‘Inside-Out’ Project

Two Criminology lecturers from the School of Law & Centre for Criminology, Dr Linnéa Osterman and Dr Giulia Zampini, travelled to Philadelphia in July to complete their training as ‘Inside-Out’ Prison Exchange Project Facilitators.

Following completion of the training, Giulia and Linnéa are delighted to be qualified ‘Inside-Out’ Prison Exchange programme instructors. The ‘Inside-Out’ Programme is a unique and innovative educational programme that offers criminology undergraduate students (the ‘out’ of ‘inside-out’) the opportunity to learn and study criminological topics with serving prisoners (the ‘inside’ of ‘inside-out’) in a prison setting. The approach is based on a dialogic and peer-focused learning model and, since its inception in USA in the late 1990s, has proved to produce ground-breaking results and experiences for learners on both the ‘inside’ and the ‘outside’. It transforms students’ understandings of criminal justice, challenging prejudices and stereotypes in our communities and minds, and ultimately opening up students to critical new perspectives in a collaborative learning environment.

Giulia and Linnéa are now working on getting the course up and running at Greenwich and are hoping to be able to offer the first ‘Inside-Out’ course to Level 5 BA Hons Criminology and Level 5 BSc Hons Criminology & Criminal Psychology students in the spring of 2018.

In the meantime, you can view a blog post written by Giulia and Linnéa about their experiences of the training in the States.

Innocence Project London submits first case to the Criminal Cases Review Commission

The Innocence Project London (IPL) is a pro-bono project dedicated to investigating wrongful convictions in the context of individuals who have maintained their innocence but have exhausted the criminal appeals process. It has recently submitted its first case to the Criminal Cases Review Commission (CCRC). The submission concerned a client who had been convicted of the conspiracy to import Class A drugs. Four Greenwich LLB Law students worked on the submission for two years, alongside Tim Barnes QC. Their work included looking at the trial summing-up, reviewing the Judge’s directions in relation to the offence, and consideration of bad character evidence.

The IPL currently has students working on three other cases. The overarching aim is to submit a case to the CCRC which requires either new evidence or a new legal argument to refer the case back to the Court of Appeal. Any new evidence or legal argument must be such that it might have changed the outcome of the trial had the jury been given a chance to consider it.

The IPL project has run for several years at Greenwich and there are two ways LLB Law students can work on the IPL - either as a volunteer caseworker or, it may be possible to select the IPL as a third-year option course as part of the LLB Law programme.

Criminology staff: research update

Dr Michael Fiddler, Senior Lecturer in Criminology, has contributed a chapter entitled ‘There’s no place like home: Encountering crime and criminality in representations of the domestic’ to the ‘Routledge International Handbook of Visual Criminology’. Details on the book can be found on Routledge’s (the publisher) website.

Michael has also taken the time to contribute to the popular Crime Bites Podcast. In August, Michael spoke about his criminological analysis of home invasion films and, more recently, he has discussed how prison is portrayed in films such as the Shawshank Redemption.

In mid-September, Criminology Lecturers Dr Linnéa Osterman and Dr Giulia Zampini attended the European Society of Criminology conference in Wales. Giulia presented a co-authored paper titled ‘Drug Policy Constellations: Towards a critical theory of English drug policy outcomes’, and Linnéa presented a paper titled ‘A critical exploration of female ex-offenders’ narratives of Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) diagnosis in the Swedish criminal justice system’.

GLAN Reception

Established in 2015, GLAN aims to provide opportunities for current and former Greenwich LLB Law students, to connect, develop and inspire each other.

With these objectives in mind, in late September GLAN ran a well-attended networking event on the theme of ‘Law practice and beyond’. The event was a great success with current LLB students and law academic staff enjoying catching up with recent and not so
Recent LLB graduates and listening to several very inspiring presentations.

The School would like to thank everyone who came along and very much looks forward to catching up with more of its alumni soon.

Students at the International Journal of Clinical Legal Education Conference 2017

In July, two LLB Law students were given the opportunity to present at the International Journal of Clinical Legal Education Conference 2017 (IJCLE). Lecturer and IPL (see story on previous page) Project Manager Louise Hewitt presented the paper with Principal Lecturer and IPL Director Kristian P. Humble, alongside two LLB students, who had worked on the IPL as one of their third-year options. The presentation outlined how students can gain practical experience of applying the law, combined with some elements of work-based learning when they work on the project. The two students were able to speak about the work they had undertaken on the project and the skills they had developed. The students were very well received by the clinicians at the conference and were complimented on their presentation skills.

Views from the Bench

Students, staff, alumni and friends of the School of Law & Centre for Criminology will be aware that, over the years, the School has been lucky enough to host a number of high-profile speakers from the legal world. The special four-event ‘The Rule of Law’ lecture series, which ran from December 2016 to February 2017 brought four first-class, and prestigious, speakers to the School to lecture on the law from their perspective. Speakers included: The Rt Hon The Lord Judge; Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe; The Rt Hon The Baroness Scotland of Asthal QC; and Chris Blackhurst.

Following the success of the ‘Rule of Law’ series, the School is delighted to announce that it will be running another high-profile lecture series - ‘Judicial Views/Views from the Bench’ - which starts later this autumn. The speakers are members of the judiciary and more information on the lecture series will be announced shortly.

BME Prisoner outcomes conference

Violence, suicide and use of force are at an all-time high in prisons, and there is a disproportionate impact on black and ethnic minority (BME) prisoners. Prison surveys have also shown that BME prisoners have the most negative experiences and outcomes in prisons. How can we improve the safety of all prisoners and improve the outcomes of BME and Muslim prisoners? This question is the subject of a free all-day conference in late October at Greenwich which will bring together experts in criminal justice, prison reform, politicians, academics, ex-offenders and journalists to seek solutions. The event will also see the launch of a new report by the Runnymede Trust and the University of Greenwich into improving disproportionality in prisons for BME prisoners and reducing violence and deaths in prisons.

International Review of the Red Cross

Professor Steven Haines, Professor of International Law, has contributed to the latest issue of the International Review of the Red Cross, with an article on ‘War at Sea: 19th Century Laws for 21st Century Wars’. His article questions the relevance of the law regulating naval warfare, which has not changed since the middle of the last century and which reflects maritime circumstances going back even further than that. The ocean environment and shipping generally have experienced such fundamental change in recent years that the law is now quite unsuited to the circumstances it would need to regulate. If the law is out of date, it is likely that it will be ignored when it is needed the most. His article can be accessed here.

In further work for the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Steven was one of the peer reviewers for the new Commentary on the Second Geneva Convention. As a reviewer, he brought not only his academic understanding to bear on the task for the ICRC, but also his considerable experience as a naval officer involved in a variety of operations over a thirty-year professional career in uniform.

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