All together now! : Sex offender grouping and the normalisation of offending attitudes

Original Citation


This version is available at http://eprints.hud.ac.uk/13755/

The University Repository is a digital collection of the research output of the University, available on Open Access. Copyright and Moral Rights for the items on this site are retained by the individual author and/or other copyright owners. Users may access full items free of charge; copies of full text items generally can be reproduced, displayed or performed and given to third parties in any format or medium for personal research or study, educational or not-for-profit purposes without prior permission or charge, provided:

- The authors, title and full bibliographic details is credited in any copy;
- A hyperlink and/or URL is included for the original metadata page; and
- The content is not changed in any way.

For more information, including our policy and submission procedure, please contact the Repository Team at: E.mailbox@hud.ac.uk.

http://eprints.hud.ac.uk/
Abstract for Conference ‘Sex Offenders – Punish, Help, Change or Control?’ Newport Centre for Criminal and Community Justice, April 29th 2010.

Title: ‘Sex offender grouping and the normalisation of offending attitudes.’

This presentation focuses on the experiences of sex offenders living within a Probation Approved Premises (hostel). Of primary concern is the way in which resident sex offenders group together within the hostel environment and the function that this serves for them. The presentation draws upon the work of Sykes and Matza (1957) in respect to techniques of neutralisation and considers the role of the group in normalising neutralisations and, thus, resisting offence-based work.

The presentation draws upon the findings of 2 years of ethnographic participant observation and interviewing within a single hostel. This study explored the interactions between sex offender residents, other residents and staff. The focus was on the way in which sex offenders experience institutional life within the unique, but often overlooked, sphere of Probation Approved Premises.