







THEY ALL COME OUT

MAPPING THE DESISTANCE JOURNEYS OF 150 PRISON-LEAVERS OVER 18 MONTHS

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83,687 ppl incarcerated in UK prisons

BEFORE RELEASE

• Met with men in custody

Made 'plan' for release
Set goals and ambitions
Discussed what kind of

upon release.

support they would need

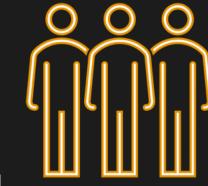
THE STUDY

I am conducting an 18-month ethnographic study on the resettlement of 150 prison-leavers from His Majesty's Prison Bullingdon...

To learn about the mechanisms that contribute to the desistence vs persistence of criminal activity and better inform future reintegration policy

150 prison-leavers

go-along ethnography



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18 months

deep & rich micro-level data

unstructured, sequential interviews

Long-term participant observation

DURING RELEASE

- Picked up men 'at the gate' on the morning of release
- Accompanied them to Probation Meeting
- Supported them on their first day out in the community
 - AFT

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1/3 return to prison within FIRST month of release

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- Follow-up with them fortnightly
- Revisit goals and ambitions

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PRELIMINARY FINDINGS

- 86% of my sample were released from prison, **homeless**
- Only 11/150 men (7% of my sample) was able to gain employment
- Nearly **62%** were <u>recalled</u> or <u>reoffended</u> during the 18 months.
- With at least 10% admitting to actively seeking out arrest, to 'buy' themselves a few weeks in prison to guarantee a roof over their head, a bed, and 3 meals a day.
- The men in my sample had 'multiple disadvantages' with a history of poverty, unemployment, roughsleeping, very little education, severe mental health issues, substance abuse, and learning difficulties.
- Before we can expect **recidivism** & **reoffending** rates to drop, we need <u>serious policy efforts</u> to address the multiple disadvantages of this population, and invest in support for their reintegration post-prison.

"If the people around me keep treating me like I am not enough, maybe I am not enough. Maybe a life of crime is exactly what I am 'enough' for."

"Every time I come out of prison I come out homeless."

"I feel like the world has given up on me. I can't get a job, nowhere will hire me. I can't even get a roof over my head. I'm on the street with no money. 'Hello world, does anybody see me?'"