

The Panopticon

RC29: Deviance and Social Control—International Sociological Association

Volume 3 Issue 1
February 2009

Message from RC29 President, Biko Agozino

Welcome to the new issue of our newsletter which you voted to name *The Panopticon* by popular choice.

We will welcome book reviews, field notes, announcements, conference reports and calls for papers for inclusion in the future issues of the newsletter.

Members who are not familiar with our statutes should visit the following site to learn more:

http://www.ucm.es/info/isa/rcs/rc29_st.htm

From the statutes you will find that we need more members to join the board of RC 29. We will welcome nominations and self-nominations to fill the vacant slots on the board.

We are happy to announce that an eminent member of RC29 has agreed to fill the vacant position of Second Vice President and Secretary of RC29. His contacts are:

Robert Nash Parker, PhD
Professor of Sociology
Co Director of the Presley Center
for Crime and Justice

Studies
College BLDG South
University of California
Riverside, CA 92521
V: 951-827-4604
F: 951-827-7394

In this issue, you will find a draft proposals for grants from ISA to support RC activities. We will welcome the inputs of members before we submit the proposal for our RC. Thanks to the members who have already made suggestions that we ask for funding to support RC29 meetings. One such meeting will be held in Trinidad and Tobago in April and another in Brazil in July 2009.

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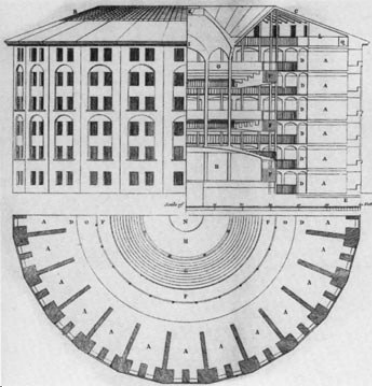
Special points of interest:

- Book Announcement Page 1
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Book Announcement by Parker and Asencio (2008)

GIS and Spatial Analysis for the Social Sciences: Coding, Mapping, and Modeling, by Robert Nash Parker and Emily K. Asencio is the first book to provide sociologists, criminologists, political scientists, and other social scientists with the methodological logic and techniques for doing spatial analysis in their chosen fields of inquiry. The book contains a wealth of examples as to why these techniques are worth doing, over and above conventional statistical techniques using SPSS or other statistical packages. GIS is a methodological and conceptual approach that allows for the linking together of spatial data, or data that is based on a physical space, with non-spatial data, which can be thought of as any data that contains no direct reference to physical locations. Link to view or purchase the book:

<http://www.amazon.com/GIS-Spatial-Analysis-Social->



Book Preview by Nonso Okafo

Counter-Colonial Criminology: Law and Justice Re- form from the Base

**Nonso Okafo,
Ph.D.**

**Professor
Norfolk State Univer-
sity**

Counter-colonial criminology concentrates on the unique criminological perspectives emanating from colonized peoples, such as those perspectives rooted in the immemorial cultures of Africa. By this view, the true nature of African criminology and social control is to be found in an in-depth analysis and understanding of the continent's pre-colonial, colonial, and post-colonial histories (Okereafọzeke, 2002; Agozino, 2003; Okafo, 2006; 2008). Thus, it is not alright for criminologists – African, Western,

and otherwise – to lazily and condescendingly reduce discussion of law and justice issues in postcolonial societies to merely comparing the differences in the applications of Western ideas in the West versus their former colonies, mainly in Africa. The proper approach is to concentrate on the unique criminological perspectives originating from the former colonies. For Africa, these perspectives are rooted in Africans' immemorial cultures.

