

**LIST OF RESEARCH BY THE  
INTERDISCIPLINARY CENTRE FOR  
APPLIED RESEARCH AND PRISON  
STUDIES (CIRAP)**

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 **CIRAP**

Centre Interdisciplinaire de Recherche  
Appliquée au champ Pénitentiaire

## List of research by CIRAP

### ➤ **The Respect module.**

Monitoring and assessment of an innovative programme: a multidisciplinary approach, ongoing, Lucie Hernandez and Paul Mbanzoulou

### ➤ **Prison and its image,**

ongoing, Fabienne Huard-Hardy and Cécile Rambourg

### ➤ **Radicalisation,**

ongoing, Guillaume Brie and Cécile Rambourg

### ➤ **New issues related to the treatment of sex offenders. Mutually exclusive dimensions.** Guillaume Brie, 2017.

### ➤ **Assessment of the "Animal-AssistedTherapy" programme at the remand centre in Strasbourg,** Claire-Emmanuelle Laguerre, June 2017

### ➤ **The Prison Manual, views on prisons in the Inter-war period,**

Fabienne Huard-Hardy, January 2017.

### ➤ **A preparation programme for release from the remand centre. Analysing and understanding the dynamics of processes involved that could act as a barrier to implementing and running the programme,**

Lucie Hernandez, 2017

### ➤ **Study of applicable obligations in open custody: an analysis of the coercive dimension of probation,**

Clément Margaine, March 2016

### ➤ **Prison administration management and authority. Changes in positions in the prison social environment,**

Laurence Bessières, October 2016

### ➤ **Radicalisation. Scientific analysis versus political uses.**

Analytical synthesis, Guillaume Brie and Cécile Rambourg, 2015

### ➤ **Assessing the dangerousness of individuals under criminal justice control,**

Paul Mbanzoulou, 2014 in collaboration with Astid Hirschelmann, Sonia Harrati and Nicolas Derasse

### ➤ **Career paths of prison directors: Conforming to a dominant career model,**

Laurence Bessières, December 2013

### ➤ **Feminisation put to the test of prison,** Cécile Rambourg, April 2013

### ➤ **Rationalities of French probation,**

Olivier Razac (CIRAP), Fabien GOURIOU (CIAPHS) and Grégory SALLE (CLERSE), Cirap, March 2013

### ➤ **Ageing and loss of autonomy in the prison environment,**

Olivier Razac, Cécile Rambourg, Paul Mbanzoulou, 2012, in collaboration with Nicolas Combalbert

### ➤ **Custodial facilities for juveniles: between institutional rationales and professional practices, 2012,**

Francis Bailleau, Nathalie Gourmelon and Philip Milburn

### ➤ **Prison administration and disability: The challenge of otherness,**

Cécile Rambourg, May 2010

### ➤ **Supervision through electronic tagging : a new criminal justice model?,**

Olivier Razac, September 2010

### ➤ **Prison treatment of sexual abuse offenders: Institutional and professional developments,**

Joséfina Alvarez and Nathalie Gourmelon, 2009

### ➤ **The Toulouse Interregional Secure Hospital Unit (UHSI). Overall operation, hospitalisation experience and professional collaboration,**

Hélène Bazex, 2009

- **Young people under criminal justice control and access to employment in retail companies within the European area,**  
Sylvie Courtine, 2008
- **A new educational method for the initial training of prison guard students: Simulation,**  
Laurence Bessières, February 2008
- **The use of incapacitating weapons in prisons. A survey of educators at the National Prison Administration School,**  
Olivier Razac, 2008
- **Testing of Experimental Family Visit Units (UEVF): Saint-Martin de Ré Prison,**  
Cécile Rambourg, March 2006
- **Prison treatment of sexual abuse offenders: Assessment and analysis of new practices,**  
Josefina Alvarez, Nathalie Gourmelon
- **Correctional approaches to the dangerousness of inmates in secure custody: definition, assessment, and management by prison staff,**  
Paul Mbanzoulou
- **Prison violence,**  
François Courtine, October 2005
- **Testing Experimental Family Visit Units at the Rennes penitentiary centre Implementation and impacts on professional practices and individuals,**  
Cécile Rambourg, June 2005
- **Supervision through electronic tagging: What new practices and skills are required for prison staff?**  
Christophe Cardet, Catherine Frénot, Philippe Pottier, March 2003
- **Sport in prison: a sociodemographic analysis of the sporting careers of inmates,**  
Laurent Gras

