

The Griffins Society Research Fellowship Programmes

A research opportunity for those working with women and girls in criminal justice: The Griffins Society Visiting Research Fellowship Programme offers a unique opportunity to explore your own interests or concerns about the treatment of women or girls in the criminal justice system. Candidates must have inquiring minds, but previous research experience is not necessary as the Programme academic supervisors provide comprehensive supervision and support.

We positively encourage applications from a broad range of candidates, however **Fellowships are not available to full-time academics or those studying for a degree.** The fellowships are provided in partnership with our academic partners, the Institute of Criminology, University of Cambridge (ICUC) and Griffins Fellows have 'Visiting Scholar' status at ICUC giving fellows access to the Radzinowicz Library facilities (including borrowing rights), an ICUC e-mail address for the duration of their fellowship and notification of and invitations to other events and seminars organized by the Institute.

Fellowships are conducted alongside existing employment commitments on a flexible but they are not a sabbatical. The Programme usually lasts just over one calendar year, starting in September and on completion Fellows must submit a 10,000-word research paper, that The Griffins Society and ICUC will consider for publication and promotion. Fellows receive £3,000 towards research expenses and a small bursary towards travel costs. Fellows will be matched with an appropriate academic supervisor, depending on the subject matter of their proposal.

Previous Fellows have found participation in the Programme rewarding in a variety of ways, including the intellectual challenge of conducting their own research, having 'thinking space' to explore issues outside the confines of their usual work, and a chance to develop their careers. Several previous research projects have stimulated changes in policy and practice, outcomes that are fundamental to the aims of the fellowships. The fellowships offer you the chance to identify, document, and promote better practice and policy.

In 2021 we are offering just two fellowships – a joint 'Griffins and Barrow Cadbury Trust' fellowship and a joint 'Griffins and Prison Reform Trust' fellowship.

For the Griffins-Barrow Cadbury Trust (BCT) Fellowship we are seeking proposals specifically in the area of: the experience of Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) young or adult women across the criminal justice system (CJS) so this can be on their experiences in any part of the CJS, in prison or in the community.

The Griffins-Prison Reform Trust (PRT) fellowship is specifically around women in prison, but with a particular encouragement towards proposals where the focus is BAME women in prison.

The deadline for completed applications for both fellowships is Noon, Friday 9th July, 2021

Short-listed applicants for both fellowships will be interviewed either in person if Covid-19 rules allow, or via ZOOM Video Conferencing, on Tuesday 20th July, 2021

How to apply

Application Form: Please down-load a copy of the Fellowship application form from our website. Either, print out the pdf version or the Word version and post to the society director as detailed on the form.

If you are experiencing difficulties, please e-mail 'Research@thegriffinssociety.org' directly or through the website (Contact Us) and we will e-mail you the Word version. The application form is quite short and is mainly to record your contact details. There is also an equal opportunities monitoring form with the application form.

The main part of your application will be your research proposal and we recommend that you take a look at our tips for a successful application (please see below) before writing it.

Please note that you will need to post hard copies of ALL your documentation in addition to e-mailing copies of them to the society – please see below.

References: You need to obtain **two references**. One of these **must** be from **your current employer**. Your employer's reference will need to confirm that they support your application for a Fellowship, and are willing to facilitate it. This means that they will allow you to come to London (and Cambridge) for five Fellowships meetings, the three workshop days and a final findings seminar during the year, that they will allow you time to complete your fieldwork, and that if your workplace is going to be your research site, they will allow you to undertake research in your workplace. This does not necessarily mean giving you time off: for example, some Fellows use annual leave, or time off in lieu, for undertaking Fellowships work during the daytime. **Your other reference should be from someone who knows you well and who is able to comment authoritatively on your ability to undertake and write about research, but who is not a relative.**

Research Proposal and your CV: You must also send us (by e-mail and post) your CV and your research proposal, which sets out what you want to research, why you want to research it, and how you propose to do it. **Research proposals should not be more than three pages of A4 in 10 point font or larger.**

Deadline for applications: **If we do not receive your application form, your two references, your CV and your research proposal by midday on Friday 9th July, we cannot consider your application.** We will send you an e-mail within a week of receiving your application to confirm we have got it. If you do not hear from us, please contact us to check it has arrived.

