

U-RED22 ABSTRACTS

SESSION 1: POLICING, SURVEILLANCE AND TRAFFICKING

SOPHIE MELLON

BIG BROTHER IS WATCHING YOU: A STUDY OBSERVING THE ETHICAL IMPACT OF GLOBALISED SURVEILLANCE AND HOW THIS SHAPES THE PUBLIC'S PERCEPTION OF UK POLICING.

For centuries, civilisation has established “surveillance” as a conventional practice for observing the movement of individuals. A contemporary society will likely acknowledge modern surveillance practices through the employment of solitary methods such as closed-circuit television (CCTV). However, when considering the supervision of an entire population, one must analyse the policing practices exercised by state agents. This is to comprehend the scope of surveillance desired to investigate numerous individuals. Thus, aided by globalisation, state agents have solidified data sharing methods across countries. This policing operation has deduced the term “globalised surveillance”. The globalised surveillance model is exercised by multi-national agreements, which utilise technological advances to allow governments to fulfil their individual policing objectives. Consequently, due to the burgeoning and neoteric structure of the globalised surveillance model, criminological and sociological academia has maintained an absence of ethical consideration for globalised surveillance (Macnish, 2018). To amass a public perception, this study has interviewed five participants to apprehend their ethical perspective on this surveillance model. Overall, this study has found that participants approach the implementation of globalised surveillance with apprehension. Whilst the participants portrayed an equal contrast in their opinion of policing agencies and the establishment of surveillance; all participants exorbitated a culture of state dissatisfaction. The participants dichotomised policing agencies as either 'doing too much' or 'not doing enough'. As a result of this judgment, participants were able to exercise their ethical concern for globalised surveillance. The observations assembled during this research reveal a significant ethical issue surrounding an amalgamated societal knowledge gap. This is due to society's inability to recognise the scale of globalised surveillance practised by state agencies.

NATASHA WARBURTON

'CANTEEN CULTURE SERVING UP A CUISINE OF MISOGYNY AND SEXISM.' TO WHAT EXTENT DO PEOPLE FEEL INSTITUTIONAL MISOGYNY IN THE ENGLISH AND WELSH POLICE FORCES IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE LOSS OF TRUST BY YOUNG WOMEN?

Since the murder of Sarah Everard by serving police officer Wayne Couzens, examples of sexism and misogyny in the police have been reported extensively by the media, debated by politicians, and scrutinised by the police watchdog, the Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC). The purpose of the dissertation is to determine whether misogyny in the police is institutional in forces in England and Wales and if so, whether this has resulted in a loss of trust by young women. To do this, a combination of research methods have been employed, namely a review of existing literature, an evaluation of responses to freedom of information requests (FOI) sent to police forces, and the undertaking of semi-structured interviews. The dissertation concluded that institutional misogyny exists within the police and is one of the factors that has resulted in a loss of trust by women. Other factors responsible for this loss of trust, include the race, gender, age, and geographical location of those being policed. The dissertation looks at the causes of misogyny in the police and suggests various reforms to restore trust by the public. Such reforms include, increased vetting, better supervision, improved whistleblowing procedures and the recruitment of more women. There were a number of limitations to the research including the lack of response from the IOPC to an FOI request and the small number of participants interviewed.

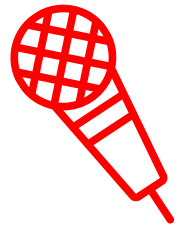
DAISY CAMPBELL

HOW DO YOU PLEAD? AN INTERVIEW-BASED STUDY EXPLORING THE CHALLENGES AND IMPACTS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING PROSECUTIONS IN ENGLAND AND WALES

The Modern Slavery Act was passed into law in 2015, yet prosecutions for human trafficking offences still remain low. An analysis into previous literature has revealed a gap in research. Existing research appears to be one-sided in its approach, often focusing on the challenges and impacts of human trafficking prosecutions in relation to victims, overlooking the impact prosecution places on traffickers and communities affected by trafficking. Based on semi-structured interviews with three employees from Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), this dissertation works towards delivering an understanding of the challenges to human trafficking prosecutions and the impacts prosecution places on victims of trafficking, traffickers themselves and communities affected by trafficking. Following this empirical research, it is argued that human trafficking prosecutions impose mixed impacts on victims, traffickers, and communities. Challenges to the prosecution process involve access to resources, a lack of training, legislative and attitudinal constraints. Implications for policy and practice are derived from these findings.



