

Crime and Violence Across the Life Course Conference

Precursors • Pathways • Prevention



**Monday 26 - Tuesday 27 July 2010
The Sebel & Citigate King George Square Hotel,
Brisbane**

*Hosted by:
Key Centre for Ethics, Law, Justice and Governance*

Monday 26 July 2010

9:00am Welcome and Overview - Professor Paul Mazerolle

Session 1 - Keynote

9:15am **Professor Alex Piquero**

What can Alice in Wonderland teach us about criminal careers and life-course criminology

10:00am Speaker reaction and questions - Professor Ross Homel AO

10:15am Morning tea break

Session 2 - *Exploring early childhood: Precursors and prevention*

Chair: Professor Wayne Osgood

10:45am **Professor David Fergusson**

The prevention, treatment and management of conduct problems in young people

11:20am **Dr Susan Dennison**

The Vulnerable Families project: Examining the immediate and long-term impact of paternal imprisonment on children

11:55am **Professor Ross Homel AO and Dr Kate Frieberg**

Pathways to Prevention: The impact on child outcomes in the primary years

12:30pm Lunch break

Session 3 - *Crime and violence during adolescence: Uncovering new contexts*

Chair: Professor Alex Piquero

1:30pm **Professor John Toumbourou**

Predicting area-level trends for youth alcohol-related assaults and hospital admissions in Victoria

2:05pm **Associate Professor Sheryl Hemphill**

Cyber bullying in Victorian students: Rates and predictors in a longitudinal study

2:40pm **Dr Robin Fitzgerald**

Parenting and youth violence: Does school context make a difference?

3:15pm Afternoon tea break

Session 4 - *Crime and violence during adolescence: Understandings and responses*

Chair: Professor Paul Mazerolle

3:35pm **Professor Wayne Osgood**

Do persistently antisocial youth become popular during adolescence? A test of Moffitt's hypothesis

4:10pm **Michael Tansky**

Evidence based offence focussed programs that address youth violence

4:45pm Wrap up and Close - Professor Paul Mazerolle

5:00pm -
6:00pm Cocktail reception

Tuesday 27 July 2010

9:00am Welcome and Overview - Professor Paul Mazerolle
Session 1 - Keynote

9:10am **Professor James Ogloff**
The long-term sequelae of child sexual abuse

10:00am Speaker reaction and questions - Professor Stephen Smallbone

10:15am Morning tea break

Session 2 - *Crime and violence in adulthood: Long term and short term contexts*
Chair: Professor Ross Homel AO

10:45am **Associate Professor Nicole Piquero**
Early-life trajectories, self-control, job characteristics, and workplace deviance

11:20am **Dr Tara McGee**
Testing theoretical explanations of adult onset offending using data from the Cambridge Study in Delinquent Development (CSDD)

11:55am **Professor Julie Horney**
The situational nature of violence and its avoidance

12:30pm Lunch break

Session 3 - *Violence in adulthood: Pathways to intimate partner violence and its prevention*
Chair: Professor Julie Horney

1:30pm **Dr Don Weatherburn**
Violence against women: The impact of economic stress, social stress and social support

2:00pm **Nada Ibrahim**
Findings of the research on intimate partner violence in the Australian Muslim community: Exploring attitudes, beliefs and direct involvement

2:30pm **Professor Paul Mazerolle**
Pathways to intimate partner homicide: Understanding individual, developmental and situational dimensions

3:00pm Afternoon tea break

Session 4 - *Linking sound evidence to effective policy: Expert panel discussion*

3:20pm **Panelists:**

- Michael Tanksy
- Dr Don Weatherburn
- Professor Ross Homel AO
- Professor James Ogloff

4:20pm Wrap up and Close - Professor Paul Mazerolle

4:30pm Conference close

Dr Susan Dennison

Profile

Dr Susan Dennison is a Senior Lecturer in the School of Criminology and Criminal Justice at Griffith University. She received her PhD in forensic psychology from Charles Sturt University in 2001. Her research sits within a criminology and human development framework and includes community perceptions of stalking and the scope of stalking legislation, the role of the law in interpersonal relationships, challenges to healthy development for families of prisoners, systemic approaches to working with young people, and trajectories from child maltreatment to juvenile offending. She is a recent recipient of an ARC Future Fellowship.



