

BEN JARMAN

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Capable researcher, with a recently completed doctorate on life imprisonment and varied research and practitioner experience in criminal justice. Brings first-class research training, as well as subject and project management expertise and strong people skills, to any role.

Qualifications

- 2024** PhD in Criminology | University of Cambridge
Passed with no corrections. Based on primary qualitative interviews and documentary research with 48 men serving life sentences in two English prisons, involving complex and sensitive issues relating to research ethics and requiring successful applications to HMPPS research gatekeeping process
- 2017** MPhil in Criminological Research | University of Cambridge
Distinction. Trained to Masters standard in qualitative and quantitative research methods and criminological theory. Carried out original research based on ethnographic interviews with 18 men serving life sentences at HMP Gartree.
- 2007** PGCE (Secondary History) | UCL Institute of Education
- 2003** BA(Hons), History & Religious Studies | University of Cambridge

Employment history

- 2022–** Birkbeck, University of London | Senior Research Associate
Overall responsibility for research on the 'Unlocking potential' project, on law, policy, and practice relating to prison work and prison labour in the UK, the USA and Brazil. Designed study, carried out remote interviews, secured ethics clearance and access to prisons in two countries for ongoing fieldwork.
- 2021–2022** Prison Reform Trust, London | Knowledge Exchange Fellow
Collaboration: research and write-up of a prisoner policy consultation; roundtable events with senior practitioners and stakeholders; contributions to independent commission report on sentencing policy (see Selected Publications below)
- 2017–2018** Institute of Criminology, Cambridge | Research Assistant
Research assistance on two projects: archival research commissioned by HMPPS to inform its responses to a judicial inquiry (see 'Publications' below); and analysis of qualitative interviews with senior prison leaders
- 2015–2016** Clinks, London | Valuing Volunteering Project Manager
Project manager for 'Valuing Volunteering in Prison' (see Selected Publications). Conducted practitioner and prisoner interviews, analysis, write-up, commissioned and project-managed contributions from 14 partner organisations, on a very tight timescale amid evolving funder demands

2012–2015	Fine Cell Work, London Volunteers & Programmes Manager <i>Programme manager. Led support, recruitment, training, and management of volunteers working in 25 prisons nationally. Project-managed rollout of new accredited qualifications built around the programme</i>
2011–2012	Clinks, London Volunteering Development Officer <i>Liaison with member organisations, research and write-up of case studies, good practice guidance and policy briefings</i>
2010–2011	Quaker Council for European Affairs, Brussels Programme Assistant <i>International comparative research on prisoner social reintegration policies in Council of Europe member states</i>
2007–2010	Immanuel College, Hertfordshire Teacher of History & Politics <i>Classroom teacher of pupils aged 11–18, professional mentor of trainee teachers, curriculum development specialist</i>
2005–2006	St Francis Xavier College, London Teacher of Student Support <i>Classroom teacher and teaching assistant working with children with specific learning difficulties in a 16–19 FE college</i>
2003–2004	Advertising Standards Authority, London Investigations Executive <i>Investigations into complaints from public and businesses about advertisements</i>
Other	Volunteer posts as trustee/treasurer of two charities: a grant-giving trust; and the community chaplaincy at HMP Wandsworth.

Grants, awards and professional memberships

2018–2022	ESRC Studentship (co-funded by ESRC and Quakers in Britain)
2021	ESRC Knowledge Exchange fellowship (separate application to support my work with Prison Reform Trust)
2017	<i>Proxime accessit</i> , Manuel Lopez-Rey Graduate Prize (for overall performance in MPhil cohort)
2017–	British Society of Criminology; European Society of Criminology
2014	Wrote successful bid for £150k to the Tudor Trust to set up a new mentoring service working through the HMP Wandsworth chaplaincy
2008	General Teaching Council for England: Qualified Teacher Status (Secondary History)
2003	Lightfoot Prize (for best performance in undergraduate dissertation)

