

CONFINEMENT, CROSSINGS AND CONDITIONS FOR PRISONERS IN THE UK AND NORWAY – COMPARATIVE RESEARCH ON PENAL EXCEPTIONALISM

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PRESENTATION OVERVIEW

1	Introducing the project and sub studies
2	Introducing penal systems in Norway and the UK
3	Intersecting methodologies and concepts of confinement
4	Of crossings and conditions – methods of comparative penology

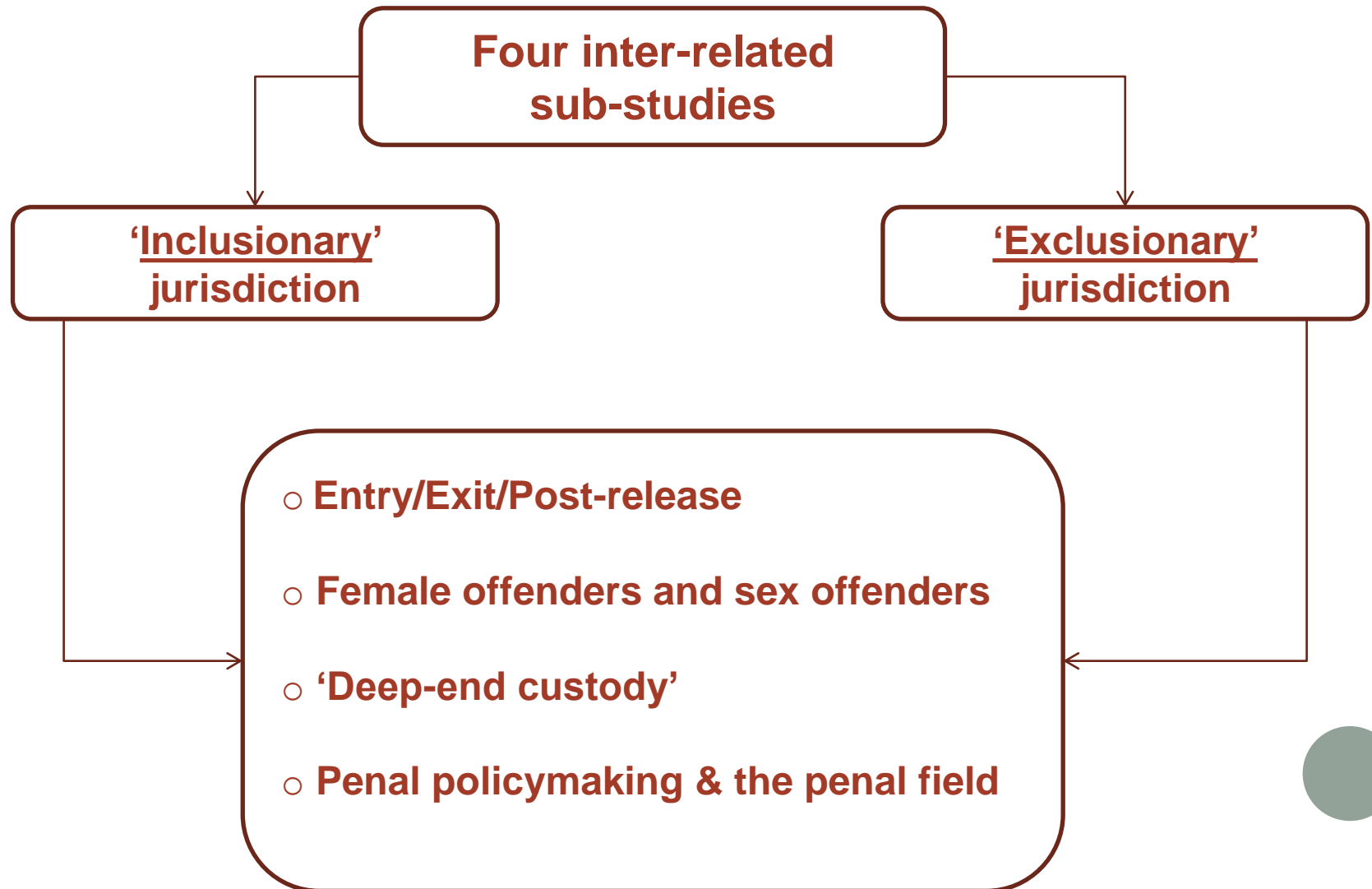


INTRODUCTION

- ❑ Contrasts in punishment and the stated differences between so-called 'Anglophone excess' and 'Nordic exceptionalism'
- ❑ Offering a qualitative and in-depth insight into penal similarities and differences between the UK and Norway
- ❑ Reflect in-depth on the crucial phase of setting up and starting a comparative research project across institutional borders



