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ADDRESSING SERIOUS VIOLENCE IN THE IRISH PRISON SERVICE: EXPLORING THE EXPERIENCES OF PRISONERS AND PRISON OFFICERS



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In 2015, following numerous violent incidents, the Irish State Claims Agency (SCA) conducted a review of prisoner assaults on operational staff in the Irish Prison Service (IPS). Among other findings, the SCA identified that a small cohort of prisoners, often with severe behavioural and mental health issues, were responsible for the majority of such incidents. A smaller subset of these prisoners, who engage in repeated serious violence towards others, are designated under the 'Violent and Disruptive Prisoner' policy, and referred to locally as VDPs. Since its establishment in 2014, only five prisoners have been managed under the VDP policy—three remain in prison, one now resides in the State's only forensic hospital, and one has since been released from prison. These prisoners represent less than 1% of the 3,674 men currently imprisoned in the country's nine medium and high security

male prisons.

Operating in accordance with Rule 62 of the Irish Prison Rules (2007), VDPs are managed separately from the general prison population. However, the exact nature of this management has undergone substantial reform. Until recently, practice was operationally driven, concerned primarily with protecting others from the risk of violence these prisoners pose. Current practice, on the other hand, has become psychologically-informed, aiming to positively intervene with these prisoners to reduce their violent behaviour. The National Violence Reduction Unit (NVRU), which opened in November 2018, was developed by the IPS to address this aim.

I commenced my doctoral studies in October 2017, resulting in the unique opportunity to conduct two studies examining the management of these prisoners both before and after the implementation of the NVRU. Adopting primarily qualitative methodologies, these studies explore the experiences of both the prisoners being managed under the VDP policy, and the Prison Officers managing them. The first of these studies commenced in April 2018, and while data collection is complete, analysis is

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INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR CORRECTIONAL & FORENSIC PSYCHOLOGY

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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 Cherie Townsend at executivedirectoriacfp@gmail.com.

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May 2019 issue—

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ongoing. Through individual, semi-structured interviews, this study aimed to generate a cross-sectional snapshot of practice under the VDP policy prior to the opening of the NVRU. The second study of the project commenced in March 2019, and will continue until October 2021. Through multiple interviews at regular intervals, this study aims to gain a more in-depth understanding of the experiences of both prisoners and Prison Officers in the NVRU over time. With this research ongoing, I am limited in what I can say of these experiences at this point. However, my goal for the remainder of this article is to develop a picture of what previous and current practice under the VDP policy looks like.

Previous practice under the VDP policy can be described by three defining characteristics. Firstly, 'VDPs' were managed with increased security, most notable being the use of barrier handling. Barrier handling involves a Control and Restraint (C&R) team of staff dressed in Personal Protection Equipment (PPE), including body suits, helmets, shields and video record-

Prison Officers describing the personal impact of managing prisoners under the VDP policy, prior to the implementation of the NVRU

"I become a different Officer on that side of the door than on the main landing."

"Your empathy goes [...] If I was walking down the street and I seen someone stabbed [...] it just wouldn't be a big shock to me."

"If and when he gets out [...] myself and my family aren't safe."

"Sure I don't see him. I talk to him through the door. There's nothing stressful about it."

"It would take a very resilient person for it to not have an impact on them. But I'd say if you were to talk to a group of people, they would never admit that."

Prisons describing the personal impact of being managed under the VDP policy, prior to the implementation of the NVRU

"It's hard going being on your own, especially when you just see five suits opening your door every day. It's not a good experience. It's not good for the head either."

"See, I'm only one person [...] and they're a handful. So that straight away to me is a threat signal."

"You can only get frustrated, you can only get very ... tense."

"It's the worst thing I've been on, and I'm in jail a long time."

"As time goes on, I get more hardened."

ing equipment. This team was responsible for most interaction with these prisoners, from providing meals in cell, to facilitating out-of-cell activities. Secondly, VDPs typically received only the basic features of the prison regime, namely phone calls, visits, showers, and exercise. Engagement with services and programmes was restricted, and if offered, occurred on a one-to-one basis. Thirdly, as they were generally not permitted to associate with other prisoners, and engagement with staff was minimal, VDPs experienced extremely limited social interaction.

Practice in the NVRU contrasts starkly, and can be described as psychologically-informed at multiple levels. At the management level, the NVRU is co-led by an Operational Governor and Senior Psychologist, who reach balanced and joint consensus on all decisions. At the staff level, a designated team of Prison Officers have been selected to work solely in the NVRU, and trained in an approach grounded in psychological knowledge and skill. Barrier handling has been eliminated as standard practice, with Officers relying on relational

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security. As such, positive staff-prisoner engagement is a core feature of practice, whether through informal social interaction, or structured interventions co-facilitated by the Psychologist. Acknowledging the therapeutic nature of this new role, Officers receive regular group and individual psychological supervision. At the prisoner level, a more purposeful and meaningful regime involves the increased use of facilities (e.g. gym) and services (e.g. education), as well as intensive psychological assessment and intervention. In addition to increased staff-prisoner engagement, prisoners are permitted to interact with each other, as they progress through the unit. It is through this approach that the NVRU aims to address its goals of (a) reducing the violent behaviour of prisoners, whilst developing pro-social alternatives and increasing psychological well-being and relational outcomes, and (b) improving the competence, confidence and attitudes of staff working with these prisoners.

Studying the experiences of the prisoners and Prison Officers in the NVRU over the coming years is vitally important. Not only does it allow the development of these experiences to be tracked as the NVRU

continues to develop itself, but it also provides some insight into the effectiveness of the NVRU in achieving its aims at this early stage. Whilst not much can be said of this effectiveness at this point, it is undeniable that the NVRU represents an innovative approach to a serious issue. So, too, does this applied research project represent a valuable opportunity to advance evidence-based practice and policy informed by the experiences of those at the core of the NVRU—the prisoners and Prison Officers.

Acknowledgements

I would like to acknowledge the International Association for Correctional and Forensic Psychology for awarding me a travel scholarship to present my work at the 20th International Corrections and Prisons Association Conference; and subsequently inviting me to write this article. I would also like to acknowledge the Irish Prison Service (IPS) for both funding and facilitating my doctoral research. Finally, my thanks goes to the prisoners and Prison Officers in the IPS who have shared and continue to share their experiences with me.



Session Topics

- AAPL Practice Resource on Prescribing in Corrections
- Alternatives to Restrictive Housing for Seriously Mentally Ill Inmates
- An Increasing Call for Testimony of Correctional Mental Health Professionals
- Approaches to Managing Jail Mental Health Populations
- Behavior Health Assessment of the Hunger Striker
- Community-Based Discharge Planning Program for 90 Days Post Reentry
- Complex PTSD: The Legacy of Early Repeated Traumatization and Implications for Correctional Settings
- Correctional Staff Response to Trauma: How to Take Care of Yourself
- Involuntary Medication Hearings: Understanding Federal and State Due Process Requirements
- Jail-Based Felony Restoration of Competency Treatment Comes of Age: 7 Years of Multisite Outcomes
- Mental Health Implications of Sleep Disorders
- Mental Health Treatment in Segregation
- Metabolic Syndrome and Psychotropic Meds: A Multi-systems Approach
- Performance Measures for Quality Improvement Studies
- Rising Above Resistance: Engaging Defiance in Youth and Families
- The Art of Detecting and Documenting Feigned Mental Illness
- The Opioid Epidemic and Medication-Assisted Treatment
- Transgender in Prison: The Multifaceted Role of Mental Health
- Transgender Treatment in Corrections: A Case Study
- Schizophrenia: Treatment, Management and Reentry
- Suicide in Jails and Prisons: Making Sense of the Data
- Symptoms of Mental Illness and Substance Abuse: How Do They Differ?
- Targeting Brain Injury and Mental Illness: Clinical-Correctional Collaboration
- Trauma-Informed Care: How to Better Support Our Patients
- Treatment of Serious Mental Illness in an Intensive Psychiatric Unit
- Understanding Auditory and Visual Hallucinations: Research and Practice
- Will the Real Bipolar Disorder Please Stand Up?

For more information and to register, go to:
<https://mental-health-conference.ncchc.org>

REST IN PEACE
EDITOR EMERITUS
ROBERT “BOB” R. SMITH
FEBRUARY 20, 1940 – MARCH 26, 2019

Robert “Bob” Smith, an International Association for Correctional and Forensic Psychology (IACFP) pioneer, leader, colleague, and friend, passed away at his home in Fortson, GA, surrounded by his loving family on March 26, 2019, at 79 years of age. He is survived by his wife of 52 years, two children, two grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews.

Bob served in the U.S. Army for 30 years, (seven years on active duty and 23 years in the reserves) retiring as a Colonel from Fort Benning, GA, where he served as Chief of the Corrections Division. He has numerous military awards and accomplishments, to include a master’s degree and a doctorate from the U.S. Army War College in Carlisle, PA.

As a civilian, he received: a bachelor’s degree in liberal arts and a master’s in science education from Syracuse University, NY; another master’s in correctional administration and criminology from American University, Washington DC; and a doctorate in counselor education and psychology from Auburn



University, Auburn, AL. He worked with juvenile and adult offenders for over 30 years. He was also the author of numerous academic journal articles, books, and book chapters ranging from home furlough in the U.S. to applications of rational emotive therapy and behavioral modification with offenders.

Bob was actively engaged as a leader in IACFP for over 30 years, starting in 1986 as the editor of *The Correctional Psychologist*. He edited the “Newsletter” for the next 15 years, at which time he became President of the American Association for Correctional Psychology which is now the IACFP. He served as President for two years and then once again edited the “Newsletter” for the next 22 years.

Bob’s leadership, scholarship, and service have been an integral part of IACFP’s history and psychology’s legacy in the criminal justice arena. His friendship, commitment, professionalism, and passion for working with one of the most disenfranchised populations in the world will be greatly missed.

A CELEBRATION OF THE LIFE OF DR. J. STEPHEN WORMITH

On March 28, 2019, Dr. J. Stephen Wormith passed away in Saskatoon, Canada. He had just joined the International Association for Correctional and Forensic Psychology Board (IACFP) as a member-at-large in January 2018. During his very brief time on the board, Steve had already provided leadership on increasing student membership and connecting the Association to the 4th North American Correctional and Criminal Justice Psychology Conference and the Canadian Psychological Association, Criminal Justice Psychology Section.