Abstract

The Vulnerable Families project: Examining the immediate and long-term impact of paternal imprisonment on children

The mechanisms underpinning the intergenerational transmission of antisocial behaviour and offending in families has received increased, but still insubstantial, attention in recent years. While parental criminality has long been identified as a risk factor for offending, there is emerging evidence that having a parent imprisoned creates additional risk for children and adolescents. This paper reports on findings from the first stage of a Queensland-wide study examining the impact of paternal imprisonment on children's developmental outcomes. This first stage quantifies annual and lifetime estimates of the number of Indigenous and non-Indigenous children who experience paternal imprisonment, thus illuminating the potential extent of risk in an environment of increasing prisoner numbers. Results relating to the family environment at the time of imprisonment will also be discussed, including custody and care arrangements for the children, accommodation status and risk of homelessness, and children's multiple experiences of paternal imprisonment. The implications of these results for the broader examination of the intergenerational transmission of risk through imprisonment will be discussed.

Professor David Fergusson

Profile

For the last 30 years, Professor David Fergusson has been the Principal Investigator and Executive Director of the Christchurch Health and Development Study (CHDS), an internationally renowned longitudinal study of a birth cohort of 1,265 New Zealand children born in mid 1977. Professor Fergusson is the author of over 300 scientific articles and books. His recent work has included research into: childhood sexual and physical abuse; family violence; cannabis and other illicit drug use; antisocial behaviour and young adult mental health and adjustment. He is fellow of the Royal Society of New Zealand, honorary fellow of the New Zealand Psychological Society and honorary fellow of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians.



Abstract

The prevention, treatment and management of conduct problems in young people

Conduct problems including conduct disorder and oppositional disorder are amongst the strongest predictors of later crime, substance use and related outcomes. This presentation uses data from a 30 year old longitudinal study (The Christchurch Health and Development Study) to illustrate the continuities between childhood adjustment and adult outcomes including crime, substance use, mental health and related outcomes. The evidence on effective interventions for preventing, treating and managing childhood conduct problems is then reviewed. Finally, the presentation considers the issues that arise into the translation of research findings to effective policy.

Dr Robin Fitzgerald

Profile

Dr Robin Fitzgerald is a Research Fellow at the Key Centre for Ethics, Law, Justice and Governance at Griffith University. She received her PhD in 2008 from Carleton University in Ottawa, Canada. She has worked for a number of years as a senior research analyst at the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics. Her current research interests include gender differences in delinquency and offending, neighbourhood effects, and the ecological determinants of crime and fear of crime.



Abstract

Parenting and youth violence: Does school context make a difference?

Certain parenting practices have been linked to youth violent delinquency; however, the strength of this relationship may be influenced by the contexts beyond the home that young people must negotiate. This paper explores the possibility that parenting strategies are more or less effective depending on the school contexts to which youth are exposed. In particular, the paper tests the hypothesis that the protective effect of strong parental monitoring is reduced or eliminated when youth are also exposed to a violent school climate and a pool of delinquent peers. The focus of the analysis is the interaction between parental monitoring strategies and violent delinquency across different school contexts using the International Self-Report Delinquency Survey (ISR). Multilevel modelling is used to examine relationships between school context, parenting and youth violent delinquency for 2,000 students in grades 7 through 9, attending 130 schools in Toronto, Canada.

Associate Professor Sheryl Hemphill

Profile

Associate Professor Sheryl Hemphill is a researcher at the Centre for Adolescent Health, Department of Paediatrics at the University of Melbourne, Murdoch Childrens Research Institute and Melbourne's Royal Children's Hospital. Her research focuses on the prevention of violence and crime including bullying in young people. She is particularly interested in schools and communities as contexts for prevention, including the impact of school policies such as the use of suspension on student outcomes. Sheryl has a PhD in psychology and is a member of the Australian Psychological Society's College of Health Psychologists.



