

## INTRODUCTION

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As Mark Findlay notes in his comments "From the Director's Desk", 1993 is indeed a challenging year for the Institute of Criminology. One of the most interesting tasks we have undertaken in the past two years is to revamp our journal and to turn it into a publication at the forefront of criminological research and debate.

This most recent issue certainly goes a long way towards meeting the high standards we have set for ourselves. It contains articles and comments notable not only for their scholarly content but for the breadth and diversity of issues and problems with which they deal. It contains articles and comments not only on strictly local Australian matters but also comments on current issues from both Israel and Peru. Phil Dickie and Paul Wilson offer insights into the ever perplexing problem of defining organised crime. What is of particular interest in their contribution is the way in which theoretical and practical (operational) concerns are combined. Philip Pettit and John Braithwaite introduce readers to one of the most interesting and lively debates in current criminology in their reply to von Hirsch and Ashworth on the heated question of retribution versus republican liberty in the criminal justice system. Each of these articles, in its own way, addresses issues and questions which are likely to be of concern for years to come. The journal looks forward to reader response to these and other topics in the future.

Arie Freiberg also addresses an issue of current theoretical and practical import when he discusses the vexing area of juvenile justice and the sentencing of juvenile offenders. In light of the political role which this area seems increasingly to enjoy, Professor Freiberg's insights could again be at the forefront of criminology and criminal justice debate in Australia.

The Contemporary Comment section is equally topical, carrying a contribution by Gail Reekie and Paul Wilson on Queensland's Goss government's policy decision to further criminalise the area of prostitution. Turning to the international field, Gloria Weisman provides our readers with valuable insights into recent legislative developments in Israel on the domestic violence issue. Craig Everson brings our readers' attention to the current state of play in Peru's "war of terrorism" with his analysis of the "trial" of Abimael Guzman, leader of *Sendero Luminoso*, and of the arrest and imprisonment of Peruvian lawyers involved in the defence of political prisoners.

This volume of *Current Issues in Criminal Justice* is a testament to the diversity and breadth of criminology research in Australia and overseas. It also testifies to the ongoing commitment of the Institute of Criminology to play a leading role in disseminating information and in acting as a forum for the exchange of information and ideas.

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