

Sections 2 and 3, in particular, help readers to get under the skin of what is involved in working supportively with, and nurturing readiness in, for example, individuals who may be in denial of the seriousness, or fact, of their sex offending. The sections also reveal how enabling it can be for a formerly drug-dependent burglar or violent offender to learn a positive orientation to problem-solving as part of a goal-focused approach in leading their lives.

The book provides an encouraging insight into the advancements being made in providing ethical and effective interventions to reduce reoffending, within a therapeutic milieu of legitimate and respectful relationships, and led by the individual's own efforts to stop offending and achieve their goals. That said, the ethos and rationale of the MORM can get a bit ensnared by its own language: the rubric of 'offender readiness' (emphasis intended) seals in the very status which programmes are designed to change, while the core concept of 'treatment' implies something done to an individual and thus is incongruous with the central place which GLM gives to human agency in the change process.

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*Offenders on Offending: Learning about Crime from Criminals* W. Bernasco (Ed.).  
Cullompton: Willan (2010) 328pp. £65.00hb ISBN 978-1-84392-777-8 £25.00pb  
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I agree with both Michael Tonry, in his foreword, and Wim Bernasco, the editor of this selection, on the importance of hearing the voices of criminals within criminology, but would point to the work of Tony Parker and Pat Carlen's collection as places where that voice can be heard louder (see Soothill 1999; Carlen 1985). The voice of criminals on crime does come through this collection of papers presented at the Netherlands Institute for the Study of Crime and Law Enforcement in October 2008; but mostly we hear criminologists engaged in methodological debate.

Space precludes discussion of all 16 contributions but the mix of methods, settings, nationalities and jurisdictions (for instance, Austria, Czech Republic, Canada, UK, USA and Sri Lanka) is a very useful counterpoint to the single focus of much criminology. Field settings are mentioned but most are prison-based. The book forms a particular corrective to methodological 'cookbooks'. Thus we find Scott Jacques and Richard Wright arguing, in Chapter 3, that offenders deeper in the system are interviewed most and need least motivating but also provide less valuable insights. Yet in the next chapter, Heith Copes and Andy Hochstetler argue strongly for the value of prison interviews. Not all texts or modules would entertain such diversity of views.

In the worst 'cookbooks' gender is often downplayed or sidelined, so Jody Miller's contribution is particularly valuable. She opens: 'The interview is an unavoidably gendered interaction' (p.161) and sets out some of the necessary feminist theory but also recognises the tendency to ignore male researchers' experience. She then sets out the complex interplay of gender, 'race'/ethnicity, age, class, life experience etc., of researchers and researched in three settings:

- Jody, young and white, Rod of urban African-American origin and Niquita, light-skinned, middle-class black woman interviewing young female black

gang members. Rod was told of victimisation, some reacted to Jody's feminist-inspired inquiries and Niquita had difficulties with empathy.

- A young white European man and a young black urban woman interview young black men about 'pullin a train' (gang bang, gang rape). Dennis was told about 'performance' whereas Toya received less graphic accounts but caused some defensiveness.
- Jody and a young 'modern' Sri Lankan woman interview police officers about their use of prostitutes. Both were heavily hit-on and Manika censured for her modernity, but also stalked!

Thus gender was highly significant between, but also within, sexes; no sisterly solidarity or male collusion could be presumed.

Welcome though this book is, I'm unconvinced that 'People working primarily within quantitative traditions will see what they have been missing' (p.xix) and must correct Tonry's contention that *Punch* magazine continues to this day.

### References

- Soothill, K. (Ed.) (1999) *Criminal Conversations: An Anthology of the Work of Tony Parker*, London: Routledge.
- Carlen, P., (Ed.) with Hicks, J., O'Dwyer, J., Christina, D. and Tchaikovsky, C. (1985) *Criminal Women: Autobiographical Accounts*, Cambridge: Polity Press.

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*Supermax: Controlling Risk Through Solitary Confinement* S. Shalev. Cullompton: Willan (2009) 236pp. £25.99pb ISBN 978-1-84392-408-1

In recent years, supermax prisons have emerged as the ultimate solution to dealing with chronic troublemakers and dangerous prisoners who could not be controlled in the general population. Considered to be the most controlled and secure penal environment, supermax prisons are extraordinary, yet controversial, institutions that have changed the way prisoners are treated in the United States. *Supermax* by Sharon Shalev provides an in-depth account of the inner workings of the phenomenon of supermax prisons in the US. Throughout this book, Shalev examines the internal technologies of control – architectural design, physical fixtures and security arrangements – with external evaluations of supermax prisons and provides a balance between theoretical and practical observations. The strength of this book lies in the invaluable insights, vivid descriptions and comprehensive details provided through the semi-structured interviews conducted with prisoners, former prisoners, various prison officials and human rights and legal experts.

The book is divided into nine chapters with the first four chapters providing a contextual background from which to better understand the supermax phenomenon. The remaining five chapters examine the internal regulations of control and risk by focusing on a different aspect of the supermax prison in each chapter. In this way, *Supermax* is extremely well organised and provides a well-researched portrait of the emergence and inner workings of supermax prisons. Each chapter is well developed and progresses nicely through a variety of relevant and engaging issues. Within each