on the *Measuring the Quality of Prison Life* framework and survey instrument from Cambridge University (Liebling, 2004). With a team of students, we collected more than 1,200 responses to the survey, from people in both types of prisons. I also interviewed formerly incarcerated people, civil society organizations, government officials, and other stakeholders. Some of my questions asked about people's trajectories in the justice system and their objective living conditions, and some sought to understand more subjective aspects of their lives, in particular their sense of autonomy, safety, justice, respect, fairness, personal development, social interactions, and dignity (in line with the MQPL principles). Since major prison reforms, especially those that involve sig-

nificant infrastructure investments, are often measured by narrow indicators such as cell space, number of program hours, and eventual crime or recidivism rates, it is important to build a more holistic picture of incarcerated people's daily experiences and what changes they consider important to their well-being.

My findings show that the material conditions in CCRs are more equitable. For example, over 80% of people in CCRs have a bed to themselves, compared to less than 30% of people in traditional prisons; the majority in traditional prisons sleep on the floor due to overcrowding, though some have private cell spaces. Education is more widely available in CCRs, with over two thirds of CCR residents participating in

“Education is more widely available in CCRs, with over two thirds of CCR residents participating in some type of education program, including university.”

some type of education program, including university. Similarly, CCR residents have collective meals, which are provided freely and are modest in quantity and content. In traditional prisons, people with few economic resources typically eat the meals provided, but those who can afford it buy ingredients from outside and cook their own food. This access to more diverse food options is important to some people, although it is of course not available to all.

People in CCR facilities also emphasized that the formal programming is very important for their parole applications, whereas programs run by other prisoners do not have this documentation—even some that make the most difference, such as therapeutic support groups. In the New Model, there is also more access to *Medio Libre*, which is a semi-open regime in which people are granted day release for work or study outside the facility or weekend or holiday release to connect with their families. On the other hand, people who are incarcerated in traditional facilities have more

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FOCUS ON STUDENT RESERACH

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communication and visits with their family members, apart from *medio libre* releases. This is because there is more access to phone calls, and visits are twice a week rather than once a week. Overall, the importance of family visits and presence, including children, is striking in both types of prisons; visits are more frequent, more relaxed, and with more amenities (such as play spaces, food, and celebrations) than in a typical North American facility.

On the more subjective aspects of prison life, there are both improvements and tensions in the transition between the traditional and the new model. Because the traditional model is less standardized in terms of daily routines and rules, people report that they have more sense of self-determination in certain dimensions of their lives. For example, they can initiate informal businesses more easily and have some more freedom of movement during out-of-cell hours within their sector. In the new model, there are vocational workshops (some of which permit participants to sell their products), but fewer casual income-earning opportunities. Another tradeoff relates to the social organization dynamics inside each facility or sector. In CCRs, VTP personnel are more present and directly engaged in daily activities and handling any disputes or infractions, whereas in the traditional facilities, prisoner delegates and councils take on some of these tasks (due to lack of personnel). In my study, many prisoners reported that they felt safer in the CCRs, as there are fewer disputes over scarce resources. But they emphasized too that the role of prisoner delegates in the traditional model provides a modicum of accountability, since other prisoners can participate and influence (to some extent) how rules are enforced. Taken together, these reflections illustrate that even as the New Prison Model generates clear improvements in the daily living conditions, the transition also can curtail some of the more informal social interactions of the old model that provide a sense of autonomy. Nonetheless, a majority of participants in my study expressed that the major reforms in the New Model are overall a positive change because amenities and benefits are more evenly distributed.

The Dominican prison reform experience provides important lessons for other countries in the region and for researchers and practitioners thinking about building more humane and rehabilitative prisons generally.

