

Draft Proposal for a new Working Group of the RGS-IBG: Carceral Geography Working Group

*[Draft prepared by Dominique Moran, Jennifer Turner and Anna Schliehe
for discussion at the 2016 Carceral Geography Conference]*

The 'punitive' or 'carceral turn' has brought about new ways of thinking about geography and the state, and has highlighted spaces of incarceration as a new terrain for exploration by geographers. Carceral geography, as a new subdiscipline of human geography, has developed to directly address this punitive turn, and has contributed to a wider 'carceral turn' in social sciences scholarship over recent years.

Geographical work in this field is rich, diverse and multi-scalar, focusing on wider structural, political and institutional contexts as well as on everyday experiences, practices and agency; it is sensitive to change and difference across space and time, space/time, and between cultures and jurisdictions. Of particular note is the breadth of empirical focus of carceral geography; on spaces of 'mainstream' incarceration of 'criminals' for custodial sentences imposed by the prevailing legal system; spaces of migrant detention which confine irregular or non-status migrants pending decisions on admittance or removal; the overlaps and synergies between these spaces, their functional and post-functional lives, and also their porosity, in recognising that techniques and technologies of confinement seep out of 'carceral' spaces into the everyday, domestic, street, and institutional spaces with which both former inmates and their loved ones (such as prison visitors) come into contact. It also increasingly recognises 'the carceral' as spatial, emplaced, mobile, embodied and affective.

The 'carceral turn' - the deployment of a new range of strategies of social control and coercion, has seen resentful views of the poor and vulnerable inform punitive turns in both welfare and justice policy. This turn is epitomised both by growth in the legal, state-sanctioned incarceration of offenders sentenced to ever-longer prison terms in punitive conditions, and by a trend towards the extra-penal mass supervision of increasing numbers of people whose lives are thus penetrated by the criminal justice system. It has also prefigured the use of semi-sanctioned forms of confinement for asylum seekers and refugees, identified as targets for collective fears and dissatisfactions, who are subject to intimidation, violence and detention. Technologies of surveillance and control enable a carceral 'fix' to operate beyond conventional carceral spaces, and even when persons are physically mobile - for example through electronic tagging, and through the far-reaching stigma associated with prior incarceration. Nation-states out-source imprisonment to neighbouring countries, renting bedspace in under-capacity facilities; funding overseas facilities to facilitate deportation or extradition, and commodifying the (im)mobility inherent in prisoners' confinement, whilst at the same time migrants are detained outside of the territories they wish to enter; contesting established notions of state sovereignty. As aspects of confinement are privatised, and the construction of places of detention becomes big business, the premises thought appropriate for confinement in one jurisdiction differ markedly from those built for same purpose elsewhere. Debate continues over the legitimacy of incarceration in all of its manifestations - a debate which both transcends and is differentiated by local and national cultural norms and practices. In short, the carceral age is one in which there is unprecedented fluidity between forms of confinement, be they state-sanctioned, quasi-legal, ad-hoc, illicit, spatially fixed, mobile, embodied or imagined, and in which the scale of deployment of carceral techniques and infrastructures demands critical attention.

The 'carceral turn' has seen parallel development in academic research into these phenomena, originating within criminology, (prison) sociology and political science, but increasingly stimulating interdisciplinary and cross-disciplinary dialogue between these disciplines and fields such as carceral geography. In recent years, a rich and diverse research dialogue has started to coalesce around the notion of the 'carceral' - asking what this term means, what it signifies, what its explanatory and

critical purchase might be, and the extent to which it is anchored in or limited by its etymology in relation to the prison. It is clear that the interrogation of these questions requires academic disciplines which already speak to one another at a certain level to deepen their interdisciplinary engagement, namely through the development of a new community of scholars adept at navigating the disciplinary terrain of their different histories, traditions, terminologies, guiding principles, philosophies, and methodologies. The development of an international, interdisciplinary community of scholars anchored in carceral geography to tackle the pressing questions of the carceral age is our explicit intention in this Working Group.

The main areas of focus of the group include research in three related and interconnected themes; the nature of carceral spaces and experiences within them; the spatial geographies of carceral systems; and the relationship between the carceral and an increasingly punitive state.

