



17TH ANNUAL NORTH SOUTH IRISH CRIMINOLOGY CONFERENCE

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UNIVERSITY COLLEGE CORK

ABSTRACTS BOOKLET



Day One – 23rd of June

Panel 1: Gendered Harm and Violence Across Institutional, Digital, and Cultural Contexts

1. *Iain Brennan* - Domestic abuse victimisation among police officers and staff: A social ecological analysis of the institutional response

The experience of domestic abuse victim-survivors who work in policing remains an under-researched issue despite their facing a clear role conflict that could expose them to further private and professional harm. Through qualitative analysis of open-ended responses to a survey conducted among officers and staff in a police force in England and Wales, this study examined institutional responses to a staff member's disclosure of domestic abuse victimisation. Using thematic analysis, we identified harms that had a common underlying mechanism of 'denial'. Seven themes were identified: inaccessible reporting pathways; absent institutional procedures and policies; privacy violations in institutional spaces; the exceptional nature of police perpetrated abuse; the uneven risk of counter-allegations; long-term impacts of institutional betrayal; and islands of institutional support. Overall, the findings illustrate how the failure to recognise the exceptional nature of police victimisation – a consequence of entrenched cultural norms and identity conflicts – can undermine trust in policing and create secondary harm for victims.

2. *Jennifer O'Mahoney* - Whose Digital Violence Counts? Mapping the European Evidence Base on DVAW

Digitalised violence against women (DVAW) is now firmly on the European policy agenda, but the research base remains selective and uneven. This paper presents findings from the WOW project (Women's Online Wellbeing) scoping review, which mapped peer-reviewed research on DVAW and LGBTQ+-phobic digital abuse in Europe published between 2015 and 2025. Using PRISMA-ScR, the review identified 212 studies and analysed patterns in conceptualisation, methods, geography, support, and prevention.

The review shows a rapidly expanding field, but one shaped by significant concentrations and silences. Research output has grown sharply in recent years, yet the evidence is clustered heavily in Spain and the UK. Scholarship is dominated by non-consensual image sharing, while other harms, including cyberstalking, hate speech, and transphobic abuse, receive much less attention. Support-seeking and prevention are particularly neglected: only 27 studies examined support and just 9 addressed prevention. Across the support literature, victim-survivors relied mainly on friends, family, peers, and community networks, while trust in police, institutions, and platforms remained low. Prevention research was sparse, reactive, and focused largely on individual self-protection rather than systemic change.

The paper argues that the European evidence base does not simply document DVAW; it also structures what becomes visible as a problem. By showing which harms, populations, and responses are repeatedly studied—and which remain marginal—it highlights the need for a broader, more inclusive, and more prevention-oriented research agenda.

3. *Jody Moore-Ponce* - The Fragility of Patriarchy: Male Violence, Shame, and the Disavowal of Male Fragility

Explanations of male violence have tended to emphasise domination, ideology, or rational self-interest, often overlooking affective conditions under which violence becomes meaningful. This paper argues that male violence must be understood within a gendered affective economy in which fragility is disallowed, shame is intensified, and violence emerges as a socially intelligible means of restoring the self. Drawing on Gilligan's account of violence as a response to shame, Ahmed's theory of affective economies, and feminist analyses of patriarchy as a system of emotional constraint, the paper conceptualises patriarchal masculinity as a regime that displaces vulnerability and renders it illegible. Masculinity, in this sense, is not defined by the absence of fragility, but by its systematic disavowal. This disavowal is not incidental but structural, reflecting a second, often unacknowledged fragility: the fragility of patriarchy itself, which depends on the suppression of individual male fragility to sustain the appearance of stability. The analysis draws on preliminary qualitative interviews with men who have engaged in violence, alongside findings from existing research on emotional regulation and gender-based violence. Across these materials, there are strong indications that moments of exposure and cumulative experiences of humiliation are central to how violence is understood and enacted. Accounts frequently frame violence not simply as an assertion of power, but as a response to being seen as weak, exposed, or inadequate, often in front of others. Understanding male violence in this way shifts analytical focus from domination alone to the affective conditions through which masculinity is lived, defended, and reproduced.

4. *Lynn Clarke-Hearty* - Making Visible the Invisible: Using Photovoice with women in prison and the community to explore and document experiences of prison and life after prison in Ireland

Women constitute a minority within the total prison population in Ireland. Women with experiences of criminalisation and imprisonment moreover tend to be pathologised by mental health needs, addiction, and trauma and/or characterised by histories of domestic abuse, interpersonal violence and care experience. Despite such vulnerabilities and the persistent increase of women in contact with the criminal justice system, little is known about their experiences which merits greater investigation domestically and internationally.

To address this gap, this paper will discuss ground-breaking research that explores women's experiences of prison and life after prison in Ireland. Using the Photovoice

method in prison and the community, women's voices and lived experiences are centralised by way of photography, critical discussion and photo exhibition. Women report their use of photography as a way of making visible the invisible; 'to show it as it is'. Drawing on Susan Sontag's (1977) notion of how photography furnishes evidence, this paper will therefore critically reflect on photography and supporting narratives furnished by the women as evidence of their personal journeys and structural conditions of their imprisonment and criminalisation.

The thirty women involved in this research are recognised as research partners, actively involved in data collection and data analysis: twenty are from the prison project, Dóchas in Focus and ten are from the community project, SAOL on Bail. Presenting such novel evidence contributed by our research partners to make visible the invisible, this paper will offer an innovative and qualitative exploration of women's experiences of imprisonment and criminalisation in Ireland.

Panel 2: Contemporary Perspectives on Addiction, Harm Reduction, and Drug Policy

1. *Maria Hunter* - CK, Calvin Klein: A dangerous new fashion? A mixed-methods study on the polydrug use of cocaine and ketamine in Greater Manchester.

The EMCDDA/EUDA have reported rising use of both cocaine and ketamine since 2010. However, limited research has explored their combined use—colloquially referred to as 'CK'. This study investigates uses a mixed-methods approach to assess the prevalence, motivations and risks of CK use, and the practicalities of using Drug Consumption Rooms (DCRs) for those who use CK. Descriptive statistics of the Young Person (YP) GMTRENDS (Greater Manchester Testing and Research on Emergent and New Drugs) survey with N817 respondents aged 12-25 in Greater Manchester, conducted in May and June 2025. Focus groups with people who have taken both cocaine and ketamine in the same drug-taking session were conducted to understand why they take CK. They also discussed Drug Checking Services (DCS), their willingness to use DCS, and whether awareness of drug contents would influence their consumption. Thematic analysis was then conducted to group and summarise the findings.

Descriptive statistics from the YP GMTRENDS survey found that of the 118 YP who used cocaine in the last year, 31% of them have used ketamine simultaneously. Of the 76 YP who used ketamine in the last year, 48% of them have used cocaine simultaneously. The focus groups found that people use CK to balance out the dissociative effects of the ketamine with the functionality achieved with the cocaine. They also noted how they are very

unlikely to use DCS due to trusting their supplier, and the timings of buying not allowing for the wait DCS would require for the results.

2. *Shane O'Mahony* - The brain disease model of addiction and epistemic injustice

The brain disease model of addiction (BDMA) is a dominant, if highly contested, model of drug addiction globally. However, critics have argued that the model de-emphasises social and economic contexts, downplays the phenomenon of spontaneous or natural recovery, and over-interprets neuroscientific findings. Building on this critical tradition, the current paper asks a related question: Has the claim that addiction is a brain disease helped or harmed those experiencing drug-related harm epistemically?. Drawing on the concept of epistemic injustice, the current paper argues that the category 'drugs' creates an artificial and harmful dichotomy between those who use licit medicines and experience harm and those who use illicit substances and experience harm. Furthermore, this artificial dichotomy is compounded by racist and colonial discourses central to the war on drugs, and a rigid biological reductionism that de-emphasises social, economic, and cultural harm. The paper concludes by sketching an alternative approach rooted in epistemic justice, and a discussion of the implications of this concept for research and theory.

3. *Megan Coghlan* - Life as a "broken jigsaw": Building pathways from prison to addiction treatment

This paper explores the evaluation of a new Prison Link Health Navigator Service currently in pilot stage in the North East Inner City of Dublin. This service has created a new role called the Prison Link Health Navigator (PLHN) who is working within Mountjoy and the Dóchas prisons to create pathways for individuals with addiction from prison to residential or community treatment. People with addiction in prison may undergo interventions while in prison, these interventions are likely to be more effective when followed up with support in the community. The Prison Link Health Navigator Service ensures follow up and continuity of care by arranging residential or community drug treatment with a person in advance of leaving prison. The data to support this research is being collected through semi-structured interviews, observations and recorded telephone updates from the PLHN. The sample includes the PLHN, stakeholders working with the PLHN and service users. This paper presents preliminary findings which highlight the importance of building relationships and communication in developing new criminal justice related services.

4. *Nicole Miller* - Exploring the use of Artificial Intelligence to categorise attitudes towards People Who Use Drugs, public health interventions, and drug policy: A Proof-of-concept study

Background: The use of AI Large Language Models (LLM) to analyse views on public health interventions, drug policy, and attitudes towards People Who Use Drugs (PWUD) is an emerging area. We report on the feasibility of using an LLM to categorize these topics across the island of Ireland.

Methods: Ireland-related subreddits, authored between June 2011 and May 2025, were identified using keyword-based searches via the Reddit API. The initial data set contained 30,000 comments and was reduced to 24,000 comments after reviewing post titles for relevance. A novel annotation guide categorising Class, Category, and Subcategory related to public health interventions (e.g. Naloxone, Medically Supervised Injection Facility), drug policy (Prohibition, Decriminalization, Legalization, and Regulation), stigma (Stereotypes, Prejudice, and Discrimination), and positive attitudes towards PWUD (e.g. Compassion, Affirming Attitudes) was tested across 15% of the data set.

