

## Book Reviews

### **Body Searches and Imprisonment**

**Edited by Tom Daems**

Publisher: Palgrave Macmillan  
(2023)

ISBN: 978-3-031-20450-0  
(Hardcover) 978-3-031-20453-1  
(Softcover) 978-3-031-20451-7  
(eBook)

Price: £109.99 (Hardcover)  
£109.99 (Softcover) £87.50  
(eBook)

*Reviewer: **Ray Taylor** is a former prison officer.*

Most people have been searched at one time or another, perhaps when travelling and passing through airport security. Those of us who have worked in prisons are also used to being searched and may treat it as merely another routine and necessary security measure, perhaps taking it in our stride. Being searched as a prisoner, however, is a profoundly different experience. *Body Searches and Imprisonment* provides a detailed insight into how and why prisoner body searching is different, and the effect that being routinely and regularly searched may have on the people who are subjected to the practice.

The work is based on presentations at the 'Body Searches and Imprisonment' international workshop at the Leuven Institute of Criminology in April 2022. Contributions come from the Universities of Agen (France), Belfast (UK), Birmingham (UK), Geneva (Switzerland), Oxford (UK), Leuven (Belgium), London (UK), Málaga (Spain), and Pau (France).

Opening the series of essays, Jason Warr considers the imposition of power through touch. Or, as Warr puts it, exploring 'the reality of searching practices through the lens of sensory criminology, and sensory

penalties more specifically... how concepts of penal power are communicated through securitised touch' (p8).

Warr notes that Vannini and others describe the sensory element of human experience and how we derive meaning from our environment and our sensory experience of it (p9). Warr gives an account of the process of searching and the regulation governing the practice in prisons (England and Wales), as does Bennett subsequently. In these prisons a strip search (as described by Warr) is referred to as a full search and does not allow the person being searched to be completely naked and neither must the person be touched. Instead, the upper clothing is removed and replaced after visual inspection, followed by the lower half of the body. Warr also describes the different kinds of rub down or pat down searching.

He then goes on to describe the experience of being searched, drawing a stark contrast with the procedural and regulation viewpoint. He references first-hand accounts of the feeling of loss of power, of being under someone else's control and not being able to evade the experience of being touched and having the uncertainty of not knowing when it will end, or where and when it may occur.

Bennett continues the theme of experience set against the backdrop of security need: 'Despite its regularity, apparent effectiveness and regulatory controls, searching is invasive and can be experienced as harmful or distressing by those subjected to it' (p36). He explains how, during his time as Deputy Director of Operational Security (HM Prison and Probation Service of England and Wales) there were efforts to draw upon security theory

to 'refashion the approach to security practices to make them more legitimate' (p28).

Bennet begins with a critical discussion about the nature and definition of security as a 'contested term' (p29) and differing approaches to security practice. Drawing comparisons with other professions and discussing the contrasting viewpoint of traditional and entrepreneurial approaches to security, he identifies a clear need to develop professional standards. He continues by describing current security thinking in HMPPS and discusses how security practice in relation to searching might develop in future.

Barbara Bernath (p45) considers searching in the context of risk of harm to those subject to searching and how this may be mitigated through monitoring processes. She considers the work of such bodies as the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT) in checking the legality of strip searches in Norway, France, and other jurisdictions.

Bernath discusses the Legality of 'full body' searches in the context of decision of the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR), the judicial institution overseeing the European Convention (ECHR). The ECtHR, says Bernath, has repeatedly indicated that it accepts that 'strip searches may be necessary on occasions to ensure prison security or to prevent disorder or crime' but that they are likely to be experienced as invasive and humiliating. The Court will nonetheless be inclined to scrutinise any claimed necessity (p76).

Natasa Mavronicola and Elaine Webster invite us to consider how strip searching may be seen in the context of European Human Rights law. In particular, ECHR Article 3,

which prohibits torture and inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. In their interpretation of judgments of the ECtHR, the Court determines the practice of strip searching to be a necessary evil, only allowing appeals on the basis of contextual argument. Although the court may not consider strip searching to be contrary to Article 3 per se it has 'viewed body searches with suspicion' (p 75).

