

Chris A. Williams

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Date of Birth: 25 December 1968

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Current Research

My research interests cover:

- All aspects of the history of crime and policing since about 1750, especially concerning British and British colonial police.
- The preservation of the records of British police forces.
- The public history of criminal justice in the UK and beyond.
- The relationship between history and memory.

I am currently working on an AHRC-funded project '*Policing and Citizenship: Resourcing a Better Understanding*' for which I was awarded £42,000 in 2006.

Employment

Open University, 1999 – present

Lecturer in History, Sept 2003 – present & Research Fellow, Oct 1999 - Sept 2003

Key Achievements: I am Chair of three course teams, a tutor on three MA dissertation modules, and have been a member of History Department RAE panel since 1996. I was appointed in 1996 as Course Director for the OU Summer School at Queen Mary University of London. I have recently been appointed as an external examiner for the history department at the University of Huddersfield. An outline of my publications can be found in Appendix One.

I have a strong interest in making history accessible to a wider audience, and in 2005, I initiated an idea for a BBC Radio 4 programme which subsequently became a series of broadcasts over a 2 year period. I acted as the academic consultant for this series "The Things We Forgot to Remember" (Broadcast May, June 2005, Nov 2006, April, Dec 2007). I also acted as consultant author for an OU-published CD Rom "Images in the History of Medicine".

I currently supervise 4 PhD students, whose work covers historical policing and the UK criminal justice system.

University of Leicester, 1992-1999

Gave tutorials for five modules at all undergraduate levels for the History/Economic and Social History Departments and was demonstrator for a level 2 IT-based module.

Designed and implemented website for a web-supported course on the history of convict transportation. This can be viewed at <http://www.le.ac.uk/esh/ca26/eh400/index.html>

University of Sheffield, 1993-1998

During this time, I gave tutorials and marked examinations for a variety of courses at all undergraduate levels. From 1995-1996 I was a computer technician in the History Department.

Education

PhD History (Social Sciences), University of Sheffield, 1993-98

Thesis: ***Police and Crime in Sheffield 1818-1874*** under the supervision of Dr D Historian

MA Urban History, University of Leicester, 1991-92. Awarded Distinction

BA (Hons) Modern History, University of Oxford, 1987-90. Awarded University Scholarship in 1988. Final classification: 2i

Grants Awarded

- 2006: AHRC Collaborative Doctoral Award, £42,000
- 2003: British Academy Overseas Conference Grant, £800

Conferences

Between 1994-2007, I gave 40 papers at numerous conferences including:

- *Adventure is such fun: policing, technocracy and colonialism in the life of Athelstan Popkess* to Leicester University Post-Colonial seminar Feb 2005
- *Pursuit* to International Centre for Convict Studies, Strahan, Tasmania June 2003
- *Networks and connections in police forces between the UK and its formal and informal empires before 1914* to Empires of Expertise seminar, Leicester University March 2003
- *Home and Away: Imperial and Post-Imperial Policing and its impact upon the British Police, 1921-1985* (with Georgina Sinclair) to Institute for Contemporary British History 'Post-Imperial Britain' Conference July 2002
- *The history of police surveillance in the UK* to 'Panel on Surveillance', Essex University March 2002
- *Counting out crime: Sheffield's criminal statistical returns in the mid-nineteenth century* to Urban History Group Meeting, University of Glasgow March 2001

In July 2004, I organised a conference:

- *Heritage and History of the UK Criminal Justice System*, at the Open University with around 80 delegates attending and 12 invited speakers. The resulting papers were published as *Giving the Past a Future: Preserving the Heritage of the UK's Criminal Justice System* (Francis Boutle: London, 2004)

This example has been based upon a real CV, but some information has been changed/included. It appears here by kind permission of the researcher who generously provided the source material.

Memberships

- Associate member of the OU International Centre for Comparative Criminological Research
- Social History Society
- Police History Society
- Committee member of Crime and Punishment Museums and Archives Network [MLA-recognised Subject Specialist Network]

References

Provide full contact details of current head of department/research group (ensure they know the details of the post you are applying for) and another well-respected colleague in a relevant field.

Appendix One: Publications (Synopsis)

A full list of my publications can be found on my webpages at www.mywebpage.ac.uk

Book Reviews:

'Crime and Power' by P. Rawlings for Crime, Histoire & Sociétés/Crime, History & Societies, November 2000.

'William Augustus Miles, 1796-1851: crime, policing and moral entrepreneurship in England and Australia' by David Philips for English Historical Review, April 2003, pp. 528-530.

'The Creative Prison' exhibition for Crime, Media Cultures, Vol. 2, No. 12, (2006), pp. 353 – 356.

'History and the Media' ed by David Cannadine for Cultural and Social History,

Articles in peer-reviewed journals:

'Counting crimes or counting people: some implications of mid-nineteenth century British police returns' in Crime, Histoire & Sociétés/Crime, History & Societies. Vol. 4 no.2 (November 2000), 77-93.

'Catégorisation et stigmatisation policières à Sheffield au milieu du XIXe siècle' in Revue d'Histoire Moderne et Contemporaine Vol 50, No. 1 (Jan-March 2003) pp. 104-125.

[With Georgina Sinclair] 'Home and Away'; the Cross Fertilisation between 'Colonial' and 'British' Policing, 1921-1985' Journal of Imperial and Commonwealth History, forthcoming, 2007.

Book Chapters:

'The Sheffield Democrats' critique of criminal justice in the 1850s' in R. Colls and R. Rodger (eds) Cities of Ideas: Civil Society and Urban Governance in Britain 1800-2000 (Ashgate: Aldershot, 2004) pp. 96-120 [0 7546 0650 3]

'Police and the Law' chapter in S. Berger (ed.) Blackwell Companion to Nineteenth Century Europe (Blackwell: Oxford, 2006), pp. 345-354. [1 4051 1320 0]

PhD Synopsis: Police and Crime in Sheffield, 1818-1874

Through the sociology of power, a model of interaction can be created centred on 'arenas of power'. By keeping different forms of power discrete, the hegemony of a ruling class can be maintained with a minimum degree of overt unfairness.

Sheffield reformed its police in 1818. Its watch force was intended to protect property by night, and was presented as also guarding order and people. This force suffered from disciplinary problems, but was effective, and increasingly well supervised. In 1836 a day police force was created. In 1843, rather than be policed by the county, Sheffield incorporated, thus ending a deadlocked debate on the path for reform that had strained the consensus within the town's ruling group. On incorporation the borough council took over the police, and supplanted the parish constables - an efficient and professional body of men. Despite being under-funded and losing the government grant in 1862-4 owing to the unwillingness of the council to spend enough, the police grew steadily more efficient. In the 1850s an experienced Watch Committee directed this process: in the 1860s it was led by the much-respected Chief Constable, John Jackson. In the early 1850s the police faced a challenge from the Sheffield Democrat party, but

their attempt to remodel local government into a neighbourhood-controlled institution foundered.

The statistical returns reveal that the police force had a wide reach and it is likely that even by 1850, about 25% of Sheffield's men had experience of arrest. Police activity was mainly directed against minor disorder, followed by 'regulation'. Most assaults were prosecuted privately, although private and collective anti-crime activity, which was often mainly symbolic, declined over the century in the face of increasing institutionalisation. The statistics themselves show evidence of retrospective labelling, and their presentation was managed to help bring fear of crime under control.