Results: Inter-rater reliability between three human coders using the annotation guide ranged from 0.63 (substantial agreement) to 0.83 (near perfect agreement). The LLM performed comparably to human annotators. Preliminary analysis of 10% of the dataset indicates that drug policy was the most frequent class, with Legalisation and Decriminalization as the most frequent discussed categories. Stereotypes was the largest category of Stigma, with PWUD frequently perceived as a threat.

Discussion: The use of AI demonstrates potential for categorising large-scale data from online communities which can inform campaigns for changes in drug policy and targeted stigma campaigns. Future work will analyse the full dataset to examine sentiment, emotion, and how views evolve over time and across topics.

5. *James Windle* - How Women Experience Addiction Services in Cork

Semi-structured interviews were conducted with 15 women who have used addiction services in Cork. Half of the sample could be considered middle-class, based on educational attainment and employment at time of entering addiction services. Just under half were parents. The key finding is that women with substance use disorder are not a homogenous group. The women interviewed for this study had diverse backgrounds, experiences and needs, and provided different recommendations for improving addiction services. Services need to reflect this diversity, and provide a greater range of options, but all services should be trauma-informed and gender sensitive. While gender is an important consideration, it intersects with other identities, including class and age.

Panel 3: Experiences and Philosophies of Imprisonment

1. *David Hayes* - Dragons in Dungeons? Myths of Imprisonment from Cultures without Prisons

Around the world, various pre-modern cultures that did not use prisons in their criminal justice systems have nevertheless told stories in their mythologies that involve the use of practices closely resembling imprisonment. This paper examines thirteen such myths from six cultural contexts, examining the uses to which imprisonment is put in each story and identifying three core themes: imprisonment as revenge, as containment, and as exploitation. These themes suggest that imprisonment was frequently imagined in these societies as a mechanism for containing unstoppable monsters, but also just as often as a morally ambiguous exercise of power that could form the basis for a struggle against injustice.

When these myths are understood as speculative fictions imagining carceral punishments, they demonstrate the ways in which the 'penal imaginary' can shape public attitudes towards punishment (or its analogues in non-State-based cultures), and the cultural constraints and expectations that shape its real-world use. While suggesting that imprisonment will always be associated with confinement and control, these myths show that the meanings and perceived justice of imprisonment are culturally contingent and variable, and that solidarity with the prisoner is a key component of conceiving of prisons as sites of injustice. Implications are drawn for penal reform, and especially efforts at decarceration, in contemporary (late)modern Global Western cultures.

2. *Blazej Kaucz* - Polish Prisoners in Northern Ireland: Insights from a Pilot Study on Foreign Inmate Experiences

This pilot study, conducted in September 2025, explored the lived experiences of Polish nationals incarcerated in Northern Irish prisons. Through a series of in-depth qualitative interviews, the researchers investigated how Polish prisoners navigate life as foreign inmates, focusing on their interactions with the prison environment, staff, and fellow prisoners. The study aimed to understand both the challenges and opportunities encountered within the Irish prison system, while also examining how broader experiences of emigration shape their perceptions of imprisonment.

The interviews revealed several recurring themes. Participants described an active black-market economy within the prison, including fluctuating prices for goods, the exchange of material items, the use of artistic skills as currency, and the availability and use of drugs. Fatherhood emerged as another significant topic, with prisoners reflecting on programmes for fathers, their relationships with their children, and the emotional strain of parenting from within the prison system. Some participants reported facing legal and

language barriers that influenced their attitudes toward the justice system, shaped their interactions with staff, and contributed to feelings of marginalisation. A key takeaway from the study is a marked shift in attitudes toward deportation. Whereas deportation had previously been viewed with apprehension or resistance, many participants now expressed a more ambivalent or even favourable stance. The paper offers several potential root causes for this change.

Overall, this pilot study highlights the complex realities faced by Polish prisoners in Northern Ireland and underscores the need for further research into the intersection of migration, identity, and imprisonment.

3. *Keith Adams* - Reductionist Philosophies of Punishment: A Genealogy of Penal Moderation, Minimalism, and Abolition.

If favourable political and economic climates continue, further catalysed by current crowded prisons, Ireland is on the cusp of rapid prison expansion. Spaces in the Irish prison estate could increase by almost 40%, with the intended addition of 1,600 beds, by 2031. Whether the Government's vision is realised or not, it reveals that its rationale and response to over-imprisonment is, in fact, more state coercion through penal excess. After a careful discussion of the academic deployment of "penal excess," and whether it has usefulness in an Irish context, this paper will trace the genealogy of three reductionist philosophies of punishment—penal moderation, minimalism, and abolition. Drawing on Loader and Bosworth, the paper positions penal moderation as a contemporary expression of retributivism and penal parsimony for liberal democratic politics. Minimalism considers the role of limits, engaging with the work of Hayes and Christie, while the abolitionist strand weaves together Mathiesen, Bianchi, and Hulsman who question the need of prisons.

This paper is drawn from a state of the art chapter within ongoing theoretical doctoral research, critically examining reductionist philosophies of punishment from a philosophical-theological perspective. Ultimately, through its unique contribution of critiquing the divergences and convergences of reductionist philosophies relative to each other, the paper will argue that within the genealogy, there is inevitable definitional slippage over time as political and social environments change, and new emphases emerge. The paper will conclude with reflections on the importance of considering philosophies of punishment when engaging as academics and activists for penal change.

4. *Deborah Russo* - "We have to move on with the modern world, which is very hard to do in a Victorian building." Applying Schlossberg's Transition Theory to the transition from HMP Barlinnie to HMP Glasgow

This paper applies Schlossberg's Transition Theory to analyse the ways in which staff and prisoners at HMP Barlinnie, Scotland, are experiencing this iconic prison's closure and

upcoming transition to HMP Glasgow. Drawing on twelve staff and fifteen prisoner interviews, our analysis applies the four components of Schlossberg's 4S framework; Situation, Self, Support, and Strategies, uniquely extending this framework into a 5th S: Structure. The transition emerges as being perceived as high-impact and low-control, marked by uncertainty, nostalgia, and pragmatic acceptance. Peer solidarity and adaptive coping through banter and routine, sustain meaning and pride amid substantive upcoming change. This study illustrates how carceral transitions are deeply cultural and emotional, shaped by belonging and resilience rather than changes to infrastructure alone.

Panel 4: Victims' Rights and Access to Justice

1. *Liam O'Driscoll* - Reforming State Compensation for Victims of Violent Crime in Ireland

State compensation for victims of violent crime is available under the Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme. In this paper, I provide an overview of the Law Reform Commission's recently published report on state compensation for victims of crime. In particular, I highlight findings from my doctoral research on this topic. I first outline the background and context in relation to state compensation in Ireland and the European Union. I outline the important role of the Court of Justice of the European Union in highlighting the need for systemic reform of the Criminal Injuries Compensation Tribunal. I emphasise that the proposals contained in the report of the Law Reform Commission, if implemented and resourced by Government, will contribute to the development of a sustainable, victim-centred and trauma-informed state compensation scheme. Additionally, I put forward a number of suggestions for improvement in relation to the Law Reform Commission's Draft Compensation for Victims of Crimes of Violence Bill. Specifically, I argue for amendments in respect of the definition of a crime of violence, the type of compensation which can be paid, the circumstances as to when the reformed Statutory Body can reduce or reject a claim due to the victim's contributory misconduct, the applicable time limit, legal costs and other important issues relevant to how victims access state compensation, including the structure of the proposed Statutory Body, the relationship between the Statutory Body and court proceedings, the retrospective abolition of the 'same roof' rule and the need to establish a Victims' Commissioner.

2. *Susan Leahy* - 'Delivering Justice for Victims of Crime in Ireland: A Work in Progress'

Just over 10 years on from the implementation of the EU Victims' Rights Directive in Ireland, this paper argues that while much has improved for victims of crime in Ireland, many challenges remain. Drawing on the available data on victims' experiences of the Irish criminal justice system, the paper measures the continuing implementation gap

which exists between the promise of the Criminal Justice (Victims of Crime) Act 2017 and associated policies and the lived experiences of Irish victims of crime. Looking to comparable jurisdictions, the paper concludes with some observations on what legal and policy reforms are required in Ireland to ensure that victims' legal rights to information, support and protection are realised throughout their journey within the criminal justice process.

3. *Christopher Schreck* - Why do people have too much or too little fear of victimization? Distinguishing and explaining justified fear of victimization, intrinsic caution, and subjective sources of inaccurate fear in a representative sample of American adults

A misalignment between someone's fear of victimization and their actual risk of victimization has been a persistent societal problem, but no research has developed a way to measure erroneous fear. Fear response accuracy consists of three distinct but overlapping components, each possessing unique causes. Justified fear and intrinsic caution are the two components responsible for appropriate fear, which subjective sources of inaccurate fear distort into fear responses that are either too high or too low. To test our hypotheses, we use data from a sample of 1,500 adults living in the United States. We use a multilevel item response theory-based regression framework to isolate and explain each component of fear response accuracy. We found significant amounts of inaccurate fear, and that many substantive predictors successfully explain tendencies among individuals to imagine threat or safety without tangible justification.

4. *Rosemary Mangan* - Justice through the kaleidoscope: The justice perspectives of families of homicide victims

Rock (1998) illustrates the binary nature of homicide as layered with strong narratives of good and evil, innocence and guilt and leaving little room for greyness in bereaved families' new world views (195). He characterized their experience as a 'chaotic episode which gives way to strong, antagonistic archetypes of victim and offender' (185). These binary visions of victim and offender are often reinforced by broader public and media discourse, while family members are subsumed by the social milieu of fatal violence and the complex forensic legal processes associated with homicide investigation and prosecution. The asymmetrical essence of homicide is experienced by victims' family members consistently through-out the post-homicide journey, from the permanent nature of death as consequence of the offence, to criminal justice experiences and the procedural treatment families experience. However, their perspectives on justice offer a nuanced lens within which to explore and understand their experiences.