First, it demonstrates that an ambitious reform process can generate sustained, expanding changes over many years, overcoming the typical stop-and-start of political cycles. Part of this is due to the leadership of key politicians and government leaders, as well as international partners, who built a vision based on the positive potential of incarcerated people to change and reintegrate; this generated a sense of possibility rather than crisis. Second, more formalization and equity in prison conditions and daily management is a crucial step, but it is important to retain or adapt some of the positive elements of incarcerated people's more organic, self-organized initiatives, as well. Third, and perhaps most challenging, the Dominican experience reminds us that reforms that address only prison facilities and activities will only change part of the criminal justice system. Prison reforms do not exist in isolation from policing, courts, parole, and reentry. In the Dominican Republic, the total number of incarcerated people has doubled since 2003—from 14,000 to over 26,000—which is far out of step with changes in population growth rates and crime rates. This large increase in incarceration is due in part to excessive use of pre-trial detention (more people entering) and in part to harsher sentencing and limited use of parole (fewer people leaving).

The New Prison Model depends on facilities that are well-staffed and not overcrowded – but it is not realistic to build more and more such facilities. Alternatives to pretrial detention and a much bolder use of parole and *medio libre* (semi-open or work/study release) could reduce the overcrowding and budgetary pressures on both old and new facilities. This would allow the innovative improvements of the New Model to run more smoothly and meaningfully for those who are serving a sentence, and could allow more investment in supports for people reentering communities after release.

I wish to acknowledge the IACFP's scholarship for my participation in the 2018 ICPA conference. I am very grateful for the support and the opportunity to share my research project at the Graduate Student Symposium. I also would like to express my thanks to the Dominican government partners who supported this project.

HIGHLIGHTS OF INTERNATIONAL NEWS

THE FIFTH ISSUE OF VOLUME 17 OF CRIMINOLOGICAL HIGHLIGHTS – NOVEMBER 2018

Criminological Highlights is published six times each year by the University of Toronto Criminology Department. Each issue contains “Headlines and Conclusions” for each of the eight articles included in the issue. This is then followed by one-page summaries of each article. Since they scan approximately 120 journals to identify interesting criminological research, IACFP members may find this a welcome support for keeping up with current research. The current issue of Criminological Highlights, Volume 17 (November 2018) addresses the following questions:

The eight papers that are summarized in this issue address the following questions:

- What kinds of police activities suppress voter turnout?
- How are people affected by police shootings of unarmed civilians?
- Are politicians right when they suggest that higher rates of pretrial detention would reduce crime?
- Who benefits from high concentrations of immigrants in a neighbourhood?
- When punishments are decreased in a jurisdiction and crime goes up, is it possible to determine whether one caused the other?
- How good are people at evaluating forensic science evidence in court?
- Should restorative justice conferences be used with youths charged with crimes?
- Does it matter where accused people sit in court during their trials?

PRISONS IN EUROPE, 2005-2015

The Council for Penological Cooperation (PC-CP) of the Council of Europe, Strasbourg, France with support from University of Lausanne have released a report *“The Prisons in Europe 2005-2015”* which presents data on prison populations across Europe from 2005 to 2015. The research projects are based on SPACE I and SPACE II (The Council of Europe Annual Penal Statistics). The report is divided in two volumes: Volume 1 presents country profiles based on several indicators concerning prison populations, and Volume 2 includes all the data used for the report. The study aims to provide a reliable series of 10 years of data (2005 to 2015) for the main indicators of the state of prisons in the 47 member States, which comprise

PRISON SERVICE JOURNAL

The most recent UK Prison Service Journal can be accessed at https://www.crimeandjustice.org.uk/sites/crimeandjustice.org.uk/files/PSJ%20241%20January%202019_0.pdf. This issue focuses on prisoners, prisons, and families.

52 Prison Administrations, of the Council of Europe. The goal is to promote a better comprehension of the trends in the prison populations across Europe. The trends shown by the main indicators included in the study are the following: prison population rate; flow of entries; flow of releases; average length of imprisonment based on the total number of days spent in penal institutions; average length of imprisonment based on the stock and flow of entries in penal institutions; prison density; number of places in penal institutions; number of inmates; number of staff; number of custodial staff; percentage of female inmates in the prison population; percentage of foreign inmates in the prison population; percentage of inmates without a final sentence; percentage of foreign inmates in pre-trial detention as well as mortality rate (per 10,000 inmates); percentage of suicides among inmates who died in prison in 2014; percentage of suicides in pre-trial detention among inmates who committed suicide.

