‘An innocent person in prison...is about as rare as a pigeon in the park!’ (Yant, 1991: 1)

Welcome to ‘Miscarriages of Justice’ - a topic that I am passionate about! I will be delivering the academic teaching for the module. Depending on when the module is timetabled, I hope to also bring in a variety of guest speakers. The course consists of a 2 hour weekly lecture and 1 hour seminar. Seminars will take a variety of formats, including online formats and will incorporate a variety of learning activities, which may include a film showing, a field trip and various in-class exercises.

What is the module about?
To explore problems surrounding the delivery of justice through a comprehensive analysis of miscarriages of justice. It is important to stress that the approach taken to this module is primarily criminological, sociological and psychological, rather than legalistic. That said, we begin the module with an introduction to the adversarial system of justice, followed by the following over-arching themes:

- Key concepts and debates surrounding miscarriages of justice.
- Interpretations and understandings of the term 'miscarriage of justice'.
- The scale of the 'miscarriage of justice' problem both nationally and internationally.
- The causes of miscarriages of justice and psychological and sociological explanations for these causes.
- The consequences of miscarriages of justice for individuals and society.
- Formal criminal justice responses to miscarriages of justice and their effectiveness.
- Informal individual and collective responses to miscarriages of justice, such as campaigns.

N.B: Throughout the module, we examine key cases of miscarriages of justice.

If I elect this module, what knowledge and skills will I develop?
The knowledge and skills that students will develop by the end of this module are:

**Intellectual skills:**
- Identify and discuss the nature, forms and scale of miscarriages of justice
- Critically assess the causes of miscarriages of justice with reference, where applicable, to psychological and/or sociological perspectives
Recognise and explain problems associated with attempts to address the causes of miscarriages of justice
Examine the consequences of miscarriages of justice in a variety of settings and how they are responded to by formal and informal entities
Read, summarise and comment appropriately on scholarly writing and audio/visual

Professional/practical skills:
- Write clearly and concisely making effective use of the Harvard system
- Speak clearly and slowly using concise, engaging understandable, jargon-free language

Transferable/key skills:
- Written and verbal communication; self-management in relation one’s own learning; problem-solving; critical thinking; basic literacy in the use of information technology for the purposes of scholarship including recording and 'publishing' a podcast onto a VLE.

How is the module assessed?
The module is assessed in 2 parts. The first is a 1 x 15 minute individual podcast, worth 30% of the total marks for the module. The second is a 1 x 2,500 word essay, worth 70% of the overall marks for the module.

I’m interested, how can I find out more?
Take a look at this website and especially at the tab marked 'cases':
https://innocent.org.uk/about/ and the podcast Serial: https://serialpodcast.org/season-one

...and have a look at: