

to implement upon release. Joshua Jebb had a vision that labour would secure post release employment, going so far as to advocate no man should be released until employment was secured. The public were not so quick to accede to these demands and the work rate of convicts was also brought into question. Commenting on convicts quarrying stone at Portland it was judged that 'we get 40% work from a convict that we would get from a free man'. This chapter highlights the difficulties establishment found in keeping convicts engaged in meaningful labour and how they would be secured work upon release. Another issue that faces the Prison Service of today.

Later chapters deal with health, diet, resistance to the regime, gender, sexuality, and class. A case study of Ann Kelly (p. 122) highlights how prisoners were treated who were pregnant upon their conviction. It is not only the experiences of female convicts that is addressed. The fight by women to be recognised as employees is discussed and reveals that it was not until 1916 that a woman attained Governor grade when Dr Selina Fox was appointed Deputy Governor and then Governor of Aylesbury Prison (p. 125).

The book highlights the lack of joined up thinking in the management of offenders in terms of both their time spent in prison and how they were managed afterwards. It came as a surprise that local and convict prisons only came under one umbrella in 1945 following the passing of the Criminal Justice Act. It is also surprising that there was not initially a national body whose responsibility it was to manage offenders upon release, this burden falling to variously named Aid Societies.

I drew heavily upon this text when asked to address a conference highlighting how regimes of the past operated. I remarked that the ideas contained in the various Penal Servitude acts, focusing as they did on measures to rehabilitate offenders, reduce the prison population and control offenders by offering incentive schemes were not too far removed from how the Prison Service operates today. This view has recently been reinforced by an article I read in PSJ 260, 'The Truth About Prisons and Probation' by Roy King and Lucy Willmott which serves to illustrate that the penal justice system has not really moved on since 1853.

As if in response to this observation, in concluding the authors make the argument that the more we know about the historical development of the carceral system, the better armed we are to fight to improve the ways we deal with the problems of the prison system today.

**Male, Failed and Jailed: The Revolving Door of Imprisonment in the UK.**

**By David Maguire**

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*Dr Kate Gooch is Associate Professor in Criminology and Deputy Head of Department at the University of Bath.*

It has long been recognised that prisons are sites where the performance of masculinity is brought into sharp relief. Whilst the gendered performance of men within prison has received far

greater attention in the last 30 years, this burgeoning body of research tends to focus on the structure, plurality, and function of masculinities *within* prison. Maguire's monograph *Male, Failed and Jailed* is a refreshing break from this tradition. Not only is it elegantly written and meticulously researched, but it offers a compelling account of the ways in which expressions of prison masculinities are forged within the local social and economic spaces of deprived neighbourhoods, schools, alternative educational settings, local authority care, youth custody, and post-industrial employment (or lack thereof). It is within these sites, and later in their non-working lives, that working class young men develop 'masculine trajectories' and strategies that ease their transitions into penal spaces. The inspired title *Male, Failed and Jailed* succinctly captures the central thesis of the book, namely that working-class men begin their journeys into prison many years earlier in impoverished neighbourhoods and institutional settings where they develop 'hard' masculinities that not only prepare them for imprisonment but continue to 'trap' them 'in the revolving door of imprisonment.'<sup>1</sup>

Traced throughout this book is the concept of 'protest masculinity,' a term originally coined by Connell<sup>2</sup> to describe the ways in which marginalised men resist their subordinate status. This 'protest masculinity', it is argued, allows men in positions of relative powerlessness and economic precarity to find alternative strategies for performing masculinity. Maguire revitalises the concept to explain the symbiosis and continuities between street and prison-based masculinities, but also how these strategies reinforce men's exclusion from education,

1 Maguire, D. (2020) *Male, Failed and Jailed: The Revolving Door of Imprisonment in the UK*. Palgrave Macmillan. p.191

2 Connell, R. (1995) *Masculinities*. Polity Press.

employment and later, the community.

