

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

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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

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*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