The book concludes by observing that a misogynistic medical field persecuted several women in the late 1990s and early 2000s in Britain. This critique is extended to encompass pediatric medicine and pathology, highlighting limitations in science and diagnostic consensus as contributors to unjust convictions. The author implicates the whole of the medical profession rather than a few individual errors. Further, what is not discussed in depth is that internationally, guidelines about appropriate expert medical testimony exist and are meant to be followed; a whole profession is not to blame if an individual does not do so.

In sum, *Female Criminality* may be helpful for those seeking an understanding of baby-farming and moral panic, but it may be less useful to those seeking a thorough understanding of current research regarding infanticide and neonaticide. While redundant descriptions of moral panic and the sexed female body make the book unnecessarily long, it is quite thin regarding modern research into neonaticide and infanticide.

**References**


**Reviewed by:** Rebecca Wallis, School of Criminology and Criminal Justice, Griffith University

This collection of essays edited by Eljdupovic and Bromwich explores how the dynamics of oppression shape women’s experiences of motherhood in prison. As a whole, the volume provides insight into the ways in which social constructions of motherhood influence both the operation of prison systems and mothers’ lived experiences in prison. The collection also provides a welcome cross-national and comparative examination of how mothers experience and respond to the prison environment. Although Canadian perspectives dominate the collection, there are also important contributions highlighting the experiences of incarcerated mothers in France, the United States, India, Portugal and Australia. The diversity of perspectives presented is unprecedented in this field, and despite obvious cross-national differences, the volume reminds us that oppression is a universal experience in the lives of socially marginalised women.

As the title suggests, the essays in this collection strive to achieve two main goals. The first is to explore how social contexts, particularly the operation of power and patriarchy, construct ‘motherhood’ in ways that can be used to oppress women. The second is to explore how imprisoned women resist oppression, and how they attempt to reclaim or redefine motherhood in a carceral setting. To do this, the collection includes other kinds of texts, such as photographs and poetry, in addition to traditional academic essays. Because this collection privileges this perspective of motherhood,
it inevitably positions motherhood as a politicised construct and invites intersectional analyses.

The collection shines a light on how dominant constructions of motherhood oppress imprisoned women, who are often excluded in multiple ways from the normative ideals that characterise these dominant constructions. As is clear from the essays in Part 1 of this volume, this theme holds true across countries; even though the normative ideals, and thus the mechanisms underpinning the perceived ‘failures’ of imprisoned mothers, may differ from place to place. At first glance, for example, there appear to be significant differences between the contexts of motherhood described in Lalji’s essay on imprisoned mothers in India (p. 93), compared with the experiences of Aboriginal women in Canada (Eljdupovic et al., p. 43) and in Australia (McClusland & Baldry, p. 121). Herzog-Evan (p. 70) examines differences in the social meaning of motherhood in several European countries and traces the consequence of this on prison policies. These careful analyses of difference are fascinating but also demonstrate how applying dominant constructions of motherhood to marginalised women such as those who typically comprise the prison population consistently results in forms of oppression. This oppression manifests in the way that prison systems view and respond to mothers. Kennedy’s essay about the risk of termination of imprisoned mothers’ parental rights in the USA context provides a poignant example of this (p. 82). Similarly, Bromwich (p. 59) demonstrates how, historically, adolescent mothers were criminalised by Canadian child protection and criminal justice systems predominately because of their non-compliance with dominant ideals of motherhood.

In addition to the ways in which power and patriarchy characterise the broad prison context and shape women’s experiences, the volume also explores women’s personal experiences of oppression, documenting the many ways in which it can negatively influence the judgments imprisoned mothers make about their own value and skills as mothers. The second part of the collection details these lived experiences of oppression among imprisoned mothers. Importantly, the essays and texts in this section of the volume also highlight the ways in which imprisoned mothers resist this oppression. Their attempts to redefine, reclaim and assert their identities as mothers within these contexts remind readers of women’s power and agency even within oppressive structures. The essay by Walsh and Crough (p. 160) highlights this; despite the oppressive effects of social and criminal justice contexts on women’s sense of themselves as mothers, they nonetheless still ‘told stories of hope, strength, and restoration’ (p. 167). These themes are echoed in Eljdupovic’s chapter as well (p. 173). She warns that prison programs that fail to acknowledge the ‘assumptions implicit in these programs about normative parenting practices’ (p. 173) are unable to deliver meaningful services to women. Understanding more about mothers’ lived experiences and goals for the future is paramount to the development of nuanced and appropriate services that meet the real needs of imprisoned mothers.

The way that these essays position women’s experiences within broad contexts is an obvious strength of this collection. It expands the scope of analysis in this subject area to include an interrogation of important issues of power, patriarchy and the effect of oppressive systems. The collection is, however, of variable quality, especially in the second part of the volume which is dedicated to the voices of imprisoned mothers. This is predominately a consequence of the collection’s commitment, at this point,
to prioritise the voices of women above the requirements of academic form. This is an admirable and defensible position, but unfortunately means that the collection tends to do a more rigorous job of mapping and exploring issues of oppression rather than of resistance. Nonetheless, it provides a solid starting point for further work in this area. Similarly, its focus on structural issues of power is important, although in taking this strong position, it fails to explore other influences that shape women’s experiences of motherhood in prison and might augment or counter the influence of structural oppression. This is beyond the scope of the collection but reminds us that there is still much to explore in this area.

Overall, this collection represents an important addition to our understanding of women’s experiences, and it demands attention. It clearly demonstrates how individualised explanations of mothers’ imprisonment experiences are insufficient. Instead, mothers’ experiences need to be understood within broader social frameworks. By exploring the influence of broader social systems and entrenched inequalities on the form and function of prison systems, we can better understand and respond to the lived experiences of mothers subject to these systems.


Reviewed by: Paddy Rawlinson, University of Western Sydney, Australia

‘So many criminologists study individual homicide, while so few have chosen to view the topic of this book as meriting their attention’ (p. 282). This comment by John Braithwaite in *Pharmaceuticals, Corporate Crime and Public Health* has a particular resonance given that it was published 30 years after his sole-authored ground-breaking study on the malpractice in the legal drug trade: *Corporate Crime in the Pharmaceutical Industry* (Braithwaite, 1984). Whatever hopes Braithwaite had for the development of further criminological investigation into the often murky world of Big Pharma have clearly not been realised. Yet, as he and his co-authors, Graham Dukes and J.P. Moloney, argue in this meticulously researched study, the crimes and misdemeanours of one of the most powerful global industries in the US alone far outweigh those recorded in that country’s statistics for murder and manslaughter. With a few exceptions, such as Jeffrey Reiman’s nod to the comparatively vast numbers of deaths and injuries resulting from medical intervention in his *The Rich Get Richer and the Poor Get Prison* (Reiman & Leighton, 2009), criminology has continued to stay clear of this particular killing field. Given the rich data presented in the book, Braithwaite is more than justified in reproaching criminology for its reluctance to address the subject.

*Pharmaceuticals, Corporate Crime and Public Health* builds on Braithwaite’s 1984 study bringing in new data and perspectives from health policy specialists (Dukes and Moloney). The book is divided into three parts: Duke’s short autobiographical reflection of a career in pharmaceuticals, the main section (a litany of industry crimes and abuses) and a concluding policy-based response to these wrongs.