

AIC Newsletter

Spring/Summer 2000/2001

Australian Institute of Criminology



Seven AIC internships granted for 2001

A very large number of high quality applicants made the choice very difficult, but the Australian Institute of Criminology has granted seven work experience internships for 2001.

Interns will spend four weeks at the Institute working with an AIC Research Analyst or research team on an agreed task.

Congratulations go to: Marie Segrave (University of Melbourne); Andrew Lester (Edith Cowan University, WA); Arlie Loughnan (University of Sydney); Kym Freriks (Queensland University of Technology); Lorraine Dailey (University of Western Sydney); Joanna Carr (University of Melbourne); and Paula Mazzocato (University of Sydney).



Dr Adam Graycar, AIC Director (left) and Leanne Huddy, AIC Executive Officer, Research (front) welcoming the first intake of work experience interns. (L-R) Kym Frericks, Marie Segrave, Arlie Loughnan and Andrew Lester.

Women in Corrections

The AIC recently organised the first Australian conference on Women in Corrections.

Held in Adelaide from 31 October to 1 November 2000, it attracted participants from around Australia, New Zealand, New Guinea, Hong Kong, Canada and the United Kingdom.

The conference gave correctional staff, policy makers, academics, researchers, women who have been incarcerated and community activists the opportunity to exchange ideas and engage in debate.

While a broad range of topics were covered by presenters, the main themes were women working in corrections; managing women's prison; and the needs of and programs and interventions for women who have offended.

Conference papers will be available on the AIC website early in 2001.

Stalking

Stalking is increasingly being recognised as a serious and complex crime, manifesting in a variety of different ways and requiring a range of different responses.

To address these challenges, academics, lawyers and practitioners from Australia, Europe, the United Kingdom and the United States of America participated in the first Australian conference on stalking, hosted by the AIC in Sydney, 7-8 December 2000.

Issues included stalking legislation, criminal justice responses, victimisation, domestic violence and cyber stalking. Senator Amanda Vanstone, (then) Minister for Justice and Customs opened the conference and keynote addresses were delivered by Professor Paul Mullen, Victorian Institute of Mental Health; Dr Edward Petch, Hammersmith and Fulham Mental Health; Dr Darrah Westrup, Stanford University; and Dr David James, University of London.

inside this issue...

Occasional Seminars
Publications and Conferences
Roundtables

page 2
page 3
page 4

Appointments

Dr Adam Graycar, AIC Director, has been appointed to the Indigenous Communities Capacity Building Roundtable by the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Family Services.

Jenny Mouzos, current manager of the National Homicide Monitoring Program at the AIC, has been appointed Honorary Secretary of the Australian and New Zealand Society of Criminology.

Dr Santina Perrone has been invited to represent the AIC on a Reference Group formed to discuss the implementation of the policy recommendations arising out of the report: *Ethnic Youth Gangs in Australia: Do they exist?* by Rob White, Santina Perrone, Carmel Guerra and Rosario Lampugnani. Santina has also recently been awarded her PhD from the University of Melbourne.

New Appointments



Back (L-R): Vanessa Dennison, Julie Tovey and Catherine Huntley.
Front: Cathie Rushforth and Lisa Collins



L-R: Dr Greg Urbas, Sarah Christensen, Kiah McGregor and Dr Jerry Ratcliffe.

Recent Departures

Doug Johnson, Misty Cook, Trisha Boyden, Siobhan Hennessy and Meredith Bryant have recently left.

Occasional Seminars

Integral Safety and the Safety Chain presented by Jack Wever (until recently a member of the National Integral Safety Forum, the Netherlands), 22 November 2000.

The Integral Safety Program covers a wide range of safety issues, including crisis management, seniors and safety, public-private partnerships, safety effect report (SER), public surveillance, CPTED and traffic safety.

The concept of integral safety involves a great variety of organisations and parties working together under the direction of local government. It seeks to broaden cooperation into areas outside traditional fields of the penal and administrative code.

Why People Obey the Law

presented by Professor Tony Bottoms, Wolfson Professor of Criminology, University of Cambridge, 27 November 2000.

In 1995, the Prison Service Incentives and Earned Privileges policy (IEP) was introduced in the UK, and Cambridge University was commissioned to evaluate its impact and implementation.

The principal aim of IEP was to encourage responsible behaviour and participation in hard work and other constructive activity among prisoners, through the presentation or removal of privileges.

Tony's discussion highlighted that IEP had minimal impact on prisoner's perceptions and behaviour, although it appeared that IEP did assist in strengthening the role of prison staff.

