

Reducing the violence of imprisonment – rehabilitation or *prehabilitation*?

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Outline

- The violence of the prison
- A therapeutic justice lens
- *Prehabilitation* – what is it? what can it do?

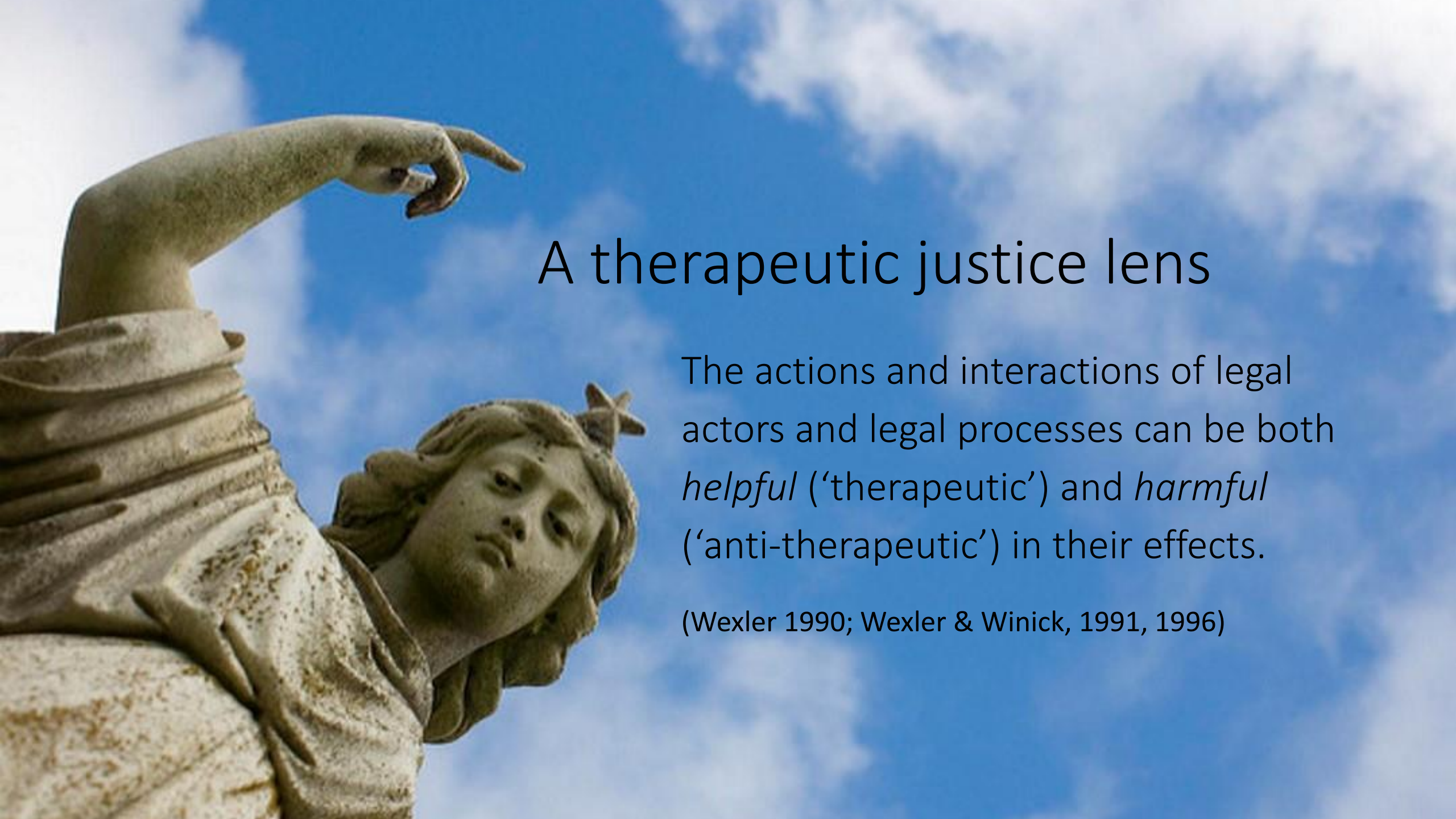
Penal harms

- Ill-health & disadvantage amplified, reproduced
- The violence of the prison:
 - Physical
 - 'Institutionally structured'
 - Cultural, epistemic
- Post-prison effects:
 - '...socially, psychologically and economically disabled.'



Prison as disabling

- **Disable**, *verb*: to deprive of legal right, qualification, or capacity; to make incapable or ineffective, especially to deprive of physical, moral, or intellectual strength.



A therapeutic justice lens

The actions and interactions of legal actors and legal processes can be both *helpful* ('therapeutic') and *harmful* ('anti-therapeutic') in their effects.

(Wexler 1990; Wexler & Winick, 1991, 1996)



A rehabilitative prison?



What is *prehabilitation*?



- Strong communities
- Health & wellbeing focus
- 'Anti-prisons'



Prehabilitation pushes us to rethink 'justice', to...

- 1) **Recognise** the harms & disabling effects of imprisonment
- 2) **Reimagine** penal intervention – what we want & need it to do

Your questions?

Thank you.

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