From IACFP President, Frank Porporino, Ph.D.:

Your IACFP Board was recently saddened by the loss of one of its own, Dr. Stephen (Big Steve) Wormith. In my case, I also lost a close colleague and dear friend of many years. Steve and I worked closely together in the early part of our careers, some 35 years ago, in adjoining offices, in what is now the Ministry of Public Safety Canada. Together with another colleague (Dr. Robert Cormier), we became the nucleus of a new Corrections Research Division. Those were exciting times as we enjoyed the privilege of conceiving and then executing research projects looking at some of the 'big' issues in corrections – the effects of long-term imprisonment, prison violence and overcrowding, parole decision-making, strategies for treatment of sex offenders ... etc. As he has done with everything else in his career, Steve threw himself into his work with heart and soul. He often would embarrass me by staying in the office much longer than I would. He was hard to keep up with. After a few years, we moved on, Steve deciding to try his hand at management and becoming the Deputy Superintendent (Treatment) at Rideau Correctional and Treatment Centre, at the time perhaps

one of the most progressive prisons in Canada. A researcher and scholar at heart, he moved on from that as well and eventually joined the University of Saskatchewan as Professor and Director of the Centre for Forensic Behavioral Science and Justice Studies. We stayed in touch. I would read some of his publications and was always impressed with his versatility in the topics he explored, and his thoroughness and open-minded-

ness on whatever issue he was addressing. The most recent piece of his I read was 'The Historical Roots, Current Status, and Future Applications of the Risk-Need-Responsivity Model (RNR),' a Chapter in the book *New Frontiers in Offender Treatment* (Springer, 2017). It was an excellent example highlighting why Steve will be remembered as a significant and sustaining member of what has come to be known as the 'Canadian School.'

Steve deserves to rest in peace after a brilliant career and an otherwise full life well lived. So long Big Guy, until we meet again!

We asked two other distinguished members of the Canadian School to pay their tributes as well, Dr. Paul Gendreau and Dr. Larry Motiuk.

To this day, I will always have in my mind an image of Don Andrews getting a high from an academic exchange with colleagues like Steve Wormith about phi coefficients. Like, as if they were trading baseball or hockey cards. Back in the 80s, he was affectionately referred to as the "myth-buster" because of a steadfast belief he held in adhering to the empirical evidence.

Throughout the 90s, a major objective for the Correctional Service of Canada (CSC) was the development and implementation of research-based

*Memories are there
to remind us of things
that have gone before."*

John Peter Read

DR. J. STEPHEN WORMITH

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correctional programs that reduce the propensity of offenders to re-offend. During that period, Canadian researchers like Steve enabled the Service to make significant advancements in this area.

In 2007, he wrote an influential article in CSC's Forum on Corrections Research entitled "Adhering to principles of effective correctional treatment: Academic musings of a former clinician and administrator." In that piece, his personal reflections about adherence to treatment principles were shared from the perspective of someone who had worn the shoes of a correctional administrator, clinician, and researcher.

My last official correspondence with Steve was in July 2018 about a chapter he was finishing on the presence of strengths in the Risk-Need-Responsivity (RNR) model. He was simply asking permission to include some of Don Andrews' comments about strengths that were articulated in *Compendium 2000 on Effective Correctional Programming* published by CSC.

Steve mentored numerous students and will be remembered as generous with his time for corrections' practitioners in Canada and worldwide. Those graduate students whose personal biographies had been intertwined with him will miss his passion, enthusiasm, and dry sense of humour. His vision and leadership for forensic psychology will continue through the many students he mentored and the many corrections' practitioners and administrators who were influenced by his work. He was a great Canadian always in support of good corrections.

Larry Motiuk, Ph.D.

Assistant Commissioner Policy,
Correctional Service Canada

In paying respects to a distinguished scholar such as Dr. Wormith, it is standard practice, and quite rightly so, to document what is readily known about him, such as his publications and research contributions to the best validated and clinically useful offender assessment inventory (i.e., LSI-R) and the dominant theory of offender

rehabilitation (i.e., risk-need-responsivity). In this memorial, however, I want to draw attention to some aspects of his professional life that are not generally known.

First, when behavior modification programs (e.g., token economies) were in vogue and the 'volunteer' agenda was a high-profile policy initiative, at least in Ontario corrections, he helped develop a treatment program that, viewed from today's correctional policy lens in North America, was truly remarkable. The program in question, a token economy program, was for the highest risk inmates who were the most troublesome to manage. The goal of the program was to produce toys for developmentally-delayed children at a nearby provincial 'hospital' and a day care setting for other children. Positive performance by the inmates in the program led to their receiving a number of social and material rewards. Not surprisingly, the prison witnessed a dramatic reduction in misconducts and obviously brought joy to the children.

The inmate graduates in the program then became eligible for temporary absences to serve as volunteers but with a twist to the usual volunteer model in corrections at the time, that is, the offenders became the volunteers delivering social services to clients (under the supervision of non-correctional staff-staff) to an adult Alzheimer's unit at the local psychiatric facility and the 'hospital' noted above.

Subsequently, Steve set the stage for the development of a state-of-the-art rehabilitation prison program based on the risk need responsivity theory of offender treatment that eventually produced the best recidivism results (based on a rigorous research design) of any prison treatment program published in the literature that I am aware of.

Later on, he accepted the onerous task of being responsible for psychological services for the Ontario Ministry of Correctional Services. Readers who have had administrative experience with a correctional system as big as Ontario can appreciate the work such a posting entailed—the ex-

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DR. J. STEPHEN WORMITH

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hausting travel, endless meetings, the pockets of resistance that one typically encounters in bureaucracies—yet he succeeded in advancing professionalism in settings where it was much needed.

And, throughout this period and the years afterwards when he became a faculty member at the University of Saskatchewan, he was a key figure in supporting forensic psychology and the rehabilitative ideal in general at the national level via various professional associations such as the Canadian

Psychological Association.

Why was he successful in these diverse endeavours? Because, in my view, he treated all stakeholders in our ‘business’ with respect, good humour, and a steadfastness in doing ‘the right thing’ to foster a humane ethos.

Paul Gendreau, O.C., Ph.D.

Professor Emeritus

University of New Brunswick

NEW FEATURE

The IACFP Board, in cooperation with Robert Morgan, Editor of *Criminal Justice and Behavior*, has invited authors to submit summaries of selected articles published in *CJB* to be published in the *IACFP Newsletter*. We hope that you find this new feature helpful to your professional development and practice. This

first summary is on “The Impact of Job Expectations, Workload and Autonomy on Work-Related Stress Among Prison Wardens in the United States,” *Criminal Justice and Behavior*, Volume: 46 issue: 1, page(s): 136-153. The article was first published online: September 28, 2018; Issue published: January 1, 2019.



**Leslie Leip,
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Factors Affecting Work-related Stress Among U.S. Prison Wardens

Prison wardens manage external pressures such as increasing judicial oversight, shifting public policies, and declining revenues. Wardens also face internal challenges such as conflicting job expectations, limited job autonomy, and overly heavy workloads. All these demands considerably affect work-related stress. Understanding factors related to warden workplace stress is critical for operating effective institutions and maintaining efficient operations, and imperative for assuring the wellbeing of prison wardens and their organizations. As a policy issue, identifying factors associated with job-related stress for prison wardens may improve individual and collective outcomes for both institutional staff and prison inmates. For these reasons, the importance of

examining workplace stress for wardens cannot be underestimated.

Three research questions informed this study designed to isolate elements that contribute to workplace stress for prison wardens: 1) To what degree do perceptions of conflicting job expectations affect the likelihood of prison warden stress? 2) To what degree do perceptions of job autonomy affect job-related stress among prison wardens? 3) To what degree does an unmanageable workload affect the likelihood of increased stress of prison wardens? To answer these questions, data was used from a nationwide survey of prison wardens funded by the National Institute of Corrections, drawn from a comprehensive list of 877 prison warden names and email addresses in the United States. A total of 313 online surveys from 43 states

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NEW FEATURE

were completed, for a 36% response rate.

Using ordered logistic regression, we statistically examined the impact of job autonomy, conflicting job expectations, and workload on work-related stress among prison wardens. First, we found a significant negative relationship between job autonomy and work-related stress. In other words, as job autonomy increased, work-related stress decreased. Though the relationship was relatively weak, this finding may imply that when wardens perceive independence to do what they think is best for the institution and its inmates, they experience less stress. The decreased association with stress may also suggest that wardens believe autonomy signifies being trusted and valued by superiors to do their job.

Second, the results showed a significant and positive relationship between conflicting job expectations and work-related stress. It is not surprising that a warden who feels the pressure of conflicting job expectations may feel more stressed when trying to effectively manage the institution. It is also possible that role conflict is exacerbated by autonomy—that is, when autonomy and role conflict are both high, a warden may feel left without clear direction and without a clear organizational mandate to meet job expectations, resulting in higher stress. On the other hand, it is possible that higher autonomy might also mediate the impact of conflicting role expectations, as the warden is empowered to act in whatever way he or she feels is best for the institution when direction and support from superiors is lacking. Further research on this would be valuable.

Third, the results also showed a significant and positive relationship between unmanageable workloads and stress on the job, suggesting that prison wardens who perceive themselves to have unmanageable workloads also tend to experience more work-related stress. While this finding is somewhat predictable, it is not clear if wardens presume their workload to be unmanageable because they feel they have too many tasks to accomplish, or that the tasks themselves are perceived to be too difficult. Either of these might result in a sense of overwhelm, but where the former may reflect just feeling inundated by not enough time or staff to get it all done, the latter may evoke feelings of insecurity or incompetence that seem more like a personal shortcoming. Again, this would be an important issue for future research clarification.

The research also examined the impact of institution

size and demographic characteristics on work-related stress. The size of the institution had a positive and statistically significant relationship with work-related stress, but the relationship was weak, suggesting that while governing a larger institution may affect workplace stress, it is not a strong predictor. The findings showed no significant relationships between work-related stress and age, gender, education level, or num-

Upper management would be well-served by taking advantage of data that identifies causes of warden stress, using it to product policy that encourages more productive, healthier, and less volatile prison environments with less burnout, absenteeism, and higher morale.

ber of years served as a prison warden.