Aurore Vanliefde's chapter deals with body searching and vulnerable groups, in particular women and LGBTQI+ people, children, those with disabilities and any religious, ethnic or cultural minorities. The chapter begins with a useful discussion of key concepts including the definition and explanation of LGBTQI+ and how gender and gender identity affects how people may be treated in prison. The vulnerability of women and LGBTQI+ people, says Vanliefde, 'is not inherent to their gender identity/sexual orientation in itself, but must be understood in relation to particular contexts (such as prisons) where particular forms of masculinity prevail, and where she says misogyny, homophobia and transphobia are prevalent' (p105).

The chapter also discusses how searching can be dehumanising and isolating, and especially humiliating for women during menstruation and pregnancy. For instance, prisoners may be asked to remove their sanitary items and dispose of them before being searched. They are not always provided with new sanitary items after the search or must pay for one themselves, which adds up to other inequalities related to menstruation (p109).

Tom Daems considers what he describes as a time of controversy in Belgian prisons surrounding searching in prisons and the 2005 law on prisoners' rights. Daems discusses the original intentions of the Belgian Prison Act of 12 January

2005 and demonstrates how these intentions and the procedures that were designed, aligned with prevailing European norms on regulating strip searches (Sect. 2). Daems considers the many ways in which those intentions were challenged and circumvented by prisons on the basis that the new rules that were perceived to be an obstacle to prison security. In this way Daems ably illustrates the dynamic tension between security procedures and the need to preserve prisoner dignity, integrity and basic human rights.

Joana Falxa considers similar concerns in France, resulting in the 2009 Prison Act. This chapter provides a detailed description of the French prison regulatory regime before and after the 2009 Act. Falxa explains that Article 57 of the Act required principles of necessity, proportionality, and subsidiarity. The result of the operation of these and other principles in the Act led to an increased scrutiny of searching within the French administrative courts (p158). Dissatisfaction with Article 57 among prison managers, however, resulted in these original wording being 'immediately hampered by various forms of resistance from the prison administration' (p161), eventually allowing the reintroduction of systematic searching (p163).

Cristina Güerri Looks in detail at prison searches and punishment in Spanish prisons, considering data sets on how many searches are conducted, what kind of searches, and whether searches have positive result (unauthorised or banned items found). Guerri's analysis of these data indicates that over 95 per cent of searches produce a negative result — nothing is found. On this basis, Guerri argues that such searches are mostly unnecessary.

Conor Byrne and Linda Moore remind us that strip searching was among a range of measures used against those who considered

themselves political prisoners in Northern Ireland in the 1970s and 80s. Prisoners who participated in the 'blanket protests' — refusing to wear prison uniform after their clothing had been taken away, instead covering themselves with just a blanket. Already without clothes, they were in a vulnerable position, exacerbated by an attempt by the prison to 'assert control through the use of force, including violent and intimate body searching' (p233).

In Armah women's prison, the authors describe how the position was worse and became worse still in the 1980s. Then, routine strip searching was increased, prisoners not conforming to regime requirements were denied access to toilet and sanitary provision and strip searching took on an even more aggressive form. This included women who were pregnant and those who had recently given birth or miscarried. Searching was fully naked, witnesses by multiple women officers.

Anaïs Tschanz acknowledges the widespread criticism of searching but takes a contrasting look into technology as a potential alternative to the practice of body searches in prison. His analysis draws on multi-method research split into two parts. The first consisting of interviews with male and female prisoners of all age groups incarcerated in prisons in the Quebec province of Canada. The second part looks specifically at one device — the so-called BOSS chair (Body Orifice Security Scanner).

Tschanz quotes one prisoner as saying: 'You have staff who are alright, courteous, and respectful. But then you've got others, it's like day and night. There are others still who have no notion of respect. Then, it's out of control' (Jerome, 30 years old).