Using the concept of kaleidoscopic justice, this paper will discuss the justice perspectives of families of homicide victims in terms of their lived experiences. McGlynn and

Westmarland (2019) outline that kaleidoscopic justice is a multifaceted way of thinking about justice; a constantly shifting pattern, refracted through new experiences and understandings, and as a nuanced and ever evolving lived experience (179). This paper will consider what justice means to families along the post-homicide journey and argues that families' perspectives of justice are more nuanced and multi-dimensional than conventional criminal justice outcomes that focus on punishment.

Panel 5: Education, Care, and Rights in Carceral Contexts

1. *Robert O'Driscoll* - Emancipatory Pedagogy: Object-Based Learning in a Carceral Environment

This paper explores how a prison-based higher education initiative can address the interconnected realities of the criminal justice system, addiction, mental health, recovery-oriented practices and identity transformation. It reports on a redesigned University College Cork (NFQ Level 7) micro-credential, SS1834 Understanding Drugs in a Social Context, delivered in Cork Prison. The course integrated Universal Design for Learning (UDL) with Object-Based Learning (OBL) to reduce literacy-related barriers, enabling students to use an on-site art workshop to create personal artefacts that embodied the module learning outcomes and their lived experience.

Qualitative data from student artefacts, peer presentations and lecturer observations were thematically analysed using Self-Determination Theory. The findings demonstrate that Higher Education Learning Outcomes can be rigorously assessed through OBL artefacts and creative in-class presentations, with students demonstrating cross-cultural learning, critical analysis, conceptual synthesis and reflexive application comparable to conventional campus-based assessments.

Reflections on teaching and student learning highlighted OBL's emancipatory potential: it supported student agency and autonomy through self-directed object creation and peer sharing; strengthened competence via artistic and academic expression; and deepened relatedness through collaborative critique and dialogue, helping to create a safe space for transformative learning in a carceral setting. UDL scaffolding ensured multiple modes of representation, action/expression and engagement, promoting inclusivity for diverse learners.

Collectively, these innovations challenge deficit models of prison education and advocate OBL-UDL hybrids as authentic, autonomy-supportive andragogy. The paper outlines scalable strategies for prison-university partnerships that harness creative Higher Education to support recovery, identity transformation and desistance.

2. *Ava Delaney - Advancing Self-harm Risk Assessment in Custodial Settings: Insights from the SADA Project in the Irish Prison Service*

Self-harm in custodial settings constitutes a persistent and complex issue, reflecting the intersection of individual vulnerability and institutional context. The Self-harm Assessment and Data Analysis Project (SADA), developed collaboratively by the Irish Prison Service, the National Suicide Research Foundation, and the HSE National Office for Suicide Prevention, represents an effort to systematise the identification and management of self-harm risk through an integrated, data-driven framework.

Drawing on routinely collected administrative records, clinical assessments and incident reports, the project aims to explore the distribution and determinants of self-harm across the prison population. Using quantitative analytical techniques, the research identifies key risk factors; Environmental, Medical, Mental health, Bereavement, Personal and Procedural.

Findings from annual reports indicate that the SADA framework enhances the capacity for early identification of individuals at elevated risk, and facilitates more structured and responsive intervention strategies.

This project contributes to ongoing discussion on self-harm in custody by highlighting the practical application of a structured, data-driven approach. It reflects on how SADA can support improved risk identification, and more consistent intervention practices, while also recognising the operational challenges that arise in real-world settings. The findings offer useful insights for policy development, staff training, and continued collaboration between agencies working to reduce self-injury in prisons.

3. *Roisin Mulgrew - Prison Overcrowding: Causes, Consequences and Reform*

In 2021, the UN recognised that prison overcrowding represents ‘the greatest contributor to violations of international minimum standards in prisons’. This paper explores the causes and consequences of prison overcrowding in prisons around the world and examines the legal, policy and practical responses to this phenomenon. Building on this broader perspective, the paper then focuses on the Irish situation, and the detrimental impact of overcrowding to prison operations, and the rights of prisoners in this country. Between 2023-2026, the number of detained persons in Ireland increased by 30%. All closed adult prisons are currently overcrowded, with the prison system operating at 125% capacity. Drawing on penal standards and human rights law, this paper seeks to make recommendations in relation to a) alleviating the impact of overcrowding on prisoner rights and b) reducing and preventing overcrowding in Ireland and beyond.

4. *Kevin Warner* - Penal populism, an ideological shift and the steady gutting of the right to education in prison

Since about 2000, get-tough-on-crime political rhetoric has taken a deeper hold in Irish penal policy. The number imprisoned has escalated, prisons are unmanageably oversized and overcrowded, care is peripheral, people inside are more demonised. In general, the outlook and language of the Department of Justice prison administrators match this politics: now more punitive, othering, neo-liberal and more at variance with Council of Europe values and principles.

For most in prison, such shifts in penal policy worsen access to rights, supports and services – to health, education, vocational training, addiction treatment, post-release help. Education has long been the largest ‘structured activity’ in Irish prisons. In Council of Europe policy, all in prison have a right to a wide, developmental and holistic form of education. This entitlement was more recognised in Ireland previously when comprehensive education was available to every person in some, although not in all, prisons.

As a result of the shift in policy and practice, people in prison now have narrower and more precarious education, and less of it; thousands have no access. Factors underpinning this are:

- No additional teachers in enlarged prisons
- Greatly reduced learning spaces
- Structural issues: longer lockups, segregation, etc.
- Sclerotic prison officer staffing and regime management plans leading to chronic class cancellation, elimination of summer and evening provision, etc.
- Prison cultural issues: education seen as a privilege not a right, workshops prioritised, etc.

Reversing this regression can only start through debunking entrenched penal myths and mindsets.

Panel 6: Youth Justice and the Construction of Deviance

1. *Jayne Price* - The criminal age of majority and the distinct category of young adulthood

The criminal age of responsibility in England and Wales has been criticised for the responsabilisation of children from age 10 years (Goldson, 2013). Criticisms have also been extended to the criminal age of majority which sees young adults enter/transition into adult institutions and services at age 18 years (Goldson, 2019). There is a growing evidence base demonstrating the ongoing neurological development and complex needs

of young adults (aged 18-24 years), particularly for those within the criminal justice system (CJS). This situates young adults as having vulnerabilities similar to children (Brewster, 2020) thus making their criminalisation and ‘adulterisation’ as harmful as it is for children. In recognition of young adults ongoing neurological development and complex needs, some jurisdictions beyond England and Wales have extended youth justice systems to apply to young adults. This presentation critically considers an extension of the youth justice system (YJS) against a distinct young adult approach.

2. *Áine Bernadette Mannion* - Discretion Before Design: The Development of Child Cautioning and Diversion Policy in Ireland, 1953–1963

In August 1953, the State Solicitor for Donegal wrote to the Chief State Solicitor’s Office after local Gardaí began cautioning, rather than prosecuting, children aged under-14 on their own volition. This triggered a series of correspondence between the Commissioner of An Garda Síochána, The Department of Justice, and The Office of the Attorney General seeking clarity on the Irish State’s approach to children in conflict with the law.

Drawing on previously unpublished archival material from 1953–1963, this paper traces the development of child cautioning policy, culminating in the establishment of the Juvenile Liaison Officer Scheme in 1963, the precursor to today’s statutory Garda Diversion Programme. It highlights debates over prosecutorial ownership, police discretion, and concerns about Gardaí exercising quasi-judicial functions. Particular tension arose around whether cautions should be administered in the presence of parents, reflecting a model that placed primary responsibility for discipline on the family.

The findings from the historical record demonstrate that mid-20th-century diversion policy in Ireland was shaped less by legislative design than by discretionary policing practices. Nor can the delayed expansion of child cautioning policy at this point be understood solely through debates about age thresholds. Rather, it must be situated within a broader political and institutional context shaped by contemporaneous political pressures, party protectionism, and administrative manoeuvring by civil servants within the Department of Justice.

While discretion enabled flexibility and individualisation, it also embedded subjectivity, raising enduring concerns about transparency, consistency, fairness, and parental responsabilisation that continue to inform contemporary child justice debates.

3. *Orlaith Rice* - Understanding and Supporting Young People’s Engagement in Youth Diversion Projects in Ireland

The Garda Youth Diversion Programme (GYDP) offers a child aged 12 to 17 who has committed an offence with the opportunity to receive a caution instead of facing prosecution. Once a young person accepts responsibility for their actions, consideration is

given to a possible referral to a Youth Diversion Programme (YDP). Engagement by a young person in a YDP is voluntary. A planned disengagement typically occurs when a young person's level of risk and need has decreased. In contrast, unplanned disengagement typically occurs when a referred young person, who has been assessed and engages initially, has not done so for a three- to six-month period. In such cases, the young person may be referred back to the relevant Garda Juvenile Liaison Officer (JLO). This paper aims to deepen understanding of how, when, and why young people disengage from YDPs, including what factors may affect their ability or willingness to engage, and whether they continue to receive support after disengaging. This research intends to inform policy decisions and guide interventions designed to support these young people, with the overarching aim of preventing youth offending. This qualitative study involved semi-structured interviews with youth justice practitioners working in YDPs (n=17). Thematic analysis was used to interpret the interview data, per Braun and Clarke (2022) and aided by NVivo software. Unplanned exits were associated with several interacting factors, including low personal motivation, a weak practitioner-young person relationship, the impact of a chaotic home environment, and the influence of peers involved in offending.

4. *Louise Forde* - An Age of Controversy? Age Limits and the Youth Justice System

Specialised systems of youth justice are premised on an understanding that “kids are different” in relation to their capacity and understanding, their culpability, and their developmental needs, and that these differences justify differential responses as compared to adults when they come into conflict with the law. This has also been confirmed by neuroscientific evidence, which demonstrates that brain development continues into the mid-20s, and is recognised under the framework set out by the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). The UNCRC and other international guidelines in this area recommend that all youth justice systems should have a minimum age of criminal responsibility – which should be no less than 14 – and the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child has recommended that states give consideration to extending youth justice provisions to young adults beyond the age of 18. Despite this guidance, setting the boundaries of the youth justice system – both in relation to the minimum age of criminal responsibility, and in relation to the upper limit for the application of child justice measures – continue to be issues of controversy in many jurisdictions. This presentation explores the international guidance relating to age limits and the application of in the youth justice system, and considers some of the debates surrounding these issues in jurisdictions such as Ireland, Scotland and the Netherlands. In doing so, it reflects on how these debates provide insight into how we view children who have committed offences, and on what is meant by ‘child-friendly’ justice.

