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# Youth Crime and Justice

**SOCI2033 - Autumn (Year 2, Elective)**

**Dr Nicola Carr**

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## Summary of module content

This module explores the phenomena of youth and crime and how the criminal justice system (and wider social systems) respond to this problem. The module begins by looking at how the 'problem' of youth crime (or juvenile delinquency) emerged as a social issue within a historical context and how it manifests as a social concern today. We will explore current issues such as knife crime and focus on key questions such as:

- Why has there been a recent rise in the incidence of this type of crime?
- What are effective responses to tackle knife crime amongst young people?

In this module we will also look at the way that the youth justice system is structured and responds to situations where children and young people break the law. This will include a focus on policing, youth offending teams and custody.



Some of the lecture topics include:

- The Minimum Age of Criminal Responsibility
- Youth Justice and Children's Rights
- Growing out of crime?
- The relationship between age and crime
- Media representations of youth and crime
- Policing and young people
- Children, young people and custody

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## Teaching Format and Assessment

The module is delivered in 3 hour-teaching blocks on a weekly basis over 11 weeks.

Teaching involves face-to-face lecture delivery and smaller group-based work.

As youth crime is a subject that typically receives a lot of media attention, the lectures are grounded in topical debates as well as research evidence and literature. The module is convened by Dr Nicola Carr (Associate Professor in Criminology). Prior to becoming an academic Nicola worked as a probation officer in a youth offending team. E-mail: [nicola.carr@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:nicola.carr@nottingham.ac.uk)

The assessment for this module takes the form of a **4,000 word policy-briefing**. For this assignment you will be asked to formulate a policy briefing for the Ministry of Justice about a particular aspect of youth justice policy such as - why the minimum age of criminal responsibility should be raised? You will receive detail guidance on how to prepare a policy-briefing (and this is a transferable skill that you can add to your CV).

## Some Reading to get Started

McAra, L. (2017) 'Youth Justice.' In: In: A. Liebling, S. Maruna, & L. McAra (Eds.) *The Oxford Handbook of Criminology*, 6th Edition. Oxford: Oxford University Press. (pp. 938-966).

Bateman, T. (2015) 'Trends in Detected Youth Crime and Contemporary State Responses.' In: B. Goldson & J. Muncie (Eds.) *Youth, Crime and Justice*. (Second Edition). London: Sage.

## What previous students have said about the module

*I have found this module really interesting, as it is about issues in the current day, and the readings are modern, interesting, and easy to follow.*

*It's really interesting and challenging.*

*One of my favourite modules, very interesting with a variety of topics.*

