

RESEARCH SEMINAR GROUP CONCLUSION REPORT

1 *Details of the award*

TITLE: Crime, Gender and Culture in the Twentieth Century

PRINCIPLE APPLICANT: Shani D'Cruze, Manchester Metropolitan University.

REFERENCE: R451265260

AMOUNT: £10563

DURATION: May 2002-February 2004 [Extension of award granted July 2003]

2 *Aims and Objectives of the Seminar Group*

Aims

1. to facilitate further research in this area amongst the core group IN ORDER TO DEVELOP substantive collaborative projects and publication.
2. PROMOTING research COMBINING the approaches of feminist and women's history with more interdisciplinary insights, IN ORDER TO INFORM contemporary academic and policy debates through an appreciation of historical perspectives.
3. ENCOURAGING debate and dialogue both with professionals and policy-makers and with other academics working in this and related fields.
4. LOCATING, PUBLICISING AND DEVELOPING research utilisation of hitherto under-used sources and archives
5. SUPPORTING postgraduate research Objectives

1. the publication and dissemination of working papers as well as the end-of-award report, both in hard copy and online via the SOLON website CURRENTLY hosted at Nottingham Trent University.
2. SUPPORTING research leading to publication.
3. INCLUSION OF PRESENTATIONS BY POSTGRADUATES AND PROFESSIONALS in each seminar in the series.
4. DEVELOPMENT OF at least one substantive collaborative proposal for research funding by academics in the core research group.

3 *Publicising the Series*

The objective was not large conferences, but a series of small to medium scale seminars to facilitate discussion and networking, and promote sustained involvement by participants. Publicity was tailored to these ends. Calls for papers were posted strategically on websites and mailing lists; both for academic and professional audiences. The SOLON-MANAGED FCRN website published seminar programmes, abstracts, contact details and, where participants were willing, downloads of papers. FCRN is closely linked to the partly ESRC-Funded SOLON Project: Interdisciplinary Studies in Bad Behaviour and Socially Visible Crime [<http://solon.ntu.ac.uk/home.htm> - Directors 1999-2004 Dr Judith Rowbotham, Dr Kim Stevenson, Nottingham Trent University], with its mailing list of 350+ academics and professionals.

4 *Programme of Events*

* indicates professional participant

** indicates postgraduate

**Sexuality, Crime and Gender
Gloucester (hosted by Gloucestershire Constabulary)**

15th May 2002

- Dr Tim Brain, Chief Constable, Gloucestershire Constabulary*
- Victoria Brookes, University of Manchester,
- Dr Lesley A Hall, Wellcome Library *
- Prof Adrian Howe, University of Central Lancashire
- Hilary Kinnell, European Network for HIV/STD Prevention in Prostitution (UK),
- Zelda Leaney, University of Bath,
- Julia Lowndes, J.P, Birmingham City Council, *
- Dr. Joanna Phoenix, University of Bath,
- Dr Helen Self (Josephine Butler society), *
- Prof Sandra Walklate, Manchester Metropolitan University

**Gender and Crime Research Workshop: Strategies, Objectives and Experience
22nd November, 2002, Nottingham Trent University.****Participants:**

- Paul Baker, SOLON Project, NTU
- Shani D’Cruze, Manchester Metropolitan University
- Louise Jackson, Leeds Metropolitan University
- Terry Hanstock, Library, NTU*
- Veronica Lawrence, Library, NTU*
- Sue Nielson, Social Inclusion Unit, Manchester Metropolitan University*
- Sam Pegg, Nottingham Trent University**
- Judith Rowbotham, SOLON project, Nottingham Trent University
- Helen Self, Josephine Butler Society*
- Kim Stevenson, SOLON Project, NTU
- Sian Thornthwaite, Derby Magistrates*

**Gendering Representations: Criminals and Victims in the Twentieth Century
Greenwich Naval College/University of Greenwich Law School****7th May 2003**

- Lucy Bland (London Metropolitan University)
- Alison Oram (University College, Northampton)
- Pamela Cox (University of Essex)
- Merja Makinen (Middlesex University)
- Deborah Jermyn (Southampton)
- Judith Rowbotham (SOLON NTU)
- Steven Chibnall (De Montfort)
- Vivien Miller (Middlesex)
- Anne Logan (Kent)
- Lesley Hall (Wellcome)*

