

# **Carceral Geography Conference**

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**Confinement,  
Crossings  
and Conditions**

University of Birmingham  
Tuesday 13th December



# Confinement, Crossings and Conditions

an opportunity for carceral geographers and other researchers (and students) interested in spaces and practices of incarceration to come together to present and discuss new work, and to help shape the future development of this subdiscipline

Linked to and partially funded by:

ESRC 'ADT' project ***'Fear-suffused environments' or potential to rehabilitate? Prison architecture, design and technology and the lived experience of carceral spaces*** ES/K011081/1

(PI Yvonne Jewkes, Brighton; co-I Dominique Moran, Birmingham; PDRA Jennifer Turner, Brighton)

*(and the School of Geography, Earth and Environmental Sciences, University of Birmingham)*

# ADT project

*What are the predominant considerations and penal philosophies underpinning the design of the internal and external spaces of recently commissioned and built prisons?*

*What impact does the architecture, design, and technology (ADT) of prisons have on the experience of imprisonment, on the behaviour of those who occupy and move through carceral spaces, and on staff-prisoner and staff-management relationships?*

**Symposium - 20 March 2017 at RIBA in London – contact [Y.Jewkes@brighton.ac.uk](mailto:Y.Jewkes@brighton.ac.uk)**

# Issues emerging from fieldwork...

Data collection in relation to new-build prisons in the UK, Norway and Denmark, plus proposed prisons further afield:

- the nature and experience of carceral confinement, broadly interpreted
- the notion of crossing of an assumed or contested boundary both between spaces of confinement and 'other' spaces
- the ways in which carceral experiences persist after periods of custody have ended - both for those confined, and for affected others
- experience of carceral spaces; issues of absence, intimacy, choreography and the microscale

# ...explored in Conference sessions

## **1A: Concepts, Definitions and Methodologies**

*artwork, edgework, borders, exceptionalism, circuitry*

## **1B: Carceral Infrastructures**

*topography, interior, violence, pain, intimacy*

## **2A: Diverse Carceralities**

*motherhood, home/real life, prison pasts, exile, indigeneity*

## **2B: Carceral Mobilities**

*islands, the subterranean, transportation, enclosure, unlocking*

## **2C: Expanding the Carceral**

*holding, containment, compounds, archipelago, deinstitutionalization*

## **3A: Carceral Crossings**

*dispossession/endings, abnormality, youth/adulthood, exceptionalism, solitary*

## **3B: Emotions and Embodied Carcerality**

*'good' custody, re-humanisation, visibility, hiding, ambivalence*

multi-disciplinary sessions – geography, criminology, law, history, architecture...  
contemporary/historical, empirically-grounded, theoretically-driven

# lecture capture

- Papers will be audio-recorded, and audio files uploaded with edited versions of ppt slides (*removing images re copyright*)
- To be uploaded later to the conference website – to enable virtual participation
- Email alert to upload via eventbrite and the [carceralgeography.com](http://carceralgeography.com) website

# Underpinning themes

- methodological and/or theoretical approaches in the development of carceral geography
- the 'place' of carceral geography in its multi-disciplinary context

*Explored in the closing panel session...*

# carceral geography

- new subdiscipline of human geography
- engaging with spaces and practices of confinement, very broadly conceived
- in dialogue with cognate disciplines of criminology, prison sociology, critical legal studies,
- and with other geographical subdisciplines; political, urban, social, cultural, historical etc

# RGS-IBG Working Group proposal

Discussion of a draft proposal for a Carceral Geography Working Group (CGWG) of the Royal Geographical Society-Institute of British Geographers (RGS-IBG) - open to non-members of the RGS-IBG

*Optional lunchtime discussion – hard copies available*

# Art Exhibition

- Lexi Strauss – recipient of U.Birmingham *Radical Sabbatical*
- Identified *a continuous resonance with the psychology of incarceration* in previous and new work
- Selected works from *The Oath of the Great Order of Emancipists* displayed today
- Discuss with Lexi!

# Research-led teaching

- Year 3 Carceral Geographies module for undergraduates in Geography
- Student Organising Committee:
  - *Caroline Ambler*
  - *Joshua Gardner*
  - *Imogen Morris*
  - *Gabriella Westley*
- Assisted in abstract selection, programme design and with others from the cohort, are here today.
- Thank you!

# plan for the day

Atrium	UG09	UG10	UG06
10.00	1A: Concepts, Definitions and Methodologies	1B: Carceral Infrastructures	
12.00	Brown Bag Lunch	Informal Discussion for RGS-IBG Carceral Geography Working Group ( <i>optional</i> )	
12.45	2A: Diverse Carceralities	2B: Carceral Mobilities	2C: Expanding the Carceral
2.30	Afternoon tea		
3.00	3A: Carceral Crossings	3B: Emotions and Embodied Carcerality	
5.00	Break		
5.15	4: Panel Discussion		
6.15	Drinks		
7.30	Conference dinner		

# Housekeeping

- Shared use of building
- Toilets – on this floor
- Water fountain to refill bottles
- Café outside/downstairs (open until 3pm) *for additional caffeine*
- No fire drills planned today...

# In summary...

- Drawing upon and developing emergent themes from the ADT project, to
  - Provide a dedicated forum for dissemination of research in and related to carceral geography, plus networking, and discussion
  - Take stock of the development of this new subdiscipline
  - Consider the ways forward for its future development
  - Enjoy the day!