

# Doing time: A roundtable on temporal issues in punishment

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# Time

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An organizing principle in criminal processes and in criminal justice systems

- In investigating
- In sentencing
- In prison
- Between prisons
- Outside prison

**Time as productive vs. Temporal pains**

# Need for Speed – “Quick and dirty” justice?

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→ time as a scarce resource; justice as a scarce resource?

timeliness as a quality or even virtue – Art. 6 ECHR: „...everyone is entitled to a fair and public hearing within a **reasonable time**...”

but: what once was meant to have a protecting effect for defendants is now a benchmark for delivery of CJ services and/or a survival strategy for overloaded CJS (“at least we are quick...”)

- some insights during a project on pre-trial detention and how to avoid it ([www.irks.at/detour](http://www.irks.at/detour))
- we see very long procedures for complex economic crime, but more and more speedy and super-speedy procedures for petty crime and the „undeserving” poor
- the may lead to unfair results and may prove to be ineffective

How do we study these observations and make sense of them?

# Time in the criminal process

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- How has 'speedy justice' in English courts affected other actors in the criminal process?
- What does the construction and experience of time tell us about distributions of power?
- How is 'delay' constructed and experienced in different penal cultures?
- More broadly, what can we learn about penal cultures by paying attention to time?

# Co-learning in prison: Prisoners' Experiences

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**Table 10.1 Stratagems for reducing time's abrasion: The seven Rs of survival**

<i>Rescheduling</i>	Using different intervals to gauge the passage of time.
<i>Removal</i>	Routine work and exercise, busyness as an end in itself; all serve to alleviate the sources of stress, anxiety or discomfort that can protract duration.
<i>Reduction</i>	The burden of prison time is lightened by ensuring that there is less of it to deal with. This can be done by sleeping more and through the soporific effects of drug use.
<i>Reorientation</i>	Temporal horizons are reset so that the focus is emphatically on the present.
<i>Resistance</i>	'Beating the man', holding fast against the system, litigating, accentuating the absurd.
<i>Raptness</i>	Absorption in an activity like creative writing, craftwork, painting, or advanced study brings the benefits associated with 'routine complexity'.
<i>Reinterpretation</i>	For prisoners who can re-imagine and re-cast their predicament the potential rewards are substantial.

# Between prisons

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Transports as part of the prison system

A controlled and strict schedule (for the transporters)

A pause from the prison schedule (for the prisoners)

Time as..

- ... a planned structure

- ... a lived experience

- ... a vehicle for transformation

# Time and Punishment – Bound to Prison

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- A specific communicative language bound to prison
- Why is time less relevant for sentences outside of prison? Is there a utility to looking at time in relation to other forms of penalty?
- Process as Punishment and the Time in-between
- Chrononormativity: non-linearity / challenges to conventional life-course narratives.

# Time, Probation Work and Community Punishment

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- Time is a salient theme in my digital visual criminological study of probation and community justice work in England & Wales using social media images, 2014-2019.
- Time, waiting (purposeful waiting and waiting rooms, one-way patience), compelled by the clock/appointments, and the structuring of time and power in probation.
- Time, death and memory/remembrance in probation and community payback.

‘Waiting is one of the ways of experiencing the effect of power, and the link between time and power – and one would need to catalogue, and analyse, all the behaviours associated with **the exercise of power over other people’s time**, both on the side of the powerful (adjourning, deferring, delaying, raising false hopes, or, conversely, rushing, taking by surprise) and on the side of the ‘patient’... Waiting implies submission... making people wait... an art of ‘turning down’ without ‘turning off’; of keeping people ‘motivated’ without driving them to despair.’ (Pierre Bourdieu, 2000: 288)