The coalescence of this community of scholars is already evident in the number of themed sessions organised over a number of years at RGS-IBG and AAG annual conferences, as well as the recent publication of a number of monographs, edited collections and special issues of journals, in this field. These include:

Themed conference sessions:

Annual Conference of the Royal Geographical Society with Institute of British Geographers

2010 Geographical Political Economies of Incarceration

2012 Everyday Geographies of the Punitive State I&II

2014 Mapping Carceral Geography – Confinement, Closed Spaces and Affective Atmospheres I-III

2016 Examining Troubling Institutions and Geographies at the Nexus of Care and Control

Annual Meeting of the American Association of Geographers

2008 Geographies of Detention and Confinement I-III plus Panel

2009 Locating the Prison: Geographies of Crime and Punishment

2010 Geographies of Imprisonment I and II

2011 Mobilities, Borders, and Confinement I-VII

2013 Carceral Geography: Debates, Developments and Directions I-V

2014 Historical Geographies of Prisons and Jails I & II

2015 Carceral Geographies I-VII

Prisons, Race, Empire, and Militarism

PREM: Settler Colonialism, Militarism, and the Carceral State I-III

2016 Carceral Geography I-III

PREM: Critical Penal Geographies I-III

2017 Global Carceral Geographies I-IV

Specialist conference:

Carceral Geography: Confinement, Crossings and Conditions, University of Birmingham, 13 Dec 2016

[description to be added]

Published and Forthcoming Books:

Moran, D & A Schliehe [Eds.] (in press 2017) *Carceral Spatiality: Dialogues between Geography and Criminology* London: Palgrave Macmillan

Turner, J. and Peters, K. [Eds.] (in press 2017) *Carceral Mobilities: Interrogating Movement in Incarceration* Abingdon: Routledge

Conlon, D. & Hiemstra, N [Eds.] (2016) *Intimate Economies of Immigration Detention: Critical Perspectives* Routledge, London

Turner, J. (2016) *The Prison Boundary: Between Society and Carceral Space* London: Palgrave Macmillan

- Gill, N (2016). *Nothing Personal? Geographies of Governing and Activism in the British Asylum System*. Oxford, Wiley-Blackwell
- Morin, K & D Moran [Eds.] (2015) *Historical Geographies of Prisons: Unlocking the Usable Carceral Past* Routledge, London
- Moran, D (2015) *Carceral Geography: Spaces and Practices of Incarceration* Ashgate, Farnham
- Moran, D, N Gill & D Conlon [Eds.] (2013) *Carceral Spaces: Mobility and Agency in Imprisonment and Migrant Detention* Ashgate, Farnham
- Loyd, J, Mitchelson, M & Burridge, A. (2013) *Beyond Walls and Cages: Prisons, Borders and Global Crisis*. London, University of Georgia Press.
- Pallot, J, & L Piacentini with D Moran (2012) *Gender, Geography and Punishment: The Experience of Women in Carceral Russia* OUP, Oxford

Journal (Virtual) Special Issues

Turner, J., Schlottman, A., and Hannah, M. (2014) Annual Special Issue Social Geography: Criminality and carcerality across boundaries *Geographica Helvetica* 69

Prison Virtual Theme Issue *Environment and Planning, D: Society and Space*. Available online 9-11/2013 Details at <https://societyandspace.com/2013/09/24/prison-virtual-theme-issue-3/>

The new group would be an opportunity for the RGS-IBG to positively embrace new developments and initiatives in the discipline, by recognising the rapid development of this new field. Researchers in this area have already started to make a distinctive contribution to geographical research, and the existence of an RGS-IBG Research Group would enable that development to be consolidated and formalised, providing a platform for future advancement.

Statement of purpose of the Carceral Geography Working Group (CGWG)

- To advance a broad view of carceral geography, defined as geographical engagement with the spaces, practices and experiences of confinement (imprisonment, migrant detention and other forms of custody). The Carceral Geography Working Group is/would be the research group of the RGS-IBG that brings together geographers and others interested in the spaces, practices and experiences of incarceration, broadly defined.
- To bring together and provide a forum for geographers working in this field, to provide the level of focus this work justifies and to foster greater communication, networking and sense of community among scholars, particularly the wealth of early career scholars shaping this fast-moving field.
- To foster dialogue and collaboration between carceral geographers working in the Global North and South. Research in the Global North dominates in this discipline, as it does in criminology, but it shares many common themes with work on the South and both would benefit from greater cross-fertilisation.
- To foster and provide a platform for dialogue between carceral geographers and criminologists, prison sociologists and legal scholars also concerned with spaces and experiences of incarceration, and to support the cross-disciplinary dialogue which already characterises work in this field.
- To promote a focus upon the current prioritisation of custodial policy by the UK and other national governments, and in doing so to advance geographical understandings of confinement, custody, incarceration and detention.
- To interrogate the place of policies affecting carceral environments across a range of spatial scales and at varying levels of formality.

