



CENTRE FOR CRIMINOLOGY & CRIMINAL JUSTICE

SEMINAR SERIES & EVENTS 2011-12**Seminar 1:** Weds 19th October 2011, 2.30-3.30pm**PROF. ANNE WORRALL & DR. ROB MAWBY**

'Doing **probation** work in turbulent times: A case of edgework, organisational cynicism and expedience?'



Abstract: This paper draws on the emerging findings from our ESRC-funded study of the occupational cultures of probation officers. Much has been written about the changing nature of work with offenders in the community, focussing primarily on the consequences of the political and managerialist pressures to which the Probation Service has been subjected in the past 30 years. There has been little research, however, on probation workers themselves, their cultures and values and the extent to which these have changed. Our research is exploring whether, taking into account the broader changes to the criminal justice system, probation workers in the 21st century have similar motivations, values and expectations of the job as did their predecessors. In this paper, noting that the Probation Service operates in turbulent conditions and is subjected to converging pressures, we consider how probation workers respond to these adverse circumstances to make their work meaningful and fulfilling, or even just to cope. To do this we will explore the extent to which probation workers' responses to these pressures can be understood using the concepts of edgework (Lyng 1990, 2005), organisational expedience (McLean Parks *et al* 2010), and Hirschman's (1970) 'Exit, Voice, Loyalty, and Neglect' model.

Presenters: Anne is Emerita Professor of Criminology, Keele University and Honorary Professorial Fellow at the University of Western Australia, Perth. Rob is a Senior Lecturer in Leicester University's Criminology Department.

Lecture Theatre G.03, Williamson Building, Oxford Rd.

THIS IS A FREE EVENT, NO BOOKING NECESSARY

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