

Robert Peckham (ed.), *Disease and Crime: A History of Social Pathologies and the New Politics of Health*, New York; London : Routledge , 2013 . Pp. 198. £90. ISBN 9 780 4158 3619 7 .

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Disease and Crime: A History of Social Pathologies and the New Politics of Health, part of a Routledge series on Cultural History, examines from many different angles the complex relationships between ideas about disease and crime. In his introduction, editor Robert Peckham states that the aim of this book is to map 'the tensions, overlaps, and contradictions within and between social and biological understandings of disease and crime, tracking the discursive formation of the 'diseased' criminal from the mid-nineteenth century to the rise of bio criminology and the new biology of deviance and control in the twenty-first century'.

The volume is very well structured. The introduction does an excellent job of synthesising the themes of global connectedness, space, and 'contagion' – both biological and social – that arise throughout the eight chapters. There are two sections, each with four chapters. The first section focuses on nineteenth century ideas about crime and disease, and their twentieth century consequences. The second section examines the late twentieth and early twenty first century from the perspective of very different ideas about disease and crime. All of the chapters pick up similar themes and examine them from a multitude of angles, creating a cohesive whole which is at the same time cross-cultural and represents a diversity of historical periods and methodologies.

In 'Hong Kong's Floating World: Disease and Crime at the Edge of Empire', Carol C. L. Tsang looks at the complex ways the 'floating world' of Hong Kong boatwomen were understood by British colonisers. Boatwomen simultaneously represented health through their physical strength and unrestrictive clothing, but also a threat to both health and order through their agency over their own bodies. This agency circumvented attempts to control disease and rationalise the settlement by regulating prostitution and women's freedom in the colony.

The theme of sexuality as both representing threats to order and health is picked up in Chiara Beccalossi's chapter 'Sexual Deviancies, Disease, and Crime in Cesare Lombroso and the "Italian School" of Criminal Anthropology'. Beccalossi explores how Lombroso applied Foucauldian 'medical gaze' to the 'criminal' problem of homosexuality. Sexuality, like criminality, was in this view thought to be accompanied by physical characteristics and homosexuality, specifically, was linked along with criminality to ideas of degeneration.

Sexuality, degeneration, and the ideas of space that appeared in both of these previous chapters were further explored in Robert Peckham's own chapter, 'Pathological Properties: Scenes of Crime, Sites of Infection'. This chapter uses the idea of photograph as 'evidence' to explore environmental ideas about criminality and disease in nineteenth-century England. He uses the Whitechapel murders to connect these themes. Apart from the association of a literal crime and space, Peckham also notes that the spaces themselves could be considered criminal, citing Engels' words that slums constitute 'social murder' against the poor.

The previous chapters contribute to the reader's understanding of Michael Berkowitz's 'Morality Plays: Presentations of Criminality and Disease in Nazi Ghettos and Concentration Camps'. The theme of space is explored through the self-fulfilling prophecy of promoting an association between

Jews, criminality and disease, and then eliminating legal avenues to generating income and crowding populations into slum conditions with limited access to food. Jewish existence itself was criminalised as their very survival was considered both criminal and a social disease.

The second section, focusing on the twenty-first century, begins with Børge Bakken's 'The "Bad" and the "Sick": Medicalizing Deviance in China' where he examined three ways in which deviance associated with modern life is medicalised in China – disorders of the only child, 'premature love', and Internet Addiction Disorder (IAD). He examines how these different 'disorders' are tied to other issues facing China (especially the idea that 'premature love' is tied to hormones in contaminated food) and to crime and disorder.

Frederic Keck does something rather different in 'Contagious Wilderness: Avian Flu and Suburban Riots in the French Media'. Rather than tying specific causes to specific problems, Keck looks at how the French media interpreted the events of 2005, conflating terrorism, the H5N1 Avian Flu virus, and urban rioting. While no conscious connection was made between these different crises, the language used surrounding terrorism and rioting (outbreak, parasite, epidemic) jibed with that around disease. The rioting itself was treated as a 'contagion' from the United States, much as the Avian Flu was a contagion from China, as specific incidents (car trashing) were compared to the 1992 Los Angeles riots.

'The Criminalization of Industrial Disease: Epidemiology in a Japanese Asbestos Lawsuit' by Paul Jobin explores the connection between disease and crime in different way. While the preceding papers focused on turning the medical eye to existing crimes, or the conflation of disease and crime, Jobin looks at how industrial disease precipitates and creates new crimes. Looking specifically at the case of the citizens of Sennan, and struggle for recognition from the Japanese government and compensation for their ill health, he sees a population seeking recognition that what was done to them was a crime akin to assault and murder, rather than a civil wrong or a case for worker's compensation.

Lastly, Mark Seltzer, departing from the strictly historical methodology of the rest of this volume, looks at the literature and language around disease and crime in 'Crime Between History and Natural History'. Drawing in a range of literary sources, he looks at the way disease, war, crime, violence, and culture are all intertwined and where the natural history of disease meets the social history of crime.

Disease and Crime is unique and ambitious collection that fills many gaps and bridges many divides. It is global in scope, and manages to match the individual chapters' themes of global connection by studying areas with a broad global and temporal scope, yet making coherent connections between all of them. The individual chapters are well written, the volume well-constructed, and it is deserving of a place in the library of any reader interested in the interplay of disease and crime in historical and contemporary thought.