## Abstracts of recent research

### ➤ **A preparation programme for release from the remand centre. Analysing and understanding the dynamics of the processes involved which may act as a barrier to implementing and running the programme,**

Lucie Hernandez

Time spent in prison, no matter how long, marks a sharp break with life in society. Confinement, disaffiliation, de-socialisation, alienation etc. cannot help but intensify potential barriers to social reintegration and re-entry into the labour force. Therefore, preparing inmates for their release from prison is a crucial dimension of their reintegration and (re-) entry into the labour force and preventing recidivism. In France, a growing number of "readiness programmes" based on the Quebec model (cognitive and behavioural model) are being created and implemented during incarceration. We will look at on one such programme: a release preparation programme (QPS) created and implemented by a Remand Centre. This programme represents a transitional phase between prison and release, supporting inmates and preparing them for a number of different dimensions: employment, thinking about what drives them to action, developing personal and social skills, access to common rights.

We propose a formative assessment of the programme focusing on the overall "quality" of its implementation. To be more specific, this research aims to identify and understand the mechanisms that may affect its implementation (and therefore its usefulness and effectiveness in the long term), and identify possible ways to create favourable conditions for developing the programme and ensuring that the key participants are committed to it. Building on the example of this Remand Centre, we will also establish a general overview of this sort of programme, which is increasingly being tested in France, and analyse the overall constraints and paradoxes which may act as obstacles to introducing or running such programmes.

To carry out this analysis, we will start with our own theoretical framework, which is based on the socio-constructivist and interactionist approach. We will look at the various concepts studied through the subjective experiences and perspectives of those involved in the programme. We will also consider the specific characteristics of the environment in which the programme is implemented which may affect how it is carried

out. Prison is considered to be a specific social world, imposing strong control over an individual, as well as over "space, time and bodily movement" (Lhuillier, 2007). It is also characterised by its ambivalent setting resulting from the contradictory missions it is assigned, which weigh as much on the inmates as on the prison administration staff.

From a methodological standpoint, we used a qualitative evaluation with 30 individuals involved in the programme: prison administration staff (integration and probation officers, guards), inmates and external participants. Interviews with the various individuals involved provided insights into how they view the programme (expectations, usefulness, purposes, difficulties etc.), as well as how they view release from prison (obstacles and resources).

Based on these different perceptions, we will first describe the strengths, weakness and contradictions of the programme, focusing on four elements: institutional barriers, environmental barriers, challenges related to the complex and varying needs of inmates and the benefits and limitations of the multi-partner approach. These elements will then allow us to discuss and analyse a number of aspects. The first aspect involves paradoxes that can be pointed out between the constraints of incarceration and the objectives of rehabilitation. We will discuss the incompatibility of the ways in which the various parties involved in the programme view preparation for release and the programme's objectives. We will then look at professional cultures and the complexity of a multi-disciplinary project, marked by both commitment and resistance to these programmes. In addition to the different ways in which professionals implement the programmes, we will examine the broader issue of changes in how they conceive of their practice, as well as in their identity and professional rationales. In a third and final section we will discuss the cognitive behavioural approach and its limitations, focusing on two key aspects: the subjectivity of the subject and his/her social environment.

