

Conference Overview

Monday 21 June 2010

9.00-9.30	Registration and Tea/Coffee		
9.30-9.45	Welcome and Opening	Conor Lecture Theatre	
	Professor Alastair Adair Dr Linda Moore	Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Communication and External Affairs) and Provost (Jordanstown and Belfast) Conference Organiser	
9.45-11.00	Plenary Session 1	Conor Lecture Theatre	Future Directions in Criminology in Ireland
Chair:	Azrini Wahidin Shadd Maruna Ruth McAlister Ian O'Donnell	Queen's University Belfast Queen's University Belfast University of Ulster University College Dublin	
11.00-11.30	Tea/Coffee		
11.30-13.00	Parallel Panel Session 1	See Page 2	
13.00-14.00	Lunch		
14.00-15.30	Parallel Panel Session 2	See Page 3	
15.30-16.00	Tea/Coffee		
16.00-17.30	Parallel Panel Session 3	See Page 4	
19.00-22.00	Conference Dinner	Belfast City Hall	

Tuesday 22 June 2010

9.30-10.45	Plenary Session 2	Conor Lecture Theatre	Criminology and Communities
Chair:	Phil Scraton Marian Quinn Mike Ritchie Koulla Yiasouma	Queen's University Belfast Tallaght West Childhood Development Initiative Committee on the Administration of Justice Include Youth	
10.45-11.15	Tea/Coffee		
11.15-12.45	Parallel Panel Session 4	See Page 5	
12.45-13.45	Lunch		
13.45-15.15	Parallel Panel Session 5	See Page 6	
15.15-15.45	Tea /Coffee		
15.45-17.15	Parallel Panel Session 6	See Page 7	
17.15-17.45	Prison Memory Archive Screening	Conor Lecture Theatre	
	Jolene Mairs and Cahal McLaughlin	University of Ulster	

Monday 21 June 11.30-13.00 Parallel Panel Session 1			
Panel 1 Gendered Justice		Room 82A01	
Chair:	Linda Moore	University of Ulster	
	Phil Scraton	Queen's University Belfast	Exploring 'Agency' and 'Resistance' in the Context of the Gendered Violence of Incarceration
	Mary O'Rawe	University of Ulster	Gender and Policing Transformation – A box to tick or a force for change?
	Fidelma Ashe	University of Ulster	Gender, Power and Conflict Transformation: A Case Study of Community-Based Restorative Justice in Northern Ireland
Panel 2 Youth Justice		Room 82A02	
Chair:	Chelsea Marshall	Queen's University Belfast	
	Paul Sargent	Trinity College Dublin	'Youth Justice' in Ireland. Opening Up the Space of Government
	Maire Therése Hynes	Queen's University Belfast	Desperate for Discipline or Praying for Protection? An assessment of the conflicting "justice" and "welfare" models of youth justice systems
	Deena Haydon	Queen's University Belfast	Interrogating Official Discourse Concerning Children's Rights and Youth Justice in the UK and Northern Ireland
Panel 3 Policing		Room 82C05	
Chair:	Vicky Conway	Queen's University Belfast	
	Paul Gilbert	Glyndŵr University	Policing Change – Changing Police: Listening to the Voices of Retired Police-Officers – many or few?
	Vani Borooh	University of Ulster	Does Racial Profiling in Policing Matter? Measuring Racial Bias and Prejudice in Police Stops in England and Wales
	Eric Gardiner	University of Oxford	Civilian Police, Security Sector Reform, and Peacebuilding: From Northern Ireland to the World
Panel 4 State, Power and Crime		Room 82C06	
Chair:	Cathy Gormley-Heenan	University of Ulster	
	Kris Lasslett	University of Ulster	Foreign Policy as a Crime-Facilitative System
	Jo Doody	University of Ulster	Counter-Terrorism Legislation: A Social Harm Approach
	Lystra Hagley-Dickinson	University of Northampton	Transformation and Crime: Post Disaster Montserrat
Panel 5 Victims and Survivors		Room 82C07	
Chair:	Jonny Byrne	University of Ulster	
	Pamela Davies	Northumbria University	Community Safety with Feeling
	James Corrigan	Criminal Justice Inspection Northern Ireland	Meeting the Needs of Victims and Witnesses in the Northern Ireland Criminal Justice System
	Marcus Hopkins and Gareth Porter	Humanising Conflict Group HURT Group	The Psycho-Social Benefits of International 'Educational Interactions' on Innocent Victims of Politically Inspired Violence: A Case Study of a Northern Irish Victim Support Group

Monday 21 June			
14.00-15.30		Parallel Panel Session 2	
Panel 6	Abolitionism	Room 82A01	
Chair:	Kris Lasslett	University of Ulster	
	Azrini Wahidin	Queen's University Belfast	The Case for Penal Abolition: Women's Experience of Imprisonment
	Justin Piché	Carleton University	An Abolitionist Approach to Public Criminology? Possibilities, Challenges and Pitfalls
	Harold Pepinsky	Indiana University	Reconstructing Criminology: From Crime, Through Zemiology, To Violence and Peacemaking
Panel 7	Racism and Hatred	Room 82A02	
Chair:	Rachel Monaghan	University of Ulster	
	Tina Patel	University of Salford	Learning Lessons from Macpherson? The Police and Racist Incidents in Northern Ireland
	Ruari Santiago-McBride	Institute for Conflict Research	Transphobic Hate Crime in Northern Ireland
	Lyndsey Harris	Birmingham City University	"No Surrender?" A Comparative Analysis of the English Defence League and Ulster Defence Association
Panel 8	Policing and Young People	Room 82C05	
Chair:	John Topping	University of Ulster	
	Niamh Feeney	Dublin Institute of Technology	What do Young People think of the Gardaí? An examination of Young People's Attitudes to and Experiences of the Gardaí
	Johnny Byrne	University of Ulster	Ten Years after Patten: Young People and Policing in Northern Ireland
	Philip Smyth	University of Limerick	Policing Juvenile Justice: The Juvenile Diversion Programme
Panel 9	Media and Crime	Room 82C06	
Chair:	Claire Meehan	University of Ulster	
	Faith Gordon	Queen's University Belfast	'Broken Britain' or a 'Broken Record'? Media Representation's; Patterns of Political 'Opportunism' and Implications for Contemporary 'Folk Devils'
	Ruth McAlister	University of Ulster	Online Grooming, Facebook and the CEOP Panic Button
	Lynsey Black	Dublin Institute of Technology	Paper Women: The Representation of Female Offenders in Irish Newspapers
Panel 10	Complex Needs	Room 82C07	
Chair:	Nicola Carr	Queen's University Belfast	
	Paula Mayoock	Trinity College Dublin	The Interaction of Housing and Offending Careers among Young People Experiencing 'Continued Homelessness'
	Eileen Baldry	University of New South Wales	A Marginalised Space
	Jean O'Neill	Probation Board for Northern Ireland	INSPIRE – Reducing Women's Offending through Targeted Community-Based Interventions

Monday 21 June		16.00-17.30	Parallel Panel Session 3
Panel 11 Children & Young People in Conflict with the Law		Room 82A01	
Chair:	Faith Gordon	Queen's University Belfast	
	Barry Coonan and Colette Quinn	An Garda Siochána	Recognising the Complexity in Describing Youth Crime in the Republic of Ireland
	Emma McGinnis	University of Ulster	The Trouble with Parents
	Mary-Louise Corr	Trinity College Dublin	An Analysis of the Course of Young People's Offending Careers
Panel 12 Resettlement and Community Support		Room 82A02	
Chair:	Azrini Wahidin	Queen's University Belfast	
	Agnieszka Martynowicz	Irish Penal Reform Trust	It is as if you stepped on a land-mine ... Post-release Support in Ireland and its Impact on Integration of Ex-prisoners in Ireland
	Deirdre Healy	University College Dublin	Not In My Backyard? Desistance, Reintegration and the Community
	Claire Dwyer	Queen's University Belfast	Self-Help, Identity and Collective Action: The Experience of 'Politically Motivated' Former Prisoners in Northern Ireland
Panel 13 Young People, Drugs and Alcohol		Room 82C05	
Chair:	John Topping	University of Ulster	
	Andrew Percy	Queen's University Belfast	"Getting just enough drunk": The Culture of Underage Drinking
	Claire Meehan	University of Ulster	Responses to Adolescent Drug and Alcohol Misuse
Panel 14 Law and Sex Offences		Room 82C06	
Chair:	Carmel Roulston	University of Ulster	
	Susan Leahy	University College Cork	Reform of the Rules on Consent in Irish Sexual Offences Legislation
	David Doyle	University College Dublin	'So-Called Romeo and Juliet Legislation': Gender, Paternalism and Statutory Rape Law in Ireland
	Rosemary Craig	University of Ulster	The Yo Yo Provisions: The Scourge of 50% Remission
Panel 15 Images and Justice		Room 82C07	
Chair:	Lyndsey Harris	Birmingham City University	
	Bill Rolston	University of Ulster	Killing with Kindness?: The State and the Reimaging of Murals in Northern Ireland
	Eugene McNamee	University of Ulster	Beautiful Crimes
	Jolene Mairs	University of Ulster	Prisons Memory Archive: Armagh Women
19.00-22.00	Conference Dinner	Belfast City Hall	

Tuesday 22 June		11.15-12.45	Parallel Panel Session 4
Panel 16 Contested Spaces		Room 82A01	
Chair:	Kris Lasslett	University of Ulster	
	Siobhán McAlister	Queen's University Belfast	Broken Britain and the Re-Birth of the Underclass
	Ruth McAlister	University of Ulster	Nowhere to go: Anti-social behaviour, young people and Belfast's transformation
	Jessica Breen	Trinity College Dublin	Place, Pollution and Punishment: The case of Dublin's North Inner City
Panel 17 Children with Parents in Prison		Room 82A02	
Chair:	Una Convery	University of Ulster	
	Sissie Bang Olsen and Peter Scharff Smith	The Danish Institute for Human Rights	Children with Imprisoned Parents: A Danish Study
	Owen Gill	Barnardos	Children's and Mothers' Views of the Impact of Fathers' Imprisonment: Challenges for Community Practice
	Lucy Gampell	EUROCHIPS	Children with Imprisoned Parents: A European Perspective
Panel 18 Communities and Policing		Room 82C05	
Chair:	Shadd Maruna	Queen's University Belfast	
	Vicky Conway and Jonathan Ilan	Queen's University Belfast/ University of Kent	Public Attitudes towards the Irish Police: Challenging the Official Discourse
	Michael Culbert	Coiste	Republican Ex-Prisoners' Views on Policing
	Mick Beyers	Committee on the Administration of Justice	'Us' and 'Them'? Policing and Police Reform Post-Devolution
Panel 19 Law and State Control		Room 82C06	
Chair:	Carmel Roulston	University of Ulster	
	Thomas Murphy	University of Ulster	Crossing the Border: The Regulation of Covert Surveillance in Ireland
	David O'Dwyer	University of Limerick	A Universal DNA Database: The Ultimate Panoptic Tool or the Fairest Way Forward?
	Grainne McKeever	University of Ulster	State Control of Benefit Claimants: The Case of Social Security Fraud
Panel 20 Discourses on Sexual Violence		Room 82C07	
Chair:	Nicola Carr	Queen's University Belfast	
	Kieran McCartan	University of the West of England	Debates, Issues and Concerns around the Public Disclosure of Sex Offender Information: Considerations for Northern Ireland
	Caireen McCluskey	University of Ulster	Privileging Knowledge: Discourses of gendered violence in Northern Ireland

Tuesday 22 June		13.45-15.15	Parallel Panel Session 5
Panel 21 Crime, Punishment and Social Control		Room 82A01	
Chair:	Kieran McCartan	University of the West of England	
	Paul Knepper	University of Sheffield	The League of Nations and the Myth of International Crime in Interwar Europe
	Shane Kilcommins	University College Cork	The Security State and Constitutional Justice: An Examination of the Criminal Process in the Republic of Ireland
	Mick Ryan	University of Greenwich	Policy-making Processes, Mobilising Consent, and Contesting Penal Populism
Panel 22 Policing Post-Patten		Room 82A02	
Chair:	Mary O'Rawe	University of Ulster	
	John Topping	University of Ulster	Beyond the Change Dialectic - Challenges for Post-Devolution Policing in Northern Ireland
	Graham Ellison	Queen's University Belfast	Police-Community Relations in Northern Ireland in the Post-Patten Era: Towards an Ecological Analysis
	Matt Baggot	Police Service of Northern Ireland	Development of Personal Policing
Panel 23 Restorative Justice		Room 82C05	
Chair:	Koulla Yiasouma	Include Youth	
	Christine Hunter	Probation Board for Northern Ireland	The Development of Restorative Interventions in the Probation Board for Northern Ireland
	Aideen McDonald	Prison Arts Foundation	Reconciliation, Restorative Justice & Prison Reform
	Jennifer Phipps	Aberystwyth University	'Who Works'? The Role of the Facilitator in Restorative Justice Practices
Panel 24 Imprisonment		Room 82C06	
Chair:	Deena Haydon	Queen's University Belfast	
	Ann Marie Byrne and Jane Carrigan	St Patrick's College, Drumcondra	Educational Experiences of Juvenile Offenders and Adult Prisoners in Ireland: Perspectives from Current Research
	Louise Brangan	Dublin Institute of Technology	Thornton Hall a Policy Analysis: Uncaring or Unthinking?
	Eoin Healy	Trinity College Dublin	Governing Marginality: Measuring the Effects of Welfare and Migration on Incarceration