Applicants who are short-listed will be interviewed (either in person at the Institute in Cambridge or via Zoom – covid-dependent) on Tuesday 20th July 2021, so please ensure that you are available on that day. Successful candidates will begin their Fellowships in early-September 2021.¹

¹ Please note that due to the volume of applications, we are unable to provide feedback if you are not selected for interview.

Dates for your Diary: Please note you will also need to be available for the following dates in the Autumn of 2021:

- The induction date on **Wednesday 8th September 2021** – for those selected for the fellowships (this will take place in London, either at the LankellyChase Foundation or on Zoom, Covid-dependent)
- First of three research workshop days – date towards **end of September 2021** (date tbc) – for those selected for the fellowships (at ICUC in Cambridge)

Tips on making a successful application:

Talk it over: If you have an idea for a research project, but are not sure if it is suitable or viable, get in touch with The Griffins Director, and talk it over - we welcome informal enquiries from potential applicants.

We do not expect you to be professional researchers: If your central idea is interesting, we are happy to offer guidance on how to formulate your thoughts into a research proposal. Also, talk to colleagues or other people who might be interested to get their perspective on your ideas - they might have some useful comments to make. We also advise you to discuss your application with your employers where relevant (see below).

Keep it simple: Don't try and cover too many issues - the most successful applicants are usually those who have focused on a specific issue or research question rather than having too broad a topic. **Be clear about what exactly the research question is that you are trying to address and think about what you are trying to influence – an aspect of current practice or policy or both.**

Make sure it's manageable: You only have one year to complete and write up your research so make sure it's realistic and manageable. Your supervisor will help you refine your ideas and advise on how to ensure you complete the project in the given time, but we do like to see that you're being realistic about what you can achieve in a year.

Suggested timetable: We have developed an advisory timetable that you should take into account when developing your research ideas. Whilst you don't have to stick to the timetable, we do strongly encourage you to use it to structure your research proposal:

- **October to January – preparatory work**
 - Literature review written
 - Research aims and methods revised
 - Research materials (e.g. questionnaires) prepared
 - Access to the research site/subjects secured
 - Ethical permissions obtained
- **January to July – practical research**
 - January - Present your work-to-date to the Griffins Society
 - Undertake your practical research

- **July to November – writing up**
 - Write up your Research Paper (full report and executive summary)
 - Present your initial findings and recommendations to the Griffins Society at the board meeting in September 2022
- **November onwards – disseminating and promoting with the support of the Griffins Society**

Issues to discuss with your employers:

As we require a letter of support from applicants' employers, we have outlined some of the main issues you should discuss with your employers when approaching them about the Fellowship Programme. Not all these issues will be relevant to every applicant and/or employer.

Relevance of your research to your work:

We encourage Fellows to undertake research that they find interesting and important, and which allows them to step outside the usual bounds of their work. However, many Fellows find that their research is relevant to their daily work and/or to the development of new practice and/or policy in their field. We advise applicants to discuss their proposed project with their employers as their practical support and encouragement can be invaluable.

Time off for visits to London and Cambridge:

You will need to attend the Institute of Criminology in Cambridge and Griffins base in London on a number of occasions for academic supervision and meetings. Some employers have given Fellows additional time off for these meetings whilst others have expected Fellows to book annual leave days to come to London. It is advisable to clarify the status of your time away from your job eg would it be paid leave, unpaid leave, or holiday leave?

Time off for research work:

You will need time off to conduct your research e.g., interviewing people, visiting other projects, observations etc. Some employers have given Fellows additional time off for these activities whilst others have expected Fellows to book annual leave days. Similarly, you will need to find time for reading, analysing and writing-up your research. Again, some Fellows have negotiated time off from work to do this whilst others do the work in evenings and weekends etc. Although it is very difficult to estimate how much time data analysis and writing up will take you, (every project is different), it is fair to say that applicants regularly underestimate the amount of time it will take them. You will need to be very good at time management!

