

There is more at stake in criminology than crime and criminal justice alone.³

These books take different approaches to exploring the issue of change in the criminal justice system. Wasik and Santatzoglou focus on practice, using detailed case studies in order to reveal common threads and theoretical dimensions. Theirs is an approach that reflects the state of things. In contrast, Farrall, Goldson, Loader and Dockley start from a theoretical perspective, attempting to enrich and enliven the intellectual, policy and public debate. They are attempting to guide and inform alternative futures. Together, these books offer a fascinating contrast in approaches, but both ask awkward and difficult questions, agitating in the reader a discomfort in the status quo and a desire for a different kind of change.

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Book Review

Imprisonment Worldwide: the current situation and an alternative future

by Andrew Coyle, Helen Fair, Jessica Jacobson and Roy Walmsley.

Publisher: Policy Press (2016)

ISBN: 978-1-4473-3175-9

(paperback)

Price: £7.99 (from publisher)

The book has three sections: 1) Trends in imprisonment and numbers worldwide; 2) Ethical considerations for imprisonment and how this impacts on those in custody; and, 3) Alternative approaches and proposals including justice re-investment approaches. Throughout the book, information is collated and summarised in a series of infographics making it easy to read

and assimilate the potentially complex variations and differences. For example graphs of changing rates of imprisonment between five European countries over the last 35 years — show remarkable differences: Finland has steadily fallen over the entire period whilst England and Wales has steadily increased (see p.53).

The book is a major contribution to the knowledge of those currently debating prisons and the use of imprisonment, whether from an academic, policy, practitioner, campaigner or lay perspective, making it also a valuable teaching resource for courses in criminology and related subjects. The final chapter reminds us that (potential) solutions are unlikely to be 'simple' (p. 131) nor found exclusively within the criminal justice system, and perhaps more importantly prisons are unlikely to (the authors use the word 'never') be a place of reform. I enjoyed reading the book through and then coming back to look for more details, trying to understand what the many differences were worldwide and why these occurred. Of course no publication can completely explain the reasons 'why', but this one nevertheless provides a significant body of evidence to help us on this journey.

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Remote control: Television in prison

By Victoria Knight

Publisher: Palgrave Macmillan

(2016)

ISBN: 978-1-137-44390-8

(hardback)

Price: £68.00 (hardback)

Television is such a central feature of everyday life that it is no

longer considered a luxury but instead is an unexceptional, even essential, part of our domestic worlds. Over the last 20 years, this has also become true of prison life. The systematic introduction of television in prisons started in 1998. It was initially a reward for 'enhanced' prisoners who demonstrated a high level of compliance with prison regimes, but since then it has become part of the 'standard' privileges, only to be removed from those who demonstrate poor behaviour. In this book, Dr. Victoria Knight, a senior research fellow at De Montfort University Leicester, examines the ways in which television is viewed by prisoners, how this shapes their social world and their inner emotional experiences.

The book draws upon research conducted in an adult male category B prison, including structured diaries of television viewing along with interviews with prisoners and staff. As well as becoming normalised, television has, in fact, become a dominating aspect of the experience of imprisonment. The diaries collected in this study show that prisoners will spend over sixty hours a week watching programmes, more than double the national average.

One of the primary policy justifications for the introduction of television was the way that it reinforced the incentives and earned privileges scheme (IEP), which offered graduated privileges reflecting compliance, good behaviour and positive work towards release. This approach aimed to extend the use of soft power over prisoners. This book reveals that in unforeseen ways the effects have been more extensive.

The social effects have included a retreat from public spaces into the private space of the prison cell, a pattern that has also been discussed in the community outside. Within shared cells, interpersonal dynamics have altered as these relationships require careful negotiations around

3. Loader, I. and Sparks, R. (2010) *Public criminology?* London: Routledge.