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INTEGRATING RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

Jon Hobson – jhobson@glos.ac.uk

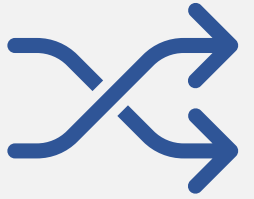


ESC Restorative Justice Group
Online Seminar Series
12.5.26



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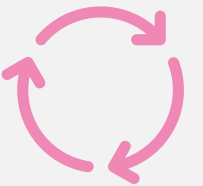
1. Integrating Restorative Justice



2. Common themes of integration



3. Understanding modes of integration

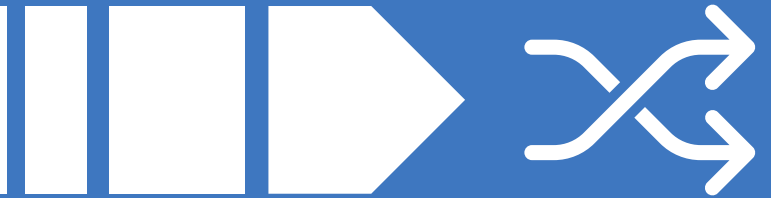


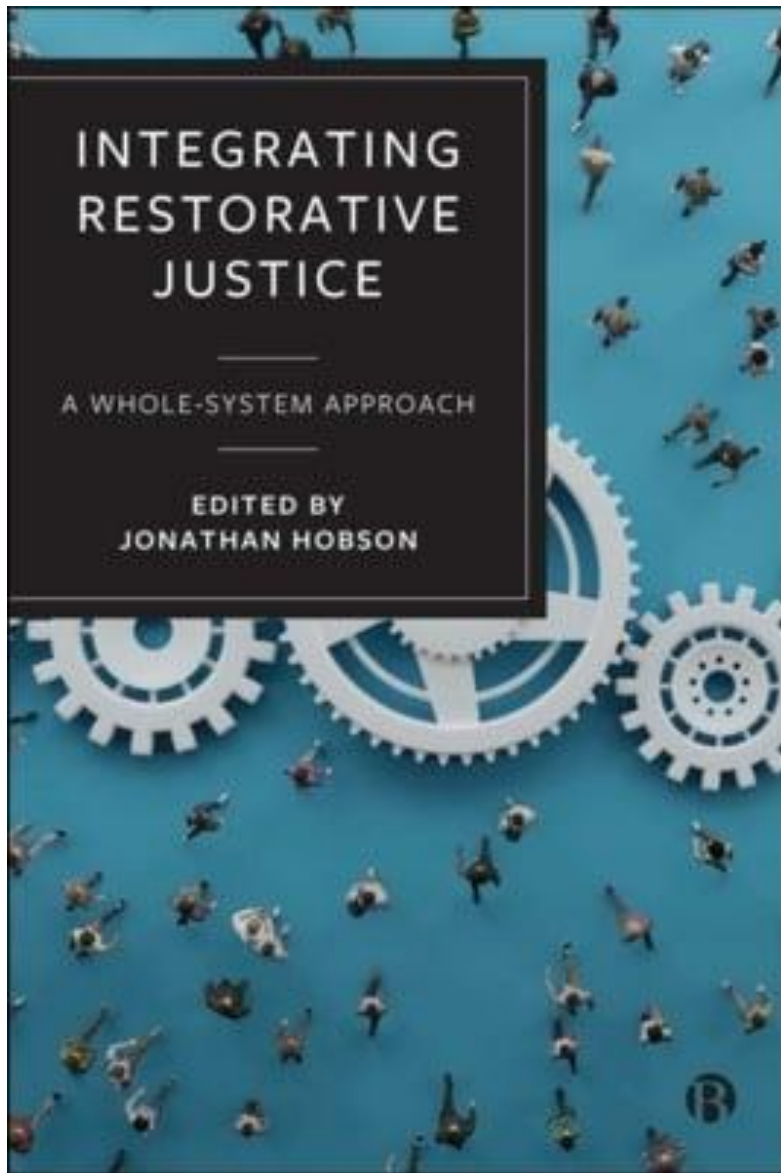
4. Examples from Prison & Probation



WHAT I'LL COVER...

1. Integrating Restorative Justice





Not whether RJ works, but...

...how and where integration happens

...what challenges might be encountered

...how might integration differ depending on sector, need, and purpose



Focus on the UK



A useful case, not an Ideal Type

- Multiple waves of policy and practice (but perhaps poorly embedded into legislation?)
- Established advocacy and standards lobby
- Networks of trainers across sectors
- Service providers with implementation experience
- Three jurisdictions in comparative view
- ...I live here



01 · CONTEXT

1. Introduction

Hobson

2. Understanding the impact of RJ

Shapland

3. RJ in Eng & Wales

Banwell-Moore · Correia-Hopkins

4. RJ in Scotland

Kirkwood

5. RJ in NI

Magill · Payne

02 · CRIMINAL JUSTICE

6. RJ in policing

Grant · Timberlake

7. Sexual violence

Gavin · Cawley · McDonald · Porter

8. Youth justice

Wallis

9. Prisons & prob.

Doolin · Simon

03 · EDUCATION

10. Schools

Hopkins

11. School communities

Lisa Wood - Sarah Page

12. Non-mainstream education

Procter-Legg

13. PRUs

Barton

14. Further education

Zaman

15. Universities

Twyman-Ghoshal · Sweeney

04 · STATE & THIRD SECTOR

16. Forensic MH

Estelle Moore

17. FGC in social care

Fisk · Barton

18. Supported housing

Chadwick · Ashley

19. Local government

Lowater · Macleod

05 · CULTURAL & ORG.