- To promote research practice which informs teaching, discourse and policy and promotes justice, including the development of appropriate methodologies, the transformation of personal practices, the exploration of linkages with pedagogy, and modes of research dissemination, influence and academic engagement within and beyond the academic community of geographers.

There are potential overlaps with two existing Research Groups; the *Geographies of Justice Research Group* and the *Political Geography Research Group*.

The *Geographies of Justice Research Group* has an extremely broad justice 'remit', focusing on '*the distribution of benefits and burdens amongst society and over space, and the processes which affect that distribution*' within which sub-interests in institutional contexts and criminal justice, are within a very lengthy list; whereas the Carceral Geography Working Group proposes to focus much more closely on institutional (and indeed non-institutional) carceral contexts and on carceral spaces which are formally disconnected from criminal justice systems.

The *Political Geography Research Group* is interested in '*a wide variety of issues connected with relationships between space and power*', an expansive definition which also applies to the Carceral Geography Working Group, but again the specific focus of the Carceral Geography Working Group on confinement means that its interests are not served within this existing Research Group.

The proposed activities of the Carceral Geography Working Group could not adequately be undertaken within the infrastructure of an existing Research Group, given the more wide-ranging interests of these groups and the comparatively minor interest that each of them has in incarceration and confinement. Like other RGs which have as their focus a particular community or interest (such as the Geographies of Children, Youth and Families Research Group), the CGWG would establish collaborative links to other RGS-IBG Research Groups with broader conceptual remit (such as the Historical Geography Research Group, the Political Geography Research Group, and so on). In addition, the intention of the CGWG would be to draw into further dialogue with geography scholars from other disciplines, such as the growing number of criminologists and prison sociologists engaging with carceral geography scholarship. These intentions would be far better served by a WG which would be instantly recognisable by name to the community of scholars in this interdisciplinary field.

Proposed two-year plan of activities and their anticipated outcome

The first two years of activities of the CGWG is intended to consolidate and expand this existing community of scholars, building upon the clear identity already forged for this field. The ambitious plan would enable the existing network (currently lacking an organisational 'home' such as an RGS-IBG RG) to maintain momentum and further develop research which has the potential for significant impact.

Framed around the conceptualisation of the 'carceral', activity in this two year period would have a particularly timely focus, given the widely acknowledged 'carceral turn'.

- **Establishment of the CGWG website and maillist**

This website, which would be used as a repository of RG paperwork and to publicise events, would take the form of a repurposing of the existing website www.carceralgeography.com which has been in existence since 2010 and has attracted a considerable following during that time (56,493 hits from 158 different countries). The site had 475 visitors across the year in 2012. By 2015, this has increased to 6,665. The advantage of repurposing this existing website is precisely in the existing audience and name recognition that it already has. The website already engages in blogging activities, which are linked to a Twitter account. Under the support of the CGWG, these activities can be further expanded to increase their vibrancy. In particular, the CGWG would instigate, for example, a regular Twitter hour or Skype-based reading group focussing upon key/recently-published outputs in the field. These and

other possibilities will be developed under consultancy from members in the first two years of the CGWG's activity.

- **Inaugural *Carceral Geography Working Group* Conference: Conceptualising the Carceral**

Following on from the inaugural Carceral Geography Conference at the University of Birmingham in 2016, this event, for which funding would be sought from the Institute for Advanced Studies at the University of Birmingham, would be held at [?] in **Autumn 2017**. The intention would be to provide an event free to attend, but depending on the level of funding achieved, a modest attendance fee may have to be charged to cover refreshments.

Its intention would be to highlight the diversity and array of excellent research going on in carceral geography; to provide a forum for interdisciplinary dialogue between geographers, criminologists and prison sociologists engaging with the spatialities of confinement; and to provide networking and development opportunities for the wealth of Early Career Scholars in this field who otherwise lack a formal organisational structure for their activity. Keynote addresses, conventional research paper sessions, poster sessions, author-meets-critics sessions for recent monographs and edited collections, as well as a showing of Brett Story's award-winning documentary "The Prison in Twelve Landscapes" would be complimented by sessions discussing methodological and ethical challenges in research in this field as well as, if possible, field visits to carceral spaces such as the repurposed Steelhouse Lane Custody Suite (former Police Station) in central Birmingham.

