Broken Society, Anti-social contracts, Failing State?

Peter Squires & Carlie Goldsmith
University of Brighton & Kingston University

- *Inclusive* capitalism?
- A concentration of wealth
- Austerity politics
- Accelerated inequality
- **Re-Balancing** Justice - criminalisation or social justice?
- Daily reminders of social division/exclusion
- Diswelfare/ punitiveness: “repressive welfarism”
- Intolerances: ‘feral youth’; foreigners/racism
Guy Standing on children and young people

- Impact on child care (time) and educational commodification (p.125)
- “Youth make up the core of the precariat” (p.66)

- **Three ‘precarity traps’**
  - Family Precarity
  - Loss of ‘role models’ (work = masculinity, opportunity, ambition and ethic)
  - Drift into peripheral roles > [crime, gangs & street cred: ‘...part of the wider precarity trap for young men’ ]

- A 4\(^{th}\) trap: **Criminalisation**
Disconnected: The emerging neo-liberal youth/gang narrative

- **Connected** 3 Gun Crime Summits between 2004 and 2008
- Strathclyde Violence Reduction Strategy
- *Tackling Gangs* (Home Office, 2008),
- *Dying to Belong*, an ‘in depth Review of Street Gangs in Britain’ (CSJ, 2009).
“The **social contract** with young people has been broken” (Jeremy Browne MP)

- Myth of compliance
- Contracts for control .... or
  
  “future oriented foreclosure” (O’Brien & Penna)
- Zero hours contracts
- “Second chance” Contracts
- Discipline through risk / need as ‘fault’ (Jo Phoenix)
- (Coping) Capacity building / responsibilisation
Admissions to English NHS Hospitals for Assault
Hospital admissions per 100,000 per year by age

Source: Bellis et al., 2011 and HM Government (2011: 16)
Age and gender profile of currently recorded homicide victims compared with population, combined years 2010/11 to 2012/13 (ONS, 2014)
Homicide rates per million of the population in England and Wales combined data for 2010/11 to 2012/13 (ONS, 2014)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>White</th>
<th>Black</th>
<th>Asian</th>
<th>Other</th>
<th>All Ethnic Groups</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>12</td>
<td><strong>55</strong></td>
<td>16</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>14</td>
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<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>6</td>
<td><strong>13</strong></td>
<td>7</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Victims</td>
<td>9</td>
<td><strong>33</strong></td>
<td>11</td>
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Under the social contract, the criminal justice system is tasked with the provision of safety and justice to communities but *whose safety* and *justice for all?*
THE RISK PATHWAY and the CHOICES: the journey, the narrative

The journey of “Boy X”

- **Models of ‘Social Justice’** not social capital
  - Distributional: outcomes /opportunities
  - Procedural: processes / mobility
  - Psycho-Social: perceptions / respect
  - Cultural: inclusivity / discourse

- **Indicators**
AHRC Connected Communities

Scoping Study

- Analysis of published qualitative research on children and young people, community, connection and disconnection.
- Consultation with key stakeholders including policy-makers, practitioners and young people.
- Follow on study exploring the role of ‘connectors’ in preventing violence in communities (with Basia Spalek, Kingston University and Steve Hewitt, University of Birmingham).
Findings from the Scoping Study: Landscapes of Risk

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The view from the street</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• <strong>Risky people</strong>: other young people, ‘names’, problematic adults prone to violence and/or unpredictable behaviour, parents, ‘outsiders’ agents of the CJ and welfare systems (police, CS officers, wardens, social workers, housing officers).</td>
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<td>• <strong>Risky places</strong>: degraded environment and hyper immobility, places within the neighbourhood, across spatial boundaries. Not just territoriality but stigmatisation = confinement.</td>
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I’ve got a brother, I fret when he leaves the estate. You understand where I’m coming from? Because he’s going out to people that are not from around here, and might not like people off this estate. Do you understand where I’m coming from? And it makes you trapped; it makes you feel trapped anyway (extract from Ralphs et al, 2009 p488)

| • **Risky behaviours**: drinking, drug taking, involvement in the black market, crime, grassing and *misrecognition* of dress/style. Personal and reputational risk of non-involvement for young people. |
| • **Risky society**: exclusion, poverty, lack of opportunity, stigma, blame. |
Managing and Resisting Risk

• Connectedness and mutuality: making ‘links’, reciprocity, protection in numbers, blood (and other) ties and getting by.

The older children interviewed (13 to 15 years old) suggested that you could be drawn in to a fight to, ‘back up your pals if they’re getting a doin’’, and ‘at the end of the day, you’re going to have it on your conscience (if) you didn’t back them (your friends) up enough’. (Bannister and Fraser, 2008 p108)

• ‘Dark social capital’, ‘anti-social’ crime and social crime.
• Participation in rituals, for example, after violent death (Goldsmith, 2012)
• Getting out, moving on: not impossible, but opportunities often very restricted and further compromised by employment/housing and centrality of local survival/support networks.
• Education – outcomes are frequently poor.

‘No I wouldn’t ask teachers for help they’re all knobs. We get treated differently cos we’re from [name of estate]. They look down on you and they treat you like you’re sort of inbred’ (Male, 15, young people’s consultation event)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Political Orientation</th>
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<td>Conservative/Corporatist</td>
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<tr>
<td>Norway</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>SD/Nordic</td>
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<td>Iceland</td>
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<td>Finland</td>
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<td>Sweden</td>
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<td>Germany</td>
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<td>United Kingdom</td>
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<td>Anglo-Saxon/Neo Lib</td>
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<td>(up from 21 in 2007)</td>
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The Future?

‘The Government is currently a no-man’s land where it has strongly criticised the measures it is legally required to make progress against but failed to provide an alternative set four years after taking office’ (Social Mobility and Child Poverty Commission, 2014)

• Levels of child poverty predicted to increase not decline (SMCPC, 2013).
• UNICEF Score Card recognises data lag and vulnerability of children and young people in the age of austerity policies.
• Picketty – historic levels of inequality, unknown consequences – we need to ask the question.
• Can structural inequalities and social justice for children and young people be put back on the political agenda? Are there any signs that this might be the case?
Selected Bibliography


Goldsmith, C. 2011. ‘It just feels like it’s always us’: young people, safety and community. Unpublished PhD, University of Brighton


