

Foreign national and ethnic minority prisoners' participation in formally organized occupations in prisons: A scoping review

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Foreign National and Ethnic Minority Prisoners' Participation in Formally Organized Prison Activities: A Scoping Review

- ACCEPTED FOR PUBLICATION -

This scoping review investigates foreign national and ethnic minority prisoners' participation in formally organized prison activities and aims to: (1) map available studies on both groups of prisoners' participation in prison activities (i.e., active citizenship, healthcare and treatment, leisure time, and reintegration activities), and (2) evaluate existing research topics on activity participation and types of prison activities. Following a search in electronic databases, manual searches and expert consultation, 36 studies met the inclusion criteria. Data from these studies were extracted and synthesized qualitatively. The results demonstrate that most literature has focused on ethnic minorities' activity participation, rather than that of foreign nationals. There was also unequal research attention regarding types of prison activities studied, with healthcare and treatment programs predominant. In addition, this review provides some evidence for the importance of acknowledging and considering the 'cultural' diversity among prisoners in providing prison activities. Research gaps and future research avenues on this topic are identified. Finally, the limitations and the implications of this review are considered.

Keywords: foreign national prisoners, ethnic minority prisoners, participation, prison activities, scoping review

Introduction

Prisons today are multicultural (Martínez-Gómez, 2014) and multinational spaces, accommodating persons with different nationalities, ethnicities and languages (Yildiz & Bartlett, 2011). Prisons worldwide are confronted with high numbers of foreign national prisoners (i.e., prisoners who do not have the passport of the country in which they are

detained) (Atabay, 2009). In 2015, 22.1% of the European prison population were foreign nationals. The numbers of foreign national prisoners are even remarkably higher in some European countries, representing 40.1% in Belgium and 71.0% in Switzerland of the total number of prisoners (Aebi, Tiago, & Burkhardt, 2016). Those high figures can also be found on other continents. In 2019, Australia's prison population had 18.5% foreign national prisoners, while these numbers are even higher in some countries of the Middle East (e.g., Israel: 38.9%, United Arab Emirates: 87.8%) (World Prison Brief, 2019). In addition, ethnic minorities are over-represented in prisons compared to the numbers in the general population (Atabay, 2009). For instance, the U.S. prison population consists of 33% Black and 23% Hispanic prisoners, compared to 12% Black and 16% Hispanic people in the general U.S. population (Pew Research Center, 2018).

Although foreign national and ethnic minority prisoners are presented as separate groups in the previous paragraph, they have some similar characteristics (Ugelvik, 2014). Foreign national and ethnic minority prisoners are both marginalized groups, as they face similar disadvantages in terms of language, discrimination, and religious tolerance. Being both a foreign national and of an ethnic minority group intensifies many problems – in terms of discrimination and isolation, for example. In addition to that, foreign national prisoners might experience some additional problems related to their foreign national status – for instance, the possibility of being deported to their home country (Atabay, 2009).

In recent years, academics and practitioners have shown a growing interest in the concept of participation (Rochette, Korner-Bitensky, & Levasseur, 2006). Also, in prison research, the issue of participation has gained more prominence, with several studies stressing the benefits of activity participation during imprisonment to the prisoners such as more well-balanced feelings (Falardeau, Morin, & Bellemare, 2015), the correctional institution like improved prisoner-prison staff relations (Meek & Lewis, 2014), and the wider community by reducing recidivism (Davis, Bozick, Steele, Saunders, & Miles, 2013). However, a clear definition of the concept of participation is still lacking (Piškur et al., 2014), which has led to broad conceptualizations of the topic, as can be found in the definition of participation by the World Health Organization (WHO) (2002). The WHO (2002) defines participation as the involvement of a person in a life situation. According to literature about participation in prison settings, the concept of participation can be defined based on different classifications: (1) a thematic

classification, (2) a classification based on prisoners' involvement (active versus passive), and (3) an organizational classification.

First of all, using a thematic classification, the concept of participation can be defined as taking part in 4 types of occupational activities in prison, which will be explored in this paper: (1) active citizenship activities such as prisoner councils and peer support schemes (Edgar, Jacobson, & Biggar, 2011), (2) healthcare and treatment programs, like medical services, mental healthcare and sexual offender treatment, (3) leisure-time activities such as sports activities and prison library, and (4) reintegration and resocialization activities – for instance, work and (vocational) education (Drenkhahn, 2014a,b,c,d).

Second, participation can be defined by means of prisoners' involvement in prison activities. The level of activity participation can vary along a continuum ranging from prisoners as passive recipients of activities, where activities are organized *for* them (such as conducting prison work), to active contributors, where activities are instead organized *with/by* the prisoners themselves, and prisoners have the possibility to be actively involved in making improvements in prison, such as being a representative of the prison council or being a peer supporter (Edgar et al., 2011).

