

BOOK REVIEWS

CJM
CRIMINAL JUSTICE MATTERS

The Stalker Affair and the Press. David Murphy. London: Unwin Hyman. 1990. Hb £19.95; Pb £9.95.

Considered straightforwardly as an account of the Stalker affair, this is a valuable book. Murphy writes well about the events themselves, about the many inflections of the story, and about the strategies of the protagonists.

Unfortunately, Murphy is also determined to assert that this discussion refutes the "standard academic analysis" (by which he mainly means the Glasgow Media Group) of the press as rather uniformly supportive of dominant ideology. He argues this partly on the grounds that the papers came to accept not only that there had indeed been a shoot-to-kill policy but also a cover-up and a smear. Murphy has a case here but he over-argues it. The line he is devoted to attacking is a straw person which would find few supporters amongst specialists today. His negative emphasis is thus distracting. I suggest treating the theoretical bits with some caution but reading the book nonetheless.

Punishment and Modern Society: a Study in Social Theory. David Garland. Oxford University Press 1990. Hb £30. In this outstanding book Garland demonstrates the need to theorize punishment as a distinctive social practice, one whose purposes are never transparent. It is also a deeply contested sphere of life. In our "crisis of penal modernism" the variety of candidate justifications is itself evidence of the lack of an agreed framework that would make punishing make sense. Garland engages successively with all the big figures in sociology of punishment - Durkheim, the Marxists, Foucault, Weber and Elias. All these encounters are fruitful, that with Durkheim especially so. Garland re-emphasises Durkheim's interest in punishment's *expressive aspects* - its capacity to evoke 'passion'. It does not exclude but *exceeds* functionalist accounts. What then stands in need of exploration, for Garland, is the paradox that modern punishment always seeks an instrumental justification, but also always relies upon less articulate meanings for its force and social power. This is punishment's 'tragic' quality - never definitively justified yet never disappearing.

J.R. Sparks, Lecturer in Criminology/ Penology, The Open University.

Feminist Perspectives in Criminology. Gelsthorpe, L and Morris, A (editors) Open University Press: Milton Keynes 1990. £29.50.

This book is a useful and challenging collection of articles about feminism and its relationship to contemporary criminology and to research. It is also, in parts, a difficult book to read. Some of the theoretical essays in Part I left me wondering how I had managed to get so left behind in the feminist debate. Towards the end of the book, I rather wished that its contents had been reversed, so that the third (and in my view, the best) part of the collection on feminist research and action had come first, followed by Part II on feminist methodologies, and leading towards the section which actually comes first in the book, on theoretical reflections.

There are some excellent essays in the collection, including Susan Edwards' valuable discussion of the inability of the law (alone) to successfully regulate or recognise violence against women. Lorraine Gelsthorpe's discussion of feminist methodologies in criminology also raises many fundamental issues. Elisabeth Stanko's feminist critique of crime prevention illustrates the relevance of a feminist contribution to all aspects of criminology, administrative, theoretical and investigative. There are problems and contradictions within both feminism and criminology which this book raises but cannot resolve, such as issues of racial discrimination cutting across gender discrimination, the appropriate use of various qualitative and 'action' research methods, the limitations of establishment or 'malestream' criminology and feminism's own diversity. That these questions are raised by the book is an important point in its favour, but such a diverse collection cannot address these questions coherently is its major drawback. It will stimulate a significant debate at the very least. Perhaps the editors should now write a second volume themselves, called '*Is there a feminist perspective in criminology?*'

Alison Liebling, Institute of Criminology, Cambridge.

Aids, Drugs and Prostitution. M. Plant. Routledge 1990. £35.

This book covers three issues which are of growing international concern - AIDS, drugs and prostitution. It offers a timely collection of articles which in various

Resources and Reading on crime in eastern Europe

The Institute was very pleased to welcome Dr Robert Fico as Visiting Fellow for the period 4th April - 4th July 1991. Dr Fico is qualified as a judge in Czechoslovakia, but is currently engaged in research for the Law Institute of the Ministry of Justice of the Slovak Republic in Bratislava.

He is here as one of the first T.G. Masaryk Scholars. These important awards are being provided by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in conjunction with London University and are designed to 'assist in the transition of political, social and economic life on which the Republic is now embarked'.

Dr Fico is particularly interested in the detailed examination of our sentencing system, especially its non-custodial aspects and would welcome contact with practitioners with information to share.

