



Carceral Spaces

Carceral Geography

- Concerned with confinement, broadly interpreted:
 - prison, detention and other forms of spatial confinement
 - confinement without walls, e.g. tagging, home release
 - confinement beyond walls – e.g. effects on families of prisoners, visitors, home and host communities
- Research has covered three main themes;
 1. carceral spaces and experiences within them
 2. spatial geographies of carceral systems – where prisons are and why this matters
 3. the ‘carceral’ and an increasingly punitive state – the functionality and (il)legitimacy of imprisonment

Socio-spatial context of family contact

- 'Breaking the Cycle' ESRC £360k
 - Why do prisoners who are visited reoffend less on release?
 - What difference does the socio-spatial context of prison visits make?
 - Data generation at HMP Birmingham and within the Northern Ireland Prison Service



Prison design and lived experience

- ‘Fear suffused environments’ or potential to rehabilitate? ESRC £725k
 - Why do we build what we do, as our new prisons (in the UK and Scandinavia)?
 - How is punitive philosophy translated into the built form of new prisons?
 - What is the lived experience of new prisons?
 - Can certain prison spaces have therapeutic effects?
 - Data generation at HMP Grampian and Halden, Norway
 - How important are the aesthetics of prison design for relations with host communities? (grant-linked PhD project)



HMP Leeds



HMP Oakwood



Halden, Norway

Impact

Three ESRC IAA grants (c£40k)

Influencing :

- visiting policy and practice in the Northern Ireland Prison Service
- the design of new prisons in England and Wales
- the retrofitting of design features to existing prisons
- the environments of 'Reform' prisons under new policies.

Other interests:

- The virtual prison



'Prison Architect' simulation game

What can gameplay tell us about public opinion about imprisonment?
Do people create Supermax confinement when given the chance?
Are we really as punitive as the *Daily Mail* thinks?

Carceral Geography at Birmingham

GEES: Dominique Moran, Tom Disney (PDRA), Jen Turner (Honorary Research Fellow), Ellie Slee, Will Thurbin (Doctoral Researchers)

Collaborators in GEES (eg **Marie Hutton**, now Law, U.Sussex) and in School of Law (eg **Kate Gooch**) and School of Psychology (**Louise Dixon**, now Victoria University of Wellington, NZ)

International cross-disciplinary network of geographers, criminologists, prison sociologists