Given the existing international network of carceral geographers, it is anticipated that participants would be drawn from the UK and Europe, as well as (funds permitting) the US and Canada.

Ideally, the formal structure of the RGS-IBG CGWG would enable subsequent (annual or biennial) conferences to be organised at different venues, by different organising committees, under the auspices of the CGWG.

To maintain the momentum generated both by the 2016 conference and the Inaugural CGWG conference, a series of subsequent activities would be designed to address key research challenges. The conference would be an ideal forum for recruitment of CGWG members, and for open discussion of the utility of the RG in terms of the activities that members would find most useful. To this end, an online consultation would take place during and after the conference, with participants and WG members invited to comment on and shape plans for future activities. Given the explicit purpose of this group to support early career researchers, likely activities could include:

- **Workshop: Punitive Policy and Abolitionist Praxis: The Paradox of 'Impact' in Carceral Geography**

The Carceral Geography Working Group would hold a **one day workshop** exploring the application of academic research and research skills beyond academia, and the particular challenges of engaging with policy and practice in a field in which the motivation for many researchers is an abolitionist agenda. Bringing together speakers from public, private and non-profit sectors, sessions will discuss the relevance of research for impact, policy and programming, focusing on how academic skills can be adapted to these areas and how to effectively communicate research to audiences outside of academia.

- **CGRG Undergraduate and Postgraduate Taught Dissertation Workshop**

The Carceral Geography Working Group Dissertation **Workshop** would be designed for undergraduate and postgraduate taught students who are commencing, preparing or thinking about doing a dissertation on custodial environments of various kinds. For these students, given the compressed timings of research and write-up, and the challenges of gaining research access to custodial environments, often without specialist supervision in geography departments, it is often

necessary to design a research project which can be delivered *without* direct access to confined individuals, or at least, without access to them during their period of custody.

The workshop would therefore cover practical issues such as research design for alternative forms of 'access' to custodial environments (such as via published testimonies, online fora, media representations) and associated fieldwork and logistics, as well as in-depth sessions on research ethics and methodologies appropriate to these methodologies. Sessions would be held by experts in the field, and postgraduate/doctoral students would also be there to share their experiences.

There would be a nominal fee for attendance, which for non CGWG members would include a year's CGWG membership.

- **Site visits: Engaging with Carceral Spaces**

A series of less formal '**site visits**' would be arranged to carceral spaces of various types, for members and non-members to attend accompanied by a CGWG member with a specific research interest or knowledge of the site, acting as informal 'guide' (in much the same way as RGS-IBG conference 'field trips' are organised). The purpose of these site visits would be (a) to explore the range of spaces that could be considered 'carceral', through on-site discussion between participants, and (b) to enable researchers to discuss the challenges of gaining entry to often hard-to-access locations such as functioning prisons.

Members would be invited to offer such 'site visits' at times to suit them, and these would be publicised on the CGWG website and via the maillist. Appropriate venues at which site visits could be offered by intended members include Steelhouse Lane Custody Suite in central Birmingham (a mothballed police custody suite, earmarked for redevelopment), Malmaison Hotel, Oxford (a former prison converted into a hotel), Nottingham Galleries of Justice (a prison heritage centre). Depending on the nature of each site, number of attendees may be limited, and attendance fees may be charged (by the sites themselves).

- **Discussion of proposal for cross-disciplinary academic journal**

Aside from the consolidation and expansion of the interdisciplinary community of scholars in this field, the intended outcome of this activity would be to raise the profile of geographical research into confinement, and to position the CGWG such that it was well-placed to advance negotiations with academic publishers about the establishment of a **cross-disciplinary academic journal** to provide a specialist outlet for research in this field. The journal would aim to be accessible both to new researchers, including postgraduate students and academics at an early stage of their research careers, and to practitioners with an interest in carceral spaces and experiences.