Line management:

You will be expected to present regular written updates to the Griffins Board on progress, using a template provided by the society. Some Fellows' employers have required updates on Fellowship work in their routine supervision. They have found this a useful way of keeping up-to-date with a Fellow's work. Fellows have also found the Griffins reports useful as it gives them a structured opportunity to ask for additional support and advice (where relevant) from their employers. Some have also felt it helps to 'validate' the time they spend on Fellowship work in the eyes of their colleagues and seniors. The Griffins reports can form the basis for reports to your own employer, where required.

Look at past research reports on the Griffins Society website: www.thegriffinssociety.org

You will get a very good idea of what is expected of you and the standard required, by looking at past Fellowship reports that you will find on the society's website. You will also see the research subjects that have been covered in previous years – you may find your proposed area of research has been looked at by a fellow in the past so we would need to understand how your proposal is different – whether it adds to what has done before or how your work would build on past Griffins research fellowships.

Be sure to look at both Barrow Cadbury and also the Prison Reform Trust's websites too, to ensure that you are aware of what work they have done in this area of research and again, be prepared to say what makes your idea different or what it adds to what has already been done!

Below are the links to several papers to give you an idea of what a completed paper looks like.

- Sophia Benedict: 'Just no future at the moment: Examining the barriers to community resettlement for foreign national women' <https://www.thegriffinssociety.org/just-no-future-moment-examining-barriers-community-resettlement-foreign-national-women>
- Sarah Smart: 'Too many bends in the tunnel? Women serving Indeterminate Sentences of IPP – what are the barriers to risk reduction, release and resettlement?' <https://www.thegriffinssociety.org/too-many-bends-tunnel-women-serving-indeterminate-sentences-ipp-what-are-barriers-risk-reduction>
- Maya Sikand: 'Lost Spaces – access to MBUs in prison: <https://www.thegriffinssociety.org/lost-spaces-current-procedure-women-prisoners-gain-place-prison-mbu-fair-and-accessible>
- Tamara Pattinson: 'the use of prison as a place of safety for women with severe mental health needs: <http://www.thegriffinssociety.org/prison-place-safety-women-complex-mental-health-needs>
- Gareth Hole's paper, 'Probation Officers accounts of practice with women convicted of intimate partner violence towards men', 2015-03, <http://www.thegriffinssociety.org/probation-officers-accounts-practice-women-convicted-intimate-partner-violence-ipv-towards-men>
- Lou Clarke: 'Sex workers in prison: <http://www.thegriffinssociety.org/provision-support-imprisoned-adult-female-street-based-sex-workers>
- Jessica Southgate: 'Seeing differently, working with girls affected by gangs: <http://www.thegriffinssociety.org/seeing-differently-working-girls-affected-gangs>
- Sue Mathews and Cath Smith: 'The sustainability of gender-specific provision in the youth justice system: <http://www.thegriffinssociety.org/sustainability-gender-specific-provision-youth-justice-system>
- Sue Jordan: 'Missing voices – why women engage with, or withdraw from, community sentences: <http://www.thegriffinssociety.org/missing-voices-why-women-engage-or-withdraw-community-sentences>

Gareth Hole's paper contains an exemplary literature review – one of your first tasks once you have been appointed.

Check out our website where you will find these and more.

Examples of successful research proposals

We understand that you may not be experienced at writing research proposals, so we've included the successful applications from previous years here as a guide to help you write your own. Whilst there is no set format for proposals, the following are a useful starting point.

Below are the details of several previous reports – the research question, aims and objectives, methodology etc..to give you an idea.

Tamara Pattinson: Prisons being used as a place of safety for women with complex mental health needs.

I am the Head of Reducing Re-offending at HMP & YOI Low Newton, where I have worked for the past 6 years. I recently completed a part time law degree, achieving First Class Honours. I have significant interest in women within the Criminal Justice System.