AGEING AND IMPRISONMENT ICRC REPORT

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) organised, in Paris, France, a workshop entitled “Ageing and Imprisonment: Identifying and Meeting the Needs of Older Prisoners”. The ICRC’s aim was to provide an opportunity for itself and those present to explore concepts surrounding ageing and detention, particularly, in this case, criminal justice detention, and to discuss related challenges, experiences, practice and plans. This report summarises the proceedings of the two-day meeting, including a number of recommendations that emerged. The ICRC has in addition produced a short public briefing entitled Ageing in Detention, while an article by one of the meeting experts, Brie Williams, can be found in the International Review of the Red Cross (<https://bit.ly/2KoBK6p>). You can find the report here: <https://bit.ly/2BiJ40h>

COLONISATION, RACISM MAIN DRIVERS OF MĀORI IN PRISONS – REPORT

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HIGHLIGHTS OF INTERNATIONAL NEWS

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a group of fourth-year medical students at the University of Otago, under the supervision of Dr Keri Lawson-Te Aho, to conduct the research, which included a 28-question online survey, interviews with experts and perspectives from the Safe and Effective Justice Summit in August 2018. The report argued the displacement of Māori from their land, identity, language and justice system created a cycle of "intergenerational trauma", still affecting Māori today. Find out more in the report: <http://bit.ly/2LnSc8N>

A HUMAN RIGHTS APPROACH TO PRISON MANAGEMENT HANDBOOK

Recently the Institute for Criminal Policy Research (ICPR) released the 3rd edition of their handbook on human rights approaches to prison management. The Handbook is based on the internationally agreed standards for the use of imprisonment and conditions of detention and it provides guidance for prison staff as to their implementation. The 3rd edition has been updated to take account of a number of new international and regional standards, including the revised UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules) and the Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-Custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules) as well as developing case law concerning the use of imprisonment. You can access the handbook here: <http://bit.ly/2ElSknr>

REBUILDING OFFICER RESILIENCY: FREE ONLINE TREATMENT GUIDE

American Military University, in collaboration with PoliceOne and CorrectionsOne, created this free treatment guide that aims to break down barriers and provide information about what is involved with seeking professional help. The articles are written by highly regarded experts who have dedicated their careers to helping those who help others. Find more information following this link: <http://bit.ly/2rCK8I4>

CHALLENGES IMPLEMENTING, MAINTAINING, AND REPLICATING THE COGNITIVE COMMUNITY MODEL IN CORRECTIONS

In 2003 and 2006 respectively, the Virginia De-

partment of Corrections (VADOC) began two pilot programs (one male and one female offender group) to evaluate the potential of the Cognitive Community model. This innovative reentry program places 40 to 90 offenders together in a structured and supportive communal environment to learn healthy habits, better understand their errant thinking, develop positive social skills, and ultimately change their behavior. The outcome of the pilot programs showed outstanding promise. For the female group, only 2.5 percent of offenders returned to custody after three years compared to an average of over 30 percent of females in the general offender population. For the male group, 7.9 percent returned to custody after three years, compared to an average of almost 40 percent. These positive recidivism results built confidence in the effectiveness of the program and VADOC administrators agreed to expand the Cognitive Community model to other facilities in the state. Initially, 15 facilities were selected as intensive reentry sites to house offenders within 12 to 18 months of release. Read more on the challenges here: <http://bit.ly/2QLj1ZF>

INCARCERATION TRENDS IN US, VERA INSTITUTE OF JUSTICE

The Incarceration Trends Project aims to inform the public dialogue, advance research, and help guide change by providing easily accessible information on jail and prison populations in every U.S. county. The centerpiece of the project is an interactive data tool, available at: <http://bit.ly/2GgTdJM>, that can be used for reference and measurement by justice system stakeholders and others looking to understand how their county uses jail and prison incarceration and how it compares to others over time. The tool allows users to explore particular problems within their jurisdiction—such as excessive growth or racial or ethnic disparities, among others.