20. Workplace RP

Calkin

21. Restorative cities

Liebmann · Cox

22. Restorative storytelling

Moore

23. Research cultures

Gregory

24. Conclusion

Hobson



“

What I hope the book reveals is that integrated systems of restorative justice are not built by any single policy, initiative, or mode of integration. They emerge through an accumulation of work, with different people, services, and projects contributing to depth and durability. The chapters in this book show that such restorative systems are possible and offer insight into how they might be built and sustained.



2. Common themes of integration



The champion conundrum

‘Champions’ help drive services forward: they play pivotal roles as evangelical advocates, galvanise support, increase awareness.

However, priorities change, champions leave, service needs shift, politics interferes – **how does RJ survive reliant on champions?**

Time-poor, resource-constrained systems

Restorative work takes time: time to build relationships, time to prepare participants, time to hold processes properly, time to follow up, time to embed into systems, structures, and people’s ways of doing things. Yet the systems in which RJ operates are almost universally characterised by pressure to **do more with less.**



To what extent is formalisation, integration, and institutionalization is a good thing?

Embedded RJ is (?) able to survive change – but a tension between restorative and institutional outcomes

Strengthen consistency and legitimacy; clearer policies, structures, accountability.

Which is shaped to the other and how much does it matter?

(e.g. Braithwaite and Strang, 2001; Wood & Suzuki, 2016; Maglione, Marder, Pail, 2024)

The purist-maximalist debate

Restorative Justice → *Restorative Practice* → *Restorative Approaches*

Maximum fidelity → *Maximum reach*
Mechanism/Process → *Philosophy/Ideal*
(e.g. Daly, 2016; Shapland 2014; many others !!)

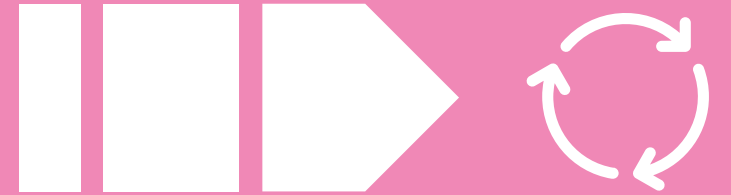


“ *...the inevitable death of restorative justice's revolutionary, imaginative potential.*

— Maglione, Marder & Pali (2024)



3. Understanding modes of integration



Structure models – Top-down Vs bottom-up RJ

TOP-DOWN

Statutory & mandated

Uniform & system-wide

Reactive to harm

Professional & accredited

Durable but rigid



Community-led

Local & contextual

Proactive & relational

Lived & relational

Agile but precarious

BOTTOM-UP

Useful but...

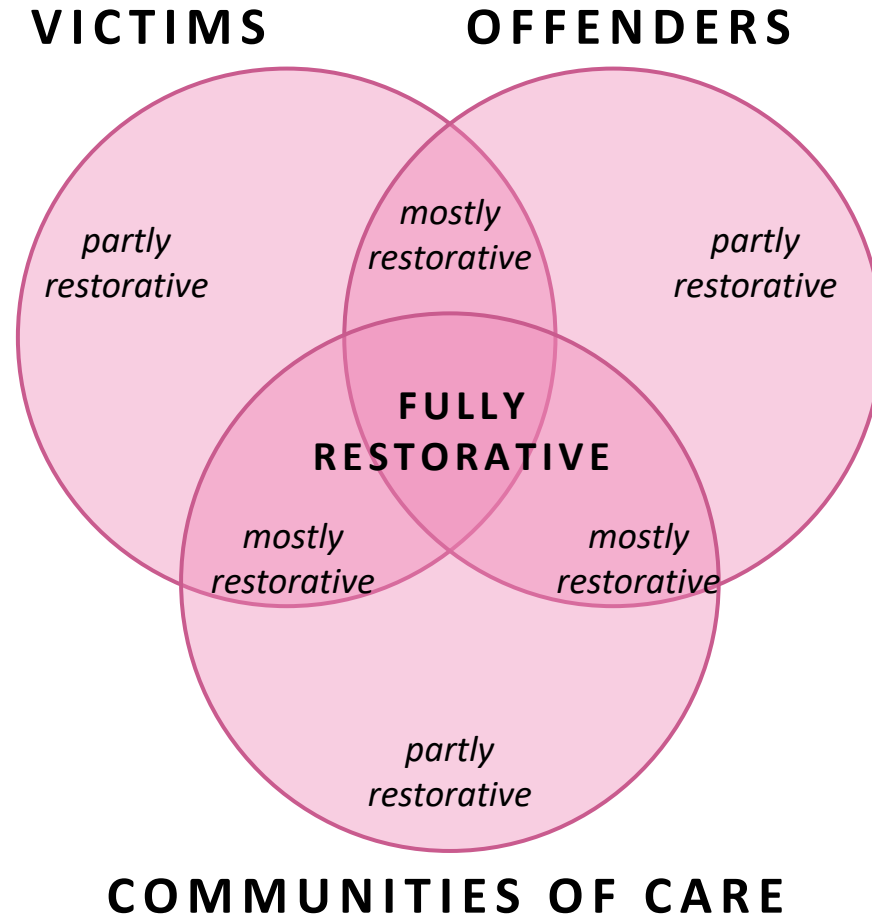
A false binary - a lot of RJ has a bit of both - "managed empowerment" (*Marder 2020; Hobson and Payne, 2022*)