Rationale: In my work it has become apparent that a number of women, often with significant mental health problems, are being imprisoned for their own safety. A number of warrants have been received by Low Newton that state the reason for disposal as “place of safety.” The Corston review recommended that the only women who should be in custody are those very few that commit serious and violent crimes and who present a threat to the public.² The issue of police cells being used as a place of safety for people with mental health needs under section 136 of the mental health act been considered previously by the Care Quality Commission and Her Majesty’s Inspectors of Constabulary and Prisons.³ Although this review considered children and young people it did not consider gender. There does not seem to be any evidence that a similar review concerning prisons has been carried out despite the issue being raised by a prisoner’s relative through the prison reform trust.⁴ I believe that this is a priority area for women offenders as women prisoner’s needs are particularly acute in the areas of mental health.⁵

Hopefully such research would raise awareness of this issue and perhaps provide assistance in diverting women from custody, particularly if a court is considering the use of prison as a place of safety.

The Aims of the Research are:

- 1) To examine the extent to which prisons are increasingly being used as a place of safety for women with complex mental health problems, seeking to define “a place of safety” in this context.
- 2) To analyse the systems used by the Police and Courts in the identification of women who have complex mental health needs and what happens when a need is identified.

² The Howard League for Penal Reform. Women in Prison. 2014 <http://www.howardleague.org/women1/> accessed 16 May 2014

³ HMIC. A Criminal Use of Police Cells? 2013 <http://www.hmic.gov.uk/media/a-criminal-use-of-police-cells-20130620.pdf> accessed 16 May 2014

⁴ Prison Reform Trust. A Place of Safety? 2014 <http://www.prisonreformtrust.org.uk/ProjectsResearch/Mentalhealth/TroubledInside/Aplaceofsafety> Accessed 16 May 2014

⁵ Prison Service Order 4800. Women Prisoners. 2008 http://www.justice.gov.uk/downloads/offenders/psipso/ps/PSO_4800_women_prisoners.doc#D Accessed 16 May 2014. Page 12.

3) To evaluate any other options that may be available to the courts to divert these women from custody. With particular emphasis on the knowledge and understanding these agencies have about what prison is and what it is able to provide.

4) To identify the issues and opportunities in using diversion from custody for women who have complex mental health problems.

The Proposed Outcomes of the Research are:

1) To establish a profile of female offenders who have been imprisoned to “keep them safe” identifying their needs, difficulties and subsequent issues.

2) To make an evaluation of the processes adopted by, and the perceptions external agencies have, about prison and how they believe that this is the best place for someone to keep them safe.

3) To consider other options for women in these circumstances.

4) To discuss the advantages and disadvantages in diverting these women from custody.

Research Methods:

1) Identify a group of female offenders, through a scoping exercise, who have been imprisoned for their own safety (using court warrants) and consider the reasoning of the court. With particular emphasis on those subsequently sectioned under the Mental Health Act.

2) From this group identify two Courts and Police Stations involved and examine the processes/procedures adopted.

3) Focus on the concerns and issues that have arisen during the imprisonment of these female offenders and discuss how they were managed.

4) Establish the agencies that provide any current diversion from custody to women who fit this profile exploring any concerns of these agencies. Seek advice and guidance from these agencies offering to work with them during the research to raise awareness of this issue and how, through a multi agency approach, it may be better managed.

Timescale

October – January

- Make initial contact with prisons and external agencies.
- Review/Research any literature relating to this area.
- Interview Offender Management Unit staff and external agencies (for example Courts, Mental Health providers and Police).
- Offer to work alongside external agencies to review current practise and raise awareness.

February – April

- Consolidate findings.

- Write up literature reviews and interviews.
- Consider feedback and follow up with further interviews if necessary.

May – July

- Write the first draft of the research report.
- Consider feedback and follow up with further interviews where necessary.