- **Presence at the RGS-IBG Annual Meeting and Mid-Term Conference**

It is the explicit intention of the CGWG to maintain a continued and vibrant presence at RGS-IBG events. For 2017, it is anticipated that the group members would organise two dedicated Carceral Geography **paper sessions** (with **sponsorship** of related themed sessions too); an **author-meets-critics panel**; and a **practitioner-meets-academics** session. The latter session underscores tensions critical to the research agenda of most carceral geographers and therefore, it is anticipated, that this session become a 'signature' Annual Meeting event organised by the CGWG, as well as of the intended annual/biennial conferences. Additionally, the themes developed in the Early-Career-focussed programme of wider CGWG events could also be explored in a **workshop** – "Building practitioner relationships" – offered by CGWG at The Postgraduate Forum Annual Conference Training Symposium (PGF-ACTS); and/or a session focussing upon "Getting along with the gate keeper: negotiating access to hard-to-reach participants" at the Mid-Term Conference. The themes developed in these sessions are commonly encountered by members of the CGWG, but also represent tensions that are transferrable to other groups under study by many academics conducting geographical research.

Outcomes of the two-year programme

It is anticipated that the format of the 2016 and Inaugural conferences would be replicated annually/biennially for the international membership of the CGWG. Group members would be asked to volunteer their University as a host for the annual event. The location would then be subject to a vote in the AGM. Particular preference would be given to colleagues/locations with strong links to carceral spaces that could be incorporated into the programme (such as a working prison or relevant heritage site). The conference programme will incorporate sessions similar to those demonstrated in the Inaugural event and would also be an opportunity, for example, to invite winners of the Undergraduate dissertation prize to present their research.

It is hoped that, following this programme of events, the CGWG will have consolidated its presence into a vibrant community of academics firmly embedded into a home at the RGS-IBG. Building upon this established reputation and the momentum gained by the specific activities of an RGS-IBG research group, the CGWG's future intentions would surround the development of a new journal focusing upon "Carceral Space" or "Crime and Carcerality" more widely.

RGS-IBG Fellows supporting the Working Group (20 required for WG application)

	Name	RGS-IBG #	Affiliation
1	Dr Elizabeth Bos	1082651	Coventry University
2	Julie de Dardel	<i>Not known</i>	University of Neuchâtel
3	Dr Tom Disney	1017260	University of Birmingham
4	Phil Emmerson	1082545	University of Birmingham
5	Dr Phil Jones	844065	University of Birmingham
6	Prof Peter Kraftl	467438	University of Birmingham
7	Dr Sharon Leahy	1082559	University of St Andrews
8	Diana Martin	1084516	University of Portsmouth
9	Dr Carol Medlicott	<i>Not known</i>	Northern Kentucky University, US
10	Dr Sarah Mills	847814	Loughborough University
11	Dr Dominique Moran	439149	University of Birmingham
12	Prof Karen M Morin	<i>Not known</i>	Bucknell University, US
13	Tess Osborne	1083428	University of Birmingham
14	Dr Kimberley Peters	850509	University of Liverpool
15	Dr Adam Ramadan	945960	University of Birmingham
16	Ian Slesinger	1081730	University of Birmingham
17	Anna Schliehe	1080382	University of Cambridge
18	Dr Jennifer Turner	1084603	University of Liverpool
19	Dr Avril Maddrell		University of the West of England
20	Dr Lauren Martin		University of Durham
21	Dr Sara Fregonese	946054	University of Birmingham
22	Eleanor Slee		University of Birmingham

Other researchers and practitioners in support of the establishment of the Working Group

	Name	Affiliation	Discipline
1	Akhila L. Ananth	California State University, Los Angeles, US	Geography
2	Dr Lauren Andres	University of Birmingham	Geography
3	Amory Ballantine	The Evergreen State College, US	Geography
4	Dr Jessica Bird	University of Illinois at Chicago	Criminology
5	Sarah Brooks-Wilson	University of York, UK	Social Policy
6	Dr Elizabeth Brown	San Francisco State University	Criminology
7	Prof James M. Byrne	University of Massachusetts Lowell	Criminology
8	Dr Kate Coddington	Durham University	Geography
9	Dr Shaul Cohen	University of Oregon	Geography
10	Dr Matthew Cook	Eastern Michigan University, US	Geography