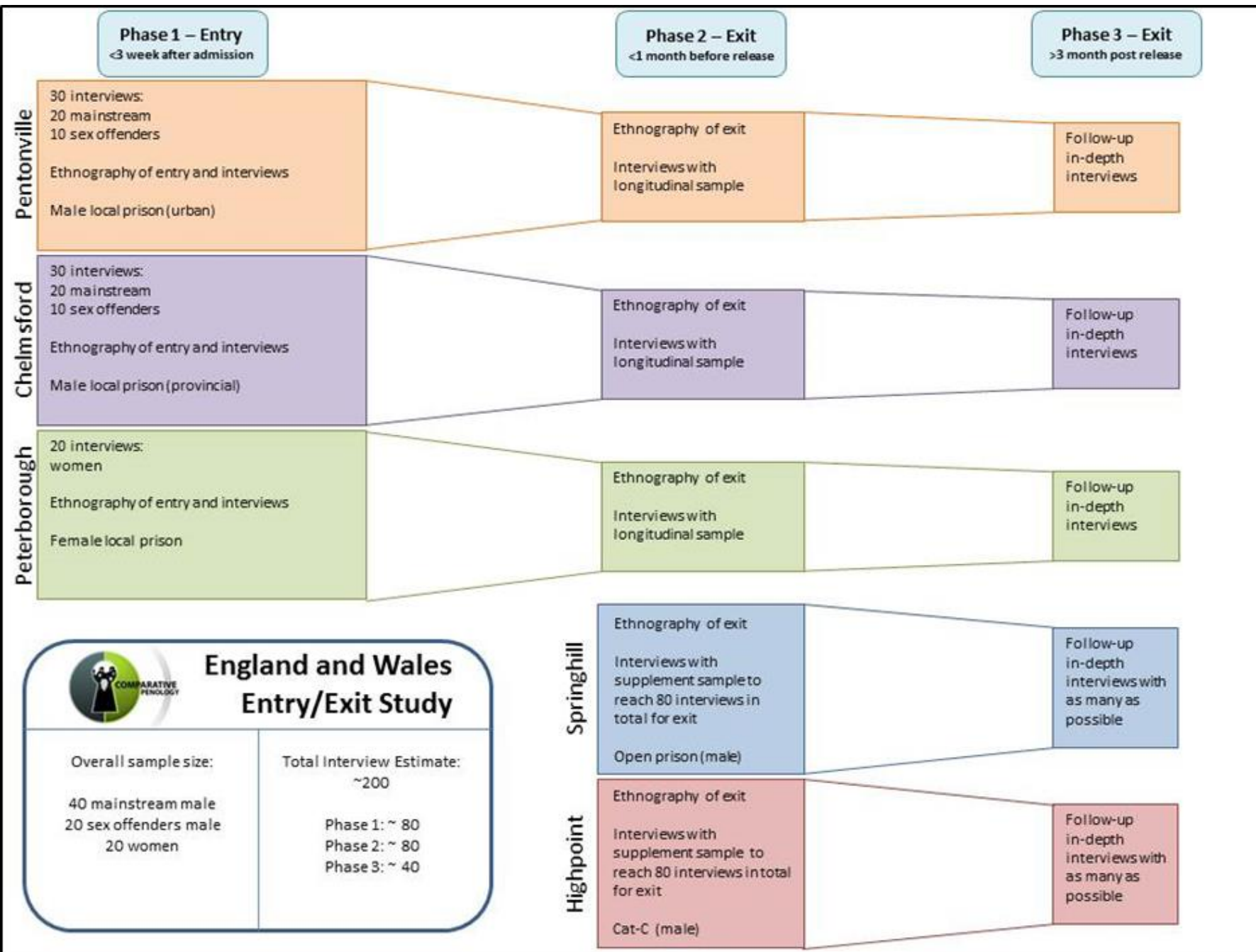
THE PROPOSED RESEARCH PROGRAMME



ENTRY/EXIT SUB STUDY

- The Entry/Exit sub-study is the furthest developed in terms of research design and fieldwork
- This sub-study is divided into three phases:
