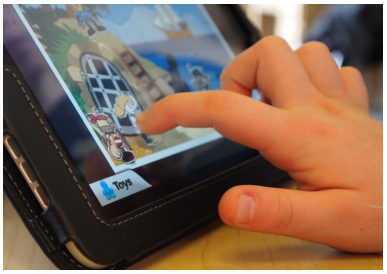
The Comparative Youth Penality Project



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Project Newsletter July 2016

The Comparative Youth Penality Project (CYPP) is an ARC Discovery Project led by Professor Chris Cunneen, Professor Eileen Baldry, Emeritus Professor David Brown, Melanie Schwartz and Professor Barry Goldson (University of Liverpool).

The CYPP is an international comparative study of youth punishment in Australia (focusing on NSW, Victoria, Queensland and WA) and in England and Wales. The project aims to analyse developments in the punishment of children and young people over the last 30 years. This is the first in-depth analysis of Australian youth penality and the first comparative study of youth punishment across these jurisdictions.

The Project seeks to answer the following questions:

- What are the defining features of contemporary juvenile justice penality?
- How has youth penality changed since the early 1980s across the jurisdictions that are the subject of this project?
- How have changing approaches to youth penality impacted upon particular social groups, including racial minorities, Indigenous youth, young women, and young people with mental and cognitive disabilities?
- What, if any, jurisdictional differences are to be found in discourses on community safety, the nature of childhood and youth (including child welfare and protection), the appropriateness of rehabilitation and the character of punishment practices for youth?
- How has the development of a human rights framework impacted on penal law, policy and practice as applied to youth? What impact, if any, has a children's rights framework had on differentiating youth justice from adult penal systems?

This newsletter provides stakeholders with an update on the progress of the CYPP. It also lists some of the latest news and research in the field of youth penality. For more information please visit our website or contact CYPP Research Associate, Sophie Russell.

CYPP News

CYPP Twitter Account **@CYPPUNSW**

The CYPP now has a twitter account. Follow us to stay up to date on youth justice news, events, research, and publications.

Reintegration Puzzle Conference

In June, Chief Investigator Professor Eileen Baldry and Research Associate Sophie Russell presented findings from the CYPP on young people with mental health disorders and cognitive disabilities in the criminal justice system at the Reintegration Puzzle Conference held at Deakin University in Geelong, Victoria. The 2016 conference theme was 'Disability and Incarceration: Multiple Disadvantage and the Need for Individualised Support'. The conference provided an opportunity for the CYPP project team to connect with service providers across Australia and hear leading research on the intersection between disability and the criminal justice system.

British Society of Criminology Conference

In July, Chief Investigator Emeritus Professor David Brown travelled to the United Kingdom to present research from the CYPP at the British Society of Criminology Conference in Nottingham. David chaired the session *Children as Subjects and Victims of Criminal Justice* and presented a paper on themes in juvenile justice which included interview material with children in detention and criminal justice professionals.

European Society of Criminology Conference

The CYPP will be presenting a panel at the European Society of Criminology Conference in Muenster, Germany in September.

News (Australia & UK)

Australia

Victoria's child bail changes slammed, *Townsville Bulletin*, 2 May 2016.

Teenage terrorism suspects could be detained for two weeks under proposed NSW laws, Michael Safi, *The Guardian*, 4 May 2016

Psychologist Professor Tim Carey says youth offenders at risk of mental harm if forced into mechanical restraint chairs, Matt Garrick, *NT News*, 9 May 2016.

Police frustrated as young offenders lead even younger siblings astray, Chris McMahon, *Townsville Bulletin*, 10 May 2016.

Community police board to tackle crime, Samantha Healy, *Townsville Bulletin*, 18 May 2016.

Victoria Police and the Herald Sun join forces on youth crime scourge, *Herald Sun*, 19 May 2016.

Refusing young NT offenders bail would be human rights breach, says Amnesty, *The Guardian*, 20 May 2016.

Supreme Court Chief Justice Chris Kourakis hits out at South Australia Indigenous jail toll, Andrew Dowdell, *The Advertiser,* 21 May 2016.

NT govt and Labor vow crackdown on crime, *9 News*, 23 May 2016.

Townsville branded 'crime capital' of Queensland in parliament, Chris McMahon, *Townsville Bulletin*, 24 May 2016.

Bail revoked for boy facing charges, Samantha Healy, *Townsville Bulletin*, 24 May 2016.