Another: 'Once, I had a strip search where 12 of them got together, making jokes,

inappropriate jokes' (Étienne, 51 years old) (both quotes p250).

The introduction into Canadian prisons of the BOSS chair brought with it, says Tschanz, a new ritual (p252) to replace the old. The change and difference is considered against the manufacturer's claims of a 'non-intrusive and non-invasive search method that does not require contact' (p251).

Concluding the series, Daems discusses the future of searching as new body scanning technologies are introduced into prisons across the globe. Will this development result in a reduced requirement to conduct full body searching or will it, as in the UK, be used in addition to body searching as a further control and security measure?

Overall, the book provides a comprehensive account of various aspects of security searching of the person, including a range of views and perspectives from those people subject to searching in prisons. It does not, however, give any insight into the perspective of those who are required to carry out bodily searching as part of their duties. As such, we have accounts of the regulatory perspective, the prisoner perspective, but none in relation to the operational practitioner, the person required to carry out the searching procedures. This would appear to be a glaring gap in an otherwise multi-faceted account of searching of the person, as part of the prison security process in European jurisdictions.

### **Introduction to Convict Criminology**

By Jeffrey Ian Ross

Publisher: Bristol University Press (2024)

ISBN: 978-1529221190 (Hardback)

978-1529221206 (Paperback)

978-1529221213 (EPUB)

Price: £90.00 (Hardback) £27.99

(Paperback) £27.99 (EPUB)

*Reviewer: Dr Baris Cayli Messina, Associate Professor of Criminology, University of Lincoln and Editor of Temple Studies in Criminalization, History, and Society and Editor-in-Chief of International Social Science Journal.*

This book stands as a cornerstone in the domain of convict criminology. Penned by a world-renowned criminologist and one of the esteemed founding scholars of the discipline, it presents a compelling and indispensable perspective, explaining in an accessible way why the lives of convicts are not only relevant to the field of criminology but are also essential for fostering positive social change.

The book is structured into three distinct parts, each meticulously arranged to provide readers with a comprehensive understanding of the significance of convict criminology within the broader context of crime, punishment, and justice. The first part explores the foundational aspects of convict criminology, offering a detailed examination of the ontological, epistemological, theoretical, and methodological underpinnings that emphasise the importance of convict criminology. This section helps readers to better understand the importance of this growing discipline thanks to an insightful introduction, elucidating why this special sub-field is integral to the field of criminology as a whole.

In the second part, the author redirects our attention towards pedagogy and mentorship, underscoring the critical importance of education and guidance in empowering inmates and ex-convicts to play active roles in shaping convict criminology. By positioning convicted individuals as partners in this endeavour, this section compellingly illustrates the transformative potential inherent

within this collaborative approach, both academically and in practice.

The final part of the book uncovers the role of activism and public policy, providing a compelling exploration of the intersection between academia and advocacy. Through a nuanced examination of activism and engaging with the public, Ross elucidates the vital role of engagement with broader actors but always bringing attention to the survivors of criminalising justice system in advancing the objectives of convict criminology. In addition, the section offers invaluable insights into the future trajectory of this burgeoning field, offering readers thought-provoking reflections on its potential evolution and impact of activism in convict criminology.

Francesca Vianello, in her forward for the book, eloquently articulated the transformative power in amplifying the voices of those who have long been silenced by systemic injustices. She astutely noted that by granting access to these hidden realms of human resilience, transformation, and redemption, we not only enrich our understanding but also pave the way for meaningful societal change (p. 15). Indeed, Jeffrey Ian Ross has masterfully achieved this objective within the pages of this book. Ross transcends the realm of mere statistical analysis by accurately dissecting the nuanced experiences of convicted individuals. In doing so, he offers a renewed perspective on the multifaceted dimensions of their personal journeys, providing valuable perspective for educators and all those who interact with individuals who have been convicted. Through empathetic analysis, Ross challenges established criminological frameworks and proposes a potential path towards comprehending punishment and its profound impact on the lives of the

countless individuals who have experienced incarceration.