Tuesday 22 June		15.45-17.15	Parallel Panel Session 6
Panel 25	Transition and Oversight	Room 82A01	
Chair:	Linda Moore	University of Ulster	
	Mary Rogan	Dublin Institute of Technology	The Accountability Deficit in Irish Prisons: The Case of Deaths in Custody
	Michael Maguire	Criminal Justice Inspection Northern Ireland	Building for the Future: Challenges and Opportunities for the Criminal Justice System in Northern Ireland
	Kathleen O'Toole	Garda Inspectorate	Prison Reform and Accountability: North American Experiences
Panel 26	Migration, Immigration and People Trafficking	Room 82A02	
Chair:	Agnieszka Martynowicz	Irish Penal Reform Trust	
	Nazia Latif	Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission	Our Hidden Borders
	Jennifer Hamilton	Institute for Conflict Research	A Modern Form of Slavery?
	Aysel Allahverdiyeva	University College Dublin	Victim Centred, Human Rights Based Approach to Legislative Frameworks Shaping Policing Responses to Human Trafficking on the Island of Ireland
Panel 27	Communities and Restorative Justice	Room 82C05	
Chair:	Graham Ellison		
	Debbie Watters	Northern Ireland Alternatives	Northern Ireland Alternatives
	Liam Leonard and Paula Kenny	Institute of Technology Sligo	The Restorative Justice Movement in Ireland: Towards a Sustainable Form of Justice
	Johnny Hamill	Iron John Project	The Iron John Project
Panel 28	Media, Arts and Justice	Conor Lecture Theatre	
Chair:	Ruth McAlister	University of Ulster	
	David Grant and Ellen Burns	Queen's University Belfast	<i>Pipe Dreams</i> : Effect and Affect of a Drama-Based Project with Late-Term Life Prisoners
	Cahal McLaughlin	University of Ulster	Unheard Voices
17.15-17.45	Prison Memory Archive Screening	Conor Lecture Theatre	
	Jolene Mairs and Cahal McLaughlin	University of Ulster	Selections from the recordings of memories of women who were imprisoned or worked in Armagh Prison during the Troubles
18.30	School of Law, Queen's University Belfast	Queen's Welcome Centre	Reception and Book Launches: Conway (2010) & Yusuf (2010)

Victim Centred, Human Rights Based Approach to Legislative Frameworks Shaping Policing Responses to Human Trafficking on the Island of Ireland

Aysel Allahverdiyeva, University College Dublin

The paper examines whether current legislative frameworks shaping policing responses to the investigation of human trafficking, identification and treatment of victims of human trafficking during criminal proceedings in Ireland and Northern Ireland provide a comprehensive victim/witness protection within the law. It examines whether during the investigation of suspected human trafficking cases the current system of protection established under the law in Ireland and Northern Ireland allows for adult/child victim-witnesses to access different types of rights and legal guarantees during the investigation and criminal proceedings against the alleged perpetrators. The paper begins by giving a brief description of the recent legislative developments in Ireland and Northern Ireland to prevent, investigate, prosecute human trafficking and to protect the victims of trafficking. It then further examines whether the existing legislative frameworks shaping the policing responses to human trafficking in Ireland and Northern Ireland are consistent with one another, coherent and in line with the international human rights standards. It focuses explicitly on protection mechanisms available within the laws of Ireland and Northern Ireland for the victims of trafficking who are often requested to participate in the criminal proceedings against the alleged offenders in the benefit of cost, time, effort and resource-effective investigation or prosecution of the alleged trafficking offence.

Gender, Power and Conflict Transformation: A Case Study of Community-based Restorative Justice in Northern Ireland

Fidelma Ashe, University of Ulster

Community-based restorative justice (CBRJ) schemes emerged in Northern Ireland during the 'peace process' to provide an alternative to paramilitary systems of justice. These initiatives have received considerable academic attention. A complex and critical literature has now emerged in this area; however, extant explorations of CBRJ have tended to sideline issues of gender-power. Feminists and international bodies, such as the United Nations, have highlighted the importance of addressing historical gendered inequities in terms of the design and evaluation of conflict-transformation initiatives. Drawing on contemporary feminist frameworks this paper explores the importance of the category of gender in evaluations of CBRJ in Northern Ireland. Moreover, it scrutinises the theoretical processes through which issues of gender power have been filtered out of evaluations of community-based restorative justice schemes in the region.

Development of Personal Policing

Matt Baggot, Police Service of Northern Ireland

In 10 months as Chief Constable I have been continually impressed by the commitment, professionalism and impartiality of my colleagues in the PSNI. This has been reinforced many times in conversations in towns as far apart as Strabane and Newry. During those conversations I have been surprised by the insatiable thirst from communities for more of the type of personal policing the PSNI has been and is determined to continue delivering. Personal policing is about using every opportunity to develop relationships with the people we serve, an opportunity to build greater trust. It should be about more than just form filling. Each one of the 500,000 encounters we have with the public every year should go beyond that. When I visit my doctor I get more than a prescription for my particular problem. A doctor will take a holistic approach and ask further questions and this is how I see personal policing. I want my colleagues to deal with the issue for which they are there and, like the medical profession, to take that holistic approach and ask the individual how they are. Ask what more we can do for them and reassure that we will seek justice for them through the Criminal Justice System. However, to ensure increased confidence in that system we are determined to work with our partners to streamline the processes and take away some of the unnecessary red tape and form filling. I see the current economic climate as a huge opportunity to cut bureaucracy, to reduce the time spent recording issues and increase the time spent challenging and dealing with those issues. It is also a time for us to shape the debate on the role policing must play in modern civic society. Despite massive change the PSNI has and will continue to deliver impartial policing and in doing so we will be the finest personal, professional, protective Police Service in the world.

A Marginalised Space

Eileen Baldry, University New South Wales

New work in NSW mapping human service and criminal justice (CJ) institutional pathways into, around and back into the CJ system for a large number of persons with mental health disorders and cognitive disability, provides in depth understanding of their life course experience. Together with earlier work on post-release it suggests a new understanding and interpretation of this experience. The majority of this group has complex diagnoses, numerous contacts with police from an early age and many short episodes in custody. Most appear to be drawn into a space that is neither fully in the community nor fully in the criminal justice system fairly early in life. Community and CJ supports and services are either not available or are irrelevant; homelessness, poor physical and mental health, loneliness, repeat petty offending, breaches of probation and parole orders, and problematic use of alcohol and other drugs are hallmarks of this group. Chaotic survival living is a common experience in this space. This paper proposes that it is not realistic to think of this fairly large number of persons with numerous short sentences who cycle in and out of prison as either in the criminal justice system or in the community; they move and live in a minimal, marginalised community/criminal justice space in which many of the discrete services offered and approaches used by prison, parole and post-release services to offenders have no purchase.

'Us' and 'Them'? Policing and Police Reform Post-Devolution

Mick Beyers, The Committee on the Administration of Justice

The Patten Report outlined a programme of police reform which sought to deal with the institutional causes of human rights violations. This ongoing process of reform has had radical implications for the structure and management of the police, for accountability, equality, and community safety. It also has radical implications for community organisations working in the area of policing. The paper explores these implications including what the relationship should be between community organisations concerned with policing and the police service in a society working to embed police reforms. More specifically, it asks how community organisations should intervene in the police organisation and policing arrangements to contribute toward community/police relations, improve compliance and enhance respect for human rights, and support the implementation of Patten's vision of 'policing with the community'. Of central import to this exploration is the critical distinction between 'policing' and 'the police' which underpins Patten's multi-agency method of policing, a radical departure from traditional policing forms. What are the implications for community organisations in a post-conflict society when the police are no longer simply 'agents of the state' but 'partners in service delivery' to communities? By extension, working in a context where policing is not reduced to the police - and where the police are required to engage widely and build relations with communities as partners, means that it is increasingly important that organizations continue to appreciate the value of community representatives as experts in their own communities and the challenges faced, as well as the value of organically informed, critical thought.

Paper Women: The Representation of Female Offenders in Irish Newspapers

Lynsey Black, Dublin Institute of Technology

Reductionistic definitions characterise many of the representations of women in our society. From superficial depictions of women as sex objects to the elevation of motherhood as a paragon of womanhood, women navigate myriad roles available to them exclusively because of their gender. Female offenders are potentially more vulnerable to such limitations of representation due to their relative invisibility. Society is largely unacquainted with the realities of circumstance for such women, who are therefore reliant upon media outlets to inform the public. The operation of this process in Ireland has not been the subject of extensive research, and the current study attempts to address this. Through a content analysis of the output of four newspapers over a one-month period, the representation of female offenders in Irish newspapers was found to be similarly reliant on familiar narratives. Female offenders were consistently represented in terms of their gender; the themes which emerged were broadly compatible with the various aspects of femininity as it is socially constructed and understood.

**Does Racial Profiling in Policing Matter?
Measuring Racial Bias and Prejudice in Police Stops in England and Wales**

Vani K. Borooah, University of Ulster

Data published by the United Kingdom's Ministry for Justice clearly shows that members of racial minorities in England, particularly Blacks, are far more likely to be stopped and searched by the police than persons who are White. The question is whether such racial bias can be justified by inter-racial differences in the likelihood of offending (that is, the bias is necessary for reasons of efficient policing) or whether this bias exceeds levels that can be so justified (that is, the bias incorporates an element of racial prejudice). This paper proposes a method for measuring the amount of *racial prejudice* in *racial bias*. Using the most recently published (for 2007/08) Ministry of Justice data for Police Areas in England and Wales it concludes that while the Police in several Areas were "racially neutral", there was significant racial prejudice attached to Police stops in seven Police Areas.

Thornton Hall a Policy Analysis: Uncaring or Unthinking?

Louise Brangan, Dublin Institute of Technology

Proposals for Thornton Hall - Ireland's first mega-prison (Andrew Coyle, 2008) - have caused much unease amongst academics and advocacy groups alike. Despite the importance of this shift in direction for Irish penal policy, little is known about the drivers behind change or the factors influencing the rationale behind the development of a prison of this size. This study, utilising the methods of policy analysis as developed by Jones and Newburn (2005) appraises the official rationales and thinking behind Ireland's newest penal policy. The research will specifically focus on the role of policy entrepreneurs, economic drivers, policy transfer and use of evidence in policy-making in the Irish context. Recognising the importance of investigating the policy process in tandem with broader socio-cultural changes, along with this assessment of the mechanics of policy-making, the research also analyses the extent to which changing political styles, such as growing punitivism, rhetoric, and symbolic policy making, have had a role in current Irish penal expansion. Finally, the presentation critically appraises the need for the creation of a large prison in Ireland with reference to international literature regarding the effects larger prisons have on prisoners. As such, the research assesses whether or not the justifications for Thornton Hall are supported by the weight of academic evidence. Therefore this research will contribute to the understanding of what drives current Irish penal policy, as it is the first such assessment of Thornton Hall, while employing policy analysis, which is underused in Irish criminology.

Place, Pollution and Punishment: The case of Dublin's North Inner City

Jessica Breen, Trinity College Dublin

The recognition that certain places in cities are considered particularly dangerous or associated with moral deviance has a long history in criminology. Indeed, Sampson (2009) has recently noted that "the designation of areas as disreputable and disordered...can set in motion long-term processes that reinforce the initial stigmatized state and thereby contribute to the social reproduction of inequality". This presentation is based upon ongoing research into the relationship between place and punishment in the North Inner City of Dublin, Ireland. The North Inner City is an area which is home to many ex-prisoners as well as current prisoners serving sentences in Mountjoy, the main committal prison in the State for males. Historically regarded as a "classic slum" (Prunty 1998), it presents an interesting case for examination. Generally characterised by elevated levels of deprivation and social problems such as drug addiction, more recently the area has experienced government efforts at urban regeneration as well as rapid transformation of its population in terms of foreign in-migration. This presentation will firstly present the location and a current description of the North Inner City, as well as situating it within its historical context. It will then put forward a number of questions about the North Inner City, including some of the research questions of my PhD research and initial results from a Community Assessment Process (Clatts et al 2002; Mayock and O'Sullivan 2007).