SHARING BEHAVIORAL HEALTH INFORMATION ACROSS JUSTICE AND HEALTH SYSTEMS: OPPORTUNITIES IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

In this study, Vera researchers worked with six gov-
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HIGHLIGHTS OF INTERNATIONAL NEWS

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ernment agencies in the District of Columbia to study the availability and location of behavioral health information held for a cohort of people who were arrested in October 2012. Key Takeaway: Behavioral health information was generated widely throughout the justice and health systems and the majority of the arrest cohort had pre-existing information relating to mental health and substance use issues. Expanding access to this data could greatly inform agency decisions. You can read the data brief here: <http://bit.ly/2RZsjOR> or the full report here: <http://bit.ly/2LiCzz4>

THE UNIQUE WAY IN WHICH THE DUTCH TREAT MENTALLY ILL PRISONERS

In the Netherlands, criminals with mental illness are treated completely differently from many other countries. Melissa Hogenboom visits a Dutch prison to find out how. Globally, this is rare. In countries like the UK and US, prisoners with mental health conditions often end up in the general prison population. But in the Netherlands prisoners are streamlined into specific segments following a charge. The idea is that this way, they can receive the proper, and particular,

care they need. Read more in the article at: <https://bbc.in/2ED2JMC>

RESEARCH SUMMARIES

Waypoint Research Institute is providing research summaries that are a brief, non-technical outline of recent research results. The first summaries that are now available at www.waypointcentre.ca focus on trauma among psychiatric workers, quantifying work-related psychosocial risk factors and as needed medication use for anxiety. These are excellent summaries that may be informative to newsletter readers, especially those working in mental health treatment settings.

VIDEOS:

- Chile looks for new approaches for incarcerated women: <https://youtu.be/drErP7R4b20>
- On Costa Rica prison reform: <https://vimeo.com/221738845>
- On Panama prison reform: <https://vimeo.com/133454889>

Call for Papers - *Special Issue:*

STRENGTHS, DESISTANCE, AND RECIDIVISM:

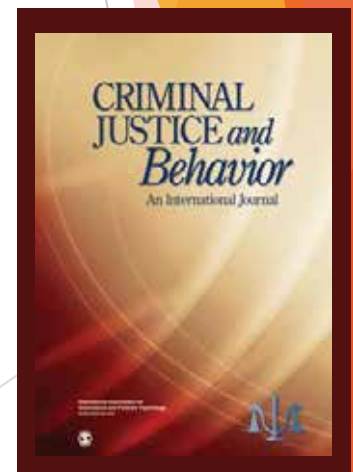
EMPIRICAL INVESTIGATIONS OF THEORY AND ASSESSMENT PRACTICES

Guest Editor

DR. CALVIN M. LANGTON UNIVERSITY OF WINDSOR, CANADA

Submissions Due May 31, 2019

Click here for more details »



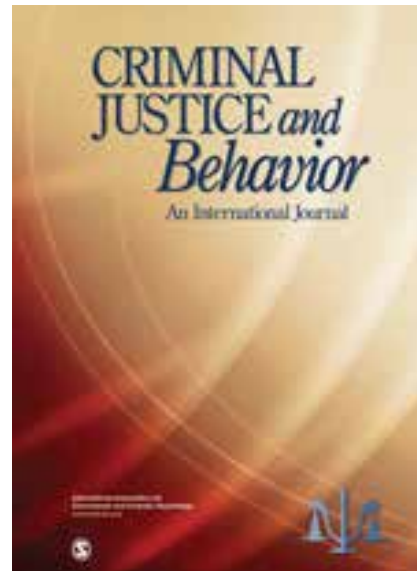
IACFP BYLAWS RATIFIED

IACFP Bylaws Revisions were overwhelmingly approved by the members who voted by November 1, 2018. Therefore, the revised bylaws were ratified as of November 2, 2018.

SAGE Track

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2019 ASIAN CONFERENCE OF CRIMINAL & OPERATIONS PSYCHOLOGY SET FOR JULY 9-12

ACCOP2019
SINGAPORE
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Call for Paper

[Home / Call for Paper](#)

You are invited to present at the ACCOP 2019 Conference. We welcome proposals related to the below conference tracks. Kindly stay tuned for the submission details.

