



Michael McManus was born in 1946 in Durham City, UK. He has led a distinguished and varied career, serving for fifty years in Public Service. He served as an Airman in the Royal Navy's Fleet Air Arm during the 1960s and early 1970s. In 1971, he joined the Durham Constabulary, dedicating nearly three decades to policing before retiring in 1999 and transitioning to academia at Durham University, where he taught Sociology and Criminology in a part-time capacity from 1999 to 2015 and was module leader in the Policing Module and the Researching Crime Module. He has researched the relationship between private policing and public policing in public residential areas. He has written textbooks such as "From Fate to Choice: Private Bobbies, Public Beats" and "The State or the Market? An Evaluation of Private Security Patrol in Public Residential Areas of The United Kingdom." He was awarded a BA (Hons) Degree from New College, Durham and a PhD from Durham University. He holds a Postgraduate Certificate in Teaching and Learning from Durham University.

## Dr. Michael McManus *The Science of Order: Essays on Institutional Power and Social Control in County Durham*

Paperback – 3 Feb. 2026 £10.68 on Amazon (Kindle edition 4.99)

This collection of essays explores the social, cultural, and political landscape of County Durham across nearly a millennium. From the freezing waters of the River Wear in the twelfth century to the industrial unrest of the 1920s, these studies examine how power is exerted, categorised, and resisted. The volume identifies a recurring tension between the "Sacred Peninsula"—the seat of ecclesiastical and administrative elite—and the "Profane Slums" or pits that fueled the region's economy. Through a sociological lens, the author investigates how institutions like the Church and the Police functioned as "domestic missionaries," attempting to impose a moral and sanitary geometry on the "dangerous classes".

Key themes of the book:

**The Science of Police and Social Control:** The essays reframe the history of the Durham Cathedral North Door and the Victorian Durham City Borough Police not merely as legal institutions, but as sophisticated security apparatuses designed to protect "High Value Assets" and manage populations through surveillance and intake registers.

**The Economy of Grace and "Somatic Capital":** Using the life of St. Godric and the "Methodist Ascent" of miners like George Parkinson, the text explores how the working class used their own bodies and suffering as a form of currency to earn spiritual authority and community solidarity.

**The Gendered Boundary:** Several studies highlight the use of "biopolitical filters"—such as the Cathedral's Blue Marble Line or the Women's Land Army's "Ribbon of Dismissal"—to enforce strict gender hierarchies and manage the female body as "matter out of place".

**The Politics of Memory and Sacrifice:** The collection examines how the "gallant dead" of the Tyneside Irish Battalions were used as moral evidence to challenge the exclusionary bigotry of the Anglican elite, claiming full citizenship through a "blood tax" paid in the trenches.

### CONTENTS

- 1 From Dark to Light: The Life and Times of George Parkinson of Sherburn. A Window into the Victorian Durham Coalfield.

- 2 The Merchant of Pain: St Godric, Somatic Capital, and the Political Economy of Grace at Finchale.
- 3 Watchmen of the Shrine: Medieval Private Policing at Durham Cathedral.
- 4 The Patriotism of the Pew. The Dean of Durham, The Priest, and The Dead: A Critical Analysis of the 1923 War Memorial Dispute.
- 5 Ribbons of Dismissal: Gender, Labour, and Social Control in the Durham Women's Land Army, 1919.
- 6 The Mitre, The Migrant and The Map: The Science of Police and the Control of the Dangerous Classes in Victorian Durham City.

## Institutional Landscapes: Essays on Legal, Social, and Industrial Evolution in County Durham

Paperback – 15 Mar. 2026 £10.68 on Amazon (Kindle edition 4.99)

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From the sacred precincts of the medieval Cathedral to the industrial grit of the Donbas coalfields, *Institutional Landscapes* explores the mechanisms of authority that have shaped County Durham across seven centuries. This interdisciplinary collection of essays by Michael McManus decodes the "architecture of control" embedded within the region's landscape, examining how legal frameworks, religious ethics, and industrial discipline have converged to govern the lives of its inhabitants.

### CONTENTS

- 1 From the Street to the Committee: The 1874 Election Riot and the Birth of Industrial Self-governance in Crook.
- 2 The Hospital of God at Greatham: Palatinate Power, Lay Foundation, and Social Welfare across Seven Centuries.
- 3 The Peninsula of Power and Architectural Deterrence: the 'Spectacle' and the Victorian 'Gaze' in Durham City.
- 4 "Bought With a Price": Discourse, Memory, and Moral Authority in John Wilson's A History of the Durham Miners' Association, 1870–1904.
- 5 Public Health and Urban Reform in Durham City: A Comparative Analysis, 1925 and 1958.
- 6 From the Sacred to the Profane: The Sensory Unmaking of Durham Cathedral.
- 7 From Townland to Township: The Catholic Ethic of Welfare in 19th-Century Crook.
- 8 Between Red Hill and Red Square: The Durham Miners' Association's Search for a Socialist Alternative.
- 9 Guilds, Gentry, and Durham City's Constitutional Crisis.