

scottish justice matters

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SPECIAL ISSUE ON DESISTANCE

Edited by
Fergus McNeill

ALSO

Mike Nellis on
Electronic Monitoring

Andrew Coyle on
early prison reform in Scotland

Bernadette Monaghan on
Children's Hearings

Interview with
HMIP David Strang



DESISTANCE

MOVING ON: DESISTANCE AND REHABILITATION

Scottish Justice Matters is a publication of the Scottish Consortium of Crime and Criminal Justice (SCCCJ). The Consortium is an alliance of organisations and individuals committed to better criminal justice policies. It works to stimulate well informed debate and to promote discussion and analysis of new ideas: it seeks a rational, humane, constructive and rights-based approach to questions of justice and crime in Scotland.

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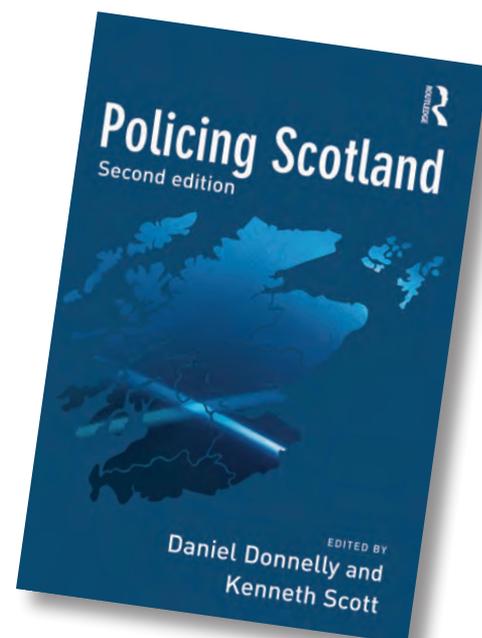
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BOOK REVIEW



Review of **“Policing Scotland: Second Edition”** (2011),
D.Donnelly and K.Scott (eds), London: Routledge

‘POLICING SCOTLAND’ is an indispensable companion to any student of Scottish policing. One of the key successes is to create a collection that has the rigour and depth expected by scholarly audiences, without the academic jargon which is off-putting to more casual readers. It walks the line of being both an excellent resource for experienced, professional researchers and a point-of-entry for those taking an interest in Scottish policing.

The central function of this collection is an important one: to appreciate and honour the distinctiveness of Scotland’s public constabulary and its history. As a full time researcher of Scottish policing there is a frustration in the inequality of research that can be found covering England and Wales with the quantity of research focused on Scotland. This frustration is compounded when academics, foreign or domestic, talk of ‘British policing’, or ‘the British bobby’. Do they mean ‘English policing’, and the ‘English bobby’? Probably. There is a need for the appreciation of the ‘Scottishness’ of Scottish policing, the central objective of this collection (Donnelly and Scott, 2011, p.1).

There are broadly two types of chapters in this collection: there are those chapters dedicated to outlining the particular organisational and legal frameworks that exist in Scotland, and then others analysing how Scotland has its own socio-political characteristics that shape the policing experience. The former tells us about the formal differences between Scotland and elsewhere: particular mention, for instance, should go to Donnelly and Scott’s chapter on the governance and accountability frameworks of Scottish

policing, and also Pennycook’s outline of police powers, human rights, and black-letter law in Scotland. The latter, meanwhile, tell us about the cultural differences of how policing in Scotland has developed - those differences that emerge from the particular peculiarities of Scottish society, politics, and temperament. Nicholson for instance discusses the relationship between youths and the police, and Burnett and Harrigan discuss the relationship between ethnic minorities and the police. Both offer a view that Scotland has a more benign relationship to these populations, which have traditionally and comparatively proved contentious for constabularies.

‘Policing Scotland’ is at its strongest when outlining the formal differences between Scotland and elsewhere, whereas it is at its weakest when applying analysis and author-judgement of the cultural differences. The formal differences are self-evident, but the cultural differences are a matter of author perspective and evaluation; and when 8 out of 16 authors are serving or ex-police, the critical perspective of this book is subsequently diminished. A voice like Gordon (1980) which takes a more critical view of the history of Scottish policing gets only a courtesy or passing recognition. Scotland may have a more benign police force than comparable neighbours, but a less emphatic presentation of the success of Scottish policing would be appreciated.

The central objective of this collection is to highlight the distinctiveness of Scottish policing, and in this, it is a success. An inclusion of a more sociologically equipped perspective to question the distinctiveness of Scottish

policing would be welcome. In the past, Walker (1999) for instance has previously discussed the ‘distinctive but broadly familiar’ nature of policing in Scotland, and Gorrington and Rosie (2010) offer an excellent examination of whether ‘Scottishness’ is an indulged fiction of the police, or a genuine defining trait. This collection lacks this level of circumspection, but then, this isn’t really its purpose and final judgement can be left to the readers. ‘Policing Scotland’ is a great resource and reliable starting point for students of Scottish policing. The inevitable update and third edition will have to take stock of the move to a single, national police force, and as the indicators here show, it will do so with great clarity, expertise, and exactness.

