

Presenting the BSC Outstanding Achievement Award to Jock Young

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I was overjoyed at being asked to present this award to Professor Jock Young who, in my opinion, is the UK's greatest living sociologist of crime. In January this year David Garland wrote in a review of Jock's latest book, 'The Criminological Imagination', that:

For as long as most of us can remember, Jock Young has been a leading light in radical criminology and the sociology of deviance. In the 40 years since his classic study of *The Drugtakers...*, he has consistently commanded attention with a series of books and articles whose influence has been felt wherever criminology is taught. Doctoral students in my sociology department at New York University still travel across town to take Jock Young's classes and acquaint themselves with his distinctive account of what it means to do criminology (Garland, 2012).

Indeed, and as we all know, Jock has contributed massively to theoretical criminology at a world-wide level; and, has also made an outstanding contribution to policy issues and the promotion of the discipline. No other living British criminologist has contributed so many varied concepts and perspectives which have become integrated into the international canon of theoretical criminology. The concept of 'moral panic' (developed jointly with Stanley Cohen in the 1960s) is one of the few criminological concepts to have been adopted for general use beyond academia, while the radical perspective of 'The New Criminology' (with Taylor and Walton) revolutionised the criminology of the 1970s and in so doing received global acclaim. His more recent books, 'The Exclusive Society' (1999) 'The Vertigo of Late Modernity' (2007) and 'The Criminological Imagination' (2011) have received plaudits from a range of sociologists: Zygmunt Bauman calls the *Exclusive Society* 'a tour de force'; Loïc Wacquant praises 'The Criminological Imagination' as 'A clever and consequential book' and I wrote in *Theoretical Criminology* that 'not to have read *The Vertigo of Late Modernity* would have been to miss out on one of the most intoxicating social commentaries of the Age'.

Jock has not only been one of the foremost exponents of scholarly and critical criminology, he has also subjected his own theoretical writings to constant critique, never engaging in the methodological parochialism and protectionism which characterises less innovative work. At the same time, he has also never engaged in theorising and critique for their own sake; his theoretical work has informed both the analyses of many other criminologists and his own varied and fertile empirical researches into drug-users, mass media, abortion campaigns, democratic policing, crime victims, immigration, racism, urban cultures of poverty, developing cultures of crime, critique and politics and the culture of crime in late modernity.

And his work has had strong policy and educational dimensions, too. In the 1980s he conducted research into crime victimisation in several London Boroughs, into policing in Liverpool, and also acted in a formal advisory capacity to London's Metropolitan Police Authority. He was one of the first to argue for taking victims seriously. He was a founder of The National Deviancy Symposium which reinvigorated British criminology; and was also a founder of the MA in Criminology at Middlesex University which for years provided the only part-time course in criminology for graduates and graduate criminal justice practitioners. Later he played a major role in inaugurating the Common

Study Programme in Criminology, involving nine European partners. Jock Young is a very public criminologist.

Over the last four decades Jock has delivered invited lectures in 14 different countries and his writings have been translated into 11 languages in 15 countries. Not surprisingly, therefore, he has already been honoured several times by the American Society of Criminology: in 2008 he was awarded the ASC's Sellin-Glueck Prize for Outstanding International Contributions to Criminology; and this was followed by the Critical Criminology Division of the American Society of Criminology making two awards: first, in 2009, it presented Jock with a Lifetime Achievement Award; and then in 2011 the Distinguished Book Award was presented jointly to Jock Young, Jeff Ferrell and Keith Hayward, for their co-authored book, *Cultural Criminology: An Invitation*.

Widely read, erudite and scholarly, an innovative theorist, compelling teacher and always an active player in penal politics, Jock Young is, in my opinion, the complete criminologist. And, of course, I am certainly not alone in that view. John Braithwaite, for instance, has recently claimed that 'Jock Young is one of the great figures in the history of criminology', while in 2011, Lilly, Cullen and Ball wrote that 'there is little if any doubt that Jock Young ...continues to be one of the major criminological theorists in the world'. That criminological texts, in general, are full of such references bears witness to the enduring vigour and charisma of this giant of modern British and international criminology.

Professor Jock Young, it is with great pleasure that, on behalf of The British Society of Criminology, I present you with the Society's 2012 Award for Outstanding Achievement.

References

Garland, D. (2012) 'Criminology, Culture, Critique: A Review of Jock Young, The Criminological - Imagination', *British Journal of Criminology*, 52(2) 417-425.
