

BOOK REVIEWS

Edited by David Phillips, Sheffield Hallam University

DICTIONARY OF YOUTH JUSTICE **ed. Barry Goldson. Cullompton Willan (2008)** **pp. 465, ISBN 978-1-84392-293-3**

This dictionary represents the result of some significant endeavour on the part of the editor, the individual authors, and the administrative team, and is likely to prove popular and useful across a range of practitioner and academic readership. It is extremely well presented and comprehensive in coverage across a range of youth justice related topics, offering coverage (rather neatly) of everything from “abolitionism to zero tolerance”: I suspect that any entry alphabetically earlier or later was prudently edited out to maintain this ‘A to Z’ tagline!

The introduction to the text highlights a range of challenges faced when undertaking the production of such a volume. The dictionary sets out an aim of “making sense of youth justice”, particularly highlighting the need to apply a comparative analysis to move beyond a simplistic binary oppositional view of the range of approaches to issues of youth justice across time and geography.

The individual entries are presented effectively, following a style reminiscent of other dictionaries (for example, the Sage Dictionary of Criminology). The reader is provided with a short definitional sentence; then the main section, which vary in length from around 200 to around 500 words. This is then followed with a list of ‘Related entries’ making links to topics addressed in the dictionary; and finally a box covering ‘Key text and sources’. The main entries cover a range of types of material: theoretical concepts and perspectives (e.g. moral panics; radical non-intervention); legislation; (e.g. Criminal Justice Acts); criminal justice bodies and authorities (e.g. Crown Prosecution Service; Probation Service); methodological material (e.g. evaluation research; British Crime Survey); and a wide range of broad and specific approaches adopted (e.g. diversion; responsibilization).

Many of these topics are specific to youth justice, but many, perhaps the majority, are criminological / criminal justice in nature and clearly have an additional relevance outside a strict definition of youth justice. There are also topics that are not directly justice or criminological in nature, though clearly with a relevance to youth justice: examples would

include child poverty and the Welsh Assembly Government. In order to maintain the focus on youth justice, these more general topics focus on the specifics of their application to concerns for youth justice: the coverage of the Criminal Justice Act 2003, for example focuses specifically on the expansion of magistrates sentencing powers for young violent and sexual offenders, the introduction of Individual Support Orders for young people, changes to parenting orders and other aspects of youth justice, but does not address the areas unrelated to youth justice at all. Some topics, though, do not seem to have been so specifically targeted to the youth justice concerned reader, and maintain a more general criminological focus, which might have been better suited to a text like the Sage Dictionary. Overall, though, the standard of the individual entries reflects the high level of expertise of the individual authors, and will provide the reader with both a succinct overview, and a route to more detailed information if required.

Following the individual entries, two useful appendices are included. Firstly, a seventeen page directory of agencies are included, complete with postal and web and contact email addresses, followed by a collated reference section, including URLs of online material.

My concerns about the volume are not really to do with the material as presented. As already noted, this is of a high standard and merits serious consideration by a range of potential audiences, both academic and practitioner in nature. The danger, as with any volume employing a dictionary approach, is that entries are in danger of being read in isolation, and that the connections between entries are left to be made by the reader. The 'Related Entries' and 'Key texts and sources' are certainly ways of providing the reader with the means to start making the connections, but this clearly cannot provide the same detail and depth as a more discursive piece that draws themes and conclusions across a range of topic areas. Barry Goldson's introduction correctly identifies the complexity of the debates in youth justice, and the need to move beyond seductively simple dichotomies in ways to approach youth justice, but it will require the Dictionary to be used carefully as an addition to, but not a replacement for, an engagement with a broader literature. It should be noted, though, that the coverage of some areas spans a number of directly related entries, and therefore can address a range of different aspects of an area: anti-social behaviour, for example, receives an entry in its own right, along with separate entries covering the Anti-social Behaviour Act 2003; ASBOs and the Anti-social Behaviour (Scotland) Act 2004.

Another aspect that Professor Goldson highlights is the merit of a comparative analysis. With this in mind, the dictionary entries are perhaps a little disappointing: the vast majority of the entries relate to the United Kingdom: some coverage, particularly the more theoretical entries, make reference to North American scholarship, and there is consideration made of pan-national institutions, conventions and declarations, but this is clearly targeting a UK audience. Clearly coverage of specific pieces of legislation is inevitably going to retain a UK focus, but there could have been greater geographical breadth in the coverage of a number of areas addressed. As a result, the laudable aim of comparative analysis is really limited to comparison across the nations of the UK, and to some historical comparison.

