Editorial

Lizzie Seal

The BSC’s 2021 conference was a collaboration with The Open University entitled ‘Crime and Harm: Challenges of social and global justice’ and took place 7-9 July. Inevitably, in 2021 things had to happen a little differently, and it was the BSC’s first conference to take place online. An advantage of taking place online is the truly international scope this enabled, with participation from presenters and plenary speakers from around the world. Plenaries engaged with issues of urgent contemporary criminological relevance, such as Black Lives Matter, decolonising criminology, gendered and green harms, and harms related to policing. The submissions to the conference journal were peer-reviewed and two out of the six were accepted for publication. My thanks are due to the reviewers for providing helpful feedback on submissions and to the authors for being timely with completing requested revisions. The journal has tight deadlines and could not be produced without the willingness and cooperation of reviewers and authors.

Demsey discusses her findings on how men incarcerated in an open prison experience nature, including recollections of their experiences from closed prisons. Biophilia, gaining positive experiences from interactions with the natural environment and/or animal life, was important and a significant aspect of being in an open prison. Participants also described experiencing biophobia, negative aspects such as discomfort with the natural environment as alien, exposure to pests in cells or aggressive dogs as part of the prison regime. Li et al analyse crime data from London and Sydney in 2020 to assess the effect of imposing lockdowns on crime rates. They apply two classic criminological theories, routine activities and general strain, in order to understand how lockdowns affect crime. While crime rates dropped overall, certain crimes such as those related to domestic abuse, drugs offences and cybercrime rose. Changed patterns of mobility and increases in strain help to explain these patterns.

The 2022 conference is hosted by University of Surrey 28 June – 1 July with the title ‘Reimagining Criminological Futures: New Criminologies in a Changing World’. The world has certainly changed – let's hang tight for 2022.

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