BSC Race Matter Network – Summer 2019 Newsletter

BSC Annual Conference 2019 University of Lincoln – Apologies –

We had hopes to formally launch the Network at this conference but events and contingencies have conspired to make this impossible. For all BSC Networks the annual conference is an important event, and we are no different. We hoped it would be an opportunity to meet people, to schedule panels and help consolidate the presence and contributions of Black and Minority Ethnic scholars in British criminology. Next year we will have more time to prepare and look forward to making up for missing out this year. Apologies to all those who hoped we might meet there.

Setting up the Network

Coretta Phillips (LSE) and Pamela Ugwudike (Southampton) are co-chairing the network. The steering group is made up of people who have expressed an interest in developing the network. The list can be found on the Network website:

https://www.britsoccrim.org/networks/race-matters-network/

If anyone can come up with a better logo for the network website, we are open to suggestions.

Black Criminology Month - October

One of the ideas emerging from the 2018 LSE Race Matters in Criminology Symposium was that with the booming interest in undergraduate criminology showing no signs of abating, a good way of raising issues around race, racism, crime and criminology would be to emulate the October Black History Month strategy. This coincides with the start of a new teaching year and events could be organised on campuses to pull together the interests students have in criminology and anti-racist struggles and scholarship.

A regular, scheduled focus on bringing the analysis of race and racism to the forefront of British criminology can be helpful. Different universities, departments and scholars will have different approaches, but it can be promoted as a national initiative. Let us know your thoughts and suggestions and, if the responses are positive we may seek the support/endorsement of the BSC.

Annual Race Matters in Criminology Public Lecture – Vesla Weaver

We don’t know if an annual lecture can be sustained, but the current Chairs of the network would like to start with one, and see if it can take off. Alpa Parmar secured network-building funding from the Independent Social Research Foundation (ISRF) and Coretta and Pamela have secured the agreement of the US scholar Vesla Weaver to present a public Race Matters in Criminology lecture at the LSE in the spring next year. Vesla’s work is breaking new ground on the connections between racism in America and its obsessions with crime control. Coretta has secured the support of the LSE to make this lecture part of its public lecture series, which will result in it being publicly available as an LSE podcast.

https://politicalscience.jhu.edu/directory/vesla-weaver/

Perhaps network members in northern Universities could be persuaded to pick up the baton for 2021.

Transforming Rehabilitation, Forgetting Race – as usual
Pamela Ugwudike has noted that the racial implications of the botched TR agenda and the ‘new’ direction proposed for the Probation Service have been unsurprisingly neglected. Racial issues have been left out of prevailing policy and academic commentaries on the collapse of the Grayling reforms. Pamela is developing a draft commentary and would welcome suggestions, comments, stories and insights.

**Solicitor Training**

Patrick Williams has raised the issue of the need for solicitors to be better informed and trained around the racialising implications of ‘joint enterprise’ prosecutions and policing. Is this something the network can help to facilitate? Comments and suggestions welcome.

**Building links across disciplinary boundaries**

Criminology’s status as a rendezvous discipline is sometimes over-stated but one of the ambitions of the LSE Race Matters symposium was to build stronger links with sociology of race scholars. Ideas about how to further this ambition are welcome, but a formal letter of introduction might be sent to the British Sociological Association (BSA) Race Group and the American Society of Criminology People of Colour Division could be a good start. Let us know what you think, and who we else might contact. We might stand to benefit from advice on how to get established and how to develop network strength and influence.

**Congratulations**

One of the functions of the network is to support the work of Black and minority ethnic scholars in criminology, celebrate their achievements and promote wider acknowledgement of their contribution to criminology. Please send us information about your own work or that of others so we can include it in Newsletters.

So, for starters, Read, Circulate and Celebrate...

- Alpa Parmar’s article in *The British Journal of Criminology* Vol 5 No.4 July 2019, Policing Migration and Racial Technologies’.
- Other forthcoming publications include the edited collection titled, *The Routledge Companion to Rehabilitative Work in Criminal Justice*, which is edited by Pamela Ugwudike and colleagues. The Companion contains chapters other from members of the Network steering group - Bankole Cole (University of Hull) and also Martin Glynn (Birmingham City University).