Desistance: Agency, Structures and Policy

University of Sheffield, 11-12 January 2018

Welcome to the conference at the University of Sheffield, in the Moot Court, School of Law.

Thursday 11 January

From 1030 Coffee and registration

1100 Welcome – Professor Joanna Shapland

1100 **Session 1 What are structures in relation to desistance? Do they matter?**
   - Stephen Farrall (University of Sheffield) ‘Why structures may matter’
   - Deirdre Healy (University College Dublin) ‘Structuring desistance: exploring socio-cultural pathways to change in the Republic of Ireland’
   - Discussion: - discussant Anthony Bottoms

1230 Lunch

1330 **Session 2 Comparing criminal justice system cultures**
   - Linnéa Österman (Greenwich University) ‘Gender, employment, and structural ‘ladders’ on the female desistance path: Comparative lessons from Sweden and England’
   - Dana Segev (University of Sheffield) ‘Comparing the temporal and spatial dynamics of desistance in England and Israel’
   - Discussion

1450 **Session 3 What can we learn from current penal practices?**
   - Valerian Benezath (University of Versailles St Quentin) ‘Deinstitutionalizing the framework to build the relation: The paradox of a limited effect of the Parisian probation service on the process of desistance’
   - Adam Calverley (Hull University) ‘Changing the culture? – how policy can work with and better support the desistance needs of minority ethnic offenders’
   - Discussion
1610  Tea

1640-1740  **Session 4 Panel discussion session on ‘Putting desistance into policy and practice’**

Dinner will be at 1930 at Piccolino’s (4 Millenium Square, Sheffield S1 2JJ)

Directions from the Leopold Hotel to Piccolino’s can be found at [https://goo.gl/maps/RQdc4Ep9w7w](https://goo.gl/maps/RQdc4Ep9w7w)

*Friday 12 January*

**0930  Session 5 Prisons and resettlement**

Robin Gålander (Stockholm University) ‘Being willing but not able: Traces of intimate partner violence as a hindrance in women’s desistance processes’

David Best (Sheffield Hallam University) ‘Social networks, social identity and access to community capital on release from prison’

Discussion: - discussant  Darrick Jolliffe

**1100  Coffee**

**1130  Session 6 Turning ideas into policy: lessons from the research base**

Anthony Bottoms (Universities of Cambridge and Sheffield) and Joanna Shapland (University of Sheffield) ‘Introducing “desistance” into official criminal justice policy: possibilities and challenges’

Darrick Joliffe (Greenwich University) and Keiran Manners (HMPS) ‘Evaluating a pre-desistence intervention delivered to Black Asian and Minority Ethnic Men in prison’

Discussion

**1250  Final thoughts**

**1300  Lunch and end**

Directions to the School of Law and from the Leopold Hotel to the School of Law can be found at [https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/law/research/seminars/travel](https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/law/research/seminars/travel)
Brief Biographies

Valerian Benazeth is a PhD student in political science at the University of Versailles Saint-Quentin (UVSQ), his thesis aims at exploring the context and actors involved in the process of desistance in France. Toward that end and thanks to the support of the city of Paris, he was able to interview ex-offenders all followed at some point of their path by the Parisian probation service. Inside the center for sociological researches on law and penal institutions (CESDIP) and after an exchange stay at the University of Sheffield, its longtime partner; he contributed to the organization of a joint seminar dedicated to the matter of desistance.

David Best is Professor of Criminology at Sheffield Hallam University and Associate Professor of Addiction Studies at Monash University in Melbourne. He is the author of over 170 peer reviewed journal articles, 5 authored or co-edited books and around 70 technical reports. His areas of specialism are recovery and desistance and the mapping and measurement of social identity. He lives in Sheffield and has a 9-year old son.

Anthony Bottoms is Emeritus Wolfson Professor of Criminology at the University of Cambridge and Honorary Professor of Criminology at the University of Sheffield. He is also a Fellow of the British Academy. In recent years his principal research interests have been in the fields of desistance from crime, the legitimacy of the criminal justice system, and penal theory.

