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Being Imprisoned Punishment, Adaptation and Desistance

Marguerite Schinkel

Marguerite Schinkel is an ESRC Future Leader Research Fellow at the University of Glasgow, UK, where she is working on a research project examining the meaning of persistent punishment.

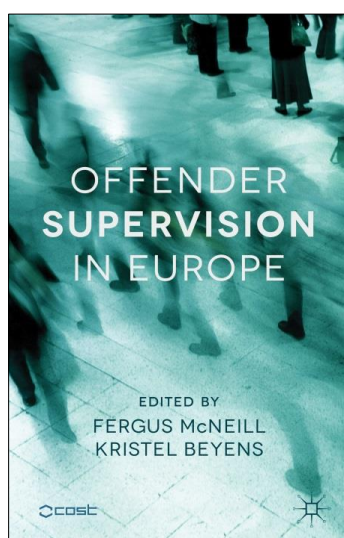
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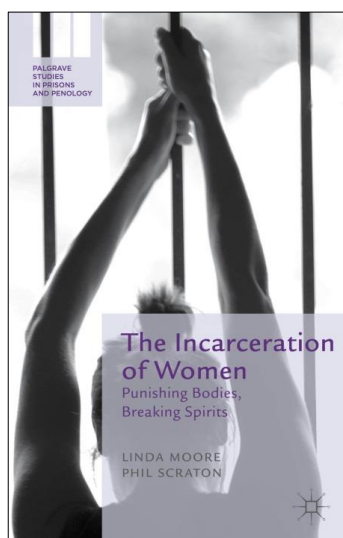
About the book

Being Imprisoned draws on interviews with 27 male long-term prisoners, some of whom had returned to society. It examines the sentence through their eyes. What did being given a long prison sentence mean to them and what impact did it have on them, their lives and their inclination to offend in the future? With reference to the prisoners' narratives, the book discusses important influences on the men's accounts. It shows how the need to cope with long-term imprisonment meant that most of the men accepted their sentence, even when they had cause to oppose it. Life circumstances also had an impact, with those who had few resources but a significant history of imprisonment most likely to see their sentence as transformative. The men in the community were more pessimistic: with very few opportunities to develop new identities, many led isolated lives in order to avoid further offending.

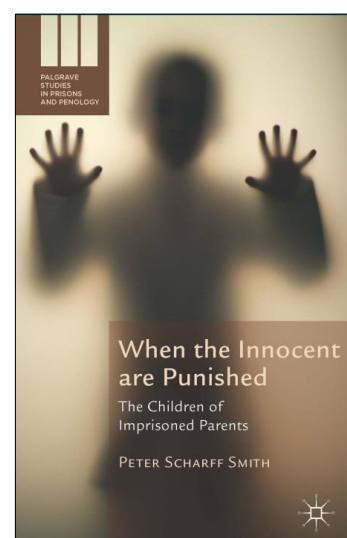
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