Abstract

Cyber bullying in Victorian students: Rates and predictors in a longitudinal study

There is much concern about the rates and impact of cyber bullying on young people. However, there are few longitudinal studies of the early predictors of cyber bullying. This paper draws on a unique and rich data set from the International Youth Development Study, which began in 2002 as a longitudinal study of almost 6,000 students recruited in Years 5, 7 and 9 in Victoria, Australia and Washington State, USA. Comprehensive measures of the many factors that influence student behaviour have been collected, as well as assessments of cyber bullying from 2006. In this paper we use Year 7 data from almost 1,000 Victorian students aged 12-13 years to investigate the characteristics of the students, their families, peers, and schools that predict cyber bullying perpetration in Year 9 (aged 14-15 years). Rates of perpetration only in Year 9 were 4.6% and 7.4% of students reported engaging in both perpetration and victimisation. Analyses of the predictors of cyber bullying from 2004 to 2006 will be described. The implications of these findings for the prevention of cyber bullying perpetration are discussed.

Professor Ross Homel AO

Profile

Ross Homel is Foundation Professor of Criminology and Criminal Justice at Griffith University and Director of the University's Institute for Social and Behavioural Research. From 2004 - 2007 he was Director of the Key Centre for Ethics, Law, Justice and Governance at Griffith, and he also served as Head of the School of Criminology and Criminal Justice between 1993 and 1996 and in 2002 and 2003. He was editor of the Australian and New Zealand Journal of Criminology from 1992 to 1995, and was a part-time Commissioner of the Queensland Criminal Justice Commission from February 1994 to April 1999. In January 2008 he was appointed an Officer in the General Division of the Order of Australia (AO) "for service to education, particularly in the field of criminology, through research into the causes of crime, early intervention and prevention methods." In May 2008 he was recognized with an award from the Premier of Queensland as a 'Queensland Great', "for his contribution to Queensland's reputation for research excellence, the development of social policy and justice reform and helping Queensland's disadvantaged communities." In December 2008 he was shortlisted for 2009 Australian of the Year.



Abstract

Pathways to Prevention: The impact on child outcomes in the primary years

- Ross Homel, Kate Frieberg and Sara Branch

The Pathways Project has evolved since 2001 as a comprehensive service offered through a partnership between national community service agency Mission Australia, 7 local primary schools and Griffith University, in several ethnically diverse, socially disadvantaged, and high crime Brisbane suburbs.

Within its universal focus, the Pathways model emphasises comprehensive and integrated practice that supports development in a holistic way. Its overriding goal is to create a *pathway to wellbeing* for all local children as they transit through successive life phases, from conception to youth. Key features include:

1. Interventions in one context (e.g. the home) interact with, complement, and support interventions in other contexts (e.g. school)
2. Relationships, trust and cooperation between staff and clients are valued equally with evidence on what works
3. Better individual outcomes are achieved by enriching all relevant developmental settings, especially families and schools
4. Intervention effects are enhanced by focusing on life transitions (such as starting school) when people are both vulnerable and receptive to help
5. A continuum of age-appropriate programmes and resources is used
6. Integrated practice is achieved through collaborative working partnerships between institutions relevant to child and family wellbeing

Participation in *Pathways*, which is always entirely voluntary, is associated with a range of positive outcomes, including: reduced levels of difficult child behaviour; increased preschool language skills; improved Grade 1 school performance; and higher ratings of school readiness. Evaluation using a matched pairs quasi-experimental design has shown that the combination of enriched preschool programmes in concert with family support produced better outcomes than either on its own.

This paper explains the way Pathways operates and presents new results, based on multi-level modelling using propensity matching, with a particular focus on how child wellbeing is promoted through interventions that increase parental efficacy and involvement in their children's learning.