Third, using an organizational classification, a distinction can be made between formally organized prison activities, which are supported by activity organizers, and informal types of participation and involvement, which take place in a non-organized manner and are not supported by activity organizers. To give an example: peer support can be organized in a formally organized manner by means of peer support schemes. However, peer support can also take place in an informal non-organized manner when prisoners inform each other about the daily aspects of prison life (Brosens, 2019). A similar definition, focusing on both formal and informal participation, can be found in the occupational science literature on occupational participation, which refers to “*engagement in work, play, or activities of daily living that are part of one's sociocultural context and that are desired and/or necessary to one's well-being*” (Kielhofner, 2008, p. 109). The definition of occupational participation includes participation in formally organized activities (such as work and attending school), as well as activities of daily living (Kielhofner, 2008), which belong to informal participation according to the participation literature in prison settings. In this scoping review, emphasis is placed on prisoners' participation in formally organized prison activities.

All prisoners in European prisons, including foreign nationals and ethnic minorities, are entitled to participate in prison activities. These rights are set out in international instruments such as the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners, also known as the Nelson Mandela Rules, which are applied worldwide (United Nations, 2016) and the European Prison Rules (Council of Europe, 2006). For EU member states, there is a recommendation from the Council of Europe about foreign national prisoners, stipulating that prison authorities should organize (vocational) education and prison work for foreign nationals and provide access to the same treatment and healthcare that is available to other prisoners. In addition, exercise and recreation should respect the foreign nationals' culture, and prison libraries should take their linguistic and cultural preferences into account. However, despite foreign nationals being entitled to participate in prison activities just as national prisoners, and the requirement that prison authorities undertake specific actions to counter the problems of foreign nationals (Council of Europe, 2012), foreign national and ethnic minority prisoners experience unequal access to prison activities (Atabay, 2009).

Against this background, a scoping review was undertaken to: (1) map available studies on foreign national and ethnic minority prisoners' participation in prison activities, and (2) evaluate existing research topics on activity participation and types of prison activities. Moreover, future research avenues on this topic have been formulated by identifying research gaps.

Methods

The reasons for undertaking a scoping review, and for considering the scoping review technique as the appropriate type of review for addressing the review questions, were twofold: (1) to obtain a descriptive overview of a diverse body of studies regarding a broad topic, and (2) to identify future research avenues, as the scoping review technique is specifically designed to identify research gaps in the existing body of literature (Arksey & O'Malley, 2005). This scoping review used the methodological framework of Arksey and O'Malley (2005): (1) identifying research question(s), (2) identifying relevant research, (3) selecting studies, (4) charting data, and (5) collating, summarizing, and reporting the findings.

Identifying Research Questions

Two research questions guided this scoping review:

- 1) Which studies are available on foreign nationals' and ethnic minorities' participation in prison activities?
- 2) What are existing research topics on activity participation and types of prison activities?

Identifying Relevant Research and Selecting Studies

Search terms were identified and divided into different search strings, including search terms that capture the target group (i.e., foreign national and ethnic minority prisoners), the setting (i.e., prison), and the concept of participation (i.e., synonyms of participation and specific activities such as education and work) (Appendix 1. Search terms). In May 2017, this comprehensive set of search terms was applied to the following databases: Web of Science Core Collection, ProQuest Social Sciences, EBSCOhost, Ovid PsycINFO, and PubMed.

Only full-text English-language manuscripts were considered for practical reasons (i.e., time constraints and translation costs) (Arksey & O'Malley, 2005), but no restriction was placed on either country or publication date. To be eligible for inclusion, the study needed to: (a) deal with foreign national prisoners, ethnic minority prisoners, or illegal migrants of any age or sex. Illegal migrants in detention centers were also included, as the distinction between those centers and prisons is often unclear (Ugelvik, 2014), (b) refer to participation and involvement in prison activities prior to release from custody of persons remanded in custody and convicted persons, but not in the context of probation, and (c) employ either empirical or theoretical studies. Abstracts, conference proceedings, research notes, and commentaries were excluded.

First, after omitting duplicates, the titles and abstracts of the studies gathered by the search were screened by the lead author to decide whether they were eligible for inclusion. Second, the full texts of the remaining articles were screened for eligibility, as were the reference lists of the included articles. Experts in the field from the authors' network were contacted to request papers that may have fallen within the scoping review. In case of doubt as to whether the gathered studies met the inclusion criteria, the second and third authors were consulted. The study identification and selection process is depicted in Figure 1, with 36 studies included in the scoping review.

< Figure 1 around here >

Data Charting and Analysis

Data were tabulated using data charting tables in Microsoft Excel. The first author drafted the data charting forms following examples of scoping reviews and input from co-authors. The extracted data were tabulated in two tables: (1) Available studies on foreign nationals' and ethnic minorities' participation in prison activities (i.e., reference, publication year, country, research location, methodology, sample size, respondent group(s), 'cultural' variables), and (2) Evaluation of existing research topics on activity participation and types of prison activities (i.e., reference, types of prison activities, level of involvement, approach used in prison activity, participation theme). To synthesize the included studies, analysis was performed within the studies and then across studies, searching for variations and common features across these studies (Coemans, Wang, Leysen, & Hannes, 2015). To ensure rigour during the analysis of the included articles, the second and third authors were consulted if any doubt arose.

Results

Available Studies on Foreign Nationals' and Ethnic Minorities' Participation in Prison Activities

Table 1 presents a synopsis of the study characteristics of the included studies.

