
Howard League for Penal Reform

2020 – a year of crisis or *kairos*? ECAN Themed Issue

Harry Annison

Call for Abstracts

We invite abstracts for proposed articles to form part of a themed issue of the Howard League ECAN Bulletin (Early Career Academic Network). Contributors are encouraged to reflect on 2020 – a year of crisis, and possibly of *kairos*. A year in which novel issues have emerged, while other long-standing issues have re-emerged into public consciousness. Covid-19 has caused widespread death and ill health, forced dramatic changes to working practices, and concerns about ongoing wellbeing – not least in relation to those subject to, working within, or otherwise affected by the criminal justice system and the disproportionate impact of Covid-19 on people from black and minority ethnic backgrounds. At the same time, police brutality resulting in several deaths in the US once again highlighted systemic injustice and inequality and provoked widespread and vital self-reflection when thinking about race and privilege. This also inspired worldwide and consequential demonstrations. Structural inequalities have been laid bare by violence and injustice in the criminal justice system. Recognition of a global climate crisis rumbles on in the background. No one issue stands alone.

This themed issue will make a specific contribution to these debates by inviting early career researchers to provide focused, research-informed pieces. Each piece will focus on one specific issue (examples given below), in order to speak both to the experiences of 2020, and lessons we might learn from it. ***Contributors will be encouraged to keep a tight focus on a specific element of what may likely be a much larger study (or indeed consideration of a broad area), in order to enable sufficiently detailed and nuanced consideration of the issue under consideration in the space available.***

Examples might include (but are by no means limited to): The lockdown of prisons (and the slow easing of restrictions); The policing of Covid-19 rules and regulations; Homelessness; Families affected by prison restrictions; Domestic violence; The Parole Board's response to Covid-19; Black Lives Matter protests; Experiences of protestors; Policing of protests; Probation supervision during Covid-19.

Abstracts should be a maximum of 200 words. Proposals for novel approaches will be considered: for example a shorter 'in conversation' piece, or a paired set of shorter pieces providing perspectives on a particular development. Proposals by early career researchers will be given priority. Abstracts should be submitted to Dr Harry Annison (h.annison@soton.ac.uk) by 5pm Wednesday 23 September. For those abstracts accepted, the word limit for full papers will be 3,000 words. The deadline for full pieces will be January 2021, with publication in early spring 2021.

Recent themed issues of the ECAN bulletin can be found [here](#) and [here](#).