Donnelly, D., and Scott, K., (2010) *“Introduction: Policing Scotland”*, in D.Donnelly and K.Scott (eds.), Policing Scotland (2nd Edition) Routledge

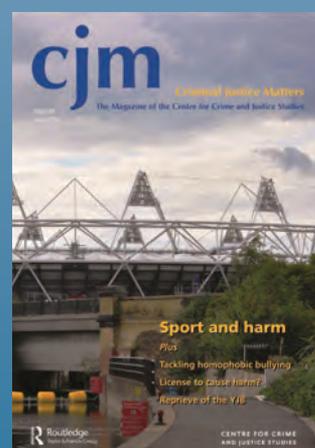
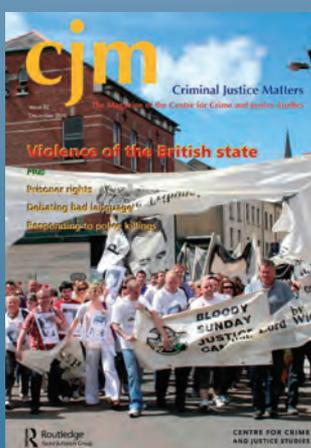
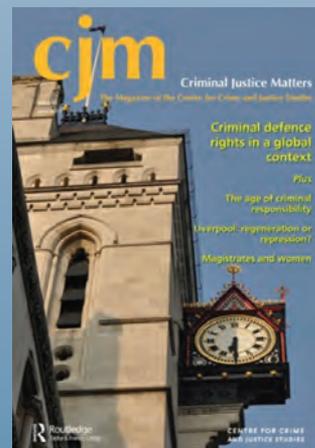
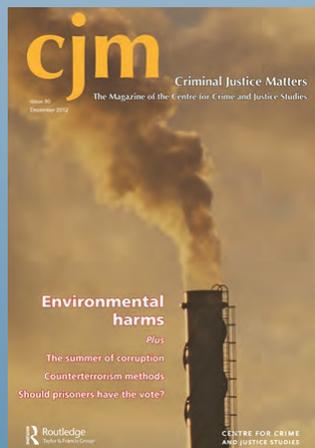
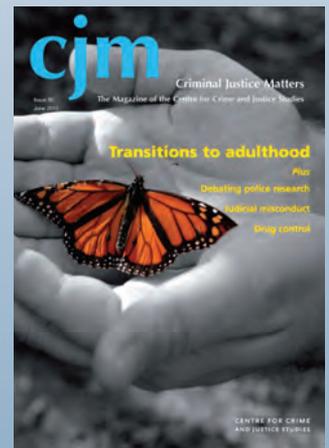
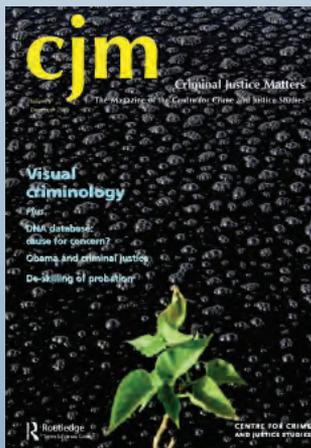
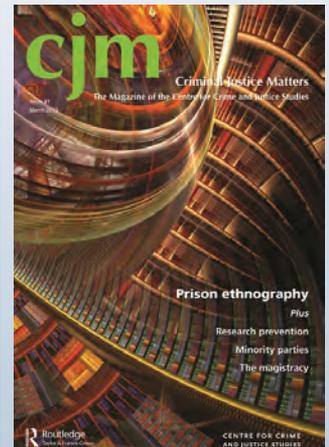
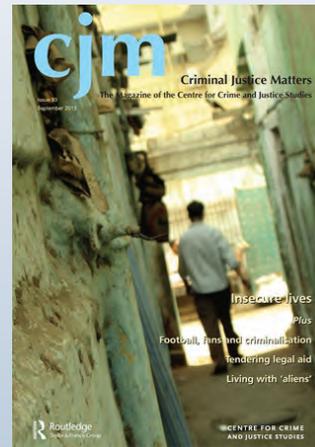
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Gorrington, H., & Rosie, M., (2010), *“The ‘Scottish’ approach? The discursive construction of a national police force”*, The Sociological Review, Vol 58(1), pp.65-83

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Diarmaid Harkin is a final year PhD student at University of Edinburgh conducting research into Edinburgh’s police-public consultation forums.

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 Professor Tim Newburn, London School of Economics.



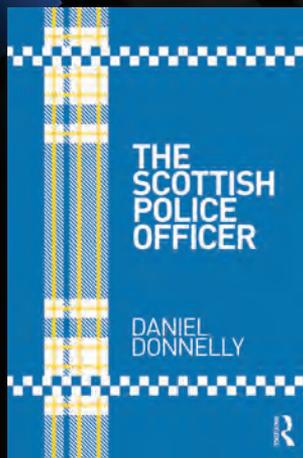
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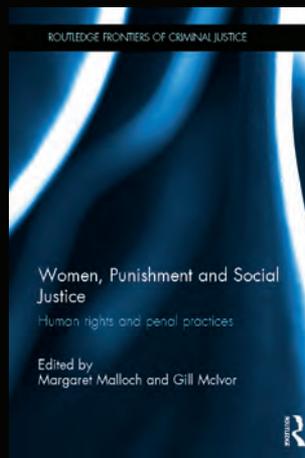
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