Dr Bree Carlton, Criminology, School of Social Sciences
This research focuses on anti-prison activism from within and surrounding women’s prisons in the Australian State of Victoria. It is particularly concerned with 1980s and 1990s campaigns, which successfully ended the discriminatory practice of segregating women in men’s prisons for punishment. The purpose is to provide a new critique of the ways in which state-led reform projects have generated paradoxical possibilities and outcomes for anti women’s prison campaigns. Through this critique I reconceptualise reform as a process of struggle, foregrounding the productive force of resistance within reform processes and documenting the dynamic interactions between anti-prison campaigns and powerful actors in the process of negotiating change in Victorian women’s prisons. Ultimately through an analysis of the strategies of feminist anti-prison campaigns and resistance tactics in the localised context of Victoria, this research highlights aspirations, strategies and possibilities for structural change that are located beyond state-centred reform processes and institutional responses.

Bree Carlton is a Senior Lecturer in Criminology and joined the Monash team in the School of Social Sciences in 2006. Her research interests are located in the field of history, punishment and society in Australia. She is committed to transforming structural injustice and this has long inspired and shaped her research, which is dedicated to producing innovative approaches to researching and writing against institutionally generated experiences of discrimination, harm and violence.

Wednesday 26th August 12 - 1 pm, Room N402 (Menzies Building, Monash University Clayton)