Following a thorough exposition of the origins of convict criminology, where Ross elucidates its inception through the active involvement of ex-convict participants (p. 14), the subsequent section delves into the paramount significance of education and pedagogy within the discipline. Here, the narrative highlights the myriad challenges faced within correctional facilities, including social, bureaucratic, and resource constraints, which impede access to quality education for incarcerated individuals. Drawing from case studies in the United States, United Kingdom, and Italy, Ross emphasises the critical need to prioritise education within correctional settings. By showcasing successful educational programmes in countries where convict criminology has garnered significant attention and scholarly interest, Ross advocates for the integration and sustenance of higher education initiatives for inmates (p. 84).

Ross's scholarship accentuates the imperative to transcend superficial conceptions of crime and punishment, urging a deeper exploration of the human dimensions involved in these phenomena. Through collaborative partnerships with convicted individuals and an empathetic examination of their lived experiences, Ross illustrates how convict criminological research can catalyse meaningful social change. Although *Convict Criminology* shares commonalities with critical criminology and correction studies, its nuanced focus bestows upon it a distinctive character. This distinction is evident to readers, thanks to the meticulous organisation of the book.

Jeffrey Ian Ross presents a compelling argument for the continued relevance and necessity of *Convict Criminology*. Ross

astutely contends that as long as the voices of individuals impacted by the criminal justice system remain unheard and marginalised, and as long as correctional facilities persist, *Convict Criminology* will endure (p. 145). However, Ross goes beyond mere diagnosis to offer a comprehensive framework for enhancing the efficacy and impact of *Convict Criminology*. His insightful suggestions encompass a wide array of strategies aimed at bolstering the field's visibility, effectiveness, and influence. These include advocating for representation within other scholarly organisations, implementing robust mechanisms for tracking achievements, fostering a culture of self-reflection, disseminating convict criminology-related information to the public through various channels, hosting regular conferences to facilitate discourse and collaboration, establishing dedicated national convict criminology groups, embracing emerging communication technologies, curating special issues in relevant academic journals, countering misinformation on divisive ideological topics, and fortifying mentoring initiatives (p. 141-144).

Ross's meticulous attention to detail and his proactive approach to addressing the challenges faced by *Convict Criminology* underscore the depth of his commitment to advancing the field. By offering a comprehensive roadmap for its evolution and development, Ross's work not only reaffirms the importance of *Convict Criminology*. Through his invaluable contributions, Ross has solidified 'Introduction to *Convict Criminology*' as an indispensable resource for scholars, practitioners, policymakers, and advocates alike. Its enduring impact on the discourse surrounding crime, punishment, justice, and rehabilitation is undeniable.

Written in an accessible manner, this book is a testament to Jeffrey Ian Ross's commitment to making the complex subject of convict criminology comprehensible to a wide audience. The inclusion of exhibit boxes throughout the book enhances readers' engagement and facilitate deeper connections with the material. This book represents a tour de force in the realm of convict criminology. Through meticulous documentation of the discipline's significant milestones and a detailed exploration of its rapid evolution over recent decades, Ross has crafted a definitive resource that is destined to make a lasting impact for years to come.

### **Creating Space for Shakespeare — Working with Marginalized Communities**

By Rowan Mackenzie

Publisher: Bloomsbury (2023)

ISBN: 9781350272651 (Hardback)

9781350272743 (Paperback)

9781350272668 (Ebook)

Price: £72.00 (Hardback) £26.09

(Paperback) £57.60 (Ebook)

*Reviewer: **Martin Kettle** is an  
inspector with HM Inspectorate of  
Prisons*

Dr Mackenzie wrote an article in the January 2024 issue of *PSJ*, about the 'applied theatre' project which she runs at HMP Stafford, 'Emergency Shakespeare'. That article breathed a confidence about what can be achieved through in-prison theatre, especially in the lives of individuals, both through doing drama in a group where spontaneity, trust and risk-taking feel safe, and through the new perspectives on one's own life experience through stepping into another role.

