

# Institute of Criminal Justice Research Seminar

**‘Experiencing very long term  
imprisonment from young adulthood:  
identity, adaptation and penal legitimacy’**

**Dr Ben Crewe, Dr Susie Hulley and Ms Serena Wright  
(University of Cambridge)**

**8 October 2014 - 4:00pm**

**Building 85, Room 2209**

In England and Wales, a growing number of prisoners are serving sentences of a length that was almost unheard of a generation ago. This development has generated considerable unease among practitioners, concerned about the impact of this population on institutional stability, but has generated relatively little academic research. This seminar reports on a major study of male prisoners serving very long life terms (tariffs of fifteen years or more), sentenced when aged twenty-five or under. Specifically, it will discuss the main problems of long-term confinement that they experience, and the ways that they adapt to these problems, find meaning in their lives, and manage such issues as time, shame and thoughts of the future at different stages of the sentence. It will also describe the ways in which these prisoners think about the legitimacy of their predicament, and the modes of compliance and non-compliance that result. Comments will be offered on the relevance of the research findings for prison sociology generally.

## Speaker Information:



**Dr Ben Crewe (centre)** is Deputy Director of the Prisons Research Centre and Director, M.St Penology Programme. Ben is on the editorial board of the *British Journal of Criminology*, *Palgrave Communications* and the *Prison Service Journal*.

**Dr Susie Hulley (right)** is a Research Associate (Prisons Research Centre). Susie was awarded a PhD for her thesis on the perceptions and experiences of anti-social behaviour (ASB) amongst adults and young people and police responses to ASB.

**Ms Serena Wright (left)** is a Research Associate (Prisons Research Centre). Serena recently submitted her thesis which seeks to provide the first qualitative piece of research into the lived experience of women identified as Prolific and other Priority Offenders.