Maguire's monograph makes a significant theoretical and empirical contribution. First, it offers a more nuanced analysis of the genesis of prison masculinities. Whilst Maguire challenges the view that prison-based masculinities are primarily structured by the depriving nature of the prison, he also illustrates how street-based masculinities are not just imported into prison but are also adapted within it. Consequently, he not only offers a fresh perspective on the (somewhat stale) importation-deprivation debate but also provides a persuasive account as to how (and why) some men adapt easily to imprisonment notwithstanding its punishing effects.

Second, and rather uniquely, Maguire's treatment of prison masculinities considers the intersection between class, age, transitions, and locality. Central to the monograph is the rich descriptive detail of Hull as a city and HMP Hull as an institution, as well as an analysis of the life-history accounts of 30 adult prisoners aged 18-45 years old. This combination very effectively contextualises the continuities between the cultural milieus and spaces that these working class, local lads share and experience prior to their imprisonment in a local prison. Maguire carefully reflects on his own position in relation to this research, considering both the advantages but also the challenges of negotiating access and establishing rapport as a 'partial insider'.

The empirical accounts vividly extend the monograph's theoretical arguments. For example, in Chapters 2 and 3, Maguire argues that de-industrialisation stimulated a decline in traditional, 'masculine' manual labour in favour of

'feminised' service work. Later, in Chapter 6, he demonstrates how disrupted school-work transitions and the growing precarity of employment opportunities not only has a role in explaining why men find alternative ways of performing masculinity but also how 'in the context of deprived neighbourhoods, 'doing crime' was in many cases, a more emotionally exhilarating route to a locally valorised version of performing masculinity than the employment opportunities open to many of them.'<sup>3</sup>

Third, and in contrast to the 'hard' masculinities described throughout the book, Maguire also turns his attention to the 'vulnerable masculinities' of prisoners on a vulnerable prisoner's unit (VPU). In so doing, he describes three principal adaptations of these seemingly low status prisoners: 1) 'protest,' where prisoners assert their criminal credentials and their lack of choice in the move to the VPU 2; 'acceptance'; and, 3) 'pragmatic' adaptation. Moreover, Maguire also illustrates how male prisoners navigate and mitigate their absences and 'failures' as men. In so doing, further illustrates how the adoption of prison masculinities serves these men poorly on release. Rather, imprisonment had 'intensified' masculine traits and strategies that would contribute to their continued marginalisation.

Although this monograph might at first appear to be – as Maguire describes – a 'bleak study', Maguire dispels any sense that the pathways into prison are fixed or permanently cyclical. In this way, he avoids being either unduly deterministic or pessimistic. He not only emphasises that he is describing some working-class young men (not all), but also that there can be 'critical moments' in an individual's life that disrupt this

trajectory. It is Maggie to whom Maguire ascribes credit for encouraging his own biographical shift. Encouraged to pursue prison education and finding in Maggie someone who believed that he was not only 'teachable' but had 'something of value to say', Maguire finds for himself an alternative way of 'doing masculinity'. It is in the final pages of the monograph that we encounter Maggie, but her introduction serves as a powerful example of how any one individual can inspire, support, and encourage another.

This outstanding monograph will of interest to students, academics, and practitioners in a variety of settings and fields.

**Dementia in Prison: An ethical framework to support research, practice and prisoners**

**Edited by Joanne Brooke**

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**Maggie Bolger** *CF FRSA* is a *HMPPS Specialist Adviser (Older Prisoners)*

The number of older prisoners in the UK has grown significantly over the last two decades. In 2009 the ratio of older individuals in the total prison population was 1:11. In 2021, this ratio is now 1:6.<sup>1</sup> As the total prison population is projected to rise by a quarter over the next 5 years, it is likely that our older prisoner population will also rise in line with this prediction. The rise in the number of older prisoners can be largely attributed to convictions for 'historical' sexual offences, resulting in lengthy custodial sentences. Older prisoners are also more likely to have significant health and social care needs, which

3. *Ibid*, p.122.

1. HMPPS. (2020). *Offender Equalities Annual Report 2019-2020*. MOJ.