

Editorial

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to this second edition of the European Journal of Probation. Our first edition set a high standard in terms of both the scope and the quality of the contributions it contained, but what it lacked in jurisdictional diversity is more than made up in the variety of papers in this edition, coming as they do from Australia, France, Germany, New Zealand and Wales. I am sure that when you have read these papers, you will agree with me that there has been no decline in the quality, originality and significance of the work which this journal is proud to forefront.

Tony Ward's paper on 'Dignity and Human Rights in Correctional Practice' in many respects builds on the foundations laid by the contributors to the first edition (Canton, 2009; McNeill, 2009; Nellis, 2009; Robinson and Raynor, 2009) – in different ways those papers re-asserted and analysed the interfaces between normative and empirical debates about the forms, characters and impacts of community sanctions. Ward's excursion into the philosophical literature on human dignity, human rights and punishment, especially communicative punishment, does us a great service both in contextualising and in highlighting some of the ethical issues that lie at the heart of (effective) practice with persons subject to community sanctions. Though Chris Trotter's 'Pro-social Modelling' concerns itself more directly and straightforwardly with elaborating an approach to effective practice, it is not difficult to see the links between his arguments and Ward's. Pro-social modelling is not just about who 'offenders' are, what they do and how to help them make changes; it is also about the (moral) qualities of practitioners and what responses these qualities invite.

Christine Morgenstern's 'European Initiatives for Harmonisation and Minimum Standards in the Field of Community Sanctions and Measures' is also a natural partner to Ward's paper in that it addresses very similar concerns. Morgenstern's exegesis of the development, scope and potential of the engagements of European institutions with the field of community sanctions and measures provides another key resource especially (but not exclusively) for European scholars, students, policymakers and practitioners. No-one could fail to be convinced that it is critical for all of these constituencies to understand and engage with the developing European standards and specifically with the expanding jurisprudence of human rights, as it applies in this context.

But if anyone *is* still in need of persuasion on this point, then Martine Herzog-Evans 'French Post Custody Law (2000-2009): From Equitable Trial to the Religion of Control' should seal the deal, so to speak. Herzog-Evans' analysis of the shift in direction in France after 9/11 provides a salutary lesson, and speaks directly to the need to find means of defending humanitarian and progressive approaches in the penal realm against the excesses and abuses that the politicization of (in)security can spawn. But if this analysis of the penal present in one jurisdiction raises proper

anxieties, then Maurice Vanstone's compelling and engaging historical paper, 'The engineer, the educationalist, and the feminist writer: national champions and the development of probation in Europe' surely gives us some reasons to maintain hope and even a measure of optimism. Vanstone elaborates the role that probation's early champions played in successfully securing its place in the criminal justice systems of earlier eras. Though he concludes with some sobering thoughts about the differences between the social positions and cultural resources of probation and its supporters then and now, his recognition of the place of early probation reforms within the context of a much wider programme of social reforms in pursuit of *social* justice gives us an important clue about our way forward. Perhaps developments in our thinking around human rights, when allied creatively to a wider vision for the promotion of social justice, even and especially in times of insecurity, form at least part of the contemporary project of reconceptualising community sanctions and measures.

The Editorial Board