Overall, conflicting job expectations, perceived job autonomy, and having an unmanageable workload are all important elements in better understanding job-related stress for prison wardens. Understanding the specific factors that contribute to job-related warden stress may help correctional policy makers better understand inmate and staff well-being, perhaps leading to better overall organizational health. Upper management would be well-served by taking advantage of data that identifies causes of warden stress, using it to produce policy that encourages more productive, healthier and less volatile prison environments with less burnout, absenteeism and higher morale.

The importance of this study lies in its ability to help isolate factors that affect job stress among prison wardens. Understanding these elements can potentially result in more effective organizational support, management and human resources policy to improve conditions for prison wardens, staff and inmates. Consistent with previous research, the outcomes presented here indicate that work conditions are far more important than personal factors in understanding workplace stress. The finding that job-related stress was associated with perceived job expectations, autonomy, and workload are not only important elements in understanding the causes of organizational stress in carceral institutions, but likely have important implications for a prison warden's ability to support and manage both staff and inmates.

ENHANCING CASE MANAGEMENT THROUGH RISK RE-ASSESSMENT: DEVELOPMENT OF THE DYNAMIC RISK ASSESSMENT FOR OFFENDER REENTRY (DRAOR)



Ralph C. Serin

Carleton University

Following from static risk assessment approaches, a subsequent iteration in the field was the focus on dynamic risks (i.e., criminogenic needs) that both assigns risk propensities but also identifies case planning and treatment targets (Andrews & Bonta, 2010). These instruments are often referred to as third or fourth generation risk measures (Bonta, 1996), depending on the extent to which they apply across various decision points within the criminal justice system. The majority of these measures appropriately focus on the Central 8 (Andrews & Bonta, 2010) and assist users to attend to Risk-Need-Responsivity principles by identifying both risk and needs. In this respect, dynamic risk instruments are intended to identify risk state, not risk status which is derived from static risk assessments (Douglas and Skeem, 2005)

As the field continues to evolve, two issues have become apparent. First, many of the criminogenic needs are somewhat resistant to spontaneous change, meaning re-assessments may be somewhat insensitive to change, especially as measured. Second, currently few of these measures explicitly attend to strengths or protective factors, which are increasingly of interest given their purported influence on correctional client outcomes (Maruna, 2010). They represent internal strengths (e.g., prosocial identity) and external assets (e.g., social support) that shield the offender from the effects of dynamic risk (Rutter, 1985; Ullrich & Coid, 2011). Potentially, the more protective factors one possesses, the more he or she will be shielded from risk (Lodewijks, de Ruiter, & Doreleijers, 2010).

Description of the DRAOR

The Dynamic Risk Assessment for Offender Reentry (DRAOR, Serin, 2007, 2017) was derived from a theoretical lifecourse model of offender change (Serin & Lloyd, 2009; Serin, Lloyd & Hanby, 2013) that situates both risk and desistance factors within the context of motivation to change and was developed to address these two issues.

The DRAOR is a 19-item structured case management scale designed to assist community parole officers (POs) in the assessment of offender risk throughout supervision. Specifically, the DRAOR allows community POs to assess their client at every supervision contact, helping them create individualized and time dependent case plans and risk management strategies based on real-time changes in offender risk. The DRAOR focuses on risk state, aiding POs in the assessment of individual variations in risk. Essentially, the DRAOR is intended to act like a barometer, measuring changes in atmospheric pressure and alerting the assessor to upcoming stormy weather (i.e., community failure).

The DRAOR evaluates psychosocial and contextual variables across Stable, Acute, and Protective domains, incorporating both the nature of association between items and recidivism (i.e., risk factors versus protective factors) and the degree of stability among risk factors (i.e., stable versus acute risk factors). The six Stable items reflect attitude, trait, and behavior patterns. Attitude items include attitudes towards authority (defiant attitudes toward those in authority) and sense of entitlement (self-centeredness). Trait items include impulse control (acting without forethought) and problem solving (poor ability to find prosocial solutions to problems). Behavior items include peer associations (spending time with antisocial others) and attachments with others (social disconnection or problematic interpersonal attachments).

Acute risk factors are also changeable factors asso-

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DYNAMIC RISK ASSESSMENT FOR OFFENDER REENTRY (DRAOR)

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ciated with recidivism risk, but change occurs more rapidly than with stable risk factors, usually taking place over hours or days. The seven Acute items include situation, mood, and behavior factors. Situation items include opportunity/access to victims (opportunity to offend), employment (unemployed), interpersonal relationships (problems in close interpersonal relationships), and living situation (lack of accommodations). Mood items include anger/hostility (irritability or rage/behaving antagonistically toward others) and negative mood (depressed or anxious mood). The behavior item captures substance abuse (use of illegal drugs and substances banned by supervision order).

Protective factors are internal and external variables that may reduce the risk of reoffending. The DRAOR Protective domain comprises strengths that exist without corresponding risk factors, with the six items reflecting prosocial perceptions and prosocial connectedness. Prosocial perceptions items include responsive to advice (open to guidance from prosocial others), prosocial identity (views self as oriented toward non-criminal goals), and costs/benefits (views prosocial options more favorably than criminal actions). Social connectedness items include high expectations (high sense of hope in ability to make prosocial changes), social support (availability of prosocial others), and social control (internal investment in prosocial goals approved by others).

Current Research Findings

The DRAOR has been administered to over 24,000 male and female community-supervised offenders in New Zealand and Iowa since 2009. It has been utilized to predict recidivism among high-risk offenders (Yesberg & Polaschek, 2015), sex offenders (Averill, 2016; Smeth, 2013), and samples representing diverse offender-types, including violent, nonviolent, and sex offenders (Chadwick, 2014; Hanby, 2013; Lloyd, 2015; Serin et al., 2016; Tamatea & Wilson, 2009; Yesberg, Scanlan, Hanby, Serin, & Polaschek, 2015). Overall, the DRAOR *Total*, *Stable*, and *Acute* scales have demonstrated small to moderate significant correlations with several validated static and dynamic risk

assessment instruments in the positive direction and AUC's in the .65-.68 range. As well, the DRAOR appears to add incremental predictive validity to a variety of risk instruments for recidivism outcomes (technical violations, new crimes, any return to prison). While assessments across gender and ethnicity must be sensitive to unique risk factors, current findings suggest the DRAOR can be administered to men and women, adults and adolescents, different ethnicities, and diverse offender types.

Enhancing Case Management

The application of risk re-assessment information provides POs with an empirically-informed roadmap to follow for both case planning and risk management. As the PO discerns change in the client, this should be reflected in revisions to how they manage the case, in terms of intervention targets, both within sessions and in terms of referrals. In terms of risk management, increased risks should lead to adjustments in strategies to address risk such as increasing frequency of contact, increasing use of behavioral contracts, notifying victims, etc. Specifically, the Stable risks reflect traditional criminogenic needs warranting correctional intervention; the Acute risks reflect immediate flags that must be addressed to mitigate both the likelihood and imminence of failure; and, the absence of Protective factors highlights areas that the PO might augment with the client to further mitigate risk. In this manner, the DRAOR fully embraces the PO as being an agent of change (Bourgon, Gutierrez, & Ashton, 2011). Essentially, the DRAOR supports why two clients of the same age with the same crime, sentence disposition, and same static risk score might (and should) be managed differently over time while on community supervision and their circumstances diverge.

Next Steps

Ongoing research will examine whether distinct subgroups of clients have unique outcome trajectories, which will further refine case management strategies. As well, initial efforts to integrate the DRAOR assess-

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DYNAMIC RISK ASSESSMENT FOR OFFENDER REENTRY (DRAOR)

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ment into response and incentive matrices has also been completed in Iowa. Finally, empirically validated cut-off scores are being developed to provide policy and practice guidelines for assignments to supervision levels.

Iowa has recently built an online Navigator that integrates DRAOR items with contemporary correctional practice (Dowden & Andrews, 2004). For each item there is a videotaped description of the scoring, recommended activities to use with the client or as homework to address the specific item, and for many of the items, a videotaped exemplar role play that demonstrates an appropriate skill to use to address the problem area. Each videotaped exemplar provides a series of steps to follow specific to the particular skill being described. Eventually user satisfaction surveys and an outcome evaluation of the Navigator will be

conducted.

Summary

New assessment instruments such as the DRAOR are being developed to assist POs to better understand change in client risk over time. Such refined assessment then informs POs regarding how to respond in order to mitigate risk and insulate their agency from undue criticism in the event of client failure. Concurrently, the consideration of client strengths could augment the working relationship between POs and clients, further enhancing client outcome (Skeem, Loudon, Polaschek, & Camp, 2007).

References available upon request.

KNOWLEDGE DESTRUCTION AND COMMON SENSE IN CORRECTIONS



Paul Gendreau
O.C., Ph.D.

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Thanks to the orange wizard and the behavior of the media in North America, we are now much more aware that we live in a world where the proclamation of fake news has become a rallying call to support policies that suit vested interests¹. Unfortunately, we are now witnessing this depressing turn of events

in the social sciences (e.g., economics, education, psychology, sociology) and from time to time the 'hard' sciences (e.g., biology, environmental science, and healthcare/medicine). We in the corrections field should not be oblivious to this reality; it is already happening. Before providing evidence to support my case, some basic definitions are in order to better understand the philosophical roots and key elements that constitute fake news or what those of us in the scientific community refer to as knowledge destruction and common sense reasoning.

Defining terms

Knowledge destruction is a process whereby information is accepted or rejected according to one's personal values. The philosophical roots of knowledge destruction can be traced back to Francis Bacon's writings in the seventeenth century. Bacon claimed that oftentimes people's beliefs were based

¹There are many readers of the newsletter from other continents. I leave it to you whether this remark applies to your situation.

²Bacon's condemnation may seem a bit harsh by today's standards. Contemporary scholars in the social psychological and cognitive literature soften the insults to everyman by discussing confirmation and desirability biases and short cuts in thinking (i.e., heuristics) that lead to false conclusions.

