

# UKRI Steering Group Update

Dr Gill Buck, University of Chester May 2021

## Project aims and work packages

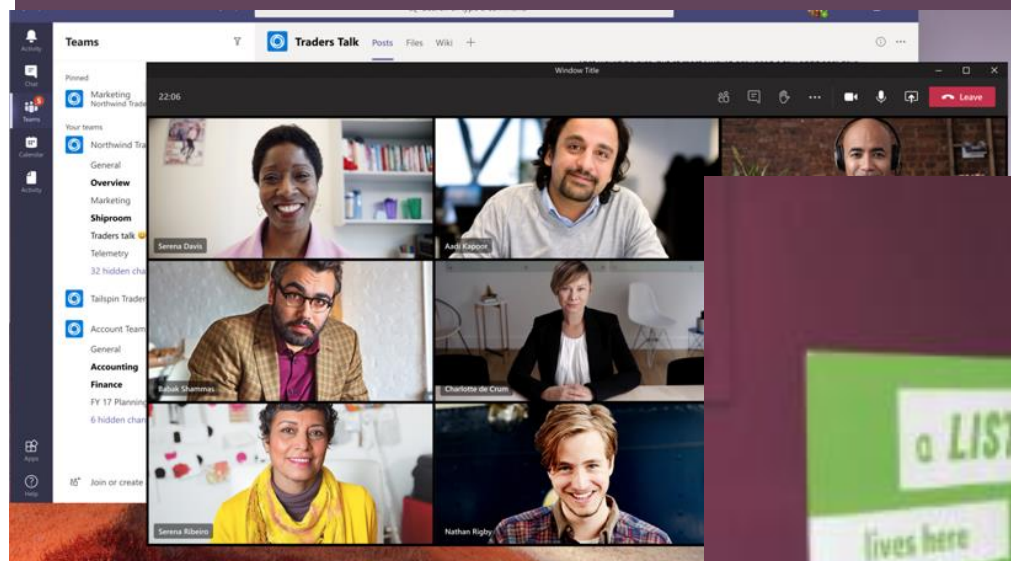
- **i) To theorise the (potential) participatory roles of prisoners and the voluntary sector in prison regulation**
- **WP1 (Months 1-84): Research staff (and beyond) development and mobility**
- **WP2 (Months 1-24): Mechanisms of prisoner participation in prison regulation**
- **WP3 (Months 1-24): Evaluating prison inquiries**
- ii) To appraise the (normative) relationships between multisectoral regulators from local to (trans)national
- iii) To co-produce (with multisectoral regulators), pilot, document and disseminate models of participatory, effective and efficient prison regulation in England and Wales (and then beyond)

# WP1 Research staff development



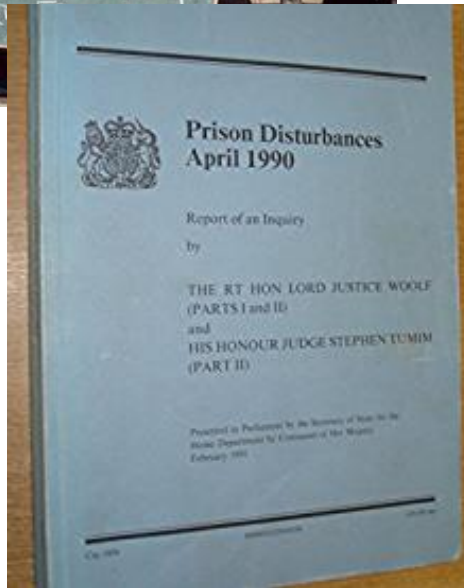
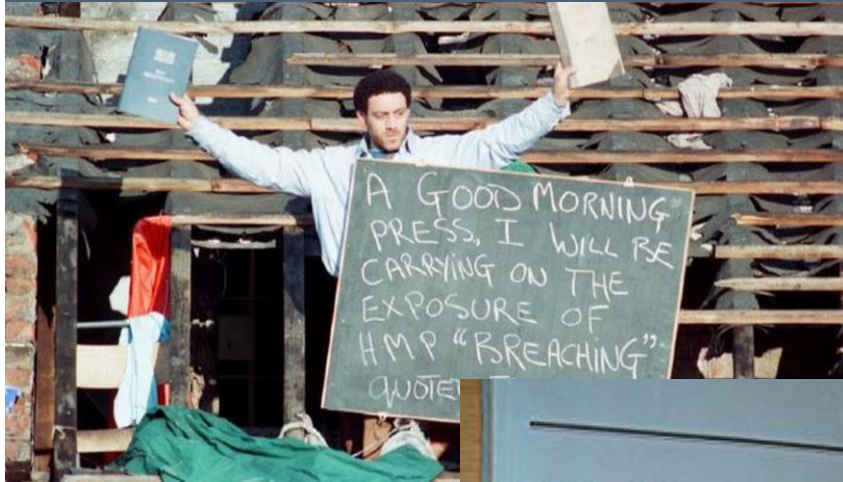
- **Complaint** – exclusion and collaboration
- **After Strangeways** – prisoner stimulated regulation
- Co-ordinating CRIMVOL seminars – Arts and activism
- Mentoring training
- Leadership coaching
- Crime, harm and Justice Group; NWAG.