Educational Experiences of Juvenile Offenders and Adult Prisoners in Ireland: Perspectives from Current Research

Anne Marie Byrne and Jane Carrigan, St Patrick's College, Drumcondra

Numerous national and international studies have drawn attention to the link between poor educational attainment and imprisonment. Cognisant of this link, this paper is based on two PhD research projects currently being undertaken by Anne Marie Byrne and Jane Carrigan on the role that education plays in the lives of juvenile and adult prisoners. Anne Marie's thesis proposes to examine both the process and experience of education for young male offenders in children detention schools in the Republic of Ireland. This is an area that has not been the subject of significant academic research. By a process of observations and interviews, Anne Marie charts current provision for children in detention, giving opportunities to those interviewed to express their views and potentially impact on future policy. While Anne Marie concentrates on the role of education in the lives of incarcerated children, Jane's work seeks to explore what education and learning has meant and means in the lives of male prisoners attending classes within the Irish prison system in order to hear and relate their story of what education and learning has meant and means in their lives. A life history approach has been used in this research. One attraction of a life history approach is that it allows voices, particularly ones that have been previously silenced, to be heard - literature on the subject of life histories reflects its use with groups who have tended to be marginalized. Both of these research studies seek to highlight the importance of education within the context of confinement.

Ten Years after Patten: Young People and Policing in Northern Ireland

Jonny Byrne, University of Ulster

The narrative that surrounds police reform has been dominated by the design and subsequent implementation of the one hundred and seventy five recommendations that emerged from the Patten Report. The process of reform was primarily designed to address the lack of legitimacy of the police within the Catholic nationalist community and particularly within working class areas and to create a service that would serve the interests of all equally. In the late 1990s the relationship between the police and young people was not considered to be a particular concern, and was not a factor in the consultation by the Patten Commission. However, in the last decade, young people have emerged as a major area of focus for the new police service. Through a comprehensive review of existing literature, this paper documents young people's experiences of policing during the period of political transition and extensive reform of the structures of policing. The paper explores the nature and context of these relationships and provides a commentary of how young people's experiences and perceptions of policing have been shaped by their social, economic and community backgrounds. Furthermore, a number of ideas and activities that have been developed with the aim of improving the attitudes of young people towards the police, the attitudes of police officers towards young people and the interactions between the two are also discussed.

Public Attitudes towards the Irish Police: Challenging the Official Discourse

Vicky Conway, Queen's University Belfast and Dr Jonathan Ilan, University of Kent

Public attitudes towards policing play a crucial role in the efficacy of any police force, determining levels of perceived legitimacy, deference and cooperation. Methods of defining and measuring such attitudes, however, remain problematic. Trust in a police force is not synonymous with satisfaction, nor does use of a service necessarily imply confidence in a service. This paper examines the problems of measuring public attitudes towards police forces, taking Ireland and an Garda Síochána as a case-study. The Irish police have been the subject of numerous scandals in recent years, which should perhaps have caused a crisis of legitimacy however it still registers high levels of public confidence. This contradiction is explored through analysing the official discourse on the matter which revolves around public confidence surveys and political representations thereon, before examining important counterpoints such as complaints and civil actions against the Gardaí. Once demonstrating the lack of credible and effective discourse at a political level, the paper moves to consider ethnographic evidence from a Dublin community with a legacy of poor community-policing relations. It will be demonstrated that individual attitudes towards the force are shaped by complex cultural and micro-political factors in an era of policing innovation and new public management. Ultimately, the paper argues that official discourse fails to engage honestly and reflexively with public attitudes towards policing, given the political imperative to support 'law and order' and the importance of official discourse itself at the level of the 'public sphere' in shaping popular perceptions of, and attitudes towards the Gardaí.

Recognising the complexity in describing youth crime in the Republic of Ireland

Barry Coonan and Colette Quinn, An Garda Síochána

As part of an initiative by the Irish Youth Justice Service (IYJS) and An Garda Síochána (AGS) to ensure optimum alignment of Garda Youth Diversion Projects (GYDP) to improve impact on local youth crime, a detailed analysis of AGS PULSE data linked to individual projects is being performed by the Garda Síochána Analysis Service. A component of this work is an analysis of overall trends in police recorded offending of juveniles across the country. Two approaches are made in this respect. Firstly, a cohort of 20 years olds who have been linked as a suspect offender to an offence one or more times during their lifetime is analysed. This allows investigation of aspects of juvenile offending such as the age and type of first offences, likelihood of repeat offending and patterns of behaviour which may indicate adolescent limited or life-course persistent offending. Secondly, an age profile of all offenders and respective offences recorded by AGS in 2009 was compiled establishing a view of how offences are linked to offender age over a wide age range. Findings from these datasets present a picture of recorded youth crime which complements the work of the IYJS which has established a qualitative view of youth crime at a local level through interview with GYDP workers and local Gardaí. AGS and IYJS are currently in the process of integrating the findings of data to a wider change process designed to improve outcomes in GYDP.

An Analysis of the Course of Young People's Offending Careers

Mary Louise Corr, Trinity College Dublin

This paper presents selected findings from a qualitative, biographical study of the offending careers of thirty-seven young people in Dublin. Participants were aged between 14 and 23 at the time of recruitment. The paper details the course of participants' criminal careers subsequent to the onset of their offending, highlighting the context of such offending and their motivations for continued offending, as well as the barriers to desistance at this point in their offending careers. The study's life history approach permits the examination of transitions in young people's lives, including those related to education, employment, family, and housing, that occur in tandem with their offending transitions. The paper also examines ways these transitions interact with the course of a young person's offending career. Finally, in prioritising the exploration of issues from the perspective of young people, the paper raises the concept of agency in an explanation of offending, therefore questioning if individuals are propelled into action by factors beyond their control. However, this approach is coupled with one which allows for the study of the individual to take place alongside broader consideration of the social context of their lives, thus acknowledging the interaction of agentic and structural factors.

Meeting the Needs of Victims and Witnesses in the Northern Ireland Criminal Justice System

James Corrigan, Criminal Justice Inspection Northern Ireland

This paper draws upon the findings of a range of Criminal Justice Inspection reports into the workings of the criminal justice system in Northern Ireland. It examines the interaction of victims and witnesses with an adversarial justice system, which tends not to be friendly to its 'customers' and can make the business of reporting crime and giving evidence stressful. Cases can proceed very slowly and outcomes, either at the Public Prosecution Service or in the courts can be unpredictable, leading to disappointment sometimes. Victims and witnesses can often regard their position as not a priority for the justice system. The paper examines a range of those experiences, from when a crime is reported to disposal, and assesses the quality of service delivered by the justice organisations. It will focus on the needs of vulnerable victims and intimidated witnesses and assesses the response of the system to offences such as hate crime and domestic / sexual violence. The benefits of newer 'direct' defendant / victim initiatives such as youth conferencing and community based restorative justice, will be covered from the perspectives of victims.

The Yo Yo Provision: A Discussion on the Victims of Sexual and Violent Offences and the Effect of the Provisions of the Criminal Justice (NI) Order 2008 & Sexual Offences (NI) Order 2008

Rosemary Craig, University of Ulster

No other country in the world offered, as of right, 50% remission to those sentenced to a term of imprisonment. In February 1976 the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland Merlyn Rees laid legislation before Parliament increasing the rate of remission for offenders serving fixed term sentences from one third to one half. For the past 34 years all sentenced offenders in NI have enjoyed the privilege of automatic 50% remission on their sentences. Remission elsewhere in the UK had to be earned. In 1988 Margaret Thatcher reversed the provision back to one third for terrorist related offences only. Those convicted of sex offending escaped the net. In 1995 the government restored the 50% remission to terrorists once again. However in so doing the Government left an 'escape route' in the legislation whereby they could suspend and later revive the 50% remission at will. In 1991 the sadistic rape and eventual death of 91 year old Mary Anne McLoughlin and the violent murder of Attracta Harron in December 2003 caused public outcries. Awareness of the automatic 50% remission provisions began to 'hit home'. In December 2006 the British Government announced "*Automatic 50 per cent remission is to end under tough new sentencing measures.*" Will the new 'tougher' sentencing only apply to those charged and later convicted with offences after the commencement date of the legislation? The horrific effect of the *Yo Yo Provisions* will resonate around this province for all time.

Republican Ex-Prisoners' Views on Policing

Michael Culbert, Coiste

For approximately thirty years Republican activists physically opposed and resisted the British Government and its rule in the North of Ireland. This opposition has been mostly recorded by the media via the obvious – logging of physical acts of violence against the various agencies of the state – shootings, bombings against RUC, British Military or economic targets. But whilst that was underway Republicans were heavily involved at grassroots levels in their communities in turning the communities' dependency on state agencies towards looking to themselves for good governance. Part of this governance was the issue of law and order within their communities. Since 1969 the RUC had broadly lost all support of the Nationalist community and thus local people looked to the Republican presence in their areas for different levels of policing – from punitive actions against known criminals to judgement in very serious issues. Republicans thus unwillingly adopted the mantle of local arbiters and policemen. I would remind people of the high profile arrests of senior Belfast Republicans on charges (later dropped) related to policing and justice issues in late 1977 and 1978. That continued to be the case until the ceasefires and subsequent disbandment of the IRA. Today Republicans, spearheaded by the political ex-prisoner community, have fully weighed in behind the establishment of a police service for all of the people. To date it is not a fully representative force and many would say that the % age recruiting regulation should have been on 'political affiliation' rather than 'religious affiliation'- but that is for another day. We recognise that whilst it is not a perfect force and that it still retains a particular ethos redolent of a previous era, it is all we have so we must make it work effectively, efficiently and on the basis of equality of treatment for all citizens - and accountable to those citizens. This is a major part of the work in which Coiste is currently involved.

Community Safety with Feeling

Pamela Davies, Northumbria University

Within the growing field of the sociology of human emotions a myriad of emotions and feelings can be analysed within specific social contexts cutting across public and private divides from the family to the institutions of the criminal justice system. A study of emotion helpfully cuts across many binary categories and divides, not only the private/public divide but also the micro/macro divide; the agency/structure divide; as well as the rational/irrational and other dichotomies. In this paper I focus on victim-offender relationships, especially close, familial, abusive and harmful relationships, to explore the potential usefulness of insights gleaned from the sociology of emotions to criminology and victimology. At one level I simply argue that emotions and feelings matter in victim-offender relationships. In seeking to prevent and protect from abuse, the reality of the dynamic nature of community safety endeavours often seems lost. Exploring the emotionality of victims, emotionality of offenders and emotion and feelings more generally may prove practically worthwhile. At another level I am suggesting that in order to improve our criminological understanding and victimological knowledge base criminology and cognate disciplines might be less abstracted from specific corporeality and more personally, emotively and emotionally, compassionately and passionately situated.

Counter-Terrorism Legislation: A Social Harm Approach

Jo Doody, University of Ulster

Theoretical developments within criminology have seen a paradigm shift away from the concept of crime and towards the concept of social harm. Social harm can include physical harms, financial/economic harms, emotional and psychological harm. A typical example of state harm would be the harm caused by imprisonment. The state in this case intends through incarceration to remove the individual's right to liberty. There is no intent on the part of the state to cause further harm. And yet the wider harm caused by criminalization is well documented. Re-imagining counter-terrorist legislation from a social harm perspective has the potential to re-orient the State response to political violence as it would entail a move away from the retributive and punishment ethos underpinning criminalization and a move towards a politicization of an issue thus stimulating the possibility of alternative interventions. Following a critical criminological approach, this paper explores the use of exclusion orders under the Prevention of Terrorism Act and analyses the data using a social harm lens. An analysis of the empirical data highlights different dimensions of harm. Focusing specifically on the potential harm caused by the state's response, this paper looks at the harm caused to twelve individuals who were excluded. It addresses the possibility that such harm may be seen as justified and explores the manner in which justification and legitimacy was orchestrated. The key question however is, in responding to the harm of political violence, are we creating more harm?

'So-Called Romeo and Juliet Legislation': Gender, Paternalism and Statutory Rape Law in Ireland, 1935-2006

David Doyle, University College Dublin

Writing in 2006, historian Maria Luddy stated that the Criminal Law Amendment Act 1935 was an 'attempt by the state and the Church to curtail sexual autonomy, particularly that of women'. That certain provisions of the 1935 Act, particularly sections 1 and 2, were an implicit denial of the right of young females to make their own sexual choices is beyond dispute, but when one traces the actual origins of these provisions it is difficult to agree with Ferriter's recent contention that invariably it was 'girls and women rather than boys and men who were seen as sexual deviants'. This paper challenges the validity of this view and shows that men and boys were also seen as deviant and culpable, a theme that was continuously highlighted by the more qualitative evidence drawn from the responses to the Carrigan Committee (1930-1) and by the statutory rape provisions of the 1935 Act. It also demonstrates that far from being the apotheosis of anti-female legislation in the inter-war years, the 1935 Act was, in the context of laws protecting young girls from sexual exploitation, discriminatory against young males in the particular protection it afforded young females. Yet, despite the ostensible discrimination against young males in the 1935 Act, the Criminal Law (Sexual Offences) Act 2006, continued the paternalistic approach and exposes only the male to criminal liability, even in instances where the participants are the same age and the female is the instigator. The 2006 Act has however, unlike its legislative antecedent, been recently challenged as being inconsistent with the constitution on equality grounds per se. A central point of this paper, therefore, is to investigate whether this "so-called Romeo and Juliet" law is based on a paternalistic philosophy which acknowledges that it is the female who would have to bear the consequences of a teenage pregnancy or simply "crude and old fashioned" gender-based discrimination for which there is no longer objective justification.

