



# Criminology Newsletter

Centre for Criminal Justice Policy and Research

Summer 2009

## Centre News

### Record Number of Students Apply to Study Criminology

The Times Higher Education Supplement reported that there had been an increase of over 35% of applications to study at BCU compared with the number of applicants at the same time last year. So too applications for Criminology courses have also shown a dramatic increase. Postgraduate applicants this year benefit from being able to apply for a paid place on the MA course. The Howard League for Penal Reform is offering a bursary paying the full time fees of the MA Criminology at the BCU in 2009/10. The successful applicant will be responsible for all other costs including travel. The recipient of this bursary will also be expected to spend time with staff in the offices of the Howard League for Penal Reform in London.

If you are interested in applying for the bursary, you need to submit a standard BCU application form together with a short essay (max 1000 words) explaining why you should receive the bursary.

**For an application form contact Barbara McCalla - 0121 331 6613/ [Barbara.McCalla@bcu.ac.uk](mailto:Barbara.McCalla@bcu.ac.uk), giving your postal address.**

### Riots!



Professor Mike King has co-edited a book together with Professor David Waddington (Sheffield Hallam University) and Fabien Jobard (CESDIP-CNRS) entitled *Rioting in the UK and France: A comparative Analysis*, published by Willan Publishing. The broad aim of this book is to provide a general basis for comparatively analysing and understanding the French riots of October/November 2005 and the corresponding British disorders which occurred in the spring/summer of 2001.

The first of the French riots broke out on 27 October in the north Parisian *banlieue* (suburb) of Clichy-sous-Bois when two teenage youths of Muslim heritage were electrocuted in a substation while fleeing

from the police. The two youths had apparently become unwittingly involved, together with their friends, in a police investigation of a break-in. It is not clear whether they had actually been chased by police officers. Nevertheless, a rumour to this effect quickly circulated the locality, provoking violent confrontation between youths and police. Three more weeks of rioting then ensued in neighbouring Parisian suburbs and other major French cities with similar concentrations of ethnic minorities. The riots invariably involved thousands of youths from poorer areas who confronted the police, set fire to local buildings and ignited hundreds of motor vehicles. Further rioting - though not on the same scale as in 2005 - occurred subsequently in 2006 and 2007.

England and Wales have had their own counterparts to the French riots. In the early and mid 1980s, there were a number of clashes between police and African-Caribbean youths in inner-city areas. Further, in 2001 rioting broke out in the northern mill towns and cities of Bradford, Burnley, Leeds and Oldham. All of these later instances involved youths from Pakistani or Bangladeshi descent. In contrast to the riots that occurred in France though, a contributing factor to 2001 riots was the activities of white neo-Fascists.

The book consists of a highly coherent, theoretically rich and thematically comprehensive collection of papers which provide an unparalleled description and comparative analysis of the French and British riots, along with social policy recommendations to help to address the underlying issues.

### **Three Peaks Challenge in September 2009**

Centre members Laura Caulfield and Dean Wilkinson, along with Dr. Tim Jones from University of Gloucestershire, are currently training to complete the 3 Peaks Challenge in September 2009 in support of the charity Mind. Described as one of the UK's ultimate challenges the Three Peaks requires climbers to reach the top of the three highest peaks in England, Scotland and Wales in 24 hours. The team are conducting research into the potential links between mental health and crime, and feel it is important to support charities such as Mind. If you would like to follow the team's progress or provide sponsorship, please contact them directly.

### **Criminology Open Days**

BCU hosted two very successful open days on 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> June, and there were scores of applicants who wanted to know more about our range of Criminology courses. Many were tempted by a lecture by Professor David Wilson about serial killing and offender profiling – based on his work as a prison governor and his writing and research as an academic. David described how – in the main – only five groups of people are victimised by British serial killers, and challenged the audience to identify these groups. The five groups that David identifies as being the main targets of British serial killers are the elderly; prostitutes; babies and infants; young people running away or staying away from home; and gay men. Women dominate all but the last of these groups.

### **Schools liaison**

On 30th June Laura Caulfield will be leading sessions at Cadbury College Higher Education Forum on Psychology and Criminology in Higher Education. Dean Wilkinson will be giving a sample lecture to a group of sixth formers from Ounsdale School on the 10th July, as part of a summer school project and Professor David Wilson is speaking at The King's School Canterbury, in September.

If you would like someone from the Centre to speak at your school please contact Runjit Banger on [Runjit.Banger@bcu.ac.uk](mailto:Runjit.Banger@bcu.ac.uk).