The deadline for submission is 31 January 2019.

Conference Tracks:

- Violent Extremism and Terrorism
- Cybercrime, Security and Insider Threat
- Critical Incident Leadership
- S&S Secure: Psychology of Community Engagement and Trust
- Psychology of Community Cohesion and Resilience
- Leadership and HR
- Crime, Investigative and Forensic Psychology
- Rehabilitation and Correctional Psychology
- Occupational and Organisational Health Psychology
- Operations and Training Psychology
- Counselling and Clinical Psychology



The 4th Asian Conference of Criminal and Operations Psychology (ACCOP) will be held in Singapore from 9th to 12th July 2019. This conference serves as a platform for psychologists, officers, academia from international, regional and local arenas of public safety work to meet and exchange ideas or information. We will like to encourage you and your colleagues/students to attend the ACCOP 2019 and present a paper. One of the key objectives of ACCOP is to showcase psychology in Singapore and to enhance community sharing and learning.

Theme

The theme of ACCOP 2019 is 'Prepared for Evolving Threats: the Role of Behavioural Sciences'. ACCOP 2019 offers law enforcement, corrections and security professionals, practitioners, academics, behavioural scientists and aspiring students a platform to engage in robust exchanges on a wide range of topics related to criminal and operations psychology, and application of behavioural sciences in Home Team operations.

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ASIAN CONFERENCE

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Topics

ACCOP 2019 would feature a list of renowned international keynote speakers, covering emerging topics relevant to Home Team operations. There would also be pre-conference workshops where participants can be equipped with behavioural sciences knowledge and skills. The conference tracks in ACCOP 2019 includes:

- Counselling and Clinical Psychology
- Crime, Investigative and Forensic Psychology
- Critical Incident Leadership
- Cybercrime, Security and Insider Threat
- Leadership and HR
- Occupational and Organisational Health Psychology
- Operations and Training Psychology
- Psychology of Community Cohesion and Resilience
- Rehabilitation and Correctional Psychology
- SGSecure; Psychology of Community Engagement and Trust
- Violent Extremism and Terrorism
- Multidisciplinary Perspectives

Call for Papers

We welcome proposals related to the conference tracks and would strongly encourage law enforcement,

corrections and security practitioners (i.e., police and prison officers, fire fighters and paramedics, security personnel), academics and students to present papers in ACCOP. Attached is a copy of the paper submission details for your reference, and the deadline for submission is 31st January 2019. Please email us (MHA_ACCOP@mha.gov.sg) or visit the ACCOP 2019 event website (www.accop.com.sg) for more details.

Administrative Details

The conference will be held at Hotel Parkroyal on Beach Road, 7500 Beach Road, Singapore, Singapore 199591 (www.panpacific.com/en/hotels-and-resorts/pr-beach-road.html). The conference venue is at the heart of Singapore, minutes away from Bugis MRT, providing convenient access to the Central Business District, tourist attractions and shopping locations. The conference fee (for all attending delegates including presenters) is estimated to be SGD500-700. The confirmed details will be made available on the ACCOP website in due time (estimated January 2019).

Contact Details

ACCOP website : www.accop.com.sg

Email us: MHA_ACCOP@mha.gov.sg

Follow us : www.facebook.com/ACCOP2019

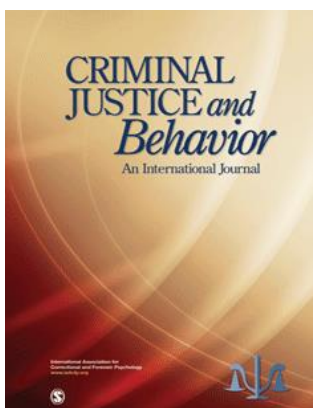
CALL FOR PAPERS – SPECIAL ISSUE: “SMART DECARCERATION” POLICIES, PROGRAMS, AND INTERVENTIONS