Professor Julie Horney

Profile

Julie Horney is Professor of Crime, Law, and Justice in the Department of Sociology at Penn State University. She received her BA from the University of North Carolina and a PhD in psychology from the University of California at San Diego. Her research in the areas of criminal case processing, legal impact analysis, and individual patterns of criminal and violent behavior has been funded by the National Institute of Justice and the National Science Foundation, and reports of that work have been published in journals such as *Criminology*, the *American Sociological Review*, and the *Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency*. She is the co-author (with Cassia Spohn) of *Rape Law Reform: A Grassroots Revolution and Its Impact* (Plenum, 1995). She served in 2004-05 as President of the American Society of Criminology and is also an ASC Fellow. Her current research focuses on patterns of violence and avoided violence among incarcerated male and female offenders, as well as on the relationship of local life circumstances to offending. For this research she developed the use of the life-event calendar interviewing technique, and she recently co-authored a book chapter reviewing the use of that technique in criminology.



Abstract

The situational nature of violence and its avoidance

Interviews using a life-event calendar methodology were conducted with 717 adult male incarcerated felons. In addition to providing details of their local life circumstances for the 36 months before the arrest that led to incarceration, respondents provided detailed, structured accounts of as many as ten violent incidents in which they had been involved during those months. They also provided similar accounts of incidents in which they believed there was a high risk of violence but in which no overt violence occurred. The paper presents an analysis of the incidents that seeks to determine why some incidents escalate into violence. The analysis of immediate situational factors is also viewed in the context of offenders' time stable personal characteristics and their local life circumstances.

Nada Ibrahim

Profile

Nada Ibrahim has a Bachelor of Human Sciences (Honours) in Psychology (with a minor in Islamic Revealed Knowledge & Heritage), a Masters of Education in Guidance & Counselling, and a Diploma in Accounting. She was involved in a pioneer research (2001) and follow-up program (2003) on the area of domestic violence in the Muslim community with the Islamic Women's Association of Qld (IWAQ). Recently she was involved in the advisory committee for the update of the second edition of the *Health Care Providers' Handbook on Muslim Patients* jointly by Queensland Health and the Islamic Council of Queensland. Nada is currently completing her PhD with the Key Centre for Ethics, Law, Justice and Governance at Griffith University.



Abstract

Findings of the research on intimate partner violence in the Australian Muslim community: Exploring attitudes, beliefs and direct involvement

Research on intimate partner violence (IPV) that can generate appropriate prevention and intervention strategies within the Australian Muslim community is still scarce. This research is a first of its kind that surveyed 271 Australian Muslims in South East Queensland (SEQ). The results revealed some unique findings on gender and ethnicity differences in variance of male privilege, justifying wife-beating and holding offender responsible against respondent's socio-demographics, their partner's socio-demographics and psycho-socio-cultural factors. The results also revealed some unique findings on IPV perpetration and victimisation for physical assault, sexual coercion, injury and psychological aggression amongst the comparison groups.

Professor Paul Mazerolle

Profile

Professor Paul Mazerolle is Pro Vice Chancellor of Arts, Education and Law and Director of the Violence Research and Prevention Program at Griffith University. Paul was also a member of the Queensland Government's Youth Violence Taskforce. Paul's research focus includes research into the processes that shape criminal offending across the lifecourse, in particular for youth violence, and intimate partner violence. Some of his recent funded research projects have examined juvenile remand in Queensland, violence amongst youthful female offenders, the relationships between youth people and the police, and intimate partner homicide.



Abstract

Pathways to intimate partner homicide: Understanding individual, developmental and situational dimensions

This presentation describes key aspects of an Australian Research Council funded national level study into intimate partner homicide (IPH). The aims of the research are to examine the causes of IPH in order to improve understanding of pathways to IPH and responses by criminal justice, health and social welfare agencies. The study is especially concerned with examining the individual, social and situational factors related to IPH; the factors, events or circumstances associated with an escalation of risks for IPH; the developmental pathways linking intimate partner violence and IPH; gender differences in IPH perpetration; and the further potential of police and social welfare agencies in assessing escalation of risks prior to the occurrence of fatal incidents. This comprehensive research project involves interviews with a large sample of male and female perpetrators of intimate partner homicide. There is a strong emphasis in the project in understanding the paths from previous violence to homicide events and ensuring preventative opportunities are better understood and illuminated. Within the lifecourse context, this project aims to illustrate whether and how individual characteristics, and early experiences of violence influence developmental sequences and situational precursors which are integral to incidents of intimate partner homicide.

