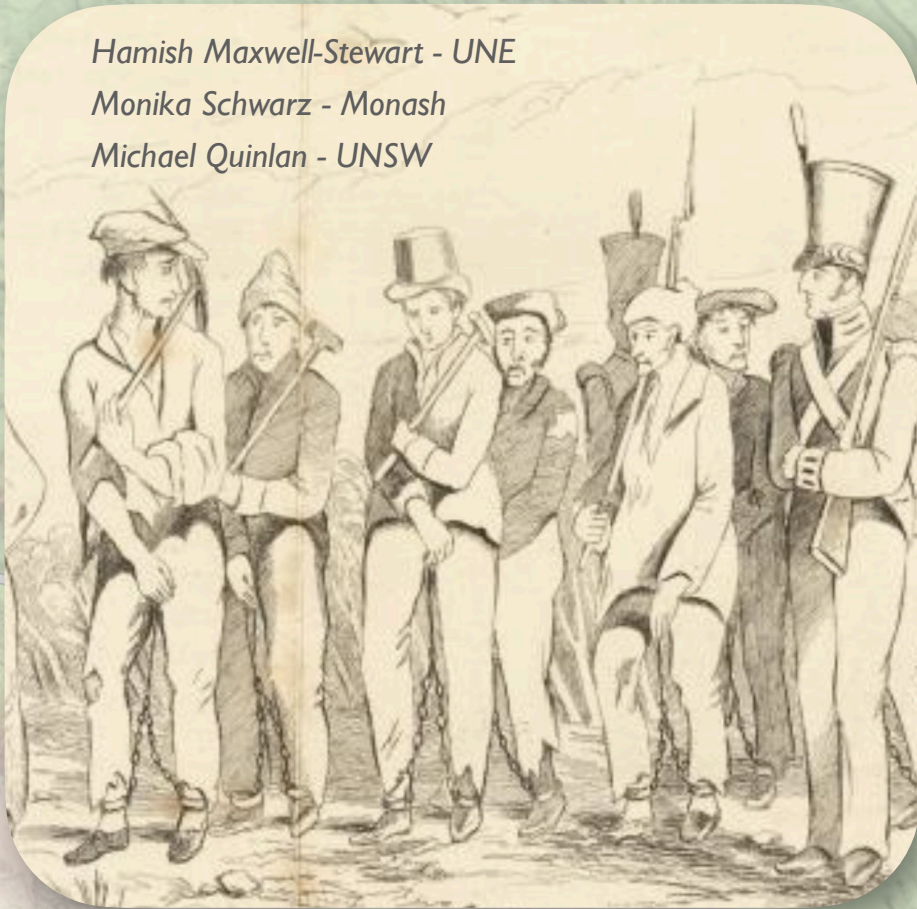


Networks of resistance: Mapping a convict road gang in northern Van Diemen's Land 1829-1839.

