Risk Culture: Challenging Individual Agency Risk Summit 2016

Anti-Risk Management:

Studies of Culture, Trust and Moral Climate in Prisons

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# Onora O'Neill (2009): Trusting intelligently?

The central problem in thinking about trust is that it can be misplaced: the trustworthy may be mistrusted, and the untrustworthy may be trusted. Both sorts of mismatch lead to practical anxiety as well as intellectual complexity. When we refuse to trust the trustworthy we incur needless worry and cost in trying to check them out and hold them to account, while those who find their trustworthiness wrongly questioned may feel undermined, even insulted — and ultimately less inclined to be trustworthy …the central practical aim in placing and refusing trust is to do so well, that is to *align the placing of trust with trustworthiness*. The central practical question is how we can *place trust intelligently*, despite the inevitable incompleteness of evidence (O'Neill, O. *Perverting Trust*, Ashby Lecture, May 15th 2009: 1).

Political charge

- My time in prison has made me angry.
- The prison authorities are guiltier than I am for wrongdoing.
- I feel more like fighting back in this prison.
- **I dislike this prison's treatment of people like me.**
- I feel shame for what I have done to get here.
- The level of suspicion in this prison is too high.
- I have become more tolerant of (other) faith groups in this prison.
- The problems we are facing in this prison need action now.
- I have seen things happen to other prisoners in here that are simply wrong.
- I accept that there is a reason for me being here

The Prison Officer and 'Whitemoor 1'
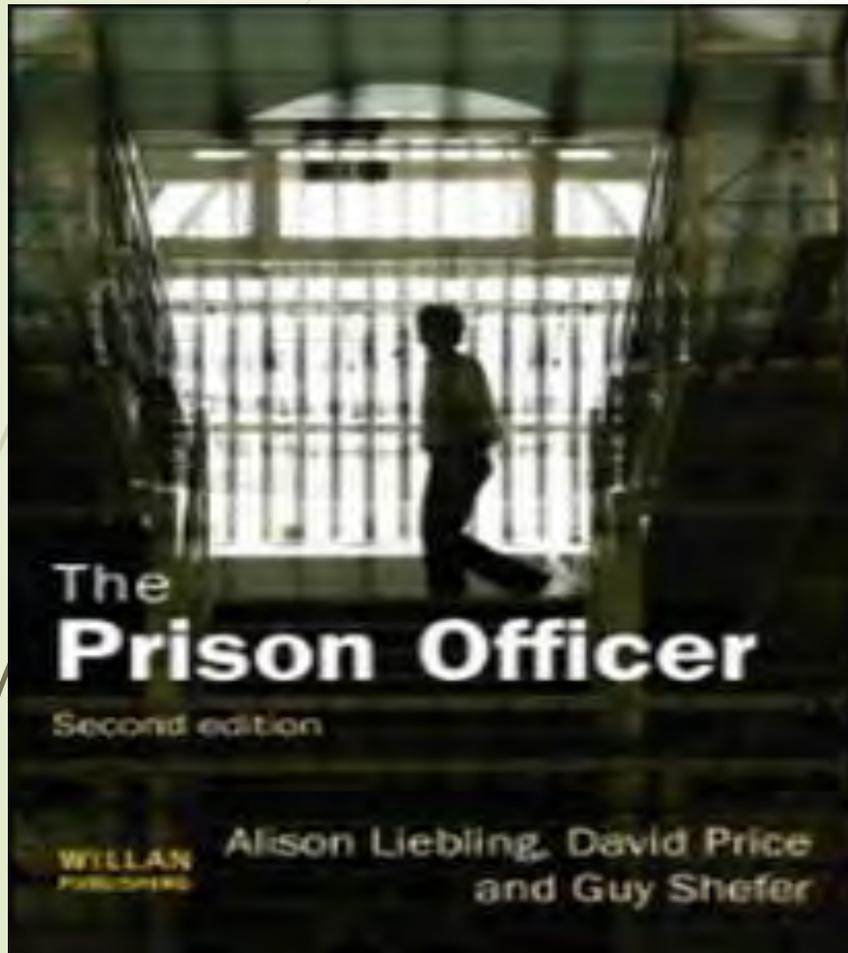
Ministry of
JUSTICE
National Offender
Management Service