 - Entry
 - Exit
 - Post-release
- We are interested in the experiences of:
 - Mainstream male prisoners
 - Female prisoners
 - Sex offenders





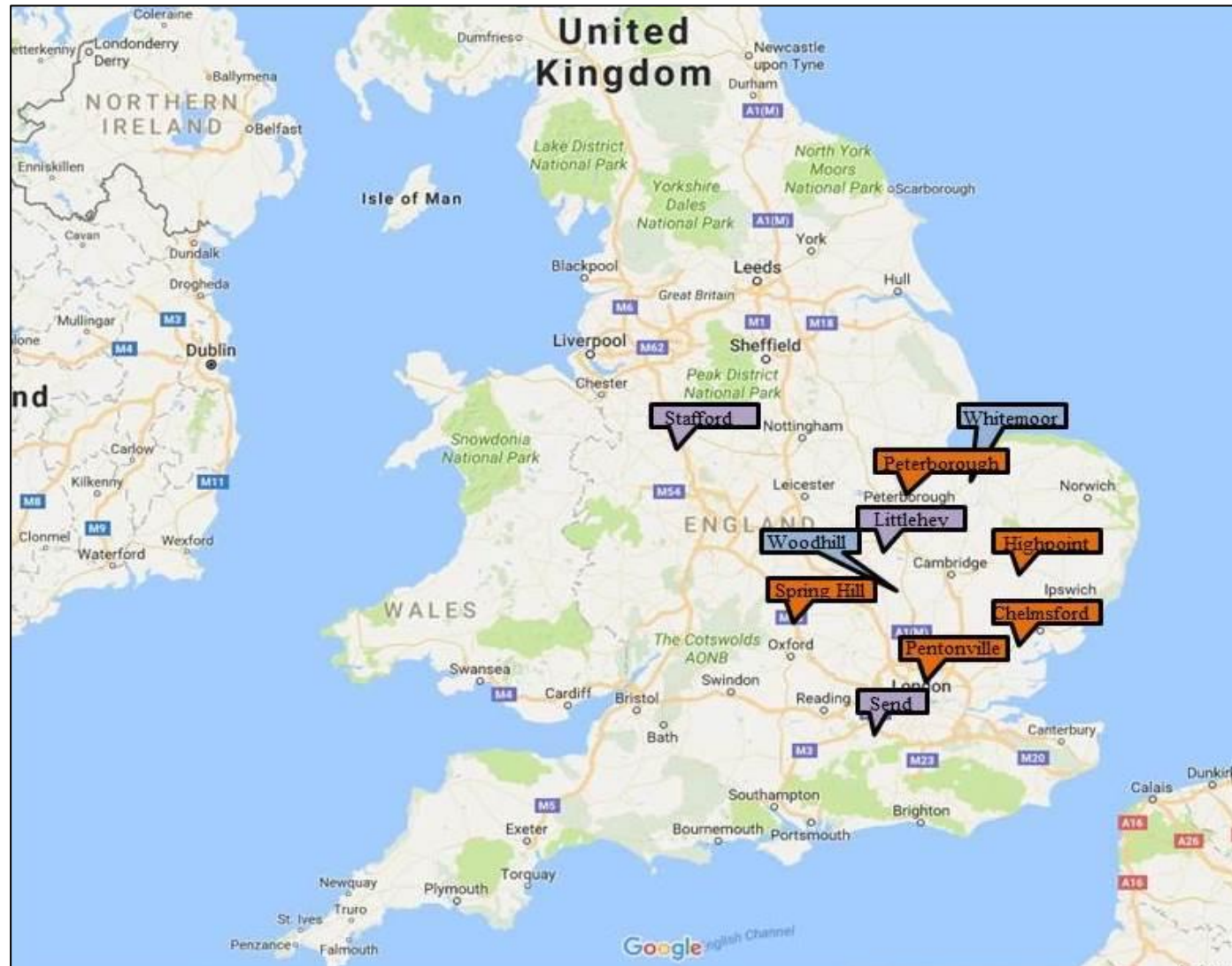
INTRODUCING PENAL SYSTEMS IN NORWAY AND THE UK