**Gender and Penalty in the Twentieth Century
18th June, 2003, Askham Grange Prison**

- Dawn Elaine, Governor of HMP Askham Grange*
- Sue Nielson, Manchester Metropolitan University, *
- Lesley Abdela, *
- Abi Cox, Clare College, Cambridge, '**
- Pamela Dale, University of Exeter ,.**
- Didi Herman, Keele University,
- Steve Chibnall, De Montfort University.
- Stephen Whittle, Manchester Metropolitan University,

Workshop on Research Funding

27 June, 2003, IHR, London

Participants:

- Pat Thane, ICBH
- Alison Oram, Northampton
- Louise Jackson, Leeds Met
- Judith Rowbotham, NTU
- Heather Shaw, Portsmouth
- Barry Godfrey, Keele
- Andrew Davies, Liverpool
- Paul Johnson
- Shani D'Cruze, MMU

Gendering Criminals and Victims: the Twentieth Century Friday 24th October 2003, Leeds Metropolitan University.

- Anette Ballinger, Keele University,
- Frances Heidensohn, Goldsmiths College, London University
- Matt Houbrook, University of Liverpool,
- Ombretta Ingrassi , Queen Mary College, London University,
- Kate James, Leeds City Council, *
- Heather Shore, University of Portsmouth, '.
- Terry Thomas, Leeds Metropolitan University,
- Chris White, Bolton Institute,

Gender, Crime and Culture: Rehabilitation and Prevention 21st January, 2004; Galleries of Justice, Nottingham

- Tony Kearon (Keele University)
- S.Tsogzolmaa (Mongolian Women Lawyers' Association) *
- Bronwyn Morrison (Keele University)
- Anne Schwan (Birkbeck College, University of London)
- Sandra Walklate (Manchester Metropolitan University)
- Ntsanyu Nana Constantine (University of Yaounde II, Cameroon)
- Kate Gleeson (University of NSW, Sydney)**

- Anne Logan (University of Kent)
- Steve Chibnall (De Montfort University)
- Judith Rowbotham (Nottingham Trent University)
- Helen Self (Josephine Butler Society)*
- Sian Thornthwaite (Derbyshire Magistrates)*
- Claire Valier (Birkbeck, University of London)

5 *Type of Participants*

Eighteen papers were presented by practitioners (including magistrates, police officers, lawyers, campaigners, local government officers, librarians and archivists) as well as papers by academics. Around 40 practitioners attended one or more of the seminars or associated events. There were three overseas visitors. Six papers or discussion contributions were made by postgraduates.

6 *Level of Demand*

Seminar size was deliberately limited to facilitate discussion. The largest had around 50 participants, and other events were attended by between 25 and 35 people.

The first seminar, was hosted by Gloucestershire Constabulary in May 2002.

PROFESSIONAL Venues for events included the Galleries of Justice (Nottingham) and Askham Grange Prison (Yorkshire). The three overseas visitors evidence EXISTENCE OF wider international demand: visits were enabled only through this ESRC funding. We welcomed Ms S. Tsogolmaa (Mongolian Women Lawyers Association), who also spoke at a range of other venues, including the Manchester Domestic Violence Intervention

Forum. Association with the work of the Mongolian Women Lawyers Association is set to continue in 2005 [see 9 below]

Feedback and evaluation discussions indicated the usefulness of seminars to participants. The frequency with which people returned to subsequent seminars (regardless of whether they were presenting) is informative. Responses from participants [see 8 below] further demonstrates that the format, approaches and subject matter were engaging for academics at all levels of their career and also for practitioners. Participants were very enthusiastic for FCRN to continue in some form after the end of the funded seminar series.

