

## **Papers from the British Criminology Conference**

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**Editorial**

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Lizzie Seal

The British Society of Criminology's 2018 Conference was held from 3-6 July at Birmingham City University. The theme was 'Transforming Criminology' and the keynote speakers featured prominent criminologists - Ben Crewe, Jeff Ferrell, Yvonne Jewkes, Michael Levi, Thomas Raymen and David Wilson - as well as Edmond Clark, artist-in-residence at Grendon Prison 2014-2018.

The papers submitted to this volume went through the journal's rigorous peer review process and three out of seven submissions were accepted. Many thanks to the peer reviewers for their essential work in enabling publication of the journal and for the helpful comments that they provided to help further strengthen the submissions. Thanks is also due to the authors for their prompt revisions and co-operation. The timeline for journal is short and its production is greatly aided by this willingness to meet deadlines.

The first article by Page and Temple-Malt explores using the World Café approach as a participatory method for conducting research on new psychoactive substances with students and homeless people. They outline how they undertook their research and explore the benefits of using this methodology as well as some of its disadvantages. In particular, they find potential in its ability to 'stimulate rich, animated and productive exchanges'. Kennedy et al present data from a pilot study conducted in Birmingham on public perceptions of the demographics of typical offenders across a range of crimes. They find that their sample tended to be correct in determining the characteristics of typical offenders for most crimes, although there was some divergence between public perceptions on this and findings from official statistics and criminological research. Finally, Parsons examines the importance of bearing witness to people's personal transformation away from offending and towards imagining positive future selves. She presents findings from a Photographic electronic Narrative (PeN) project hosted at a resettlement scheme for men. Through focusing on one man's journey in particular she explores both his photographs and blogs, and the public's interaction with them via social media, as a form of bearing witness.

In 2019, the British Society of Criminology Conference will take place at University of Lincoln from 2-5 July, with the title 'Public Criminologies: Communities, Conflict and Justice'. I wish you all a relaxing break and a fruitful 2019.

Lizzie Seal, University of Sussex, December 2018