

Early Career Perspectives in Carceral Geography

▪ Friday 10 June 2022 ▪ 10:00-12:00 BST ▪

Navigating Carceral Spaces themed session

Online seminar series, showcasing the work of early career researchers in carceral geography.

Research presentations:

- **Same space, different day? Initial reflections on returning to carceral spaces**
Erin Power & Claire Warrington Research Fellows, Doing Porridge project, Department of Sociology, University of Surrey
- **The militant suffragettes and the politics of self-destruction**
Lauren Jade Powell Postgraduate Student, University of Exeter
- **The complexities of researching space & place experience in prison education**
Lucy Harding Postgraduate Researcher, University of Central Lancashire

Followed by a panel discussion and audience Q&A:

- **Discussant:** **Anna Schliehe** MSCA Fellow, University of Oldenburg
- **Event chair:** **Ella Bytheway-Jackson** PhD Student, University of Liverpool

Free Zoom event, open to researchers at all career stages.

Please register at: <https://bit.ly/3sX8a0q>

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Abstracts and researcher biographies

Same space, different day? Initial reflections on returning to carceral spaces

Erin Power & Claire Warrington Research Fellows, Doing Porridge, Department of Sociology, University of Surrey

Abstract: Both presenters have previously been employed in prisons, before now returning to start fieldwork for the *Doing Porridge* study. In this session, we will discuss returning to carceral spaces following the pandemic and explore our initial reflections on being back in prison environments (in one case the same environment) in very different roles. We will examine the implications for us both as individuals and within the context of the research.

Biographies:

Dr Erin Power has recently completed a PhD entitled *Performing Neoliberalism: Stories of care, conformity, and resistance within contemporary prison theatre*. Prior to commencing her PhD she worked as an arts facilitator in prisons, as well as spending two years working for the Prison Advice and Care Trust (PACT) delivering relationship based groupwork programmes and family support work.

Dr Claire Warrington's research has included exploring access to healthcare for people moving through the criminal justice system and the experiences of people detained by the police as suicide prevention under the Mental Health Act. Her PhD used participatory methods to explore the lived experience of women who had been repeatedly detained in this way. Before becoming an academic, Claire was a prison mental health worker and a programme facilitator in the probation service.

The *Doing Porridge* project aims to examine the experience of food in women's prisons using an intersectional approach. It adopts an innovative suite of mixed qualitative methods in order to gain valuable insight into women's experiences of this aspect of prison life. <https://doingporridge.com>

The militant suffragettes and the politics of self-destruction

Lauren Jade Powell Postgraduate Student, University of Exeter

Abstract: This paper explores the imprisonment and resistance of British women's suffrage campaigners during the Edwardian period. By employing a critical discourse analysis, this paper examines the relationship between the politics of self-destruction (namely hunger strikes) and the weaponisation of life within carceral space. In particular, the analysis discusses how modalities of self-destruction weaponise and transform the body into a tool through which carceral space, and its mechanisms, can be challenged. Overall, the politics of self-destruction raise questions regarding political legitimacy – what kind of *life* is allowed to be political within carceral institutions?

Biography: Lauren Jade Powell is a postgraduate student at the University of Exeter. Her research focuses on identifying and understanding key mechanisms under-pinning protest and resistance movements.

The complexities of researching space & place experience in prison education

Lucy Harding Postgraduate Researcher, University of Central Lancashire

Abstract: The spaces and places of prison education are unknown to most and even for those who work there, the space is transitory and complex. Research of this phenomena is therefore messy; with multiple ethical considerations, there is a responsibility demanded to choose sympathetic research approaches. I will share the knots I have encountered in designing my post human, postqualitative, feminist new material methodology. This work is at the intersection of many different subject disciplines including but not limited to prison education, criminology, carceral geography, sociology, philosophy, and textiles.

Biography: Lucy Harding has worked in Further Education in creative disciplines for 15 years, and 5 years as a Teacher Educator for the post-compulsory sector. In the last 6 months she has moved over to work as an education manager within a private prison; this has opened her eyes up to a world of challenging teaching practice at the periphery of the education sector. Lucy is currently undertaking a professional doctorate exploring 'The effect of prison education space and place on teacher experience: disentangling a boundaried praxis'.