

# Identity and penal power: Punishment in a global age

Sarah Turnbull and Mary Bosworth

Offender Supervision in Europe  
COST Conference

Liverpool Hope University | April 27, 2013

# CURRENT CONTEXT

- Increasing 'diversity' of penal populations
- Increased numbers of (non-white) female, racial/ethnic minority and non-citizen offenders
- Calls from advocates for 'appropriate' programmes, 'diversity' training for staff
- Anti-discrimination laws and policies governing penal institutions, how practitioners treat offenders
- Over-representation of racial and minority ethnic groups

# EXAMPLES

## Canada

- Canadian federal custody (2010-11):
  - 23% aboriginal (vs. 4% of population)
  - 9% 'black' (vs. approx. 3% of population)
- Since 2005-06, federal aboriginal inmate population up by 40%
- 1 in 3 federal female offenders is aboriginal

## England & Wales

- Prison population (June 2010):
  - 11% 'black' (vs. 3% of population)

# IDENTITY AND CITIZENSHIP

- Issues of identity not just national, but transnational
- Intertwining of criminal justice and border control; citizenship as form of governance (Stumpf 2006; Tyler 2011)
- Ethnic identities and citizenship as shaping belonging and treatment by the state
- Increased monitoring and control of non-citizens (Zedner 2010; Fekete & Weber 2010); use of detention and removal
- Yet, responses should be 'fair', respect 'diversity'

# EXAMPLE: EUROPE

## Foreign nationals in prison population

- Switzerland 71.4%
- Austria 48.6%
- Italy 35.6%
- Spain 33.2%
- Norway 32.4%
- Germany 26.7%
- Netherlands 24.6%
- Portugal 18.8%
- France 17.8%
- Ireland 13.6%
- UK (England & Wales) 12.6%
- Russia 4.2%
- Scotland 3.4%
- Ukraine 1.7%

# IDENTITY AND MASS SUPERVISION

- Canadian example: aboriginal-specific provisions for conditional release and community supervision
  - Aboriginal community involvement in release planning/supervision of aboriginal offenders
  - Care and custody of aboriginal inmates transferred to aboriginal community
- Supervision as (1) done differently and (2) differently impacting offenders *based on identity*
- Identities as shaping how supervision is experienced

# OPPORTUNITIES FOR RESEARCH

- Incorporating ‘difference’ into research doesn’t just require us to think differently; how can research be done differently?
- How might studies of supervision theorise and research issues of identity and local contexts in relation to global processes?
- How might criminologists interested in supervision utilise new/innovative approaches and methods for researching penal power and how it’s experienced?

# PROJECT OVERVIEW

*Subjectivity, identity and penal power:  
Incarceration in a global age*

## Research team

Mary Bosworth  
(Principal Investigator)

Inês Hasselberg and  
Sarah Turnbull  
(Postdoctoral Research  
Fellows)



*European Research  
Council Starter Grant  
2012-2017*



# PROJECT OVERVIEW

## Limitations of current approaches

- Penal power – nationally bounded; focus on prison
- Intellectual division of labour between theory and practice
- Gender, race and citizenship marginalized
- Views and experiences of penal subjects rarely heard

# PROJECT OVERVIEW

## Contributions

- Penal power as local and global: more than prison
- Integration of theory and practice
- Gender, race and citizenship
- Voices and experiences of those subjects of and subjected to penal power
- Methodological innovation: visual and mapping

# PROJECT OVERVIEW

## Goals

A) To develop new methodological and intellectual tools in understanding the global and transnational reach of penal power.

B) To revitalize the literature on subjectivity and identity in criminology.



# PROJECT OVERVIEW

## Research questions

- What is the relationship between penal power and national identity?
- How is that relationship gendered?
- What do the experiences and views of those subject to penal power tell us about the limits and nature of state power in a global age?



# A) SUBJECTIVITY, IDENTITY AND PENAL POWER – Mary Bosworth

- Conceptual frame
- Changing nature, reach and effect of penal power
- Enduring inequalities
- Revisit key texts through identity
- Integration of first hand accounts and empirical evidence

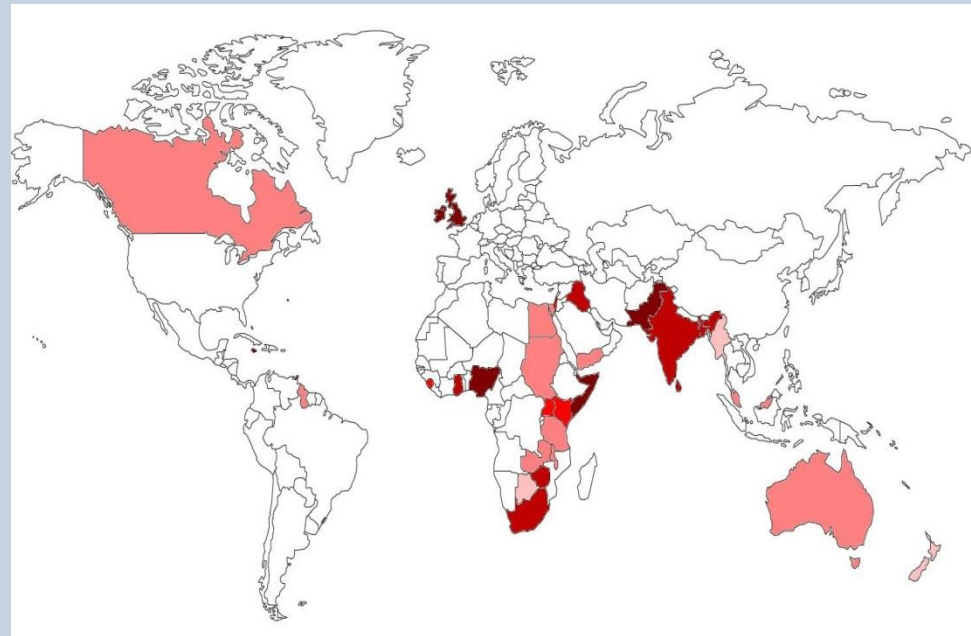


# B) THE POSTCOLONIAL PRISON

## – Inês Hasselberg

- The rise of foreign national prisoners in Europe
- Postcolonial 'amnesia'
- Mapping mobility and punishment
- Linking local to global
- Mixed methods

*Foreign national prisoners from ex-British Empire, December 2010*





# C) HOME AND AWAY: GENDER, NATION, DEPORTATION – Sarah Turnbull

- Citizenship and belonging
- Cultural practices
- Visual methodologies
- Social media and internet joining local and global
- Modes of resistance
- What happens next?



# THANK YOU

## Contacts

Mary Bosworth (Principal Investigator)  
[mary.bosworth@crim.ox.ac.uk](mailto:mary.bosworth@crim.ox.ac.uk)

Inês Hasselberg (Postdoctoral Research Fellow)  
[ines.hasselberg@crim.ox.ac.uk](mailto:ines.hasselberg@crim.ox.ac.uk)

Sarah Turnbull (Postdoctoral Research Fellow)  
[sarah.turnbull@crim.ox.ac.uk](mailto:sarah.turnbull@crim.ox.ac.uk)

Visit us at: <http://bordercriminologies.law.ox.ac.uk/>  
Follow us on Facebook and Twitter!