# WP2 Mechanisms of prisoner participation in prison regulation



- Focus group pilot (x6 groups of PVS practitioners across England and Scotland).
- Article *'This is How it Feels': Activating lived experience in the penal voluntary sector* under review with BJC.
- Focus group collaboration with PPN co-authors (+4 reflective writing groups)
- Article *Prisoners on Prisons: Experiences of peer-delivered suicide prevention work* under review with CSP.
- Letter and charity collaboration.

# WP3 Evaluating prison inquiries

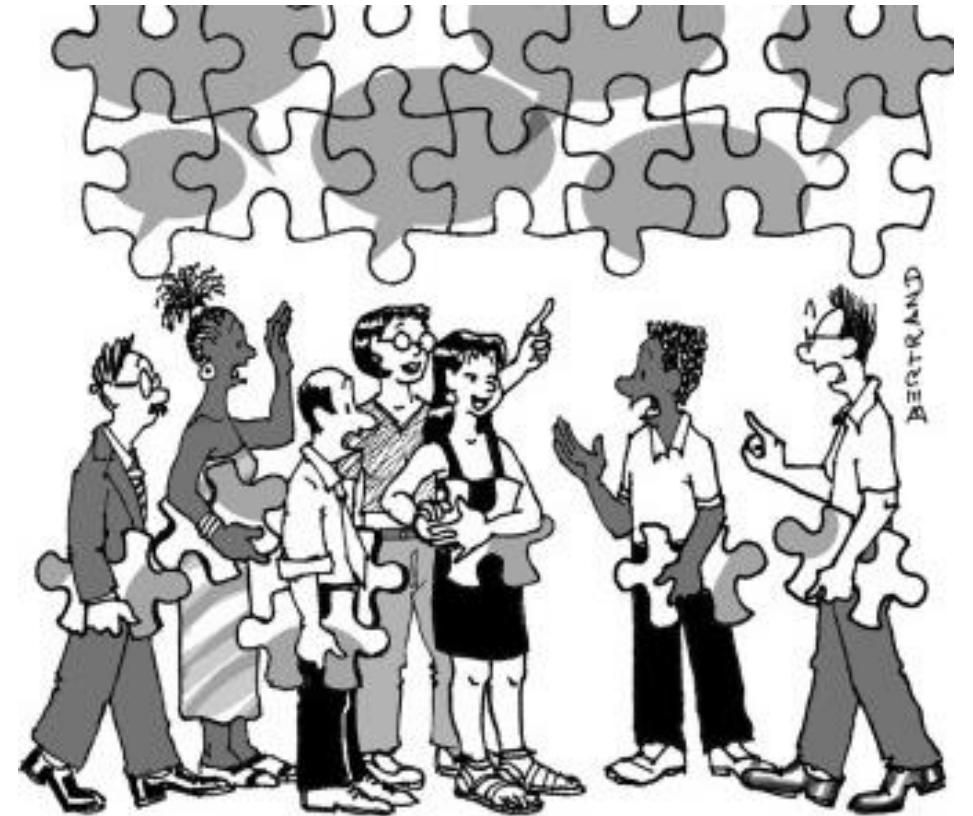


- Evaluating inquiries on riots (Woolf)
- ANT translation of how prisoners participated
- Tracing regulation *by* rather than *of* prisoners.
- *Prisoner voice, action and participation in the regulation of prisons* – To submit June 2021.



# ...Toward participatory regulation

- ‘Participatory epistemology’ (Peralta, 2017) could be mobilised in prison oversight.
- Collective inquiry and socio-political action e.g. **jointly noticing, dissecting, problem solving** and **collective communication** (‘EAR’, Ledwith, 2016).
- Prison scholarship and oversight bodies centre interpretations/agendas of those outside prisons.
- *Could* view the (prison) community as where “**local knowledge**” discovered and **viable solutions** provided (Fals Borda, 1979; Peralta, 2017).
- ‘Complaint’ collectives can support and amplify.



# Questions

Are the group aware of any literature/work on the diversity of prison regulatory bodies?

Do prison regulatory bodies include lived experience perspectives and if so, at what stages (e.g. gathering information, analysing, writing recommendations, feeding back?)