

Page 1 – General Information

Project code	TSSP05
Partner University	Teesside University
Faculty/School/Department/Research Centres	School of Social Science, Humanities & Law Department of Criminology, Law & Policing Centre for Crime, Harm Prevention & Security
First supervisor Please provide name and weblink	Dr Maggie Leese https://www.tees.ac.uk/schools/ssshl/staff_profile_details.cfm?staffprofileid=U0032212
Second supervisor Please provide name and weblink	Dr Maggie Jackson https://research.tees.ac.uk/en/persons/maggie-jackson
Third supervisor Please provide name and weblink	Dr Georgios Papanicolaou https://research.tees.ac.uk/en/persons/georgios-papanicolaou
Fourth (external) supervisor	
External/industrial supervisor	
Which of the supervisors listed above is an early-career-researcher	Dr Maggie Jackson
Contact details for project for informal applicant queries Email address	Dr Maggie Leese Email m.leese@tees.ac.uk
DTA Programme: Please delete as necessary which DTA programme this project relates to:	DTA Social Policy
Project title	The impact of parental imprisonment on children: A European comparative study.



Co-funded by the Horizon 2020 programme of the European Union

This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie grant agreement No 801604.

Page 2 – Project Description

<p>Scientific Excellence (500 words)</p>	<p>It is estimated that around 94000 children in the UK have a parent in prison. Furthermore around 60% of women in prison have children. It has been identified that children who experience parental imprisonment are likely to experience adverse outcomes in later life. This project will take a comparative approach by exploring children’s experience of parental imprisonment.</p> <p>The study will take a comparative approach to explore children’s experiences and the support they are offered. By exploring this in at least two different European countries it will be possible to consider how different philosophical approaches to punishment influence children’s experiences and the support available. In addition, the comparative approach will consider how public perceptions and the associated stigma, impact on family’s willingness to access support.</p> <p>This research will contribute to knowledge about the needs of children and their families within the different jurisdictions and will raise the profile of this vulnerable, and often forgotten, group of children.</p> <p>By taking an interdisciplinary approach, the study brings together the academic fields of criminology, social work and childhood studies, in an effort to inform future policy debates.</p> <p>This proposed PhD will be led by academics who have expertise in this area.</p> <p>Dr Maggie Leese has a background in nursing and social work and has worked in Academia since 2005. Her</p>
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	<p>research expertise includes research with vulnerable groups within the criminal justice system, with a focus on children and young people, mental illness and personality disorders. Her recent research has focused on policing and mental health, the experience of personality disordered offenders within secure psychiatric hospitals and the provision of gender-specific support services for female prisoners. She has received funding and published on these areas.</p> <p>Dr. Georgios Papanicolaou is Reader in Criminology at Teesside University. He has studied law and penal sciences at the University of Athens, Greece and criminology and criminal justice at the University of Edinburgh, Scotland. Georgios has worked at Teesside since 2008 and has been actively involved in research and teaching since. His expertise is in the political economy of policing and security; the historical development, organisation and functions of the police in national and transnational context. He is a member of the European Group for the Study of Deviance and Social Control, British Society of Criminology, Hellenic Society of Criminology, International Association for the Study of Organised Crime.</p> <p>Dr Maggie Jackson received her Doctorate in Education from Durham University in 2018. She has many years' experience as a specialist Social Worker working with children. Maggie has carried out a range of work over the last 20 years in the field of Death Education, with a particular focus on children and has published in this area</p>
<p>Aim (400 words)</p>	<p>This research will use systematic review and qualitative research methodology to answer the following research questions:</p> <p>What is the impact of parental imprisonment on children?</p>



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	<p>What are the most effective ways of supporting the emotional and social needs of prisoners' children?</p> <p>Objectives</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To explore children's experiences of parental imprisonment in the different countries. 2. To Identify the support that is offered to children in the different countries. 3. To Investigate if different philosophical approaches to punishment influence the provision of support for the children who have experienced parental imprisonment. 4. To explore how public attitudes to imprisonment impact on parent's willingness to engage in support where available. 5. To identify areas of best practice in the different countries. 6. To provide recommendations to inform international policy and practice in this area. <p>Methodology and innovations</p> <p>The study will initially include a systematic review of the current international literature relating to parental imprisonment.</p> <p>The main study will take a qualitative approach with key actors including (children, parents, carers and professionals). In order to do this the study will utilise a range of methods including observations, interviews, focus groups and visual methods.</p> <p>The subject of this study is sensitive, so the research design will need to reflect this by taking account of the potential vulnerability of some participants. In order to do</p>
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	<p>this the study will draw on participatory and visual research methods to engage participants.</p> <p>Taking a participatory approach to the research will situate the participants as central to the research process. The parents, carers and professionals will be integral in identifying appropriate methods to engage children in discussions about their experiences.</p>
<p>Strategic Relevance (300 words)</p>	<p>The project aims to extend our knowledge of the impact of parental imprisonment on children and gain an understanding of their support needs. This is a key area for research and there is a clear gap in the literature that this study could contribute to, because it takes a comparative approach, allowing the identification of best practice within different jurisdictions. The study will add to our academic knowledge and has the potential to have a real-world impact beyond the scope of the study.</p>
<p>Interdisciplinarity and fit with DTA3</p>	<p>The project is by nature, interdisciplinary, drawing on criminology, social work and childhood studies. The bringing together of these three disciplines offers a unique opportunity to focus on the very specific needs of children who experience the loss of a parent through imprisonment.</p>
<p>Industrial Relevance (300 words)</p>	<p>During the time of the study, it is hoped that the researcher will have the opportunity to gain experience within a support setting in each locality. It is recognised that gaining access to this type of setting can be time consuming therefore it would be an integral part of the project plan.</p> <p>The supervisory team have experience of working with these services and they would support the researcher in identifying an appropriate placement.</p>



<p>Economic and Societal Impact (300 words)</p>	<p>It is anticipated that this research project will benefit society by highlighting the needs of children who have experienced parental imprisonment.</p> <p>The research has the potential to contribute to international policy and practice, by understanding the needs of the child and their family, and by identifying ways to ensure that the needs of the child are at the centre of policy debates on imprisonment.</p> <p>In doing this, the study will add to our knowledge about what support could be offered in an attempt to reduce the negative impact that parental imprisonment can have on children’s long-term outcomes.</p>
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Page 3 – Admission Requirements

Specific Admission Requirements	First degree 2:1 or higher Master's Degree The applicant would need to have knowledge of: Criminology/Criminal Justice/Sociology/Psychology/ Social Work or Childhood Studies.
Minimum IELTS score	



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