



The COST Action on Offender Supervision in Europe (see www.offendersupervision.eu), chaired by Prof Fergus McNeill at the University of Glasgow, has recently published its first book. The 'Action' (or research network) now spans 21 countries and involves more than 100 researchers and analysts. Their new edited collection presents a review of research on offender supervision in four main areas; how supervision is experienced by those subject to it and those affected by it; the decision-making processes linked to supervision (pre-trial, sentencing and pre-release); how supervision is constructed by those that practice it and by the organisations and systems in which they work; and the influence of European norms and standards on supervision. The four substantial chapters on these themes have been written by leaders of the Action's working groups (including Miranda Boone, Ioan Durnescu, Martine Herzog Evans, Christian Grafl, Elena Larrauri, Christine Morgenstern, Gwen Robinson and Kerstin Svensson) but they are based on the work of a much wider range of associate authors each of whom have reviewed research in their own jurisdictions. Some of these national reviews are available on the Action's website.

In the introduction to the volume, the editors (Fergus McNeill and Kristel Beyens) set out the agenda for the Action, explaining the significance, scale and reach of supervision and noting both its neglect by scholars and some of the practical problems this causes. Their conclusion sums up the learning so far and sets out some of the challenges that members of the Action are now engaging with in seeking to develop high quality critical and comparative research on supervision; research that they hope can make a difference not just to the impact of supervision, but to developing a better scientific and public understanding of it.

Anyone interested in reading the book can order it online here:

<http://www.palgrave.com/products/title.aspx?pid=711238>