August – September

- Write the final draft of the research report. Write the summary.
- Prepare presentation.
- Present to the Griffin Society

Jean O’Neill - Time after Time – women’s stories outlining their experiences post custody (a special 18-month fellowship)

I am an Area Manager working with the Probation Board for Northern Ireland (PBNI). The main focus of my work since 2006 has been in the management of women offenders and in particular the establishment of the INSPIRE Women’s Project in Belfast. This is a Probation-led project, established in 2008, which forms an integral part of the Department of Justice Northern Ireland’s (2010) strategy on women offenders. The INSPIRE Project works in partnership with other statutory, voluntary and community sectors to provide quality interventions for women offenders in the community (O’Neill, 2011).

The community-based element project has been previously positively evaluated (Easton & Matthews, 2011). Research to date has highlighted the pathways for women into custody (Brigid Roberson et al Corston, 2007 Convery, 2009), and the challenges women face in leaving custody (Baldry, 2010 Trotter et. al. 2012). Northern Ireland has a relatively small population of women in custody – On the 20th January 2014, there were a total of 68 women in custody 45 of whom were sentenced and 23 women on remand. Of those sentenced prisoners, 23 were sentenced to a period of 12 months or less. Experience to date is that women who are released into the community directly from custody face many difficulties re-integrating back into their families and communities. Many women report a sense of shame and embarrassment, and lack self-esteem and confidence to engage in community supports.

Women who are released from custody may be subject to licence conditions on release. This would require them to attend PBNI offices and meet with a Probation Officer. Other women are released from custody with no such conditions.

In 2012, PBNI made 159 recall applications in relation to custodial licences (both male and female). Based on an audit of 53 cases, the application had been made within approximately the first month of release (32 days) for one-quarter of the 52 applications audited. For half, the application was made within 75 days (10-11 weeks). Experience of working with women is similar in that if women can sustain periods in the community following release for over 12 weeks, the likelihood of successful re-integration is high.

The INSPIRE project is embarking on a new area of work in developing supports for women transitioning from custody to the community. In partnership with the Northern Ireland Prison Service (NIPS), PBNI will introduce the INSPIRE model in delivering a community approach to women who are exiting custody. This presents a

unique opportunity to explore and understand the issues and challenges that women face in their transition from custody to the community. It is important to hear from the women themselves as to what services and circumstances assisted their re-entry and supported their desistance from further offending. It is also imperative to learn as to what interventions did not assist or indeed contributed to re-offending and possible return to custody.

Such knowledge is important to the development of a support model that is best suited to women exiting custody.

Given that a proportion of the women released will be subject to Custodial Licence conditions, it would be useful to explore the views of practitioners to consider the commonalities and differences in perception and understanding of the women's journeys.

Ultimately two questions to be answered are as follows:

- 1) **What are the experiences of women returning to the community?**
- 2) **What services are required to support women remain in the community?**

The Aims of the Research are:

To explore the experience of women offenders in planning for their release from custody.

- 1) To explore the experiences and the impact of resettlement over a period of time
- 2) To identify what services assisted their return to community
- 3) To identify what processes did not assist and the gaps identified by women and practitioners
- 4) To consider the views of those practitioners, statutory and voluntary who engaged with women over the period of resettlement.

Research Methods:

An initial literature review in relation to women's needs and resettlement into the community will be carried out. Following Ethical approval and having confirmed organisational and prison approval, recruitment will take place from April 2014. A purposive sample will be used and women will be selected based on the knowledge of a population and the purpose of the study. It is hoped to produce a small number of case studies (between 10-12 women), engage with them pre-release and follow up at 3, 6 and 9 month intervals following release from the community. Interviews with the women will focus on recording their experiences, their attendance of programmes and interventions provided by various providers, their interactions with various service providers and to examine their views as to the usefulness of services in assisting their return and remaining in the community.

The selected sample will be interviewed prior to release. This could take up to 3 interviews in terms of selection and consent. The first group of women (up to 3 per month) will interview from March 2013 (those women who will be released in April 2014), further groups will be interviewed in May and June 2014. (Prior to and following release) It is envisaged that 10 -12 women will be included in the sample.