< Table 1 around here >

Publication Year and Country

The 36 included studies were published between 1982 and 2017, with 30 studies being published since 2000. There seems to be unequal geographical research attention regarding the topic because, of those 36 studies, 18 were carried out in North America, 14 in Europe (10 of which in the United Kingdom) and 3 in Oceania. There was only one meta-analytic review including studies of three geographical regions (i.e., North America, Europe, and Oceania).

Methodology

The methodology used varied among the studies. Quantitative research was most common (n=15): 5 employed surveys, 8 performed secondary data analysis of case files,

offender management systems, previous surveys, etc., and 3 were meta-analytic reviews. Conversely, 5 studies used only qualitative methods, of which 4 employed individual interviews, and 1 employed a focus group. A mixed-method approach was applied in 10 studies. Finally, there were 6 theoretical studies.

Research Location

In terms of the research location, almost all of the empirical studies were carried out in one (n=9) or more (n=16) prison settings, with the exception of 2 studies conducted in the community, with former prisoners concerning the effects of their activity participation in prison on their post-carceral lives.

Sample Size and Respondent Group(s)

In addition, there was also a large variation in terms of the sample size, which varied between 2 and 10,110 respondents. In all of the empirical studies, (former) prisoners were the subject of inquiry. In addition, 5 studies collected complementary data from other respondent groups (i.e., activity providers, correctional staff, community members). Of those empirical studies with (former) prisoners as respondents, 13 studies considered the activity participation of both male and female prisoners. In all of the studies that mentioned the gender distribution of their sample (except for Borrill et al., 2003), there were (remarkably) fewer female participants. Two studies conducted research with female prisoners only, and 11 studies involved only male prisoners.

'Cultural' Variables

There seemed to be some vagueness and blurring in the content and use of the overall classifications 'ethnic minorities' and 'foreign nationals'. For instance, 4 studies used the categories 'foreign (national)' and '(black and) ethnic minority'/'ethnically diverse' interchangeably, which indicates that the authors consider these categories to refer to a single group (e.g., Fountain et al., 2007; Westrheim & Manger, 2013, 2014). The included studies were also screened to discover how the diversity of the 2 groups was reflected – in particular, which 'cultural' variables of the target group were taken into account. Twenty-seven studies focused on one variable of their target group, with 26 studies concentrating solely on ethnicity (e.g., Anitha, 2007; Baglivio, Wolff, Piquero, Greenwald, & Epps, 2017; Borrill et al., 2003) and 1 on nationality (Brosens & De Donder, 2016). Nine studies acknowledged, and provided more information about, the

different ‘cultural’ variables of their target group (e.g., Brookes, Glynn, & Wilson, 2012; Nowotny, 2015; Westrheim & Manger, 2013). It became apparent that there is large diversity in the ethnic and racial sub-categories used to refer to ethnic minorities. Some British studies used a general classification, such as ‘ethnic minority’, while others (mainly U.S.) used several sub-categories to describe the target group (e.g., white, black, Hispanic). In most studies, however, the authors provided no information about the conceptualization/operationalization of those classifications.

Evaluation of Existing Research Topics on Activity Participation and Types of Prison Activities

Table 2 provides an overview of existing research topics on activity participation and types of prison activities.

< Table 2 around here >

Types of Prison Activities

There are differences regarding the types of prison activities studied: 29 studies addressed the involvement of ethnic minority prisoners in *healthcare and treatment*, such as mental health, medical services, substance abuse, and sex offender treatment programs (e.g., Anitha, 2007; Borrill et al., 2003; Brookes et al., 2012); 10 studies discussed both groups’ participation in *reintegration and resocialization activities*, such as prison education and work (e.g., Brosens & De Donder, 2016; Case & Fasenfest, 2004; Coid et al., 2002); 7 studies considered both groups’ involvement in *active citizenship activities* (e.g., Borrill et al., 2003; Brosens & De Donder, 2016; Cull & Wehmer, 1998), where they take up the role of peer supporter/educator or volunteer in prison; and finally, 7 studies focused on foreign nationals’ and ethnic minorities’ participation in *leisure-time activities*, such as the prison library and receiving visits (e.g., Coid et al., 2002; Haymann-Diaz, 1989; Nowotny, 2015). The study of Nobles (1982), concerning an activity for prisoners with intellectual disabilities, provided too little information on the activity’s content to enable classification. In addition, 22 studies researched one type of prison activity (e.g., Baglivio et al., 2017; Brookes et al., 2012; Case & Fasenfest, 2004), while 13 studies focused on multiple types (e.g., Borrill et al., 2003; Brosens, De Donder, Dury, & Verté, 2016; Coid et al., 2002).

Level of Involvement

In terms of level of involvement, 29 studies described only passive participation of ethnic minorities and foreign nationals, as they were passive recipients of prison activities that were organized for the participants (e.g., Baglivio et al., 2017; Brookes et al., 2012; Brosens et al., 2016). Only the study of Haymann-Diaz (1989) examined the active participation of ethnic minority prisoners in developing an ethnic library collection. In this case, the ethnic library collection was organized by the participants. A combination of active and passive participation of foreign nationals and ethnic minorities was described in 6 studies (e.g., Borrill et al., 2003; Brosens & De Donder, 2016; Cull & Wehmer, 1998). In these cases, 2 groups of prisoners were involved in the same activity: one group functioned as passive recipients as peer support was provided for them, and another group operated as active contributors, by taking up the role of peer educator/supporter and providing education/support to fellow prisoners.