**Self-Help, Identity and Collective Action:
The Experience of 'Politically Motivated' Former Prisoners in Northern Ireland**

Clare Dwyer, Queen's University Belfast

The concept of 'self-help' was paramount to groups formed to facilitate the reintegration of 'politically motivated' former prisoners in Northern Ireland. Self-help groups which work with and for 'politically motivated' former prisoners have been founded on the notion of 'self-help' mutual aid for numerous reasons, but not least because of the fear of residual criminalisation, the desire to control their own destiny, and because they feel it is through their experiences that they are best placed to empathise and understand the effect imprisonment has had on their 'comrades'. This paper presents a critical analysis of the concept of 'self-help' and its application to the experience of former prisoners. A key theme within the discussions on self-help/mutual aid is the important role identity plays, be that identity restoration or identity transformation and whilst identity struggle has obviously taken centre place in the conflict of Northern Ireland, it also taken centre place within both the development and working of these particular self-help groups. Finally, in using the 'social movement' framework this paper argues that the work of these self-help groups has given rise to a new politics of identity... 'politically motivated former prisoners', who have now mobilised and metamorphosed into agents for both political and social change.

**Police-Community Relations in Northern Ireland in the Post-Patten Era:
Towards an Ecological Analysis**

Graham Ellison, Queen's University Belfast

This paper assesses police-community relations in Northern Ireland in the aftermath of the reforms of the Independent Commission on Policing (ICP). It is structured into three parts. In Part One, I outline the importance of community consent for policing in liberal democracies before sketching the nature of police-community relations in Northern Ireland during the decades of political conflict. I then consider whether the situation has changed in the aftermath of the ICP reforms by examining recent survey data from the Northern Ireland Policing Board and the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency. Part Two suggests that while official and national-level surveys are useful in highlighting trends in police-community relations over time, a more sophisticated theoretical approach is required if we are to take stock of police-community relations in marginalised and historically alienated communities. It is in this context that we need to be clear that one of the principal drivers for the ICP in the first place was to redress the severe legitimacy deficit between the RUC and working-class republican, and to a lesser extent, working-class loyalist communities. Drawing upon the ecological model of police-community relations proposed by commentators such as Sung and Weitzer, I suggest that any analysis needs to 'dig deeper' and consider residential fragmentation, the spatial distribution of power, specific modalities of police-community relations across and between neighbourhoods and problematic assumptions about the nature of 'community' itself. Part Three, considers some findings from recent research that I was involved with assessing attitudes towards the PSNI in a deprived area of inner-city Belfast.

What do Young People think of the Gardaí? An Examination of Young People's Attitudes to and Experiences of the Gardaí

Niamh Feeney, Dublin Institute of Technology

Interest in the attitudes of young people to police has increased in recent decades yet until now this has not been explored in the Republic of Ireland. This paper examines research conducted on the attitudes of a sample of young people in the Garda Dublin Metropolitan Region North to the Gardaí as well as their experiences of contacts with the Gardaí. One hundred and three young people aged 15-19 years in four different education centres in Dublin were surveyed. The survey was based on the Garda Public Attitudes Survey 2008. Similar to international research, it was found that respondents had a much lower satisfaction rate and a higher level of contact with the Gardaí than adults. The contacts were mainly Garda-initiated and negative experiences for the young people. Respondents felt unfairly discriminated against and also reported a high level of unacceptable behaviour by Gardaí; mainly relating to disrespectful or impolite behaviour, violence and stopping or searching without reason. The findings have important implications for service provision such as the need to increase non-adversarial contacts between Gardaí and young people so as to foster a better relationship between the two and increase the legitimacy of the Garda organisation in the eyes of young people. The study also makes an important contribution to the criminological field by highlighting the need for further accountability of Gardaí in relation to stops and searches of young people and identifying areas in need of further research.

Children with Imprisoned Parents: A European Perspective

Lucy Gampell, EUROCHIPS

Each year an estimated 800,000 children within the EU are separated from an imprisoned parent. Yet few people are fully aware of the impact that this may have on a child's wellbeing and development and most governments pay little heed to their needs or rights. In addition, prisoners who maintain quality family ties, especially through prison visits, face fewer difficulties resettling on release and are significantly less likely to re-offend. Prison rates and financial constraints are rising across Europe so the need to secure the rights of children of prisoners and to learn from exemplars of good practice has never been greater. Eurochips is a pan-European network with member organisations in 14 European countries, seeking to increase awareness, influence policy and achieve new ways of thinking, acting and working together on issues concerning prisoners' children. It puts the child's best interests at the heart of its action determined that children must be able to maintain a link with both parents, if separated from one or both, a right stipulated in the 1989 United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and the 2000 Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union. An overview its work will be presented.

Civilian Police, Security Sector Reform, and Peacebuilding: From Northern Ireland to the World

Eric Gardiner, Oxford University

The end of the Cold War and developments linked broadly to globalisation and uneven decolonisation have increased the stock of internal security to Western risk and conflict management considerations. The result has been post-conflict and transitional intervention and security forces building, often in the context of peacebuilding or counterinsurgency campaigns. Police reform has gained prominence in 'development' discourse and its empowered subsidiary, security sector reform, because it embraces the notion of 'human security' – a fundamentally ambiguous and contentious concept that anchors understanding and development of security to the population or community. Deference to the concept of human security subjects police forces' development to local exigencies and the nearly anthropological factor of what this author terms 'security context'. Security context has thrown the predominant role of the state in the provision of security into question and peril – both in late-modern multicultural urban metropolises and in transitional post-conflict zones. Northern Ireland, with its history of conflict and security reforms (the ICP's recommendations), provides a useful metonym and portal through which to look at issues of security governance pluralisation and multilateralisation – especially as they relate to post-colonial legacies, paramilitarisation (both state forces and non-state groups), community-oriented governance strategies, state legitimacy, and broader and simultaneous reform agendas in coterminous areas like criminal justice and community safety. Northern Ireland's last decade of experience updates the empirical potential for nodal security governance. Moreover, it has rich comparative potential for further improving other existing security building projects where *policing* and human security are emphasized.

Policing Change – Changing Police: Listening to the Voices of Retired Police-Officers - many or few?

**Paul Gilbert, Glyndŵr University, Christopher Alan Lewis, Glyndŵr University and
Conor Mc Guckin, Trinity College Dublin**

Background: Whilst there has been much research compiled regarding the Northern Ireland Peace Process, and in particular the role of the Patten Report on Policing, little of this has enquired as to the reactions of the officers that served in the police service at the time of the Good Friday Agreement. Aims: To examine how the officers of the police service that were most affected by the Patten Report felt regarding the report, its recommendations and the way it was implemented. Method: In April 2010 a questionnaire was sent to over 3100 retired police officers, members of the Northern Ireland Retired Police Officers Association, in an attempt to ascertain their reactions to the Patten Report. From this initial sampling, further studies, utilising a variety of methodological approaches (e.g., case study, focus group, and interview) will provide further data regarding the experiences of these ex-officers. Results: First, the distributed questionnaire will be described. Second, the demographics of retired police officers will be presented (e.g., rank, age, gender). Third, the demographics of the present sample will be presented. Fourth, the reactions to the Patten Report of the retired officers, both qualitative and quantitative, will be presented. Conclusion: The generalisability of the present findings are discussed and suggestions given for areas worthy of future research.

Children's and Mothers' Views of the Impact of Fathers' Imprisonment: Challenges for Community Practice

Owen Gill, Barnardos

This presentation describes recent Barnardo's action research in the South West of England related to the setting up of services for the families of prisoners. It is based on the words and stories of children and parents who have taken part in consultations in Bristol, Devon and Cornwall. It also looks at the challenges facing the development of community based services for these families

'Broken Britain' or a 'Broken Record'? Media Representations, Patterns of Political 'Opportunism' and Implications for Contemporary 'Folk Devils'

Faith Gordon, Queen's University Belfast

Contemporary 'high profile' case examples involving children and young people, such as 'Baby P'; 'Boy Dad' – Alfie Patten, aged thirteen; the murder of Rhys Jones and the 'Edlington Torture Brothers' have been utilised by opportunistic politicians and also the media to 'feed into' the 'Broken Britain' argument. Employing the method of content analysis, this paper discusses some of the themes arising out of the media's representation of 'Broken Britain' and 'Broken Societies'. There is a focus on the political 'opportunism' on the part of politicians, in particular the Conservative Leader David Cameron, in relation to the recent 'Edlington' case. The paper argues that Cameron's approach mirrors Tony Blair's 'political opportunism' whilst in opposition in 1993 at the time of James Bulger's murder (Scruton, 1997). The paper also discusses the literature around 'authoritative voices' in the media and the exclusion of 'other voices' or opinions, due to the 'hierarchy of access' to the media (Barrat, 1994: 38; Brown, 1998). It goes on to discuss the implications for children and young people who are labelled and treated as contemporary 'folk devils', and the comments made by the UN Committee in their Concluding Observations on the UK's periodic report on the rights of children. In particular concern, 'at the general climate of intolerance and negative public attitudes towards children, especially adolescents, which appears to exist in the State party, including in the media', and the argument that this 'may be often the underlying cause of further infringements of their rights' (CRC, 2008: para. 24).

Pipe Dreams:
Effect and Affect of a Drama-Based Project with Late-Term Life Prisoners

David Grant and Ellen Burns, Queen's University Belfast

This paper reflects on a six month project in Mourne House, a transitional unit within HMP Maghaberry in Northern Ireland, where life prisoners are prepared for release towards the end of long sentences. An unusual aspect of the project has been the central role of 'JC', a prisoner who is embarking on a PhD in Sociology. In addition to a research project for his MA which directly addressed issues of prisoner resettlement, he has published award-winning short stories, one of which (*Pipe Dreams*) he has adapted in partnership with David Grant, a drama lecturer at Queen's University, and Ellen Burns who is in the first year of a PhD in Applied Drama at Queen's, as an interactive performance. From a sociological perspective, staging a play in prison provided a unique opportunity for JC to collaborate with specialists working in the field of Applied Drama, to gain a greater interdisciplinary insight into the impact of institutionalisation on a group of late-term life prisoners. The sociological element of the case study was concerned to discover if a necessary process of 'de-institutionalisation' occurs, through which prisoners 'unlearn' the institutionalised behaviours they are expected to have developed over years of incarceration. Most of the leading writers in this area of social theory, such as Foucault and Goffman, tend to focus on institutionalisation and the loss of self/autonomy this entails, without looking in any great depth at how prisoners come out on the other side. It was found that the experience of performing on stage had a positive influence on the prisoners involved, helping build self-confidence and relationships of mutual support between the cast members.

Transformation and Crime: Post Disaster Montserrat

Lystra Hagley-Dickinson, University of Northampton

Montserrat's criminal justice is not unique in its jurisprudence, it is an overseas territory of the United Kingdom. What is unique is its evolution particularly since a major volcanic eruption in 1995 devastated the island. Since then how its criminal systems have adjusted to a weird and dynamic population immigration and emigration, the socio-economic effects and strange nuisances in criminal behaviour warrants some description and analysis. This paper presents as a backdrop the socio economic and criminal justice legislation of crime and punishment. Crime statistics are examined and the systems that are in place to address crime is analysed. The data is generated from interviews with current criminal justice practitioners working on the island and forms an influential model of crime post a major disaster, a phenomenon which is not a rarity in our modern global society, yet little examined in criminology.

The Iron John Project

Johnny Hamill, The Iron John Project

The Iron John Project is a rehabilitation programme. We use art and hypno-psychotherapy to provide in a holistic fashion personal growth and development, social skills, job skills and inevitably a job and new lifestyle for serial recidivists. Based in a disused linen mill on the banks of the River Blackwater between Tyrone and Armagh, we are a collective of artists and socially minded people who share a vision of a completely new way to look at and deal with criminality and its impact on the community. Although the environment has the potential for violence, as a community based grassroots project we understand the dynamic in the area where we work and are passionate. We volunteer our time and skills and have one sponsor who provides for our basic overheads. Our experience with the criminal justice system has been very good. Last year a Crown Court judge referred a serial offender to us. Since then, our new apprentice has reduced his medication, been through Personal Development, been through an InvestNI course, has passed his driving test and bought, taxed and insured a wee car. He is now legally compliant. His record shows 79 traffic offences. The judiciary can see the benefits of our work. We imagine that with the new policing and justice arrangements at Stormont, local decision-making will be able to organise a Pilot Project. Since last year we have saved the system in excess of £50k and we have helped one young man to turn his life around. In the current environment, it's worth considering.