Guest Editors

MATT EPPERSON University of Chicago

AMY BLANK WILSON University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

GINA FEDOCK University of Chicago



Submissions Due May 31, 2019

Click here for more details »

OPPORTUNITY TO CONTRIBUTE YOUR OPINION AND EXPERIENCE

The American Probation and Parole Association (APPA) Women and Girls Committee is distributing a timely and important survey to obtain information on the implementation of gender-responsive policies in community corrections, including successes, barriers, and needed supports. The APPA enacted a policy statement in 2016 calling for the implementation of gender-responsive approaches in the field of community corrections. This survey will inform the Associa-

tion's efforts to support its members in their efforts to enhance policies, practices, and outcomes with women and girls.

Since many of the readers of this newsletter may have opinions and experiences that are important to the survey's results, the link for the survey is being included here. To access the survey, go to: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/APPAsurvey>.

U.S. Department of Justice



Federal Bureau of Prisons

Become a part of our Team!

Clinical/Counseling Psychology

Call today or go to our website at: bop.gov

The Federal Bureau of Prisons is recruiting doctoral level clinical or counseling psychologists, licensed or license-eligible for general staff psychology and drug abuse treatment positions.

Entry level salaries range from \$59,000 - \$95,000 commensurate with experience, and benefits include 10 paid holidays, 13 annual leave and 13 sick leave days per year; life and health insurance plans; and in most cases, clinical supervision for license-eligible psychologists.

The Bureau of Prisons is the nation's leading corrections agency and currently supports a team of over 600 psychologists providing psychology services in over 120 institutions nationwide.

Interested applicants are strongly encouraged to contact the following Regional Psychology Services Administrators to learn more about the application process and potential vacancies.

Mid Atlantic and Southeast Regions
Northeast and South Central Regions
Western and North Central Regions

Chad Lohman, Ph.D. (678) 686-1488
Phil Magaletta, Ph.D. (202) 514-2804
Tracy Joseph, Ph.D. (202) 514-4639

For more detailed information on these regional vacancies, please visit our website at: bop.gov under the Careers section (see top navigation bar).

Public Law 100-238 precludes initial appointment of candidates after they have reached their 37th birthday. However, waivers can be obtained for highly-qualified applicants in this field prior to their 40th birthday. To qualify for a position, the applicant must pass a background investigation and urinalysis.

The Bureau is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Note: Qualified preference eligible may now apply and be considered for vacancies regardless of whether they meet the maximum age requirements identified at 5 U.S.C. 3307.

Homeward—Life in the Year After Prison

**Author
Bruce Western**

**Book Review
by Cherie Townsend,
IACFP Executive Director**



ISBN: 9780871549556

In May 2018, a colleague recommended *Homeward* by Bruce Western. It was reported to be one of the most important books of our time and “worth paying attention to”. Based on that recommendation, this book does not disappoint the reader. It chronicles the work of researchers at Harvard University who began the Boston Reentry Study in 2012 and completed it in 2014. They interviewed 122 men and women who were leaving the Massachusetts state prisons and returning to neighborhoods in Boston. These were substantive interviews over a period of time, i.e., a week before prison release, two weeks later in the community and then at two, six and twelve months after release. Dr. Western hoped that this study would make a contribution by “capturing the texture of life during the transition from prison to community, particularly in the first days and months, and particularly for the most disadvantaged”. *Homeward* documents that the researchers were successful in making this contribution. And, it is this contribution that makes it a must read for practitioners.

Two-thirds of the study participants reported histories of drug addiction and mental illness. The prevalence of severe mental illness—schizophrenia or bipolar disorder—was 8.2 percent or four times the rate estimated for the general population (2.2 percent). Their struggles as they reentered Boston neighborhoods provide insight into not only why they are not successful but also what prisons contribute to those failures. “The period immediately after prison release was a time of unique stress for (all) the people we spoke to. The tempo of life in free society was

RUSSELL SAGE FOUNDATION

For more information about *Homeward—Life in the Year After Prison*,
U.S. or International clients may go to: www.russellsage.org

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HOMeward—LIFE IN THE YEAR

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disorienting in those first weeks, and respondents often experienced anxiety, fear and depression as they confronted the everyday challenges of public transport, new technologies and the many small tasks involved in finding a place in society (p. 6)."