Approach Used in Prison Activity

In addition to sub-dividing by type of prison activity, activities can also be classified in terms of their approach. First, 29 studies included a *Western generic, mainstream, or standard approach*, whereby the activity is available to the general prison population, with no attention to the prisoners' cultural/ethnic background (e.g., Anitha, 2007; Baglivio et al., 2017; Borrill et al., 2003). Of these 29 studies on mainstream prison activities, 17 studies appealed for attention to cultural sensitivity, culturally appropriate services, multicultural or cultural competences, and awareness of cultural diversity in their discussions and recommendations (e.g., Anitha, 2007; Baglivio et al., 2017; Borrill et al., 2003). Second, 15 studies included activities with a *culture- or language-specific approach*, targeting particular groups of prisoners (e.g., King, 1994; Nobles, 1982; Stewart, Hamilton, Wilton, Cousineau, & Varrette, 2009), or a *blended approach*, combining mainstream, generic, contemporary approaches/best practices with those that are more traditional, culture-specific, and culturally appropriate, which are targeted to particular groups, but are also available to prisoners that do not belong to this particular group (e.g., Ellerby & Stonechields, 1998; Kunic & Varis, 2010; Trevethan, Moore, & Allegri, 2005).

Participation Theme

In terms of research topics, the activity's effectiveness in terms of recidivism, stress, post-release outcomes, social competences, etc. was reported in 13 studies with ethnic minority and foreign national prisoners (e.g., Case & Fasenfest, 2004; Ellerby & Stonechields, 1998; King, 1994); 16 studies focused on how foreign national and ethnic minority participants experienced/perceived their activity involvement (e.g., Anitha, 2007; Borrill et al., 2003; Brookes et al., 2012); and 10 studies explored the motives and barriers of foreign nationals and ethnic minorities for participation in prison activities (e.g., Anitha, 2007; Brookes et al., 2012; Brosens & De Donder, 2016). The participation needs of foreign national and ethnic minority participants were reported in 11 studies (e.g., Borrill et al., 2003; Rawal, Romansky, Jenuwine, & Lyons, 2004; Westrheim & Manger, 2013). Nineteen studies studied the participation rate, access, or opportunities of participants. Of those 19 studies, 15 examined determinants – that is, factors/variables that hindered or facilitated the activity participation of foreign nationals and ethnic minorities (e.g., Baglivio et al., 2017; Borrill et al., 2003; Coid et al., 2002). Eight of those 15 studies on determinants reported a lower participation rate, less participation access, or fewer participation opportunities in prison activities for the whole group of foreign national and ethnic minorities or certain groups of foreign nationals (e.g., those without the right to stay in the country of imprisonment) and certain groups of ethnic minorities (e.g., African Americans) (e.g., Brosens et al., 2016; Cowburn, Lavis, & Walker, 2008; Dalton, Evans, Cruise, Feinstein, & Kendrick, 2009). For comparison, 7 of those 15 studies on determinants found mixed results on differences in participation rate, access, opportunities in terms of gender, types of prison activities, being on medication for any type of physical/mental condition, etc. (e.g., Baglivio et al., 2017; Coid et al., 2002; Young, 1999). Finally, 15 studies reported on the activity's responsiveness (i.e., how it responded to the needs and/or culture of the ethnic minority participants, or how it should be developed) (e.g., Anitha, 2007; Brookes et al., 2012; Cull & Wehmer, 1998).

Discussion

This scoping review aimed to: (1) map available studies on foreign nationals' and ethnic minorities' participation in prison activities, and (2) evaluate existing research topics on activity participation and types of prison activities. The goal of this discussion is to identify research gaps leading to future research avenues for each research objective.

Available Studies on Foreign Nationals' and Ethnic Minorities' Participation in Prison Activities

The first research aim, insights derived from mapping available studies, yields 3 main recommendations for further research.

Publication Year

First, and most generally, studying foreign nationals' and ethnic minorities' participation in prison activities seems to be a recent research area, especially research with foreign nationals, as limited studies are available. Therefore, more research on this topic is recommended.

'Cultural' Variables

Second, in regard to the target group, there is some vagueness and blurring of the 2 categories, with few studies detailing what 'ethnic minorities' and 'foreign nationals' include. In practice, nationality is often confused with ethnicity, which causes invalid assumptions on culture, language, religion, and residential status (Pakes & Holt, 2017). Although there is some overlap between those categories (Ugelvik, 2014), it is important to acknowledge that foreign nationals and ethnic minorities are distinct groups, as some of their needs are particular to their situation. For instance, only foreign nationals can face the penalty of being deported to their home country (Atabay, 2009). More information on the operationalization/conceptualization, and more uniformity in the use, of the categories 'ethnic minorities' and 'foreign nationals' and the sub-categories for describing ethnic minorities (for instance, black and African-American) would help in comparing research findings and would establish a better understanding of the prisoners in each group.