An exploration of
staff – prisoner relationships at
HMP Whitemoor: 12 Years On

Revised Final Report

Alison Liebling, Helen Arnold and Christina Straub

Cambridge Institute of Criminology
Prisons Research Centre
November 2011

Transforming Social Science (ESRC)

July 2013 - May 2015

Locating trust in a climate of fear: religion, moral status, prisoner leadership, and risk in maximum security prisons

Alison Liebling, Ruth Armstrong,

Ryan Williams, Richard Bramwell

Explaining the Variance in Political Charge

Humanity

Decency

Bureaucratic Legitimacy

Fairness

Political Charge

0.15

0.12

0.29

0.12

$R^2 = 0.6517$
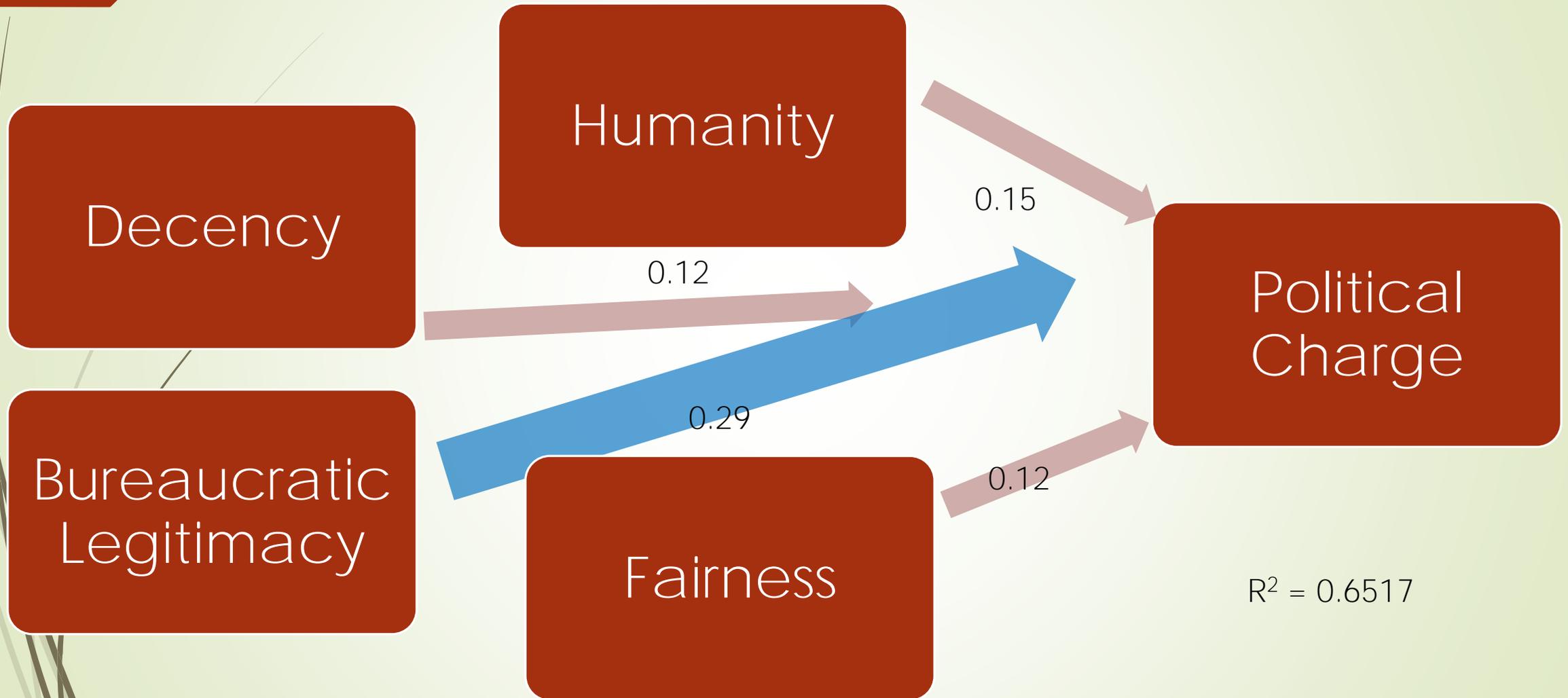
Intelligent Trust

Item	Full Sutton 2014 Mean	Long Lartin 2014 Mean	Frankland 2014 Mean
The right people are trusted for the right reasons in this prison.	2.79	2.76	2.91
I feel recognized as the person I am in this prison.	2.58	2.80	3.02
I have opportunities to show I am trustworthy in this prison.	2.70	2.98	3.19
This prison is good at placing trust in prisoners.	2.21	2.29	2.49
I feel I am trusted quite a lot in this prison.		2.68	
Dimension mean	2.57	2.71	2.91
α =	.74	.83	.78