A Modern Form of Slavery?

Jennifer Hamilton, Institute for Conflict Research Belfast

This paper documents the findings of a scoping study into forced labour in Northern Ireland which has been described as a modern form of slavery and proscribed as a violation of fundamental human rights in international law (Anderson and Rogaly 2005: 15). In 2002, the Labour Government set out its policy towards forced labour in the context of migration in the White Paper, '*Secure Borders, Safe Haven*' which announced new immigration and police enforcement measures and new laws on trafficking for labour exploitation (Anderson and Rogaly 2005: 20). In practice, forced labour in the UK includes various forms of coercion, including physical and sexual violence, threats of violence, debt bondage, threats of intimidation based on immigration status, blackmailing, and confiscation of identity documents or withholding payments (Anderson and Rogaly 2005: 36). In Northern Ireland there has been increasing government recognition to trafficking and forced labour. The Organised Crime Task Force in Northern Ireland identified people smuggling and trafficking as 'new' areas of concern from about 2006 onwards, and at the end of March 2008, Paul Goggins MP announced the establishment of new comprehensive services for victims of trafficking in Northern Ireland. Previous research in Northern Ireland on issues relating to migrant workers has found examples of practices which are certainly exploitative and which could be said to constitute forced labour. This paper will begin to focus on the issue of forced labour in Northern Ireland documenting the experiences of victims and uncover to what extent forced labour practices are currently being used in Northern Ireland.

“No Surrender?” A Comparative Analysis of the English Defence League and Ulster Defence Association

Lyndsey Harris, Birmingham City University

Following recent media attention examining the emergence of the English Defence League (EDL) this paper seeks to place its development within an academic framework for analysis. In seeking to move away from journalistic accounts of this ‘extremist’ organisation, a strategic theory approach (Harris, 2006) is employed to examine: the organisational structure; aims and values; and tactics employed by the EDL and associated international, Scottish, Ulster and Welsh Defence Leagues. In conducting this analysis it is clear that a number of comparative observations can be made with the historical and political development of the Ulster Defence Association (UDA) established in the early 1970s in Northern Ireland. Using empirical data, a comparative analysis of the EDL and UDA is made, which highlights key policy implications that the British Government need to address.

Interrogating Official Discourse Concerning Children’s Rights and Youth Justice in the UK and Northern Ireland

Deena Haydon, Queen’s University Belfast

Since ratifying the *UN Convention on the Rights of the Child* in December 1991, the UK Government has consistently justified a range of actions and policy positions which not only undermine effective implementation of children’s rights within youth justice, but actually contravene international standards and guidance. Drawing on direct involvement in the most recent reporting process (including writing the alternative report for Northern Ireland and observation of the UK Government’s examination by the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child), this paper will use specific examples from official discourse to raise key concerns. In particular, this will include the low age of criminal responsibility, tensions between ‘prevention’ and ‘protection’, and the determination of children’s ‘best interests’.

Not In My Backyard? Desistance, Reintegration and the Community

Deirdre Healy, University College Dublin

An important step in the journey towards desistance involves the (re)-integration of ex-offenders into their communities. In order to desist fully, individuals must gain access to social resources, develop new social networks, and find opportunities to make amends. Ireland has been described as a communitarian society. Its purportedly high levels of social capital should, in principle, aid reintegration. Yet, the reality is that many ex-offenders continue to experience high levels of social marginalisation and often achieve relatively limited levels of life success. This paper aims to examine how local communities respond to the ex-offenders in their midst. It draws on the in-depth narrative accounts of a group of men in Dublin, Ireland, who were trying to desist from crime. It explores their perceptions of how the community responded to their attempts to move away from crime and whether this response enhanced or impeded their efforts at change. The theoretical and practical implications of the findings will be discussed.

Governing Marginality: Measuring the Effects of Welfare and Migration on Incarceration

Eoin Healy, Trinity College Dublin

This research aims to end a balkanisation of the study of governance, social control and public policy. While social policy has generally focused on the ‘enlightened’ and welfare oriented programmes of the state (healthcare, pensions, social security, education, old age, taxation, income redistribution) whose principle objective it could be argued (simplistically) is integration and inclusion, the state remains through the criminal justice system an extraordinary force for exclusion, in the most interventionist sense. For the purposes of this paper I argue that we can conceptualise circuits of inclusion, circuits of exclusion and the policing of entry points in the governing of modern marginality in developed capitalism as the welfare state, the criminal justice system and the policy of migration status, respectively. I also show how an assessment of this sort allows for a more complete reappraisal of the social philosophies of our Western democracies. This paper concentrates on my results and findings from quantitative analysis using regression techniques (panel data and/or fixed effects regression) conducted on 19 OECD countries over a period of 25 years. These findings show the measured effects of migration and welfare regimes on incarceration rates.

Desperate for Discipline or Praying for Protection?

An assessment of the conflicting “justice” and “welfare” models of youth justice systems

Marie-Therese Hynes, Queen’s University Belfast

Expanding youth incarceration and high reconviction rates in this jurisdiction has prompted the search for alternative and more effective responses to the problematic area of youth justice. This has led to a renewed interest in many European youth justice systems which can boast of high success rates and decreases in youth incarceration. On one hand and conflicting with UN standards, our youth justice policy continues to reflect upon an ideological conviction of punishment and persists with a comparatively low criminal age of responsibility. On the other however, many European welfare models of youth justice refuse to consider the child’s offending behaviour as *criminal* per se and considers it to be a consequence of an underlying problem which is thus “treatable” rather than “punishable”. Youth justice policy discourses and the systems which emanate from them are fuelled by conflicting theories of “welfare” and “justice”, “rehabilitation” and “punishment” and “protection” and “responsibilisation”. This paper seeks to address such conflicting approaches to youth justice, through a discussion of the concept of “the child”. Images of the child as “vulnerable” and “in need of protection”, which inform the welfare model of youth justice, are contrasted with a portrayal of children as “lawless thugs”, which has resulted in our youth justice policy taking a decisively retributive turn. The operation of both the welfare and justice model of youth justice is outlined and in light of international children’s rights standards, an assessment of both systems of youth justice is made.

**The Psycho-Social Benefits of International 'Educational Interactions' on
Innocent Victims of Politically Inspired Violence:
A Case Study of a Northern Irish Victim Support Group**

Marcus Hopkins and Sinéad Meade, Humanising Conflict Group

This qualitative paper highlights some of the psycho-social benefits of psycho-social educational workshops experienced by individual members of a Northern Irish support group set up to assist victims of politically inspired violence in Northern Ireland. Using ethnographic research methods to capture the emotions of psycho-change, the paper focuses on primary victims of violence (defined here as immediate family of persons killed or injured), as well as transgenerational victims (sons & daughters of primary victims providing an unwitting care role to their parents or other family members). Experiences are based on workshops run in Kosova (intimate cognitive interactions with individuals working for World Child, a non governmental Muslim group in Kosova set up to assist children and school teachers traumatised by war) Germany (transgenerational trauma in Berlin), Colombia (victims of persons and communities forcibly dispossessed of homes and land, as well as former political prisoners) and New Mexico (interactions with USA Vietnam war veterans). The paper highlights the potential palliative and clinical benefits of international learning in the form of transformative education, and also emphasises the need for ongoing psycho-social support for individuals and families affected by the highly corrosive nature of ethnic, racist or sectarian conflict; emphasising a humanising rather than technicist approach from government and funding agencies.

**The Development of Restorative Interventions in the Probation Board for
Northern Ireland**

Christine Hunter, Probation Board for Northern Ireland

This paper examines the continuum of restorative interventions now practiced in PBNI. PBNI's victims and restorative policies (2005) outline the Board's commitment to the use of a range of restorative interventions to benefit victims, offenders and communities. PBNI has a history of using a restorative approach in working with offenders. This seeks to ensure that the impact of the crime on the victim is central in risk assessment and management. Individual and programme work addressing offender victim awareness, and reparative sentences have been part of this approach. The PBNI development of restorative interventions has been informed by local and international research and practice. In order to develop this work PBNI has provided restorative awareness and skills training for staff. Additional specialist training has been provided to Victims Unit staff who facilitate restorative interventions. The statutory responsibility to provide information to victims whose case has resulted in any sentence which PBNI supervises has existed since 2005. Approximately 580 victims have received a service to date, 70% were victims of sexual or other violence or families who have suffered bereavement. Since 2007, PBNI Victims Unit staff have in response to victim requests facilitated approximately 45 restorative interventions including cases of death by dangerous driving, manslaughter, attempted murder, hijacking, robbery, intimidation and grievous bodily harm. Since 2008, PBNI has piloted the development of the use of restorative supervision plans by funding partnerships with Alternatives and Community Restorative Justice Ireland. To date approximately 60 offenders have agreed to be involved in this work. The paper also includes feedback from victims, offenders, staff and PBNI's future plans.

The Security State and Constitutional Justice: An Examination of the Criminal Process in the Republic of Ireland

Shane Kilcommins, University College Cork

The point this paper wishes to make is that the liberal ideology of legalism and constitutionalism has delivered, and continues to deliver, significant protections to those accused of crime that set some limits to the power of the State and the 'tyranny of the majority'. Though discounted in crime control literature, it has a power and a reach that remains significant and real. Its embedded nature offers more than token resistance to newly emerging, more control orientated, orthodoxies. To dismiss it, or to afford it epiphenomenal status only (as 'law in books' or 'paper rules'), is to neglect its capacity to check power and to offer sustained and dogged opposition to the creation of a 'culture of control' society. Its continued presence ensures that there is unlikely to be any sudden irruptive point in the trajectory of the Irish criminal justice system that moves us decisively in the direction of absolutist control. Any broad reconfiguration is much likely to be of the staccato kind, involving relatively rapid reversals in some areas, whilst encountering sustained resistance on others that will require much in the way of confrontation and negotiation. This makes for a much more messy picture of 'the present', a contested site where the central and the peripheral cannot easily be compartmentalised and where the rhetoric of labels and reality of practices do not always coincide. The paper outlines our long history of legal and constitutional liberalism, a history that provides a deeply embedded institutional and cultural legacy which cannot easily be dismissed or circumvented and which continues to act as a constraint on the legislature and police power.

The League of Nations and the Myth of International Crime in Interwar Europe

Paul Knepper, University of Sheffield

In his book and articles on European and American policing, Mathieu Deflem suggests that police authorities in the 1920s promoted international crime as a myth to justify creation of the International Criminal Police Commission. But international crime was more than a 'professional myth' invented by police. Crime entered the international agenda in the interwar period owing in significant part to the League of Nations. The social and humanitarian committees pursued regulation of dangerous drugs, suppression of trafficking in women, and agreements concerning terrorist violence. By the 1930s, when the League had lost credibility as a political institution, its social and humanitarian work came to be seen as its most redeeming feature.

Foreign Policy as a Crime-Facilitative System

Kristian Lasslett, University of Ulster

The deviant activities of state actors have become an increasing concern for criminologists over the last two decades. To this end, state terrorism, war crimes, torture, natural disasters, and corruption have become the subject of criminological research. This paper looks to expand upon these efforts by conceptualising foreign policy as an additional subject of state crime analysis. It argues that a profitable analytical starting point for such a development is Needleman and Needleman's distinction between crime coercive and crime facilitative systems. Using the author's research into the Bougainville conflict – a civil war that took the lives of around 15,000 people in Papua New Guinea's North Solomons Province – it is claimed that Needleman and Needleman's definition of a crime facilitate systems conceptually captures the criminogenic role played by Australia's policy of "constructive commitment" during the conflict's early years. It concludes that Needleman and Needleman's distinction may help sensitise scholars to the problematic dilemma faced by state managers when their government's aspiration towards regional or global leadership in the inter-state system, which places real limits on how closely patronage to client states can be regulated, cultivates a Faustian trade-off between realising foreign policy aims and implementing measures that will constrain state criminals.

Our Hidden Borders

Nazia Latif, Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission

The paper is based on the findings of an investigation into immigration detention practices by the UK authorities in Northern Ireland which is uniquely situated, having a geographical 'border' with the rest of the UK and a land border with the separate jurisdiction of Ireland. The investigation was carried out by the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission, a non-departmental public body created by the Northern Ireland Act 1998 and a national human rights institution with United Nations accreditation. The paper summarises the methodology of the research and the key findings in relation to the human rights of those coming into contact with UK Border Agency officials. It looks at the methods employed by enforcement officials and compares the arrangements for immigration control to criminal justice provisions. In particular, the paper finds that the discretion available to enforcement officials which leads to individual human rights being compromised on a daily basis would not be acceptable in criminal justice settings. Yet the methods are routinely being deployed against individuals who have committed no criminal offence with minimal independent oversight.

