

Research in Progress

CRG 06/15-16: Reducing crime and incarceration rates in Aboriginal communities: What impact does the 'Yes I Can' Adult literacy program have on crime and incarceration rates in NSW Aboriginal communities?

A/Prof Bob Boughton, Adjunct Prof Jack Beetson, Dr Bridget Harris, Dr Ray Nickson, Dr Jenny Wise

University of New England

A link between low literacy and encounters with the criminal justice system – two issues strongly associated with Australian Aboriginal communities – has been established. This project will examine the impact of international mass adult literacy campaigns on Aboriginal encounters with the criminal justice system in Bourke and Enngonia. This research will use interviews and focus groups with Aboriginal organisations, service providers and criminal justice system officials on the impact of the 'Yes I Can' literacy program. This qualitative and quantitative (police records) data will deliver insights into the risk factor of low literacy and provide an assessment of potential mitigation strategies.

CRG 08/15-16: Responding to Revenge Pornography: The Scope, Nature and Impact of Australian Criminal Laws

Dr Nicola Henry, Dr Asher Flynn, Dr Anastasia Powell

La Trobe University

This project will be the first Australian study on the online distribution of intimate/explicit digital images without consent ("revenge pornography"). The research aims to document the prevalence and impacts of adult victimisation in Australia, and systematically analyse applicable laws in three jurisdictions (Victoria, SA, NSW). It employs a mixed-method design comprising: a national survey of adult victims; stakeholder consultations (national roundtable and interviews in three jurisdictions); analysis of recorded crime-statistics; and a legislative review. This project will generate new, internationally-relevant knowledge about the nature and extent of adult revenge pornography, and will inform legal and policy reform on this issue.

CRG 20/15-16: Looking through the fraud triangle: Insights from fraud perpetrators

A/Prof Paul Andon, Prof Clinton Free
University of New South Wales

The aim of this project is to study two under-researched issues at the heart of organizational fraud: (1) management controls intended to

prevent/detect fraud, and (2) individual rationalisations used by fraud perpetrators. It will involve an in-depth examination of actual offenders and offending, using data primarily sourced from interviews with fraud perpetrators in prisons throughout New South Wales and Victoria. The project aims to generate practical prescriptions for firms seeking to reinforce their fraud risk prevention strategies and management control systems, as well as insights into the way that offenders rationalize their actions.

CRG 09/14-15: Aboriginal prisoners with cognitive impairment – Is this the highest risk group?

Professor James R. P. Ogloff; Dr Stephane M. Shepherd; Professor Yin Paradies, Associate Professor Jeffrey Pfeifer

Swinburne University of Technology

This research aims to assess the cognitive functioning of youth and adult Aboriginal prisoners, their associated mental health needs and relationship with recidivism. Using a data linkage design, the study will obtain information on cognitive impairment, social and emotional wellbeing, mental illness, client needs and criminal histories for 122 adult offenders and 42 young offenders in custody. The project will: i) explore the prevalence of cognitive impairment among youth and adult Aboriginal prisoners in custody ii) identify the therapeutic and cultural needs of Aboriginal offenders with cognitive impairment and iii) identify whether having a cognitive disability impacts their wellbeing and risk of offending.

CRG 13/14-15: Understanding delinquency during the teenage years: Developmental pathways of antisocial decision making among disadvantaged youth

Dr. Kathryn L Modecki, Professor Bonnie L. Barber, Professor Wayne Osgood.
Griffith University

In order to effectively prevent adolescents from engaging in delinquency, we must first establish why and how youth make antisocial decisions that negate their long term interest. This study fills a critical gap in understanding and informs treatment and prevention of youth delinquency and violence in Australia. We will use longitudinal and hierarchical linear modelling to explicate how emotion and anticipated rewards drive antisocial decision making among disadvantaged youth. We exchange critical information from our studies with juvenile justice personnel to clarify for whom developmentally-informed programming is likely to be effective and provide scientific knowledge to inform juvenile justice policy.

CRG 18/14-15: Prevent crime and save money: Application of return-on-investment models in the Australian context

Professor Sheryl Hemphill, Dr Jess Heerde, Professor John Toumbourou, Professor Todd Herrenkohl, Ms Ha Le, & Professor Richard Catalano
Australian Catholic University

The aims and expected outcomes of the current project are to:

1. Report population rates in the Victorian context of different forms of antisocial outcomes at different points in the life-course;
2. To estimate effect sizes for modifiable risk factors; and
3. To estimate the return-on-investment in Victoria a \$150 million investment (20% of the planned prison budget) would have in a mix of 5 evidence-based strategies.