Panel 7: Carceral Harm and the Politics of Imprisonment

1. *Elizabeth Kiely* - Necropolitics at work in the Irish Prison System

In the Republic of Ireland, the Prison Service has as its mission the provision of safe and secure custody, dignity of care, and rehabilitation to prisoners for safer communities. This article argues that this mission is substantively undermined by the necropolitical forces at work in and around Irish prisons. Written just as the Irish government plans to embark on the largest prison expansion project in the history of the state, our analysis is informed by an international literature that recognises the central role played by carceral institutions in both the expression and normalisation of state-sanctioned necropolitical violence.

Empirically, we show how the prison institutions in Ireland operate at the sharp end of a biopolitical and necropolitical continuum, beginning with communities beset by problems associated with economic inequality, lack of housing, poverty, and material oppression, upon whom disposability is conferred. The Irish state's penal and social policies and rhetoric serve to maintain this necropolitical status quo by insisting that the carceral space of the prison is essential for "security" and for some lives to flourish. At the same time, the state's structural violence generates conditions whereby the same constituencies of predominantly poor people circulate in and out of prison. Thus, we show how the Irish prison institution operates as a death-world, a reality that is persistently effaced or denied via official and academic claims that Ireland is moderate or pragmatic in its punitiveness.

2. *Cormac Behan* - 'I have proposed nothing to give them an air of elegance or pleasantness': John Howard's prison reforms reconsidered

During his life and after his death, John Howard's (1726-1790) name has been closely associated with penal reform. Although in life he rejected the adulation that others wanted to bestow on him, berating those who wanted to raise funds for a statue of him, in death, he has been eulogised in numerous biographies, poems, plays, and statues, with penal reform organisations internationally associated with his name. On the 300th anniversary of his birth, this paper will re-examine John Howard's activities, his suggestions for reform, and consider why his legacy has acquired such significance. While the concept of penal reform and demands from penal reformers are period-specific, Howard's writings deserve re-consideration to explore developments in penal reform over time. As he visited Ireland on six occasions, recording details of every jail in the country, the paper will assess Howard's observations on Irish penal policy and the influence his suggestions had on reforming Irish prisons. Despite vast changes over the last three centuries, John Howard's ideas can offer today's penal reform advocates a historical perspective on the issues facing contemporary prison systems.

3. *Kirstin Anderson* - Prisoner-Made Magazines in Scotland: Art, Harms and Reflection

As the prison population in Scotland continues to rise and the impact of imprisonment deepens for people in custody, their families and communities, it's imperative that voices from inside the prison are recognised and heard. Prisoner-made magazines offer a unique insight into prisoner's experience of incarceration and daily resistance as told through their own words and images. This research seeks to understand the experiences of prisoners in Scotland through two prisoner-made magazines: 1) *The Key* (1974-1975) and *STIR* (2012-2025) through a social harms lens, specifically by examining institutional harms of the prison. Building on the work of Santorso (2024) and Soliman (2024), I am interested in developing a framework that moves beyond the consideration of 'pains' experienced by incarcerated people to the recognition of harms and the cumulative impact of imprisonment on prisoners. Imprisonment does not only consist of the holding of an individual by restricting their movements and their individual agency; the reality of imprisonment, I propose, is the interplay of people who live and work in a prison, and who perform the processes of incarceration. My attempt to understand imprisonment through a zemiological framework positions that prison systems fail to prevent systematic harms that amass over time during an individual's imprisonment. I argue that every experience of harm within a prison must not be seen as an isolated moment, but as part of a cycle in the processes that make incarceration a harm production process.

4. *Martha O'Carroll* - Anti-carceral archives in Scotland: Prisoner voice and resistance in HMP Barlinnie's history, and future?

Prison resistance and activism have often been neglected or sensationalised in histories of Scottish imprisonment, yet they are central to understanding the development of penal reform and the role of prisoners and campaigners within it. With HMP Barlinnie—Scotland's largest and most infamous prison—scheduled to close and be replaced in 2028, this paper revisits its history at a critical moment of transition. It traces movements and moments of resistance and contestation from Barlinnie's opening in 1882, through the emergence of the Special Unit and prisoner-led movements of the 1970s and 1980s, to the present day. Drawing on archival research, particularly activist materials and newspaper sources, the paper offers a new perspective on Barlinnie, the Special Unit and imprisonment in Scotland more broadly. It foregrounds the relationships between prisoners and social and political movements, examining how prisoners' voices were mobilised to raise public awareness and hold the state to account. In doing so, it highlights the political significance of prisoner-led knowledge production and advocacy, with implications for contemporary debates around 'lived experience' and prisoner advocacy in Scotland. In a notionally progressive nation where decades of cyclical reform have failed to address

entrenched harms and persistently high rates of imprisonment, this paper argues that engagement with past struggles is essential to resisting reformism and co-option and asks how an institution's complex past can inform more transformative penal strategies for the future.

Panel 8: Reimagining Justice Through Community Support

1. *Ella Rabaiotti* - Warm hubs in Wales: Opportunities to build social capital for people on probation

Drawing on a 2023 qualitative study conducted in Wales and early findings from follow-up research, this paper explores how learning from the development of 'warm hubs' can be applied to individuals on probation. Originally designed to mitigate poverty linked to rising food and energy costs, warm hubs offer food, drink, and a welcoming environment. Research shows hubs operate as safe, inclusive spaces that build social capital, foster social connection, and support the well-being of those who attend (Rabaiotti, 2024). Warm hubs offer varied activities that encourage informal socialising, help break down community barriers, and provide practical support to those in poverty. This paper argues that this approach has potential for criminal justice populations, who often experience social isolation and limited access to pro-social networks. Adapting the warm hub model could enable probation services and community organisations to co-create non-stigmatising community spaces that enhance social capital, support identity reconstruction, and promote desistance.

The presentation will also share the latest follow-up research findings, including initial analysis of 175 survey responses examining the accessibility of warm hubs to socially excluded populations in Wales.

2. *Shabin O.S.* - Forgiveness-Based Intervention in the Rehabilitation of Violent Offenders: A Case Study of Matricide in Puducherry Central Prison in India.

When it comes to the unimaginable or unforgivable crimes, the modern correctional philosophy often struggles with the rehabilitation of offenders. This empirical study examines the transformative impact of Forgiveness Therapy (FT) on a life-convict at Puducherry Central Prison in India convicted of matricide. Despite a history of chronic substance abuse and prevalence of other psychological issues, the subject participated in a 10-month intervention as part of collaborative project called Prison Psycho Social Care and Counselling Center. Results from a mixed-methods study showed that FT facilitated a dramatic shift in the subject's mental health, nearly halving his depression scores (BDI-II)

and resolving chronic suicidal ideation. Most notably, the intervention addressed the subject's profound moral injury. This study advocates for the integration of forgiveness-based models in high-security settings, demonstrating that delusions or even hallucination as a result of extreme guilt feeling which creates hindrance for their rehabilitation can be resolved through emotional healing.

3. *Francesca Soliman* - Raptor persecution in Scotland: escaping the carceral trap

This paper draws on a pilot project on raptor persecution to argue for the de-centring of criminal justice in addressing harms against wildlife. In Scotland, raptor persecution (i.e. the systematic killing of birds of prey) is primarily associated with land management practices on red grouse shooting moors, whose value depends on how many game birds that can be shot yearly. While raptors are unlikely to kill grouse, their presence can be seen as a threat to the high density of grouse needed for shooting, driving illegal persecution with disastrous consequences on conservation and raptor reintroduction efforts. Happening in remote locations, offences usually go undetected, despite full time raptor investigators gathering evidence and sharing intelligence with the police. Legislation has widened the net of criminalisation, introduced harsher penalties, and extended vicarious liability to landowners, but identifying perpetrators and proving criminal intent remain difficult, prosecutions are rare, and convictions even more so. While participants expressed frustration at the rarity of successful prosecutions, they recognised that criminal justice responses are intrinsically ineffective to tackle wildlife harms. Investigators suggested that their most effective strategies rely not on following criminal justice processes, but on leveraging them for visibility, relying instead on civil law or on sousveillance for actual prevention. The paper argues that the continuing use of ineffective criminal justice processes to address wildlife harms is based on a lack of institutional courage to imagine different forms of environmental justice, hiding instead behind the unfounded assumption that civil society and the wider public request carcerality.

4. *Gerry McNally* - Evangelism, Discharged Prisoners' Aid Societies and Volunteers in Prisoner Post-Release Resettlement: An Exploration in History.

Evangelical missionaries and philanthropists such as Elizabeth Fry, William Wilberforce and others were early leaders in prison reform in the late 18th and early 19th century Europe, and the provision of support/supervision for prisoners after release. They had a belief that prisoners could be 'saved' and reformed through religious instruction, moral rehabilitation, with structured care and supervision. "It is not only a Christian duty, but sound policy to facilitate as much as possible the return of those who have fallen, to a condition of self-respect and of habits of honest industry" (cited in Alcorn 1881). There

was reluctance that such support should be provided directly by the State. It was eventually channelled through denominational Discharged Prisoners' Aid Societies. In Ireland after independence, there were eight denominational Discharged Prisoners' Aid Societies (Dunbar 2017). As in the development of probation in Ireland, Catholic interests largely promoted the Legion of Mary and Guild of St Philip (SVdP) as vehicles for such provision. Since the 1960s with the introduction of Welfare Officers in prisons and the funding of Community Based Organisations (CBOs) through the Department of Justice, volunteers in criminal justice, with perhaps different motivations and more direct State influence/control, have remained significant in support for persons leaving prison. There has been a resurgence in interest in volunteering in criminal justice and prisoner resettlement in Europe. How has that role, its purpose and ambition evolved, and where is it headed? This presentation seeks to encourage further exploration and research.