Reform of the Rules on Consent in Irish Sexual Offences Legislation

Susan Leahy, University College Cork

The current rules on consent and *mens rea* regarding consent in Irish sexual offences legislation are the subject of much criticism. The lack of a statutory definition of consent in Ireland is often linked to the difficulties encountered in obtaining convictions for sexual offences and is viewed as creating uncertainty. The approach to *mens rea* in the current law is criticised because of the defence of honest belief which permits a defendant to exculpate himself if he honestly believed that the complainant was consenting. The fact that this belief was formed on unreasonable grounds is irrelevant. This defence is widely criticised and there have been numerous calls for it to be objectively defined. This paper discusses the introduction of a statutory definition of consent into Irish sexual offences legislation, together with the merits or otherwise of a redefinition of the honest belief defence. The suggested reforms are informed by examples from other common law jurisdictions, as well as the recommendations of relevant academic commentators.

The Restorative Justice Movement in Ireland: Towards a Sustainable Form of Justice

Liam Leonard and Paula Kenny, Institute of Technology Sligo

The paper examines the processes and potential of the restorative justice movement in Ireland. It is divided into a number of sections reflecting the emergence of a movement dedicated to the promotion of restorative justice as a vehicle for a holistic form of community-based justice in both jurisdictions in Ireland. It examines the main arguments by restorative justice movement advocates, which in the main hold that sentences should move away from punishment towards restitution and reparation, aimed at restoring the harm done to the victim and wider community, while also restoring the offender or group with a grievance as full members of society. It argues that the movement has had a significant impact on justice and reconciliation processes, and has a role to play in future initiatives in the area of community-based justice, and in so doing addresses some aspects of the potentials that exist in the systems of justice. It examines the emergence of alternative responses to community conflict through an examination of a community forum and initiatives in restorative justice. Both sections of the study focus on conferencing as a vehicle to reduce conflict and improve mediation processes for communities and individuals. The first case looks at conferencing between community, state and multinational entities. The second set of case studies looks at restorative justice as an alternative to traditional punitiveness. The paper examines the successes or failures of the restorative justice movement in its attempt to develop an alternative to traditional punitive methods, representing a move towards a more sustainable form of justice which incorporates the wider community.

**Building for the Future:
Challenges and opportunities for the criminal justice system in Northern Ireland**

Michael Maguire, Criminal Justice Inspection Northern Ireland

The devolution of policing and justice places an ever increasing spotlight on the working of the justice system in Northern Ireland. Greater local accountability will demand a “devolution difference”. Rising expectations within the community will further raise awareness of justice issues and place even greater pressures for change. What should be the priorities for the justice system as it moves forward? The criminal justice inspectorate is a unique body in the British Isles as it provides an integrated approach to inspection across the main justice organisations from policing, prosecution, courts, prisons and probation. Established as part of the criminal justice review, CJI has undertaken over 80 organisation specific, thematic inspections and follow-up reviews on a wide range of subjects; from avoidable delay, prison conditions, community policing, fine enforcement, community sentences, restorative justice and the performance of the public prosecution service. The purpose of this paper is to consider the issues arising from the work of the Inspectorate. It seeks to examine the challenges facing individual justice organisations and the interfaces that exist between the main justice bodies. It examines the nature of accountability under devolved government and the opportunities provided by greater local scrutiny of the justice system. It addresses the importance of the past in shaping the justice system of the future. Finally, it considers the possibilities of more “joined up justice” and the impact on victims and witnesses.

Prisons Memory Archive: Armagh Women

Jolene Mairs, University of Ulster

The Prisons Memory Archive has recorded over 200 stories of former prisoners, prisoner officers, teachers, probation officers and other professionals who were connected to the Long Kesh/Maze Prison and Armagh women’s Prison during the Troubles in Northern Ireland. This paper focuses on the experience of women in Armagh Prison and explores how they negotiated traditional power structures within the prison to fulfil their various roles of prisoner, prison officer or teacher. Short clips from their experiences form part of the presentation. A longer screening will take place towards the end of the conference.

... It is as if you stepped on a land-mine ...

Post-Release Support in Ireland and its Impact on Integration of Ex-Prisoners in Ireland

Agnieszka Martynowicz, Irish Penal Reform Trust

The paper is based on the findings of a research project for the Irish Penal Reform Trust into re-integration of prisoners. It examines how the current service provision contributes to post-release support and looks at the challenges facing prisoners and service providers in the face of rapidly increasing prison population. It also looks critically at how new developments, such as the introduction of Integrated Sentence Management, may impact on addressing the complex needs of prisoners in Ireland.

The Interaction of Housing and Offending Careers among Young People Experiencing 'Continued Homelessness'

Paula Mayock, Mary Louise Corr and Eoin O'Sullivan, Trinity College Dublin

This paper presents the selected findings of Phases I and II of a biographical, longitudinal study of homeless young people in Dublin city (currently in its third phase). Using a pathways approach, the study generates an in-depth understanding of the process of youth homelessness, with a particular focus on young people's trajectories into, through and out of homelessness. At Phase II it was possible to categorise young people's housing transitions over the course of the study into three homeless 'pathways', two of which shared a trend out of homelessness and a third pathway a trend to more chronic homeless states, that is, 'continued homelessness'. Links between homelessness and criminal activity and incarceration have been established both in Irish and international literature where homelessness is considered 'criminogenic' or previous imprisonment is said to lead to homeless states through a number of processes. This paper presents an analysis of the interaction of the criminal and housing careers of the thirteen young people in the third pathway experiencing continued homelessness at Phase II of the study. In particular it examines to what extent and in what ways experiences of crime and incarceration became to characterise the lives of young people living in the most unstable accommodation types in addition to presenting barriers to them successfully exiting homelessness.

Online Grooming, Facebook and the CEOP Panic Button

Ruth McAlister, University of Ulster

The internet has transformed how we work, play and engage with others. The number of people who access the internet has grown tremendously in recent years and it should come as no surprise that in tandem with the growth of the Web we have also seen the emergence of 'online' crime and deviance. This presentation is specifically concerned with media interest surrounding online grooming, the social networking site facebook and the work of the Child Exploitation and Online Protection centre. It suggests that the arguments postulated by facebook for refusing to adopt the panic button are untenable as their current system for reporting abuse is both complex and confusing therefore making this social networking site more attractive for paedophiles.

Nowhere to go: Anti-social behaviour, young people and Belfast's transformation

Ruth McAlister, University of Ulster

Numerous academic studies have been compiled about Belfast's transformation from a conflict ridden industrial city to a shiny post-modern spectacle that houses many envious leisure and retail facilities. The marketeers are keen to promote this 'post-conflict' city to the worldwide audience. Yet like many cities across the UK Belfast is a city of two halves. Take a short trip to the outskirts of the city centre and there you will find life is very different for the local population where dereliction, disadvantage and anti-social behaviour is rife. Lack of investment and ongoing sectarian violence at interface areas further compounds these problems. These are not new issues but new solutions are required to address how best to turn these socio-economically deprived and segregated neighbourhoods into confident, stable and viable communities. Young people are the focus of this study as evidence reveals that much anti-social behaviour, crime and interface violence is orchestrated by disaffected youth who are disconnected in many ways from the 'shared city' of 'transformed' Belfast. By engaging with youth workers and young people this research offers a valuable insight into the experiences of young people who live in these segregated communities and what realistically can be done by policymakers to ameliorate tensions, offer greater hope to the young people ensuring that they can share and experience Belfast city centre, while dissuading them from engaging in anti-social behaviour. This is one small step that will assist Belfast in its quest to become a truly shared city for all of its citizens.

Broken Britain and the Re-Birth of the Underclass

Siobhán McAlister, Queen's University Belfast.

Within current media and political discourse there is continual reference to the notion that society is 'broken', evidenced most profoundly in the violent and anti-social behaviour of today's children and young people. Drawing on three themes within the Centre for Social Justice's Broken Britain discourse – family, worklessness/economic dependency and crime – this paper illustrates the similarities between populist conceptions of the underclass in the late 1980s to mid 1990s, and current conceptions of Broken Britain. It demonstrates similarities in language, causes and symptoms as well as in suggested responses about how to 'mend broken society' and stem 'the growth of the underclass'. The paper concludes by considering the power of such discourses at times of socio-economic change and uncertainly, the role they play in inflaming fear and creating an 'other', often under the guise of social justice and evidenced-based policy.

Transphobic Hate Crime in Northern Ireland

Ruari-Santiago McBride, Institute for Conflict Research Belfast

This paper discusses the findings of an in-depth qualitative study of transphobic hate crime in Northern Ireland. Transphobic incidents can be understood as an enactment of transphobia – emotional disgust and/or negative attitudes harboured towards gender non-conforming persons (Hill and Willoughby 2005; Bettcher 2007; Wentling 2007). The PSNI define a transphobic hate incident as an incident *perceived by the victim or any other person as being motivated by transphobic prejudice or hate*. Between April 2006 and March 2009 a total of 49 transphobic hate incidents were recorded in Northern Ireland (NISRA 2007; NISRA 2008; NISRA 2009). The level of transphobic incidents recorded by the PSNI reflects the number of transphobic incidents *reported* to the police, rather than the level of incidents *experienced*. This is due to high levels of under-reporting among trans individuals. The reasons why a high volume of transphobic hate incidents go unreported by victims are multi-faceted. Individuals who are gender variant face high levels of discrimination and prejudice, fear being 'outed' and have often had previous negative experiences with the police. The frequency with which one experiences transphobia and the socio-psychological risks involved in reporting incidents has led many individuals to negate reporting incidents and come to expect transphobia as a part of everyday life. This research explores the extent to which transphobic hate crime goes unreported, the reasons for under reporting and the challenges it poses to criminal justice system in Northern Ireland.

Debates, Issues and Concerns around the Public Disclosure of Sex Offender Information: Considerations for Northern Ireland

Kieran McCartan, University of the West of England, Bristol

This paper examines the public disclosure of sexual offender information in the UK, with special reference to Northern Ireland. Public disclosure is a high profile public, media and policy issue in UK currently because of increasing popular punitiveness, heightened media reporting, perceived failings in the Criminal justice system, and an upcoming general election, which will see 'law and order' play a central role. This paper explains the origins of and current attitudes towards the public disclosure of sex offender information in the UK through a discussion of the role and impact of the media, government and public. In conjunction with this the paper discusses public disclosure in regard to Northern Ireland, particularly in regard to Northern Ireland's long established culture of community action; whether public disclosure contradicts the developing ethos of restorative justice and reconciliation in Northern Ireland; and impact of public disclosure upon the realities of sexual offender management, public protection, and government policy.

Privileging Knowledge: Discourses of Gendered Violence in Northern Ireland

Caireen McCluskey, University of Ulster

This paper explores discourses of gendered violence in Northern Ireland through the examination of theoretical frameworks which have become dominant in responses to domestic abuse in this context. The paper argues that Radical Feminist approaches to domestic abuse have been highly influential and suggests, provocatively, that such monolithic conceptions of domestic violence codify normative gender systems. The essentialising influence which pervades this approach renders incidences of partner violence that do not conform to this framework less important, effectively disempowering those who deviate from the status quo. This paper presents a challenge to the primacy of these institutionalised discourses as an explanatory model of domestic violence, suggesting generalisations of commonality operate as a major limitation to the effectiveness of mainstream measures targeting the prolificacy of domestic violence in Northern Ireland. The paper concludes that post-structuralist frameworks may offer a way to rethink approaches to domestic violence beyond a politics of privilege by addressing socially sanctioned inequalities in which members of society are victimised by their own culture.

Reconciliation, Restorative Justice & Prison Reform

Aideen McDonald, Prison Arts Foundation, Belfast

In 2007, I completed my MPhil thesis entitled '*Reconciliation, Restorative Justice & Prison Reform: A Theoretical Model*'. I am currently designing and delivering a pilot project, based on my thesis, at Maghaberry prison. HMP Maghaberry, Northern Ireland's high security prison, is the most extreme manifestation of retributive criminal justice in the local context. Maghaberry and the Northern Ireland Prison Service were also my case study prison and prison service whilst researching my thesis. This paper aims to summarize and synchronize relevant elements of my thesis, and current research and work in the prison. My research is influenced by both justice and peace-building or reconciliation theory and practice. 'Reconciliation is never a theoretical matter, but always happens in a specific context' (Lederach 1997). The structural format of this paper reflects the theoretical framework of the relational *focus* and contextual *locus* of reconciliation theory. The debate around the definition, desire and direction of reconciliation are also used as a framework of transferable analysis for assessing the current potential for restorative based prison reform. My thesis highlighted the importance of the role of the internal stakeholders of the Prison Service in both the design and delivery of sustainable reform. Hence, my current research and work as a practitioner aims to involve those serving sentences and working in the prison. The hypothesis of this paper is that whilst the current prison system supports a power imbalance between prisoners, staff and the wider community, the design for a reformed restorative prison requires all the stakeholders of the Prison Service to work peaceably together. The paper outlines how respecting the principles of restorative justice has the potential to transform the prison dynamic from within. Conversely it argues that competing justice theories which inform the criminal justice system are perpetuating the failings of the Prison Service. The difficulties arising from the criminal justice model are examined alongside the prospects and difficulties affecting restorative justice reform within the custodial context.