The 3 aims, explicitly designed to inform government policy, will be addressed by analysing data from an ongoing longitudinal study of antisocial behaviour in Victorian young people which began in 2002.

CRG 19/14-15: The intergenerational transmission of criminal offending behaviours

Dr Alessandra Raudino, Prof Vaughan, A/Prof Kimberlie Dean, Dr Kristin Laurens, A/Prof Melissa Green

University of New South Wales

Within an already established novel prospective longitudinal sample of 87,026 Australian children, this project will examine the prevalence and correlates of behavioural problems among children born to parents with and without criminal offending histories. This study will identify potential mechanisms through which parental offending history might be associated with behavioural problems in their children at age 5 and 11 years, with particular consideration of gender-specific patterns of intergenerational risk transmission. This study is intended to inform policy makers and the development of new interventions programmes focused on preventing future offending and contact with the criminal justice system by young people.

CRG 20/14-15: Knowledges of 'Intoxication' and Australian Criminal Law: Implications for addressing Alcohol and Other Drug-Related Harms and Risks

Dr Julia Quilter, Dr Kate Seear, Prof Luke McNamara, Prof Robin Room
University of Wollongong

This project will produce and comparatively analyse *three typologies of knowledge* regarding the relationship between intoxication, anti-social behaviour and violence, and criminal responsibility, being knowledges: (i) embedded in criminal legislation; (ii) deployed in courtroom adjudication; and (iii) featuring in expert literatures. It will: identify areas of overlap, inconsistency, under-definition and lacunae; investigate how statutorily embedded assumptions about this relationship are operationalised in courtrooms; compare assumptions from law and practice with expert knowledges on intoxication-violence. Finally, it will identify opportunities for strengthening the criminal law's capacity to meet community needs with respect to the attribution of criminal responsibility for alcohol-related problems.

CRG 33/14-15: Community-Based, Victim-Centred Restorative Justice for Sexual Violence – A Pilot

A/Prof Bebe Loff, A/Prof Bronwyn Naylor, Ms Carolyn Worth, Prof Rory Wolfe
Monash University

Aim – To implement and evaluate a restorative justice intervention with adult survivor-victims (SVs) of and persons responsible for sexual violence. The intervention will be undertaken with the South Eastern Centre Against Sexual Assault, Victoria.

Methodology – Three surveys will be administered collecting descriptive data, quality of life data at baseline and after the intervention, and data on participant responses to the intervention. A committee drawn from the CASA, VicPol, Restorative Justice Association, Prosecutors, Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine, Forensicare, academia and the community devised the intervention.

Outcome – Findings will inform the development and implementation of restorative justice models for sexual violence.

CRG 35/14-15: Developing Diversionary Pathways for Indigenous Youth with Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD): A Three Community Study in Western Australia

Professor Harry Blagg, Dr Tamara Tulich
University of Western Australia

This research examines justice interventions for young people suspected of having FASD and related disorders. It responds to specific concerns of community members and justice professionals in the West Kimberley that increasing numbers of Aboriginal youth are displaying symptoms of FASD and becoming enmeshed in the criminal justice system. This study will explore and map out diversionary

alternatives and law reform options that will equip courts and multi-agency teams, partnered with community-owned and managed services, to construct alternative pathways into treatment and support. The research will be conducted in three locations in remote Western Australia: Broome, Derby and Fitzroy Crossing.

CRG 47/14-15: Violating Parole?: Exploring trends in returning to custody in Australia

Dr William R Wood, Dr Christine Bond, Dr Samantha Jeffries

Griffith University

Annual reports of Australian parole boards suggest that there have been marked increases in the return to custody for parole violations over the last 10 to 15 years. In addition, a number of states have also seen the discretion of parole officers around parole violations significantly reduced. Thus, the proposed research will explore the trends in parole violations and return to custody, through a comparative analysis of state legislation and data on parole violations, and interviews with staff of parole boards. This will be combined with a statistical analysis of parole board outcomes.