One further feature of youth justice highlighted in the introduction is the constant state of flux of criminal justice in general, and youth justice in particular. As we all know, this produces an ultimately unsolvable challenge to authors and publishers: that of achieving contemporaneity. Clearly, many texts are out-of-date when published, and in the area of youth justice this problem is perhaps greater than in almost any other: the appeal to slow the pace of policy innovation is not limited to just academic authors! There are, though, a number of entries, and several online sources (e.g. the disappearance of ASBO Concern) that already need up-dating. I'm unaware whether there is any intention to provide an companion website to this text (no mention is made of this), but I suspect the need to produce a second (and subsequent) editions may take up a considerable part of Professor Goldson's working life in years to come.

In summary, then, it is important to recognise that books are finite, and reviewer's wishes are infinite. With this in mind, the short-comings of the book are relatively minor, and should not mask the fact that this is a well-produced, authoritative volume that is likely to prove popular with a range of audiences.

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JUSTICE, COMMUNITY AND CIVIL SOCIETY: A CONTESTED TERRAIN

Ed. Joanna Shapland, Cullompton Willan (2008)
ISBN: 978-184392-299-5

Justice, Community and Civil Society is a rich and comprehensive addition to ongoing debates within Criminology on the relationship between criminal justice and its 'publics'. The book brings together key scholars operating at the interface of how criminological knowledge is not only disseminated, but also understood at the community and civil society levels. In this sense the book is a welcome respite from the contested binary of criminology and policy insofar as it gives promise of re-animating the debates on community, and civil society and the complex linkages between comprehending crime, and administering its control. Not only does the book provide a rich array of insights from international jurisdictions on how the criminal justice, community and civil society nexus operates. The book also provides for a much needed account of the value and merit of the comparative method as it relates to this specific area of debate.

The academics brought together over the 230 or so pages write with great experience of how various societies overcome the ongoing and increasingly problematic dilemma of responding to the public's demand for justice. The most in-depth chapters focus attention on France and Northern and Southern Ireland. Both societies have undergone considerable political change in the last 10 years. On France, the chapters serve to remind this reader that notions of community should never be taken for granted: 'the word

'community' seems to be almost banned from French political, legal and even professional vocabularies' (p. 48). By contrast, and at the other end of the spectrum, two robust chapters on Northern Ireland and Ireland reveal another perplexing picture of community. On Northern Ireland, it is the very term 'community' that has come to dominate the political landscape. That is, through the lens of community, Northern Ireland comes to 'see like a state' (p.162).

Further chapters on Germany and the Netherlands draw the reader to a normative question: is it the case that in instances when rational dialogue with 'publics' withers and disappears, then this is largely because participation in, acceptance of, social democracy, has been replaced by a rapacious rise in criminalisation and crime control. This question is woven through each chapter and while there are no easy answers to the related question of whether moves 'to and from community' are either positive or negative, cogent and potent points are presented for our consideration: what might be the dimensions of community?; what happens when responsibility for crime shifts?; what constitutes voluntary sector involvement in partnership building and how do distinctive and exceptional sites - where criminologies of extreme events have occurred - produce engaged and principled social actors (I am thinking here of the citizens of the post-Troubles in Northern Ireland).

Upon reading this book one is immediately prompted to consider how citizens conceive of the state. All the authors advocate for a bottom-up approach to managing new forms of legitimate state-building with active citizens who are responsible and engaged in a uniform criminal justice. Moreover, there is an emphasis on the nuances on the localisation of difference between communities and citizens. A further point of interest in this book is the reaction of criminal justice agencies to the changing contours of community involvement in community justice. Much of this is put down to the exceptionality of bureaucracy in the criminal justice sphere; a sphere which struggles to interact with lay persons from different public spheres and also continues (and this is alarming) to face difficulties to work with victims. From a comparative criminal justice point of view, the following point gives promise for some rich comparative study: 'There also seems to be considerable difficulty for criminal justice professionals to decentralise their ways of working: to move out from the legal environment of centralised courthouses into decentralised offices, which they may share with other professionals' (p. 25).