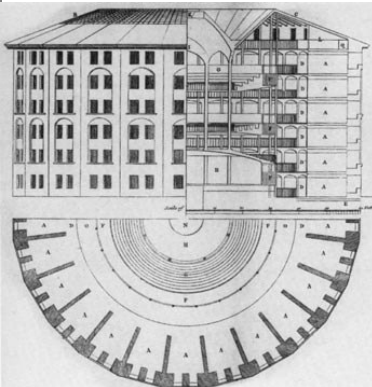
**Strong scientific evidence
from postcolonial Africa**

'Strong scientific evidence from postcolonial Africa concludes that the peoples' pre-colonial social controls worked well and were dynamic..' - Okafo

concludes that the peoples' pre-colonial social controls worked well and were dynamic. In the colonial and postcolonial eras, these indigenous-based systems, processes, and philosophies of crime and social control continue as invaluable players in the sustenance

of the modern State (see as examples, Okereafọzeke, 1996; 2002; Agozino, 2005, Okafo, 2006; 2008). This, despite the British and French "indirect rule" and "assimilation" colonial policies, which respectively were designed to abrogate, and had

some success in abrogating, the indigenous systems, processes, and philosophies. Early (before Africans' contact with Europeans) African social control and justice were rooted in forgiveness, communalism, healing, and restitution, instead of retribution. Early African



Book Preview cont.

judges aimed primarily at compensating injured parties and their families and reconciling disputants, and not to punish offenders, as the Western penal ideology emphasizes. This is a fundamental source of disagreement between Af-

rica and Europe. These intrinsic African justice and social control values remain valid in the post-colonial era, especially at the unofficial (non-governmental) levels. Any wonder that the various European law and justice systems, which the Euro-

pean imperialists forcefully injected into Africa, are largely ineffective means of social control in West Africa and other parts of the continent.

In a lot of ways, many postcolonial African (continues on page 3)

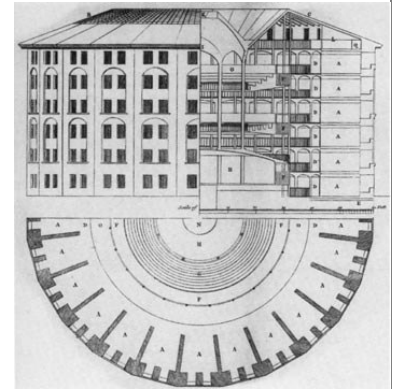


Book Preview cont. from page 2.

governments have continued the destructive tendencies of the English, French, and other Western colonial States towards Africa. These colonial or colonial-rooted policies serve as vehicles for repressing the post-colonial citizenry, just as the defunct colonial regimes did. It is necessary to correct the colonial policy of destroying or suppressing indigenous

law and justice philosophies. A correction will be achieved by building the elements of counter-colonial criminology. What is required, as a component of counter-colonial criminology, is a reassertion of the law and justice systems, processes, and philosophies that reflect the indigenous ideas of each postcolonial society, while open-mindedly ac-

knowledging, adopting, and using useful ideas from other societies. To this end, the postcolonial society is to appreciate, question, and creatively synthesize the good qualities of its indigenous and foreign justice and law systems. The post-colony is to allow for discourses and resolutions to determine the best justice, social control, and law for the soci-



Book Preview Cont..

ety. The opportunity for discourses and resolutions will ensure Blagg's (1998) *liminal spaces*, "where we accept that what is often taken for granted as normal and unproblematic is a landscape at present imbued with the institutions of the colonizer – a land-

scape where the cultural artefacts of the colonizers are held to be universal. In this context, decolonization is not only about changing institutions, it also requires a decolonization of the mind and of our imagination; a rethinking of possibilities" (Cunneen,

2002, p. 42).