5. *Kevin Wozniak* - Community and Youth Insights into the Dublin Riot and Its Lingering Aftermath: Preliminary Findings

The purpose of this research is to better understand the causes and consequences of the November 2023 Dublin riot from the perspective of residents of Dublin's North East Inner City (NEIC), the community that was adjacent to the worst of the looting, property destruction, and assaults upon Gardaí. Anecdotal, journalistic evidence suggests that the people of the NEIC felt unfairly blamed for the riot even though they and their community were its victims. This research will amplify their voices and clarify how this major, negative event has impacted their community since, particularly residents' feelings toward the Government and Gardaí. We will present preliminary findings from ongoing interview data collection with residents of the NEIC and professionals who work with youth in the NEIC.

Panel 9: Hate and Political Extremism

1. *Irene Zempi* - Tackling hate in Nottingham

Nottingham City Council has recently received funding as part of a national response to the significant and widespread disorder seen in parts of England in July and August 2024, which included concerning rises in racism, Islamophobia, and other negative behaviours within local communities. The aim of this strategic grant is to support Nottingham's commitment to address and reduce hate crime and hate incidents, improve community relations, understanding and cohesion between local people, and rebuild social trust between diverse communities. Evaluating of the activities offered is key to capturing the short-term and long-term impacts of strengthening community ties and tackling hate across Nottingham. The present paper will share the findings from focus groups with

organisations who received grant funding, examining the impact of the funding, the lessons learned from participating in the project and recommendations for developing partnership working in the future based on this project.

2. *Clara Schenk* - The social media narrative of far-right parties in small European countries.

Political parties use narratives to tell a story about who they are, what their agenda is, and what ideology they connect to. During election campaigns, these narratives can be used as a strategy to frame their political position and electability. Nowadays, a large aspect of political narratives occurs on social media platforms where textual and visual content is used to connect to potential voters and followers. As such, this research explores the key social media narratives of three far-right parties in small European countries: the National Party from Ireland, the Danish People's Party from Denmark, and the Flemish Interest from Belgium. By conducting a thematic narrative analysis on all posted social media contents over a four-month period, the research aims to understand the narrative far-right parties put forward through their social media content and how closely these relate to known far-right ideology, agendas, and behaviour. The collected data consists of textual and visual content from their official social media accounts that were posted in the three months leading up to the European Parliamentary Election of 2024, as well as the month of the election. An additional comparative analysis of these case studies will be conducted to further highlight key narratives used by the European far-right. Delving into these narratives, this research expects to find a general overlap of the use of key far-right characteristics and social media narratives between the three case studies, which furthermore could demonstrate a wider online behaviour of far-right parties.

3. *Tom Boland* - Critical Securitisation: Examining the public-health approach to prejudice and hate

Securitisation explores how social phenomena are framed as problems to be policed or governed. A post-structuralist approach to securitization suggests that this process is far from politically or ontologically neutral but expresses complex cultural models. Drawing from an on-going ethnography of on-line tools and platforms, prominent organisations and interviews with eight practitioners, this paper explores how 'prejudice' and 'hate' are framed as problems. Centrally, societally prevalent attitudes are framed as 'prejudices' against 'the other' which inhere in group psychology and can be weaponised as 'hate' through dis/mis-information and extremist agitators. Remedies which ameliorate though hardly solve such problems are offered, from education, critical thinking and media literacy skills, drifting towards police-based interventions for de-radicalisation via therapy. Overall, what emerges here is a 'public health' approach, wherein pedagogy is a

cure or prophylactic against prejudice, pre-empting hatred. The underlying politics of this approach and its reversibility in different jurisdictions is noteworthy, as this securitisation attempts to provide a governmental solution to a political challenge.

Panel 10: Gender and Prison Chair: Joan Cronin

1. *Deborah Russo* - Falling through the cracks: the long-term imprisonment of women in Scotland

Prison numbers in the Scottish female estate are rising, with a significant increase in long-term imprisonment: 107 women are currently serving sentences of four years or more, including 48 life sentences. This study will provide the first comprehensive socio-legal account of women's long-term imprisonment in Scotland, combining legal analysis with qualitative research into women's lived experiences. It will examine whether existing sentencing provisions, parole processes and opportunities for progression adequately respond to women's gendered and life-course circumstances. By revealing both systemic drivers and their human consequences, the research will generate an urgently needed evidence base to inform more equitable sentencing, parole practice and penal policy. My professional and academic experience working with both women and indeterminate-sentence prisoners uniquely motivates and positions me to undertake this work, reflecting my longstanding commitment to improving outcomes for those most affected by long-term incarceration.

2. *Carla Everard* - Criminalising Neurodivergence: ADHD and Women's Pathways to Prison

This thesis explores in what ways Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) may contribute to women's imprisonment. This question is being investigated as a master's in criminology dissertation and intends to contribute to the understanding of ADHD in women in prison. Research into this is desperately needed as previous studies of ADHD have failed to accurately represent women in their data set. This question is being addressed through desk-based research being completed through use of secondary data, focusing on both academic research and grey literature such as reports. Analysis of this data focuses on the factors that can lead women with ADHD to prison. Preliminary findings will be shared to provide an insight into how ADHD can act as a pull factor contributing to women's imprisonment. As this study frames ADHD as a structural and systemic issue rather than an individual deficit, findings will contribute to broader discussion on criminalisation, institutional control, discipline and recidivism.

3. *Eimer Collier* - A rapid evidence review of the gendered impact of repeated short prison sentences.

Women serving custodial sentences in Ireland remains an underdeveloped area of research. This is despite the concerning acceleration in growth of the population in recent years (17.3% between 2023 and 2024), far exceeding that of the men's (7.4% between 2023 and 2024). This presentation will act as a rapid evidence review of existing national and international research on the pathways, experiences, needs, and outcomes of incarcerated women, with a view to inform a future PhD study focusing on such elements regarding women serving short prison sentences in Ireland.

Drawing on peer-reviewed literature, scholarly sources, and policy reports, this review examines key themes including women's pathways into custody, experiences of education, rehabilitation, mental, physical, and intimate health in prison, and how serving short custodial sentences may impact such experiences, and the potential for successful reintegration. Focus will be given to the gendered nature of offending and punishment, as well as the structural factors, such as poverty, gender-based violence, homelessness, and addiction, that disproportionately shape women's contact with the criminal justice system. Preliminary findings indicate that short sentences may exacerbate existing vulnerabilities, and contribute to cycles of reoffending, while offering limited opportunities for meaningful intervention. Findings also identify significant gaps in Irish data, particularly regarding the exclusion of the voices of women with histories of incarceration, and the effectiveness of non-custodial alternatives. The proposed PhD study will build on these insights to explore the experiences of women serving short sentences in Ireland, with the aim of informing policy and practice.

Day Two – 24 June

1. **Roundtable 10:** Activating Abolition in Ireland II: Another Year of IPAN Organizing – Community Engagement, Campaign Updates, and Future Directions

Participants: *Marina Bell, Benita Wolf Keith Adams, Colette Barry, Liz Kiely, Gillian McNaul, Ruby Walsh*

The Irish Penal Abolition Network (IPAN) presents a follow up to last year’s roundtable, “Activating Abolition in Ireland: exploring ideas for growing penal abolition in Ireland and reflections from the first year of IPAN organizing,” focusing in particular on the launch of our Stop Cork Prison Expansion campaign, our goals, values, inspirations, and community-engagement efforts via that project, and what this work means in the context of prison expansion occurring all-island-wide. We will also bring in discussion of other areas of work we have begun, or have planned, including documenting growing prison overcrowding in Ireland, transformative justice, public engagement with IPAN through art, and our growing blog.

2. **Roundtable 11:** Developing research capacities in the criminal justice sector in Ireland – a dialogue

Participants: *Ian Marder, Niamh Maguire, Alice Wainwright, Dr. Ann-Marie Bright and Orla Gallagher*

In recent years, many criminal justice policy and practice organisations in Ireland have developed or created research and data units, established additional roles dedicated to research and data, and increased funding and other forms of collaboration with external researchers. Many barriers remain, however, to academic-criminal justice sector collaboration and to the integration of data and research evidence into policy and practice decisions, with Ireland still at the very early stages of this work. This panel is a dialogue between academic researchers and criminal justice sector research managers – Dr. Niamh Maguire (Senior Lecturer in Law, South East Technological University), Alice Wainwright (Head of Research, Department of Justice), Dr. Ann-Marie Bright (Associate Professor in Nursing, University of Limerick) and Dr. Orla Gallagher (Research Development and Evaluation Manager, Irish Prison Service) – who all have recent experiences of navigating these challenges. Their work has included commissioned evidence syntheses on knife crime and public confidence in criminal justice, the development of research units in policy and practice bodies, and research on the mental health needs of women in prison. In the panel, chaired by Dr. Ian Marder (Maynooth University), the group will discuss experiences

of criminal justice sector research development, research-policy-practice collaboration, and the future they wish to see.

3. **Roundtable 12: Beyond Desistance: Social Reintegration, Inclusion, and the Role of Community**

Participants: *Louise Williams, Jacob Harmon*

This round table examines social reintegration and inclusion as central, but often underdeveloped, dimensions of desistance and post-penal life. Moving beyond narrow outcome measures such as recidivism, the session will explore reintegration as a social, relational, and structural process shaped by access to housing, work, education, family connection, civic participation, and recognition within the community.

The round table will bring together Tosú team members along with researchers and other experts including people with lived experience of the criminal justice system to consider how criminal justice involvement continues to shape exclusion long after formal punishment ends.

We will discuss aspects of social reintegration and inclusion and their ramifications for policy, practice, and criminological understanding. Particular attention will be given to the role of community-based supports and the tensions between risk-oriented systems and inclusion-oriented responses.

This session aims to contribute to contemporary debates on desistance, re-entry, and social justice by foregrounding the practical and ethical question of what it would mean to build communities and systems that genuinely support reintegration.

