

Disorder Contained

Disorder Contained is the first historical account of the complex relationship between prison discipline and mental breakdown in England and Ireland. Between 1840 and 1900 the expansion of the modern prison system coincided with increased rates of mental disorder among prisoners, exacerbated by the introduction of regimes of isolation, deprivation and hard labour. Drawing on a range of archival and printed sources, the authors explore the links between different prison regimes and mental distress, examining the challenges faced by prison medical officers dealing with mental disorder within a system that stressed discipline and punishment and prisoners' own experiences of mental illness. The book investigates medical officers' approaches to the identification, definition, management and categorisation of mental disorder in prisons, and varied, often gendered, responses to mental breakdown among inmates. The authors also reflect on the persistence of systems of punishment that often aggravate rather than alleviate mental illness in the criminal justice system up to the current day. This title is also available as Open Access.

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Disorder Contained

*Mental Breakdown and the Modern Prison
in England and Ireland, 1840–1900*

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CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

University Printing House, Cambridge CB2 8BS, United Kingdom

One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA

477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia

314–321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre,
New Delhi – 110025, India

103 Penang Road, #05-06/07, Visioncrest Commercial, Singapore 238467

Cambridge University Press is part of the University of Cambridge.

It furthers the University's mission by disseminating knowledge in the pursuit of education, learning, and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781108834551

DOI: [10.1017/9781108993586](https://doi.org/10.1017/9781108993586)

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When citing this work, please include a reference to the DOI [10.1017/9781108993586](https://doi.org/10.1017/9781108993586)

First published 2022

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Names: Cox, Catherine, 1970- author. | Marland, Hilary, 1958- author.

Title: Disorder contained : mental breakdown and the modern prison in England and Ireland, 1840-1900 / Catherine Cox, University College Dublin, Hilary Marland, University of Warwick.

Description: Cambridge, United Kingdom ; New York, NY : Cambridge University Press, 2022. | Includes bibliographical references and index.

Identifiers: LCCN 2021044723 (print) | LCCN 2021044724 (ebook) | ISBN 9781108834551 (hardback) | ISBN 9781108995191 (paperback) | ISBN 9781108993586 (epub)

Subjects: LCSH: Prisoners–Mental health–England–History–19th century. | Prisoners–Mental health–Ireland–History–19th century. | Mentally ill prisoners–England–History–19th century. | Mentally ill prisoners–Ireland–History–19th century. | BISAC: MEDICAL / History

Classification: LCC RC451.4.P68 C695 2022 (print) | LCC RC451.4.P68 (ebook) | DDC 365/.608740941–dc23

LC record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2021044723>

LC ebook record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2021044724>

ISBN 978-1-108-83455-1 Hardback

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