To appreciate, question, and creatively synthesize indigenous and foreign justice, however, a postcolonial society has first to overcome the following challenge. "The challenge of the post-colonial is to indicate the limits of Western ethnocentricity, to decentre and displace the norms of western knowledge,

'What is required, as a component of counter-colonial criminology, is a reassertion of the law and justice systems, processes, and philosophies that reflect the indigenous ideas of each postcolonial society' - Okafo

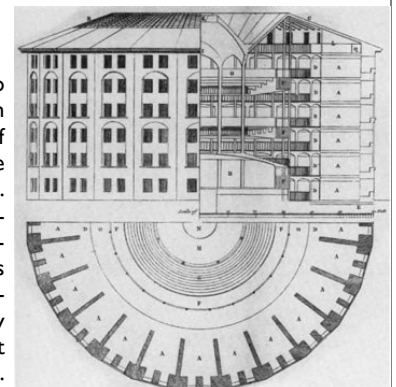
Book Preview continued

and to question the assumptions of justice ..." (Cunneen, 2002, p. 47). It is justifiable then to assert that "decolonising the mind" and "moving the centre" (see Thiong'o, wa, 1986; 1993; 1997) are two critical prerequisites for rebuilding justice in a postcolony.

Thiong'o, wa (1986; 1993; 1997) explains the two ideas: "decolonising the mind" and

"moving the centre". By them, he exhorts the postcolonial leader and follower to disabuse their thoughts, reasonings, and rationalizations for continuing and even expanding the legacy of the colonial impositions on the postcolony. The postcolonial leader and follower should instead redirect their focus, energy, and resources to rebuilding their indigenous institutions and ways of life. Necessary accom-

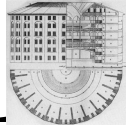
modations should be made to account for changes in modern society and to take advantage of the positive attributes of the foreign ideas and institutions. However, the focus of the rebuilding effort should be primarily on strengthening indigenous ideas and institutions. Otherwise, the postcolonial society will remain perpetually without focus or meaningful purpose. Unless the leaders and citizens of



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ISA: RC29 - Deviance and Social Control

The Panopticon



[http://www.ucm.es/
info/isa/rc29.htm](http://www.ucm.es/info/isa/rc29.htm)

(Cont. from bottom left) should empower parties to grievances, conflicts, and disputes to manage their cases by themselves or with the assistance of their community members, at the most local levels, such as the extended family, village (neighborhood), and town, if possible. Every community has a vested interest in peaceful co-existence among its members. The community will therefore continue to assist its members to pursue peace and stability through negotiated and restorative justice model. It should be pointed out that the capacity of the postcolonial community to manage many of its affairs, including many “crimes,” remains strong even in the modern era. With meaningful, properly targeted support and assistance from the State and its agencies, research shows that local communities have agencies, organizations, and procedures capable of managing most, if not all, of the civil and criminal infractions that occur in the societies (Okereafọzeke, 1996; 2002).

Finally, redefinition of “crime” in a postcolony to account for the citizens’ history, experiences, and aspirations, rather than definitions imposed by ex-colonizers, would enhance the people’s understanding of crime, criminal justice, and the modes of their enforcement. Also, empowering the citizens to assume greater responsibility in managing their grievances, conflicts, and disputes, would stress the limited character of criminal law and the primacy of the citizens’ views and methods for crime and other social control.

(Concluded on page 6 with references)

Book Preview cont. from page 3.

a postcolony raise their thought and reasoning processes, rationalizations, self-values, and confidence levels to reassess and reasonably and strategically reposition their indigenous systems and processes in the scheme of social control, the necessary restructuring of a postcolony’s law and justice will not be achieved.

Beyond decolonizing and changing the postcolonial mind and strategies, the following two major steps are required to better understand, explain, and solve crimes and criminals in a postcolony. First, consistently with the proper role of criminal law as a complement to civil law, the primacy of civil law should be amplified. This means

that the meaning of “crime” should reflect the postcolonial society’s understanding and interpretation. Many criminal law violations will be redefined as civil wrongs. In recognition of the importance of the criminalizing process (norm definition as crime) in criminal law and justice, the legislature of a postcolony has the authority and power to redefine appropriate norm violations as civil, rather than criminal, violations. The decision as to the specific norms to be so redefined will depend on the importance of each norm for society. The less important a norm is, the more likely that it will be redefined as a civil wrong. Another important factor to be considered is the availability of parties’ or community’s capacity and/or desire to manage an issue

unofficially (without official government involvement). The greater the capacity and/or desire of the private parties and/or the community to manage alleged violations of a norm, the more likely that it will be redefined as a civil wrong. Otherwise, a norm violation will be viewed as a crime. Many pre-colonial Africans, for example, defined “crime” narrower than its common law definition. A more restricted meaning of crime would allow the citizens increased roles in law definition, interpretation and application, enforcement, and execution, consistently with generally accepted guidelines within each society.