## The Arts in Criminal Justice

Following on from a previous evaluation, 'Good Vibrations' (see Wilson, Caulfield, and Atherton, 2009), Laura Caulfield and David Wilson have recently been funded to continue their research into the impact of the arts in prisons. During 2009 Laura and David will be reviewing the long-term impact of the Good Vibrations Gamelan in Prisons Project on offenders as they move through the prison service and out into the community. The research is particularly timely given the growing unrest in the prison arts community following the recent publication of Prison Service guidance for prison staff to consider the public perception of programmes offered in prisons. In late 2008 media attention focused on certain arts in prisons projects, suggesting they were unsuitable for offenders serving prison sentences. However, the emerging evidence base challenges this suggestion and therefore it is vital to fully assess the impact arts projects can have through high-quality, robust research. Laura and David are also currently seeking funding to evaluate the impact of the Good Vibrations project on a variety of offender populations, including women and young offenders, and to further develop the emotion scale designed by the team and piloted in the previous research.

## Developing Relationships

The Centre for Criminal Justice, Policy and Research is working closely with the West Midlands Police Detective Training School with a view to supporting and developing policing services. Professor David Wilson was recently invited to address sixty senior detectives in relation to his work on serial killers and in particular his review and analysis of the Ipswich serial killer Steve Wright. David received considerable acclaim from this audience and he has been invited back to chair a regional conference on child abuse during September. Nick Howe, Programme Director for Criminal Investigation at the Centre has agreed with the West Midlands Police to co-host a series of lectures from Detective Officers of high profile national murder cases that will be held during the next academic year. The lectures will serve to further raise the profile of the University and of the degree programmes that are available. In this developing relationship a number of West Midlands Police and their staff are due to commence formal academic studies with the University undertaking the BSc (Hons) Criminal Investigation degree that will be launched in September, 2009.

## Visiting the Centre

Professor Emma Hughes of California State University, Fresno was at Birmingham City University to visit the Centre. Professor Hughes is a former Centre member who completed her PhD at BCU. Her thesis was called 'Thinking out side The Box' – and was based on distance learning and prison education. On completion Emma took up an appointment in the USA.

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## Recent Publications



Waddington, D., Jobard, F. and King, M. (eds) (2009) *Rioting in the UK and France, 2001-2008: a comparative analysis*. Willan.

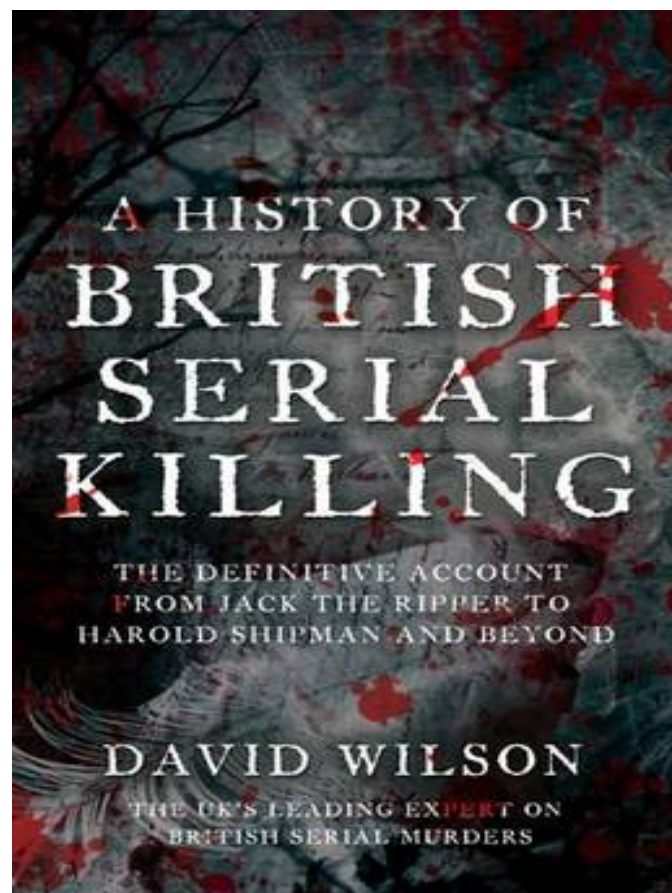
King, M. (2009) 'From Rumour to Riot: the 2005 Lozells disorders', in D. Waddington, F. Jobard and M. King (eds) *Rioting in the UK and France, 2001-2008: a comparative analysis*. Willan: 94-104.

Waddington, D. and King, M. (2009) 'Identifying Common Causes of UK and French Riots Occurring Since the 1980s', *Howard Journal of Criminal Justice*, 48(3): 245-256.

Wilson, D (2009) Testing a Civilisation: Charles Dickens On the American Penitentiary System, *Howard Journal of Criminal Justice*, 48 (3): 280-296

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## Forthcoming Publications



Wilson, D. (2009) *A History of British Serial Killing*, London: Sphere

If you would like more information about the work of the Centre, or about the research interests of Criminologists working at Birmingham City University more generally, please contact Professor David Wilson on [david.wilson@bcu.ac.uk](mailto:david.wilson@bcu.ac.uk)