

acknowledges that Paterson's work can no longer be directly recognised in contemporary imprisonment, one cannot help but feel impassioned to strive for change and reform, using the same values and frames seen during the Paterson era.

This text represents the importance of good historical methodology in criminology. Potter not only presents a strong overview of Paterson's work but also demonstrates detailed work that is not usually seen when reading about the history of prisons and reform; making this book the central text to understand the work of Paterson. I can see this text holding great interest for those fascinated in the history of imprisonment, and for those who seek to share the moral and philosophical views that Paterson developed and established with those working in, living in, and studying prisons. Readers should be aware this text cannot be simply read as a biography, a history, or a manifesto for penal reform. It is all of these things, making this unique, comprehensive, and incredibly personal to its readers.

Minority Ethnic Prisoners and the Covid-19 Lockdown — Issues, Impacts and Implications

By Avril Brandon and Gavin Dingwall

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

The rhetoric of 'we're all in this together' has so shaped narratives about the Covid-19 pandemic that the differential impacts on certain minority populations may have been persistently underplayed. In the community, the worse outcomes for racialised people are

well established, and it is timely that Brandon and Dingwall have shone a light on how this played out in prisons. They focus on 'minority ethnic' prisoners, foreign nationals, and those from the Irish Travelling and Roma communities. The study covers all the UK nations, and the Republic of Ireland.

The research was conducted while the pandemic was still at its height, so it is not based on face-to-face interviews in prisons. The authors give a summary of the impact of the pandemic and its management, citing dozens of inspection reports and a rich variety of quotes from prisoners. They do justice to the successes arising from close collaboration between prison leaders and the public health bodies, including the remarkable work of Dr Eamonn O'Moore and his public health team; but they also set out evidence of the negative impacts of restricted regimes on prisoners' mental health.

Black, Asian and minority ethnic prisoners are the first group examined (the authors are alive to the difficulties of labelling). The community realities are well known — in the UK, when age was taken into account, Black people were 4.2 (males) or 4.3 (females) times more likely to die than White people (p.30); while after adjusting from a range of other variables, Black people were still almost twice as likely to die a COVID-related death. The possible causal factors are helpfully rehearsed, as is the over-representation of Black, Asian and minority ethnic people in prison. HMIP is cited as saying that 'there had been little or no monitoring of the impact of Covid-19 on various prisoner groups' (p.34).

The authors consider the COVID-related death rate among prisoners with Black (4 per cent of deaths) or Asian (9 per cent) heritage, compared with 87 per cent White; the difference in age profile between these sub-populations is probably relevant.

They then move to the tricky issues of mental health, saying 'it may be argued that minority ethnic groups are no less likely to experience mental health problems, but ... may be less likely to receive diagnosis and/or treatment' (p.36). They cite useful evidence from the Zahid Mubarek Trust, and also commend the work of chaplaincy staff in maintaining in-person pastoral support throughout.

Evidence of differences in staff-prisoner relationships is then considered, extending to incentives systems, access to prison jobs, release on temporary licence, complaints, and access to the discrimination incident reporting process. Little evidence is cited linking inequitable outcomes directly to the pandemic, but in general the inequities are acute, and the claim that 'the impact of the Covid-19 lockdown in prisons has . . . differentially affected minority ethnic groups' (p.50), though hard to evidence, is not implausible.