7 Realisation of Objectives

The objectives of the seminar programme were substantially realised. The website has published available papers and some seminar reports. Papers by D’Cruze, Stevenson and Rowbotham have appeared, or are in press, in collections edited by Rowbotham and Stevenson, e.g. *Behaving Badly* (Ashgate, 2002); *Criminal Conversations* (Ohio State Univ Press, 2005). Other participants published aspects of their work in other ways (e.g. Helen Self, *The fallen daughters of Eve : prostitution, women and misuse of the law* (Frank Cass, 2003); Steve Chibnall, *Get Carter* (I. B. Tauris, 2003). Jackson, *The British Women Police* (IB Tauris, in press)). Abi Cox, Pamela Dale and Samantha Pegg are nearing completion of PhD theses. We were not able to include a postgraduate student in every seminar, though postgraduates contributed to debates in each seminar. The core group have worked together on substantive funding proposals. Rowbotham, Stevenson and D’Cruze have contributed to the development of a substantial AHRB Resource Enhancement Bid, (submitted through Oxford Brookes University, from 2003 a partner in

the SOLON project) focused around the acquisition by the Galleries of Justice in Nottingham of the Prison Service Archive. Insights arising out of the FCRN seminars, regarding both interdisciplinarity, feminist approaches and an awareness of the perspectives of user groups, informed the research and cataloguing strategies in this proposal.

Jackson and D’Cruze collaborated on a proposal submitted to the ESRC Social Identities Programme in 2003 (Gender, Crime and Identity in the Modern City: Liverpool and New York 1890-1939). Although unsuccessful, this work produced a publication (D’Cruze, ‘Negotiating Metropolitan Spaces and Identities: An Historian’s Reading of Tactics in 1920s New York Homicide Trials’ in R. Lippens and T. Kearon (eds) Special Issue of *Social Justice*, forthcoming, 2004). The core group is currently in the early stages of planning a further substantive bid, informed in part by the small workshop on research funding in crime history, which builds on its expertise in feminist scholarship and with English lower court records to explore gender issues in late nineteenth and early twentieth century petty and quarter sessions. Although not a major bid, D’Cruze (with Dr Helen Jones, MMU) has secured £1,500 from the Committee for Central and Inner Asia for travel to Mongolia to pursue our research collaboration with the Mongolian Women Lawyers Association. The academic advisory panel for this collaboration will be drawn substantially from contacts made through the seminar series.

8 Feedback from Participants

The concluding plenary session formalised the regular informal feedback from seminars, inviting evaluation and input from participants. Overall, responses emphasised the value of the seminars to both academics and practitioners as a space for exchanging viewpoints

and insights, particularly those focusing on gender and feminist perspectives. Participants expressed a desire to see FCRN activities continue in some form; suggestions included a seminar in 2005 and a published directory of FCRN members.

Because of changes in the organisation of the SOLON project, its partnership with Oxford Brookes from 2003 and with Manchester Metropolitan University from autumn 2004 (currently being formalised), FCRN will become more closely integrated with SOLON in term of its management of bids and conferences etc. The suggestions of FCRN participants will be realised through this organisational structure; e.g. a FCRN strand in the SOLON conference in autumn 2005, the inclusion of FCRN members in the SOLON directory currently being prepared.

9 Subsequent Activities as a result of the Series

As well as those indicated above, we would draw attention to:-

1. The greater involvement of MMU with FCRN/SOLON activities, evidenced by speaker's contributions to seminars, invitations to FCRN members to contribute to events at MMU (e.g. Dr Stevenson will speak at a conference on the 2003 Sexual Offences Act, being organised by the Socio Legal Studies Group at the MMU Law School in October 2004) and more significantly, MMU's entering into formal partnership in SOLON.
2. FCRN core members Jackson, D'Cruze and Rowbotham were invited to report on the seminar series at the Institute of Historical Research, Women's History Seminar Series in January 2004. A jointly-authored short article arising from this paper is currently being finalised. This will be published on the SOLON website and will be submitted to *History Workshop Journal*.

3. Both FRCN and SOLON have been asked to aid in developing research around the PPMI Initiative (Progressing Prisoners Maintaining Innocence), which examines miscarriages of justice. SOLON/FRCN have been asked to take a leading role in developing research and funding bids to explore women prisoners and miscarriages of justice – an area which is virtually entirely unresearched.
4. D’Cruze and Jackson have developed a proposal on Women and Crime currently being considered for the Palgrave Gender & History series.