

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

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### **Editorial**

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Lizzie Seal

In 2019, the British Society of Criminology's conference was held from 2-5 July at University of Lincoln, with the title 'Public Criminologies: Communities, Conflict and Justice'. Conference plenaries and keynotes engaged with the necessity to bridge the gap between criminology as an academic discipline and criminology as a public discourse, which can be utilised to further social justice and the collective good. Patrick Williams on Rehumanising the Other, Rob White on Climate Change and Criminology, Sylvia Walby on Theorising Violence and Society and two panels on Activism, Advocacy and Academia and Harm and the Neoliberal University, all of which attested to the potential for criminology to provide 'meaningful reflections on the political realities of community, conflict and justice' (BSC Annual Conference, 2019).

The papers submitted to this volume went through the journal's rigorous peer review process and five out of nine submissions were accepted. Many thanks to the members of the editorial board and the other peer reviewers for doing this work and for engaging carefully with submissions in order to make helpful suggestions for improvement. Thanks also to the authors for their willingness to revise articles to tight timescales. As ever, the timeline for the journal is short and its production would not be possible without this willingness to meet deadlines on the part of reviewers and authors.

Colosi and Lister examine how kink practitioners use the social networking site FetLife to express their sexuality and avoid stigma. They conclude that while FetLife provides kink practitioners with a much-needed online space for managing stigma, it also reinforces their marginalisation from normative sexual identities. Cooper presents the findings from a Health Needs Assessment (HNA) of people convicted of offences living in the community in Derbyshire. The HNA discovered that 'community offenders' face significant barriers in being able to maintain good health and in accessing necessary healthcare, particularly in relation to mental health needs. Healy applies an intersectional analysis to hate crime experienced by disabled people to argue that the 'single strand' approach to understanding hate crime overlooks complexity and diversity. Instead, an approach based on human rights and

the need for cultural change may be better placed to address this complexity. The final two articles reflect on aspects of the current state of British criminology. Stockdale and Sweeney conducted a pilot study on a BA Criminology programme at a post-92 university in order to assess how far the curriculum needs to be decolonised. They found that core modules had fewer key readings by female authors than male, and far fewer by authors of colour than white authors, whether women or men. They present an intersectionality matrix for use in developing more diverse curricula. Finally, Harris, Jones and Squires report on the results of the British Society of Criminology's national survey of criminology teaching and research in the UK. The results highlight the attractiveness of criminology to universities as a discipline that recruits students well and the concomitant pressure this can exert on teaching teams.

In 2020, the British Society of Criminology Conference will take place at University of Liverpool from 7-10 July, with the title 'Criminology in an Age of Global Injustice(s)'. I wish you all a restful and recuperative holiday.

Lizzie Seal, University of Sussex, December 2019