CRG 52/14-15: Filicide in Australia, 2000-2012: A National Report

Professor Thea Brown, Dr Danielle Tyson, Dr Adam Tomison, Mrs Tracy Cussen, Ms Willow Bryant

Monash University

This study will produce the first national report on filicide in Australia, extending over the period 2000 to 2012. It will:

- identify the national, and state by state, incidence of filicide deaths of two groups of children (young children 0-17) and adult children (17+), who have been killed by a parent or parent equivalent, such as a step-parent or grandparent;
- determine trends regarding the incidence of types of filicide events, of the victims, perpetrators and their families, and the factors associated with the victims, perpetrators and the deaths; and
- identify areas for policy and program development.

The study will use data from the National Homicide Monitoring Data Base (NHMP) supplemented by data from the Monash Filicide Research Project and, where necessary, The National Coronial Information Service (NCIS) state Coroner's Office and Police files.

CRG 02/13-14: Classifying incarcerated violent offenders and their risk of re-offending

Dr Adrian Cherney, Dr Robin Fitzgerald
Associate Professor Michele Haynes

The University of QLD

This project aims to develop a cross-sectional typology of violent offenders and examine the trajectory of violent reoffending. This will be based on an analysis of offenders incarcerated for a violent offence as an adult in Queensland. Key objectives are to identify unique subgroups and patterns of change in violence – using latent class and latent class growth analysis – and assess whether socio-demographic and criminogenic factors explain offenders' membership in observed groups. Outcomes will identify how violent offending unfolds over time, and whether there are corresponding changes in the victim-offender relationship.

CRG 18/13-14: Who are the perpetrators of child maltreatment?

Professor Anna Stewart, Dr Carleen Thompson,
Dr Troy Allard, April Chrzanowski

Griffith University

Interventions aimed at preventing child maltreatment are generally targeted at the perpetrators of maltreatment and/or the family of the maltreated child. Despite this, there is limited research both nationally and internationally examining who are child maltreatment perpetrators. The research proposed in this study aims to answer six research questions;

1. What is the profile of a population of Queensland child maltreatment perpetrators?
2. Are there differences in the maltreatment perpetrated by male and female child maltreatment perpetrators?
3. How many child maltreatment perpetrators are recidivists?
4. What is the offending history of child maltreatment perpetrators?
5. How many child maltreatment perpetrators were maltreated as children?
6. Are there differences between perpetrators who were maltreated as a child and perpetrators who have no history of maltreatment?

The answers to these questions will inform intervention and prevention strategies targeted to child maltreatment perpetrators.

CRG 23/13-14: Preventing Victimisation of Whistle-blowers

Dr Inez Dussuyer, Dr Kumi Heenetigal,
Professor Anona Armstrong, Dr Russell G Smith
Victoria University

This research on the victimisation of whistle-blowers aims to:

- (1) identify the nature and extent of retaliation experiences of whistle-blowers who have reported (or tried to report) wrongdoing in their workplace;
- (2) to determine what factors are associated with retaliation; and
- (3) what elements are protective against retaliation when blowing the whistle, through: (a) exploring the experiences of a sample of whistle-blowers who have either reported wrongdoing or tried to do so in their workplace, and (b) via a sample of organisations who deal with whistle-blowers.

CRG 24/13-14: Realist synthesis of CCTV research to address alcohol-related assault in the night-time economy

Mr Edward Shane Boris Pointing
James Cook University

This project will conduct a Realist Synthesis of forty-four published studies and evaluations analysing the effectiveness of open-space urban CCTV systems. It will examine and isolate the reported crime reduction outcomes, contexts in which those outcomes were found, and the mechanisms which were attributed to any reduction. These will then be compared with original evaluation research conducted by the applicant through a case study approach. The aim is to extract, synthesise and hypothesise theoretical and operational underpinnings for open-space CCTV effectiveness and to report on these in translatable form into policy and practice. The study will be conducted under the RAMESSES publication protocols for Realist Syntheses

CRG 26/13-14: Improving transitional experiences for ex-prisoners with intellectual disability

Dr Kate Van Dooren, Dr Fernanda Claudio, Mr Jesse Young, Professor Nick Lennox
The University of Queensland

This study will qualitatively explore the post-release needs of adults with intellectual disability leaving prisons across Queensland and Western Australia. We aim to (1) understand transition experiences from the perspective of professionals in the criminal justice, health and disability sectors; (2) understand transition experiences from the perspective of individuals with intellectual disability, particularly in relation to factors influences reoffending outcomes (housing, employment, social support and substance use); and (3) compare and contrast health professional and individual experiences to determine where system gaps lie and which

specific steps can be taken to address unmet need.