Dr Tara McGee

Profile

Tara Renae McGee is a developmental criminologist who investigates research questions focussed on the themes of onset and desistence of antisocial behaviour and offending across the life course. From July 2010, Tara is a Senior Lecturer in the School of Criminology and Criminal Justice at Griffith University. Prior to this she spent five years in the School of Justice at the Queensland University of Technology. During this time she was a British Academy Visiting Fellow at the University of Cambridge which is where she began her collaboration with David Farrington, examining adult onset offending in the Cambridge Study in Delinquent Development. She was awarded her PhD in 2008 for her research on 'recovery' from childhood antisocial behaviour in adolescence.



Abstract

Testing theoretical explanations of adult onset offending using data from the Cambridge Study in Delinquent Development (CSDD)

- Tara Renae McGee and David Farrington

There are a number of studies that have reported empirical results on the prevalence, nature, and predictability of adult-onset offending and the characteristics of adult-onset offenders. However, there is no widely accepted theory of adult-onset offending. This paper presents a test of the key adult-onset postulates of developmental and life-course theories. Points of examination include life events, informal social control, opportunities for offending, and neuropsychological deficits. Each of the postulates will be examined using data from the Cambridge Study in Delinquent Development (CSDD). The CSDD is a prospective longitudinal study of 411 inner-city London boys who were followed up from childhood to age 48. Adult-onset offenders are defined as those with a first conviction at age 21 or later. The extent to which data from the CSDD supports each of the developmental and life-course theories is discussed.

Professor James R. P. Ogloff

Profile

Professor James R. P. Ogloff trained as a psychologist and lawyer. He is a Fellow of the Australian, Canadian and American Psychological Society/Associations. He is the Foundation Professor of Clinical Forensic Psychology at Monash University and Director of Psychological Services for the Victorian Institute of Forensic Mental Health. Professor Ogloff specialises in the area of mentally ill offenders, the assessment and treatment of offenders, jury directions and decision making and medico-legal matters. Professor Ogloff is the President of the Australian and New Zealand Association of Psychiatry, Psychology, and Law and the past Chair of the Australian Psychological Society College of Forensic Psychologists. He was the recipient of the 2009 APS College of Forensic Psychologists Award of Distinction.



Abstract

The long-term sequelae of child sexual abuse

Considerable attention has been paid to the damage that occurs to child sexual abuse (CSA) victims over time. Evidence exists to show that CSA victims are at increased risk for a range of harms, including mental illness, suicide, self-harm, and death by drug overdose. Less attention has been paid to the relative risk of subsequent offending and victimisation by CSA victims. In particular, despite the presence of anecdotal evidence, few studies have systematically investigated whether having been a victim of CSA increases the risk that men will engage in sexual offending. Similarly, information regarding the link between CSA and increased risk for future victimisation has not been adequately explored. Employing a data linkage study, contemporaneous forensic medical records on 2759 (2201 females, 558 males) sexually abused children (between 1964 and 1995) aged 16 years and younger ($M=10.22$; $SD=4.44$) were obtained from a state-wide forensic medical service in Victoria, Australia.

Cases were linked with state-wide public mental health, criminal offence, and victimisation databases as well as coronial databases up to 44-years later, capturing peak age periods for outcomes. These data were compared to the general population using a matched control group for psychiatric outcomes. Results show that boys and girls who were sexually abused are significantly more likely to later be diagnosed with schizophrenia and other mental disorders. They are much more likely than people in the control group to die by drug overdose and suicide. We have also found that they are more likely to engage in criminal offending of all types, including sexual offending, than those in the control group. Similarly, they have greater rates of subsequent criminal victimisation. The results are discussed in light of the relevant policy implications for early identification and intervention with victims of CSA.