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on their prejudices and the fashions of the day. Beliefs are maintained by magical thinking (e.g., astrology, superstitions) thereby allowing one to select information that reinforces one's views.²

Subsequently, a school of philosophy arose in the late 18th century to counter Bacon's skepticism (and later that of Hume's). Thomas Reid proposed a theory, popularized by James Beattie, which had a quasi-biological flavor. In other words, everyman—not just the elite or learned—was imbued with common sense intuitions derived from every day experiences. Furthermore, these intuitions were never in error. This form of reasoning had a soothing egalitarian appeal and soon spread to North America.³ Reid's point has some substance. It is fair to say, there is agreement, far from perfect mind you, when one reads the sensation and perception psychological literature as to what our

senses tell us (e.g., what is hot or cold to the touch or whether it is a sunny day). Some philosophers, however, proposed that Reid should have used the term 'practical' common sense which works most of the time in the case of the above examples. The good ship of practical common sense, however, begins to take on water when one considers how people manage their daily lives (e.g., driving through red lights, refusing to take necessary medications, adhering to a diet of donuts and cheeseburgers, smoking etc. ...the list is endless). Furthermore, practical common sense soon becomes impractical or downright 'bad' when everyman opines on complex subjects, especially in the sciences.⁴

Having established the symbiotic relationship between knowledge destruction and common sense

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TABLE 1: Knowledge destruction/Common sense vs. Knowledge Construction

<i>Knowledge destruction/Common sense</i>	<i>Knowledge construction</i>
<p><i>Sources of knowledge</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Qualitative: based on authority, testimonials, anecdotes, intuition, superstition, prejudices, ethnocentrism, morally superior visions, and the media^a <p><i>Analytical processes</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Judgmental heuristics: anchoring, availability, representative, simulation, and hindsight heuristics and base rates and conjoint possibilities^b Covariation and opinion molecules^c Fundamental attribution ^d Illusory correlates^e False consensus, uniqueness, self-serving explanations^f <p><i>Integration of evidence</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Simple: "Tell it like it is," "what everybody knows" declaration, explanation by naming, exceptions prove the rule, simple causality with little recognition of covariation and iatrogenic consequences, absence of theory to guide explanation Idiographic focus^g 	<p><i>Sources of knowledge</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Careful observation of phenomena pre-quantitative: that leads to hypothesis testing and the generation of quantitative evidence <p><i>Analytical processes</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data collected from case histories, surveys, correlational studies, quasi-experimental designs. More confidence placed on results from studies that best control threats to validity (i.e., maturation, history, selection, regression, testing, instrumentation) Quantitative summaries of large bodies of quantitative studies (i.e., meta-analysis) <p><i>Integration of evidence</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Causality is complex, results are described in probabilistic terms, expectations are that the theory guiding the explanation will be revised as more research uncovers new and unanticipated findings Nomothetic focus

a. There are many sciences. My version of science and the facts are inviolable.

b. Overreliance on the single, often vivid and unusual, case and stereotypical thinking, "I knew it all along," and inability to deal with probabilities.

c. Inability to appreciate the interrelationship between factors and failure to comprehend the lack of consistency of one's attitudes.

d. Ascribes causality to dispositional factors while discounting the powerful effects of situations on behavior.

e. One sees structure or causal relationships where none exists or discounts the fact that things happen simply by coincidence.

f. Overestimates the popularity of one's opinions and inflated view of one's abilities, which one also assumes to be unique.

g. Everyone is unique; generalize from individual to the particular.

³The common sense political revolution has met with great success in North America. We Canadians, especially in Ontario, are experts as we periodically undergo common sense political revolutions.

⁴Experts should not be left off the hook. There are numerous examples in the literature when their predictions go awry when they prognosticate on matters that are not directly in their area of expertise.

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I now turn to the essential elements that drive the knowledge destruction/common sense agenda, provide a brief summary of some of the topic areas where it has flourished and, lastly, present the antidote to fake news, that is, knowledge construction.

Basic elements of knowledge destruction and common sense

In this section, I will focus first on the left hand column of Table 1 (this Table is a revised version, see resource material below) which outlines the sources of knowledge, analytical processes, and methods of integrating evidence found in knowledge destruction and common sense forms of reasoning.

What correctional literatures have been inflicted with the knowledge destruction and common sense virus? Space does not allow for a detailed matching of each of the items with specific studies for the following topics. Suffice it to say, depending on the literature, a substantial majority of the items on the left hand column of the Table 1 are found in what is known in the treatment literature as correctional quackery (e.g., aura focus, dog sledding, drama therapy, horticulture, pet therapy), getting tough on offenders in the community (e.g., humiliation therapies, court led Project Hope initiatives) and in prison (e.g., longer incarceration 'no frills' prisons, re-introduce and use whippings—yes, there is a literature on that- excessive use of solitary confinement)⁵, and criminal profiling. To a lesser extent, the items also apply to where there is opposition to the dominant theory of rehabilitation (i.e., risk-needs-responsivity), and the view that prison life invariably produces profound psychologically damaging effects.

Knowledge construction

Knowledge construction, on the other hand, is a method of science and does not reside in any one philosophy of science (e.g., Kuhn). The role of knowledge construction is to help achieve the goals of science (i.e., knowledge, prediction and control).

The criteria listed for knowledge construction form the principles for generating knowledge that has credibility and will be replicable.⁶

The cumulation of knowledge by researchers of the Canadian School of Rehabilitation (so named by the eminent American criminologist Frank Cullen) that have assiduously followed the knowledge construction guidelines listed in the right-hand column, has generated an impressive literature much of it employing meta-analysis. Some examples are a) dynamic risk prediction instruments have been established that are critical to measuring change in offenders that will enhance the effectiveness of correctional treatment programs, mitigate against the negative effects of incarceration, and focus much-needed community resources on only those parolees/practitioners who need it the most; b) "what works" in treatment programs for reducing anti-social behavior in prisons and in the community that leads to enormous cost-savings for the criminal justice system; and c) 'what works' for making prisons a more humane and safe environment and reducing their criminogenic effects in the case of low risk offenders.

In light of the foregoing, I want to leave readers, notably those who are practitioners and policy makers—the majority of members of IACFP—with this practical recommendation. The next time someone suggests they have a guaranteed remedy for your correctional organization, consider either as a thought exercise or actually quantifying the components of Table 1 as risk inventory. Any putative or existing program that is founded on the knowledge construction side will have a high probability of benefiting all stakeholders in your system.

REFERENCES

Readers interested in following up on the topics contained in the newsletter can contact the author at paulgend@bell.net and I can suggest which of the publications listed below might best answer any questions you might have on the topic.

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⁵In my view, overuse is defined as more than 3% of the prison population at any given time with limitations on length of stay in solitary confinement.

⁶Replicability of findings is the only way science can progress. Knowledge construction methods can be replicated statistically. Knowledge destruction ways of integrating evidence rarely can unless one makes a lucky guess.

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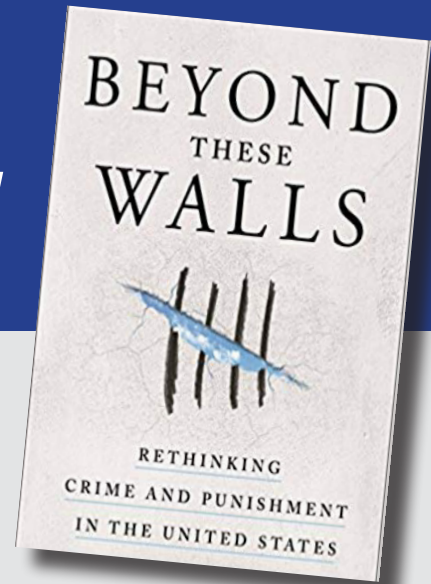
How can IACFP realistically “Help the Helper”? Please provide your comments, ideas, and feedback to:

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BEYOND THESE WALLS: Rethinking Crime and Punishment in the United States

**Author
Tony Platt**

**Book Review
by Richard Althouse, Ph.D.
Secretary, IACFP Executive Board**



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"American society attaches far more material importance to security than it does to education, public health, and job training" (p. 213). (Platt, 2018).

State-sponsored social control by incarceration as punishment for violating laws can be traced as far back as the advent of written language and the *Babylonian Code of Hammurabi* in the mid-1700s BC. Over the millennium, incarceration became established as a means of maintaining social order by incapacitating criminals awaiting trial and punishment, a process that ostensibly served as a deterrence to others. Initially, the forms and lengths of incarceration varied greatly until the first prisons were established in England and eventually in the United States in the 18th century, starting with the renovation of the Walnut Street jail in 1790.

Since then, incarceration in the United States as a means of incapacitation, deterrence, and punishment of individuals has undergone numerous reforms and modifications, the extent of which is widely published and will not be reviewed here. Suffice to say that as a result of sociopolitical responses to America's crime rates and illicit drug consumption, particularly over the past five decades, the United States became and continues to be the world's leading incarcerator, with over 2.2 million individuals incarcerated in jails and prisons and 4.5 million offenders under some form of correctional supervision.

In the last 20 years, questions about the effectiveness of incarceration to reduce crime have been raised, and properly so. According to some experts, fewer than 2/3 of serious crimes or

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potential felonies are investigated and only about 20% of those end in an arrest. Of those arrested, less than 1.5% end in incarceration, and the vast majority of those incarcerated are because of plea bargains. America's criminal justice system has also been criticized for being racially, economically, and gender biased, compounded by allegations of human rights violations including implementing the death penalty.

The cost for all this? Some experts have estimated the annual costs of our evolving criminal justice system to capture and manage offenders range from \$260 million to \$3.4 trillion of taxpayer dollars, depending on how such costs are measured.

Calls for reforming America's criminal justice system are not new, but considering all that is known about American's criminal justice system and its alleged costly ineffectiveness, it is a system that clearly needs to be re-examined and re-thought. Platt believes that an exploration of crime and justice reveals they are highly mutable categories and thus subject to challenge and transformation (p. 53), and that is exactly what Tony Platt attempts to do in his book.