- In the field of comparative penology, the Nordic countries generally stand out as ‘exceptional’ in terms of their low imprisonment rates, small prisons, good material conditions and humane treatment of prisoners (Pratt & Eriksson 2013)
- Pratt (2008a, 2008b) argues that the social democratic model of the welfare state helped facilitate such inclusionary penal policies
- The Norwegian penal system could be termed penal-welfarism (Garland 1985)

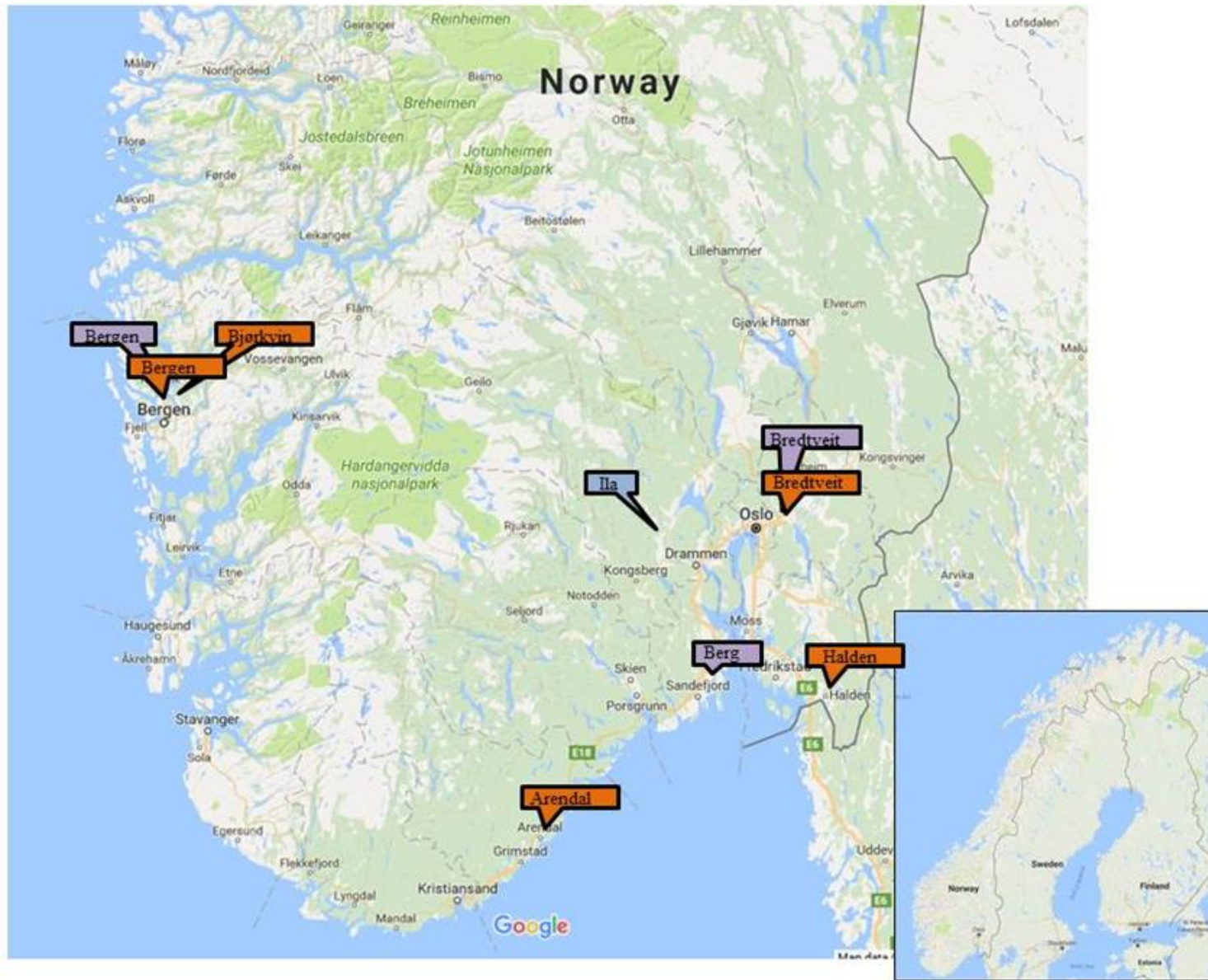


NORWAY - UK

- With an incarceration rate of 74 per 100,000 of the national population, Norway clearly stands out from England and Wales with an incarceration rate of 147
- Actual number of prisoners:
 - E&W: 85 897
 - Norway: 3 874
- Number of Prisons:
 - E&W: 123 (currently running over-capacity)
 - Norway: 54



Field Sites for England & Wales



Field Sites for Norway

SENSITISING CONCEPTS

Depth: distance & polarity from outside world e.g. security, control, permeability

Weight: oppressiveness, burden and use of authority, interpersonal treatment

Tightness: invasiveness, grip, impact on personal identity & self-regulation

Breadth: reach beyond the prison e.g. stigma, 'disabilities'

- Shame/Guilt
- Penal Consciousness

→ Translating concepts into fieldwork tools



OF CROSSINGS AND CONDITIONS – METHODS OF COMPARATIVE PENOLOGY

- How to do comparative planning
- Working across translations
- Crossings of boundaries – first examples from the field



HOW TO DO 'COMPARATIVE' PLANNING



Intervjuguide fase 1 innsettelsen

Introduksjon

- Introduksjon av forskningsprosjekt og forklaring og gjennomgang av samtykkeerklæringen
- Anonymitet og samtykkeerklæring
- For forskerkode: _____