SESSION 2: IDENTITY, BELONGING AND STIGMA



LEENA ELHARM

'YOU CAN'T TRIP WITH FOUR LETTERS' - AN EXPLORATION OF THE IMPACT OF THE MISPRONUNCIATION OF ETHNIC MINORITIES' NAMES.

Our names are our identities. They are the starting point of all social interactions, and they impact our life chances at every stage. This study explored how ethnic minorities felt about their names and the impact that mispronunciation has had on them. Thematic analysis of four semi-structured interviews generated a number of themes, however, for the purpose of the dissertation, only four were chosen to be explored in depth. These included the importance of names to ethnic minorities, mispronunciation of names as a racial microaggression, how mispronunciation made them feel and the consequences of mispronunciation. Most participants felt a strong cultural, religious or even lingual connection to their name. All felt that the mispronunciation of their names was a form of racial microaggression and that it led to feelings of cultural disrespect, dismissal and othering. Consequently, some had resorted to altering their names, by either changing or shortening them. This dissertation gives a voice to minority students who have been disadvantaged or othered by virtue of their non-Western names. Lastly, the findings of this research can have real implications on Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) training for members of staff in a number of sectors including education and healthcare to help promote the empowerment of students and/or service users.

CAITLIN BUNCE

'WE CAN'T WAIT AROUND ANY LONGER': THE SYSTEMATIC INJUSTICES TO TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER PEOPLES IN AUSTRALIA'S CLIMATE CHANGE APPROACH

The Torres Strait Islands are being washed away by rising sea levels. So too, are the Torres Strait Islander peoples' homes and ancient culture, which is fundamentally dependent on customary lands. Despite this, the Australian government refuses to act on climate change, planning to continue selling coal decades into the future. This dissertation uses environmental justice literature to explore how and why this harm is occurring, and why Torres Strait Islander peoples are resorting to legal human rights mechanisms to force their government to act on climate change. These injustices, however, have resulted from ongoing official denials regarding both climate change and Indigenous sovereignty. The dissertation uses denial theory, and the concept of compound denial, to explore the deeper, systematic marginalisation of Australia's Indigenous peoples in their settler-colonial context. Through this, it argues for the theoretical opportunities to intersect environmental justice and denial theory, especially when observing injustices against Indigenous peoples in settler-colonial societies.

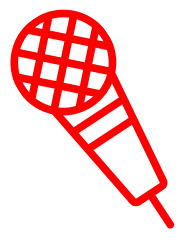
RAFFAELA GIACOBBE

DEBATING THE EXTENT TO WHICH TOP BOY REPRODUCES OR INTERRUPTS POPULAR REPRESENTATIONS OF COUNCIL ESTATES

This dissertation explores the ways in which council estates are presented within television series Top Boy (2011-2022). This series depicts the lives of characters living in the fictional Summerhouse Estate, where localised drug trades and gangs rules the narratives within. Within Top Boy, life in the council estate is depicted as fast-paced, precarious, and unfulfilling, with themes of poverty, unemployment, crime, and lacking aspirations running throughout. Taking the content of this show into account, this dissertation will discuss the ways council estates have long been systematically and symbolically problematised through their use as a backdrop for narratives depicting social breakdown. Through understanding Wacquant's (2007; 2008) theory of territorial stigmatisation, whereby certain places are tainted with negative images by wider society, we can see how council estates have been understood as places of crime, moral decay, and poverty within British politics and the media. With television often reiterating dominant ideologies, this dissertation will offer a thematic analysis of all four series of Top Boy to debate the extent to which the show reproduces or interrupts popular representations of council estates.