About Tosú: We are a national organisation with a 25-year track record of supporting clients who are in prison, on probation and subject to court orders. Opportunity, equality and empowerment are key to our approach which is grounded in social inclusion.

4. **Roundtable 13: Between Two Jurisdictions, One Reality: Women Navigating Justice Across Ireland**

Participants: *Ruth Anne Barry, Joanne O Dwyer, Paula Kearney, Kerry Cartmill, Nikki Kennedy and Vanessa Daly*

This roundtable brings into focus a cohort too often positioned at the margins of criminological discourse: women whose lives are shaped by their proximity to the justice system. Whether as partners of those in prison, women who have experienced incarceration, or those who've navigated the conditions of probation, their voices remain underrepresented in both policy formation and academic inquiry across the island of Ireland.

Set within a North-South context, this conversation moves beyond description and into meaning. It creates a space where lived experience is not presented as an anecdote, but as insight capable of informing more responsive systems, more humane practices, and

more credible reforms. The inclusion of women from both Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland offers a rare opportunity to explore how differing jurisdictions intersect with shared realities of stigma, responsibility, resilience, and care.

What emerges is not a singular narrative, but a textured account of how justice systems extend beyond prison walls and into homes, relationships, and communities. These experiences raise critical questions about how we define justice, who it serves, and whose knowledge is considered legitimate in shaping its future.

This roundtable is not an endpoint. It signals a wider shift toward recognising lived experience as a form of leadership rather than a footnote to it. What is offered here is not reflection for its own sake, but insight with consequence. If justice reform is to hold credibility, it must be informed by those who live with its consequences, not occasionally, but consistently.

5. **Roundtable 14:** Crown Attorneys Prosecuting Sexual Assault: Did the #MeToo Movement Make a Difference? Sexual Violence in a Canadian Prairie City

Participants: *Richelle Ready, Melanie Murchison, Marlyn Bennett, Jane Ursel*

This presentation offers analysis of the experiences of Crown Attorneys prosecuting all cases of sexual violence perpetrated on persons aged twelve and over that were reported to police services in a mid-sized Canadian city for 2015 to 2016 and for 2018 to 2019. Sexual violence is associated with one of the largest dark figures of crime of all violent crimes and is underreported to the criminal justice system (Canadian Women’s Foundation, 2022). In fall 2017, following the exposure of sexual abuse allegations against Harvey Weinstein, the phrase “Me Too” began to be used as a hashtag and a social movement to bring attention to the magnitude of sexual violence (Burke, 2021). This study is the first of its kind in Canada, with access to all reported cases of sexual violence to police services for monitoring of their attrition, as well as the ability to compare prosecution of sexual violence in 2015 and 2016 to prosecution of sexual violence in 2018 and 2019, immediately following the “Me Too” Movement. This presentation will explore the impact of the #MeToo Movement on prosecuting sexual assault cases, understanding of trauma-informed care and survivor-focused prosecutions from the perspective of Crown Attorneys, prosecuting sexual assault cases following the #MeToo Movement. The ongoing perpetuation of sexual violence within the Canadian, and global, context, indicates the need for survivor-focused and trauma-informed care and asks the question: Did the #MeToo Movement make a difference for the prosecution of sexual violence?

Panel 15: Political Violence and Violent Narratives

1. *Yasmine Ahmed* – Understanding and Mapping the Far-Right in Ireland

The last years have proved to be important formation years for far-right movements in Ireland, with an increase in the number of racist attacks, as well as against activists, politicians and International Protection Applicants; the COVID-19 outbreak with the related Government enforced mitigations seems to have provided fertile ground for far-right propaganda. This presentation pinpoints 4 moments within the last 7 years which are deemed relevant to the development of far-right movements in Ireland; ending this analysis with the evolution of events around to the most recent national “fuel protests” in April 2026. While the protests stemmed from concerns around the rising costs of fuel, the events have been coopted by national and international far-right actors. In the context of growing far-right wins at the electoral level at the EU and extra-EU context, and of increased grassroots activities in Ireland, this presentation also traces relevant international links of the Irish far-right, to understand more in depth this evolving landscape.

2. *Joe Garrihy* - Depictions of Resistance and Legitimacy: A Thematic Analysis of Contemporary Dissident Irish Republican Prisoners’ Statements

This article analyses how contemporary Irish republican paramilitary prisoners, and their support networks, look to publicly portray their incarceration. It brings together literature on penal power, resistance and legitimacy with the traditionally non-criminologically focused analysis of Irish republican prisoners. It provides scope for generating a more theoretically grounded understanding of contemporary paramilitary prisoners’ resistance inside and outside Maghaberry Prison in Northern Ireland. The authors thematically analysed 110 public statements by paramilitary republican prisoners and their support groups from 2011-2025. Five core themes were identified: inhumane treatment; dishonourable others; honourable republicans; historical legitimacy; and resistance. We argue that substandard prison conditions allow for, and are employed to claim ideological and historical legitimacy for dissident republicans while striving to inspire new supporters.

3. *Gabriella Fattibene* – The ‘Playbook’ and Discursive Strategies of Irish Far-Right Influencers

Although there is minimal far-right political presence in Irish government, the far-right in Ireland operate as an online network. This network includes online figureheads or ‘influencers’ who create content about far-right ideology as it relates to Ireland. Far-right influencer content enjoyed a boost of visibility during the COVID-19 pandemic due to coverage of popular anti-lockdown and anti-vax conspiracy theories, but it is still unclear

how other aspects of far-right ideology and conspiracy theory are adapted to an Irish context. This project examined 61 videos or 31 hours of footage from four prominent Irish influencer accounts on the video hosting platform Odysee posted between December 1, 2022 – February 28, 2023. Through the lens of Social Identity Theory, this project uses content analysis and critical discourse analysis to examine how far-right influencers are adapting far-right ideology for an Irish audience and the discursive strategies they use to construct meaning in online spaces. The results represent a ‘playbook’ of strategies used by far-right influencers that construct a new form of exclusionary Irish nationalism, represent Irish identity as under threat, evoke nostalgia for mythic past, and ultimately, create calls to action.

4. *Catalina Jaramillo* – Pablo Escobar’s Reality: Moving from the Narco-Culture

Pablo Escobar has played a central role in defining what is known as narco-culture. Narco-culture has become more of an aesthetic that commercialises violence, brutality, savagery, viciousness, extravagance, inconsiderateness, and degeneration. However, narco-culture focuses more on defining only one actor. Rather, it understands how other actors can actually work and define what the drug trafficking social, economic, and political implications are in Colombia in the 80s. The perception of looking at narco-culture from cocaine has come from really looking at a moral framework. How can we pursue methodologies that study popular phenomena like Escobar that move from commercialised crime to focus on dualities, rather than the complexity of a network?

5. *Blazej Kaucz* – Criminology on the Fringes of War

This paper, drawing on a chapter titled "Criminology on the Fringes of War", argues that contemporary conflicts generate harms beyond active battlefields. Using Poland's proximity to the Ukraine war, it shows how conflict reshapes non-combatant societies. The analysis focuses on three themes. First, intensifying militarisation in border zones. An increased spending, visible military culture, and technology integration normalise militaristic values, raising concerns about power asymmetries, eroding liberties, and dual-use tech misuse.

Second, expanding surveillance architectures, including spyware and AI monitoring. Poland's experience with Pegasus reveals how wartime narratives legitimise intrusive practices by blurring internal control and foreign hybrid warfare. This ambiguity complicates distinguishing governmental overreach from external interference.

Third, the growth of grey zones and hybrid warfare. Non-kinetic tactics like cyberattacks, disinformation, and proxy actors destabilize indirectly involved societies. These spaces merge criminality, violence, and statecraft, challenging criminological boundaries.

Increasing exposure to espionage illustrates how these tactics undermine institutions and trust. Ultimately, the chapter calls for broader criminological engagement with war.

Understanding modern conflicts requires attention not only to direct violence but also to diffuse, hidden harms in neighbouring states, illuminating the interplay of militarisation, surveillance, and rights erosion in the twenty-first century.

Panel 16: Doing Justice: Emotion, Performance, and Reintegration

1. *Lara Maclachlan* - Making the invisible visible: lawyering and connective labour

Emotional labour - the management of emotions to achieve an organisational goal - has increasingly become a lens through which legal practice has been analysed, drawing attention to the nuanced emotional skills possessed by legal practitioners. However, a newly emerging concept, the work of connective labour - 'the act of "seeing" the other and reflecting that understanding back' (Pugh, 2024, 2) - has so far received little attention. Workers engage in empathic listening, reflecting back the client's emotion, managing emotions in the sharing process, and acknowledging the reflected emotion (Pugh, 2022, 2023, 2024). Therefore, connective labour is a thoroughly human and 'artisanal practice' which also encompasses emotional labour. This process of 'seeing' the other is arguably particularly important for those who seek legal aid, with previous research highlighting the importance of trust and reassurance (Burton, 2025). Alongside the increased academic attention on emotional labour, there has been a policy turn towards 'people-centred' justice which starts from the 'perspective of people...placing them at the core when...delivering...services, and legal procedures' (OECD, 2025). This requires that legal actors centre the client experience in their delivery of services. This exploratory paper draws on 27 semi structured interviews with legal aid workers in Ireland to consider how they perform connective labour. We argue that connective labour, as a theoretical lens, allows us to deepen our understanding of the role of emotion in legal practice and provides insights for people centred justice policy and challenges in its implementation.

2. *Benita Wolf* - Staging Justice: A Dramaturgical Analysis of the Courtroom

Building on the work of Goffman, who stated that social interactions are theatrical performances in which we play roles, the paper conceptualises the courtroom as a highly performative setting in which behaviour is carefully choreographed through spatial design, formal procedures, and symbolic practices such as dress, language, and etiquette. These elements construct the courtroom as a "performing space," where authority, legitimacy, and the rule of law are enacted and reinforced before an audience.