As the book describes the supports, the transitions, and resources available to the formerly incarcerated who participated in this study, it paints a bleak picture for those who are dealing with the challenges of drug addiction and mental illness. These individuals were most isolated from their families, received less family support overall, experienced fewer rituals of return (such as welcome-home parties), had temporary or marginal housing, had less money upon release, were less likely to become employed, and experienced greater isolation and material hardship. These individuals also reported worse physical health both in prison and in the year after release.

One of the critical aspects of the Boston Reentry Study was that there was a response rate of 94 percent over the five interview waves and 91 percent at the final exit interview. The researchers used four strategies to keep respondents engaged and in contact between the interviews. The study provided interview incentives. The researchers had regular phone check-ins and sent letters to respondents. The researchers got a list of secondary contacts (friends and family members) to help them stay in contact with the respondents. And, they used justice agencies and community contacts to reestablish contact when respondents were missing. The reasons that study respondents moved into a category of "contact insecurity" were associated with such things as no phone, lost phone, changed phone, unstable or unknown address, new charge or arraignment and entered prison or jail. In spite of these things, the study maintained an incredible retention rate. What does that mean for those professionals who are supporting reentry efforts for the formerly incarcerated? It means that they have to have redundant strategies to maintain contact with individuals. And, they have to develop a culture that promotes rapport and connectedness with the formerly incarcerated individuals, just as the researchers did in this study.

The expectations that we have of individuals who have been incarcerated and then reenter our communities, particularly those facing the challenges of drug addiction and mental illness, need to be reevaluated. As noted by Western as he described Carla's life, "The limiting effects of physical disability and its relationship to self-destructive drug use and mental illness challenge how we think about the willpower and capacity of people who go to prison. Much of the agency—the will to change—that even our most humane rehabilitative programs ask of people in prison is compromised by precisely the physical and mental difficulties that placed them at risk of incarceration in the first place. The people we ask to make the largest changes in their lives often have the least capacity to do so. This is a profound paradox for even the most progressive visions of imprisonment and correctional policy (p. 60)."

Homeward chronicles the lifetime of violence that most of the respondents had experienced, both as victims and as perpetrators. The first conclusion that was drawn is the great prevalence of violence among the respondents. Secondly, respondents played many different roles in the violence that surrounded them. And, finally, the main sites of violence—the home, school, the neighborhood, and the prison—reveal the influence of poverty. The book also chronicles the differential impact of income, gender, race and racism. Race was, perhaps not surprisingly, a factor in the crimes for which respondents were convicted. It is interesting that while the life trajectories varied across the three racial groups represented in the study, it wasn't associated with patterns of recidivism.

As Western writes about criminal justice as social justice, he says, "It is not police, courts, and the threat of punishment that create public safety, but rather the bonds of community produced by a raft of social institutions—families, schools, employers, churches, and neighborhood groups...Indeed, the reentry study respondents and their kin richly revealed the orderly and sustaining effects of family, education, work and community life (p.181)." One of the key findings of

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the study was the crucial role of family support. And, the main supporters were older women—mothers, grandmothers, aunts and sisters.

Homeward provides practitioners and policy makers with not only the study results but also many of the stories of respondents that coalesce into a rich, textured insight into the lives of those we are seeking to help. Some readers will be encouraged by Bruce Western's perspectives on mass incarceration, poverty and justice; others will be distracted by it. The contribution that this book makes for all readers is an

insight on the root causes of the chaos and violence that the formerly incarcerated experience upon reentry. We can learn from and apply knowledge about these causes to improve our policies, practices, and results. For the formerly incarcerated, especially those who are more vulnerable due to mental illness, this may be a first step to offer hope for greater success as they return home to their communities.

Book Rating: ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

ICPA DISTINGUISHED SCHOLAR LECTURE: PAUL GENDREAU, OC, PH.D.