Political charge

	Full Sutton 2014 Mean	Long Lartin 2014 Mean	Frankland 2014 Mean
All	2.61	2.72	2.95
White	2.70	2.67	3.00
BME	2.46	2.74	2.67
Muslim	2.49	2.52	2.63
Threshold/Tipping point?	2.50	2.50	2.50
	N= 167	N=174	N=165

Key message

- *Empirical differences in levels of trust* in prison have major consequences for life in those prisons.

- Trust is not as hard to grow it as we seem to think.
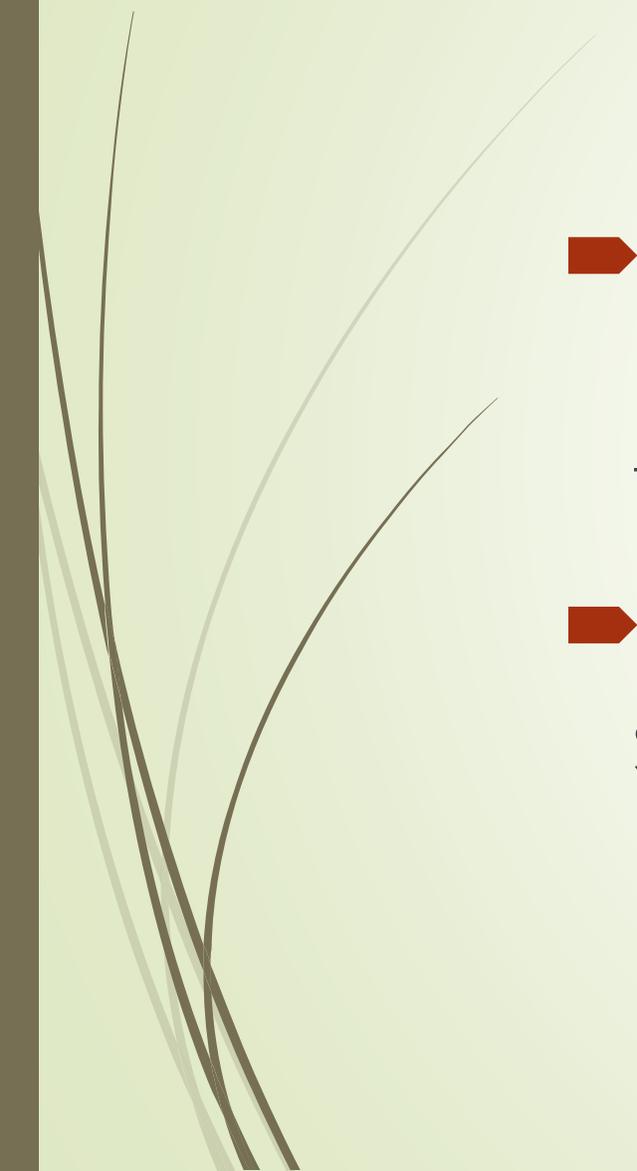
Thank you. Further reading..

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Liebling, A (2013) 'Legitimacy under pressure' in high security prisons, in J Tankebe and A Liebling (eds) *Legitimacy and Criminal Justice: An International Exploration* Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp.206-226

Liebling, A., Arnold, H., and Straub, C. (2015) ''Prisons Research Beyond the Conventional: Dialogue, 'Creating Miracles' and Staying Sane in a maximum security prison'', Drake, D., Earle, R., & Sloan, J. (eds) *International Handbook of Prison Ethnography*, Palgrave

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Liebling, A and Arnold, H (2012) 'Social relationships between prisoners in a maximum security prison: violence, faith, and the declining nature of trust', *Journal of Criminal Justice* 40(5): 413-424.

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