In his book *Beyond These Walls*, Tony Platt, a Distinguished Affiliated Scholar at the Center for the Study of Law & Society, University of California, Berkeley, and the author of numerous books dealing with issues of criminal justice, race, inequality, and social justice in American History, traces the disturbing history of punishment and social control in America and the complicity of prisons and police departments in rationalizing the inequalities in our criminal justice system, particularly as it has affected African Americans. He goes on to discuss why efforts to reform criminal justice agencies have often expanded rather than contracted our sociopolitical and legal net of social control.

Beginning with the "State of Injustice," and ending with "Limbo," he traces the history of criminal justice in the United States, referencing many instances of "idealism gone badly wrong," resulting in legislation promoting getting tougher on crime without any specific evidence that such an approach would more effectively manage crime in our society.

Platt divides his 255 pages of text into four distinct sections of two-three chapters each. Beginning with the "State of Injustice," and ending with "Limbo," he traces the history of criminal justice in the United States, referencing many instances of "idealism gone badly wrong," resulting in legislation promoting getting tougher on crime without any specific evidence that such an approach would more effectively manage crime in our society. Collateral damage of such an ideology includes prisons becoming *de-facto* mental health hospitals, the criminalizing of mental illness, and the marginalizing and punishing of individuals, particularly juveniles, for very minor crimes, preparing them to enter the "school to prison" pipeline. Platt also discusses the role of the media in shaping public perceptions of crime, influencing negative responses to reform efforts, and how the Trump administration promised to "undo" the reforms of the Obama era. Along the way, he cites many of those whose ideologies contributed to the reportedly ineffective and costly criminal justice system we now have, from J. Edgar Hoover through Donald Trump, referencing Trump's "Don't be too nice to suspects" statement to police officers in July, 2017 (p. 22). Platt provides some sobering pictures along the way, and after his concluding remarks provides the scholars among us with over 100 pages of resources, an appendix, notes, and references.

In books such as this, the reader often has to endure many pages of detailed text to find sobering gems, and Platt's book is no different. Platt salts and peppers his examples with factoids that highlight important outcomes of our criminal justice system like "African Americans are incarcerated in state prisons nationwide at five times the rate of whites (p. 6)", "...the reality was the whites made up

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the majority of cocaine users and African Americans 80% of defendants.” (p. 31), “a study of police shootings from 2010 to 2012 found that black boys aged fifteen to nineteen were twenty-one times more likely than their white peers to be killed by police” (p. 85), “Many more people work in jails and prisons than as primary care physicians” (p. 213), and “police outnumber social workers by almost five to one” (p. 213). He ultimately concludes that “American society attaches far more material importance to security than it does to education, public health, and job training” (p. 213). Given its inequities, violations of human rights, and inefficiencies, it is not surprising that in 2009 Senator Jim Webb called the U.S. prison system “a national disgrace” (p. 217).

He ultimately concludes that “American society attaches far more material importance to security than it does to education, public health, and job training.”

What to do? Disappointingly, Platt waited until page 251 of his 255 pages of text to identify the outcomes of criminal justice reform efforts, including massive decarceration, closing of juvenile prisons, abolition of capital punishment, ending racial and class double standards, restoring voting rights to individuals with felony records, elimination of financial ability as a basis

for bail, and the elimination of the mass incarceration and deportation of immigrants, among others. Understandably, Platt eventually acknowledges that such efforts “... will take an enormous effort of idealism and creativity to undo what has become taken for granted, to respect the incarcerated and criminalized as our sisters and brothers, and to imagine a society in which authoritarianism, coercion, and fear do not play such a major role in governance” (p. 254). Platt admits that “Making the criminalized human again and ending the tragedy of the punitive state will take new ways of thinking...” (p. 255). Unfortunately for the hopeful reader, Platt does not provide any new ways of thinking that support his reform outcomes.

What is missing for me is a discussion that explores why our criminal justice system has evolved as it has, or why, during the last five decades, recommendations for reform have generally been met with stiff sociopolitical resistance. This is not a criticism of just Platt’s efforts; it is, in my experience, a common failing of many critics, and perhaps explains why attempts to logically justify reforming an emotionally-fueled criminal justice system failed to catalyze substantive ideological reform despite the human and economic collateral damage Platt discusses in his book.

That said, I believe Mr. Platt’s effort is a worthy read that deserves a place on our bookshelves alongside Michelle Brown’s *The Culture of Punishment*, Michael Welch’s *The Ironies of Imprisonment and Punishment in America*; *Social control and the ironies of imprisonment*, Joshua Price’s *Prison*

“...we may find it emotionally difficult, if not impossible, to imagine new ways of thinking that would substantively reform our criminal justice system without

and Social Death, Michelle Alexander’s *The New Jim Crow*, Bruce Western’s *Homeward* (2018), and Drew Westen’s *The Political Brain*.

To conclude, given our sociopolitical genetic history, we may find it emotionally difficult, if not impossible, to imagine new ways of thinking that would substantively

reform our criminal justice system without appearing to compromise public safety. Nevertheless, books like those by Tony Platt may motivate a future generation to do just that.

SYSTEMS THEORY IN CORRECTIONAL SETTINGS TO FACILITATE BEHAVIORAL INITIATIVES



Chris Dewhurst
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Behavioral health delivery in a correctional setting is fraught with challenges. In fact, correctional psychologists have been found to experience more burnout than psychologists in other settings. Job satisfaction is low among correctional psychologists, as well. Yet, ironically, correctional psychologists do not report a lower level of life satisfaction (Senter, Morgan, Serna-McDonald, & Bewley, 2010). This indicates that although the job of behavioral health in a corrections setting can be frustrating and tiring, it is intrinsically motivating and contributes to a strong sense of professional identity. An important goal of any organization should be to help behavioral health professionals feel energized and equipped to do their jobs, which directly translates to better health outcomes for the correctional population they serve.

Philosophical differences between behavioral health professionals and their colleagues from other disciplines can create a dynamic of conflict in the approach towards service provision due to often competing goals. When behavioral health professionals feel isolated and hindered, it is unlikely they will be empowered to deliver meaningful behavior change strategies. Therefore, the work of integration is more than just an efficacious way to promote a biopsychosocial model of

health care. Effective integration unlocks the potential of the behavioral health professional to pursue specific evidence-based goals in collaboration with professionals from other disciplines and fields. Application of Systems Theory to the correctional environment can serve to help us both understand organizational dynamics within this setting and to work more efficiently and effectively within it.

It is important to recognize that inmates are members of complex social systems, which both explain and contribute to their behaviors. Every person entering a corrections setting becomes a part of that system. The microsystem is the most basic level of a system (Bronfenbrenner, 1979), and it includes the inmates themselves. Inmates cooperate together in surprisingly ordered ways to form a unique economy and moral code, in which small scale acts of violence contain riots and promote a sense of overall safety (Trammell, 2009). Medical staff also form their own unique microsystem, as do security, unit management, education, special programs, and many other disciplines.

The facility itself forms a macrosystem, which is the context and culture where all lower—order systems develop (Bronfenbrenner, 1979). Each individual in a corrections setting—whether staff or inmate—can belong to multiple microsystems. Every microsystem to which individual members belong interacts with the others (Trepper & Barrett, 1989). When a microsystem faces long-term pressures which it is ill-equipped to handle, dysfunction results (Bowen, 1978). Any number of dysfunctional microsystems can quickly degrade the integrity of the entire microsystem.

For instance, inmates in restrictive housing must be

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Application of Systems Theory to the correctional environment can serve to help us both understand organizational dynamics within this setting and to work more efficiently and effectively within it.

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shackled and escorted to all their appointments by two security staff. Broken chains of command in security might result in a psychiatrist not having available staffing on hand. This can easily result in patients not being evaluated for critical psychotropic medications in a timely fashion. Inmates whose paranoid behaviors are not being treated will dramatically interrupt their milieu. Inmates whose psychoses are not being adequately treated will often act in self-destructive ways—including destroying fire suppressant systems to flood their cells, jumping off their sinks, or otherwise causing harm to themselves. Mental health training for security officers can be limited. Unfortunately, per common training protocols, mental illness-driven (i.e. psychotic) actions of inmates are typically met with force: pepper spray, stun shields, or vapors. Any of these encounters may lead to injuries to which nurses must respond. It may be that the nurses who respond are called away from doing health clearances for inmates who are on a list to transfer—which interrupts the job of unit management (who are in charge of bed assignments). The chain reaction was started by a breakdown in security command structures, and one deteriorating microsystem quickly hampers the work of the entire macrosystem.

Since the microsystem is a subsystem of the larger culture, individual problems are often symptomatic of problems in the entire macrosystem (Bowen, 1978). This is why behavioral intervention must, necessarily, address the whole system. When an individual member of the system experiences pain, the suffering reverberates throughout the rest of the members (Satir, 1967). Often, though, service professionals who ostensibly offer solutions, contribute to creating the problems (Haley, 1989). For example, this can be seen in the psychologist who becomes an advocate for relationship building—even facilitating a move of an inmate to be closer to his friend. When it is discovered that the “friend” is actually a victim of extortion, the psychologist finds himself in the difficult position of having facilitated oppression.

At the heart of many inmates’ distress is a constant reminder that their crimes have separated them from their previous identity and sense of belonging. Often fueled by cultural biases and public news media, in-

The truly effective behavioral health professional in a correctional setting, then, is someone who refuses to restrict therapy to an office or to the individual.

carcerated individuals become demonized and rejected (Woods & Williams, 2014). The behavioral health professional understands how the need for personal identity and group belonging can make inmates victims of desperation (Woods & Williams, 2014). However, as inmates redefine themselves in the social context, others in the macrosystem may not be receptive to the change (Gartland, 2006). Inmates’ need for congruence and integration between their internal needs and their external realities (Woods & Williams, 2014) can be problematic. Tattoos and modification of one’s state-issued uniform are forbidden. Any questioning of rules and procedures is interpreted by security professionals as rebellion. An inmate in anger management class can even get kicked out of class for questioning the material he is being taught.