February - Literature review, Ethical Approval

March - Recruitment of group 1 (Expected Date of Release (EDR) in April 2014)

April – Meeting with 3 - 4 women (on release) and recruitment of 2nd group (EDR May 2014)

May – Meeting with 2nd Group (on release) and recruitment of 3rd group (EDR June 2014)

June – Meeting with 3rd Group (on release)

July - 3 month meeting with group 1

August - 3 month meeting with Group 2

September - 3 month meeting with Group 3

October - 6 month meeting with group 1
November - 6 month meeting with Group 2
December - 6 month meeting with Group 3
January - 9 month meeting with group 1
February - 9 month meeting with Group 2
March - 9 month meeting with Group 3

I also plan to engage with practitioners, both statutory and voluntary, to elicit their views and comments as to women's progress and experiences. It would be possible to plan meeting with Probation practitioners over the initial period and in the final 3 months (January –March) to seek their views as to the progress made.

It is envisaged that such comprehensive, self reported narrative from women and practitioners over a longitudinal period will provide a useful contribution to the current understanding of the issues for women desistance from further offending.

Ethical considerations

The proposed research raises a number of ethical issues that will warrant careful consideration at all stages of the research project (research design, field-work, write-up and dissemination). A range of ethical guidelines will inform the research process, and all stages of the work will be subject to ethical review by the gatekeeper institutions (PBNi and NIPS) and other relevant bodies (e.g. academic review). I acknowledge that as I am an operational manager who works both in the custodial and community settings, I will need to consider how to ensure objectivity and lack of bias. Issues of informed consent, confidentiality will obviously be key. Consideration will be given to the establishment of a Project Reference Group to consult on these issues and support the research.

Baldry, E. (2010) 'Women in Transition: From Prison to...' Current Issues in Criminal Justice 2010-2011 Vol. 22.2 : 253 -267

Corston, Report (2007), A Review of Women with particular Vulnerabilities in the Criminal Justice System. London: Crown Publications

Convery, U. (2009) *Addressing Offending by Women: A Literature Review*. NIO Research and Statistical Series, Report No. 21. Belfast: NIO

Easton, H. & Matthews, R. (2011) *An Evaluation of the INSPIRE Women's Project*. London: South Bank University

O'Neill, J. (2011) 'The INSPIRE Women's Project: Managing Women Offenders in the Community.' *Irish Probation Journal*, 8: 93-108

Roberson and Radford (2006) 'The Reintegration Needs of Women Prisoners in Northern Ireland', *Irish Probation Journal* 4: 110 -115

Trotter, C. McIvor, G & Sheehan, R. 'The Effectiveness of Support and Rehabilitation Services for Women Offenders', *Australian Social Work*, 65:1, 6-20

Women on Appeal:

Introduction: I manage the Women's Justice Initiative at the Centre for Criminal Appeals. My training is in criminal investigation, having worked in the USA as a pre-trial investigator in a public defender's office in New York City. I am also a trustee of the charity Women in Prison and previously managed conflict management programmes for young women involved in gangs in South London. I have a deep commitment to supporting women and girls involved in the criminal justice system and am particularly interested in leveraging their experiences for reform.

Research Question: What are the roadblocks faced by women seeking to overturn unsafe convictions or unfair sentences in the Court of Appeal (Criminal Division)?

Rationale: My work involves identifying women who have been wrongfully convicted or unfairly sentenced and supporting them to get these miscarriages of justice overturned. This is done by uncovering fresh evidence that proves their conviction unsafe. One of the concerns I have had, has been that although women are more likely than men to be serving short sentences and have often been victims of much more serious offences than the ones they have been accused of, it has been difficult to convince women to appeal.⁶ Many women are fearful of engaging with the confusing appeals process, accept the often perfunctory negative advice on appeal given to them by their original solicitors, and are afraid of making things worse for themselves by incurring a ‘loss of time’ order if they are unsuccessful.

These fears don’t appear to be groundless. Some scoping research done by my organisation this year, looking into past cases heard by the Court of Appeal (Criminal Division) that include fresh evidence being put forward to the court, suggests a gender disparity in appeals. Out of a sample of 268 people who appealed against their sentence or conviction between 1997 and 2010, only 19 were women, a mere 7% of cases. Of the women who appealed sentences and convictions, 68% of those cases were dismissed, compared to 60% of men.⁷ While there are fewer women entering the criminal justice system, making up roughly 27% of the total number of people being prosecuted,⁸ they appear to be disproportionately underrepresented in the criminal appeals system.