CRG 29/13-14: Improving responses to online fraud victims: an examination of reporting and support

Dr Cassandra Cross, Dr Kelly Richards, Dr Russell G Smith

Queensland University of Technology
Currently, there is no research on what motivates victims of online fraud to report this victimisation to authorities. This project addresses this gap through face-to-face interviews with victims of online fraud across Australia who have reported financial losses of \$10,000.00 or more, in order to ascertain the motivation for their decision to report, as well as what support they both needed and obtained. The results of this research will enable strategies to be developed to increase the reporting of online fraud, as well as understanding the support services that victims require.

CRG 30/13-14: A comparison of individual, situational and ecological factors associated with adolescence-onset and adult-onset sexual offences against children

Dr Nadine McKillop, Professor Stephen Smallbone, Ms Susan Rayment-McHugh
Griffith University

The project examines the specific circumstances in which child sexual abuse first occurs in adolescence and adulthood. It aims to (a) identify common and unique developmental, situational and ecological risk factors associated with adolescent-onset and adult-onset sexual abuse offending and (b) determine what responses are therefore required to effectively reduce and prevent its occurrence during these two life-stages. An additional 100-150 adult offenders will be surveyed to increase the sample size and breadth of information contained within current databases enabling robust comparisons to be made. Findings will guide policy, including the design and implementation of onset-specific and general prevention initiatives.

CRG 43/13-14: Investigating serious violent crime: What works, what doesn't and for what crime types?

Dr Angela Higginson, Professor Lorraine Mazerolle

The University of QLD, St Lucia
Investigating serious violent crime is core police business. Our proposed project will examine the relative effectiveness of different investigative techniques police use to investigate serious

violent crime. Using systematic review techniques, we will collect and synthesise existing policing research from across the world, to assess the relative effectiveness of different types of serious crime investigative techniques on a range of outcomes. We will answer the following research questions:

- How effective are serious violent crime investigative techniques for identifying offenders, eliciting confessions, making arrests, clearing cases or securing convictions?
- Does the effectiveness vary across types of technique or types of crime?

CRG 48/13-14: Law enforcement role in controlling misuse of pharmaceuticals: Assessing the impact of ProjectSTOP on crime

Mr Jason Ferris, Dr Madonna Devaney,
Professor Lorraine Mazerolle
The University of Queensland

ProjectSTOP is a real time recording (RTR) system designed to reduce the diversion of pseudoephedrine-based products used in the production of methamphetamine. We are the only researchers in Australia to be given access to the ProjectSTOP transaction data by GuildLink. Our study aims to assess whether the RTR system, ProjectSTOP, has reduced the diversion of pseudoephedrine-based products into illicit drug manufacture in Queensland. To quantify the impact of ProjectSTOP we will analyse pseudoephedrine sales data (ProjectSTOP) and data from Queensland Police (offences related to the possession, production, or supply of methamphetamine as well as clandestine laboratory detections).

CRG 51/13-14: Negotiating guilty pleas: An empirical analysis

Dr Asher Flynn, Emeritus Professor Arie Freiberg
Monash University

This project addresses a significant gap in an under-researched area of criminal justice policy by documenting current practices and evaluating the need for legal reform of the negotiated resolution process in Victoria. Using a mixed qualitative-quantitative approach, we will analyse 24-months (2010-12) of Victoria Legal Aid indictable case files, conduct 50 interviews (legal counsel, judicial officers) in five locations (city/rural/regional: Melbourne, Ballarat, Shepparton, Morwell, Geelong), and evaluate national/international best practice. This project provides the first dataset of negotiated resolutions in any Australian state/territory and

will produce tangible outcomes that inform current debates, law reform and legal practice nationwide.

CRG 07/12-13: Preventing and Improving responses to sexual violence for women from African communities

Professor Donna Chung, Associate Professor Colleen Fisher, Dr Carole Zufferey
The University of Western Australia

The research objectives are to explore how young adult women (18-25 years) from African backgrounds understand sexual violence and their perceptions of formal responses (legal/social/health) to it; identify gaps in prevention and interventions, barriers to accessing support and implications for policy, practice and professional development/training. A triangulated mixed methods design comprising excavation of existing data, scoping, agency questionnaire and interviews (with young women) and focus groups (professionals who respond) will be utilised. The results will inform appropriate responses to sexual violence among this group of young women and have implications for sexual violence responses in other emerging communities.