The space between – a neutral space between formal criminal and informal community (*Aertsen 2006*)

Context dependent - to jurisdictions with different state/civil society (*Aertsen 2006; Hobson and Payne, 2022*)



Practices models – McCold & Wachtel's (2003) typology



Useful but...

Type, not process - indicate what schemes facilitate or not but do not address diversity in practices within the schemes (*Walgrave (2008)*)

Practices, not depth - A practice can be 'fully restorative' in form but shallow in substance (*Daly 2016; Bazemore and Ellis, 2013*)

Encounters, not systems - Tells us about a single restorative event, not how RJ gets embedded across institutions or systems.



A framework for interpreting 'integration'...

INSTITUTIONALISING

EXTERNAL (TOP-DOWN)

Embedded in policy frameworks external to organisations. Statutory, system-wide.

Examples

Youth justice (Ch 8) · Policing (Ch 6) · Victims' Code of Practice

FORMALISING

INTERNAL (CHOICE-DRIVEN)

Systematic adoption within an organisation/sector. Driven by internal priorities. Adoption is optional.

Examples

Schools (Ch 10) · FGC in social care (Ch 17) · Housing (Ch 18) · RJC quality standards

SHAPING

GENERATIVE (BOTTOM-UP)

Emerges from community, geographical or epistemic needs. Often focused on relational/cultural conditions.

Examples

Restorative cities (Ch 21) · Storytelling (Ch 22)



The modes are not

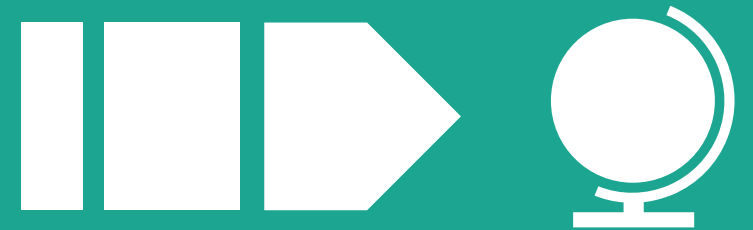
- **a continuum:** *incidence may move between them or may remain fixed by choice, design, or circumstance.*
- **a value judgement:** *they allow people to ascribe their own judgements of Fidelity vs Reach onto services*
- **a reflection of success or impact:** *each can be shallow or deep*

The modes can help to ...

- **understand how and where RJ services develop:** *how different pressures and opportunities create different types of integration*
- **Understand what services are intending to achieve:** *and thereby differentiate between different goals and outcomes*
- **anticipate what's happening:** *challenges, opportunities, approaches for evaluation*



4. Examples from Prison & Probation



RJ in Prisons and Probation (2024-26)



Phase 1 2023–2024

- 3x prisons
- 2x RJ services
- 1x Community projects
- 2x MoJ/Prob./Govt. teams
- Academics, practitioners, policymakers

Phase 2 2025–2026

- 2x prisons
- 3x RJ services
- 3x Community projects
- 3x MoJ/Prob./Govt. teams
- Academics, practitioners, policymakers

Heidi Jokineien (Abo Academie, Fin) / **Annemieke Wolthius**, Sophie Jooren (Avans, Ned) / Rebecca BM, Niki White, Aisa Shearing (UoG, UK) Stanislav Solodov (Est MoJ) / Rachel Lillis (Ire MoJ)



INSTITUTIONALISING

EXTERNAL

The main Purpose of the scheme

Examples

Ireland — probation/MoJ-led RJ, hub-and-spoke model

Estonia — MoJ-led national strategy & RJ service

Finland — RJ in serious crimes service

England & Wales – RJ in Youth Justice KPIs

FORMALISING

INTERNAL

One stream of several things

Examples

England & Wales — prison RJ e.g. HMP Isis

Netherlands — Puinruimen programme;

Finland — national mediation service

Ireland – community RJ youth projects

SHAPING

GENERATIVE

Looser approaches applied

Examples

England & Wales — RP for supporting prisoner mindset

Finland — Aseman Lapset street mediation (NGO)

Estonia — Village of Hope (Lootuse küla);

Netherlands – prison guard training

Ireland – Training center prison





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THANKS!

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