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Ingleby, Richard & Chung, Mona  *  QB1.12 LE  6.7
Cross-Cultural Issues in the Supervision of a Chinese Socio-Legal PhD Student

The purpose of this co-authored paper is to explain how culturally specific features of Chinese students impact on the processes by which they commence their socio-legal research degrees by research candidature. The presentation by the co-authors of the paper will include a simulation of the first meeting between the candidate and the supervisor. This simulation will show how specific features of Chinese culture and the Chinese education system create a massive culture shock when Chinese research students are exposed to Anglo-Australian academic culture.

We will explain how the underlying principles of Chinese culture impact on the candidate's expectations in relation to:
- the role of the supervisor;
- the requirement of original contribution;
- expectations in feedback on written work and communication more generally.

We will then propose strategies for reducing the impact of culture shock and improving the experience of the candidature and the performance from each party to the relationship in terms of timely completions and reduced attrition. These strategies derive from the authors' experience in relation to doctoral research management and cross-cultural communication.

Johnson, Nicholas  *  QB0.09 CJ  7.2

The means test for criminal legal aid in magistrates courts was reintroduced in October 2006. The government Regulatory Impact Assessment suggested that the reintroduction would save around £35 million. The reintroduction was greeted with concern by criminal practitioners who suggested that many defendants, especially the self-employed or those who could not easily prove their income, would be sent to prison by magistrates without representation. Following an approach by the local law society, these concerns led us to set up a brief pilot study with assistance from a Nottingham Trent University (NTU) fund which paid for undergraduate researchers (NTU's ‘SPUR’ scheme).

The aims of the study were to discover:
1) whether anecdotal evidence that defendants were being imprisoned without representation was supported by research;
2) whether there was any indication that the lack of representation had any other impact on the sentence imposed by the court;
3) whether the introduction of the means test resulted in a higher number of defendants electing Crown Court trial and the impact that this might have on any savings identified;
4) whether other features of the system could be changed to ensure that funds were properly targeted to ensure access to justice and uphold rights to a fair trial.

This paper aims to set out the initial results of this research. It will consider how accurate cost saving assumptions made by the government when implementing the scheme were and consider whether these changes have in fact had an adverse impact on the administration of justice. It will also consider, based on the initial findings of this pilot study, whether the current criminal legal aid is properly targeted and whether specific changes to the system could improve access to justice.

The paper will also briefly consider the research model which generated this study and suggest ways in which this could be followed in future.

Kang-Riou, Nicholas  *  QB0.13 KW  8.9
Human Rights Expertise, Values, Intervention and Truth
Keywords: Participation, Perception(s)

Since 2006, I have been invited to participate in a series of human rights training in