Third, and relatedly, this review has demonstrated that foreign national and ethnic minority prisoners are often approached as uni-dimensional, without considering different 'cultural' variables (e.g., ethnicity, nationality, language, country of birth). Also, previous research has found that foreign national prisoners are often clustered as a homogeneous group, despite their diversity in language, immigration status, and cultural backgrounds (Yildiz & Bartlett, 2011). From an intersectional perspective, human beings cannot be reduced to single identities (e.g., ethnicity, gender, social class). They are multi-dimensional, and shaped by an interplay of dynamics (Hankivsky, 2014). Consequently, we endorse the suggestion of Resnicow, Soler, Braithwaite, Ahluwalia,

& Butler (2000) that inadequate and insensitive activities can be the result of what Trimble (1990) calls ‘ethnic glossing’: failing to recognize the heterogeneity within an ethnic group. Therefore, it is important that future research on foreign national and ethnic minority prisoners reflect on these diverse, social categories and their intersects.

Evaluation of Existing Research Topics on Activity Participation and Types of Prison Activities

Regarding the second research aim, evaluating existing research topics on activity participation and types of prison activities, 4 main research gaps can be identified.

Types of Prison Activities

First, research on occupational activities in prison is mainly conducted in the field of healthcare and treatment. This might not be surprising given the high rate of mental health problems among prisoners (Atabay, 2009). By contrast, little to no research focuses on their participation in reintegration activities (e.g., prison work, (vocational) education), active citizenship (e.g., peer support), and leisure-time activities (e.g., sports activities, prison library). These activities are important given their beneficial effects on prisoners’ self-esteem (Edgar et al., 2011), relations with professional staff (Meek & Lewis, 2014), and recidivism rates (Davis et al., 2013). It is, therefore, vital to devote more research attention to foreign national and ethnic minority prisoners’ participation in active citizenship, leisure-time, and reintegration activities. In addition, this scoping review focuses on ethnic minorities’ and foreign nationals’ participation in formally organized prison activities. However, based on literature about participation in prison settings and occupational science literature, the concept of participation involves both formal and informal participation (Brosens, 2019; Kielhofner, 2008). As research also emphasizes the importance of prisoners’ informal participation in prison as well (Brosens, 2019), this could be a fruitful avenue for further research.

Level of Involvement

Second, there is a serious lack of research into foreign nationals’ and ethnic minorities’ active participation. Despite research suggesting that ethnic minorities rely more on peer support than white prisoners do (Fountain et al., 2007), the opportunities for active involvement appear to be reserved for a small fraction of prisoners, with limited access

for ethnic minority prisoners (Edgar et al., 2011). Further research about this is warranted.

Approach Used in Prison Activity

Third, the review provides some evidence for the importance of acknowledging and considering the ‘cultural’ diversity among prisoners in implementing prison activities. Most prison activities studied fall within the mainstream category. The included meta-analysis of Wilson, Lipsey, & Soydan (2003) states that mainstream prison activities, without cultural tailoring, do not deliver poorer outcomes for ethnic minorities compared to white youth prisoners. Although these scholars support the implementation of mainstream prison activities for ethnic minorities, they critically question their own findings by arguing that culturally sensitive prison activities may benefit, for instance, ethnic minorities’ activity experiences and the likelihood of their participation. Other included studies emphasized the importance of implementing blended or culture-/language-specific prison activities – for instance, in terms of strengthening treatment engagement and lower recidivism rates (Kunic & Varis, 2010). However, an occupational point of view is more comprehensive by pointing to the need for a person-centred practice (Crabtree, Ohm, Wall, & Ray, 2016). In addition, this scoping review demonstrates that the framework of blended and culture-specific prison activities is mainly applied in treatment and healthcare services for ethnic minority prisoners. This is unsurprising, as cultural sensitivity is one of the most acknowledged assumptions in public health (Resnicow et al., 2000). With little to no results available on culturally specific principles for other prison activity types (e.g., active citizenship, leisure time, reintegration), future studies could explore the (potential) needs of foreign national prisoners for culturally-specific prison activities, and how those activities should be developed.

Participation Theme

Fourth, in terms of participation rate, access and opportunities, there seem to be differences between studies, with adverse outcomes for foreign nationals and ethnic minorities sometimes recorded. Townsend and Wilcock (2004) consider such adverse restrictions to participation as matters of occupational injustice. However, from an occupational perspective, it is important to keep in mind that an individual’s participation is shaped by both the person and the environment. It is shaped by the

individual because participation is influenced by a person's motivations, capabilities, habits and constraints; but, at the same time, it is contextual, as the environment in which a person participates can either facilitate or prevent participation (Kielhofner, 2008). Based on the findings of this scoping review, research could further explore the participation rate, access and opportunities in different prison activities of foreign nationals and ethnic minorities as compared to the dominant national and ethnic prisoners.