Her book shows that calm sense of confidence stems from very wide knowledge and experience of community projects centred on Shakespeare. Many of us know the importance of creating spaces within prisons which have



something of not-prison about them. She has also researched applied theatre in the community, especially relating to people living with learning disabilities and those with mental health conditions, going back to 'Shakespeare comes to Broadmoor' around 1990 and taking in Cardboard Citizens, a recent drama project involving homeless people.

The rehearsal space is the first main focus of the book, a creative space which is not easy to enter, and trauma-informed approaches are important. Engaging with Shakespeare, that colossus of European cultural capital who has tended to be captured by the middle-class and the contented, is not easy for many, though most will learn to enjoy the richness of his language and of the stories and worlds he created. Mackenzie looks in detail at many approaches, including short-term work stripping Shakespeare down to an absolute minimum for people with significant ASD, and in schools for children with SEND, or in remand prisons. The many stories of how children and adults were gently drawn into the activity over a number of sessions give an object lesson in what engagement really means. Longer-term work in English prisons, especially the Gallowfield Players at Gartree, and including the Stafford project dealt with in Dr Mackenzie's PSJ article, would be a good place for prison-based readers to begin this book (pp 48-69).

Performance is the second major theme. The nature of the interaction between actors and audience, always mysterious and constantly discussed, is here considered where marginalised people are the actors the audience or both. Practicalities about different performance spaces, ready-made or improvised. A company formed of mental health service users present in various venues a pastiche of Shakespeare characters set in a psychiatric

hospital. Some youth theatres and others use actual theatres, which have the security of a demarcated space meant for drama. In prisons, both space and time have to be carved out of an institutional building and institutional regime. In the midst of constant adaptation, Shakespeare retains his power: 'It is perhaps (the) ability for Shakespeare's work to be used to articulate trauma when words may be otherwise elusive which imbues it with much of its power' (pp 95, of a production of *The Tempest* in HMP New Hall). Some powerful performances are described before audiences wholly of families and friends of the prisoners involved.

Thirdly, the impact on individuals is considered. We are taken to internment camps in the two world wars of the last century, where Shakespeare was commonly a way for people to hold on. Also, Robben Island. Then to prisons during COVID, when Dr Mackenzie produced weekly Shakespeare activity packs that were widely appreciated. The effects of working in a group are also spelt out, largely through 'rehearsal diaries' of individual prisoners. These testimonies, of personal epiphanies and growth in emotional resilience, are probably the most powerful elements in the book, and impossible to summarise. A shorter final chapter surveys ways in which prison theatre has been projected through media of every kind from printed programmes to documentary programmes.

This book, part of a series on 'Shakespeare and social justice', combines to a remarkable degree a breadth of academic understanding with a depth of experience of the difference that doing Shakespeare can make to marginalised individuals and to the institutions in which they are contained, especially prisons. Its main riches lie in stories — of many different projects and even more individuals testifying to what difference doing Shakespeare

has made in their life. Even if you just go to the middle chapters for the vivid stories of work done in prisons, you will find staring you in the face and ringing in your ears the evidence of how effective prison drama can be, as a contribution to changing lives.

### **Unmasking the Sexual Offender**

By Veronique N. Valliere

Publisher: Routledge (2023)

ISBN: 9780367741532 (Hardback)

9780367741242 (Paperback)

Price: £125.00 (Hardback) £29.99 (Paperback)

*Reviewer: Emma Tuschick is a Research Associate and PhD Candidate in the School of Social Sciences, Humanities and Law, Teesside University, Middlesbrough, United Kingdom.*

Veronique N. Valliere's *Unmasking the Sexual Offender* provides a comprehensive and insightful exploration into the complexities surrounding 'sexual offenders', their victims, and the societal dynamics that influence both. Valliere, a licensed psychologist with extensive experience in the field, meticulously examines the dynamics, motivations, and treatment of individuals who commit sexual offences.

