

Marja-liisa Muiluvuori (Criminal Sanctions Agency)
Peter Blomster (Criminal Sanctions Agency)
Sasu Tyni (Criminal Sanctions Agency)
Tuomas Laurila (Criminal Sanctions Agency)

During the last two decades there has been a major change in the Finnish penal culture. The focus in penal practices has shifted from formal control and punishment to a more broad approach combining both supportive and rehabilitative measures with punitive practices in order to support the desistance process of the offenders. The purpose is not only to punish formally but also to help the offenders to get back to the normal civil society again. All the practices as well as quality and performance standards have therefore been updated over relatively short time periods and the quality evaluation have been started in order to understand factors affecting the enforcement organization's ability to deliver penal practices in a way that supports the positive change and desistance. The first regular quality evaluation using professor Alison Lieblich & Co's MQPL-model as a conceptual frame was conducted in 2016 as survey. The sample consisted of prison (N=670) and probation staff (N=192) as well as prisoners (N=1975) and probation clients (N=876). The results show that in terms of quality practices in probation offices were experienced in general as more lenient, supportive and desistance-oriented than practices in prisons. Prisons,

P7.13 - 47 The Thrill of the Chase: Punishment, Solidarity, and the Prison Crisis

Henrique Carvalho (University of Warwick)
Anastasia Chamberlen (University of Warwick)

This article offers perhaps one of the first analyses of the current and ongoing crisis affecting English and Welsh prisons, and of recent proposals for reform that aim to address this crisis. The paper pits the impression of novelty surrounding the current framework of incarceration against the notion promoted by critical scholarship that the nexus between crisis and reform is not new, and that the prison has since its inception been a project of reform, flourishing around the idea that it is in constant need for improvement. Building on this debate, we argue that the promise of prison reform is an essential aspect of the utility ascribed to punishment, which allows this institution to be perpetually preserved and seen as unquestionably necessary. We then deploy an original theoretical perspective, grounded on the concept of hostile solidarity, to suggest that our belief in the necessity of the prison is the reflection of a problematic emotional attachment to the idea of the utility of punishment. The paper concludes by suggesting that hostile solidarity is illusory, so that our contemporary reliance

P7.14 - 48 Recall to prison as a last resort?

Lana De Pelecijn (Research Group Crime & Society (CRiS), Vrije Universiteit Brussel)
Lars Breuls (Research Group Crime & Society (CRiS), Vrije Universiteit Brussel)
Kristel Beyens (Research Group Crime & Society (CRiS), Vrije Universiteit Brussel)

Internationally, the number of recalls to prison has increased dramatically. Ongoing research in Belgium reveals the existence of a complex, multi-layered decision-making process, where non-compliant behaviour not necessarily leads to an immediate decision to recall a conditional release order. The recall procedure consists of three layers of decision-making: (1) police and justice assistant, (2) public prosecutor and (3) the multidisciplinary sentence implementation court, that takes the final decision. Our empirical research (file analysis of

357 breach cases and focus groups) shows that the whole breach process is embedded in a strong narrative of ‘giving chances’ and that non-compliance is assessed from an individualized and holistic approach. The decision to recall can be seen as an ‘ultimum remedium’, which can be used if all other options, like (in)formal warnings, have failed. This paper describes and analyses the recall decision-making process in Belgium from a multi-agency perspective and relates the nature of the decision-making process to the particular reintegration-oriented penal culture by focussing on the ‘chances narrative’. We will show that recall is mostly not regarded as an end but as a phase in the detention trajectory of long-term sentenced persons.

P7.14 - 49 Transforming Rehabilitation: The impact of austerity and privatisation on day-to-day cultures and working practices in 'probation'

Samantha Walker (Keele University)

Jill Annison (Plymouth University)

Sharon Beckett (Plymouth University)

The neoliberal culture of entrepreneurial individualism has well and truly permeated probation (Teague, 2016) shifting responsibility from the state to the individual offender (Whitehead, 2017). ‘Transforming Rehabilitation’ (TR) was implemented by the Coalition Government and continued by the subsequent Conservative Government, bringing about extensive structural and cultural change to this part of the criminal justice field in England and Wales. Despite widespread concerns being expressed in anticipation of these changes (Annison, Burke and Senior 2014) TR was operationalised at unprecedented speed, dismantling what had previously been an entirely public service. A new National Probation Service was created, responsible for the interface with the courts and for the supervision of high risk offenders. Meanwhile, the major part of probation was put out to competitive tender, with new 21 Community Rehabilitation Companies starting delivery from February 2015. The implications of these changes are now starting to surface, with a recent BBC documentary highlighting the increased pressure placed upon staff (Clahane, 2017). Drawing upon findings from our qualitative research study, this paper examines the impact of the changes and considers the extent to which deepening cuts, precarious working environments, and increasingly unmanageable caseloads constitute a pervasive form of systemic workplace violence for staff.

P7.14 - 50 Pre-trial Diversion in an Era of Prison Overcrowding: a Comparative Analysis between Belgium and Italy

Christine Guillain (University Saint Louis Brussels)

Adriano Martufi (University Saint Louis Brussels)

Between 2013 and 2014, the European Court of Human Rights condemned Belgium and Italy for violating Article 3 ECHR: the Court found that in both jurisdictions systemic problems arising from prison overcrowding amounted to “inhuman and degrading treatments”. The Court, referring to the Council of Europe standards, invited both countries to adopt a set of penal reforms to reduce prison population. This paper summarizes the results of an ongoing research on diversion from prosecution in Belgium and Italy, referring to the case law mentioned above as a frame for comparative analysis. After providing an overview of the different status of criminal prosecution in the two countries (discretionary prosecution in Belgium; mandatory prosecution in Italy), the article goes on to explore the current developments of pre-trial diversion in both jurisdictions: in a first part, we discuss critically the choice to establish and increase the discretion of prosecutors to impose sanctions on the