The seminar paper will be rewritten for the Institute's Trends and Issues series.

Recent Developments in Crime and Correctional Research and Statistics in England presented by Chris Lewis, Head of the Home Office Research Unit on Offenders and Corrections, UK, 27 October 2000.

The most recent British Crime Survey figures were published on 17 October 2000 and covered an expanded sample of 40,000 households.

The main results include:

- a 10% decrease in all crime between 1997 and 1999 (following on from a 15% reduction between 1995 and 1997), with large falls in burglary (21%) and vehicle-related theft (15%), but an increase (14%) in robbery;
- a 20% decrease of reported violence between 1995 and 1999; and
- a relatively stable level of concern about crime between 1998 and 2000.

Myths and Realities of

Cyberterrorism presented by Michael Stohl, Dean of International Programs and Professor of Political Science, Purdue University USA, 30 October 2000.

This presentation examined the concern that the threat of terrorism in a global environment increasingly reliant on computer networks and information technology is growing.

The very networks and information technology which have been responsible for the dramatic increases in productivity within the world economy may also carry with them even greater capacities to do harm.

He noted however that for the time being, the "real" cyberterrorism had not yet evolved beyond the nuisance stage. The paper can be found at: www.ippu.purdue.edu/info/gsp/cyberterror_intro.html

Publications

Titles from our Trends & Issues in Crime and Criminal Justice and Research and Public Policy series are listed on the enclosed order form. Check out our website (www.aic.gov.au/publications) for details of forthcoming publications. If you would like to be alerted to new publications please send your email address to aicpress@aic.gov.au

New Publication Agents

Bibliotech no longer supply AIC publications. AIC publications – from Trends & Issues no. 143 and Research and Public Policy series no. 17 – are now available from AusInfo (see back page for contact details).

Visitors to the AIC

27 October: Chris Lewis, Head of the Home Office Research Unit on Offenders and Corrections, UK presented an occasional seminar on Recent Developments in Crime and Correctional Research and Statistics in England (see report page 2).

30 October: Dr Michael Stohl, Dean of International Programs and Professor of Political Science, Purdue University, Indiana presented an occasional seminar (see report page 2).

10 November: Four academics from Chinese Academy of Social Sciences and a DFAT representative.

20 November: Wolfson Professor of Criminology, University of Cambridge, Tony Bottoms presented an occasional seminar (see report page 2 and photo below).

21 November: Jack Wever from the Province of Overijssel, the Netherlands, presented an occasional seminar (see report page 2).

11 December: Dr Graham Wright, Managing Director of the CSIR Crime Prevention Centre (CCPC) and Executive Director of Business Against Crime South Africa (BAC) visited the AIC.

5 January: a delegation of 40 Chinese Corrections officials (see below).



L-R: Chairman of the AIC Board, Professor Richard Fox; Tony Bottoms, Justice Kirby; and Dr Adam Graycar during Professor Tony Bottom's visit from the UK.



Delegation of Chinese Corrections officials with AIC staff.

Occasional Seminars (cont'd)

Joint WA Ministry of Justice/AIC Workshop on **Over-Representation of Aboriginal People in the Criminal Justice System**, 10 November 2000. Aboriginal people in Western Australia are significantly over-represented in the criminal justice system at a rate that exceeds the national average. In response, the WA Ministry of Justice initiated the Aboriginal Over-representation (AOR) Project.

To facilitate and inform the AOR Project, this workshop was held to focus purely on the tools and means of measuring AOR in the justice system and critical issues relating to AOR. The objective of the workshop was 'to review existing research and literature related to the issue of Aboriginal over-representation in the justice system'.

Conference Calendar

International Policing Conference 2001 (in conjunction with SA Police, Australasian Centre for Policing Research and Australian Institute of Police Management), 6 – 8 March, Adelaide

Children, Young People and Communities: the Future is in our Hands (with the Dept of Health and Human Services and University of Tasmania), 27-28 March, Launceston

4th National Outlook Symposium: New Crimes or New Responses, 21-22 June, Rydges Lakeside, Canberra.

Every two years the AIC convenes the National Outlook conference. At this premier event leaders in the criminal justice field examine and debate current issues in criminal justice policy and practice. This is an exciting generalist, rather than a specialist event. Senator Chris Ellison, Minister for Justice and Customs has agreed to speak at the 4th National Outlook Symposium.

