

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910954402803321
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Titolo	Fragile moralities and dangerous sexualities : two centuries of semi-penal institutionalisation for women / / by Alana Barton
Pubbl/distr/stampa	London : , : Routledge, , 2016
ISBN	1-315-25508-1 1-351-93598-4
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (183 pages)
Disciplina	365/.43/0941
Soggetti	Probation - Great Britain Female offenders - Great Britain Sex role - Great Britain
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Based on the author's Ph. D. thesis. First published 2005 by Ashgate Publishing.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	1. Introduction -- 2. Women behaving badly : feminist theory and the social control of women -- 3. 'Wayward girls and wicked women' : the history and development of the semi-penal institution -- 4. Domestic discipline : semi-penal institutionalisation in the nineteenth century -- 5. Between the church and the state : semi-penal institutionalisation in the twentieth century -- 6. Vernon Lodge : the probation hostel for women as a semi-penal institution? -- 7. Conclusion.
Sommario/riassunto	In this book Alana Barton explores the social control and disciplining of unruly and 'deviant' women from the early nineteenth century to the present day. Her particular focus is the 'semi penal' institution, a category that includes refuges, reformatories and homes. She suggests that these occupy a unique position within the social control 'continuum', somewhere between the formal regulation of the prison and the informal control of the 'community' or domestic sphere, but at the same time incorporating methods of discipline from both arenas. The book draws on Dr Barton's extensive fieldwork at one such institution, currently a women's bail and probation hostel, which opened as a reformatory in 1823. Barton begins by examining the ideological and social conditions underpinning the creation of this

institution, deconstructing the dominant feminising discourses around domesticity, respectability, motherhood, sexuality and pathology that were mobilised to categorise and control its nineteenth-century residents. She goes on to discuss the contemporary experiences of women within the hostel and their strategies for coping with or resisting the disciplinary regimes and discourses imposed upon them. Her analysis reveals that many of the discourses used to characterise and discipline women in reformatories during the nineteenth century continue to be utilised for the same purpose in a probation hostel nearly two hundred years later. She also reveals that the distribution of power in institutions is not fixed, but can be subtly negotiated and redistributed. Concluding with an examination of current developments in community punishments for women, this book will make a significant contribution to the literature around alternatives to custody for female offenders by strongly challenging contemporary debates liberal, critical and feminist around 'appropriate' and relevant penal policy for women.

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