

# Irish Journal of Applied Social Studies

Est 1998. Published by Social Care Ireland

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Volume 14

Issue 1 *Special Issue on Criminology and Penology*,  
Guest Editor Liam Leonard

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2014-05-14

## Foreword

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### Recommended Citation

Leonard, Liam (2014) "Foreword," *Irish Journal of Applied Social Studies*: Vol. 14: Iss. 1, Article 1.  
doi:10.21427/D76T6M  
Available at: <https://arrow.dit.ie/ijass/vol14/iss1/1>

## Foreword

Recently in the Republic of Ireland, there has been much debate about the roles taken by the Department of Justice, An Garda Síochána and the Irish Prison Service, as part of the wider processes of justice in the state.

This collection of articles for the IJASS special issue on ‘Criminology and Penology’ examines a range of topics in the salient areas of criminal justice, imprisonment and criminality, both in Ireland and internationally. The edition includes an interesting insight into the contemporary milieu of criminological research in Ireland at a time when populist accounts of crime are prevalent in all sections of the media. A sample of the research included here incorporates key themes within the criminal justice process. It is interesting to note that imprisonment is the most dominant theme, and this subject remains one of the most enduringly obdurate issues facing contemporary society.

Kevin Warner takes up this theme in his study on how basic conditions deteriorated in prisons after the publication of the *Whitaker Report* in 1985. His paper examines the key issues surrounding the need for penal reform in Ireland, and outlines possible solutions in this area. There are many aspects of the Whitaker Report that have yet to be addressed by the Irish justice system, despite the passage of time.

Susan Leahy examines the issue of conviction rates in cases of rape. Her article outlines the problem of ‘rape-myths’ and ‘rape stereotypes’ which compound the prosecution of cases in this area. The article presents non-legal initiatives which may help to promote better understanding for the public in rape cases.

Anne Costelloe also looks at the role of education, this time for prisoners who are preparing to re-enter society. As recidivism rates remain very high, prisoner education is an important part of the reintegration process. As a member of the European Prison Education Association, Costelloe understands the significance of prisoner education as a primary element in the reintegrative process.

Paul Gavin discusses the important issue of child-imprisonment in Ireland, while Catherine MacNamara and Patricia Mannix-McNamara detail the relevant issues surrounding health promotion within the Irish justice system. Finally, Graham Tolan and Mairéad Seymour present a study of the role of An Garda Síochána as part of the Adult Cautioning Scheme.

This collection of articles represents some of the ongoing research into all areas of criminology. As IJASS Guest Editor for this special issue on ‘Criminology and Penology’ I am pleased to see such a broad range of studies from academics, practitioners and researchers, and I am most grateful to the IJASS Board and Editor Kevin Lalor for the support and encouragement I have received in developing this most interesting collection of criminological research. I am hopeful that future initiatives such as this will receive similar support, and Criminology and Penology will continue to maintain its position as an

innovative and exciting subject matter across the range of colleges and institutes of higher learning.

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Dr. Liam Leonard (BA; M. Phil; PhD), researcher and international academic consultant is based in West Virginia University, USA. Previously, Liam has been Chair of the Criminology Association of Ireland and former Member Secretary and President of the Sociology Association of Ireland. He lectures Sociology, Criminology, Politics, Human Rights, Penology/Prison Studies, Sustainability and Environmental Issues, Social Movements, Social Capital, Professional Development and Equality & Diversity. Dr. Leonard was the senior academic and primary instructor on the award winning Custodial Care Program, which trained over 1,000 recruits in a humane approach to prison and corrections for the Irish Prison Service. The author/editor of over ten books and numerous journal articles, he is Senior Editor of the Ecopolitics Books Series, the Advances in Sustainability and Environmental Justice Book Series (both with Emerald UK) and Founding Editor of the CRIMSOC Journal of Social Criminology. Dr. Leonard has edited the 2011 Irish issue of the Prison Journal, as well as special issues of Environmental Politics and the Irish Journal of Sociology. Dr. Leonard was awarded the Sage Publishing Research Excellence Award in New York as well as the NAIRTL Research & Teaching Award in 2012, and has over twelve years experience as an academic and lecturer in the National University of Ireland and the Irish Institute of Technology sectors. He has given papers at the European Sociology Association, European Criminology Association, the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences, the European Group for Crime & Deviance and the Irish Sociology and Irish Criminology Conferences. Dr. Leonard sits on the editorial boards of several academic journals, including the Prison Journal and the Journal of Criminal Psychology.

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