EVERYTHING YOU WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT PRISONS

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EVERYTHING YOU WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT PRISONS

A. Providing a context: Theories of prison life, data & policy implications
B. Managing prisons
   1. Safely & humanely
   2. Protecting the public
C. Extreme conditions of confinement

Paul Gendreau, O.C., Ph.D. 2012
A. THEORIES OF PRISON LIFE

1. Deterrence
   a) Stigmatization, loss of income, dehumanizing
   b) Economic rational cost-benefit equation
   c) Moderators
      I. Low risk
      II. Precise dosage
A. THEORIES OF PRISON LIFE

1. Deterrence
   
d) Issues
   
   I. Scientific credibility
   II. Prisons are too soft
   III. Simple minded assumptions: Attitudes = behavior
   IV. Offender traits
A. THEORIES OF PRISON LIFE

1. Deterrence
   e) Issues
      I. Prison vs. community sanction
      II. Sentence length
      III. Searching for moderators
      IV. Harsher prison regimes
A. THEORIES OF PRISON LIFE

2. Schools of crime
   a) Theories
      I. Prisonization
      II. Strain theory
      III. Differential association
      IV. Social learning
A. THEORIES OF PRISON LIFE

2. Schools of crime
   b) Issues
      i. Abandonment by criminologists
      ii. Psychologists disinterest
   c) The data
      i. Low risk hypothesis
A. THEORIES OF PRISON LIFE

3. Psychological deep freeze
   a) Theories
      I. Importation
      II. Coping
   b) Issues
      I. Exceptions prove the rule
      II. Risk level
A. THEORIES OF PRISON LIFE

3. Psychological deep freeze
   c) The data
      I. Cross-sectional
      II. Longitudinal
      III. Crowding
      IV. Correctional climate
      V. Life course psychology
4. Implications for prison management
   a) Deterrence
   b) Schools of crime
   c) Psychological deep freeze
B. MANAGING PRISONS

1. Safely and humanely
   a) Prison misbehaviour is predictable (i.e., misconducts)
   b) Risk measures predict misconducts
   c) Misconducts predict recidivism
   d) Treatment (RNR) reduces misconducts
   e) Better accountability (CM)
   f) Cost effectiveness
B. MANAGING PRISONS

1. Safely and humanely
   f) Reduced misconducts = lower recidivism
   g) Therapeutic integrity (CPAI-2010)
   h) Iatrogenic effects: low risk
B. MANAGING PRISONS

2. Protecting the public
   a) Prison treatment (RNR) reduces recidivism
   b) Real world programs issue
   c) The Rideau & Ohio studies
      I. Effect size
      II. Therapeutic integrity
      III. Risk level
      IV. dosage
Adult Residential Programs:
Program Integrity and Recidivism

Paula Smith, Ph.D., UC
Ohio CBCF/HWH Evaluation: Low Risk Offenders

Paula Smith, Ph.D., UC
Ohio CBCF/HWH Evaluation: High Risk Offenders

Paula Smith, Ph.D., UC
C. EXTREME CONDITIONS OF CONFINEMENT

1. Colorado study on administrative segregation (AS)
   I. Results: little effect across multiple measures

2. In contrast to:
   I. Anecdotal reports/case histories
   II. Grassian & Haney studies
C. EXTREME CONDITIONS OF CONFINEMENT

3. Bibliotherapy for cynics
   I. Experimental design & responses bias
   II. Restricted environmental stimulation
   III. The Canadian studies
   IV. Theory: perceptual adaptation & Behavioral deep freeze
C. EXTREME CONDITIONS OF CONFINEMENT

4. Is the Colorado study the final word?
   I. Sampling error
   II. Knowledge cumulation: meta-analysis
C. EXTREME CONDITIONS OF CONFINEMENT

5. Doing something about the problem
   I. Divert inmates who cannot cope
   II. Screening out MDOs’
   III. Early intervention with high risk inmates
   IV. The elephant in the phone booth!