Among foreign nationals, there may well have been greater impacts from Covid-19 in the community. In prisons, those who did not understand English were inevitably disadvantaged in a fast-changing situation where health and regime information was being pushed out in English on almost a daily basis, and where clear information on arrival in prison was vital; additionally, this group may be less likely to disclose risk factors such as mental health problems (p.58). HMIP Scotland drew attention sharply to some of these issues, while in the Republic of Ireland, chaplaincies were commended for providing interpretation. Some prisons ensured that Covid-19-related information was translated — for example, at HMP Bedford the governor's weekly newsletter was translated into 25 languages in 2021 (p. 64), with similar examples in the other jurisdictions such as a

fortnightly newsletter in eight languages delivered to every cell in the Irish Prison Service. The fast rollout of video-calling in all the jurisdictions also made a difference to foreign nationals, especially at HMP Huntercombe (p. 65). In staff-prisoner relationships, the same types of differential outcomes applied as with Black, Asian and minority ethnic people (above), while the anxiety of many foreign nationals about their immigration status was exacerbated during the pandemic by the increased difficulty of contact with Home Office staff, or with external support agencies.

In the community, the Irish Traveller and Roma groups have been particularly impacted by the pandemic. The Taoiseach's office has said that 'existing vulnerabilities of the Traveller and Roma communities in health and accommodation put them at particular risk of contracting the virus' (p.77f). This applies equally to mental health: 'for members of [these] communities, who are already disproportionately impacted by mental illness and suicide, the impact of isolation may be critical' (p.81). ZMT research supported this, citing reduced access to culturally appropriate support and advocacy services. Chaplaincy support again comes through as a strength.

The inability to see family has hit these prisoners hard. Traveller families often have less access to technology and internet than most settled-majority people, and a requirement for proof of address caused difficulties initially.

Finally, the book considers the fast-changing issues of moving out of lockdown. The authors mention 'video visits' as a real gain, but they assert, controversially, that 'a pre-pandemic regime is not what post-pandemic prisons need'.

The book's conclusions in relation to the minority groups which it studies are modest. The impacts common to all prisoners are increased by existing vulnerabilities

of these sub-populations and by patterns of (mainly indirect) discrimination. There are some redeeming factors, such as video visits, though even they have downsides, for GRT people in particular. The book presents its evidence concisely, and is as valuable for its summaries of the general impacts of Covid-19, and of experiences of discrimination, as for the case which it presents for differential impact of the pandemic on specific minority groups.

Prisoners' Families, Emotions and Space

By Maria Adams

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As the title suggests this book explores the experiences of prisoner's families. It considers the experiences of family members visiting three Scottish prisons, before, and during Covid restrictions. Family members are interviewed and the emotional impact that visiting prisons has, is explored. The book gives a rare voice to family members and their experiences of visiting prisons, how they deal with the process and impact of a period of imprisonment, featuring the themes of space, emotions and identity.

The author had experience of working in prison as a playworker and her analysis is much focused on the implications of the restrictions to visits on the emotional wellbeing of family members, and the limitations of visiting areas in prisons. She also explores how the attitude and approach of prison staff impact on the experience of visiting a family member in prison.

She argues that emotions are a neglected area in the sociology of prisons research. The book offers insight into how the experiences of visitors to prisons influence both the organisation of the institution and its policy.

The book is based on a PhD study and explores a number of themes which are divided into chapters. These include, how prison visiting rooms can sustain relationships, how strict body searches and security checks are an example of social control of prisoner's families, how the extensive periods that family members need to wait at a number of stages in their visits are further exercises in control, how families manage adversity, and how the space allowed for visits to prisons is often a matter of local policy.

The introduction explores the context of the research on which the book is based and outlines the nature and necessity of the visiting restrictions as a result of the Covid pandemic. She also explores the phased resumption of visiting arrangements describing them as 'sterile' (p. 9) and challenging for visitors. Researched in three prisons in Scotland, the book explores the varying architectural designs and how they had an impact on the visitors' experiences. In particular, the theme of 'waiting' (p. 68) is explored and how this is a feature of a number of aspects of the visit. She explores the implications of the length of time it takes for visitors to travel to prisons, and when prisoners are moved with very little notice how unsettling this was for family members. The author suggests that 'waiting' is a form of social control experienced by visitors that leads to shame and fear.

The author suggests that families' survival of the incarceration process involves both resilience and time, and that family members adopt a range of coping strategies. These include 'keeping