So, the behavior health professional must adapt therapeutic delivery to the realities of the corrections setting. This often involves delivering interventions to the system itself. Spending a little time and effort to befriend a corrections officer, for instance, can greatly enhance the facilitation of behavioral strategies. That same guard may prove integral in the implementation of a behavioral support system by reminding an inmate with schizophrenia to take his morning medications. Corrections officers that feel empowered are more likely to make vital referrals, as well. Communicating to a unit manager how a specific bed move will contribute to a peaceful dorm or sharing with the chaplain how psychotherapy supports his spiritual aims are also examples of collaboration which creates an environment conducive to behavioral supports and interventions.

If the behavioral health professional sees his or her job as contributing to a therapeutic milieu within the

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correctional setting as a whole, integration of behavioral services is possible and leads to more impactful change at the organizational, group, and individual level. When wardens begin to see behavioral health professionals as a valuable professional who is integral to other parts of the system, such as security, then they become more supportive. Unit managers begin to see behavioral supports as necessary for dormitories to run smoothly, and medical staff begin to understand that physical health is directly impacted by mental health. The truly effective behavioral health profes-

sional in a correctional setting, then, is someone who refuses to restrict therapy to an office or to the individual. Every interaction—be it with staff or inmates—is potentially therapeutic. By interacting effectively with the macrosystem and each of the individual microsystems, the effective correctional therapist can implement evidence-based behavior strategies that produce powerful change.

References Available Upon Request

INTERNATIONAL NEWS



1. Research

The Fifth Issue of Volume 17 of *Criminological Highlights* – March 2019

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. Read full document here: <http://bit.ly/2ZFARS0>

The current issue of *Criminological Highlights*, Volume 17 (March 2019) addresses the following questions:

1. How does the criminal justice system impose punishments before trial?

2. Is the impact of a short prison sentence on future employment any different from the impact of probation?

3. Does allowing prisoners to be in the community for short periods of time during their prison sentences threaten public safety?

4. Do governments design prisons that will inspire prisoners to lead better lives?

5. Does the shortening of prison sentences threaten public safety?

6. Is the use of police powers to stop and search members of the public an effective crime reduction technique?

7. How fair are risk prediction instruments based on fancy looking algorithms?

8. Are there proven techniques to reduce reoffending by those released from prison after serving sentences for sex offences?

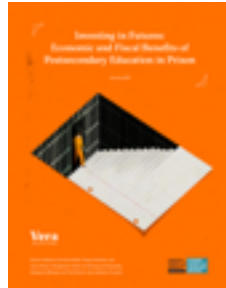
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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

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Investing in Futures: Economic and Fiscal Benefits of Postsecondary Education in Prison

The Vera Institute for Justice published this report in January 2019. It describes how lifting the current ban on awarding Pell Grants to people incarcerated in the United States would benefit multiple stakeholders. Specifically, it analyzed the potential employment and earnings impact of postsecondary education programs in prison; identified the millions of job openings annually that require the skills a person in prison could acquire through postsecondary education; and estimates the money states would save through lower recidivism rates that these programs would yield.



Access the report here: https://storage.googleapis.com/vera-webassets/downloads/Publications/investing-in-futures-education-in-prison/legacy_downloads/investing-in-futures.pdf

The New Prison Model in the Dominican Republic: research on a unique prison reform process

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 (the 2015 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, the author, Jennifer Peirce has been studying the Dominican prison reform experience, with a focus on the views of people who are incarcerated. Jennifer Peirce has been supported by IACFP to participate in the 2018 ICPA Graduate Student Symposium. Jennifer Peirce wrote an article on her work that was

published in the October 2018 *IACFP Newsletter*; it has now been updated and published by ICPA here: <http://bit.ly/2Vp9byV>

Forensic Psychiatry and the Extremist: A Review of the Recent Violence Risk Assessment Tools for Offenders Convicted of Terrorism Offenses

This paper assesses literature on “existing approaches to the risk assessment of common violence and asks whether they can be applied to ascertain future levels of violence (i.e., risk) in convicted extremists. To be clear, this analysis is exclusively focused on risk assessment at the post-conviction stage. Download the working paper here: <http://bit.ly/2PCz9tq>

Case Studies in Forensic Psychology

Case Studies in Forensic Psychology offers the reader a unique insight into the often-hidden world of psychological assessment and intervention with people who have committed serious crimes. The book contains a breadth of forensic case studies, and each chapter details the real forensic work that psychologists do in their clinical practice in prison, psychiatric, and community settings. Assessment and therapeutic approaches used in each case study are discussed, as well as the state of the literature in each area (e.g. sexual violence risk assessment, schema therapy). It is ideal for students of forensic psychology and forensic mental health, as well as practitioners at any stage of their career in this rapidly expanding field. Read more and buy the book here: <http://bit.ly/2V1g5uw>

Sex offender assessment and risk management in Sweden; Adolescents and Adults

Sweden has gone through a lot of changes in sexual abuse legislation over the past 10 years. These changes have been driven by political changes, professional dissatisfaction and the public engagement with the topic of sexual abuse. Even though Sweden is making it easier to convict sex offenders, Sweden is still a very liberal country that does not use the polygraph, does not register sex offenders or have mandatory treatment in prison. This article will give a brief insight in the Swedish legislation, treatment practice and public

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view. <http://bit.ly/2DACLqW>

Reintegrating Terrorists in the Netherlands: Evaluating the Dutch Approach

This article presents an in-depth evaluation of a specialized reintegration initiative within the Dutch Probation Service focused on individuals convicted or suspected of involvement in terrorism. Using 72 interviews with program staff as well as several of their clients, the authors assess the initiative's program theory, its day-to-day implementation and provides a qualified assessment of its overall effectiveness in the 2016 to 2018 period. The results suggest that the initiative is based on a sound understanding of how and why individuals may deradicalise or disengage from terrorism behaviorally, but that it continues to face serious challenges in terms of accurately defining success and systematically gathering objective indicators of its attainment. As terrorism remains a key challenge for societies across the globe, the relevance of these findings extends beyond the Netherlands to all academics, policymakers and practitioners working to design, implement and assess terrorist reintegration programs. Download the full article here: <http://bit.ly/2UJvfzA>

Aging and Dying in Prison: An Investigation into the Experiences of Older Individuals in Federal Custody

The office of Correctional Investigator of Canada in partnership with the Chief Commissioner of the Canadian Human Rights Commission, Ms. Marie-Claude Landry, released a joint report entitled Aging and Dying in Prison: An Investigation into the Experiences of Older Individuals in Federal Custody. Download the report: <http://bit.ly/2DvHlqv>

Co-producing digitally-enabled courses that promote desistance in prison and probation settings

The purpose of this paper is to set out an approach to innovation in criminal justice settings that gives service users a "voice" through the co-production of digital content designed for services that promote desistance. The authors describe the benefits and challenges of involving service users in co-creating mediated digital content within a co-production framework. Prac-

tical implications: Co-production is a credible service design strategy for developing digital services in prisons and probation; Complementary Digital Media (CDM) provides a promising pedagogical approach to promoting desistance; CDM enables service users to share their voice and stories to assist their peers. Digitally enabled courses to promote desistance can be well suited to peer support delivery models. Read the abstract and download the paper: <http://bit.ly/2G-MH8RH>

Can Artificial Intelligence Be A Fair Judge in Court? Estonia Thinks So

Government usually isn't the place to look for innovation in IT or new technologies like artificial intelligence. But Ott Velsberg might change your mind. As Estonia's chief data officer, the 28-year-old graduate student is overseeing the tiny Baltic nation's push to insert artificial intelligence and machine learning into services provided to its 1.3 million citizens. "We want the government to be as lean as possible," says the wiry, bespectacled Velsberg, an Estonian who is writing his PhD thesis at Sweden's Umeå University on using the Internet of Things and sensor data in government services. Estonia's government hired Velsberg last August to run a new project to introduce AI into various ministries to streamline services offered to residents. Read more about it here <http://bit.ly/2ZDp7ga>

2. Programs

Working to reduce recidivism

Since 2015, the North Dakota Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation has moved into improving staff and inmate interaction and community involvement as ways to prepare inmates for life outside the prison as well as reducing recidivism. North Dakota prisons have a recidivism rate of 35 to 40%, according to Chad Pringle, warden of the James River Correctional Center, a medium security prison housing 440 inmates in Jamestown. <http://bit.ly/2ILnwzC>

Prison mental health in Northern Ireland

Whilst a recent inspection has reflected improve-

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ments in HMP Maghaberry, significant scope remains for the improvement of mental health provision across the prison system, according to a recently published report by the Royal College of Psychiatrists. The report acknowledges that prison mental health continues to be the most significant challenge to the delivery of forensic mental healthcare in Northern Ireland; a place described in the report as having “evolved differently to those in other jurisdictions within the United Kingdom”. Read more about the models of care in Northern Ireland <http://bit.ly/2PzFc1z>

The View—the app for clients in the free care

The Swedish Prison and Probation Service has developed an app that will make it easier for offenders to have contact with the public health service. The View, as the app is called, should serve as support both before and after a visit to the public health service. The View contains a calendar, a diary, a function for goals and tools for managing thoughts, feelings, and problem situations. It also contains a number of pre-programmed telephone numbers, such as the Swedish Prison and Probation Service, the Care Guide, and the Suicide Line. Read more about the app: <http://bit.ly/2VoY1Kx>

Inmates receiving addiction treatment via touchscreen at New South Wales ‘pop-up’ prisons

Technology is enabling prisons to be run with fewer guards. Inmates at two ‘pop-up’ prisons in New South Wales are being delivered drug and alcohol rehabilitation programs via touchscreen terminals in their cells. The NSW Department of Justice chief information officer Aaron Liu, revealed that the kiosks were an essential element of the controversial ‘rapid-build’ prisons, in which inmates live in open-plan dormitories. <http://bit.ly/2WhHTHC>

Goldfields, Australia inmates enroll for university degrees as attitudes to prison education change

At the Eastern Goldfields Regional Prison, 251 inmates (or two-thirds) are enrolled in education courses, most of them Technical and Further Education (TAFE) certificates ranging from horticulture to sport. A University degree through a program tailored for incarcerated students around the country is

offered through a partnership between the state’s corrections department and the University of Southern Queensland. A laptop with course materials pre-loaded onto it is provided by the university, and an education officer from the prison provides individual support where needed. But without access to internet, study can be a very difficult proposition, according to the president of the Australasian Corrections Education Association Ray Chavez. Read the full article: <https://ab.co/2GjiVe2>

