Crime and Rehabilitation in the 21st Century

Pam Davies
Pendulum Swings

• Evaluate the competing claims of ‘justice’ and ‘correction’ as principles of punishment

Howard Jones 1984 ‘intelligent differentiation’ and 1981:3:

‘…..return to the good scientific principle of parsimony – claiming no more than the evidence justifies – which is itself methodologically questionable……. better methods may be more effective’
Collapse of Treatment


‘in light of the collapse of treatment’ (159).
Demise of Rehabilitation


*Take, typically, a young man from a relatively impoverished urban background, with poor education, few job prospects, and a disrupted and unsupporting home. Put him for six months in a cell with three others from a similar background, sometimes for twenty-three hours a day, sometimes with the odd few hours in a workshop doing monotonous tasks or in an education class once a week. And then send him back whence he came, still impoverished, with job prospects a little worse than before because of the stigma of a recent prison sentence. Any connection with ‘rehabilitation’ or ‘treatment’ must be of the remotest* (1987: 48).
Defending Correction

Jones (1981)

1. That correction is ineffective
2. That it is often unjust
3. That it implies disregard for the human personality and for individual self-determination
4. That viable and defensible alternatives to correction do exist
From Treatment to Help

Bottoms and McWilliams (1979)
- substitution of ‘help’ for ‘treatment’.

‘by ‘help’ we mean help as defined ultimately by the client’ (1979: 172).
Bottoms and McWilliams (1979) Non-Treatment Paradigm

- Treatment becomes Help
- Diagnosis becomes SharedAssessment
- Client’s Dependent Need as the basis for social work Action becomes Collaboratively Defined Task as the basis for social work action
Modern Rehabilitation

• Risk-Need-Responsivity (RNR) model
• Good Lives Model (GLM)


Pat Carlen on Against Rehabilitation: For Reparative Justice
Rehabilitation in the 21st Century

1. That rehabilitation (help) is ineffective

2. That it is often unjust (shared assessment)

3. That it implies disregard for the human personality and for individual self-determination (collaboratively defined)
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