The Myopia of Public Criminology & the need for a Critical Education ‘Impact’

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“But where is the student? How can an analysis of the success/failure paradox of criminology...be complete without criminology’s role in education & the ways student attitudes, experiences & careers become part of the publicness?”

(Walters, 2011 pp.732-733)
Army of Untapped Public Criminologists

- 902 full time undergraduate criminology courses from 149 providers
- 150 Masters degrees in criminology (findamasters.com)
- UoP 1,300 FTUG students, 115 PG, 450 UG/PG DL
- Professional/contracted courses
- Add these numbers to those studying where you work
Public Criminology in the 1960s/70s – Activist Academics/Students

“…there was a massive expansion of social science education in this period … Courses in criminology & the sociology of deviance sprung up in every major institution of higher education & were taught very largely by individuals in & around the new radical criminology organisation the National Deviancy Conference & to sociology students heavily imbued with the New Left ideas & practice”

(Young, 1988, p.298)
Obstacles of Criminology Students becoming Public Criminologists

“Criminologists have had to confront the embarrassing fact that in a society saturated with ‘crime talk’, they have utmost difficulty in communicating with politicians, policy makers, professionals & the public”

(Chancer & McLaughlin, 2007, p.157)

- What difficulties exist with communicating with students?
  1. Not taking sides (Becker, 1967)
  2. Marginalisation & denuding (sociological) theory
  3. Teaching theory rather than teaching students how to theorise.
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<th>Applied ‘Cool’ Education</th>
<th>Radical ‘Heated’ Education</th>
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<td>Value Neutrality</td>
<td>Critical Conscience</td>
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<td>Goal Oriented</td>
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<th>Crime Control as Industry</th>
<th>Disrupting the School-to-Prison Pipeline</th>
<th>Crime Science</th>
<th>Expanding the Criminological Imagination</th>
<th>The Radical Imagination</th>
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Criminology is impoverished when adrift from Sociology

“British criminology seems to have given up [the] sociology of deviance, sociology of crime & control … [which] was part of a wider intellectual project. Increasingly criminology is taught as a discrete discipline bereft of epistemological considerations … What were once thought of as the foundations are increasingly ignored … This is reinforced by the availability of expertly produced handbooks & textbooks …. Criminology is no longer a branch of sociology, it's karaoke”

(Hobbs cited in Rock 2005, p.484)
Atheoretical vs Theoretical (critical) (epistemological questions)

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<th>Apolitical (neutral)</th>
<th>Political (Partisan)</th>
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### Part 2 Understanding Crime: theories and concepts
- 5 Classicism and positivism
- 6 Biological positivism
- 7 Psychological positivism
- 8 Durkheim, anomie and strain
- 9 The Chicago School, culture and subcultures
- 10 Interactionism and labelling theory
- 11 Control theories
- 12 Radical and critical criminology
- 13 Realist criminology
- 14 Contemporary classicism
- 15 Feminist criminology
- 16 Late modernity, governmentality and risk

| 1. Classical criminology and the positivist revolution |
| 2. The appeal of positivism |
| 3. Durkheim and the break with ‘analytical individualism’ |
| 4. The early sociologies of crime |
| 5. Social reaction, deviant commitment and career |
| 6. American naturalism and phenomenology |
| 7. Marx, Engels and Bonjour on crime and social control |
| 8. The new conflict theorists |

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Woke

/ˈwəʊk/ adjective

1. Well-informed, up-to-date.
2. Alert to injustice in society, especially racism.

‘we need to stay angry, and stay woke’
“We need to develop ways of fostering a criminology that is more than a relatively passive witness to the destruction wrought by contemporary global forces—much less an accomplice—and instead vigorously steps up to take on the job of combating those forces & dedicating itself unapologetically to the reduction of needless pain, fear, & injustice around the world”.

(Currie, 2016, p.29)
References