There is much to praise in this book. It is bold, ambitious and succeeds way beyond many other books which seek to bring jurisdictions and criminal justice scholars' together to produce scholarship that often feels as if it is touching the tip of the criminology iceberg. This book is a most enjoyable read and serves well also as a teaching aid for advanced undergraduate and postgraduate study.

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PRISONER RESETTLEMENT: POLICY AND PRACTICE

**Ed. Anthea Hucklesby and Lystra Hagley-Dickson
Cullompton Willan (2007) pp. 306, ISBN 978-184392-253-7**

This edited collection features distinguished practitioners, academics and researchers in the field of prisoner resettlement. The book is divided into three logical sections; theory, policy and research, issues of resettlement practice, the resettlement of specific groups of prisoners. As a result the book is suitable to a wide audience such students, academics, researchers, practitioners and policy makers. Each contribution offers something different yet all alert the reader to the problems of prisoner resettlement and the gaps in our knowledge about this area. As a consequence the book ends by looking at the evidence that already exists and makes important recommendations about how resettlement could be more meaningful and effective for all stakeholders.

In the first section Hedderman rightly points out that there are many problems and limitations with the practice and processes of resettlement. In particular support for prisoners is poor. Life after prison as Raynor in the following chapter indicates that leaving prison should not necessarily mean criminal justice agencies are wholly responsible for the 'care' of ex-offenders. Instead movement towards welfare care for resettlement might offer more logical and effective support. Hedderman and Raynor both discuss the role of theory in relation to understanding resettlement and identify difficulties in understanding this term, its uses, relevance and impact. Raynor sees that social capital might be an objective of resettlement, whereby ex-offenders are able to make productive and meaningful bonds and bridges within community (p38). Furthermore models of resettlement are described by Hucklesby and Wincup 'very much an ideal' (p44) and pressures to ensure 'success' bring about 'quantity not quality' (p49). The prison routine adds further barriers for agencies to work with prisoners meaning that time and resources remain limited or considered impractical for doing meaningful work with respect to resettlement. Hucklesby and Wincup also describe the different models and approaches to resettlement and often initiatives to assist prisoners making positive changes in their lives are not fully focused on the aims and objectives described by the initiatives. The authors describe these models well and alert the reader to the dilemmas and contradictions of such models.

One of the most insightful chapters Researching and evaluating resettlement by Wincup and Hucklesby discusses the process of researching resettlement. Their chapter poses a number of significant issues relating to research in this area and offers practical advice on both doing research in this area and for those considering commissioning research. In addition research for these contributors is perhaps a misleading term. Often initiatives have to incorporate evaluation (and not research) of their performance in order to achieve

funding and are therefore driven to describe what needs to be measured rather than what should be measured. In particular the need for initiatives to demonstrate reductions in offending as the authors describe is misleading and difficult to capture especially in the time constraints of an evaluation and the kinds of sample that emerges. The authors offer practical advice to doing research in prisons and in the community and ways in which data could be analysed. Probably the most significant lesson from this chapter is the authors' attention to the pitfalls that result in doing evaluations in this area and the political implications of presenting outcomes and outputs to a wider audience. Measurements of success can be very different for different audiences this is as a result of political, ethical and logistical implications for all stakeholders of evaluative work.

Doing resettlement work is outlined in the second part of this text and provides useful lessons especially for practitioners in and out of the criminal justice system. For example the evaluation of the SWing initiative outlined that its strengths are about enhancing networks across different agencies for ex-offenders, perhaps something Raynor highlighted earlier in this text as a way of improving social capital for these service users. For Maguire and Nolan assistance with resettlement pivots on provision of secure and stable accommodation for ex-prisoners and solutions can rest on effective partnership working between agencies located in prison and outside prison. However tensions between agencies largely funding and information sharing related can hinder meaningful provision. In addition as Hucklesby and Worrall's chapter highlights that many agencies rely on volunteers to assist with resettlement work. Unpaid workers are an important resource for this kind of work but volunteers require intensive training, supervision and guidance which understandably have resource implications.