Limitations

This paper provides a unique contribution to mapping existing evidence on foreign nationals' and ethnic minorities' participation in prison activities. Nevertheless, this review has some limitations. First, only full-text English-language studies were included, so it is plausible that valuable studies published in other languages have been missed. Consequently, additional studies may supplement or challenge this review's conclusions. Second, in this review, the prison activities have been organized and examined as broad categorical descriptions. We acknowledge the diversity of prison activities as well as differences in context (e.g., time) for each activity. However, we have not taken this into account during our analysis, as we wanted to obtain a broad overview of foreign nationals' and ethnic minorities' participation in prison activities. Third, a limitation can be formulated regarding this scoping review's focus on only formal participation, as the concept of participation encompasses both formal and informal participation (Brosens, 2019; Kielhofner, 2008). Consequently, this scoping review provides only preliminary insights into foreign national and ethnic minority prisoners' participation. Finally, as participation in prison activities was often not the main research focus of the reviewed articles, the results need to be interpreted with caution.

Implications for Policy and Prison Practice

The findings of this scoping review have several implications for policy and prison practice. First, it is important that policy makers integrate and implement the legal frameworks of the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (United Nations, 2016) and the European Prison Rules (Council of Europe, 2006) within existing prison legislations and policies to provide equal access to diverse prison activities for marginalized groups such as foreign national and ethnic minority

prisoners. This could lead to benefits such as more well-balanced feelings (Falardeau et al., 2015), better relations between prison staff and prisoners (Meek & Lewis, 2014), and less re-offending (Davis et al., 2013). Second, in terms of prisoners' involvement in prison activities, we found that active participation in prison activities is reserved for only a small group of prisoners. Activity providers should try to involve more prisoners in setting up and providing prison activities to fellow prisoners. Hereby, it is important to keep in mind that not all prisoners want to take up a more active role. However, barriers to active participation need to be reduced as far as possible for those who want to become actively involved (Brosens, 2019). Third, from an intersectional perspective, individuals experience multiple identities (e.g., ethnicity, gender) (Hankivsky, 2014). Consequently, following an occupational perspective, occupational activities should be person-centred, targeting the individuals' needs (Crabtree et al., 2016).

Conclusion

This scoping review provides preliminary insights into (1) available studies on foreign nationals' and ethnic minorities' participation in prison activities, and (2) existing research topics on activity participation and types of prison activities. Findings of this scoping review highlight that research on this topic is rather scarce, in particular concerning foreign national prisoners. Furthermore, the results reflect that there is unequal research attention regarding types of prison activities studied, with a focus on healthcare and treatment programs. Finally, this review provides some evidence for the importance of acknowledging and considering 'cultural' diversity among prisoners in providing and developing prison activities. As participation in prison activities is a right for all prisoners (Council of Europe, 2006; United Nations, 2016) and barriers to participation can be seen as a matter of occupational injustice (Townsend & Wilcock, 2004), it would appear vital that research, policy and prison practice pay more attention to these underserved sub-populations of prisoners to facilitate optimal participation.

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Table 1. Available studies on foreign nationals’ and ethnic minorities’ participation in prison activities

Reference	Publication year	Country	Research location	Methodology	Sample size	Respondent group(s)	‘Cultural’ variables			
							Ethnicity	Nationality	Language	Birth country
Anitha	2007	UK	8 Prisons	Interviews & Focus groups Survey	334	(Ex-)prisoners, (prison) professionals, correctional staff, community members, & organizations	X			
Baglivio et al.	2017	US	Long-term juvenile prisons	Secondary data analysis on Juvenile Justice Information System and data from Community and Residential Positive Achievement Change Tool risk/needs assessment	10,110	Juvenile prisoners	X			
Borrill et al.	2003	UK	10 Female, 3 male, and 4 young offender prisons	Survey Interviews	421 36	<i>Quantitative:</i> (juvenile) prisoners <i>Qualitative:</i> prison professionals, & peer supporters	X			
Brookes et al.	2012	UK	Therapeutic community prison	Interviews	11	Prisoners	X			X
Brosens & De Donder	2016	EU	22 prisons	Online survey Interviews Focus group	108 12 1 (n=3)	<i>Quantitative:</i> educational professionals, prison managers, prison administrators, ICT-staff, prison guards, & social workers <i>Qualitative:</i> teachers, educational coordinators, ICT-staff, volunteers, & prisoners		X		
Brosens et al.	2016	BE	Remand prison	Survey	486	Prisoners		X	X	
Case & Fasenfest	2004	US	Communities with post-release centers	Focus groups	4 (n=29)	Ex-prisoners	X			
Coid et al.	2002	UK	All prisons	Survey Secondary data analysis on health care files	3,142	Prisoners	X			
Cowburn et al.	2008	UK	Prison	Theoretical paper	/	/	X			
Cull & Wehner	1998	AU	Prison	Theoretical book chapter	/	/	X		X	
Dalton et al.	2009	US	Juvenile prison	Secondary data analysis on archived admission records from clinical databases	937	Juvenile prisoners	X			
Ellerby & Stonechields	1998	CA	Medium- and minimum-security prison	Theoretical book chapter	/	/	X		X	
Fountain et al.	2007	UK	8 Prisons (qualitative) 135 Prisons (quantitative)	Interviews Surveys Focus groups	334	(Juvenile) (ex-)prisoners, (prison) professionals, correctional staff, community members, & organizations	X			
Haymann-Diaz	1989	US	Prison	Interviews	2	Prisoners	X			
Jones et al.	2013	UK	Therapeutic community prison	Interviews	8	Prisoners	X			
King	1994	US	Prison	Theoretical paper	/	/	X			
Kunic & Varis	2009	CA	Community	Secondary data analysis on Offender Management System	2,685	Ex-prisoners	X			