11	Suzann Cordeiro de Lima	Federal University of Alagoas, Brazil	Architecture
12	Dr Jean-Philippe Crete	University of Alberta, Canada	Sociology
13	Dr Ben Crewe	University of Cambridge	Criminology
14	Charlene Crossley	Manchester Metropolitan University	Criminology
15	Sarah E. Fehrmann	University of Cologne, Germany	Criminology
16	Dr Ryan C. Edwards	University of Tennessee, Chattanooga	History
17	Dr Luca Follis	Lancaster University	Law
18	Rachel Forster	University of Leeds and HMP Wakefield	Fine Art
19	Elisabeth Fransson	University College of Norwegian Correctional Service	Criminology
20	James Gacek	University of Winnipeg	Criminology
21	Prof Nick Gill	University of Exeter	Geography
22	Craig Gilmore	California Prison Moratorium Project, US	Geography
23	Dr Francesca Giofrè	Sapienza University of Rome	Architecture
24	Kirsty Greenwood	Liverpool John Moores University	Criminology
25	Nicola Harding	Manchester Metropolitan University	Geography
26	Dr Ines Hasselberg	University of Oxford	Criminology
27	Katie Hemsworth	Queen's University, Canada	Geography
28	Kate Herrity	University of Leicester	Criminology
29	Lynne Horiuchi	Independent Scholar	Geography
30	Marie Hutton	University of Sussex	Law
31	Diana Johns	University of Melbourne	Criminology
32	Berit Johnsen	University College of Norwegian Correctional Service	Criminology
33	Dr Victoria Knight	De Montfort University	Criminology
34	Dr Irina Kuznetsova	University of Birmingham	Geography
35	Dr Laurence Marlow	London South Bank University	Geography
36	Alberto P. Marti	University of Nottingham	Latin American Studies
37	Dr Lauren Martin	Durham University	Geography
38	Dr Benedicte Michalon	CNRS(National Centre for Scientific Research), France	Geography
39	Dr Olivier Milhaud	University Paris-Sorbonne	Geography
40	Srdjan Milosevic	IMT School for Advanced Studies Lucca, Italy	
41	Prof Claudio Minca	Wageningen University	Geography
42	Dr Christophe Mincke	Nat. Inst. Forensic Sci. & Criminology, Brussels	Criminology
43	Dr Marie Morelle	Paris 1 University	Geography
44	Dr Richard Nisa	Fairleigh Dickinson University, US	Geography
45	Bruce Parker	University of Utah	Architecture&Planning
46	William Payne	York University, Canada	Geography
47	Victoria Pereyra-Iraola	University of Warwick	Politics
48	Dr Annie Pflugst	Goldsmiths, University of London, BIEA Nairobi	Sociology
49	Dr Justin Piché	University of Ottawa	Criminology
50	Dr Anoma Pieris	The University of Melbourne	Architecture&Planning
51	Dr Eeva Puumala	University of Tampere, Finland	Geography
53	Dr Laurie Jo Reynolds	University of Illinois at Chicago, USA	Art History
54	Dr Marina Richter	University of Fribourg, Switzerland	Criminology
55	Lirio Gutiérrez Rivera	Universidad Nacional de Colombia	Pol. Sci. & Anthropology
56	Dr Laura Routley	Newcastle University	Politics
57	Oriane Simon	University of New South Wales	Geography
58	Prof Sharon Shalev	Centre for Criminology, University of Oxford	Criminology
59	Mr Will Thurbin	University of Birmingham	Geography
60	Dr Emmanouil Tranos	University of Birmingham	Geography
61	Anaïs Tschanz	Université de Montréal	Criminology
62	Sarah Turnbull	University of Oxford	Criminology
63	Dr Joaquin Villanueva	Gustavus Adolphus College, US	Geography
64	Dr Megan Ybarra	University of Washington	Geography

Nomination of Chair, Secretary and Treasurer of the Working Group

tbc

Draft Constitution of Working Group

Constitution of the Carceral Geography Working Group [CGWG]

- Carceral Geography Working Group [CGWG].
- The CGWG brings together geographers and others interested in the spaces, practices and experiences of incarceration, broadly defined.
Its aims are to:
 - a. advance carceral geography, defined as geographical engagement with the spaces, practices and experiences of confinement (imprisonment, migrant detention and other forms of custody).
 - b. provide a forum for geographers working in this field, to foster greater communication, networking and sense of community among scholars, and particularly early career scholars.
 - c. foster dialogue and collaboration between carceral geographers working in the Global North and South.
 - d. enable dialogue between carceral geographers and criminologists, prison sociologists and legal scholars, to support cross-disciplinary collaboration.
 - e. promote a focus upon custodial policy, and in doing to advance geographical understandings of confinement, custody, incarceration and detention.
 - f. interrogate the place of policies affecting carceral environments across a range of spatial scales and at varying levels of formality.