Second, the postcolonial State



Send us news of your publications, promotions or relocations: bagozino@yahoo.com or Onwubiko.Agozino@sta.Uwi.edu



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Research Committee 29: Deviance and Social Control Board Members

Position	Name	Organ. affiliation	Country	Year
President	Biko Agozino	The University of the West Indies	Trinidad and Tobago	2006-
1 st Vice President and coordinator of next World Congress Pro-	Maria Stela Grossi msgrossi@unb.br	UNB, Brazil	Brazil	2006
2 nd Vice President	Robert Nash Parker, Ph.D. robnp@aol.com		USA	2006
Immediate Past President	Patrick Jobes		Australia	2006
Board Member	Ahti Laitinen		Finland	2006
Board member	Grazyna Zajdow		Australia	2006
Board Member	Mary Corcoran		UK	2006
Board member	Karen Morgan		UK	2006
Board member	Marcis Trapencieris		Latvia	2006
Board Member	Abdul-Mumin Sa'ad	University of Maiduguri	Nigeria	2006
Board Member	Robert Nash Parker	University of California, Riverside, USA	USA	2008
Board Member	Rosemary Barberet	John Jay College, New York	USA	2008

Officials

President: Biko Agozino, The University of the West Indies, Trinidad and Tobago

Please explain briefly how RC Officials and Board Members are elected/nominated/appointed and indicate the date for the next Board elections.

There will be a Board of 18 members (15 elected by mail ballot at least 12 months prior to an International meeting and three appointed by the newly elected Board). The past president will provide the president with a list of at least 25 names as nominees for the executive committee. A call for nominees for the Board must be submitted to every paid-up member before a ballot is circulated. The ballot sent to the membership will include a space for write-in votes. Each paid-up member will have five votes. Those nominees receiving the votes will serve on the committee but no country may have more than three representatives. Ballots will be sent to the past president for counting, the results will be published in a newsletter at least one year prior to the next international meeting, and the past president will deliver or send the ballots to the board meeting.

ONCE AGAIN, WE CALL FOR NOMINEES TO JOIN THE BOARD AND FOLLOWING THE NOMINATIONS THERE WILL BE A BALLOT

References

- Agozino, Biko (2003) *Counter-Colonial Criminology: A Critique of Imperialist Reason*. Pluto Press.
- Agozino, Biko (2005) "Crime, Criminology and Post-Colonial Theory: Criminological Reflections on West Africa" in *Transnational & Comparative Criminology*, edited by James Sheptycki & Ali Wardak, Glasshouse Press.
- Blagg, H. (1998) "Restorative Visions and Restorative Justice Practices: Conferencing, Ceremony and Reconciliation in Australia" in *Current Issues in Criminal Justice*, 10 (1).
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- Okereafuzeke [Okafo], Nnso (2002) *Law and Justice in Post-British Nigeria: Conflicts and Interactions Between Native and Foreign Systems of Social Control in Igbo*. Westport, Connecticut, USA: Greenwood Press.
- Thiong'o, wa, Ngugi (1986) *Decolonising the Mind: The Politics of Language in African Literature*. London, England: James Currey.
- Thiong'o, wa, Ngugi (1993) *Moving the Centre: The Struggle for Cultural Freedoms*. London, England: James Currey.
- Thiong'o, wa, Ngugi (1997) *Writers in Politics: A Re-Engagement With Issues of Literature and Society*. Oxford, England: James Currey.

