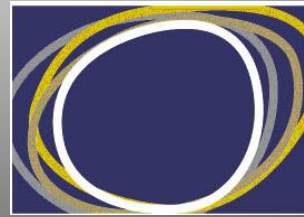


# Building the Digital Panopticon

Representing Penal Histories:

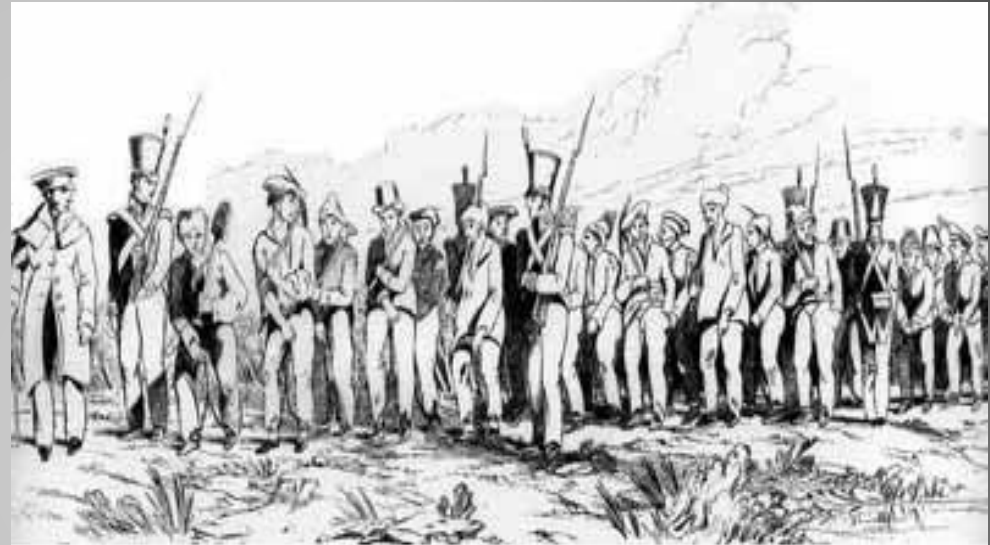
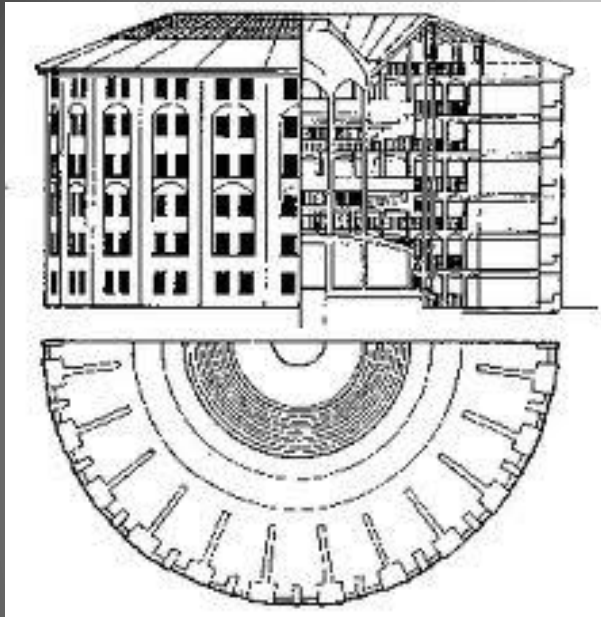
Displaying and Narrating the Criminal Past

Nottingham Galleries of Justice January 2014



Arts & Humanities  
Research Council

# Panopticon vs. NSW



a convict chain gang in Sydney, New South Wales

66,000 Londoners tried at Old Bailey 1780-1875  
We will follow all those imprisoned or transported  
from cradle to grave

Old Bailey records (imprisoned, transported)

Convict Indents (Tasmania, NSW, WA)

Hobart court records, 'London' prison records  
and QS court records, Newspapers, census.

Public/Private partnerships, crowdsourcing.



# Data scoping, formation, and visualisation

- What can visualisation techniques tell us about the overall shape/distinctive patterns in the data, and what does this reveal about the various processes by which the data were created, and their constraints/limitations?
- What were the epistemological and ontological constructions which directed the format and formed the limits of information formation in the London and colonial criminal justice systems?
- How can we improve record-linkage processes to maximise the amount of information obtained about each individual?



# Voices of Authority

This project uses two sources of testimony (the *Old Bailey Proceedings* and Hobart Magistrates' Court records) to identify styles and patterns of speech recorded in court, and then to characterise the individuals involved; and finally to relate changing patterns of verbal self-presentation, to defendants' life course experiences.

- How did defendants speak to authority; in what voice, what idiom?
- What did the Eighteenth-Century Courtroom sound like?



# Penal Outcomes

- What were the long and short term impacts of incarceration or convict transportation on the lives of offenders, and their families, and offspring?
- Which forms of punishment/penal regimes were most effective at achieving deterrence and/or reform; and which appeared to extend criminal careers?
- How important were factors experienced beyond the prison gates at supporting reform? Who fared best in making a new life for themselves, and why? What are the social and spatial geographies of offending and resettlement in London and the colonies?





# Intergenerational Inequalities

- Link conviction data for the colonially born to birth, death and marriage registers, to place offenders within a household context enabling us to use information about parental occupation, location of birth, birth order and family size to explore the impact that familial circumstances had on offending patterns.
- Map (socially and geographically) British and Australian convicts – and their children.
- \* Chart the rate of intergenerational social mobility charting contrasting outcomes for the descendants of convict and free migrants.

In this way we will be able to use the digital data to explore some of the longer-term impacts, not only on individuals, but on family-chains stretching over a considerable period of time.



# Biometrics

Height and weight measurements can be used to explore the recent nutritional experience of a population. This project will use biometric measurements for 42,000 male and 24,000 female convicts and prisoners born in London to examine:

- \* changes in the nutritional status over time
- \* the impact of transportation on juvenile growth
- \* nutritional history of prisoners on entry and exit from gaol.

We will map nutritional change in London over the course of the late 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries and relate this to prosecution rates, urban density and the spread of sanitation measures.

We will explore the extent to which measures of childhood deprivation can be used as predictors of future offending. We will also examine the manner in which poor economic circumstances impacted differently upon men and women.

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# Impact

Build capacity (7 PhDs and 3 RAs)

Website and social media

Resources for schools and universities

Prison education programmes

Media

Academic research