While courtroom procedures are often criticised as overly theatrical, this paper argues that such performativity is not a deviation from justice but a feature of how justice is enacted

and made visible. Rituals once regulated social life and continue to do so in modern judicial systems. Judicial rituals include the architecture of court buildings designed to inspire respect, the formal dress such as robes and wigs to hide everything 'human', and the formal etiquette of addressing judges and standing when they enter or when the verdict is read. While these rituals add a certain theatrical drama, they also maintain the authority and independence of the judiciary and create an orderly environment for hearings.

A key element of the courtroom as a dramaturgical show is the display of emotions. Emotions are strategically managed and performed in line with professional norms and role expectations, shaping perception, judgment, and moral reasoning.

The paper also incorporates insights from the author's own fieldwork, highlighting courtroom interactions as embedded in performance, ritual, and emotional practice.

3. *Colette Barry* - 'Every time you meet someone who's hopeless you've got to give them something': How hope is understood and supported in a high security prison

Hope is understood to be important for everyone, helping us to imagine the aims we wish to achieve and make them a reality. In respect of criminal justice, hope can impact positively on the ability to change and can be influential in rehabilitation and desistance. However punishment related constraints impede autonomy, creating goal interference and, in the case of long-term and indeterminate prison sentences, the conditions for hopelessness are well established. Previous scholarship has argued that hope in the context of indeterminate sentences can be recognised as institutional, escapist or deep in nature (Seeds, 2022), and as part of a wider process of adaptation and survival.

Using Seeds (2022) typology we consider how hope in a long-term prison environment is understood and supported. Focusing on prison offender managers (POMs), a role undertaken by both probation and prison officers, and prison officer key workers delivering services under the Offender Management in Custody (OMiC) model in a Category A high security prison in England, we analyse whether and how hope is imagined and practiced. We describe how POMs can enmesh hope within important rehabilitative work which aligns with their deeply entrenched probation values. Key workers are also heavily influenced by their own occupational culture in their interactions with long-term prisoners and analysis here focuses on the impact this has on understandings of hope and working relationships with POMs.

4. *Mara van Twuijver* - Bridging Prison and Employment: Work Integration Social Enterprises and Post-Prison Reintegration Policy in Ireland

Access to employment is increasingly recognised within Irish criminal justice policy as central to reducing recidivism and supporting post-prison reintegration. However, individuals leaving prison continue to encounter significant barriers to labour market participation, including stigma, weak work histories, housing instability, poverty, and limited access to coordinated support services. In recent years, Work Integration Social Enterprises (WISEs) have emerged within Irish policy as a significant mechanism for addressing these challenges through supported and transitional employment pathways.

This paper maps the historical development of Irish policy relating to post-prison employment, criminal justice reintegration, labour market activation, and social enterprise from the 1990s to the present. Drawing on policy analysis, government strategies, social enterprise reports, and qualitative practitioner interviews with individuals working across probation, reintegration, and supported employment services, the paper examines how WISEs have increasingly become positioned within Irish reintegration policy as intermediary structures bridging the gap between prison and mainstream labour market participation.

The paper argues that recent policy developments, including Working to Change and Building Pathways Together, reflect a growing recognition that reducing reoffending requires more than individual behavioural change alone. Increasingly, policy acknowledges the need for structured and socially embedded routes into employment capable of supporting longer-term desistance and community safety. At the same time, the paper highlights ongoing structural constraints, including fragmented policy coordination, employer stigma, financially fragile social enterprise models, and uneven progression into mainstream employment. It concludes that WISEs represent an important but still underdeveloped component of Irish reintegration policy.

Panel 17: Approaches to Policing and Security

1. *Hamina Barnes* - The Role of Police in Responding to Mental Health Crises: Perspectives from Officers, Healthcare Professionals and the Public

Police officers routinely respond to individuals experiencing mental health crises, often within overstretched systems and evolving policy reforms such as Right Care, Right Person. This study examined how officers interpret and enact mental health crisis policy, and how

their role in these interactions is perceived by healthcare professionals (HCPs) and members of the public (MOPs).

Twenty officers, twenty HCPs, and twenty MOPs across England participated in semi-structured interviews. Data were analysed using reflexive thematic analysis. Four themes were identified from the police interviews, including expanding and unclear police responsibilities in mental health work; fragmented service pathways creating a “responder gap,” where officers manage risk when other services are unavailable; reliance on experiential learning due to limited training; and cumulative emotional and moral strain resulting from repeated crisis exposure.

Insights from the MOP and HCP interviews similarly highlighted uncertainty about which service should respond to mental health crises, with participants identifying these situations as health issues but recognising that police are often involved when safety risks arise. Other themes included concerns around police training and understanding of mental health; and mixed experiences of police encounters during mental health responses. Together, these findings suggest that mental health crisis response involves complex interactions between healthcare, policing and members of the public, with uncertainty about roles experienced across the different groups involved.

2. *Paul Gavin* - Exit, Voice, and An Garda Siochana: What Police Officers Exit Interviews Tell Us

Police forces are currently in the midst of a recruitment and retention crisis. The policing role is now often associated with burnout, poor levels of mental health and wellbeing and psychological distress. These factors are undoubtedly playing a role in this recruitment and retention crisis. Exit interviews can advance our understanding of why people are leaving. In Ireland, An Garda Siochana has recently started to undertake exit interviews for those members who resign from the police. In 2023 the Irish policing union, The Garda Representative Association, undertook interviews with 40 former members of An Garda Siochana. The purpose of the research was to explore why members of the police force were resigning and the various issues that impacted on their decision to do so. Our talk will present these findings and consider them against recently published research examining the mental health and wellbeing of members of An Garda Siochana.

3. *Sophia Carey* - The Policing and Community Safety Authority – A new approach to Policing Oversight in Ireland

The Policing and Community Safety Authority (PCSA) was established in 2025, merging two existing bodies (the Policing Authority and the Garda Síochána Inspectorate) to combine performance assessment and inspection powers in a single agency.

The establishment gave effect to the vision of the Commission on the Future of Policing in Ireland for a wide range of reforms to the national framework for policing, security and community safety. There are a number of other new bodies and structures in the community safety arena, including local community safety partnerships, designed to build multi agency community safety initiatives.

The literature on independent civilian oversight has primarily focused on bodies with a remit around complaints and misconduct, with lesser attention on oversight of the delivery of services. The PCSA appears to be unique in Europe in having both inspection and oversight of policing services on a national basis.

This presentation aims to provide an overview of the organisation, its structure, and statutory remit; how it carries out its functions, in particular through extensive engagement with frontline police personnel and communities working in a transparent open and accountable manner; and opportunities and challenges of the new organisation.

4. *Matt Bowden* - Security production as social and cultural capital: Civil society under the post-conflict radar

The production and governance of security is now regarded as taking place in a pluralistic field involving a combination of state, market and civil actors. This has been variously described as nodal security governance, networked security and plural policing but each plays out on a relational field, where the role of agents are only partly recognised and acknowledged. State-market relations are partly resolved and institutionalised through regulation. Who has primacy in security production remains a contentious area, especially in respect to the role played by civil society. In the context of the settlement of conflict on the island of Ireland, the role of civil society became critical to the vision of a stable democratic order alongside, inter alia, the reform of policing institutions. This paper draws from the concept of everyday security which can be defined as experiences of security beyond the formal institutions of the state that involves space, emotion and practice. Findings from a two-year study will be presented to reveal the depth and scale of security production within civil society. The study found that civil society and state co-production produces social capital as networked goodwill and cultural capital as collective knowledge alongside webs of relationships. However the capital gained from such practices by civil society dissipates and often countered as it buttresses against statist capital; and can return to a negative value as operational decisions run counter to the gains from shared knowledge and practice.

Panel 18: Media, Algorithms, and the Production of Harm

1. *Louise Concannon* - The unheard women: An overview of content and a thematic analysis of media reporting on Femicide cases in Ireland between 2004 and 2024

The Media play a pivotal role in how femicide is understood and perceived within society. This research outlines how Irish media framed femicide cases between 2004 and 2024. Worldwide research around femicide highlight significant issues in how data is captured with no clear structured mechanisms. Feminist criminology conceptualize femicide as a direct product of imbalanced gendered power relations, citing patriarchy as the process that normalises violence against women and girls (VAWAG). The research takes an all-island approach and has identified 286 cases of femicide in Ireland (North and South) with no mention the term femicide in any article. Almost half of all cases an intimate partner was the perpetrator, with 72% of cases occurring in the victim's home. The Irish media play an intrinsic role in driving patriarchal ideologies in relation to VAWAG. Media reporting in Ireland often sensationalises, spreads misinformation, and engages in victim blaming. Reporting and appropriately defining VAWAG is sporadic and highlights a lack of clear framework in creating societal awareness around VAWAG as a continuum.

2. *Fiona McGarry* - True crime key art and the spectral female victim

This paper proposes to explore how visual iconography used to promote contemporary true crime content can render female victims spectral, and condemn them to haunt their own stories.

It would focus on artwork associated with selected audiovisual content on the Sophie Toscan du Plantier case.

This year marks the 30th anniversary of the unsolved murder of the Parisienne at her holiday home in West Cork. Regarded as Ireland's most famous crimes, the murder set in train a decades-long confrontation between the justice systems of Ireland and France. In the last decade, the case has inspired a raft of long-form tellings on multiple platforms - attracting podcasters, documentarians, journalists, a feature film maker and social media content creators.

Alongside these stories - and acting as promotional and navigational para-texts - key art and visual thumbnails have proliferated across diverse platforms from Audible to Netflix and YouTube. These images, I contend, constitute a key facet of the contemporary visual iconography around Sophie's case and contribute to the spectrality of this female murder victim.

Applying Kress and Van Leeuwen's visual grammar (1996, 2006, 2021), I will examine how cinema posters, key art and other thumbnails - some of them algorithmically generated - contribute to the phenomenon whereby the female victim, denied justice and resolution, is condemned to haunt her own story.