Hamish Maxwell-Stewart - UNE

Monika Schwarz - Monash

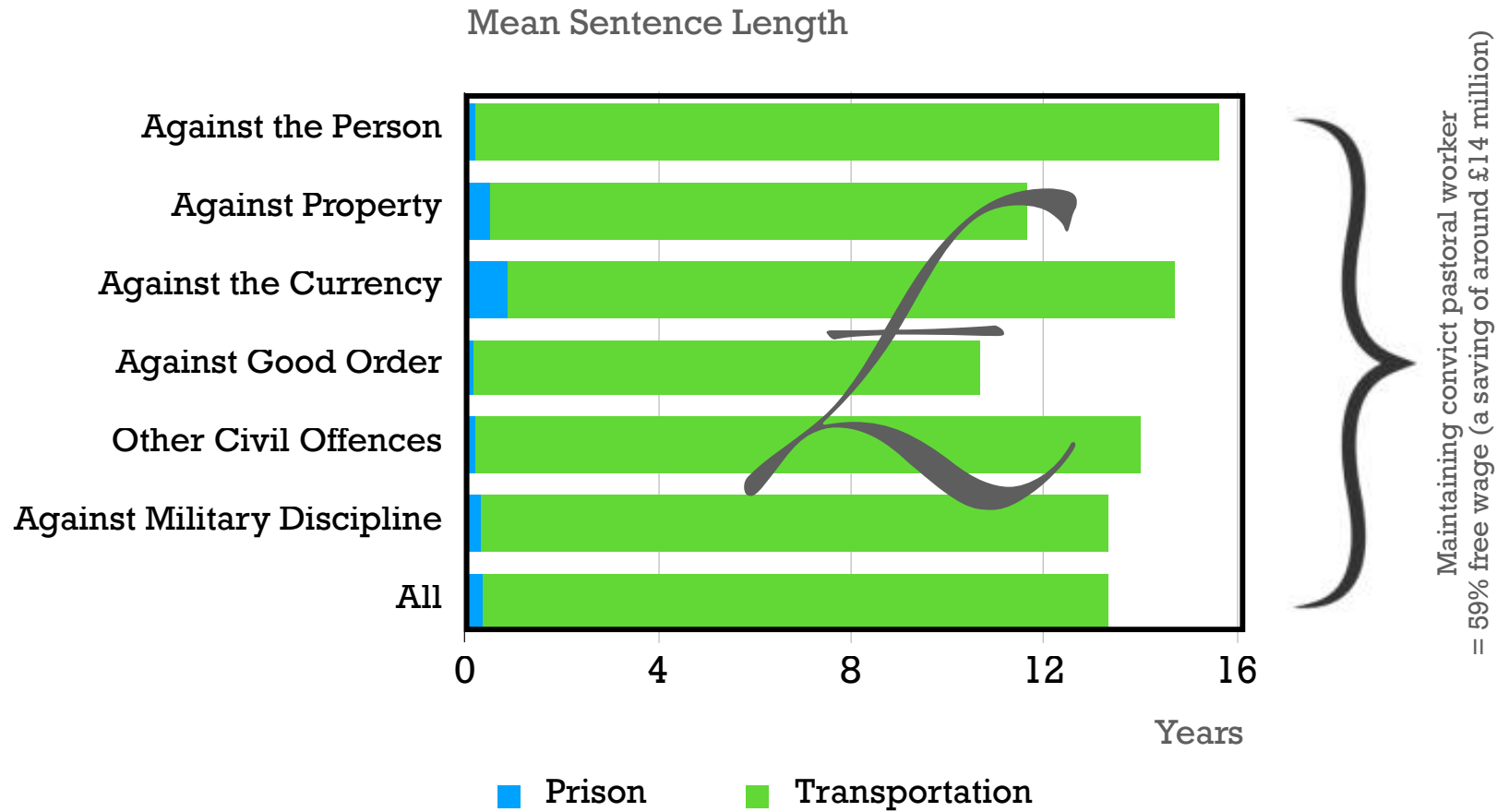
Michael Quinlan - UNSW



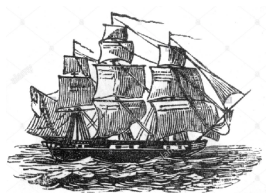
John West Lecture 2025



The British stole time from thieves in order to steal a continent — Quinlan, Maxwell-Stewart



POLITICAL ECONOMY OF LABOUR EXTRACTION IN CONVICT AUSTRALIA



Private Sector

Public Sector

Chastised



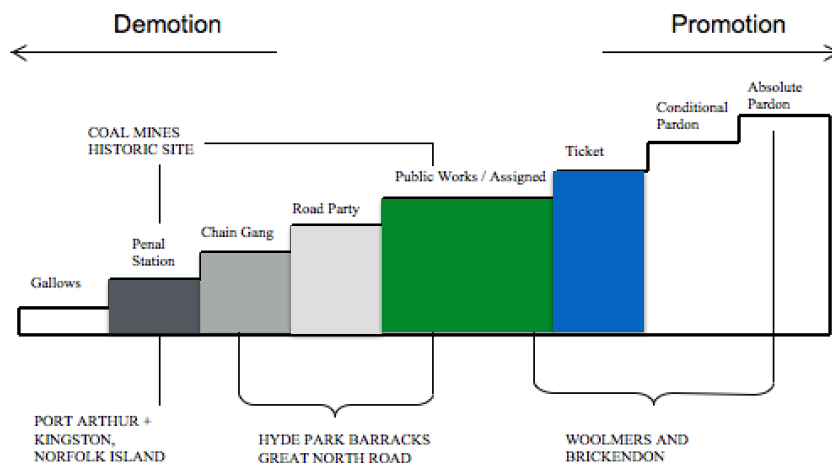
Farm work
Urban businesses
Domestic service



