

Male Prison Rape: Negative Consequence or Essential Element of Incarceration

Lecture in Dr. KelleyAnne Malinen's
Selected Topics in Law & Society: Conceptualizing Consent
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Robert S. Wright, MSW, RSW

Who is Robert Wright?

- RSW Private Practitioner - direct practice and forensics
- Former:
 - Mental Health Worker ,WSP
 - Ex. Dir. FCS Cumberland
 - Ex. Dir. Child & Youth Strategy
- Facilitator, ManTalk
- PhD Student in Sociology – Race, Identity, Power



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My Time at WSP



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Observations of Sex at WSP

- Punk & Jocker
 - Rooster is a jocker who is masculine, tall, barrel chested
 - “Kelly” is a punk, renamed androgynously and controlled by Rooster
 - Their “pairing” is known, discreet on the unit they have sex regularly
 - Kelly is made to wear his hair long and stay clean shaven
- Pair of Queens (gay relationships)
 - Andrew is a gay, his cell is on the opposite side of the tier from Kelly
 - Andrew and Kelly speak nightly through the vent
 - They develop a caring relationship
 - They occasionally have sex when Rooster isn’t controlling Kelly’s time

Sex and Social Control

- “In today’s world the judge who sentences a young person to reform school or prison passes male rape on him as surely as the sentence. Every inmate has a very short time, once inside, to pick a ‘wolf’ (a tough protector) or face gang rape, becoming the ‘girl’ of the institution, or death. Many of the prison suicides we read about can be traced to this choice. **Worse, prison officers might even have sold the boy to aggressive inmates in order to keep the institution quiet.** (Scacco 1982, quoted in:
- O’Donnell, I., 2004. Prison rape in context. *British Journal of Criminology*, 44/3: 241-255.

Sex in Prison: Punished or Approved

- Jocker-Punk pairings support prison order:
 - Jockers' needs are met without random violence
 - Punks are not brutally raped and needing medical attention
 - Jockers' trade in punk services and gain status and favours
 - Understood by custody officers it is tolerated
- Gay relationships undermine prison order:
 - Gay partners' care for each other
 - This care motivate them to protect each other against violence
 - They have and show affection for each other
 - This is offensive to prison culture and is not tolerated

Examples of Male Sexual Dominance

- Sodom and Gomorrah, and Gibeah - Bible
- Sexual dominance in military ranks ancient and modern - Churchill
- Rape of civilians, between civilians as a tool in warfare
- Rape and sexual humiliation, a tool to control prisoners of war – eg. Guantanamo
- Jocker-punk relationships in isolated work camps - Same-Sex Affairs . . . Peter Boag
- Sexual hazing in sport and fraternities
- Sexual dominance among boarding school residents

Conclusions

- Though protective pairing and punking is less brutally violent than random sexual violence, it is still rape
- Male rape is common in highly stratified, male dominated spaces with a great need for order
- Prison rape is not simply a result of the lack of access to women
- Prison rape is not an expression of gay behaviour
- Asserting sexual dominance is a method of establishing social order

Q & A



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