

# EDITORIAL

CJM number 5 (Winter 1991) took as its theme 'Women and Crime'. This issue has been one of the most requested of all CJM's to date. One of the reasons for the demand was the relative paucity of research and scholarship in this area, compared to that directed at 'Men and Crime'.

Indeed feminist criminology over the past two decades has been concerned to expose the nature of criminology as male, and the research therein. Much hard work has put women firmly on the criminological agenda and moreover advanced the study of women both as perpetrators as well as victims of crime.

However, studying women and crime as a separate academic endeavour has limited the attention paid to the broader concerns of gender and crime. This issue of CJM begins by tackling this very debate head-on. **Betsy Stanko's** concern is to encourage more serious thinking about how gender impacts on crime and victimisation. This is followed by a direct question from **Frances Heidensohn**, posed at ISTD's recent Women and Crime conference, from which several of the contributions in this issue stem: What has been the impact of feminist criminology over the past 25 years? Did we change the world for women?

**Anne Worrall** goes to the roots of why women become offenders, dispelling the contemporary 'Tank Girl' image laid at the door of feminism and peddled by the media. In a similar vein, **Anne Campbell** tackles the mythology of girl gangs in the UK, and the media's desperation to 'prove' the existence of 'the Slutboy'.

**Fiona Measham** evaluates the spiraling use of recreational drugs by young people, and notions of gender equality in drug use, whilst 'new football' is investigated by **John Williams**. Are family and feminism the new ingredients in reshaping behaviour on and off the terraces?

**Rebecca Horn** directs our attention to

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gender issues of a different kind - masculine culture as evidenced by the beliefs held by policemen about the women they apprehend. This crucial gender theme is further explored by **Emma Wincup** around the controversial issue of mixed prisons - a clear evaluation of some of the many problems such a policy would generate, should it be pursued.

The atmosphere of controversy is continued with **Paula Skidmore's** piece on media, violence and gender, and the task ahead if criminologists and media sociologists are to progress their understanding of media representations and subsequent

behaviour. The backdrop of the film 'Natural Born Killers' gives an added sense of urgency to this task.

**Mike Hough** asks another controversial question: are the courts tougher on women than men? This is followed by a review, by **Carol Hedderman**, of some of the key empirical studies addressing this topic.

Finally **Kate Painter** revisits the fear of crime debate, taking a critical look at what this really means in operational terms for women.

**David Kidd-Hewitt & Julia Braggins**

*Each issue of CJM focuses on a special area of criminological interest. CJM 20 will consider **Surveillance**. Contributions are welcome and will be considered for publication if sent to Julia Braggins by May 31st 1995. Publication, even of invited articles, cannot be guaranteed and we reserve the right to edit where necessary. Articles and letters can only be accepted on this basis. 'Notes for Contributors' are available on request.*

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