The IACFP supports the Distinguished Scholar Lecture at the annual conference of the International Corrections and Prisons Association. This year the lecture was given by Dr. Paul Gendreau. The title of his lecture was, "What We Need to Know About Prisons: Enhancing Community Corrections". His lecture examined the effects of prison life, treatment

in prisons and correctional management. The lecture was grounded in research and Dr. Gendreau's substantive experience. It was also delivered in a way that captured the audience's attention and challenged their thinking. The slides from Dr. Gendreau's lecture can be accessed at www.icpa.org.

ETHICAL ISSUES IN FORENSIC AND CORRECTIONAL PSYCHOLOGY

Neal, Tess M., "Forensic Psychology and Correctional Psychology: Distinct but Related Subfields of Psychological Science and Practice," *American Psychologist*, 2018, Vol.73, No. 5, 651-662. Excerpt printed with permission (p.654-655).

The practical and ethical contexts of forensic and correctional settings are unique, with important considerations for ecologically valid research and ethically sound practice. These contexts challenge psychology's general ethical standards. The moral and ethical foundations of the legal system are different than in psychology, and when these competing ethical foundations intersect, multiple perspective must be weighed (e.g., individual vs. societal rights; Candilis & Neal, 2014). For instance, forensic psychology largely serves the interests of law and society rather than individuals (e.g., providing information to resolve a legal issue to protect society may harm an individual defendant), and correctional psychology must serve both health and security missions that are not always compatible (e.g., sharing offender's sensitive communications in the interest of institutional safety; diagnostic assessments to determine whether an offender is well enough to be placed into solitary confinement). These examples demonstrate that the "do no harm" ethic is too simplistic to characterize ethical obligations in forensic and correctional psychology, and ethics are evolving in these subfields (Appelbaum, 1997;

Candilis & Neal, 2014). These differences between the forensic and correctional applications and psychology more generally can influence the public's perception of the entire profession of psychology

In addition, there are distinct legal issues with profound implications for psychological science and practice in each of these subfields. For example, people in a preadjudicated legal status are not convicted: They retain their legal rights such as their constitutionally guaranteed Fifth Amendment right against self-incrimination. The legal status has critical implications for the informed consent process a psychologist must go through with a forensic evaluatee and for the information disclosed by the psychologist in a forensic report and in testimony. In contrast, once a person is convicted of a felony, their legally recognized rights change: Postadjudicated convicted felons lose many individual legal rights. As such, offenders are in a particularly vulnerable position. Thus, the unique practical and ethical issues psychologists in correctional settings must contend with are distinct from what psychologists in forensic settings deal with, and they are distinct from the practical and ethical contexts of other areas of psychology as well.

What are the ethical issues that you face in your work? Please submit them to: executivedirectori-acfp@gmail.com so they can be responded to in the next newsletter.



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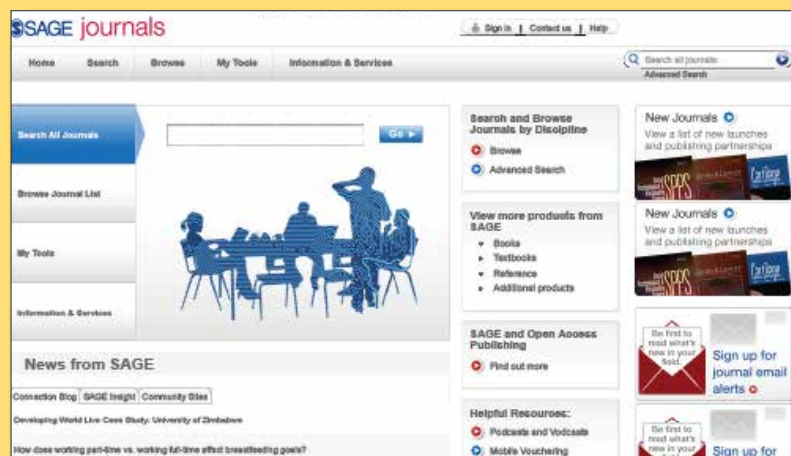
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