Dr Fico may be contacted through the Institute (071 351 2488) or at The Law Institute of the Ministry of Justice, Októbrové nám 13, 814 74 Bratislava, Czechoslovakia.

School of Slavonic and East European Studies, University of London, Senate House, Malet St., London WC1E 7HU. 071 636 8000.

Great Britain-East Europe Centre, 31 Knightsbridge, London SW1X 7NH. 071 245 9771.

The Elizabeth Barker Fund, c/o British Academy, 20-21 Cornwall Terrace, London NW1 4QP. 071 487 5966. A fund for studies in recent European history, particularly through exchanges with east European countries.

Soviet Penal Policy, Lapenna, Ivo: 1980, c. 1968.

The Soviet System of Justice, Berg, Gerard Pieter Van den: Martinus Nijhoff 1984.

The Impact of Perestroika on Soviet Law (edited by Albert J. Schmidt), Martinus Nijhoff 1990.

Soviet Law, Butler, William E.: Butterworths 1983.

Communist Ideology, Law and Crime, Los, Maria: Macmillan 1988.

Law and the Gorbachev Era, Barry, Donald D.: Martinus Nijhoff 1988.

Major Crimes Against the Soviet State, Butkus, I.: Washington D.C., Library of Congress 1985.

The Contemporary Soviet City, Morton, H., Stuart, R (Editors) M.E. Sharpe 1984.

AND RESOURCES

CJM
CRIMINAL JUSTICE MATTERS

Crime in Europe. Heidensohn, F. and Farrell, M. (editors) Routledge 1991. £35.

Crime in Europe, edited by Frances Heidensohn and Martin Farrell is a collection of some of the papers originally given at an ISTD conference in September 1988. The book set out to fill the huge gaps in the information about crime and criminal justice in Europe available to English speaking readers in Britain and elsewhere.

The book succeeds in its main goals by discussing some of the key issues and by making available important references so that follow-up studies can be facilitated. The editors have managed to get some of the key researchers and practitioners from Europe to contribute; the two introductory chapters written by Frances Heidensohn and Joanna Shapland set the scene admirably. The problems of a real European criminology - including the United Kingdom - are not dodged and they remain. We seem to find it difficult to get over the historical attitudes which meant that fog in the channel left Europe isolated or that

by shouting slowly we could get foreigners to understand English.

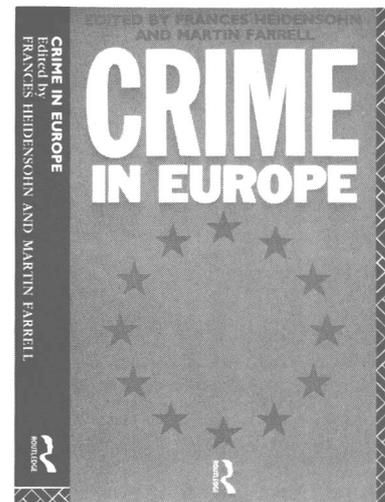
However, this book, by discussing crime prevention in Europe, crime in eastern Europe, drugs, ethnic minorities, policing and prisons starts to break down barriers and makes more urgent our search for ways to make meaningful comparisons in sentencing, the use of imprisonment and the treatment of women.

Michael Levi's chapter on Developments in business crime control in Europe is of particular interest given the economic origins of the European community and the importance that is being placed on control of deviancy in this area. Many criminologists have only the most fleeting acquaintance with the world of business crime and fraud but it must be one of the main growth areas of activity for the next decade.

Books like this make us look at the rather simplistic analyses which we have tended to make in recent years when comparing European systems. Once British criminologists come to grips with other European languages and realise

that we share many aspects of culture, they will be able to use the many different ways of dealing with crime problems as natural experiments against which to test our own predilections and practices.

Chris Nuttall, Head of Research and Statistics at the Home Office.



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ways attempt to explore the relation between drug use, the spread of HIV and what most of the authors prefer to call 'sex workers' rather than 'prostitutes'.

There has been considerable speculation over the past decade about the role of both male and female 'sex workers' in spreading HIV. The findings contained in this book suggest that amongst 'sex workers' in most western societies, who are not intravenous drug users, the rate of HIV infection is remarkably low.

The articles in this book draw on a wide and diverse range of international material and provides a useful resource to those involved in working in this area as well as those who are interested in policy development.

Roger Matthews, Centre for Criminology, Middlesex Polytechnic.

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