

Restorative Justice and Serious Crimes

Discussing international research &
practices, exploring the future for
Scotland

22 November 2024
Webinar 10am-1pm (GMT)

The 6th Webinar of the Scottish Network of
Restorative Justice Researchers (SNRJR)

The Scottish Network of Restorative Justice Researchers is delighted to announce a webinar on Restorative Justice and Serious Crime on Friday 22 November 2024 from 10am-1pm (GMT). The aim of the webinar is to explore local and international research evidence and contemporary practice in relation to restorative justice and serious crime.

The aims of the webinar are:

1. To learn from different jurisdictions about practices and developments as well as from research in RJ and serious crime
2. Think together how this could be relevant for Scotland

Programme

- 10-10:10 Welcome and introductions
- 10:10 -10:40 Dr Katrien Lauwaert, University and Moderator (the Netherlands/Belgium)
- 10:40 – 11:30 Dr Nikki d’Souza, University of Northumbria (UK)
- 11:30 – 11:40 Comfort break
- 11:40 – 12:10: Dr Clair Aldington, Space to Face (Shetland/UK)
- 12:10 – 12:40 Ms Gael Cochrane, Community Justice Scotland (UK)
- 12:40 – 12:55 General discussion with audience
- 12:55 - 1 Conclusions and goodbyes

Practical information

The event is free, but registration is mandatory.

Please register by completing the [registration form](#) or scanning this QR code:



Registration will close on **Thursday 21 November 2024 at 2 pm.**

The webinar will be run via Zoom. Only those who registered will receive a Zoom link (links will be sent after the close of registrations on the 21st).

Each speaker will present for 20 min followed by 10 min to ask questions – at the end there will also be time for a general discussion.

For any queries or further information please contact jenny.johnstone@newcastle.ac.uk

Speakers

Prof Katrien Lauwaert is also Bianchi professor for restorative justice at VU University Amsterdam and a founding member and former board member of the European Forum for Restorative Justice. She currently also works as policy coordinator of the non-governmental organisation Moderator. With a team of approximately twenty professional mediators Moderator facilitates restorative dialogue - mainly victim-offender mediation - for adult offenders and their victims in Flanders, mostly in cases of more serious crimes.

Exploring the link between restorative justice and desistance

For the European Forum for Restorative Justice Katrien coordinated the European research project 'Desistance and Restorative Justice: mechanisms for desisting from crime within restorative justice practices'. The study used a qualitative, narrative approach and involved in total 80 desisters - from Austria, Belgium and Northern Ireland who had participated in a RJ process. The outcomes of this project will be at the heart of the presentation. Main questions were: Can RJ act as a trigger or a support for change? Which dynamics and factors in RJ are helpful for desistance? How are these dynamics and factors helpful? What may work against RJ influencing desistance?

Dr Nikki D'Souza is an Assistant Professor in Policing Organisation and Practice at Northumbria University. A former probation officer, she joined Durham Constabulary in 2009, holding a number of roles: intelligence analyst, youth justice manager, local criminal justice board programme manager, project/policy manager and a stint in custody management. Having completed her PhD, she decided to have a career change to teach on the qualifying routes for police officers. Her research interests are restorative justice, restorative justice cultures, serious and organised crime, policing honour-based abuse and victimology.

The feasibility of offering restorative justice in the serious and organised crime context in England and Wales

Nikki will present her research findings exploring the use of RJ with serious and organised crime offenders and victims of such offending. She undertook a national survey interviewing experts in the field and interviewed offenders and victims to elicit their views and offer them restorative justice interventions. She will detail how they responded to this offer. Nikki will also briefly talk about her experiences as a practitioner and a researcher within the police.

Dr Clair Aldington is a restorative practitioner and researcher, artist, and designer. Clair holds a PhD in Design and Restorative Justice and a MA in Contemporary Art and Music. She is the co-founder of the award winning *Space2face* restorative justice and arts charity in Shetland and a co-facilitator of the award winning international restorative circle group, the *Encounter of the Encounters*, in cases of political violence. Clair is also a member of the *European Forum for Restorative Justice's* working group on *Hate, Polarisation and Violent Extremism* and an author of several academic articles and book chapters. Her research and practice interests are in restorative justice, participatory design, co-creation and gifting. In particular, their contribution to the formation of solidarities, desistance, and peacebuilding in times of

transition, crime, and conflict.

‘Squaring the circle’: stitching, painting, and sculpting restorative justice in cases of serious crime

Clair has pioneered the use of art and design approaches within restorative justice processes. She will speak about how creative approaches can aid dialogue and the articulation of trauma in cases of serious crime which have resulted in death or permanent injury. The talk will focus on her international work as well as closer to home in Scotland.

Ms Gael Cochrane is lead trainer at Community Justice Scotland and is the chair of the Scottish Restorative Justice Practitioners Network. She is also a member of the Restorative Justice Forum Scotland and the Scottish Network of Restorative Justice Researchers. Gael is co-chair of the European Forum for Restorative Justice’s Training Committee and is a member of their Working Group on Gender Based Violence. Gael is also an RJ practitioner in Edinburgh and with Space2Face (Shetland). Gael has also been involved in research on restorative justice and sexual harm (with persons responsible for harm) and has interviewed victim/survivors of sexual harm about their experiences of restorative justice.

Restorative justice and serious harm – the Scottish context

She will give some context to the nature of the referrals we have been receiving in Scotland. She will examine the nature of serious harm in cases of RJ – is it the nature or the impact of the harm that is “serious”? Using some case examples, we will explore this theme and discuss the importance of using a trauma informed approach. What might the benefits of engaging in RJ be for people harmed by serious crime?