The Trouble with Parents

Emma McGinnis, University of Ulster

This paper seeks to explore the complex experience of parents with children and young people involved in the criminal justice system. Stereotypical representations of such parents; particularly in mass media, have often sought to amplify gross inaccuracies regarding perceived inadequacies, needs and even morality of this group. It is well established that only a small minority of children and young people are involved in offending. Of these only a tiny number will commit the most serious and violent offences. Unarguably, the narrative of their childhood is often all too traumatic and prophetic. Their parents however typically occupy a uniquely tragic and contradictory, binary position. That of, 'sinning against society'; often, it may be argued, judged as having de facto culpability for their children's offending and harmful behaviour. Secondly; for 'sinning against family' in what some judge as their abdication of their natural responsibilities in childrearing. Aside from probably predicting 'persistence' of offending behavior, the combination of 'youth' and 'frequency' have an additional outcome for such parents of increased likelihood of the vertiginous impact of a small army of professionals; toggling the care/control peripheries. Theirs is a complicated, disparate reality that is inevitably often underscored by 'shame', and a usually pervading core belief in their blame for harm their children visit on themselves and others. This paper explores the needs of this complex group through a structured review of current UK literature relating to the experience of parents where their children are involved in the criminal justice system. The current review will be the foundation for a larger review of international literature, which will subsequently inform a proposed major empirical research project due to commence in September 2011.

State Control of Benefit Claimants: The Case of Social Security Fraud

Grainne McKeever, University of Ulster

The control of social security benefit claimants by the state is nothing new. Indeed, it has been argued that the primary function of social security is claimant control, with support for claimants as a secondary objective. Such control takes many forms, from claimants being required to report changes in their individual circumstances - on pain of penalty for any failure to report - to being the subjects of physical and virtual surveillance in order to ensure that their incomes, outgoings, actions and activities are within the bounds of benefit eligibility. Henman and Marston refer to this as "the social division of welfare surveillance" and the issue of social security fraud is a key illustration of the extent to which surveillance and control feature in the social security system today. This paper aims to highlight the extent to which the state's ability to investigate those suspected of committing, or intending to commit, benefit fraud has been considerably advanced through key pieces of legislation, and argues that benefit claimants are now controlled through a culture of suspicion fed by the escalating focus on fraud.

Unheard Voices

Cahal McLaughlin, University of Ulster.

Unheard Voices is a half hour film of six stories by those who lost someone or who were seriously injured during the recent political conflict in Ireland. The production team worked collaboratively with the participants and the WAVE Trauma Centre to offer reflections on the legacy of violent loss. The stories include a police officer, a son killed in a sectarian shooting, a brother blown up in an explosion, a sister killed by a police agent, and a young man permanently disabled. Using clips from the film, the paper addresses the methodologies and purposes of collaboration with the participants, the role of audio visual storytelling in societies coming out of violence, and issues of public acknowledgement and healing.

Beautiful Crimes

Eugene McNamee, University of Ulster

The rule of law, whether as command or measure, is designed to have sharp edges. Modern law strives for the purity of geometry; instituting, constituting, modelling patterns of regular behaviour, and as legal beings we have perhaps always been Modern. The patterning of Modernity holds an aesthetic quality, forms of beauty, a form of the beautiful. The idea and the practice of crime defies this form, and often, arguably always, challenges itself to produce forth self-legitimation on multiple levels that include the aesthetic, attempting to create another beauty. Who then, and how then, to judge, and for what gain? As politics flattens to management, is there room for law's reinvigoration as once again prior to politics, as a form of measurement which creates the possibility of community? Is beauty the key to justice? A look at some old religious pictures.

Responses to Adolescent Drug and Alcohol Misuse

Claire Meehan, University of Ulster

The level of drug misuse has increased post conflict in Northern Ireland, especially during the past decade and particularly amongst young people, during a period when it appears to have stabilised in the rest of the UK. The link between drug use, antisocial behaviour and offending behaviour has been strongly supported in the literature. This study examines prevention strategies encompassing school based drug education and community responses. It includes a survey of pupils over two time points, focus groups with pupils selected from the survey sample and individual interviews with pupils attending AEPs, teachers, youth workers and stakeholders. The results show that prior to receiving drug education classes in school the majority of young people received most of their information concerning drugs from their friends and the media. Almost half of all the pupils surveyed indicated that after drug education classes, their knowledge of drugs was still very limited, and they felt that this approach did not make them less likely to take drugs. All of the respondents were of the opinion that there was a very direct link between drug use and antisocial behaviour. It was agreed by all participants that a properly resourced multi-agency approach was essential to ensure that the relevant people play their part in trying to resolve the issue. The present study provides insights into young people's perceptions of the value of drug and education prevention initiatives.

Crossing the Border: The Regulation of Covert Surveillance in Ireland

Thomas Murphy, University of Ulster

When it comes to the regulation of state surveillance practices the United Kingdom has had a long and, perhaps surprisingly, painful record of encounters with the European Court of Human Rights. This experience is both explained by and has resulted in piecemeal legislative interventions and, ultimately, led to the introduction of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act (RIPA) 2000. Now ten years old, this somewhat maligned legislation has recently acquired an Irish cousin, the Criminal Justice (Surveillance) Act 2009. The two statutes exhibit similar characteristics: both were considered necessary to facilitate compliance with a specific commitment enshrined within domestic law by each state to perform its functions in a manner compatible with the European Convention on Human Rights; both regulate similar matters and neither could be regarded as consolidating legislation that attempts to regulate all aspects of surveillance. Striking though the similarities may be, of perhaps greater interest are the differences, in terms of detail and in respect of more fundamental matters such as scope and process. These differences are brought most sharply into focus at the point where the jurisdictions of the two statutes meet: the land border between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. For those who live in close proximity to the border, routinely cross from one jurisdiction into the other and are therefore liable to be subject to practices governed (or not) by the two legislative regimes, any dichotomy may be somewhat more than a matter of academic concern. Accordingly, for those crossing the border, this paper examines where they are likely to find the most equitable balance between the rights of the individual and the powers of the state.

A Universal DNA Database: The Ultimate Panoptic Tool or the Fairest Way Forward?

David O'Dwyer, University of Limerick

"It's bad civic hygiene to build technologies that could someday be used to facilitate a police state" (Schneier 2010). In December 2008, the European Court of Human Rights delivered its judgement in the case of S and Marper and held that the "blanket" retention policy in the England and Wales of all those arrested was "disproportionate in a democratic society", resulting in a breach of Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights. In response to the decision the Home Office (2009) released a report "Keeping the Right People on the DNA Database: Science and Public Protection". It recommended that profiles should be retained for six years for those arrested for a recordable offence and retained for 12 years for specified violent, sexual or terrorism related offence, while samples should be destroyed once an effective profile has been loaded onto the database. The purpose of this paper is to assess whether from a human rights perspective, the universal sampling of all those in society would in fact lead to fairer and ultimately more amenable system in relation to "keeping the right people on the database" or would it lead to the ultimate panoptic tool in relation to state control. DNA Database systems based on a retention on arrest policy have been shown to disproportionately represent ethnical minorities in society and allow police to create a criminal "under class" through targeting certain sectors of society for sampling. The question is whether the threat to privacy from a population wide database is so great that we must be content to build and rely on DNA identification systems that exacerbate racial divisions and deprive us of potential public safety advantages. Similar to the double helix DNA molecule, privacy and equality are intertwined in complex ways. When they are untangled and evaluated, this paper purports that the case for a universal database is a compelling one - At the very least it is one that merits substantially debate.

Prisoners' Children

Children with Imprisoned Parents: A Danish Study

Sisse Bang Olsen and Peter Scharff Smith

There are constantly around 4000 children of imprisoned parents in Denmark. In a recent study we have tried to describe the different problems these children face and the way they are treated by the authorities. We look at the whole process from the arrest of a parent, through imprisonment to release and analyze the situation from the perspective of the rights of the child.

INSPIRE – Reducing women’s Offending through Targeted Community-based Interventions

Jean O’Neill, Probation Board for Northern Ireland

The Inspire Women’s Project is the first project of its kind on the island of Ireland. It provides a range of programmes tailored to meet the individual needs of women offenders. The project is led by the Probation Board for Northern Ireland and provides women who are subject to Community Supervision Orders and those currently in custody, who are eligible for day release, with a gender-specific approach to assessments and women-centered interventions to support them in the community. As a result of the small numbers of women going through the criminal justice system, programmes and supervision in the past tended to be developed with men in mind. With the commencement of Inspire, emphasis is now being given to the development of a gender-specific approach to the supervision of women offenders. Inspire is a significant and innovative project and its aim is to prevent re-offending and keep communities safer. One of the unique elements of INSPIRE is the partnership approach that has been adopted. Northern Ireland has strong communities and a well developed voluntary and community sector. Recognizing the importance of harnessing the resources that already exist to support women, PBNI has developed a partnership with NIACRO and the Women Support Network (WSN) to develop a specific programme. The Women Community Support Programme provides a co-coordinated range of gender-specific programmes to women offenders which are based both at the INSPIRE project and within their own communities. This paper outlines this innovative project and its links with the overall Strategy for the Management of Women Offenders (NIO 2009). It looks at the exciting changes and successes which have been developed over the past year.

Gender and Policing Transformation – A box to tick or a force for change?

Mary O’Rawe, University of Ulster

Generally in policing reform circles, if gender is considered at all, it is viewed as an ‘add on’ - a footnote or codicil to what really needs to be done. The recipe for ‘successful’ gender interventions usually amounts to little more than ‘add more women and stir.’ At base, this speaks to a foundational flaw in the general design and planning of security reform endeavours. A failure to recognise or properly accommodate gender as a key organising principle and potentially transformative catalyst for change, perpetuates a situation whereby masculinised and highly essentialised notions of security are accorded primacy. This allows finite resources to be pumped into meeting (sometimes overblown) security threats, often connected to narrowly framed notions of national security and the protection of dominant elites. At the same time, terror perpetrated on a daily and nightly basis, for example, by high levels of domestic and sexual violence or poverty is, relatively speaking, neglected. This paper considers the development of an international legal imperative to mainstream gender and achieve gender balance in all matters pertaining to peace and security. It then charts the extent to which the policing reform project in Northern Ireland over the past decade has met that imperative. The paper suggests why, in practice, it has proved so difficult to engage dynamically, fully and creatively with gender in this sphere, and concludes by emphasising the potential of engendered, intersectional understandings and processes to transform how we view, experience and deliver security on a societal, group and individual level.

Prison Reform and Accountability: North American Experiences

Kathleen O'Toole, Garda Inspectorate

When Kathleen O'Toole began her career as a young Boston police officer in 1979, she was trained and deployed to fight the 'War on Crime' in America. She raced around the streets of Boston in a 'rapid response unit,' answering 911 emergency calls. Police performance was measured primarily in terms of response times and numbers of arrests made. Prevention and intervention were not priorities and collaboration was a word that was foreign to the police vocabulary. Other criminal justice agencies, including probation, parole and corrections, operated on parallel tracks and in similar 'reactive' mode. Over the course of three decades, Kathleen has witnessed the emergence of a new paradigm for criminal justice, not only in North America, but on this side of the Atlantic as well. A new progressive and collaborative model has emerged. Criminal justice agencies are now breaking down traditional barriers, working in partnership and harnessing resources to tackle the difficult challenges facing communities, whether in Boston, Belfast or Dublin. Kathleen will discuss the dramatic evolution that has occurred in criminal justice practice in the context of her own experiences in the United States and on this island, North and South.

Learning Lessons from Macpherson? The Police and Racist Incidents in Northern Ireland

Tina G. Patel, University of Salford

Given the increase in the reporting of racist incidents in Northern Ireland involving attacks against members of its black and minority ethnic population, this paper focuses on the degree to which these racist incidents are successfully policed by the Police Service of Northern Ireland. To do this, it draws on a small study where nine semi-structured interviews were used with those undertaking policing duties. The study examined the work being done by the PSNI at a senior management level to address the visible increase in racist incidents, and then considered how these initiatives were being executed at operational level. In critically considering police work, referring to for example, Kalra's 'police lore' (2003), Reiner's 'cop culture' (2000), and Macpherson's 'institutional racism' (1999), the key finding of the research was that although the policing of racist incidents were being taken seriously on an organisational level, some underlying assumptions about a racial hierarchy continued to exist amongst operational officers. It is argued that these underlying assumptions then go on to impact on policing practice. The paper however suggests the opportunity for progressive change, and makes a number of recommendations on how to best move forward with policing of racist incidents in Northern Ireland, in order to produce fair and accountable policing, as well as justice for those experiencing racist incidents.