Valliere establishes a foundational understanding of sexual offending by detailing various typologies and classifications of offenders. She presents a nuanced analysis of the factors contributing to sexual offending, including psychological, environmental, and situational influences. Through case studies and often shocking real-life examples, Valliere deepens readers' understanding of the diverse range of individuals involved in sexual offending behaviour. Notably, she challenges common assumptions about men convicted of sexual offences, highlighting instances

where some offenders have demonstrated compassion and therefore suggests the importance of temporary shifts in people's mindset towards this population.

A significant strength of the book is its examination of the psychological and emotional complexities underlying sexual offending. Valliere delves into the motivations and thought processes of offenders, providing valuable insights into the causes of their behaviour. Although she insists on holding offenders accountable, Valliere explores various psychological factors, such as cognitive distortions, trauma histories, and personality disorders, that can contribute to an individual's propensity for sexual offending. This detailed psychological analysis helps to demystify the often-misunderstood internal drivers that lead to such harmful actions.

Valliere's openness and honesty about her own experiences and feelings, derived from witnessing numerous distressing scenarios, significantly enhance the book's authenticity and relatability. Valliere does not shy away from discussing the emotional toll that working with this population can take on professionals in the field. Her candid reflections on her personal challenges and emotional responses add a humanising element to the narrative, making it clear that understanding and addressing sexual offending is not just an academic exercise but a deeply personal and emotionally charged endeavor.

Valliere also addresses the impact of sexual offending on victims, offenders' families, and the broader community. From the victim's perspective, she presents compelling evidence and poses challenging questions about the inadequacies in current preventative measures and societal responses. Valliere urges the audience to adopt a more proactive and supportive

stance, criticising societal tendencies to blame victims and perpetuate rape myths, and noting how professionals sometimes minimise the issue's severity.

Moreover, Valliere explores the stigmatisation and self-blame experienced by family members of offenders, contrasting their attitudes with those of the general public. She critically examines sex offender registries, suggesting that the associated stigma requires reevaluation. By debunking myths and offering advice to family members, Valliere empathetically places herself in their position, enabling readers to connect with the difficult realities they face. She highlights that family members, often overlooked, are victims too, thereby broadening the understanding of the pervasive impact of sexual offending.

Another noteworthy aspect of Valliere's work is her exploration of societal attitudes towards individuals convicted of a sexual offence, particularly the differential treatment of celebrities and sports figures. She argues that public forgiveness towards high-profile individuals reveals a troubling disparity in societal perceptions and reactions to sexual offences based on the offender's social status. This analysis raises critical questions about the influence of media and societal norms in shaping public opinion, indicating an essential area for further discussion. Valliere also critiques the media for perpetuating misconceptions about sexual violence and sensationalising cases, distorting reality. Her balanced examination of both male and female victims provides a nuanced perspective on the widespread and indiscriminate nature of sexual violence, reinforcing the need for a societal shift in attitudes and behaviours.

Valliere's exploration of the treatment and management of sexual offenders is another highlight. She offers an in-depth

analysis of various treatment modalities, including cognitive-behavioural therapy, group therapy, and pharmacological interventions. Drawing on her experiences working with offenders, Valliere provides practical advice for clinicians and therapists in this challenging field. She advocates for a multidisciplinary approach to addressing sexual offending behaviour, emphasising the need for collaboration between psychologists, social workers, law enforcement, and other professionals to develop comprehensive prevention, intervention, and rehabilitation strategies.

Throughout the book, Valliere emphasises understanding sexual offending behaviour within the broader context of individual and societal factors. She challenges readers to move beyond simplistic explanations of sexual offending and to consider the complex interplay of psychological, social, and environmental factors contributing to this behaviour. By providing a deeper understanding of the motivations and thought processes of sexual offenders, Valliere aims to promote more effective prevention and intervention strategies.