3. Organisational status - The CGWG is a 'branch' of the Royal Geographical Society (with The Institute of British Geographers) and must satisfy the aims and policies of the Society, including Equal Opportunity policy, and the legal and Charity Commissioner requirements including the guidance issued by the Charities' Commission on campaigning and political activity by charities. The Research Group must deliver an Annual Report and statement of accounts to the Society by the 31 January of each calendar year at the very latest demonstrating that these aims and policies are being adhered to.

4. Statement of membership - Membership of the CGWG shall be open to all members (including Postgraduate members) of the Royal Geographical Society (with IBG) who elect to join the Working Group, but shall never be less than 40. Limited Life Working Parties and Working Groups membership shall never be less than 20. Membership of the [CGWG] will be free of charge.

5. Other interested persons who are not members of the RGS-IBG may join the CGWG, subject to approval of the Working Group. The CGWG will maintain their own records of these members but must also use the RGS-IBG membership lists when undertaking a mailing to members.

6. The business of the CGWG shall be conducted by a Committee of no fewer than 3 members. Specified roles within the Committee include the following: Chair, Secretary, Treasurer. Each of these roles shall be undertaken by members of the RGS-IBG elected by the Group. The Committee will have the power to co-opt up to two additional members. The majority of the Committee must be members of the RGS-IBG.

Normally Research Groups have additional elected members on their Committees such as newsletter/website editor, membership secretary for a group of over 200 members, meetings and events co-ordinator, postgraduate co-ordinator, and publications co-ordinator.

7. Terms of office - The offices of Chair, Secretary and Treasurer and other committee members shall be for a period of three years. Honorary officers may stand for a second term of three years, but must relinquish their post after the sixth year of office. Retiring honorary officers shall not be eligible for re-election as an Ordinary Member of the Committee if they have served for 6 years, without first having a one-year break from the Committee.

Ordinary Committee members shall be elected for a period of not more than three years. Ordinary Committee members may stand for a second term of three years, but must relinquish their post after the sixth year of office.

Postgraduate members shall be elected for a period of one year and shall not normally be eligible for re-election to the Committee for more than three terms of office.

The Research Group should give consideration to the succession timetable of officers serving on their Committees in order that there is an appropriate level of continuity.

8. Elections to the Committee will be held at the Annual General Meeting. Members will be informed in writing (email is acceptable) 30 days prior to the AGM of all vacancies to be filled. Nominations for Committee membership will be accepted up to the beginning of the AGM. Nominations must be in writing and include the names of the proposer and seconder.

9. The Annual General Meeting shall normally be held at the RGS-IBG Annual International Conference in late August/September. The CGWG must present an Annual Report and Statement of Accounts to the RGS-IBG as requested, and normally by 31st January each year. This is to comply with Charity Commissioners guidelines. The Research Group is expected to manage its funds with due care and for the benefit of the membership of the Research Group.

An Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) may be called by either the Chair and four members (or all other members if fewer than four in total) of the Committee or by any 20 ordinary members of the Carceral Geography Working Group. The Secretary must give at least 30 days' notice of an EGM in writing to all members of the Carceral Geography Working Group.

10. Changes to the Constitution - The constitution can be changed only by two-thirds majority vote of those present at an Annual General Meeting, provided that the membership has been individually notified of the proposed changes in writing or by email at least 30 days in advance. Research Group constitutions that have been altered by the AGM of the Research Group should then be submitted for approval by the Research and Higher Education Committee of the RGS-IBG at their next meeting. If the Research Group alters its constitution without informing the Research and Higher Education Committee by the time of its next meeting, the Research and Higher Education Committee will view this matter seriously and consider whether the group is contravening the aims of the RGS-IBG.

11. The activities of the Research Groups should not contravene the aims of the Royal Geographical Society (with IBG). The CGWG may be dissolved only in accordance with the rules of the RGS-IBG. Further activities of the CGWG are described in Appendix 1

Appendix 1

Further activities of the CGWG will include:

- The maintenance of a website (modified from the existing www.carceralgeography.com) including a members' blog.
- The maintenance of an email distribution list of non-members of the RGS-IBG (modified from the existing carceralgeography jiscmail maillist)