Hopefully more research into why this disproportionality exists will illuminate what roadblocks exist for access to justice for women who have been treated unfairly in criminal cases – and how they can be removed through changes to law and practice.

Aim: The aims of my research are as follows:

1. To identify whether or not disproportionately fewer women appeal in the Court of Appeal (Criminal Division) than men and whether a disproportionate number of women’s cases have been dismissed in the last 20 years of criminal appeals cases.
2. To identify what procedural and substantive roadblocks stand in the way of women deciding to appeal and being able to win appeals, with reference to:
 - a. Reported appeal case judgements in women’s cases
 - b. Women’s reported experience of the system

Outcomes: The outcomes of my research are hoped to be:

1. To establish whether or not gender bias exists in an under scrutinised part of the criminal justice system, both in terms of access to the appeals system and in the decisions it makes.
2. To highlight the reasons women are reluctant to appeal and to explore the experiences of those women who have chosen to appeal.

⁶ P3, Prison Reform Trust Briefing. (Feb 2017). ‘Why focus on reducing women’s imprisonment?’. Retrieved May 30th 2018 from http://www.prisonreformtrust.org.uk/Portals/0/Documents/Women/why%20women_final.pdf

⁷ Centre for Criminal Appeals. ‘Fresh Evidence Project’. Unpublished.

⁸ P11, Ministry of Justice. (2016). ‘Statistics on Women and the Criminal Justice System 2015’, Retrieved May 17th 2018 from https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/572043/women-and-the-criminal-justice-system-statistics-2015.pdf

3. To identify reforms in law, practise and policy that may improve women's access to and ability to get justice from the appeals system.

Research Methods:

1. Use the British and Irish Legal Information Institute (Bailii) public database to do a gender analysis of the appeals heard in the Court of Appeal (Criminal Division) between 1997-2017.
2. From this database, run an analysis of numbers and outcomes, codifying the reason for dismissal in the cases of women rejected by the court.
3. Interview women in prison about what they believe you need to make an appeal, what are the risks and what could be the benefits.
4. Identify a group of women in prison from among our client group who have decided to appeal, and conduct interviews.
5. Identify 3 lawyers who specialise in women's appeals cases, and conduct interviews.

Project Timescale

October – February:

- Review existing literature on women and the criminal appeals system.
- Use this review to decide the search terms and parameters for the Bailii research.
- Create and populate a data gathering tool.
- Analyse cases and outcomes identified.
- Write draft of part one of the paper, focusing on what the problem is and what the stats are in the Court of Appeal (Criminal Division)
- Identify sample groups of women convicted of crimes and practitioners.
- Seek ethical approval for research with current prisoners. Seek informed consent of women represented by CCA willing to engage in research.

March – July:

- Produce and refine data gathering instruments, such as questionnaires.
- Conduct interviews.

July – September:

- Complete interviews
- Analyse and rewrite part one of the paper in light of the qualitative interviews.
- Complete final write up and send for feedback.
- Disseminate findings amongst partners.

Carlotta Goulden: Arts intervention with female offenders

Aim: This research would be an investigation to attempt to understand the epistemology behind arts intervention with female offenders. I hope to validate the belief that access to culture for female offenders is a human right and combats social exclusion upon resettlement from custody

Context: Culture has been given a massive role to play in regeneration and urban renewal schemes; arts organisations are urged to become ‘agents of social change’ (Culture and Creativity DCMS 2001). Education and the role of the arts in society changes with different government objectives. Within the offending community it is argued that the arts can raise self-esteem, confidence and creativity, which in turn helps people develop more active, fulfilled and social lives (GLLAM Report 2000). Through my work as an arts practitioner at HMP Askham Grange I have witnessed female offenders commit to emotional and intense arts projects with huge benefits. Women gain transferable life skills and a renewed interest in learning. Artistic intervention at the end of sentence and upon release can act as a catalyst for lifelong learning, a different way to live and re-engage with society.