Selected publications

- PhD thesis** Jarman, B. .2024. '[Moral messages, ethical responses: Punishment and self-governance among men serving life sentences for murder](#)'.
- Journal articles** Jarman, B., & Heard, C. 2024. '[Prison work in law and reality: comparative perspectives from Brazil, the UK, and the US](#)'. *European Labour Law Journal*.
- Jarman, B. 2022. '[Life Imprisonment in Mature Adulthood: Adaptation, Risk, and Reform Later in the Life Course](#)'. *Prison Service Journal*.
- levins, Alice, Ben Jarman, and Thea Thomasin Reimer. 2021. '[False Accounting: Why We Shouldn't Ask People Who Commit Crimes to Pay Their Debts to Society](#)'. *Working Notes*.
- Jarman, Ben. 2020. '[Only One Way to Swim? The Offence and the Life Course in Accounts of Adaptation to Life Imprisonment](#)'. *The British Journal of Criminology*.
- Ben Jarman, and Caroline Lanskey. 2019. '["A Poor Prospect Indeed": The State's Disavowal of Child Abuse Victims in Youth Custody, 1960–1990](#)'. *Societies*.
- Reports/briefings** Jarman, Ben, and Helen Fair. 2024a. '[Working Prisoners in the UK: Laws, Policies, and Practical Realities](#)'. Institute for Crime & Justice Policy Research.
- Jarman, Ben, and Helen Fair. 2024b. '[Working Prisoners in the USA: Laws, Policies, and Practical Realities](#)'. Institute for Crime & Justice Policy Research.
- Westbury, Margaret, Mathieu Candea, Jennifer Gabrys, Sara Hennessy, Ben Jarman, Kiera McNeice, and Curtis Sharma. 2022. '[Voice, Representation, Relationships: Report of the Open Qualitative Research Working Group](#)'.
- Jarman, Ben, and Claudia Vince. 2022. '[Making Progress? What Progression Means for People Serving the Longest Sentences](#)'. Prison Reform Trust.
- Independent Commission into the Experience of Victims and Long-Term Prisoners. 2022. '[Making Sense of Sentencing: Doing Justice to Both Victim and Prisoner](#)'. Drafted 2 chapters and edited report; credited as adviser.
- Clinks. 2016. '[Valuing Volunteers in Prison: a review of volunteer involvement in prisons](#)'. Led project and wrote report.
- Casey, Joe, and Ben Jarman. 2011. '[The social reintegration of ex-prisoners in Council of Europe member states](#)'. Quaker Council for European Affairs.
- Keynotes** Jarman, Ben. 2024. '[Getting What We Deserve? Imprisonment and the Challenge of Doing Justice \(the 2024 Swarthmore Lecture\)](#)'.

Woodbrooke Quaker Learning and Research.

In preparation

Dagan, N., & Jarman, B. Under review. 'Not *only* a murderer: Israeli lifers' resistance to censure in the parole process', submitted to *Law & Social Inquiry*, May 2024.

Selected knowledge exchange activities

2022

Planned and held two roundtable events to be held in March 2022, bringing together senior policymakers and practitioners level to discuss the findings of PRT consultation on progression and parole for long-term prisoners in England & Wales (see 'Employment' above)

2021

Adviser to the Independent Commission on the Experiences of Victims and Long-Term Prisoners, attending meetings, writing briefings, and drafting report chapters (see 'Employment' and 'Selected Publications' above)

2019

Led workshop on desistance and long-term prisoners for staff and volunteers working with the Community Chaplaincy Association

Safeguarding Children in the Secure Estate 1960–2016 – training day at Newbold Revel (Prison Service College) for practitioners and policymakers, based on findings of the Safeguarding in the Secure Estate project (see 'Employment' above)

Key research skills

Qualitative

Research methods training: *Qualitative Research in Practice*. Experienced in sensitive research topics; semi-structured interviews; focus groups; qualitative analysis with NVivo/Atlas.ti; historical/archival research; team research; research data management; AI transcription

Quantitative

Research methods training: *Introducing Quantitative Analysis* and *Factor Analysis*. Trained in use of SPSS and SurveyMonkey.

Publishing

Self-taught user of document publication systems (WordPress, Markdown, Typora, VSCode, Pandoc, Quarto); self-taught user of software packages and platforms relating to Open Access publishing and version control systems (PubPub, Symplectic Elements, Git); has published on the ethics of open research and data publication in qualitative research featuring confidential and sensitive data

Prison-specific

Negotiating access and recruiting participants in challenging environments; working with prison staff; building rapport; conducting research ethically in complex circumstances

Additional relevant skills and qualifications

Administration

Excellent administrative skills; budgeting and financial management in small charities; highly organised

IT	Skilled user of commercial office packages (MS Office incl. Word, Excel, PowerPoint etc., Sharepoint, Dropbox, Google Drive), and free and open-source alternatives for self-hosted servers (Linux, Docker, LibreOffice, Nextcloud)
Fundraising	Wrote successful bid for Wandsworth Community Chaplaincy Trust (see above); contributed sections to successful Lottery bid at Fine Cell Work
Languages	English (native speaker); French (intermediate spoken)
Referees	
On request	