

## *From the Director's desk . . .*

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Over the last week of July, I attended the British Criminology Conference at the University of York. The meeting provided the opportunity for academics, researchers and practitioners in a wide variety of criminology and criminal justice areas to meet together and discuss significant developments in the UK and Europe in their selected fields. The conference is the premier event of its kind in Europe and this year over 400 people to hear some of the most significant writers and scholars in criminology, working within a critical milieu.

As important as it was to participate in the research sessions of the conference it is also necessary for our Institute to have representation at a meeting where opportunities exist to make contact with representatives of research centres throughout the United Kingdom and Europe. During my time in York I had fruitful discussions with the Director of the Institute of Criminology, University of Cambridge, the Co-Ordinator of the Centre for the Study of Public Order at the University of Leicester, and was able to renew my acquaintance with Dr David Garland and Peter Young of the Centre of Criminology and the Social and Philosophical Study of Law (University of Edinburgh). I anticipate that these contacts will further enhance the standing of the Institute of Criminology and will increase our potential to share in the wider work of inter-regional criminal justice studies. In addition, these connections may provide avenues through which postgraduate criminology teaching at this institution will be refined, and our students may have the opportunity to benefit from future exchange programs.

The Australian and New Zealand Society of Criminology held their conference at the University of Melbourne between 2 and 4 October. It was a credit to the organising committee and participants. Not only was the standard of presentations certainly comparable to those which I attended in Britain, but the depth and variety of research which they represented demonstrates the healthy state of Australian criminology.

Perhaps more significant was the feeling of community which was generated amongst conference participants, not only in the work sessions at the conference but also during the warm and collegiate social occasions entertainingly organised by the staff of the Department of Criminology at Melbourne University. During the "Review", which followed the conference dinner, it was difficult to determine whether Melbourne academic criminologists should prefer to rest their reputation in thespian rather than research skills. I thank Professor Freiburg and his staff for their hospitality.

Another highlight of the Melbourne conference was the John Barry Memorial lecture presented by Professor John Braithwaite. His topic "Reducing the Crimes Problem — A Not So Dismal Criminology", provided a framework in which he eloquently argued the significance of a republican theory of criminology. The lecture was to some extent a

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drawing together of arguments more expansively presented in his plenary paper to the British Criminological Society conference.

At the biennial general meeting of the Australian and New Zealand Society of Criminology Chris Cunneen was elected to the Executive as the New South Wales representative. The new editor of the *Australian and New Zealand Journal of Criminology* is to be Professor Ross Hommell, soon of Griffith University, Queensland. We congratulate them both and wish them well.

MARK FINDLAY