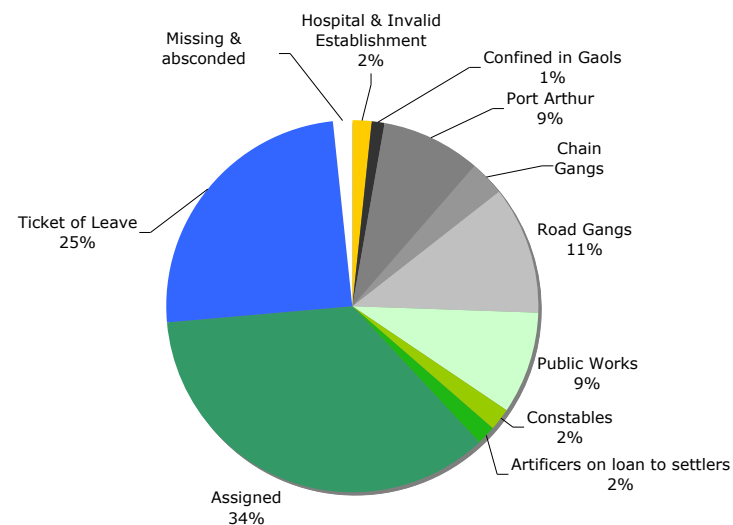
Laundry
Road construction

Punishment

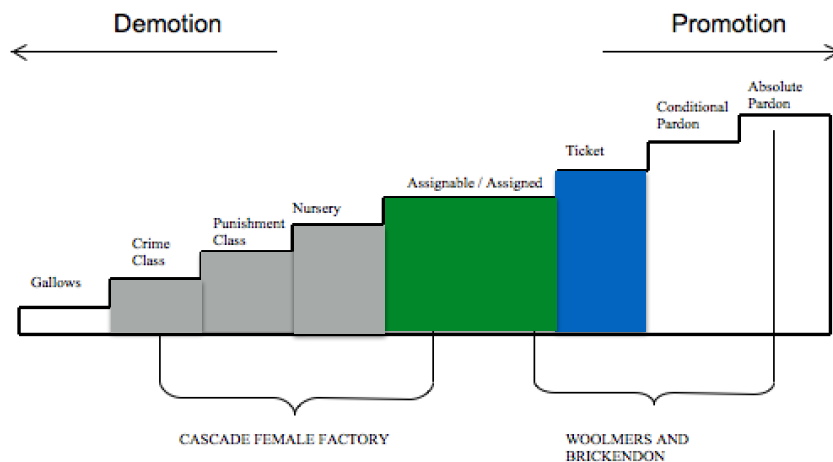
A Schematic View of the Assignment System (Male)



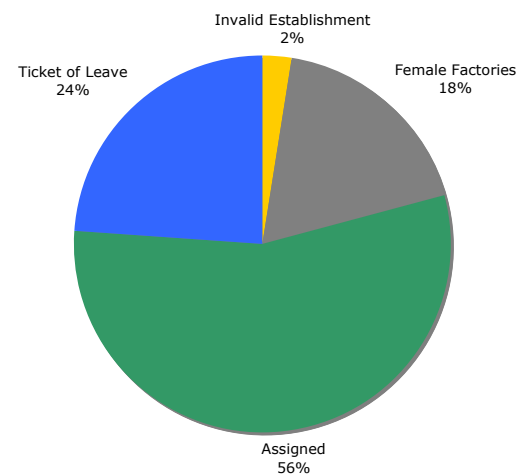
Distribution of Male Convicts 1st January 1839