German-style program at a Connecticut maximum security prison emphasizes rehab for inmates

Shyquinn Dix is getting a second chance at life thanks to a groundbreaking experiment at the Cheshire Correctional Institution, a maximum-security prison near Hartford, Connecticut where he served time. The Connecticut program is called T.R.U.E., short for Truthful, Respectful, Understanding and Elevating. The T.R.U.E. program focuses on 18- to 25-year-old inmates who live in their own cellblock separate from the general population. The T.R.U.E. program prisoners receive intensive counseling and learn personal responsibility from an incentive system administered by staff and older prisoners brought in to help. Read more here <http://bit.ly/2XIPW0y> and see the interview here <https://cbsn.ws/2VzD27A>

Locked up and living sustainably: Eco-friendly prison wins award

Tabellen 4, a building in Sollentuna high-security remand prison in Stockholm, Sweden, won the 2019 BREEAM Public Projects In-Use award for its range of eco-friendly initiatives including a 1,100 square meter green roof made of plants and turf, a ventilation system that recycles heat from the air, and a waste disposal room with storage for eight categories of waste. The building is also wrapped in 6,000 square meters of insulating glass, which regulates its temperature—and has built-in alarms. The improvements to Tabellen 4 are part of a wider effort from the Swedish Prison and Probation Service to increase the wellbeing of people who interact with prisons. Read more: <https://cnn.it/2ILx6m7>

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3. Resources for practitioners

United National Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) launches toolkit on synthetic drugs to support Member States in addressing challenges

The UNODC launched on 18 March 2019 in Vienna, the United Nations Toolkit on Synthetic Drugs, a web-based platform with a wide range of electronic resources that offer innovative and practical tools on how to approach challenges related to synthetic drugs and particularly opioids. The toolkit is part of UNODC's Integrated Opioid Strategy that was launched last year to deal with the deadly opioid crisis. The UNODC is the lead UN Secretariat entity in providing assistance to Member States in addressing the world drug problem and in collaboration with the World Health Organization, the International Narcotics Control Board and other international and regional organizations is coordinating the development of this toolkit to support countries in addressing the threat of synthetic drugs. Read more about and see the report: <http://bit.ly/2ILuK6S>

Children of Prisoners: A report from Crest Advisory

Crest Advisory in collaboration with University of Nottingham have published a report 'Children of Prisoners: Fixing a broken system.' The report seeks to demonstrate "that children of prisoners are at risk of significantly worse outcomes than children not affected by parental imprisonment including an increased risk of mental health issues, and of being involved in the criminal justice system themselves in later life." Also included in the report are the results of new research into the number of children in England and Wales affected by parental imprisonment each year - 312,000. The report can be downloaded here <http://bit.ly/2IIQxw1>

Storybook Dads

In 2002, whilst working as a volunteer in HMP Channings Wood, Sharon Berry began to realise how difficult it was for imprisoned parents to keep in touch with their children. She helped the Writer in Residence develop the Storybook Dads idea. It proved so popular that the Governor gave her a prison cell to work

from and allowed her to employ a couple of prisoners to help with the editing. Sharon started the Storybook Dads charity in 2003 and sixteen years later, about 100 prisons work with the charity, generating between 5,000 and 6,000 stories a year. (The charity also works with some female prisons, under the name Storybook Mums.) The CD or DVD with the voice of the parent reading stories is sent to the child. This brings comfort to them as they can hear or see their parent whenever they need to. It shows them they are loved and missed as well as helping them to develop an interest in books and reading. This increases their chances of succeeding at school and significantly improving their social and learning outcomes. Enabling an imprisoned parent to maintain contact improves their self-esteem and reduces the likelihood of re-offending as well helping with their child's well-being. Read more about what they do and their story on their website: <https://www.storybookdads.org.uk>

Europe's rate of imprisonment falls, according to Council of Europe survey

The overall imprisonment rate in Europe fell by 6.6% between 2016 and 2018—from 109.7 to 102.5 inmates per 100,000 inhabitants—according to the Council of Europe Annual Penal Statistics for 2018 (SPACE), published on 2 April 2019 (see also the key findings). This decrease continues a trend that started in 2012 when the incarceration rate, an indicator mainly determined by the length of the prison sentences, began to fall. The reduction of the incarceration rate in 27 prison administrations in 2018 was accompanied by a decrease in the average length of imprisonment, which fell from 8.8 to 8.2 months (-6.8%) across Europe. In contrast, the percentage of pre-trial detainees increased from 17.4% to 22.4% of the total prison population. Read full press release here: <http://bit.ly/2W74Flr> as well as an interview with the co-author of the report Marcelo Aebi: <http://bit.ly/2J1jzWP>

Infographics:

[Ten countries with highest rates of imprisonment in Europe](#)

[Twelve countries with prison overcrowding](#)

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RAN/EuroPris Staff Training Collection (2017 & 2018)

The Radicalisation Awareness Network (RAN) has cooperated with the European Organisation of Prison and Correctional Services (EuroPris) to collect trainings that were developed in a number of European Prison Services dealing with radicalisation issues. The templates give short description of the training contents and contact details for further information requests. All trainings from EU Member States are also included in the RAN Collection. Download here: <http://bit.ly/2GCfUvO>

EU High-level Conference on prison overcrowding

The European Committee on Crime Problems organised an important event on 24/25th April 2019, during its 76th Plenary session on the topic of Prison Overcrowding. The aim of the Conference, which is funded together by the Council of Europe and the European Commission, is to bring together judges, prosecutors and representatives of the Ministries of Justice of all European countries in order to discuss the recurring problem of prison overcrowding and the possible practical steps that could be taken at the different stages of the criminal justice process to overcome it. The possible support and assistance the Council of Europe can offer in this area will also be discussed, including by holding a high-level political meeting dedicated to this issue. See the videos of the conference, as well as documents and presentations here: <http://bit.ly/2ZDZqvX>

Torture versus culture, past versus present

In this International Corrections and Prisons Association article, Marius BABAN (Romania) talks about the creation of the first National Conference of Penitentiary Education “Re-education by torture versus Re-education by culture.” The purpose of this event was to confer visibility to the complexity of the educational activities and to assure the transparency of the social reintegration interventions in the detention units. More than that, the quintessence of this conference is underlying the antithesis of the past and the present, a modern approach of the penitentiary work. Facing the stereotype that a detainee is dangerous for

others and cannot be genuinely adapted to his community, we encouraged others to see more to the image of the employee. He is not just a “guardian”, but rather a specialist in his profession, dedicated to his mission and creative towards whatever challenge he may face. Read more: <http://bit.ly/2ILBh1h>

Videos:

His mom in prison, Jan works up the courage to discuss her feelings, and his own

Eleven-year-old Jan Meijer’s mother was arrested and sent to prison. Jan misses her terribly, and worries constantly about her wellbeing. In Jan’s Mom, the director Anneloor van Heemstra tells Jan’s story with sensitivity and patience, following Jan as he talks to his friends and family about his worries, and—as visiting day approaches—builds up the courage to ask his mother about her time in prison, face to face. <http://bit.ly/2VwIrMW>

16 Mental Illnesses Illustrated Using Architecture

Imaginative Italian illustrator and architect Federico Babina has come up with a creative project to present mental illness and disorders. It is called Archiatric and it depicts 16 different conditions as works of architecture in various states of repair. The Barcelona-based digital artist also made an animated video version of the project for a more intense experience. See images and video here: <http://bit.ly/2INzVDo>

CALL FOR NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

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Newsletter articles that highlight evidence-based and practitioner-informed practices and programs. Please submit articles with photos to: executivedirectoriacfp@gmail.com

BUTTERFLIES IN THE ROOM: “BUTTERFLY EFFECT” (EVERY SMALL CHANGE MATTERS) IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE



Richard Althouse
Ph.D., Secretary for the
IACFP Board of Directors,
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“America must open its eyes and recognize that human nature cannot be changed by legal enactment.”
Henry Joy, in recanting his support of the Volstead Act. (Gray, 1998, p. 67).

* * * * *

Most of us are familiar with the “butterfly effect” notion pioneered by Edward Norton Lorenz, meteorologist and father of the chaos theory, who wondered if, given the world’s complexity, is it possible that the flapping of a butterfly’s wings could later result in an environmental catastrophe a few thousand miles away. The idea is that small, seemingly inconsequential, mundane, even apparently unrelated events can have enormous, even unpredictable, effects on a later outcome. For example, consider the following examples in the January, 2019 issue of *Ideas and Discoveries*: A passing meteorite led Constantine to promote Christianity, contributing to its evolution into a world religion; a sandwich and a wrong turn led to the assassinations of Archduke Ferdinand and his wife and the beginning of WWI; Hitler’s young life was spared on the battlefield by the empathy of Henry Tandy, a British soldier; weather diverted the first atomic bomb from Kokura to Nagasaki; a \$7 incident eventually led to the resignation of Hosni Mubarak and contributed to the rise of the Arab Spring; the abduction of Cuban Elian Gonzales by federal agents in Miami, an event contributing in the eventual defeat of Al Gore in Florida, George W. Bush becoming president and being in office when the Trade Centers were attacked in September, 2001, and his initiation of the “War on

Terror,” a war that continues to this day. These outcomes could not have been predicted in advance from the rather innocent-seeming, irrelevant “butterfly effect” events that preluded them.

Is it possible that our criminal justice system history contains butterfly effects?



For example, consider that in the late 1960s, President Richard Nixon declared wars on crime and drugs in an effort to control civil rights protests, primarily (in his opinion) by drug-using minorities in the South. A decade later, his declarations of war set the sociopolitical stage for Richard Martinson, a participant in the Mississippi Freedom Riders, to be arrested and spend over a month in two Mississippi jails. His incarcerations, about which he wrote in 1962, spawned his interest in penology. His interest led to his exploring studies of the rehabilitation of inmates. His conclusion, published in 1972, was that “nothing works,” a conclusion that fit well into the sociopolitical ethos of the time. Who could predict that his participation in the Freedom Riders and his arrests would eventually lead to a “Nothing Works” doctrine that, embraced by and motivating politicians to legislate longer and harsher sentences for crime, would over the following forty-fifty years result in the U.S. becoming the world’s leading incarcerator; a process that would economically ravage state budgets, over crowd prisons, create a prison industrial complex with privatized prisons that work for profit; all defying critics’ calls for prison reform.

