

Editorial

Andrew Millie

The British Society of Criminology has been in existence for 50 years and has held its conference for over 20 years. Since being first held in Sheffield in 1987 the conference has grown to become one of the most important events on the criminology calendar.

In 1995 an annual collection of papers was made available online for the first time in what became '*Papers from the British Criminology Conference, Volume 1*' (sometimes identified as '*The British Criminology Conference: Selected Proceedings*'). This online journal continued for a further six volumes appearing on-and-off between 1997 and 2004. After a brief hiatus it was decided that the online journal was too good a vehicle for presenting papers from the conference to see it slip into history, and so the journal was re-launched for the 2008 Conference hosted by the Applied Criminology Centre, University of Huddersfield. The result is the collection presented here. I am delighted to say the response from those who gave papers at the conference was positive and we have included thirteen papers that were accepted for publication. All papers were peer-reviewed by two academics. I am hugely grateful to the editorial board for their help in this process, as well as the other reviewers (details on the preceding page). The papers are labelled as either 'Panel Papers' or 'Postgraduate Papers'. This distinction is made solely because we were keen to encourage PhD students, with postgraduate BSC members submitting a paper also eligible for the BSC '*Postgraduate Paper Prize*' (of more later). But first some brief notes on the Huddersfield event.

Alex Hirschfield and his colleagues at the University of Huddersfield must be commended for organising and running a highly successful conference. The theme for 2008 was '*Criminological Futures: Controversies, Developments and Debates*'. The aim was to reflect the breadth of contemporary criminology and to build bridges between criminological theory, research and practice. In my view, the conference was successful in demonstrating the diversity that exists within criminological investigation and imagination.

During the conference dinner speech Jock Young asserted that criminology is struggling to be relevant and meaningful (citing an article that had reduced crime to a mathematical formula). Yet, others at the conference suggested that criminology is a 'broad church' and has room for the statistically-minded as well as those with stronger cultural leanings (and everyone else in-between). This breadth is demonstrated by the range of subjects and approaches covered by the thirteen papers included here. The topics include the traditionally criminological (processes of criminalisation, deviance, violence, burglary risk, rehabilitation, public protection, public attitudes and trust), the cultural (fashion and crime), through to new technologies and spaces for crime and deviancy (hypercrime and computer games). There are also two papers on design and one on the criminalisation of certain breeds of dog.

As we had such a good response from people wanting to submit to the journal this year we will be asking for submissions from those who present at the 2009 conference in Cardiff (29 June to 1 July). The theme for the Cardiff conference will be: *A 'Mirror' or a 'Motor'? What is Criminology for?* A very good question indeed.

The 2008 Postgraduate Paper Prize

Congratulations to Marian Duggan of Queen's University Belfast who is the winner of the 2008 Postgraduate Paper Prize, for her paper "*Theorising homophobic violence in Northern Ireland*". Both reviewers thought this paper to be an excellent contribution, with one reviewer stating: 'I found the paper fascinating, informative and moving. I strongly believe it merits publication in the conference proceedings, and may use it in the future when teaching on inequalities. The paper is very well grounded, speaks with an authoritative tone in a clear structure'. The prize panel agreed that Marian is a worthy winner. We hope other postgraduate members will be encouraged to 'have a go' next year.

Andrew Millie, Loughborough University, December 2008