Objectives: To test two hypotheses about the relevance of experience in the arts to resettlement

- Within arts projects female offenders tackle subjects such as identity, family ties, growth, change and raise self-esteem, giving women a new and useful language with which to discuss their hopes and fears about life outside prison
- By physically taking women out of their offending role and involving them in cultural activities they are being exposed to real possibilities, positive learning experiences and a different way of living. This enables prisoners to avoid ‘role engulfment’ and find a new identity (Silverman 2000).

Questions to be investigated:

- What artistic experiences has been available for female offenders
- How were the women benefiting from exposure to the arts
- What are the lasting effects of the projects
- How did the subject content relate to resettlement issues
- What constitutes ‘good practice’ in this field
- How are the projects being used in through care and making long term changes
- How best can I disseminate the findings of this research and what are the long term implications

Method: This research would be a piece of qualitative research using observations, questionnaires, field notes, semi-structured interviews and possibly action research. Many art interventions involve processes and experiences that are difficult to pin down in terms of what is happening and why. The limitations of the research would not allow for quantitative or longitudinal studies.

It has been proposed that there are ‘no objective observations’ (Denzin and Lincoln 24:1998) and I acknowledge that I enter the process from inside an interpretive community; my personal history, biography, gender and social class shape the investigation. I would sustain a critical and objective approach by designing and responding to a specific questionnaire with questions relevant not only to my own projects but all arts experiences, enabling subjects to speak freely.

The research would start with an extensive literature review to bring the reader and myself up to date with current policy on prison reform, art and education in the offending community. Within an historical context this could refer to metaphors of improvement grounded in enlightenment thinking and the civilising rituals of

museums and galleries. More recently it is argued that in rethinking what works with offenders that they need to be shown how to use civic institutions (Farrell 2002).

I have an opportunity to present various case studies in my discussion:

- Stretch, my own arts charity will be running two or three projects at HMP Askham Grange including photography and sculpture. The women will be taken to local museums and galleries and involved with visiting artists as part of the process. HMP Askham Grange is happy to support the research and have indicated there will be other projects of interest.
- The Irene Taylor Music Trust are running interesting programmes over the next year to which access will be allowed. The programme of 'through care' running at Holloway later this year is particularly interesting; where prisoners are placed on appropriate arts projects when they leave.
- Clean Break is a theatre and new writing organisation for women involved in the criminal justice system. I have approached them and they are happy for me to spend some time observing workshops or talking to ex-offenders about how they use their drama and writing classes.
- Other possibilities not yet approached are Escape Artists in Cambridge and the Anne Peaker Centre (formally Unit for Arts and Offenders)

Dissemination

1. Seminar presentation on the findings to Fellows and Griffin Society members
2. Full report plus summary to the Griffin Society
3. Seminars or training sessions to Engage, The Anne Peaker Centre, Clean Break and any interested party
4. Publication on the internet

Time Scale: The first term would be spent on the literature review and devising a definitive and objective set of questions to investigate. The second term would be spent collecting the data, visiting the projects, carrying out interviews, observing and making field notes. The final term would be spent analyzing the results and the implications and collating the material for the final report and dissemination.

References:

Department for Culture, Media & Sport, (2001), *Culture and Creativity The Next Ten Years*. DCMS

Denzin, N. and Lincoln, Y. (eds) (1998), *Collecting and Interpreting Qualitative Materials*. London: Sage

Farrell (2002) *Rethinking What Works with Offenders* London

Group for Large Local Authority Museums. (2000) *Museums and Social Inclusion: The GLAMM Report*, Group for Large Local Authority Museums.

Silverman, (2002) 'The Therapeutic Potential of Museums as Pathways to Inclusion. In:

Sandell, R. (2002), *Museums, Society, Inequality*. London: Routledge



If you have any questions please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Christine Leeson, Director, The Griffins Society

Chris.Leeson@thegriffinsociety.org