However, one limitation of *Unmasking the Sexual Offender* is Valliere's use of terminology. Throughout the book, she refers to individuals who have committed sexual offences as 'sexual offenders.' It may be more appropriate to use the term 'men convicted of a sexual offence' to avoid labeling individuals solely by their past behaviour. Employing person-first language acknowledges that individuals are more than their offences and promotes a more respectful and dignified approach to discussing sexual offending behaviour. While this limitation does not detract from the book's overall quality, it is an

important consideration for readers.

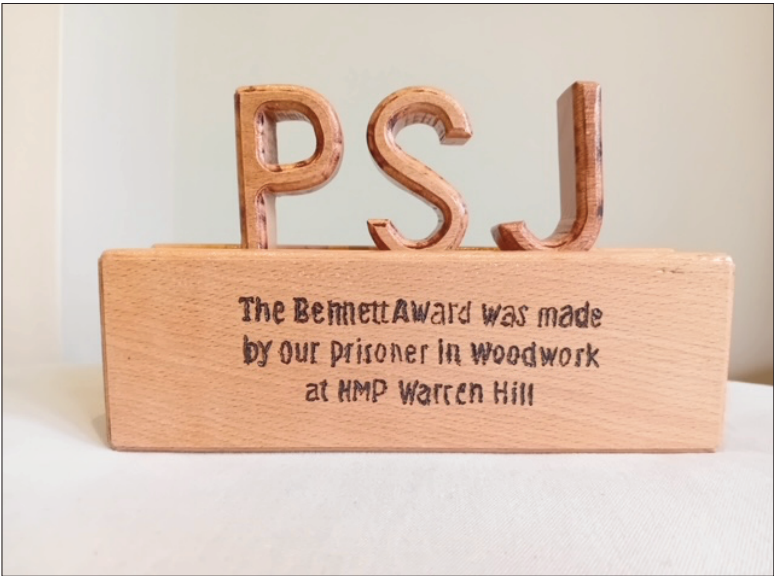
Additionally, while Valliere briefly touches on the legal and policy implications of sexual offending behaviour, a more comprehensive analysis of this aspect would enhance the book. A deeper exploration of legal and policy frameworks surrounding sexual offending, including discussions on sex offender registries, sentencing guidelines,

and rehabilitation programmes, would provide readers with a more thorough understanding of the broader context in which sexual offending occurs.

In conclusion, *Unmasking the Sexual Offender* is a thought-provoking, accessible, and essential read for those seeking to understand the complexities of sexual offending and victimisation. Valliere concludes with a powerful call to action, emphasising the

importance of prevention, early education, and societal change. She highlights the need for supportive and understanding environments to facilitate true change and better support victims. Ultimately, *Unmasking the Sexual Offender* serves as a crucial reminder of the pervasive impact of sexual violence and the urgent need for a collective effort to address this issue.

## Bennett Award Winner 2024



The ‘Bennett Award’ for outstanding article of the year is in its eighth year and was renamed in 2020 in honour of our former editor of seventeen years – Dr Jamie Bennett.

The Prison Service Journal editorial board reviewed a shortlist of articles in 2024. The board weighed each article by its merit. We have endeavored to make our judgement as unbiased and objective as possible. In so doing, we chose the article that best reflected the aims of the PSJ which is to inform theory and practice.

The Editorial board selected an article from the 272 special issue: Knowledge Equity in Carceral Research. All authors were introduced by first name only in this edition to ensure all authors receive full and equal credit for their contributions.

The winning article for our 2024 annual Bennett Award is: ‘Exploring Friendships behind Prison Walls through a Knowledge Equity Approach’. This article was co-written by Donna a Research Fellow in Public Health at the University of Southampton and Marc the CEO of Fair Justice, an organisation striving for a fairer criminal justice system. The article provides an insight into prison friendships, illuminating the similarities and differences in how these friendships function compared to friendships beyond the prison gate.

The 2025 Bennett award shortlist will be agreed in the autumn this year. If you would like to nominate an article from the 2025 editions, please send your nominations to [prisonservicejournal@crimeandjustice.gov.uk](mailto:prisonservicejournal@crimeandjustice.gov.uk)