

Early Career Perspectives in Carceral Geography: Abstracts and researcher biographies

Tuesday 5 October 2021, 2.30pm-5.00pm (UK time)

Control, resistance, and compliance: Understanding electronic monitoring's contradictory life as a failure to regulate

Carl Berry – Lecturer in Criminology, University of Bristol, UK

Abstract: Electronic monitoring (EM, or tagging) has emerged as an important penal sanction in the last few decades, which, according to many academics, extends the carceral power of the penitentiary beyond the prison walls. Attempts at theoretically understanding EM have been highly illuminating in recent years, and have helped frame the measure amongst broad political and technological changes that have also witnessed a burgeoning use of surveillance, and the control of physical space. Despite its widespread use and portentous, Orwellian, implications, research on the measure – particularly offenders on tag – is rather sparse. This presentation tries to find common ground between two differing approaches that have ethnographically explored EM usage in the last two years: carceral geography, which takes the above claims about EM with a solemn desire to critically outline this furtive diffusion of penal regimen into everyday life, and actor network-theory, which although drawing many similar conclusions tries to do so without pre-empting them. First-hand data on tagging will be drawn upon in this, and the strengths and limitations of either perspective considered under a call for more conceptualising, and research.

Biography: Dr Carl Berry is a Lecturer in Criminology, currently at the University of Bristol. His PhD research was an ambitious ethnographic investigation of criminal offenders subject to the penalty of electronic monitoring, in a city in England. Deploying the novel approach of actor-network theory, this investigation took seriously the idea that material objects have agency (in this case the physical electronic monitoring equipment).

Repair: Gendered place-making at the unmarked children's grave at the Tuam Mother and Baby Home, Co Galway, Ireland, 2014-2021

Rachel Andrews – PhD Candidate, NUI Galway, Ireland

Abstract: Mother and Baby Homes in Ireland are former carceral sites, where 'wicked' women were hidden away from society. These women and their children have also been concealed in death, as evidenced by the discovery of the unmarked children's grave at the former Tuam Mother and Baby Home in 2014. However, since the location of this grave, there have been a series of site-specific artistic interventions at the site, involving survivors of the Mother and Baby Home, along with members of the local community. This talk argues that these interventions represent a form of public reclaiming of space, an emotional mapping, whereby survivors map out new and potentially healing cartographies on traumatic and liminal space.

Biography: Rachel Andrews' critical-creative doctoral studies at the National University of Ireland, Galway, seek to investigate the significance of unmarked burial sites in the Irish collective memory and culture. She has presented at Irish Studies' conferences in Prague (2021) and Concordia University, Montreal (2019), and at the Conference of Irish Geographers (2021). Her journalistic and prose work on the topic has been published in the *London Review of Books* and *Gorse* literary journal.

Carceral geographies of medical jurisprudence specimens

Joshua Shaw – PhD Candidate, Osgoode Hall Law School, York University, Canada

Abstract: This work-in-progress attends to carceral institutions in common law jurisdictions, which have been involved in the making of human remains or bodily matters—especially of racialized, Aboriginalized or otherwise subjugated persons—disposable through practices of 'medical jurisprudence'. Carceral geography helps make sense of the spatiality of these specimens' mobilities, especially having regard to the common law's connection of dissection and autopsy to punishment.

Biography: Joshua (he/him) is a PhD Candidate in Toronto, Canada. Joshua studies laws that affect the status, treatment and disposal of human remains, with a special focus on contexts where such remains and related bodily matters become disposable. His interests are in legal and carceral geography, critical legal theory and socio-legal studies, with outputs of his research published in peer-reviewed periodicals, such as *Law and Critique*, *Law, Culture and the Humanities*, and the *International Journal of Law in Context*. He is currently working on his dissertation, of which this work-in-progress forms part.