

OLLSCOIL NAISIUNTA NA hEIREANN, GAILLIMH  
 National University of Ireland, Galway,  
 Third Arts, Fourth Arts, and Visiting.  
 HI312: Poverty, Crime and Gender in Europe 1780-1914.

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 N.Canny  
 C.Clear

Time **TWO** hours  
 Answer **THREE** questions.

1. '[Starvation] by a gradual process in the house or by a quick one out of it.' (*Oliver Twist*, 1837) is Charles Dickens' famous description of the options facing the destitute under the Poor Law. Is it fair? Discuss with reference not only to diet but to all aspects of life in the English/Irish workhouse.
2. 'A civilizing process may redeploy, sanitize and camouflage disciplinary violence without necessarily diminishing it.' (Gatrell, 1994). Discuss Gatrell's remarks in the light of penal reform (prisons as well as other punishment) in the nineteenth century and its effects upon the lives of those who fell foul of the law.
3. '...the most profitable approach [to the history of crime] is to use the widest range of sources and to doubt them all.' (D.J.V. Jones, 1982). Discuss, using examples from your reading about crime rates in nineteenth-century Europe.
4. 'It would...be simplistic to cast the rise of [the asylum] in crudely functional or conspiratorial terms, as a new witch-hunt or a tool of social control designed to smooth the running of emergent industrial society.' (Roy Porter). Discuss this, in the light of asylum reform in the nineteenth century.
5. 'A disgrace, but not a danger'; was social inquirer Charles Booth's final verdict on the very poor of London in 1897. Why were some (though not all) of the urban poor considered either a disgrace or a danger, or both, in the nineteenth century?

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6. '...the nomadic life led by [vagrants] seems to possess a charm for them which proves irresistible and they very rarely settle down to a regular occupation after they have been any length of time wandering' (Chambers Encyclopaedia, 1892) Discuss the common perceptions of 'vagrants' in the years 1850-1914 and how close to reality these perceptions were.
7. Prostitution in the nineteenth century was regarded by many contemporaries as 'the Great Social Evil'. Were prostitutes themselves regarded as perpetrators or victims of that evil?
8. What constituted 'risk' for a child or teenager 1850-1914, who sought to neutralize that risk, and how?

or

Historians are divided on whether the official and health-care attention paid to poor mothers and infants in the years c.1890-1914 was a help or a hindrance. What do you think?