Louise A. Jackson, with Angela Bartie, *Policing Youth: Britain, 1945-70* (2014), x + 240 (Manchester University Press, Manchester, £65/$96.69, hardback).

*Policing Youth* is a fascinating, accessible but earnest study of the workings of the juvenile justice system during the period of extensive societal changes following the Second World War. Historians and criminologists have regularly and emphatically been able to demonstrate, through historical research concentrated in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, that twenty-first century concerns about levels of anti-social behaviour, gang-membership and weaponisation amongst young people in the United Kingdom, and the behaviours that trigger them, are not new. The post-war period (1945-70) covered by *Policing Youth* is associated with the creation of the welfare state, saw increasing affluence and a corresponding increase in living standards for many sections of society. However, it is also a period that saw an exponential rise in youth offending. This apparent contradiction has been, until *Policing Youth*, surprisingly neglected by scholars.

*Policing Youth* is the result of an Economic and Social Research Council funded project using archival material to explore 'policing its widest sense', and so looks in particular at 'the police service and criminal justice ….However, it also deals with a series of related agencies - public, private and voluntary (including the churches, schools and also the family) - that were engaged in the social regulation and welfare of young people' (5). By placing the study in two quite different cities - Dundee and Manchester - Jackson has expertly contrasted the Scottish and English systems. Although there are obvious differences such as population size and popular cultures, the cities shared socio-economic traits, including traditionally high rates of female employment in textiles industries and post-war re-housing of inner-city populations to suburban housing. That the two cities were (and remain) concurrently similar in some ways and different in others does not detract but enhances the comparison, adding an additional dimension of how distinct welfare and social changes in each shaped official and community responses to youth culture and misdemeanour.

*Policing Youth* is thematically divided into chapters each with a distinct focus, covering the police, the courts, home and community, sexuality, violence, commercial leisure and reform. Throughout, there were many interesting themes and points discussed. For example, the connection is made between place and youth offending and policing. Jackson compared press coverage and court business to show how and why the new council owned housing areas became identified as 'black-spots' in both cities and were consequently subject to increased police surveillance and accelerated reporting of incidents. Labelling certain environments as 'black-spots' was shown to have had a negative impact on the behaviour of the young people living in those environments and their identification with that environment. Another important theme that runs throughout is that of gender, with the chapter on sexuality a particularly interesting one. Alongside concerns about the rise of youth offending in this post-war period, were concerns about youth sexual activity. Problem teenage sexual activity was shown to have a similar gender bias as it had in the Victorian and Edwardian eras. Jackson and Bartie demonstrate how 'The 'problem girl', the 'good time girl', and the 'wayward girl' were terms that were widely used across the period to describe the sexual delinquent; there was no male equivalent' (117).

The strength of *Policing Youth* is that it deals with 'crime' as it came to the attention of the official and community bodies, and that means predominantly petty crime - it is not seduced into focusing on serious crimes or the youth gangs of the period. Rather, it focuses on the everyday, the lived reality for many young people in these two cities (and probably many more) who displayed behaviours that did not conform to expectations, however unrealistic those expectations were. By doing this, Jackson has managed to produce a detailed, focussed, rich text on an area previously poorly understood, that has not been diverted or stretched to include more sensational elements. For example, Jackson could have focused on 'cosh boys' and 'Teddy boys' of the 1950s and the 'mods and rockers' of the 1960s, but she found that the juvenile violence with which these groups are associated that sparked contemporary media driven moral panics constituted less than five per cent of prosecutions. Instead, as discussed in chapter three, most prosecutions for both boys and girls were related to property offences. For girls the expansion of the 'high street' and consumerism during this period brought about increased prosecutions for 'shoplifting' and for boys prosecutions for stealing cigarettes, bicycles, tools from workshops and so forth. However, even with this rise, the youth courts remained a masculine domain with boys outnumbering girls as girls were either diverted away from the formal criminal justice system or less likely to be suspected of stealing in the first place.

*Policing Youth* points scholars of crime, punishment and criminal justice history - whether they be criminologists, historians, legal scholars, cultural studies scholars, and sociologists - to some very interesting material on youth offending and the official and community reaction to it - and pulls together a detailed picture of post-war childhood and youth, and the over-criminalising and over-regulated environment they inhabited. This book will appeal to, and is essential for, all those working in the area of crime and criminal justice history - undergraduate and postgraduate students and established academics alike - in fact, anyone interested in the post-war period and the social and formal control of young people.

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