Le & Proulx	2015	US: Hawaii	Juvenile prison	Secondary data analysis on case files, & personal reflection journal	34	Juvenile prisoners	X			
Mansion & Chassin	2016	US	2 Juvenile prisons	Pre- and post-measure of biomarkers	638	Juvenile prisoners	X			
Newberry	2010	UK	Therapeutic community prison	Theoretical book chapter	/	/	X		X	
Nobles	1982	US	Prison	Theoretical book chapter	/	/	X			
Nowotny	2015	US	286 Prisons	Secondary data analysis on the 2004 Survey of Inmates in State Correctional Facilities	5,180	Prisoners	X			X
Patel & Lord	2001	UK	Several prisons	Interviews	24	Prisoners	X			
Rawal et al.	2004	US	Multiple juvenile prisons	Secondary data analysis on juvenile court, & case records	473	Juvenile prisoners	X			
Shearer et al.	2001	US	2 Prisons and substance abuse felony punishment facility	Survey	153	Prisoners	X			
Simpson et al.	2003	NZ	All prisons in New Zealand	Diagnostic interviews	1,287	Prisoners	X			
Stewart et al.	2009	CA	Medium-secure prison	Secondary data analysis on Offender Management System, Offender Intake Assessment, Correctional Planning Results, Static Factors Assessment, Canadian Police Information Centre, & Corporate Reporting System	217	Prisoners	X		X	
Trevethan et al.	2005	CA	9 Prisons	Interviews	83	<i>Qualitative:</i> prisoners, program facilitators, older people, & correctional staff	X			
				Secondary data analysis on case files and program documentation	272					
Usher & Stewart	2011	CA	Prisons and parole office	Meta-analytic review	8	Prisoners	X			
Usher & Stewart	2014	CA	Prisons and parole office	Meta-analytic review	8	Prisoners	X			
Webster et al.	2004	UK	Multiple prisons	Secondary data analysis on psychometric data of national database	104	Prisoners	X			
Westrheim & Manger	2013	SE, DK, NO, IS, FI	More than 12 prisons	Structured and semi-structured interviews	62	Prisoners	X	X	X	X
Westrheim & Manger	2014	NO	3 Prisons	Structured and semi-structured interviews	17	Prisoners	X		X	X
Wilson et al.	2003	US, CA, UK, NZ, AU	(Juvenile) prisons	Meta-analytic review	305	Juvenile prisoners	X			
Youman et al.	2010	US	Prison	Interviews	414	Prisoners	X			
				Two computer-based surveys						
				Secondary data analysis on jail records and official requests/enrolment records from database						
Young	1999	US	Women's prison	Secondary data analysis on medical records	129	Prisoners	X			
				Interviews	15					

Note. / The study did not yield information about this topic or this topic is not applicable

X The study used this category

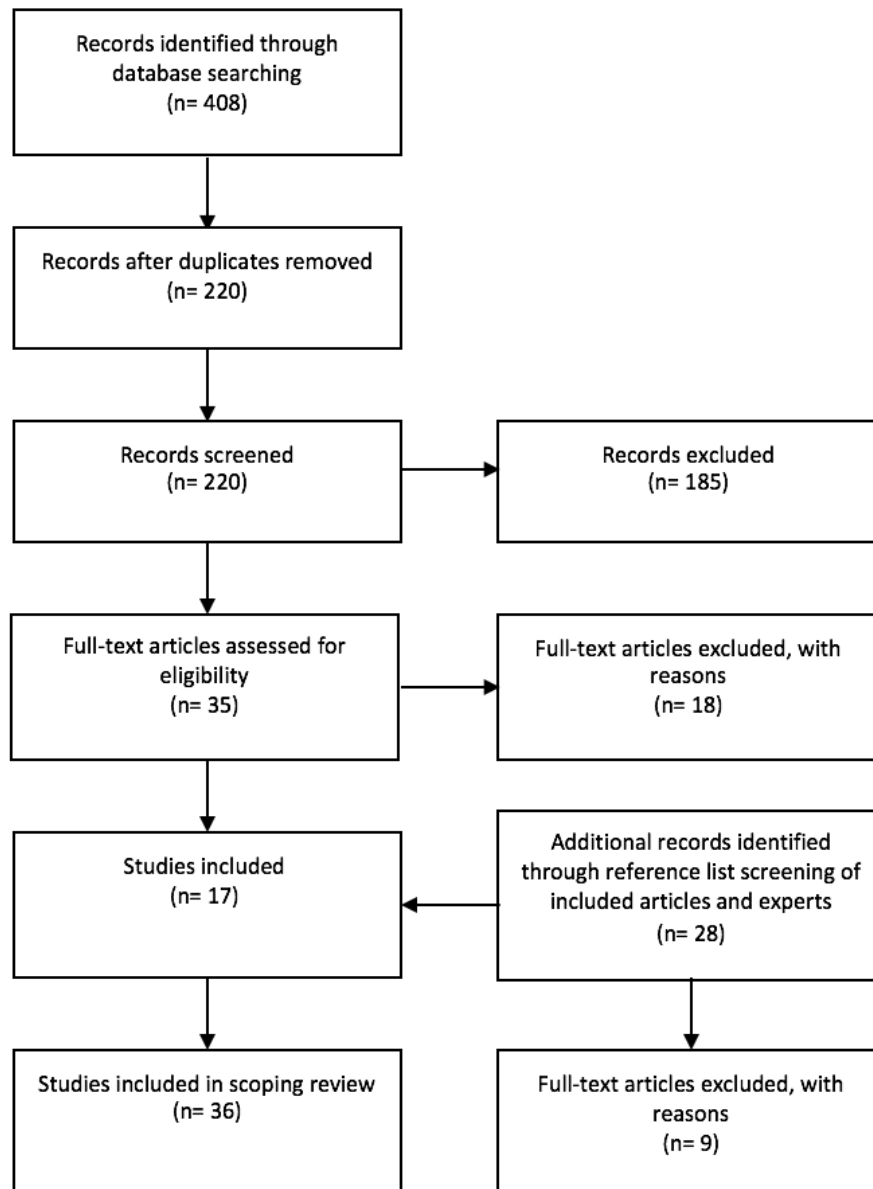
US = United States; AU = Australia; NZ = New Zealand; CA = Canada; UK = United Kingdom; EU = Europe; SE = Sweden; DK = Denmark; NO = Norway; IS = Iceland; FI = Finland; BE = Belgium