### ➤ **"Respect" modules**

Ongoing research

Paul Mbanzoulou, Lucie Hernandez

Since the early 2000s, there have been dramatic changes in the treatment model for inmates in secure custody as a result of numerous legislative advances concerning the purpose of sentencing. However, these advances are still challenged by the realities of life in custody: the constraints of confinement which foster the development of regressive, childlike attitudes, lack of accountability, and, consequently, depersonalisation, intensified by other complicated issues including overpopu-

lation (overcrowding, lack of privacy, insufficient support and activities). This gives rise to a high level of tension on both the social and individual levels.

The prison administration have tried to overcome this ambivalence by implementing new treatment models. Since 2015, several secure custody facilities have been testing a new initiative called "Respect modules," based on a Spanish model. The initiative is part of a national programme to prevent violence

in custody, and has broader objectives concerning the behaviour of persons in custody and professional and personal practices of prison staff. This initiative is based on three key principles: community life, inmates' active, voluntary and responsible participation, and assessment of their behaviour. It would seem to be worthwhile to analyse how the prison climate and associated behaviours and relationships have evolved or changed as a result of these Respect Modules.

The aim of this research is, first of all, to understand how this initiative is perceived and experienced by the various parties involved (staff and inmates). We will attempt to analyse the various perceptions and forms of resistance and commitment on the collective (institutional/social) and individual levels.

A second aim is to assess the initiative's impact on the individual and collective practices of inmates and prison staff, and the impact of these practices on the prison climate.

How do inmates and staff position themselves in a "Respect Module" of custody, especially in view of the increasingly active role given to inmates? How do they define themselves

within an initiative clearly focused on axiological work with the inmates? What social behaviours, confusions or clarifications about identity result from this new initiative? How have these respect modules reconfigured the professional and personal practices of prison staff in the institutional interplay (prescription) and of participants (adaptation) based on these respect modules?

To address these questions we will rely on a mixed-mode, complementary methodology. 1) A qualitative assessment: after observations at Spanish and French facilities, interviews will be carried out with approximately fifteen inmates and fifteen prison staff members. 2) A quantitative assessment: questionnaires will provide insight into the changes introduced by this initiative and evolutions over time, based on a longitudinal (at several points throughout the initiative) and comparative (with control groups) approach.

### ➤ Action research on treatment programs for sex offenders

Guillaume Brie

This aim of this action research is to consider how prison treatment of sex offenders should be developed and implemented. Problems related to release and lack of security are the cornerstone of thinking about ways to fight "against recidivism". Based on a quantitative analysis (statistical analysis of 550 criminal records), it would appear that the convicted sex offenders present in the three correctional facilities selected for the survey are predominantly from the most disadvantaged groups of the lower classes, which are often marked by difficult economic and social conditions. In this respect, they are no different from the rest of the overall prison population. While the majority of prison personnel – especially integration and probation officers – are aware of this finding, paradoxically, it represents a largely neglected dimension, with professionals favouring a psychological and criminological approach focused on the individual and what makes them commit crimes. Meanwhile, the socioeconomic variable of

this finding – often addressed by integration and probation offers during interviews – reveals the importance of the organisational reality on the issue of social reintegration and re-entry into the labour market for these precarious populations, and the prison staff's very limited leeway to act upon it.

In addition, this applied research approach provides an important perspective for understanding power dynamics and the effects of organising treatment systems for these offenders. For example, approaches to safety in correctional facilities, extending repressive measures, such as social and legal supervision after the prison sentence, and managing penal paths according to "dangerousness", represent some of the obstacles prison staff must deal with in one way or another.

### ➤ Research on the Henri Manuel photographic archives (1930s), 816 photographs.

*The Prison Manual, Views on Prisons in the Inter-war Period. 2017*

Fabienne Huard-Hardy

The Henri Manuel photographic archives are made up of photographs of adult and juvenile correctional facilities in France, taken between 1928 and 1932. Under the care of the National Prison Museum in Fontainebleau, it was split in two, with the portion concerning the adult facilities entrusted to ENAP and the "juvenile" portion entrusted to ENPJJ.