The “butterfly effects” that facilitated the “war on drugs” can be found over 100 years ago among the decisions by just a few individuals motivated by their own personal beliefs rather than scientific evidence. Consider the following examples excerpted from Mike Gray’s book *Drug Crazy* (Gray, 1998). Hamilton

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BUTTERFLIES IN THE ROOM

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Wright, a physician, was instrumental in helping President Roosevelt open up trade with China by agreeing to help China deal with its “opium problem.” As it was, Wright married the daughter of a prominent industrialist, W. D. Washburn, a powerful Republican senator from Minnesota. After their marriage, Wright and his wife decided to move to Washington, D. C., where, as the story goes, Wright let his father-in-law know he was interested in some kind of government employment. As a result, Wright, who allegedly knew almost nothing about opium, was eventually appointed to be a member of President Roosevelt’s opium commission. After doing some questionable research of his own, Wright decided that America’s opium problem was worse than China’s.

Exaggerating the scope of the problem, Wright reportedly came to believe that opium was a global scourge that he then set out to eradicate. Motivated by his beliefs and using racism and politics, Wright eventually became a U.S. delegate at the Hague Opium Convention. While there, he eventually obligated the United States to pass a federal anti-narcotics law. His efforts, supported by his claims that morphine offered a cure for addiction, contributed to the passing of the Harrison Narcotics Act of 1914. This act, noting that a physician could *only* prescribe narcotics in the course of professional practice, led to the criminalization of thousands of already drug-addicted individuals, set the stage for later anti-drug legislation which in turn has motivated President Trump’s continued calls for a “wall on our southern border” that he claims will stem the tide of drugs coming into the U.S. One wonders if any of this would have happened had President Roosevelt chosen a different path to trade with China, or if Wright and his wife not moved to Washington D. C., or had not let Senator Washburn know he was interested in some government work. However, as it was, his government appointment shaped the course of the United States’ anti-drug legislation, eventually leading to the war on drugs many decades later.

Some of us remember the night of June 18, 1986, when Len Bias, a Boston Celtics’ team member, died from cocaine poisoning. As a result, Congress, apparently believing that becoming more punitive would stem the tide of cocaine that swept Bias away, added

another twenty-six mandatory prison sentences related to the distribution and possession of cocaine. Of course, as history shows, not too many years later cocaine had become a worldwide growth industry. Despite that, Congress’ decision contributed to the over-crowding of prisons with low-level drug offenders and addicts for years to come.

Similar butterfly effect stories can be found related to the evolution of the illegalization of marijuana. Early attempts to control marijuana can be traced back to the efforts like those of Captain Richmond Hobson and Harry Anslinger. Anslinger, ignoring any evidence to the contrary, promoted the idea that marijuana might be considered more harmful than opium, reportedly claiming that the spread of marijuana use was a direct byproduct of unrestricted Mexican immigration. In 1937, a bill influenced by Anslinger’s proposals was to be entertained by Congress regarding the taxation of marijuana in an effort to control

...effects thoughtfully supported by facts and science rather than just personal beliefs and theories are more likely to generate positive rather than negative outcomes in years to come.

its distribution and use. Despite being preceded by a good deal of misinformation and contrary medical testimony, the bill was forwarded out of committee; a bill that, as one historian noted, “would one day help fill the nation’s prisons to the roof beams” (Gray, p. 81). As one result of that rather casual committee event, marijuana would eventually become an illegal substance, the target of many drug control legislations that eventually led to the incarceration of thousands of individuals, and some decades later provide a basis for President Trump’s claim that only a wall on our southern border will stem the tide of “illegal” immigrants and marijuana coming into our country.

Clearly, these butterfly effects, originated by individuals armed only with their personal beliefs and ignoring contrary scientific evidence, significantly contributed to the 80-year evolution of America’s criminal

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BUTTERFLIES IN THE ROOM


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justice system, a legal system later criticized for its racial and economic biases, violations of human rights, and becoming the world leader in mass incarceration as a result of a war on drugs that many critics have claimed cannot be won.

These examples, and many more like them, suggest that we are all butterflies that live in a complex world of butterfly effects. Like the ones in Lorenz' question,

our effects can extend very far into the future. They also suggest that effects thoughtfully supported by facts and science rather than just personal beliefs and theories are more likely to generate positive rather than negative outcomes in years to come.

References available upon request.



The poster for the RESCALED conference features a stylized red line-art illustration of a city skyline with houses integrated into the buildings. The word "RESCALED" is prominently displayed in large, bold, red capital letters. Below it, the tagline "Movement for small-scale and community integrated detention" is written in a smaller, grey font. To the right, on a red background, the date "10th April 2019" and "International conference" are listed. Social media handles "@Rescaled_mov" and "#rescaled2019" are also present. At the bottom, a row of logos for partner organizations is shown, including APAC, avans hogeschool, BONJO, CHAINS, Datiskelder!, de huizen, Federale Overheidsdienst Justitie, rjn, UHASSELT, UNIVERSITEIT GENT, and VUB.

RESCALED—A MOVEMENT FOR SMALL-SCALE DETENTION



Rodica Popa

IACFP Associate

On 10 April 2019 at the Vrije University Brussels, the first RESCALED international conference took place. The event was attended by about 200 participants from 9 countries (Australia, Belgium, Czech Rep, Estonia,

France, Malta, Spain, the Netherlands, United Kingdom) representing 85 organisations, including IACFP.

In the first plenary part of the conference, the keynote speakers (Matthias Schoenaerts, Hans Claus, Dr. Ben Crewe, Prof. Dr. Kristel Beyens and Anke Siegers) set the scene and introduced the concept, the evidence, and the strengths and challenges of the movement.

So, what is RESCALED? A movement promoting small scale and community integrated detention in Europe, RESCALED was started in 2012 in Belgium by Hans Claus, a prison director since 1986. In 2019, the movement now has 15 European partners, includ-

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RESCALED—A MOVEMENT

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ed among them are 4 universities and 2 prison services (BE and NL).

Starting from the fact that large penal institutions are expensive, often not suitable to prepare prisoners' reintegration and often unsafe and unhealthy for those who live and work inside the walls, RESCALED proposes an alternative to the widely used traditional prison system. The movement aims to replace all large problematic prisons with detention houses. These detention houses are small-scale, differentiated in terms of security level and programs and integrated in the local community.

The benefits that they see in the RESCALED solution are that:

Small Scale enables tailor-made reintegration pathways, allows for a more personal approach, less bureaucracy, better dynamic security, and provides more opportunities for prisoners to take responsibility.

Differentiation means that prisoners are placed in the right security level and offered the most suitable programs. This has proven to work best in terms of facilitating their reintegration and rehabilitation and to be cost effective.

Community integration allows prisoners to do something meaningful for society and for themselves and to restore the harm caused by the offence, both symbolically and financially. Moreover, this close link between a detention house and the neighbourhood allows society to take responsibility for incarcerated citizens.

RESCALED is working on several plans:

Platform building: raising awareness amongst the public, media, practitioners, the academic world, politicians, and civil society of detention houses and their societal benefits.

Knowledge dissemination: disseminates knowledge about (the implantation of) detention houses and shares its expertise.

Networking: connecting people from all over Europe and from different backgrounds in order to exchange ideas on how the existing prisons can be replaced with detention houses and to co-create solutions.

Innovating: stimulating a penal transition that is in line with current transitions in other societal domains, which are all grounded in sustainability.

Influencing: supporting policy makers in order to

implement this penal transition.

The RESCALED movement is based on *The Houses*, presenting the concept, evidence as well as architectural ideas. The book is available for sale in the English language on the www.dehuizen.be website.

Since 2012 when it started, they have had over 50 public appearances, including in the Belgian Parliament. One of their greatest realisations so far is that the Belgian government has not only been open to listening, but it has also made a legislative change and introduced an amendment to the penal law including the insertion of a chapter "Placement in the Transition House." This Transition House, where the prisoner is placed in the last part of the sentence, is based on the RESCALED concept. In the second part of 2019, these transition houses are set to be opened in Wallonia, Belgium.

In the second part of the conference, participants came together in focus groups to exchange ideas on what could make this movement a success and what recommendations should be made to European policy makers. Everybody was in agreement that more evidence was needed on recidivism, on society benefits, and about the Return on Investment of small-scale detention.

The atmosphere of the conference was one of enthusiasm, energy and hope. Before leaving the event, I had the chance to talk with a former detainee present at the conference. I asked him if he believed that small scale detention would work, and his reply was "No.

"...The only thing that would make a real difference is the way staff treats detainees."

The Perspective of a Returning Citizen

The only thing that would make a real difference is the way staff treats detainees. Nothing will change as long as detainees are treated as a number and as a process, not as an individual, a human being."

My takeaway or rather the food for thought from this conference is that perhaps the correctional community's energy and efforts shouldn't be so much on architectural changes in prisons but on improving the staff-detainee relationship and dynamic.



19th Annual IAFMHS Conference

Cultural Diversity at the Intersection of Mental Health and the Law

Registration for the 2019 conference is now open! The conference will run June 25 - 27, 2019, with pre-conference workshops held on June 24, 2019 and post-conference workshops held on June 28, 2019. The registration rates are as follows:

2019 Conference Registration Rates

Student Member Rate	\$150 CAD
Member - Early Bird Rate (valid until April 15, 2019)	\$550 CAD
Member - Standard Rate	\$650 CAD
Non-Member - Early Bird Rate (valid until April 15, 2019)	\$700 CAD
Non-Member - Standard Rate	\$800 CAD

2019 KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Dr. Rees Tapsell | The Treatment and Rehabilitation of Māori Mentally Abnormal Offenders

Dr. Richard E. Tremblay | From Forensic Mental Health to Infant Mental Health: Back to the Future

Dr. Nancy Wolff | Person-first Equals Cost-Effective: It's Simple, Universal, and Within Budget

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Educational Achievement:

Institution _____ Major _____ Degree _____ Year _____

Brief Description of Work Experience:

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