



Arts & Humanities
Research Council



The Open
University

Prison Education:

What is it? What should it be?

10 June 2016

The Open University

Walton Hall Campus, Milton Keynes

Michael Young Building, Rooms 1-3

Since the birth of the modern prison at the turn of the nineteenth century, education has been regarded as a key reformatory agent for incarcerated offenders. Yet key questions about the definition of 'prison education' persist to this day. What is nature of the relationship between offending behaviour and educational deficiencies? How expansive or narrow should the curriculum offered to inmates be? How can outcomes be accurately assessed? And what types and levels of education for offenders will the general public accept and support?

These questions (and more) will be explored by a range of researchers, practitioners and policymakers at this one-day conference at The Open University in Milton Keynes on 10 June 2016.

The event is free to attend, but places are limited. To register attendance, or for further information, please contact: Rosalind.Crone@open.ac.uk, and/or Tajinder.Bilkhu@open.ac.uk. Registration closes 1 June 2016. When registering, please indicate any dietary requirements.



This conference derives from an AHRC-funded project, 'Educating Criminals in 19th Century England'. For more information on this project, see <http://educatingcriminals.com>, or contact Rosalind.Crone@open.ac.uk.

Programme

- From 9am: Registration
- 9:30: Conference welcome
- 9:45-12:45: Morning Session – Perspectives
- a) 9:45-10:45: Perspectives from the past
Rosalind Crone (The Open University), 'Educating criminals in nineteenth-century England'
Helen Rogers (Liverpool John Moores University)
- 10:45-11:00: Coffee/tea
- b) 11:00-12:00: Perspectives from Prisoners
Jonathan Robinson, 'Missed chances...'
Stephen Akpabio-Klementowski (The Open University) 'Negotiating Prison Education'
- c) 12:00-12:45: Perspectives from outside the UK
Megan Sweeney (University of Michigan), 'Gatekeeping: Education in US Penal Contexts'
- 12:45-13:15: Lunch
- 13:15-16:30: Afternoon Session – Practice
- a) 13:15-13:45: Theory
Nina Champion (Prisoners' Education Trust), 'Exploring the purpose and value of prison education – a Theory of Change approach'
- b) 13:45-14:45: Correctional
Caroline Lanskey, (University of Cambridge), 'Education and Young Citizens in Custody'
Brian Creese, (Institute of Education, UCL), 'Literacy and Numeracy Levels in English Prisons'
- 14:45-15:00: Coffee/ tea
- a) 15:00-16:00: Progression
Anne Pike (The Open University), 'What difference does it make? Life after prison education'
Rod Earle (The Open University), 'Learning with conviction? Experience, Incarceration and Criminology'
- b) 16:00-17:00: Broadening Definitions?
Jenny Hartley and Sarah Turvey (University of Roehampton), 'Reading Together Behind Bars: the work of the Prison Reading Groups Project'
Jessica Plant (CLINKS/ National Alliance for Arts in Criminal Justice)
- 17:00: Closing remarks followed by a wine reception