Adam Calverley is a lecturer in Criminology at the School of Social Sciences and Education, University of Hull and author of Cultures of Desistance (2013). Research interests include race, ethnicity and desistance from crime, and the exploration of post-crime experiences and post-punishment experiences, their diversity, commonality, and intersectionality. His doctoral thesis was published as a research monograph. Current research involves a strength based appreciative inquiry into victims’ identities and the launch of a ‘Learning Together’ module where students and prisoners will study desistance together at HMP Hull, exploring the role of education in facilitating personal transformation and building desistance supportive social structures.

Stephen Farrall is Professor of Criminology in the Centre for Criminological Research at the University of Sheffield. His research has focused on the fear of crime, why people stop offending and the relationship between politics and crime. His current research is focusing on the long-term impacts of Thatcherite social and economic policies on crime and the criminal justice system.

Robin Gâlnander (b. 1989) is a PhD student at the Department of Criminology, Stockholm University, Sweden. His dissertation project is a semi-ethnographic study of women’s desistance from crime. His research interests include life-course criminology, qualitative methods and the development of criminological theory.

Deirdre Healy, BA, PhD is Director of the UCD Institute of Criminology and Criminal Justice and has been a Lecturer in Criminology at the UCD Sutherland School of Law since 2010. Deirdre’s teaching and research interests include desistance from crime, rehabilitation, probation supervision, criminological theory and victimisation. Her work has been published in a range of prestigious
international and Irish journals, including *Theoretical Criminology* and the *British Journal of Criminology*. Her books include: the *Routledge Handbook of Irish Criminology* (co-edited with Claire Hamilton, Yvonne Daly and Michelle Butler; Routledge, 2015) and *The Dynamics of Desistance: Charting Pathways Through Change* (Willan, 2010).

**Darrick Jolliffe** is Professor of Criminology at the University of Greenwich. His main areas of expertise are conducting research in the criminal justice system and evaluations research. This has included developing and leading the evaluation of the London Pathway Project for personality disordered offenders in the community (funded by NHS/Ministry of Justice), an intervention to reduce use of force amongst Black and Muslim men in HMP Wandsworth and HPM ISIS (funded by NOMS), and an intervention to reduce the disproportionate treatment of Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic prisoners in two prisons (funded by NOMS). Professor Jolliffe also worked with offenders in evaluating the Together Women’s Project, for women offenders and women ‘at risk’ of offending (funded by the Ministry of Justice). Professor Jolliffe is the academic lead for Project Oracle and regularly speaks at London City Hall about the importance of developing manageable approaches to evaluating the work of organisations who work with young people at risk of offending.

**Keiran Manners** is a licenced Social Worker who has worked as a Community Diversity Officer in a number of prisons for over six years. Keiran was commissioned by the National Offender Management Service to develop and deliver an intervention to reduce negative outcomes amongst Black Asian and Minority Ethnic prisoners in prison and another to reduce use of force amongst young Black Muslim men at a separate London prison.

**Linnéa Österman** is an early career researcher and lecturer at the University of Greenwich. Her research interests revolve around gender and crime, desistance, qualitative comparative criminology, Nordic criminal justice and restorative interventions. Completing her doctorate in Criminology at the University of Surrey in early 2016, Linnéa has been involved in a number of research projects focusing on women’s experiences of justice in various cultures and contexts over the last 10 years. She is a passionate criminologist and a social justice optimist, and dabbles with music-making in her spare time.

**Dana Segev** is a PhD candidate at the University of Sheffield. Her comparative study explores processes of desistance in England and Israel and the role of social factors in shaping the pathways out of crime. She completed a BA at Monash University (Australia) and an MSc at the University of Oxford (UK), after which she moved back to Israel to work with sentenced youths and commence further studies at Bar-Ilan University (Israel). In Israel, Dana co-authored an edited book on Positive Criminology and published papers, before leaving (once again) to study in the UK.

**Joanna Shapland** is Director of the Centre for Criminological Research at the University of Sheffield and the Edward Bramley Professor of Criminal Justice. She is the Executive Editor of the *International Review of Victimology*. Her current research interests span across desistance, restorative justice and victimology, with the occasional sideline on the informal economy.