PUBLICATIONS BY RC29 MEMBERS:

- Agozino, B. 2008 'Editorial: Foreign Women in Prison', in *African Journal of Criminology and Justice studies*, Vol. 3, No. 2,
- Agozino, B. 2008 with Stella Volpe, 'Health Disparities in Prison: Implications for Disparities in the Community' in *Journal of Correctional Health Care*, Vol. 14, issue 3, forthcoming.
1. David Greenberg and Valerie West, "Siting the Death Penalty Internationally," *Law and Social Inquiry* 33(2) (2008): 295-343.
 2. Julie Phillips and David Greenberg, "A Comparison of Methods for Analyzing Criminological Panel Data," *Journal of Quantitative Criminology* 24.1 (March 2008): 51-72.
- of the Whole drafts resolutions while the Plenary hears member state reports and finalizes the resolutions drafted by the Committee of the Whole.

CALL FOR PARTICIPATION AND PRESENTATION AT ISA-UN ORGANIZED WORKSHOP

From Rosemary Barberet: Here is something for the newsletter. It is about recruiting any RC29 members to come speak at an NGO panel at an ISA organized workshop run parallel to the UN Commission on the Status of Women meeting in New York in March.

We are sending you a request for assistance. Jan Marie Fritz (an RC32 member and an ISA vice president) successfully applied on behalf of the ISA for a session (one of the parallel events) that will be held in conjunction with the 53rd meeting of the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) in New York City. The session will be on Thursday, March 5 at 2 p.m. and is open to the public.

Presentation possibility. The title of the ISA session is "Equal Participation in Decision Making: Research and Action" which is one of the themes this year for the Commission on the Status of Women. (See <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/50sess.htm>). If you will be in New York City on March 5 and would like to give a presentation that fits within this broad theme (all areas; micro, meso and/or macro levels, focusing on research, action and/or a combination of research and action), please let her know by return email. The ISA can't provide any financial support for you to take part in this meeting, but, if you are in the area, she hopes you will consider giving a presentation. She thinks this is the first time the ISA has sponsored a session at the CSW and it would be wonderful if an RC29 members would give presentations. (The ISA has a slot that is just under two hours and so there can be three or four presentations.) Please send Jan a proposed title and a few sentences to explain your work in this area.

Contribution to the lists of selected references. The ISA is going to provide lists of selected references on this theme to those attending the CSW meeting and parallel events. Jan would like to make these lists as international as possible. If at all possible, please help her with this effort. It is fine if references are in languages other than in English. She would like complete references and (if possible) a translation of titles into English. It would be nice if the work has been written by sociologists or appeared in sociology journals/books, but please do not limit the references to sociologists or sociology. I hope you will help her identify what should be on these lists and/or identify RC29 members who could contribute to these lists based on the themes that are listed here.

Thank you in advance) for any help you can give Jan with this ISA project. To avoid email congestion, PLEASE RESPOND DIRECTLY TO Jan Marie Fritz. Her email address is jan.fritz@uc.edu

From Alfredo Bockholt [elfrad.bockholt@gmail.com] I wanted to ask you one other favour. One of the key issues in Latin America and the Caribbean that should be included is incarceration. While I may be able to get a contribution on prisons in Cuba, I have thus far not been able to find a scholar dealing with the issue in Latin America or the Caribbean. Would you know anybody who does?

RC29 Meeting at Caribbean Criminology Conference 2009

The Criminology Unit will be hosting its first ever conference from April 8th -9th 2009 at The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine Campus, Trinidad and Tobago and RC29 plans to hold a meeting at this conference.

Theme:Developing a Caribbean Criminology

Venue:Institute of Critical Thinking

Deadline for registration: March 16th 2009 (Limited spaces are available)

Further information can be obtained from the Criminology Unit Office, St. Augustine Campus, UWI.