SESSION 3: VICTIMS AND OFFENDERS



RHIANNON DAVIES

QUANTIFYING 'BLAMELESS VICTIMS OF VIOLENT CRIME': A QUANTITATIVE ANALYSIS OF ADMINISTRATIVE DATA FROM THE CRIMINAL INJURIES COMPENSATION AUTHORITY.

The provision of compensation to victims of crime is a symbolic gesture which represents state failure to prevent the victimisation in accordance with societal sympathy. In Britain, the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority (CICA) paradoxically claims to compensate non-hierarchically, whilst prioritising blameless victims. Considering the criminal justice systems positivist underpinnings, some victims may be deemed undeserving of compensation, which is reflected in CICA's eligibility criteria. This study explores whether deservingness for compensation provided by CICA is underpinned by characteristics denoting vulnerability, parallel to Christie's (1986) ideal victim. Following secondary data analysis of CICA administration data, it is apparent that females, and those in the youngest age group receive a higher proportion of full awards of compensation, and higher award values than other applicants. Further analysis into awarding processes revealed that both these groups are more likely to be compensated for physical and sexual abuse, as opposed to physical and mental injuries. Predominant awarding to vulnerably constructed groups such as females and children mirrors the ideal victim by legitimising the victimisation of individuals hegemonically portrayed as weak. Additionally, the assignment of these individuals to compensation awards linked to abuse reflects their constructed vulnerable disposition, alongside the higher social value placed on emotional injuries. Awarding restrictions which favour applicants who embody the ideal victim contribute to victim politicisation as the state symbolically aids the vulnerable whilst abiding to austerity measures.

TAJY ABEDIN

STAY HOME OR STAY SAFE? A CRITICAL ANALYSIS ON THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE REPORTS IN ITALIAN HOUSEHOLDS.

Domestic violence and intimate partner violence are global issues under social, political and health aspects. The happening of the Coronavirus disease exacerbated the situation of domestic abuse victims. New triggering factors such as isolation, emotional preoccupation, and legislative restrictions, acted as trigger points for the victim population and consequently the criminal justice system. This form of crime is more prominent in low-developed countries, however it concerns westernized nations as well, like Italy. Italian society is known for still following a patriarchal hierarchy which explains the disparity in number of reports between female and males domestic abuse cases and underreporting from more vulnerable victim populations. This dissertation seeks to assess the situation of domestic abuse victims in Italy after the Coronavirus disease lockdowns. It explores the sociodemographic factors characterising the victim population who willingly reported their case to the national helpline against domestic abuse and stalking, 1522 throughout the years 2019, 2020 and 2021; it also focuses on the experience of migrant victims, one of the most underreported and vulnerable victim group. Statistical analyses were performed on datasets from the Italian Statistical Institution and highlighted a consistently high number of reports from the happening of lockdowns, the calls doubled, and it became another national emergency. While migrant victims showed less willingness in reporting, due to underrepresentation of the wider migrant population in Italy. Seeing domestic abuse as a serious social matter to prioritize, while giving the fair importance to all victim population should be the priority of the criminal justice system, since it is the only way to tackle the upraising emergency and prevent it.

CLARA PUGH-THOROGOOD

LIVING WITH FEAR: A QUALITATIVE STUDY OF FEMALE UNIVERSITY STUDENTS EXPERIENCE OF THE FEAR OF SEXUAL ASSAULT IN THEIR EVERYDAY LIVES

This dissertation aims to create an understanding of how female university students experience the fear of sexual assault in their everyday lives. Through conducting two focus groups with students at the University of Nottingham, this project aims to create an in-depth understanding of these women's everyday experiences, considering how media consumption affects their fear of sexual assault and whether they use self-protection strategies to deal with this fear. Drawing from relevant literature on this topic, contributions from criminologists' and feminists' studies in this field have been considered. There has been found to be a lack of qualitative research on this subject, a gap which this study aims to close. The findings from this research suggest female students are living with a fear of sexual assault and a general fear for their safety, which is to a small extent influenced by their media consumption. Women's fear of sexual assault was found to influence them to adapt their behaviour in their everyday lives by taking on self-protection strategies. It is suggested in future research this study be repeated on a larger scale as more generalisable findings could encourage