

# The Comparative Youth Penalty Project



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## Project Newsletter December 2013

The Comparative Youth Penalty 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 a comparative study of youth punishment between Australia (focusing on NSW, Victoria, Queensland and WA) and England & 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 penalty and the first comparative study of youth punishment between these jurisdictions.

The Project seeks to answer the following questions:

- What are the defining features of contemporary juvenile justice penalty?
- How has youth penalty changed since the early 1980s across the comparative jurisdictions?
- How have changing approaches to youth penalty 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 aims to update stakeholders and other interested parties on the progress of the project; and relevant news and research in the field. For more information please visit our [website](#) or feel free to contact [Alisa Wicks](#).

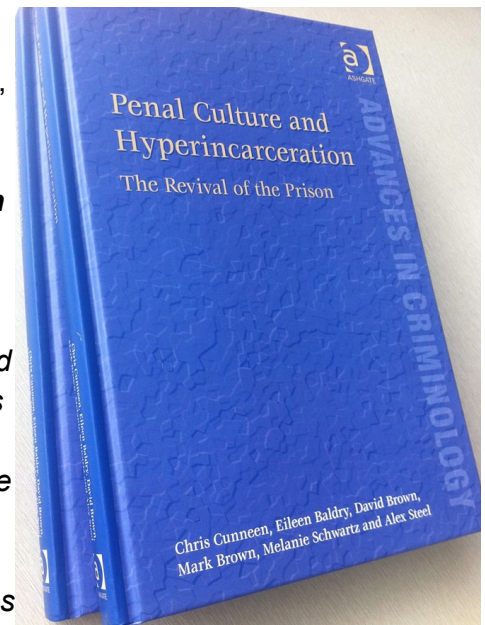
## CYPP Project News

A book based on the Australian Prisons Project, the precursor to the CYPP, was authored by Chris Cunneen, Eileen Baldry, David Brown, Mark Brown, Melanie Schwartz & Alex Steel.

### ***Penal Culture and Hyperincarceration: The Revival of the Prison***

*What are the various forces influencing the role of the prison in late modern societies? What changes have there been in penality and use of the prison over the past 40 years that have led to the re-valorization of the prison? Using penal culture as a conceptual and theoretical vehicle, and Australia as a case study, this book analyses international developments in penality and imprisonment. Authored by some of Australia's leading penal theorists, the book examines the historical and contemporary influences on the use of the prison, with analyses of colonialism, post colonialism, race, and what they term the 'penal/colonial complex,' in the construction of imprisonment rates and on the development of the phenomenon of hyperincarceration.*

*The authors develop penal culture as an explanatory framework for continuity, change and difference in prisons and the nature of contested penal expansionism. The influence of transformative concepts such as 'risk management', 'the therapeutic prison', and 'preventative detention' are explored as aspects of penal culture. Processes of normalization, transmission and reproduction of penal culture are seen throughout the social realm. Comparative, contemporary and historical in its approach, the book provides a new analysis of penality in the 21st century.*



The book was published in October 2013 and is available for purchase [here](#).

In September, Emeritus Professor David Brown, Professor Chris Cunneen and Professor Barry Goldson presented a panel session entitled 'Youth Penalty in Historical and Comparative Contexts' at the European Society of Criminology Conference: 'Beyond Punitiveness: Crime and Crime Control in Europe in a Comparative Perspective' (Faculty of Law, Elte, Eotvos Lorand University, Budapest, Hungary).

Details of Professor Barry Goldson's latest book *Re-Imagining Juvenile Justice* - scheduled to be published in 2014 - can be found at: <http://www.routledge.com/books/details/9780415703697/>

## News (Australia & UK)

[Bid to keep juveniles out of jail](#) (Illawarra Mercury, Geiger 28 November 2013)

[People with mental illness being jailed because of inadequate support: Health Commission](#) (ABC News, Scott 27 November 2013)

[Teen who was tasered by police at Blacktown train station prompts independent inquiry](#) (AAP, 22 November 13)

[Juvenile detainees move back to Banksia Hill after riot damage fixed](#) (ABC News, 24 October 2013)

[Youth crime issues has no easy fix](#) (The Examiner, Gilmour 22 October 2013)

[Board criticises Government's handling of juvenile detainees](#) (ABC News, 16 October 2013)

[Attorney-General Jarrod Bleijie wants parents to pay compensation for children's crimes](#) (Courier Mail, Murray 7 October 2013)

[Banksia Hill teen rioter wins appeal](#) (West Australian, Boddy 7 October 2013)

### UK:

'[The Age of Criminal Responsibility Bill](#)' received its second reading in the House of Lords (UK Parliament) in November 2013.

A [Parliamentary Inquiry](#) has been set up under the chairmanship of Lord Alex Carlile QC, to investigate the operation and effectiveness of the youth justice system - including the experiences of young people - in England and Wales. Professor Barry Goldson, Chair of the British Society of Criminology Youth Criminology/Youth Justice Network, is co-ordinating a [submission](#) to Lord Carlile's Inquiry on behalf of the Network.

## Research

**Australian Youth Affairs Coalition** 2013, [Insights from the coalface: The value of justice reinvestment for young Australians](#), Sydney.

**Baldry, E & Dowse L** 2013, 'Compounding mental and cognitive disability and disadvantage: Police as care managers', in Chappell, D (ed) *Policing and the Mentally Ill: International*

*Perspectives*, CRC Press, Taylor and Francis Group: Florida, pp. 219-235.

**Borowski, A & Sheehan, R** 2013, 'Magistrate's perspectives on the Criminal Division of the Children's Court of Victoria', *Australian Social Work*, vol. 66, no. 3, pp. 375-390.

**Church, R, Goldson, B & Hindley, N** (eds) 2013, '[The Minimum Age of Criminal Responsibility: Clinical, Criminological/Sociological, Developmental and Legal Perspectives](#)', *Youth Justice: An International Journal*, special issue.

**Houghton, S, Tan, C, Khan, U & Carroll, A** 2013, 'Rates of self-reported delinquency among Western Australian male and female high school students: The male-female gender gap', *International Journal of Disability, Development and Education*, vol. 60, no. 2, pp. 74-84.

**Moore, T, McArthur, M & Saunders, V** 2013, 'Young people talk about transitioning from youth detention to the community: Making good', *Australian Social Work*, vol. 66, no. 3, pp. 328-343.

**Richards, K & Renshaw, L** 2013, '[Bail and remand for young people in Australia: A national research project](#)', *AIC Reports Research and Public Policy Series*, no. 125, Australian Institute of Criminology.

**Wagland, P & Blanch, B** 2013, '[Youths in custody in NSW: Aspirations and strategies for the future](#)', *Contemporary Issues in Crime and Justice*, no. 173, September, NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research, Department of Attorney General and Justice.

**Watson, L & Edelman, P** 2013, 'Improving the juvenile justice system for girls: Lessons from the States', *Georgetown Journal on Poverty Law & Policy*, vol. XX, no. 2, Winter, pp. 215-268.

## Events

The Department of Sociology, Social Policy and Criminology, School of Law and Social Justice, the University of Liverpool is hosting the British Society of Criminology Conference in 2014: 'Crime, Justice, Welfare: Can the Metropole Listen?' The call for papers and conference registration will open on January 2, 2014. To register your interest and to be added to the conference mailing list please email: [bsc2014@liverpool.ac.uk](mailto:bsc2014@liverpool.ac.uk)

Further information about the conference, contact information, travelling to and from Liverpool, accommodation and registration can be found at: <http://www.liv.ac.uk/law-and-social-justice/conferences/bsc/>