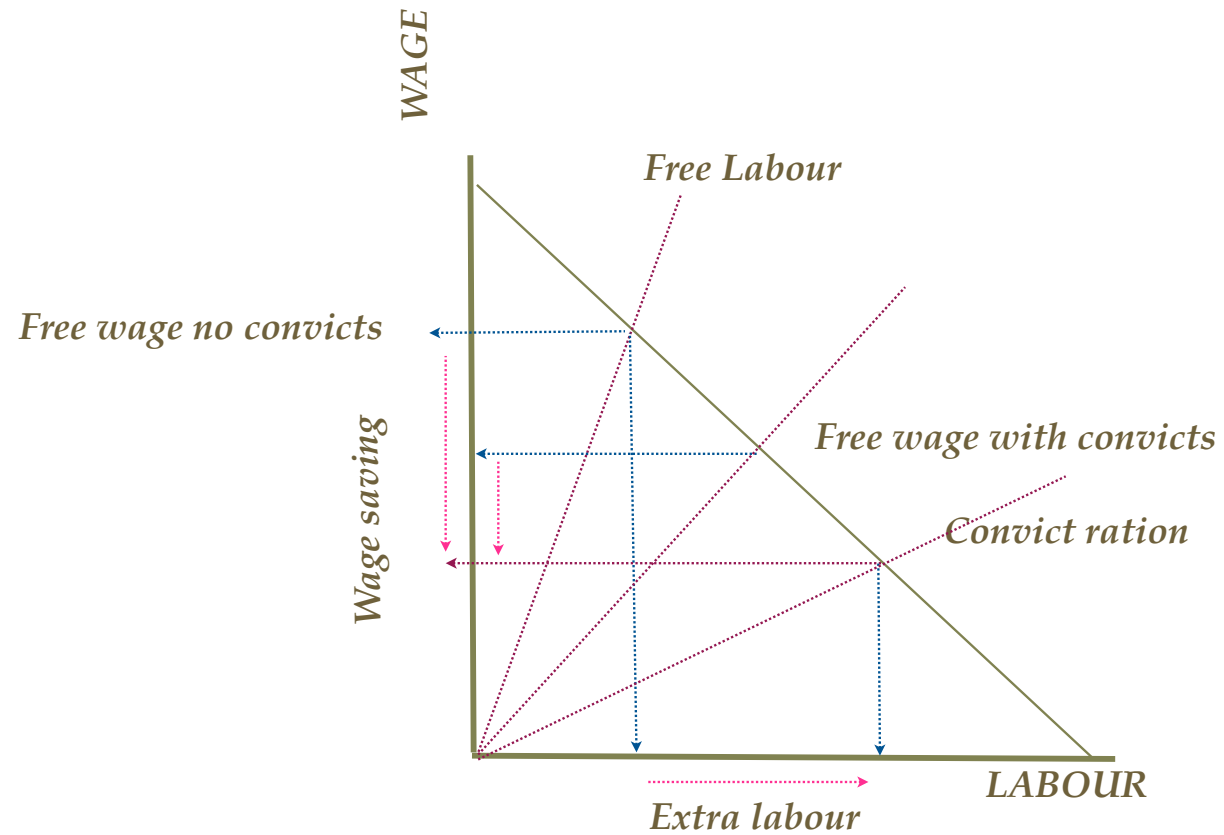
A Schematic View of the Assignment System (Female)



Distribution of Female Convicts 1st January 1839



Transportation and labour demand



“Convictism” — the ideological glue that held the private deployment of convict labour together.

“The master, ... may draw, from his knowledge of their crimes, a sanction, quite as satisfactory as that arising from difference of colour, for any severity he would practice against them.”

G. Arthur, *Defence of Transportation in Reply to the Remarks of the Archbishop of Dublin in his Second Letter to Earl Grey by Colonel George Arthur* (London: George Cowie, 1835): 18.



Tutelage: The master confers a benefit on the convict (or slave), incucating them with the habits of industry and civilization at their own expence.

The archive writes this into begin: It is centred on individual failings providing the justification for labour exploitation.

The Carceral Archipelago