Table 2. Evaluation of existing research topics on activity participation and types of prison activities

Reference	Types of prison activities				Level of involvement		Approach used in prison activity		Participation theme					
	Active citizenship	Health care/treatment	Leisure-time	Reintegration	Active participation	Passive participation	Blended/ Cultural/ Language specific	Mainstream/ generic	Effectiveness/ impact	Experiences/ perceptions	Motives and/or barriers	Needs	Participation rate/ access /opportunities/ determinants	Responsiveness
Anitha (2007)	X	X			X	X		X		X	X			X
Baglivio et al. (2017)		X				X		X					X	
Borrill et al. (2003)	X	X	X	X	X	X		X		X	X	X	X	
Brookes et al. (2012)		X				X		X		X	X			X
Brosens & De Donder (2016)	X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	
Brosens et al. (2016)			X	X		X		X					X	
Case & Fasenfest (2004)				X		X		X		X	X	X		
Coid et al. (2002)		X	X	X		X		X					X	
Cowburn et al. (2008)		X				X		X		X	X		X	X
Cull & Wehner (1998)	X	X		X	X	X	X	X					X	X
Dalton et al. (2009)		X				X		X					X	
Ellerby & Stonechilids (1998)		X				X		X		X		X		X
Fountain et al. (2007)	X	X			X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X
Haymann-Diaz (1989)	X		X		X		X			X				X
Jones et al. (2013)		X				X		X		X				X
King (1994)		X				X		X		X				X
Kunic & Varis (2009)		X				X		X		X				
Le & Proulx (2015)		X				X		X		X	X			X
Mansion & Chassin (2016)		X				X		X					X	
Newberry (2010)		X				X		X		X	X	X	X	X
Nobles (1982)						X	X							X
Nowotny (2015)	X	X	X			X		X					X	
Patel & Lord (2001)	X					X		X		X		X		X
Rawal et al. (2004)	X					X		X			X	X		
Shearer et al. (2001)	X					X		X		X				
Simpson et al. (2003)	X					X		X					X	
Stewart et al. (2009)	X					X	X	X		X			X	
Trevethan et al. (2005)	X					X		X		X	X	X		X
Usher & Stewart (2011)	X					X	X	X		X				
Usher & Stewart (2014)	X					X	X	X		X				
Webster et al. (2004)	X					X		X		X				
Westrheim & Manger (2013)			X	X		X	X	X		X	X	X	X	
Westrheim & Manger (2014)			X	X		X	X	X		X	X	X	X	
Wilson et al. (2003)		X		X		X		X		X				
Youman et al. (2010)	X	X			X	X		X					X	
Young (1999)	X					X		X		X	X	X	X	X

Note. X The study provided information about this topic

Figure 1. Adapted PRISMA flow diagram (Moher, Liberati, Tetzlaff, & Altman, 2009).



Appendix 1. Search terms

TITLE: (foreign* OR rac* OR ethnic* OR *migra* OR illegal* OR nationalit* OR cultur*) *AND* **TITLE:** (*prison* OR detainee* OR offender* OR inmate* OR jail OR captive* OR penitentiary* OR incarcerat* OR penal institution* OR correctional OR detention) *AND* **TITLE:** (participa* OR involve* OR engage* OR tak* part OR join* in OR program* OR intervention* OR activit* OR leisure OR learn* OR treatment OR service* OR rehabilitation OR recreation* OR entertain* OR education* OR sport* OR exercis* OR gym OR training OR cult* OR art* OR visit* OR religio* OR peer OR council* OR active citizenship OR work* OR labo*r OR employ* OR job OR course* OR theat* OR film OR movie* OR performance* OR ICT OR librar* OR computer OR reintegrat* OR volunteer*) *AND* **TOPIC:** (foreign* OR rac* OR ethnic* OR *migra* OR illegal* OR nationalit*)