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## **Mental Illness in policy discourse: Locating the criminal justice system**

Natalia K. Hanley

*University of Wollongong*, [nhanley@uow.edu.au](mailto:nhanley@uow.edu.au)

Stuart Ross

*University of Melbourne*

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## **Mental Illness in policy discourse: Locating the criminal justice system**

### **Abstract**

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as a virtual embodiment of the hacker ethos; orchestrating activist based operations which adhere to their internal majority opinion. Recently, Anonymous has been involved in providing support for the Middle Eastern democracy protests and orchestrating attacks on HBGary Federal and Sony Corporation. We argue that meritocracy and direct democracy form the base for their decision making process. This, in itself, derives from their unique community characteristics which draw upon an anti-individualistic ideology. Anonymous functions as a leaderless 'hive mind', devoid of personal philosophy eschewing any individualisation or emergence of leadership or personality. Anonymous is able to identify insider status within the community through reference to individual knowledge of a collective cultural capital. Esoteric memes comprise the fundamental cultural formation of the group, and, as such, a detailed knowledge of these allows for inter-community communication. Anonymous employs aspects of meritocracy in formulating collective decisions. With all members utilising the same username, individualism is nonexistent. As such, the merit of an argument is based solely on its content as opposed to a pre-constructed perception of the individual and their perceived history or standing in the group. Furthermore, an individual's mastery of the group's culture denotes their involvement within the community and the level of their understanding in relation to its founding ideology. From this basis, and utilising aspects of direct democracy, Anonymous is able to orchestrate large scale activist operations; coinciding with the current membership's majority outlook. In this sense, Anonymous has no definitive political, philosophical, theological or sociological preference as the group's membership is in a constant state of flux. For these reasons, the paper argues that Anonymous, while utilising direct democracy in the decision making process, also employs aspects of meritocracy in judging the relevance, validity and worth of individual postings and contributions to their debates on upcoming actions and campaigns. Therefore, this paper provides a contribution to greater understanding of decentralised virtual community decision-making processes amongst activist organisations.

**Wednesday, 9am, House of Representatives Room 3**

**HALVORSON, Dan**

**Griffith University**

d.halvorson@griffith.edu.au

*A Question of Order: Prestige, status-quo powers and intervention in the periphery*

The prestige motive in international relations is assumed to apply specifically to great power rivalries, particularly in driving the behaviour of revisionist states. This paper holds that prestige is also a crucial factor in the relationship between status-quo powers and weak, disorderly states in peripheral areas. The paper's central argument is that the prestige motive has not been afforded sufficient importance in explaining interventions in the periphery, whereas the evidence examined here suggests it is an integral factor. This argument is demonstrated via three examples of intervention by status-quo Western powers in different international orders: the 1882 British occupation of Egypt, the 1965 US combat intervention in Vietnam and Australia's 2003 intervention in Solomon Islands.

**Tuesday, 2pm, House of Representatives Room 1**

**HANLEY, Natalia and ROSS, Stuart**

**University of Melbourne**

nhanley@unimelb.edu.au; sross@mccp.unimelb.edu.au

*Mental Illness in Policy Discourse: Locating the criminal justice system*

The Commonwealth Government of Australia has launched a strategic document in the budget plan 2011–12 to improve mental health and health services in Australia. The document,

'Delivering better hospitals, mental health and health services' outlines the start of a 'ten year roadmap for reform' which focuses upon the early identification of mental illness, improving access to mental health services and integrating mental health service provision. Whilst this program of reform can be clearly located within a health framework there is some recognition that mental illness requires a holistic response, which includes, for example, reducing barriers to employment. However, the link between mental health treatment and the criminal justice sector is not explored or discussed in this document. It is estimated that one third of the institutional population of patients with diagnosed mental illnesses receive their treatment in a prison setting. This paper aims to explore the implications for a national strategy on mental health of ignoring the link between criminal justice service provision and mental health service provision to the wider community. There are several 'gateways' into health treatment, depending upon the needs and location of consumers. For the purposes of this paper we are primarily interested in the criminal justice gateway, and in particular the pathway to services for people in prison. There is a high level of differentiation and inequality in sentencing and program provision in criminal justice and correctional services across Australia and this has a substantial impact on the likelihood of accessing appropriate and timely mental health services. This situation contrasts with the apparently low tolerance of inequality in the health domain, and raises important issues about human rights and the structural organisation of health and criminal justice at state/territory and commonwealth levels.

**Tuesday, 2pm, Private Dining Room 1**

**HARINDRANATH, Ramaswami**

**University of Melbourne**

**KHORANA, Sukhmani**

**University of Queensland**

rhari@unimelb.edu.au; s.khorana@uq.edu.au

*New Technologies, Gandhian activism, and Democracy: Re-examining civil society*

New communication technologies and social media have been celebrated by scholars as enabling a new kind of public activism and participation. While current events in the Middle East seem to support this view, a novel take on the links between these technologies and democratic change is presented by recent developments in India, where an anti-corruption movement originating in the form of a hunger strike in New Delhi—a Gandhian form of social activism—generated wide-spread support through Twitter and Facebook technology. Using Partha Chatterjee's crucial distinction between political and civil societies in postcolonial nations, this paper will present an analysis of the different approaches to social activism adopted by urbanized middle-class elites and rural groups in developing countries. The Twitter feeds of a major news outlet (such as NDTV) and a self-organised civil society group ('India Against Corruption') will be examined over a one-week period beginning from the day of the march. Such a close examination will help draw inferences about the use of Gandhian forms of activism in a new media context. This is crucial to understand the democratic efficacy and constitution of the so-called Indian civil society.

**Wednesday, 9am, House of Representatives Room 3**

**HEAD, Brian and COLLEY, Linda**

**University of Queensland**

brian.head@uq.edu.au; linda.colley@uq.edu.au

*Asset Sales: From financial necessity to policy opportunism?*

Policy responses to financial crises have been diverse, depending on such factors as the depth of the crisis, political support for reforms, and policy traditions. This paper considers one