Generelle spørsmål

- Kan du begynne med å fortelle meg litt om hva du er aller mest stolt av i ditt liv? [innenfor eller utenfor fengsel]
- Kan du fortelle meg noe positivt om deg selv, som de fleste andre ikke vet om?
- Hvilke ting i livet giver dig håb og pågangsmot?

Bakgrunn

- Kanskje du kan begynne med å fortelle meg litt om hvem du er og din bakgrunn – hvor du kommer fra, familien din, sanne ting?
 - Hvordan var oppveksten din?
 - Hvor vokste du opp?
 - Hvordan så livet ditt ut før du kom i fengsel, hva slags liv levde du?
 - Hvilke personer stod deg nærmest og betydde mest for deg?
 - Hva gjorde du for å tjene penger, var du i arbeid?
 - Hvor og hvordan bodde du før du kom inn?
 - Hvem var det du tilbrakte mest tid med?
 - Brukte du narkotika og/eller drakk du alkohol?
- Hvor mye kontakt hadde du hatt med rettssystemet før du ble fengselet denne gangen?
- Kan du fortelle meg litt om dine opplevelser med pågripelsen og varetektsfengslingen i forbindelse med denne fengslingen/dommen?
 - Hvordan foregikk arrestasjonen/pågripelsen, skjedde det i offentlighet, uniformert politi, vold/maktbruk, trauma etc.?
 - Hvordan opplevde du rettssaken og det å være i retten?
 - Hvilken rolle hadde media i denne saken?



Interview Schedule Entry Phase 1

Preliminaries

- Introduction to research project/ explain information sheet
- Confidentiality/consent form
- Add research code to documents _____

General questions [appreciative start]

- Can you begin by telling me about the thing in your life that you are most proud of? [probe – inside prison, outside prison]
- Can you tell me something positive about yourself that most people don't know about?
- What gives you hope and energy in life?