Speaker Reaction

Professor Stephen Smallbone

Profile

Stephen Smallbone is a psychologist and Professor in the School of Criminology and Criminal Justice at Griffith University, and an Australian Research Council 'Future' Fellow. He has worked with adult sexual offenders for the past 20 years, and with adolescent sexual offenders for the past 9 years. His recent publications include an edited book on *Situational prevention of child sexual abuse* (Wortley & Smallbone, 2006), a US Department of Justice *Problem-oriented policing guide on Internet child pornography* (Wortley & Smallbone, 2006), and an authored book on *Preventing child sexual abuse* (Smallbone, Marshall & Wortley, 2008).



Professor D. Wayne Osgood

Profile

D. Wayne Osgood is a Professor in the Crime, Law and Justice Program of the Department of Sociology at Pennsylvania State University. He received his PhD in social psychology from the University of Colorado, Boulder in 1977, and he is a fellow of the American Society of Criminology. He is currently involved in several research projects, including a study of friendship networks and the emergence of substance use, the national evaluation of the G.R.E.A.T. gang prevention program, and a study of situational influences on barroom violence. Dr Osgood has published substantive research on peers relations and delinquency, time use and problem behavior, the transition to adulthood, criminal careers, and the effectiveness of programs addressing delinquency and substance use. His methodological articles have concerned multi-level models for program evaluation and longitudinal research, scaling self-reported delinquency, limited and discrete dependent variables, and Poisson-based analysis of aggregate data. He currently serves as Associate Editor of the journal *Criminology*.



Abstract

Do persistently antisocial youth become popular during adolescence? A test of Moffitt's hypothesis

- D. Wayne Osgood, Kelly L. Rulison, and Derek A. Kreager

In her typological theory of offending over the life course, Moffitt argues that adolescent onset offending arises, in part, because persistently antisocial children gain in popularity and influence during early adolescence. This change occurs because the adult-like behavior of life-course persistent offenders becomes more appealing to age-mates who are experiencing a maturity gap between their physical development and the behavioral limits of adolescence. She also argues that all but a small group of socially isolated adolescents will engage in delinquency during the adolescent years. We test these hypotheses by examining the relationship between delinquency and patterns of friendship in the PROSPER Peers study, which assessed friendship networks as well as a variety of individual attributes on five occasions from 6th through 9th grade for a sample of about 11,000 respondents. Across several different definitions of "persistent delinquency," we find 1) that the popularity of persistently delinquent youth does not change over this age span, and 2) that persistently non-delinquent youth were chosen as friends as often as others. Furthermore, analyses of a large set of correlates indicate that delinquency has little independent association with popularity throughout this age span, but adolescents who drink alcohol tend to be somewhat more popular than those who do not.

Professor Alex R. Piquero

Profile

Alex R. Piquero is Professor in the College of Criminology & Criminal Justice at Florida State University, and Co-Editor of the *Journal of Quantitative Criminology*. He has published over one-hundred and sixty peer-reviewed articles, has been ranked as the leading publisher in criminology/criminal justice journals between 1996-2000 and 2000-2004, and his work has been cited over four thousand times. His research interests include criminal careers, criminological theory, and quantitative research methods. In addition to publishing in the leading journals in criminology, psychology, sociology, and public health, Cambridge University Press published his co-authored (with David P. Farrington and Alfred Blumstein) book, *Key Issues in Criminal Careers Research: New Analyses from the Cambridge Study in Delinquent Development*. In addition to his membership on over a dozen editorial boards of journals in criminology and sociology, he has also served as Executive Counselor with the American Society of Criminology and a Member of the National Academy of Sciences Panel Evaluating the National Institute of Justice. Professor Piquero is past recipient of the American Society of Criminology's Young Scholar and E-Mail Mentor of the Year Award, as well as the University of Florida's College of Arts & Sciences Teacher of the Year Award.



