

Policek, Nicoletta, James, Carolyne, Mukungu, Kate and Mecinska, Lula (2018) Enforced mobility and criminalisation of women accessing abortion. In: British Society of Criminology Conference 2018: Transforming Criminology: Rethinking Crime in a Changing World, 3-6 July 2018, Birmingham City University, UK. (Unpublished)

Downloaded from: <http://insight.cumbria.ac.uk/id/eprint/4352/>

Usage of any items from the University of Cumbria's institutional repository 'Insight' must conform to the following fair usage guidelines.

Any item and its associated metadata held in the University of Cumbria's institutional repository Insight (unless stated otherwise on the metadata record) may be copied, displayed or performed, and stored in line with the JISC fair dealing guidelines (available [here](#)) for educational and not-for-profit activities

provided that

- the authors, title and full bibliographic details of the item are cited clearly when any part of the work is referred to verbally or in the written form
 - a hyperlink/URL to the original Insight record of that item is included in any citations of the work
- the content is not changed in any way
- all files required for usage of the item are kept together with the main item file.

You may not

- sell any part of an item
- refer to any part of an item without citation
- amend any item or contextualise it in a way that will impugn the creator's reputation
- remove or alter the copyright statement on an item.

The full policy can be found [here](#).

Alternatively contact the University of Cumbria Repository Editor by emailing insight@cumbria.ac.uk.

Enforced Mobility and Criminalisation of Women Accessing Abortion

Dr Nicoletta Policek, Kate Mukungu,
Carolynne James, University of Cumbria

Dr Aleksandra Mecinska University of Lancaster.

OUTLINE

- ❑ Women's bodies as foreign bodies
- ❑ Legislating on women's bodies
- ❑ Abortion care
- ❑ Enforced mobilities and diasporic subjectivities
- ❑ Research as Praxis



The foreigner is within us
(Kristeva, 1991)

THEREFORE

If I am a foreigner there are
no foreigners (Kristeva, 1991)



Migrants as a uniform,
genderless and
threatening body

Their differences are
melted into a subject
named a Body without
Organs (BwO) (Deleuze
and Guattari, 1987)

Migrants as the
multitude (Hardt and
Negri (2000)

The multitude as a
global biopolitical subject
of absolute democracy,
or rather

“the living alternative that
grows within Empire”
(Hardt and Negri,
2004:xiii).

Women's Bodies



N.Ireland, Isle of Man, Poland, & Italy – the Law

- **N.Ireland** – did not adopt the Abortion Act in 1967 – so abortion is mostly illegal under Offences Against Persons Act 1861.
- **Isle of Man** – did not adopt 1967 Act. Legislation to change very restrictive laws is processing through House of Keys & Legislative Council at this time.
- **Poland** - Some of the most restrictive laws in Europe implemented by an Ordinance in 1990.
- **Italy** – Legalised in 1978 but due to majority of Drs being anti-abortion and allowed to refuse as ‘conscientious objectors’ abortion is very hard to access.

Enforced mobilities – diasporic subjectivities

- **N.I** – approx. 2000 women a year travel to England for terminations. Numbers reduced since abortion pills now available on line.
- **Isle of Man.** – approx. 100 women a year travel to England.
- **Poland** - An estimated 80,000 Polish women a year go to Germany, Czech Republic, UK or Ukraine or seek illegal abortions at home.
- **Italy** – Due to Drs refusing to carry out abortions women have to go from town-to-town searching for someone who will carry out one. Unknown numbers also travel to UK, Spain and Netherlands.

Sameness/Difference – Distance/Proximity

- Enforced Travel/Mobilities
- Shame/Stigma
- Debt
- Risking Health/Unsafe actions
- Criminalisation



- Disproportionately affects woman with insufficient access to resources, support networks and the means to travel.

Scholarship - Research as Praxis

- *What discursive, narrative and theoretical resources criminologists might draw on in addressing contexts and meanings pertaining to the criminalisation of abortion ?*
- As scholars we need to embrace and support activism - it plays a powerful role in influencing policy debates and social change

Any Questions ?

Emails

nicoletta.policek@cumbria.ac.uk

carolyne.james@cumbria.ac.uk

kate.mukungu@cumbria.ac.uk

a.mecinska@Lancaster.ac.uk