Background

- Can you spend a few minutes telling me about yourself and your background – where you're from, your family, and so on?
 - How was your childhood?
 - Where did you grow up?
 - What kind of life were you leading before you came in?
 - What were the most important relationships for you?
 - What were you doing in terms of work or money?
 - Where did you live before you came in?
 - Who were you spending time with?
 - Did you use any illegal drugs/alcohol?
- How much contact have you had with the criminal justice system before coming into this prison?
- Can you tell me what the experience of arrest and being held by the police was like for this offence?
 - Arrest (public, uniformed police, violence, trauma...)?
 - How was your experience of the trial/being to court?
 - Media attention

QUESTION	FOR EACH QUESTION BELOW, PLEASE PUT A CIRCLE AROUND THE RESPONSE THAT BEST DESCRIBES HOW YOU FEEL				
1. I am treated with respect by staff in this prison	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
2. In this prison, you have to walk on eggshells	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
3. Staff in this prison do their best to help me	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
4. I feel cared about most of the time in this prison	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree

1. Wishing that time would go faster

a. How often do you experience this problem?	Never	Rarely	Sometimes	Often	Very often
b. When you experience this problem, how easy is it to deal with?	Very easy	Quite easy	In-between	Quite difficult	Very difficult

2. Wishing you had more privacy

a. How often do you experience this problem?	Never	Rarely	Sometimes	Often	Very often
b. When you experience this problem, how easy is it to deal with?	Very easy	Quite easy	In-between	Quite difficult	Very difficult

WORKING ACROSS TRANSLATIONS

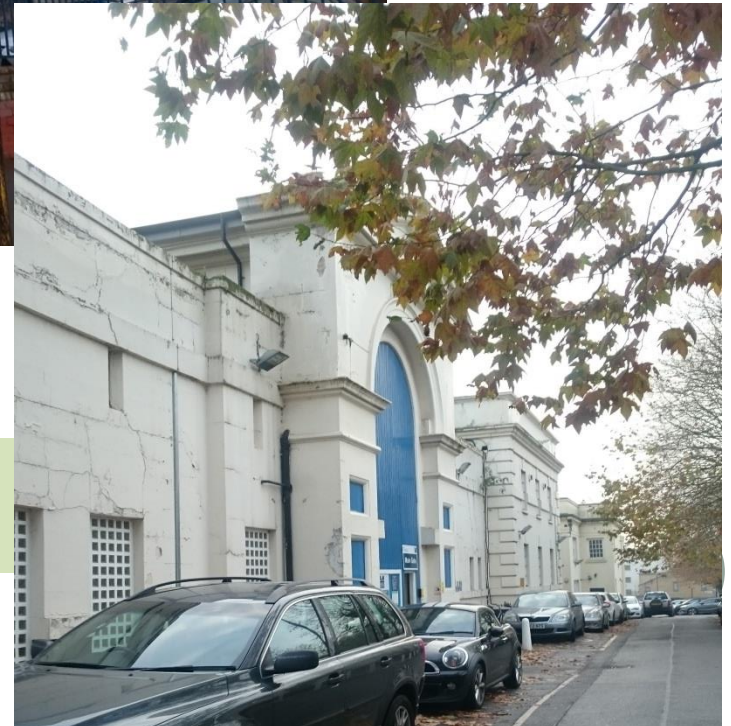
‘How much privacy do you *feel* you have here?’

‘Hvor mye privatliv *føler* du at du har her?’

‘How does *trust* work in here’?

‘tillit’/ ‘at stole på’ / ‘stoler du på noen’





HMP PENTONVILLE



BERGEN FENGSEL



OUTLOOK ON COMPARATIVE PRISON RESEARCH

- This study aims to provide a comparative analysis of prisoners' experiences and the penal field in England & Wales and Norway
- Exploring the challenges and possibilities of conducting comparative research using our own particular experiences of boundary crossing over country borders and research methods
- Capturing different aspects of the prison experience, formed around the concepts of the 'depth', 'weight', 'tightness' and 'breadth' of confinement
- Dialogue on the thesis of penal exceptionalism and the special role that Nordic countries have played in prison research



THANK YOU!



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Contact us under: <http://www.prc.crim.cam.ac.uk/directory/research-themes/comparative-penology>