The objective was to enhance the value of these exceptional archives on prison history and carry out an overall analysis of

the collection. Many of the photographs, taken at random for illustrative purposes, had previously been used in exhibitions organised by ENAP (or exhibitions on loan from the CRHCP) but, until now, no study has been carried out on the collection in its entirety.

Initial impressions of these photographs led me to question what is presented to the viewer, what could be shown and, consequently, to wonder about the possibility that the photo-

graphs were staged. There is no question that a number of the photographs are staged but for others, the technique used by the photographer leaves room for doubt. As an independent source, it would seem that the HM archives may only be analysed by taking account of the reality that is presented to viewers.

This consideration leads to another question: What "impression" (feeling but also photographic) do these photographs give? The context of the photographic campaign, which, though clearly not an exhaustive presentation of all the institutions, was nevertheless large enough to provide an overview of the prison system at the end of the 3rd Republic, inevitably raises questions about three aspects that distort the frozen glimpses of reality:

- 1) What is shown
- 2) What is meant to be shown
- 3) What we see

While the HM archives are the main source for the study, additional sources were consulted: legislative and regulatory developments, testimonials and debates from the inter-war period, and the appearance of photographic reports on prisons in major newspapers (ex police magazine) and books of testimonials.

This provided insights into the vision or visions of prison in the inter-war period. There is no question that the major reform of the post-war period (coordinated by M. Amor) played a major role in shaping modern prisons, but what was the basis for this reform and can its foundations be detected in the prisons at the end of the Third Republic?

## ➤ Prison and its image

Fabienne Huard-Hardy, Cécile Rambourg

In 1889 the prison administration participated in the universal exhibition in Paris. In July 2016, the prison administration participated in the Bastille Day parade on the Champs Élysées. These two events were more than a century apart. And these two highly-visible spaces are marked by significant differences.

One was part of an event with an international scope that cited "as its principal purpose the education of the public, establishing an inventory of the means at man's disposal for meeting the needs of civilisation and demonstrating the progress achieved in one or more branches of human endeavour, or showing prospects for the future"<sup>3</sup>.

The other was part of a parade originally created with a political agenda to "make the army an instrument of national unity, an instrument for the development of republicanism"<sup>4</sup>, which has become an instrument of national unity, alongside other emblems of the republic.

These two events, one educational and promotional, at a time when the prison administration was part of the Ministry

This photographic campaign must also be viewed in a historical context, on both the French and global levels, as well as the history of (photographic) techniques. The war was over, the parts of Eastern France, which had been lost were reintegrated. The prison administration was undergoing profound changes, in terms of organisation, staff (who were becoming increasingly professional and who would soon be required to have a higher level of education), and control. These changes were part of an overall administrative movement: the administration had entered the 20th century. Would prisons do the same? Advances in sentencing design, a focus on an increasingly professional staff, the future disappearance of relegation, and a new awareness of the special characteristics of minors are just a few examples.

The HM photo campaign therefore became a vision of the prison system of this era, a modern tool providing reliable images - if, of course, they are considered to be neutral - to support reforms by building confidence in the reported facts. This tool immortalises the moment and supports IGSA reports<sup>2</sup> (transcribed by SGP<sup>2</sup>), analyses by the Société Générale des Prisons, and prison statistics. Photography therefore acts as a medium that provides us with a tangible side of reality through images, compared to theorisation (legislative and regulatory sources) about everyday life in prison. In light of this view of everyday prison life and going beyond the images, the photographs help identify the foundational elements of the prison world in the 1930s, facilitating a documented and critical approach to the existing prison system and the meaning of prison sentences.

of the Interior, and the other, military and republican, at a time when the prison administration is part of the Ministry of Justice, seem to reveal a common theme: a public display that presents a certain image of the prison administration.

This research paper aims to reveal and analyse the images produced by between these two major events. It does not intend to provide a history of the penal institution through these images but rather to put them in a historical context, to determine the nature and meaning of the images produced by the institution itself. In other words, this research also examines the political and institutional intentions behind the public displays.