We must do more to help people with intellectual impairments stay out of prison, Frank Brennan, *The Conversation*, 24 May 2016.

Funding boost to fight youth crime, Samantha Healy, *Townsville Bulletin*, 25 May 2016.

We've been silent on injustice for too long, Ruth Barson and Julia Cleary, *The Age*, 25 May 2016.

$1 million from federal government for state PCYC program, Alistair Finlay, *The Advocate*, 25 May 2016.

Restraint chairs with cable ties approved for youths in NT, James Oaten, *ABC News*, 26 May 2016.

Saying sorry isn't enough for Indigenous children, Judy Cashmore and Teresa Libesman, *Sydney Morning Herald*, 26 May 2016.

Juvenile justice expert surprised by Queensland's low incarceration rate, Cameron Atfield, *Brisbane Times*, 26 May 2016.

Schools' tough approach to bad behaviour isn't working – and may escalate problems, Anna Sullivan, *The Conversation*, 27 May 2016.

Aurukun youths may be suffering foetal alcohol spectrum disorder and need help not punishment, Meg Perkins, *The Courier Mail,* 30 May 2016.

WA kids on more than 50 homicide related charges since 2010, Heather McNeill, *WA Today*, 31 May 2016.

Canberra justice system needs more integration with Aboriginal community: Forum, Georgia Hitch, *ABC News*, 31 May 2016.

The scandal in the Northern Territory is not youth crime but imprisonment rates, Frank Brennan, *The Guardian*, 31 May 2016.

Australian governments have failed children: UNICEF report, Rachael Browne, *Sydney Morning Herald*, 10 June 2016.

Crime is up in Dandenong but can the Apex gang be blamed?, Tom Cowie, *The Age,* 18 June 2016.

Queensland's youth justice laws a 'marshmallow' approach, Opposition says, Gail Burke, *ABC News*, 18 June 2016.

Changes to Queensland's youth justice laws welcome but not token, advocacy group says, Francis Tapim, *ABC News*, 19 June 2016.

Teenage boy to be dealt with under Youth Justice Act over head lock incident at Currumbin school, *Gold Coast Bulletin*, 23 June 2016.

Prison not the answer for young gang members, Les Twentyman, *Herald Sun*, 3 July 2016.

Police arrest teenagers over Darwin crime spree, *ABC News*, 5 July 2016.

Report calls for overhaul of the way Indigenous people are dealt with in judiciary sentencing process, Natasha Robinson, *ABC News*, 7 July 2016.

Indigenous Australians unfairly jailed due to racism in legal system – research, Melissa Davey, *The Guardian*, 7 July 2016.

Car thefts double in Townsville amid high youth unemployment, Josh Bavas, *ABC News*, 10 July 2016.

If we want to reduce crime, we need to break the rules, Gino Vumbaca and Sarah Hopkins, *The Huffington Post,* 12 July 2016.

UK

May wants police commissioners to set up free schools for 'troubled children', Alan Travis, *The Guardian*, 4 February 2016.

Youth jails should be replaced by secure schools, finds review, Alan Travis, *The Guardian*, 9 February 2016.

UK child prisons: thousands of injuries not disclosed by government, Mark Townsend and Eric Allison, *The Guardian*, 13 February 2016.

Young offenders confined to cells in prison officers' protest, Josh Halliday, *The Guardian*, 17 February 2016.

Mother hopes joint enterprise verdict will overturn son's murder conviction, Jamie Grierson, *The Guardian*, 20 February 2016.

G4S youth jails: a story of revolving doors, dangerous restraints and death, Simon Hattenstone and Eric Allison, *The Guardian*, 26 February 2016.

Former Medway inmate: 'The guard slammed my face off the ice', Simon Hattenstone and Eric Allison, *The Guardian*, 26 February 2016.

Revealed: G4S youth jail faced abuse claims 12 years ago, Eric Allison, Simon Hattenstone and Jamie Grierson, *The Guardian*, 26 February 2016.

Restrain injuries persist at youth jail where boy died 12 years ago, Eric Allison and Jamie Greirson, *The Guardian*, 5 May 2016.

Justice ministry to take over Medway child jail from G4S, Alan Travis, *The Guardian*, 5 May 2016.

Rainsbrook private youth prison sees rise in use of force and restraint, Alan Travis, *The Guardian*, 6 May 2016.

Young offenders who film assaults could face tougher punishments, Owen Bowcott, *The Guardian*, 12 May 2016.