Abstract

What can Alice in Wonderland teach us about criminal careers and life-course criminology

One of the most consistent findings in criminological and psychological research is that antisocial and criminal behavior early in the life course is strongly linked to similar types of behavior later in the life course. At the same time, not all problem/delinquent children emerge as problem/criminal adults. Why some continue and some persist in antisocial behavior is thus highly relevant for theoretical and policy issues and decisions. This presentation will review the foundations of developmental/life-course criminology, the main research findings, and the critical public policy issues emerging from this research area. Additionally, the presentation will provide an in-depth overview of the public policy efforts aimed at preventing the onset of serious and persistent delinquent and criminal careers as well as those effective programs that have been successful at thwarting criminal careers that would otherwise persist into adulthood. The talk is inter- and multi-disciplinary in nature, and will appeal to researchers, academics, and policy-officials alike.

Associate Professor Nicole Piquero **Michael Tansky**

Profile

Nicole Leeper Piquero is an Associate Professor in the College of Criminology and Criminal Justice at Florida State University and editor of the *Journal of Drug Issues*. Her research interests include white-collar and corporate crime, criminological theory, as well as gender and crime.



Abstract

Early-life trajectories, self-control, job characteristics, and workplace deviance

Compared to the more common focus on street crime, empirical research on white-collar crime generally and workplace deviance in particular has been hampered by highly select samples, cross-sectional research designs, and limited inclusion of relevant predictor variables that bear on important theoretical debates. One such debate concerns the extent to which early-life trajectories influence crime over the life-course, whether childhood (low) self-control is a more important determinant than early-life trajectories, and/or whether each or both of these perspectives relate to later criminal activity once other more situational life-event characteristics are considered. This paper uses data from the Dunedin Multidisciplinary Health and Development Study, a birth cohort followed into adulthood, to examine how early-life trajectories, childhood (low) self-control, and job characteristics predict workplace deviance at age-32. Analyses reveal both direct and indirect effects of early-life trajectories and childhood (low) self-control on workplace deviance, with effects operating both through job type (blue-collar vs white-collar) and job characteristics highlighting unique sorting mechanisms into certain jobs and distinct work environments. Some unique sex-specific findings also emerged.

Profile

Michael is Director of the Office for Youth, Department of Communities. His role covers design and development of evidence-based youth justice programs, funding programs to support vulnerable young people, and youth development and leadership initiatives. Michael brings over 30 years of experience in practice, program development, policy and research relating to vulnerable young people to this role.



Abstract

Evidence based offence focussed programs that address youth violence

The Queensland Government invests in prevention and early intervention initiatives such as diversionary activities, family coaching and mentoring, supported employment and training, living skills and services to address the needs of young people at risk.

Youth Justice Service and Youth Detention Centre caseworkers deliver evidence based programs — such as Aggression Replacement Training and Changing Habits and Reaching Targets — to address aggressive behaviour and risk factors that contribute to offending. Training to deliver these programs will be expanded to community organisations.

The department also funds the Safe Youth – Safe Communities initiative to prevent and respond to youth violence in Woorabinda and the Inala/Ipswich corridor.

ACT for Kids has been funded to deliver the Young Offender Program to address the assessed risk factors of young people and prevent offending and re-offending in the Cairns area and Cape York.

The department is also implementing homelessness initiatives in six locations around the state under the Homelessness National Partnership Agreement, specifically targeting young people who are making the transition from custody to the community so they don't exit into homelessness.

Professor John W. Toumbourou

Profile

Professor John Winston Toumbourou, PhD, is the Chair in Health Psychology within the School of Psychology, Faculty of Health, Medicine, Nursing & Behavioural Sciences at Deakin University. He is an Honorary Senior Research Fellow within the Murdoch Childrens Research Institute at the Centre for Adolescent Health (Royal Children's Hospital Melbourne). John is a founding signatory and has served as Chair of the College of Health Psychologists within the Australian Psychological Society. His interests include evaluation, drug abuse prevention and treatment, and the role of community, family and peer groups in adolescent health promotion. He has published over 220 articles and 70 referred journal papers. He is nationally and internationally recognised for his contribution to the prevention of harmful adolescent substance use. In 2009 he received the Award of Distinction from the Australian Psychological Society, College of Health Psychologists. In 2008 his research was cited by the National Health and Medical Research Council in their decision to amend Australian adolescent alcohol-use guidelines. In 2007 he was selected by the world's leading medical journal Lancet to head a team reporting on strategies to reduce harmful adolescent substance use. In 2006 he received the award for International Collaborative Research from the Society for Prevention Research, the major society for health promotion and prevention researchers in the United States.



