

Elke Hammer-Luza, In the service of power. The prison guards of the penal institutions of Graz in the late 18th and early 19th centuries (p. 381–409)

The paper investigates the relationship between the prison warders and the convicts, with the conditions of the penitentiaries in Graz of the 18th and 19th century serving as an example. Based on records of the every day practice, the focus is on examining and questioning the idea of a penitentiary as a totally closed institution and the question of how horizontal and vertical inter-relations and dependencies undermined the official power structure. In fact the lower-ranking employees in a prison and the inmates had much in common, which had a formative effect on their interaction. At the same time, it appears that neither convicts nor warders formed uniform communities. The boundaries prescribed by the authorities were thus subject to constant change and proved stable only to a limited extent.

Schlagworte: Sozialgeschichte; Strafvollzug; Freiheitsstrafe; Gefängnis; Wachpersonal

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