THE ELDERLY PRISON POPULATION IN CHILE: CHARACTERISTICS AND CHALLENGES

Problem
Increasing number of elderly in prison.

Causes:
Ageing population
Mass incarceration
Penal populism

Consequences:
Increasing costs
Health and mental health care
Disabilities

Research Questions
How have the recent developments in Chilean criminal policy influenced the current situation of the elderly in prison?

How do elderly prisoners give accounts of their experiences and relationships in Chilean prisons?

How do the daily practices in the prison context challenge and shape the identity and adaptation of elderly prisoners?

What potential changes could positively influence the situation of elderly prisoners in Chile?

Methods
Qualitative research.
Narrative approach.
In-depth interviews.

Prisoners over 60 years
Groups of elderly prisoners:
First time in prison - Long sentence.
First time in prison - Short sentence.
Repeat offenders - Recurrent experience of custody.
Long term sentences - Grown old in prison.

Daniela Mardones Bravo
@danielamarbrav
daniela.mardones-bravo@ed.ac.uk
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