Abstract

Predicting area-level trends for youth alcohol-related assaults and hospital admissions in Victoria

A number of recent studies have reported increases in youth violent offending and alcohol-related harm. Although the reason for these increases are unknown, higher levels of adolescent alcohol use, degraded social development environments (family, school and community problems), socioeconomic disparity and liquor licensing proliferation have all been posited as potential contributors. This paper presents a secondary data analysis to explore predictors of area-level trends recorded in police and hospital records in Victoria. Rates of alcohol-related assaults and hospital admissions were broken down by metropolitan municipality and non-metropolitan regions enabling analysis of 36 geographic units. Predictors included: the prevalence of adolescent-reported alcohol use; adolescent perceptions of social development environments (based on the 1999 state-wide Victorian Health and Wellbeing Survey a variant of the Communities That Care youth survey); social disadvantage (based on ABS 2001 Census data) and; liquor license density. Regression analyses predicted area-level trends for police records of alcohol-related assaults and hospital records of alcohol-related admissions in Victoria in 2001/ 04. Analyses were completed in collaboration with researchers from the Centre for Adolescent Health (Murdoch Childrens Research Centre at the Royal Children's Hospital, Melbourne) and the Turning Point Alcohol and Drug Centre.

Dr Don Weatherburn

Profile

Don Weatherburn is Director of the NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research in Sydney. He received his PhD from Sydney University in 1979. He was awarded a Public Service Medal in 1998, appointed an Adjunct Professor in the School of Social Science and Policy at the University of New South Wales in 2005 and made a fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences in Australia in 2006. He is the author of two books and more than 150 articles, book chapters and reports on crime and criminal justice.



Abstract

Violence against women: The impact of economic stress, social stress and social support

Theorists have long speculated on the possibility of a link between stress, frustration and human aggression, yet the influence of stress and social support on violence against women has received only limited attention. The few studies that have been conducted have mostly involved non-representative samples and/or limited controls. This study uses data from a large representative sample survey to examine the influence of financial stress, social stress and social support on the risk of violence against women. The results are consistent with the hypothesis that financial stress and social stress increase the risk of violence against women while social support reduces that risk. These effects hold up after controlling for age, marital status, alcohol use and personal efficacy. The effects of financial stress appear more pronounced among those who are facing social stress. There is also some evidence that the effects of social stress are more pronounced among those who lack social support.

About Us

Key Centre for Ethics, Law, Justice and Governance

In 1999 Griffith University was awarded a grant by the Australian Research Council (ARC) to establish the Key Centre for Ethics, Law, Justice and Governance (KCELJAG) (pronounced "keljag") as an ARC Key Centre for Teaching and Research. At the conclusion of this funding, KCELJAG became a Griffith University "Category A" Research Centre and later a University Research Centre.

KCELJAG is committed to an intensive and rigorous research focus examining issues concerning crime, justice, ethics and governance through the conduct of nationally and internationally recognised research; the provision of a vibrant research environment and culture for scholars and research students; a commitment to inter-disciplinary research; and a commitment to research collaboration and stakeholder partnerships.

KCELJAG undertakes projects that seek to make a difference in the community; in advancing improved awareness and understanding; in informing and facilitating improvements in government policies and practices; and in promoting well-being and returning social dividends to society.

Our research is grouped into two themes:

Ethics and Governance

- Corporate governance and social responsibility
- Values and institutions for a globalizing world
- Integrity and anti-corruption
- Islamic studies in Australia / Griffith Islamic Research Unit (GIRU)

Crime Causes, Control and Prevention

- Crime control and policy
- Innovative justice
- Justice modelling (JMAG)
- Prevention and development pathways
- Preventing sexual violence and abuse
- Violence research and prevention

Conference Notes

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