CRG 13/12-13: A cybercrime observatory for Australia: a pilot database of criminal activity on the Internet

Professor Roderic Broadhurst, Dr Mamoun Alazab

Australian National University
The research will assess the feasibility of creating a cybercrime observatory based on data shared by ACMA and CERT Australia and other select non-profit organisations. We will be the first to examine and analyse the large data sets provided by these frontline agencies. Our aim is to measure the prevalence, severity and mode of online criminal activity affecting Australian cyberspace. The research will also help identify attack and victim patterns and provide the basis for further development of crime prevention strategies for cyberspace. Innovative statistical and data mining methods will be used to explore the technical and textual data acquired.

CRG 33/12-13: Welfare and recidivism outcomes of in-prison education and training

Dr Margaret Giles
Edith Cowan University

The proposed study will evaluate, using a unique linked longitudinal database, the contribution of in-prison study to ex-prisoner welfare dependence and recidivism.

Methodology: The study will test different measures of recidivism, welfare dependence and in-prison study. Then using multivariate regression techniques we will estimate the relative impacts of factors, including in-prison study, on the recidivism and welfare dependence of ex-prisoners.

Outcomes: The study will provide best practice guidelines for correctional education authorities and welfare agencies regarding the specific in-prison study classes that yield the best outcomes in terms of reduced recidivism and welfare dependence

CRG 58/12-13: Exploring the relationship between the use of online child exploitation materials, the use of internet-enabled technologies to procure children, and contact sexual offending against children

Associate Professor Tony Krone, Dr Russell G Smith, Dr Adam Tomison, Ms Alice Hutchings, Ms Sarah Macgregor
University of Canberra

This project aims to explore the relationship between use of online child exploitation material, use of internet-enabled technologies to procure children, and actual sexual assault. By analysing a large database of offender data with offender de-briefing interviews, we aim to develop a novel typology of offenders and provide an understanding into the forensic indicators of offending typologies, the role of networking in the development of offending, the identification of possible pathways towards escalating seriousness of image-based offending, and identification of relationships between image-based offending, grooming and the physical sexual abuse of children, thus informing future police procedure and policy.

CRG 31/11-12: Reporting Victimisation to LGBTI (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex) Police Liaison Services: A mixed methods study across two Australian states

Dr Angela Dwyer, Dr Matthew Ball, Dr Christine Bond, Dr Murray Lee, Associate Professor Thomas Crofts

Queensland University of Technology
Relations between vulnerable LGBTI communities and police impact how or even if, LGBTI victims report to police liaison services. This study will be the first to ask police and LGBTI communities about LGBTI police liaison services in Queensland and New South Wales. This is vital to better understand the gap between increasing awareness of LGBTI police liaison services, and low rates of access of these services, and to create stronger

engagement between police and LGBTI victims. To do this, the study develops and deploys a survey with LGBTI communities aged 15-65 and qualitative interviews with LGBTI police liaison services.

CRG 47/10-11: Homicide and the Night-Time Economy

Professor Stephen Tomsen, Mr Jason Payne
University of Western Sydney

Australian national homicide monitoring is comprehensive. Nevertheless, key aspects of this crime are not fully understood, including the uneven long-term decline between offences occurring within distinct locations and social relations between parties. This study comprises a unique analysis of homicide producing new quantitative and qualitative information about the full prevalence, trends and locations of killing related to aspects of the expanding night-time economy. It will advance knowledge of the range of related public and private/domestic offending to inform official strategies with more specific knowledge about levels of higher risk and the possibilities of prevention in key social settings and communities.

Recently Completed Research

CRG 31/12-13: Prosecuting workplace violence: the utility and policy implications of criminalisation

Dr Emily Schindeler, Associate Professor Janet Ransley
Griffith University

CRG 53/11-12: Sexting' and Young People: Perceptions, Practices, Policy and Law

Dr Murray Lee, Associate Professor Thomas Crofts, Dr Alyce McGovern, Dr Michael Salter, Dr Sanja Miliwojevic
University of Sydney

CRC 50/10-11: Classifying domestic violence perpetrators: Identifying opportunities for intervention and prevention

Mr Jason Payne, Dr Lorana Bartels, Ms Sarah McGregor
Australian Institute of Criminology