The final section of this collection focuses on specific groups of prisoners and ex-offenders; women (Gelsthorpe & Sharpe), Black and minority ethnic offenders (Williams et al) and prolific offenders (Kemshall). What all of these contributions identify is that the needs of prisoners and ex-offenders are not sufficiently addressed in terms of resettlement which is neither reflected in services and treatment in the criminal justice system and prior to conviction and or detection. These three chapters identify that provision should not necessarily be uniform and a social identity and criminogenic sensitive service would enhance opportunities within resettlement. Issues of social exclusion provide a useful framework for understanding how and why individuals encounter limited opportunities and discrimination. In addition the limited research and evaluation of specific groups remains very small and more evidence from all stakeholders is necessary, particularly of a qualitative nature and in turn agency responses could be strengthened to offer the 'right' service with appropriate support.

In culmination this edited collection by Hucklesby and Hagley-Dickinson offers a useful insight into the complex issue of resettlement of prisoners. The barriers and threats of resettlement amount to practicalities of doing and also measuring resettlement which include restrictions on resources and short-term approaches in terms of planning and continuity. This text highlights important gaps and emissions of knowledge. Embedding

lengthy and longitudinal research and effective dissemination can contribute to informed policy and practice. Dilemmas about punishment and rehabilitation still remain and practitioners are expected to move towards one or both aims at the same time. In the meantime resettlement needs to be owned by ex-offenders with public support.

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INVENTING FEAR OF CRIME: CRIMINOLOGY AND THE POLITICS OF ANXIETY

Murray Lee, Collumpton, Willan (2007), pp. 237. ISBN 978-184392-174-5

This book comes as a timely and thoughtful analysis of the development of both the concept of the fear of crime, within the field of criminology, as well as the political expediency of such a notion as it relates to modernity. The author adopts a Foucauldian approach to his analysis throughout and undertakes a wide-ranging discussion which brings together a number of distinct, but related elements under one discourse-based discussion. The book is not for those with a passing interest in the fear of crime, but neither is it intended to be. It is a text which adds considerable depth to a debate which has often adhered to a somewhat simplistic notion of the fear of crime, often failing to grapple with the considerable issues of conceptual complexity. These debates have often adopted a pragmatic approach to the fear of crime and its 'obvious' importance and utility, both as an organising concept, and as a means by which government policy is shaped and justified. In this book, however, Lee adopts a much more challenging approach and therefore engages with the complexities of the whole notion of the fear of crime 'with all its contradictions and incompleteness; to understand how it functions discursively; with what language, knowledges, rationalities and mentalities' (pg 17).

This is a book of two halves. Part One, entitled 'Invention' engages with the historical emergence of the fear of crime, whilst Part Two – 'Governance' - deals with the application of the fear of crime to government approaches to policy. The organising framework of the discussion throughout is identified by the author as Foucauldian; in which he adopts the genealogical approach or 'a history of the present' in which the central purpose is to 'explain a present day phenomenon – fear of crime' in which the author's task is 'to trace its historical conditions of emergence' (pg 9). The first part of the book therefore engages with a number of issues: 1) the development of criminology as a discipline engaged with the 'science' of crime; 2) the development of the idea of the fear of crime in 1960s US; 3) how this concept migrated to the UK in the 1970s and began to influence both criminological research agendas, and government approaches to the crime

problem. The second part of the book then moves on to the discussion of how the ever-expanding (and self-referential) notion of the fear of crime has both maintained it as an object of investigation and interest, whilst at the same time providing a focus for government policy and intervention; ideas which have converged in the creation of what Lee refers to 'fearing subjects' who are subject to 'governance-through-fear'. He then goes on to argue that the emergence of such subjective fears has gone on to provide the private sector with an opportunity to develop the 'fear of crime industry', the need for which is, in turn, amplified by the treatment of crime in the media in what he identifies as 'the fear of crime feedback loop'. It is in this idea that the main strength of this book lies. The author has undertaken a detailed deconstruction of the notion of the fear of crime, using a variety of interesting examples, which leads him to conclude that the fear of crime 'is nothing in and of itself' (pg 202) but is rather a 'node of power/knowledge'... 'which dispenses with the idea of a central reality, and objectivity, to fear of crime, but highlights both the production of and the productive effects of fear of crime the concept' (pg 203).

This is an accessible and enjoyable text which adds depth and colour to a debate that has, in part, focussed on the 'mechanics' of crime reduction, statistics and the like. This book brings to the table a discussion of the realities of the notion of the fear of crime, whilst remaining firmly rooted in a conceptual approach. Of particular interest is the way in which this discussion engages with the processes of discovery in social sciences and how these are also encompassed within the range of activities and discourses which contribute to what Lee has termed 'the fear of crime feedback loop'.

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