Medway youth offenders centre complaints 'ignored', *BBC News,* 12 May 2016.

G4S paid for its failure to protect children. Now the Youth Justice Board should go, Eric Allison and Simon Hattenstone, *The Guardian*, 17 May 2016.

Youth Justice Board's record under scrutiny, *The Guardian*, 22 May 2016.

Half of children in youth custody have been in care system, review finds, *The Guardian*, 23 May 2016.

Children in care: Call to cut prosecutions for minor offences, Hannah Richardson, *BBC News*, 23 May 2016.

Praise for child care in Surrey, *Farnham Herald*, 30 May 2016.

Scandal of G4S-run Medway youth jail deepens as five more arrested, Ben Quinn and Eric Allison, *The Guardian,* 9 June 2016.

Fall in number of magistrates 'will mean less diversity', Owen Bowcott, *The Guardian*, 23 June 2016.

National Probation Service chief to head up the Youth Justice Board, Jim Dunton, *Civil Service World News*, 27 June 2016.

Our justice system lets young people down – here's how to fix it, Mat Ilic, *The Huffington Post*, 12 July 2016.

Research

Anderson, S. Hawes, D. and Snow, P. 2016 Language impairments among youth offenders: A systematic review, *Children and Youth Services Review*, 65, 195 – 203.

Bateman, T. 2016 Youth Justice News, *Youth Justice*, 16(1), 82 – 91.

Crowe, K. 2016 Secure Welfare Services: Risk, Security and Rights of Vulnerable Young People in Victoria, Australia, *Youth Justice*

Gray, P. 2016 'Child Friendly' International Human Rights Standards and Youth Offending Team Partnerships, *International Journal of Law, Crime and Justice*, 45, 59 – 74.

Hemphill, S. Heerde, J. and Scholes-Balog, K 2016 Risk factors and risk-based protective factors for violent offending: A study of young Victorians, *Journal of Criminal Justice*, 45, 94 – 100.

Johnstone, P. 2016 Emerging developments in juvenile justice: The use of intervention, diversion and rehabilitation to break the cycle and prevent juvenile offending, *Judicial Review*, 12(4), 455 – 470.

McElvaney, R. and Tatlow-Golden, M. 2016 A traumatized and traumatizing system: Professionals' experiences in meeting the mental health needs of young people in the care and youth justice systems in Ireland, *Children and Youth Services Review*, 65, 62 – 69.

NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research 2016 NSW Quarterly Custody Statics March 2016, NSW BOCSAR: Sydney.

Prison Reform Trust 2016 In Care, Out of Trouble, Prison Reform Trust: London.

Ringland, C. 2016 Participation in PCYC Young Offender programs and re-offending, *Contemporary Issues in Crime and Justice no 191*, NSW Bureau of Crime Statistic and Research: Sydney, 1 – 20.

Sharpe, G. 2016 Re-imagining Justice for Girls: A New Agenda for Research, *Youth Justice*, 16(1), 3 – 17.

Shepherd, S. Luebbers, S. and Ogloff, J. 2016 The Role of Protective Factors and the Relationship with Recidivism for High-Risk Young People in Detention, *Criminal Justice and Behaviour*, 43(7), 863 – 878.

Stansfield, R. 2016 Juvenile Desistance and Community Disadvantage: The Role of Appropriate Accommodations and Engagements, *Justice Quarterly*, 33(4), 708 – 728.

Stone, N. 2016 Expunging Juvenile Criminal Histories: Towards a 'Clean Break'?, *Youth Justice*, 16(1), 71 – 81.

Events

The **2nd Australasian Youth Justice Conference** will be held from 13 – 15 September in Brisbane, Queensland.

The **European Society of Criminology Conference** will be held from 21 – 24 September in Muenster, Germany.

The **American Society of Criminology Conference** will be held from 16 – 19 November in New Orleans. The theme for 2016 is *The Many Colors of Crime and Justice*.

The **Australia and New Zealand Society of Criminology Conference** will be held 29 – 2 December in Hobart, Tasmania. The theme for 2016 is *Horizon Criminology.* Looking over the horizon there are challenges for criminology and criminal justice requiring innovative interpretations and creative responses to the past, present and future.

The **Applied Research in Crime and Justice Conference** will be held 15 – 16 February 2017 at the Dockside Function Centre, Darling Harbour, Sydney. The conference will showcase high quality Australian and international research in the areas of policing, offender rehabilitation, situational crime prevention, corrections, early-intervention and criminal justice administration.