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# The Routledge Handbook of Irish Criminology

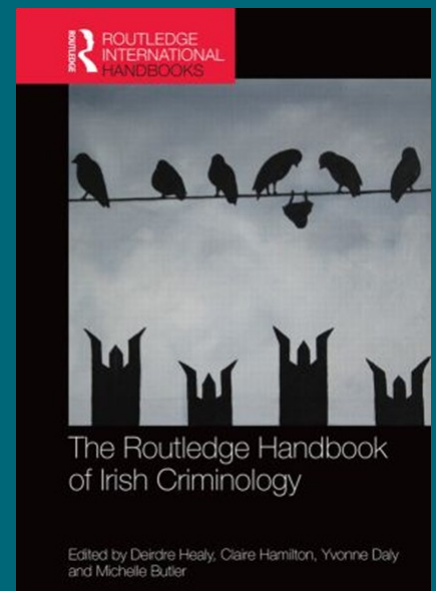
Edited by Deirdre Healy, Claire Hamilton, Yvonne Daly and Michelle Butler

*The Routledge Handbook of Irish Criminology* is the first edited collection of its kind in Ireland, bringing together the work of leading Irish criminologists in a single volume. While Irish criminology can be characterised as a nascent but dynamic discipline, it has much to offer the Irish and international reader due to the unique historical, cultural, political, social and economic arrangements that exist on the island of Ireland. The book is due to be published in December 2015 and is available for pre-order here: <https://www.routledge.com/products/9781138019430>.

*The Handbook consists of 30 chapters, which offer original, comprehensive and critical reviews of theory, research, policy and practice in a wide range of subject areas. The chapters are divided into four thematic sections:*

1. *Understanding Crime examines specific offence types, including homicide, gangland crime and white-collar crime, and the theoretical perspectives used to explain them.*
2. *Responding to Crime explores criminal justice responses to crime, including crime prevention, restorative justice, approaches to policing and trial as well as post-conviction issues such as imprisonment, community sanctions and rehabilitation.*
3. *Contexts of Crime* investigates the social, political and cultural contexts of the policy-making process, including media representations, politics, the role of the victim and the impact of gender.
4. *Emerging Ideas* focuses on innovative ideas that prompt a reconsideration of received wisdom on particular topics, including sexual violence and ethnicity.

Charting the key contours of the criminological enterprise on the island of Ireland and placing the Irish material in the context of the wider European and international literature, this book is essential reading for those involved in the study of Irish criminology and international and comparative criminal justice.



## The Front Cover of the Book



2015. It is based on a photograph taken by Hideta Nagai. The event was also attended by Love/Hate

The artwork of former prisoner Eric Boylan will adorn the cover of the new Handbook. The image, 'Fallen Bird', gave its name to an exhibition of prisoner art launched by the Minister for Justice, Frances Fitzgerald, in Dublin's City Hall on 15 January

star, Peter Coonan. For coverage of the event see:

<http://www.irishtimes.com/culture/art-and-design/exhibition-shows-prison-art-loosens-shackles-on-creativity-1.2068402>

<http://www.independent.ie/entertainment/books-arts/stunning-artworks-by-convicted-criminals-and-exprisoners-go-on-exhibition-30911925.html>

The image is meant to symbolise the attitude of society to 'fallen birds' or offenders. The row of spiky heads underneath the blackbirds denotes both the community and the fence outside the prison.

With criminology 'booming' around the world (Bosworth and Hoyle, 2010), the position of Irish criminology may appear somewhat anomalous. Long dubbed an 'absentee discipline', accounts of the development of criminology, at least in the Republic, have frequently sought to emphasise its embryonic nature, the lack of a proper infrastructure and the limited number of academic positions in the specialism. With a slow but steady increase in the number of programmes offering

criminology and criminal justice, however, and a growing number of academics and postgraduate students working in the area, it may well be time to revisit the Cinderella status of Irish criminology. Indeed, the impetus for the book derived substantially from a desire to collate and showcase that burgeoning knowledge, particularly those accounts which go beyond purely local imperatives to engage issues of general interest in criminology.

### 'The View from the Periphery'

Writing recently in *Theoretical Criminology*, Katja Aas (2012) urges criminology to embrace the 'view from the periphery'. For her, and others critical of North Atlantic domination in the analogous field of sociology (Connell, 2006), the orientation of much criminological theorising is skewed towards the 'metropole', while the range of potentially productive insights afforded by other, less influential, jurisdictions remains un- or under-explored. As a small post-colonial society on the fringes of Western Europe, the Irish and Northern Irish cases provide a good demonstration of the perils of extrapolating from the US or even English example. Dating particularly from the past decade or so there has emerged a significant body of

work on 'Hibernian exceptionalism' to broader punitive trends, ranging in focus from the continued emphasis on rehabilitation (Healy and O'Donnell, 2005) and the individuated justice system (Vaughan and Kilcommins, 2008; Hamilton, 2014) to the more 'diluted and distinct' culture of control evident in contemporary policy and practice (Kilcommins *et al*, 2004; Griffin and O'Donnell, 2012; O'Donnell and Jewkes, 2011). These studies are important in the challenge which they present to universalistic claims of punitiveness, not simply because they advance arguments of the 'it hasn't happened here' variety (Hallsworth and Lea, 2008), but also because they illustrate the complexities which inhere in the penal field.

Dr Claire Hamilton practised as a barrister in criminal law until 2004 when she became a full time academic. Prior to joining Maynooth University as a Senior Lecturer in Law, she worked as a lecturer in criminology in Dublin Institute of Technology and Queen's University Belfast. She is the author of three books, the most recent of which, *Reconceptualising Penalty: A Comparative Perspective on Punitiveness in Ireland, Scotland and New Zealand* was published by Ashgate's Advances in Criminology series in 2014. She has also published widely in various national and international journals, among them the British Journal of Criminology, the European Journal of Criminology and the European Journal on Criminal Policy and

Research. Claire previously served on the board of the Irish Penal Reform Trust and acted as Chair of the Trust from 2005 to 2007. She is currently a member of the Social Sciences Committee of the Royal Irish Academy, the governing board of the Irish Association of Law Teachers, the Advisory Board of the Irish Innocence Project and the Executive Committee of the Irish Council for Civil Liberties.

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