Telephone: (868) 662-2002 ext. 3353, 3913

Fax: (868) 662-0718

Email: CaribCrim.Network@sta.uwi.edu

Website: <http://sta.uwi.edu/fss/criminology/>

On behalf of Prof. Agozino, the Criminology Unit's Coordinator, we wish to invite you to participate in our Criminology Conference 2009; **Developing a Caribbean Criminology, St. Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago**. This conference is the culmination of a project that was funded by the Government of Trinidad and Tobago to study the causes of crime in the Caribbean and globally. Therefore the thought it wise to host a Criminology Conference with the sole aim of **evaluating the contributions of Caribbean Criminology**. The Caribbean is a very unique region and as a result the field of Criminology and Criminal Justice would benefit tremendously with the involvement of Caribbean scholars in the international dialogue on crime. We hope from this conference the foundations could be laid for the development of a Caribbean Criminological School of Thought.

We therefore take this opportunity to invite you to submit a paper or propose an RC29 panel for presentation at the conference. Even if your research is not on the Caribbean but you have theoretical, methodological or policy contributions that could be made relevant to understanding crime in a small island state, feel free to join us.

Any further questions please feel free to email or check our website at <http://sta.uwi.edu/fss/criminology/CONFERENCE2009.as>

RC29: Deviance and Social Control is one of the Research committees of the International Sociological Association and we would be happy to co-host this conference with RC29 members. Professor Biko Agozino is the President of RC29. Those of you who are members of RC29 should feel free to join us and plan to participate in the 2010 World Congress of Sociology in Sweden: <http://www.sociology.org/congress2010/>

Keron King, Research Assistant, Criminology Unit

From First Vice President of RC29:

Brazilian Society of Sociology is going to have its XIV Congress and some Brazilian members of the RC 29 are preparing a Round Table named 'Crime, Violence and Punishment' 1, 2, 3. By this activity we intend to do a sort of State of the Art of this subject. The congress will take place next July (2009) in Rio de Janeiro. Contact:

Maria Stela Grossi Porto [mmsgrossi@unb.br]

Application form for ISA Research Committees grant
to support forthcoming activities during the period 2008-2011

Submissions deadline:

1. Name of the Research Committee : RC29 Deviance and Social Control

2. Name and contact details of current post-holders

President: Biko Agozino, The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago bagozino@yahoo.com

Secretary: Maya Ruskova, Russia, maia@ngostellit.ru

3. Number of affiliated or other members: 44

(i.e. those who are not ISA members and whose records are kept by the RC)

4. How much in total is requested: \$450.00

Please check against maximum amount available according to number of ISA members as listed in the accompanying Rules document.

5. How will this be used and in support of which RC activities?

E.g. conferences, workshops, newsletters, etc. If more than one activity is listed, please indicate how much would be allocated to each activity.

Activity 1: Mailing Newsletter to members without e-mail address

Brief description: Costs of mailing newsletters to members without e-mail address

Estimate of amount to be allocated \$50.00

Activity 2: RC Panels at the Developing Caribbean Criminology Conference

Brief description: Costs of coordinating panels for RC29 at the Developing Caribbean Criminology Conference and offer of small subsidies to RC29 participants

Estimate of amount to be allocated: \$400

6. Add other activities as necessary

This form is also available at http://www.ucm.es/info/isa/about/rc_aims.htm

ISA Conditions

Please confirm, by answering the following questions, that the Research Committee is in good standing with the ISA.

Does the RC have at least 25 members whose membership fees in both RC and ISA are up to date (i.e. have been paid for the year of application)?

Yes

Are all the Board Members paid up (for the year of application) members of both ISA and the RC?

Yes

Has the RC sent a Newsletter (at least one per year B printed or electronic) to its members and to the ISA Secretariat?

Yes

Has the RC sent a detailed report of its activities to the ISA Secretariat when requested? (i.e. usually every 2 years: a mid-term report and a full-term report in Congress years).

Yes

Does the RC hold regular elections of its Board?

Yes

Does the RC have its own membership dues? If so, what are they?

Yes \$30.00

Does the RC have up-dated Statutes?

Yes

Is the RC proposing to organize at least one international conference before the next World Congress where all members can participate?

Yes

Will the RC undertake to submit a report about the usage and expenditure of the RC grant if awarded?

Yes