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Targeted Offender Support Programs: Addressing 'Culture' Through Corrections

Natalia K. Hanley

University of Wollongong, nhanley@uow.edu.au

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Targeted Offender Support Programs: Addressing 'Culture' Through Corrections

Abstract

Abstract presented at The 7th Annual Australian & New Zealand Critical Criminology Conference, 22-23 July 2013, Adelaide, Australia

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Dr Natalie Hanley | University of Melbourne

Interventions | Tuesday 11:30 – 12:45 | Rm 2.3

Targeted Offender Support Programs: Addressing ‘Culture’ Through Corrections

The growing international trend in corrections towards a disaggregation of needs on the basis of gender, ethnicity and/or culture has facilitated the development of targeted offender programs. This paper will use findings from a qualitative research project conducted in Victoria on the Indo Chinese offender program to explore the ways in which groups of offenders come to be identified as requiring targeted programs, how targeted programs are designed and what claims can be made about cultural relevance.

Mary Iliadis | Honours Student | Monash University

Victims | Tuesday 1.30 – 2.45 | Rm 2.2

Victimisation Theories and the Modern-Day ‘Ideal’ Victim

On the 22 September 2012, the disappearance of 29-year-old Jill Meagher in Brunswick, Victoria prompted an urgent and intensive response from the media and the Victorian community. The outpouring of support and concern for Jill culminated with a 30,000 strong peace march following the discovery of her body. While this was a very tragic crime, the media and public response to Jill’s death strongly reflects both historical and contemporary criminological understandings of the ‘deserving’ and ‘ideal’ victim; that is, where a person fits into a particular category, they are deemed more worthy of their victim status, thereby entitling them to better treatment by society, the media and importantly, the criminal justice system.

Using this case as a framework for analysis, this paper will discuss the theoretical underpinnings of the deserving status of victims in contemporary society, and how this may challenge, to some extent, traditional understandings of who is an ideal victim. Drawing from the initial data obtained from interviews and surveys conducted with male and female university students aged between 18 and 25, this paper will propose a new framework for understanding the modern-day ideal victim and will seek to highlight the shifting social construction of victims over time.

Dr Tyrone Kirchengast | University of New South Wales

Access to Justice | Monday 1.30 – 2.45 | Rm 2.2/2.3

Normative Attitudes toward Victim Participation in NSW Court Processes

Victims of crime have the opportunity to participate in various aspects of court processes in NSW criminal courts, from pre-trial to trial and sentencing hearings. While the extent of participation varies between court, crime and individual process, stakeholder attitude towards