“Getting just enough drunk”: The Culture of Underage Drinking

**Andrew Percy, Joanne Wilson, Claire McCartan and Patrick McCrystal*
Queen’s University Belfast**

Teenage drinkers inhabit a rapidly changing alcohol landscape. New and rebranded products are constantly emerging as the alcohol industry aggressively targeted the lucrative youth and female markets. Whilst licensing deregulation has promoted a shift towards 24 hr drinking, community safety initiatives further penalises adolescent anti-social activities including alcohol consumption. Against this background, this presentation examined drinking cultures of teenage peer groups. Aspects of small group ‘idioculture’ observed included the shared norms and standards surrounding acceptable drinking, the strategies used by teenagers to manage their consumption, and the social interactions within groups of teenage drinkers that influence consumption. Young drinkers placed considerable emphasis on the development of ‘drinking expertise’, the ability to consume large volumes of alcohol whilst not getting too drunk. While young drinkers endeavoured to ‘get just enough drunk’, considerable stigma surrounded overshooting acceptable levels of intoxication. Teenagers passed out or being sick are not examples of uncontrolled hedonism; rather they are examples of young drinkers failed attempts at controlled intoxication. Teenagers were most vulnerable to miscontrolling their consumption during changes in drinking context, such as when going on holiday, drinking in a new location, or trying new drinks. These changes were often prompted, inadvertently, by parental actions. An appreciation of the cultural aspect of underage drinking provides novel opportunities for reducing the acute and chronic harm associated with underage drinking.

‘Who Works’? The Role of the Facilitator in Restorative Justice Practices

Jennifer Phipps, Aberystwyth University

The growing recognition that punishment based models of treatment and rehabilitation are ineffective has made way for the increased use of restorative justice (RJ) practice within the criminal justice system. Owing to its increased popularity and rapid growth, those endorsing RJ practices are anxious that a poor quality of programmes being delivered may result. In an effort to ensure that the all programmes stay true to RJ principles, the aim of this paper is to consider the role and importance of the facilitator in victim/offender mediation. A considerable body of research has explored the impact and significance of the therapist’s role in the cognitive behavioural therapy setting and this paper seeks to reflect on the responsivity of both participants, victim and offender, in relation to the role of the mediators facilitating the mediation process.

*Dr Patrick McCrystal was a Senior Research Fellow at the Institute of Child Care Research. He died tragically and suddenly on 10 April 2010.

An Abolitionist Approach to Public Criminology? Possibilities, Challenges and Pitfalls

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Despite the continuing drop in 'crime' rates and the on-going fiscal crisis, there are currently 22 new provincial-territorial prisons at various stages of completion across Canada. As the push to pass legislation which aims to put additional people in prison for longer periods of time continues, additional facilities appear to be inevitable. In this paper, I examine the possibilities, challenges and pitfalls of public criminology for scholars who are proponents of penal abolitionism. I begin by providing an overview of the methods used to collect data on new prisons and my preliminary findings. Drawing on the literature on public criminology, I outline the approaches I and other abolitionist scholars have used to advance a counter-discourse to penal necessity and inevitability. Based on these experiences, I detail the dilemmas I encountered that made it difficult to maintain an abolitionist stance when using available mediums (e.g. newsmaking, political lobbying, public speaking). The paper concludes with a discussion on the prospects for future public criminological work and penal abolitionism in Canada.

Reconstructing Criminology: From Crime, Through Zemiology, to Violence and Peacemaking

Harold E. Pepinsky, Indiana University

The paper summarizes the argument that the study of "crime," "criminality" or "harm" ought to be replaced by the study of "violence" (substantive goal fixation) and its antidote, "peacemaking" (see *Peacemaking: Reflections of a Radical Criminology*, University of Ottawa Press, 2006). It advocates a paradigm shift in criminology beyond even zemiology.

The Accountability Deficit in Irish Prisons: The Case of Deaths in Custody

Mary Rogan, Dublin Institute of Technology

Ireland does not have an independent statutory body charged with investigating deaths in custody and other serious incidents. This is despite the fact that caselaw from the European Court of Human Rights places a duty on state authorities to investigate deaths in custody in a manner compliant with Article 2 of the Convention and the UK's House of Lords has extended this duty to cover incidents of serious self-harm or attempted suicides in some instances. This paper reviews the current practices in Ireland for investigation of a death in prison custody, outlines the content of the duties imposed by the European Convention on Human Rights and discusses their implications for Ireland. It calls for the establishment of an independent Prisons Ombudsman charged with the investigation of deaths in prisons in Ireland, noting that the present system of investigation does not comply with the European Convention on Human Rights. It also seeks to learn from investigative mechanisms in other jurisdictions in the investigation of deaths in custody.

Killing with Kindness?: The State and the Reimaging of Murals in Northern Ireland

Bill Rolston, University of Ulster

Murals in Northern Ireland have had a differential relationship with the state, with loyalist murals being seen as an extension of the state's political and security concerns, and republican murals as oppositional to both. Consequently, the latter were likely to be marginalised by the state and its agents to a greater extent than the former. This continues to the present day. Republican muralists were quick and eager to embrace the aspirations of the peace process. In particular, from 1998 on they rapidly cut back on militaristic iconography. Loyalists, for the most part more ambivalent about the peace process, were less able develop along the same lines. The state then stepped in with its Reimaging Communities Programme, making £3.5 million available for painting out military murals. This paper critically assesses this programme and concludes that an inherent danger, if not intention, is the depoliticisation of murals.

Policy-Making Processes, Mobilising Consent, and Contesting Penal Populism

Mick Ryan, University of Greenwich

This paper addresses the *neglected subject of how penal policy is made* in order better understand (and confront) the influence of *penal populism*. It argues that while academics and activists in Ireland and the UK who have looked for a progressive response to *penal populism* in Nordic practice deserve encouragement and respect, their analysis of the *policy making processes* in these countries is *under-developed*, and that this has led to a far too easy assumption that what Norway or Finland have achieved can be emulated in other countries, including their own. Reinstating *policy making processes* at the centre of our critical focus will help to understand the limits of this sometimes alluring comparative embrace, its diversionary gaze, and direct our strategic attention to those other internal *processes* (and sites) sites where intervention is required, particularly in the UK, and possibly Ireland, to out manoeuvre the demand for more (and harsher) prison sentences. The issue of political accountability is addressed.

'Youth Justice' in Ireland. Opening Up the Space of Government

Paul Sargent, Trinity College Dublin

At first glance the history of juvenile justice in Ireland would appear to be a relatively brief and uncomplicated history. Adopting a reformist stance, one could conclude that following almost one hundred years of a repressive and unenlightened regime dominated by the reformatory and industrial school system we begin to see the emergence of a more enlightened approach in the early 1970s, that culminates in the establishment of the new 'youth justice' system. However, this simplistic or 'progressive' version of history fails to capture the complex developments that have resulted in the formation of the current youth justice system. Utilizing a 'governmentality' framework, as opposed to a state-centred approach, one can unsettle the progressive rhetoric that characterises the current discourse on youth justice and open up the governmental space that is 'youth justice'. The 'youth justice' space emerges as an assemblage of governmental rationalities, technologies and forms of identity. Contrary to the rhetoric of the *Report on the Youth Justice Review* (2006) this space has not been invented as part of a reformist campaign to create a more enlightened juvenile justice system in which the demands of justice and welfare are evenly balanced. Rather, by utilizing the lens of governmentality, what emerges is the increasing governmentalisation of the state from the early 1970s, the rise in prominence of a number of governmental rationalities including 'psy' expertise, social work and community that employ a shared vocabulary of risk and inscribe the identity of the 'at risk' child within the new youth justice canon.

Exploring 'Agency' and 'Resistance' in the Context of the Gendered Violence of Incarceration

Phil Scraton, Queen's University Belfast

In *The Violence of Incarceration* we propose that physical and emotional violence are central, gendered elements in the incarceration of men, women and children in advanced democratic societies. As prison populations and those held in secure accommodation have expanded dramatically, ever-harsher regimes of containment have consolidated. Given the dynamics of interpersonal violence, institutionalised abuses and prisoner isolation this presentation raises significant questions regarding limitations on prisoner agency and prisoner resistance. Theorising custodial violence as a continuum, it connects routine, punitive responses, undermining prisoners' self-esteem and mental health, to the directly brutal and brutalising manifestations of formal and informal punishments. It reflects on recent co-authored research with women prisoners in the north of Ireland and considers the advances and limitations of penal reform within an abolitionist political agenda.

Policing Juvenile Justice: The Juvenile Diversion Programme
Supervising a juvenile offender: a role too far for the police as the gatekeepers of the juvenile justice system

Philip Smyth, University of Limerick

The police, judges, probation officers and social workers symbolise an effective way of dealing with juvenile delinquency within the juvenile justice system (Cullen et al 1990). However the provisions of the diversion programme appear to permit the police to encroach on the functions of the other participants in the system. Indeed it was commented (Mack 1962) that the police were “setting themselves up as judge, jury and prosecutor of the sentence imposed” when the scheme was first established. Furthermore this function has been extended to taking on the roles of probation officer and social worker under the guise of the supervision of a juvenile offender within the programme. Professional experts like probation and social workers are trained to assess the needs of the offender which underpins best international practice when dealing with young offenders whereas the police training is orientated towards crime and punishment not welfare. This paper examines whether the supervisory function of the police is encroaching on the work of professionals like the probation officer and social worker who unlike the police are trained to deal with the complex problems associated with juvenile delinquents. Should this supervisory role be the sole function of these trained professionals rather than that of the police, whose central duties are prevention, control and detection of crime? Is this a role too far for the gatekeepers of the juvenile justice system?

**Beyond the Change Dialectic –
Challenges for Post-Devolution Policing in Northern Ireland**

John Topping, University of Ulster

Policing in the post-Patten era has been characterised by significant and necessary change to the fundamental relations between PSNI and the communities it serves. Indeed, the theme of change to the policing landscape has culminated in cross-community support, along with the devolution of policing and justice powers to the polity. Though beyond the immediate remit of Patten’s ‘change dialectic’, it has become clear that the police and policing institutions in Northern Ireland have been in a continual state of organisational, operational and political flux – shifting from one change (and often crisis) to the next. And from personnel through to policy, communities have rarely had any tangible sense of what they could or should be engaging with as part of policing with the community under PSNI. This paper argues that *stability* to policing as delivered in Northern Ireland needs to be a keystone for communities as part of the post-devolution era. Indeed, while Patten offered solutions to one set of policing issues, devolution represents another set of issues, which need to be addressed in order to cement the ‘place’ of the police as the final part of the ‘jigsaw’ in the country.

The Case for Penal Abolition: Women's Experience of Imprisonment

Azrini Wahidin, Queen's University Belfast

This paper offers a reading of the relationship between gender and punishment and in the process destabilise the idea that offending women are 'out of order' and 'out of trouble' by grounding the analysis in the women's own words and experiences. It is through examining women's subjectivity - their motivations and sense of self that I will illustrate how they evaluate and negotiate power relations in prison. The negotiation of power under the disciplinary lens is formed through their life experiences and their socio-economic status connecting their sense of self with the prison to broader social constructions of ethnicity, gender and class. Their subjectivity, in other words, provides a context in which to understand their actions in penal institutions and with each other. By drawing on the experiences of women in prison and the voices of prison officers who work at the second largest prison in England and Wales, this research will disrupt the idea that 'prison works' opening up a space to discuss penal abolition.

Northern Ireland Alternatives

Debbie Watters, Northern Ireland Alternatives

Northern Ireland Alternatives is an innovative, grassroots, indigenous restorative justice model that brings together community workers, former combatants and political ex-prisoners, young people, victims, statutory agencies and the police in a powerful combination to help answer the community's cry for justice. The model provides community based mechanisms for mediating between young people, communities and paramilitaries and provides intensive work with 'at risk' young people focusing on the hurt and harm caused to the victims, the community and themselves. This presentation focuses on the development of Northern Ireland Alternatives and the key elements to the success of this restorative model in terms of its holistic approach to developing restorative justice within local communities; local schools and families. It provides insight into the role of restorative justice in the transformation as it emerges from 30 years of violent conflict and what this restorative justice model can offer not only to working class communities but also to statutory agencies in terms of building bridges between 'the system' and the communities they have responsibility for serving.