These images are considered in a historical context, using a semiological approach, and creating an analytical framework to highlight how the penal institution presents itself and identify the motivations behind these displays. To put it simply, the ways in which the prison administration presents itself in public will be analysed.

<sup>1</sup> IGSA: Inspectorate General of Administrative Services

<sup>2</sup> SGP: Société générale des prisons (General Society of Prisons)

<sup>3</sup> Article 1.1. of the 1928 Convention regarding International exhibitions" [archive], Bureau of international Exhibitions.

<sup>4</sup> Interview with historian Annie Crépin in *Libération*, "Why is there a military parade on Bastille Day?," 14 July 2017.

## ➤ Radicalisation

Guillaume Brie, Cécile Rambourg

The prison administration is especially concerned, involved and expected to take action in many areas related to the fight against radicalisation and terrorism. Experiments are organised in a very short time and at a rather rapid pace. The prison administration and its staff have had to turn political guidelines into concrete measures in just a short time. They have had to develop an organisational framework, physical arrangements, operating rules, best practices, specific training programmes, selection criteria etc. To a certain extent, it can be argued that these innovations do not disrupt correctional facilities or the role played by staff. Combating radicalisation calls for practices aimed at evaluating the dangerousness of individuals involved in radicalisation, neutralising this dangerousness, and effecting an axiological transformation in these individuals. On its own, this professional focus does not break with the general guidelines given in the prison environment. Preventing recidivism, as part of risk management, now represents an important aspect of the public prison service's mission and of its staff's professional opportunities. In this way, it may be asserted that de-radicalisation activities/experiments are in keeping with the existing system and do not represent new aspects that break with the focus of prison staff's work. However, the disruptive, or even destabilising nature of certain aspects must be noted.

In general, the analyses in our research project focus on the professionals involved in the experiments and in programmes being implemented at correctional facilities. As such, it is worth studying the work carried out by professionals in

charge of supervision programmes to develop these initiatives, so as to gain insight into what guides their choices and the transformations brought about through the programmes. To do so, we will ask a number of questions related to the conditions in which different prison staff carry out activities with radicalised or dangerous inmates. For example: How are the treatment programmes developed and on what knowledge are they based? How is the supervision and control of all or part of the prison population organised when the observation criteria used could potentially apply to all inmates? To what extent are prison staff taking on new tasks to manage this issue and how does this impact the division of responsibilities? How is the programme to treat inmates identified as "particularly radicalised or difficult" implemented, since it requires an entire set of specific monitoring tools and a collection of knowledge on these individuals which must be developed (by professionals and researchers)?

More generally, our objective is to produce analyses that shed light on how the prison administration has tried to define a policy to address and manage this new problem. Serious attention will be given to the very nature of the knowledge and narratives provided by those in charge of monitoring or implementing these programmes.

## ➤ Developments in French probation

Research project

Alexandre Roy

The law of 15 August 2014 concerning the individualisation of sentences and reinforcing the effectiveness of criminal penalties represents a paradigm shift for French probation. By introducing a new penal constraint sentence in our criminal justice system, legislators established the principle of desistance as the aim for all parties in charge of sentencing. This provides those sentenced with a way out of their path of delinquency. This shift in the objective of probation raises two types of issues. The first involves establishing the legal framework of probation so that it can combine the coercive dimension of probation with the implementation of reinforced supervision based on frequent, thorough assessments of the convicted individual's personality, as well as their material, family, and social situation. The second involves the professionals' understanding of this reinforced supervision. This

requires the redesigning of working methods used by the penitentiary integration and probation department, sentencing judges, and their collaboration in order to determine the target group and manage implementation incidents. The study I propose consists in understanding how the various professionals understand the objective of desistance in open custody. I will also try to analyse the difficulties encountered by professionals and the various strategies they have developed to overcome these hurdles. This study will be carried out through legal monitoring and interviews with professionals who enforce sentences, including SPIP (Penitentiary Integration and Probation Department) staff and sentencing judges.



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