The Character, Impact and Prevention of Crime in Regional Australia, 2-3 August, Jupiters Hotel, Townsville

Police and Partnerships in a Multi-Cultural Australia: Achievements and Challenges, 25-26 October, Carlton Crest, Brisbane

Best Practice in Corrections for Indigenous Prisoners, November, Sydney

Mental Health and Criminal Justice Workshops (at the 21st Annual ANZAPPL Congress, 2001; Australian and New Zealand Association of Psychiatry, Psychology and the Law and the Victorian Institute of Forensic Mental Health - Forensicare, 21-22 November, University of Melbourne).

Conferences 2002

(subject to confirmation)

Crime, Housing Policy and Social Capital, March, Canberra.

Schools and Crime Prevention, July, Canberra.

AIC Roundtables

Crime in Regional & Rural Australia (No. 45), 6 September 2000

This roundtable discussion, organised by Carlos Carcach, was held on 6 September 2000.

Its objectives were to:

- Discuss the links between regional development and crime;
- Discuss recent Institute work in the area of regional and rural crime, as well as its links with areas such as unemployment, family, urban development and development of community capabilities; and
- Discuss data issues that may affect the development of an integrated approach to research and public policy in the field of regional and rural development.

Representatives from the following organisations and institutions attended the meeting: Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet; Department of Transport and Regional Services; Department of Family and Community Services; Department of Employment, Workplace Relations and Small Business; Australian Bureau of Agricultural Research and Economics; Attorney General's Department; National Farmers Federation; and the AIC.

Illicit Drug Reporting System (IDRS) 2000: ACT vs National Results (No. 46), 12 December 2000

The AIC conducts an annual analysis of illicit drug trends in the ACT, as part of the Illicit Drug Reporting System (IDRS), a triangulated convergent validity study on behalf of the Commonwealth Department of Health and Aged Care.

The study comprises a survey of injecting drug users, interviews with key drug professionals (eg ambulance workers, coroners, magistrates,

service providers) and the collection and analysis of administrative data routinely gathered by agencies in the course of their interaction with drug users.

Results were presented at a national conference on 30 November 2000. The roundtable hosted by the AIC's Illicit Drugs Evaluation Program on 12 December 2000 brought together all of the key informants and data providers to provide them with feedback on the ACT results, compared to those nationally.

Presentations were made by Paul Williams, Head of the Illicit Drug Evaluation Program at the AIC; Meredith Bryant and Siobhan Hennessy, AIC project officers on the study; Mick Guy from the Australian Federal Police; and Ross Findlay from the ACT Ambulance Service.

Results are reported in *ACT Drug Trends 2000: Findings from the Illicit Drug Reporting System (IDRS)*, NDARC Technical Report no. 105, by P. Williams, M. Bryant and S. Hennessy, University of New South Wales, 2001.

Crime in Regional and Rural South Australia (No 47), 22 September 2000

This roundtable discussion was jointly organised with the South Australian Office of Crime Statistics.

Its objectives were to:

- Discuss the links between regional development and crime in South Australia;
- Discuss local perspectives on crime in rural and regional South Australia;
- Discuss the links between regional development and crime prevention; and
- Identify opportunities for future research.

The following organisations and institutions sent representatives to this meeting: South Australia Attorney-General's Department, South Australia Police, South Australia Department of Family and Youth Services, South Australia Department of Human Services, Commonwealth Department of Family and Community Services, South Australia Farmers Federation, Rural City of Murray Bridge, City of Port Lincoln, Port Pirie Regional Council, City of Onkaparinga, Aboriginal Women's Centre (Port Augusta), Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement (Ceduna), South Australia Office of Crime Statistics, and the AIC.

AIC CONTACTS

**GPO Box 2944
CANBERRA ACT 2601
Tel: +61 2 6260 9221
Fax: +61 2 6260 9201**

Email: Front.Desk@aic.gov.au
Publications: aicpress@aic.gov.au
Library: jvbarry@aic.gov.au
Conferences: conference@aic.gov.au
Home Page: <http://www.aic.gov.au>

Publications can be purchased from the AIC with credit card authorisation or by cheque (use order form enclosed) or from AusInfo.

There are five ways to purchase from AusInfo:

1. Over the counter

Nine Government Info Shops and one agent in Darwin

2. TeleInfo

Toll free 132 447

3. Mail Order

Government Info Shop
GPO Box 84, Canberra ACT 2601

4. Fax

(02) 6295 4888

5. Email

teleinfo@dofa.gov.au

Website is www.ausinfo.gov.au