3. *Kara Hosford - Algorithmic Tokenism and Proxy Radicalization: A Criminological Analysis of Intragroup Marginalization on YouTube*

Social media algorithms function as potent delivery mechanisms for ideological harm, transforming engagement-based architectures into vectors for systemic victimisation. This paper examines conservative LGBT content creators propagating anti-trans moral panics, a dynamic conceptualised through the criminological lens of "identity vouching" (Dagan and Teles, 2015). By weaponising marginalised status, these creators provide cisgender audiences with "social permission" for hostility, mitigating the stigma of bigotry via proxy amplification.

Drawing upon Bandura's adaption of Social Learning Theory within a digital age, this research argues that YouTube's recommendation engines inherently incentivise intragroup marginalisation. By rewarding "affective stickiness" with visibility and financial viability, platforms institutionalise tokenisation that catalyses systemic harm (Tufekci, 2018). Methodologically, the study employs taxonomic content analysis of video transcripts to categorise linguistic tactics and OSINT-derived narratives used to evade automated moderation.

The resulting taxonomy attempts to isolate radicalization funnels, including the manufactured schism between sexual orientation and gender identity and the strategic deployment of "child protection" and "Women's rights" tropes. This study demonstrates how creators exploit algorithmic blind spots to bridge transphobia with broader extremist movements. Viewed through Coehn and Felson's (1979) Routine Activity Theory, the absence of capable guardianship through platform policy and the limitations of policy such as Ireland's Online Safety and Media Regulation Act leaves trans and gender diverse communities vulnerable to stochastic terrorism. Ultimately, this paper posits that algorithmic tokenisation acts as an active structural catalyst for real-world harm, necessitating urgent intervention from regulatory bodies.

4. *Joseph Patrick McAulay - Reject Modernity – Accept Tartaria: Pseudo-History as Reactionary Social Critique in Online Extremist Conspiracist Communities.*

In recent years conspiracy theories have returned to prominence across the world, inspiring discord and sometimes even violence in their wake. This has prompted criminologists to begin to examine the impact of conspiracy theories on issues of crime justice, and harm. One of the more perplexing trends in the online conspiracist scene is the emergence of a strange pseudo-historical conspiracy theory known as the Tartarian Hypothesis. This states that most of known history has been falsified in order to hide the existence of an advanced utopian society known as Tartaria. Despite its absurdity the theory has developed a viral popularity and spread across the internet, penetrating deep into conspiracist communities of all stripes. In this paper, drawing on a netnographic immersion in online conspiracist spaces, I will attempt to explain the popularity of the

Tartarian conspiracy theory by demonstrating that it is not the first popular pseudo-historical conspiracy theory and noting that these theories have a troubling connection with Far-Right extremists. In the same way, Tartaria is already being appropriated by white nationalists as a means of critiquing a modern world that is seen to be decadent, fallen, and corrupt, and to call for a return to an imagined utopian past. In this way, the paper argues that criminologists must pay attention to the far-fringes of online occultic thought, as it is in these cultic milieus that the fantastical seeds of reactionary extremism germinate, and may soon produce dangerous fruits.

Panel 19: #MeToo and Criminal Justice: Sexual Violence and Reform

1. *Kim McLoughlin - Beyond the Hashtag: Assessing the #MeToo Movement's Impact on Irish Criminal Justice Responses*

The #MeToo movement represents a global reckoning with sexual violence, reshaping public consciousness and highlighting pervasiveness through collective disclosure. While #MeToo is often understood primarily as a cultural and social movement, it also raises important questions about how institutions respond to sexual harm, survivors' position and experiences within the criminal justice system, and how public discourse can shape responses and reform. This paper investigates an under-explored area: the intersection of the #MeToo movement and the Irish criminal justice system, with a particular focus on whether the movement has catalysed shifts in responses to sexual violence.

Drawing on a critical review of the academic literature, along with an analysis of policy sources, this paper considers #MeToo's possible significance for criminal justice reform. In doing so, the paper situates these considerations within an ongoing doctoral project and uses them to establish a conceptual framework drawing on feminist standpoint theory and feminist legal theory to guide later empirical phases of the research.

Finally, the paper concludes that #MeToo should be understood not only as a social movement but also as a powerful amplifier of pre-existing reform pressures, exposing the gap between formal legal mechanisms and the lived experiences of survivors seeking justice through such mechanisms. In doing so, it contributes to criminological and socio-legal debate on sexual violence, criminal justice reform, and the evolving relationship between social movements and the law.

2. *Sinead Meade - Rape Myths as Epistemic Injustice and Misogyny: A Case Study of Online Discourse in Response to Sexual Violence-related Media Reporting in Ireland.*

This qualitative case study investigated publicly available online discourse in response to sexual violence-related media reporting in Ireland. Drawing on a sample of these comments and replies, a content analysis identified five rape myths that align with Lonsway's (1999) Illinois Rape Myth Acceptance Scale. An additional rape myth was

identified from the data. It centred on the belief expressed by some users that the victim's case was financially motivated. Of the users who posted comments related to rape myths, approximately one third posted comments that suggest they accepted rape myths, most frequently claiming that they believe that the victim lied. In contrast, over half of users disagreed with rape myths, most frequently claiming that they believe that the victim did not lie. A thematic analysis of the data suggests that rape myths functioned as forms of epistemic injustice and misogyny, underpinned by belief in a just world, and served to protect patriarchal social norms. Testimonial injustice was evident in prejudices against the victim's identity-based characteristics. Hermeneutical injustice reflected a lack of understanding of how rape applies to lived experience despite awareness of its legal definition. However, some users engaged in critical reflection on these narratives and the implications of the case for victims of sexual violence. This study indicates potential for increased awareness and critical engagement in online spaces.

3. *Richelle Ready* - Experiences of Persons Reporting Sexual Assault in a Canadian Prairies City

This presentation offers analysis of the experiences of Crown Attorneys prosecuting all cases of sexual violence perpetrated on persons aged twelve and over that were reported to police services in a mid-sized Canadian city for 2015 to 2016 and for 2018 to 2019. Sexual violence is associated with one of the largest dark figures of crime of all violent crimes and is underreported to the criminal justice system (Canadian Women's Foundation, 2022). In fall 2017, following the exposure of sexual abuse allegations against Harvey Weinstein, the phrase "Me Too" began to be used as a hashtag and a social movement to bring attention to the magnitude of sexual violence (Burke, 2021). This study is the first of its kind in Canada, with access to all reported cases of sexual violence to police services for monitoring of their attrition, as well as the ability to compare prosecution of sexual violence in 2015 and 2016 to prosecution of sexual violence in 2018 and 2019, immediately following the "Me Too" Movement. This presentation will explore the impact of the #MeToo Movement on prosecuting sexual assault cases, understanding of trauma-informed care and survivor-focused prosecutions from the perspective of Crown Attorneys, prosecuting sexual assault cases following the #MeToo Movement. The ongoing perpetuation of sexual violence within the Canadian, and global, context, indicates the need for survivor-focused and trauma-informed care and asks the question: Did the #MeToo Movement make a difference for the prosecution of sexual violence?

Panel 20: Researching Criminology and Lived Experience

1. *Robert Cullen* - Governing 'Lived Experience' in Criminal Justice: The Management of Critique in Penal Policy Participation

'Lived experience' has become a central legitimating device within contemporary criminal justice reform, shaping participation across policy, advocacy, and service design. Despite its growing prominence, the concept often remains under-theorised (McIntosh and Wright, 2019). Drawing on a Foucauldian documentary analysis of twenty-four policy and practice guidance documents produced by government bodies, NGOs, and criminal justice organisations, this paper examines how 'lived experience' is defined, mobilised, and governed within penal policy participation.

The analysis is further informed by reflexive insights from a co-author repeatedly positioned within institutional 'lived experience' spaces on the basis of his experience of imprisonment. Across the documents, engagement with 'lived experience' is frequently treated as an end in itself, with limited clarity about what it is understood to be or what it is expected to achieve. We show that institutional engagements with 'lived experience' often individualise and responsabilise contributors, shifting the burden of change away from penal institutions and onto subjects themselves.

We characterise this dominant orientation as 'Lived Experience Talk' (LET), in which participation functions as a marker of inclusion and responsiveness while remaining weakly connected to structural transformation within criminal justice systems. By analysing guidance documents as technologies of governance, and placing them in dialogue with positionally informed insight, the paper demonstrates how institutional incorporations of 'lived experience' can absorb and manage critique while sustaining penal legitimacy. The paper concludes by reflecting on the analytic and political implications of approaching 'lived experience' as a dialogical, rather than self-evident, form of knowledge.

2. *Thomas Joyce* - The Future of Irish Criminology: Theoretically Grounded, Data Driven, Innovative Research that Contributes to the Fight against Crime

Criminology in Ireland is limited in scope. Typically, most research focuses on penology and criminal justice. Theory is applied sparingly. Large-scale quantitative studies are rare. Such limitations restrict our capacities as scholars, supporters of law enforcement, and contributors to the public debate. This research presents the extent of this problem through: 1) a bibliometric analysis of all research publications in the field of criminology from Universities; and 2) a study of published correlated crime data, between the 2000 and 2025 on the island. The results show that there are serious gaps within criminology in Ireland: many crime types are not being addressed, we do not typically employ theoretical

analysis, and data sources tend towards small samples and qualitative methodologies. Recommendations are made to encourage researchers to expand their research goals and approaches in order to increase the impact of criminological research at home and abroad.

3. *Paul Gavin - Walking through The Troubles: Mobile Criminology as a teaching and learning tool*

In March 2026 the authors brought six students from UWE Bristol to Northern Ireland to learn about The Troubles through a criminological lens. Using Mobile Criminology (O'Neill et al., 2020) as a teaching and learning tool, students were on a series of guided walking and taxi tours in Belfast and Derry over the course of five days to learn about the history of The Troubles, its relationship with criminology through interaction with subjects like terrorism, policing, human rights, penology, as well as peacebuilding and post-conflict societies. This also reinforced the notion that criminology serves as a rendezvous discipline as students learned about history, politics and the legal system in and how it impacted (and still impacts) on life in Northern Ireland. This innovative and immersive approach to teaching and learning enabled students to engage with space, place, and memory in ways that traditional classroom methods cannot fully replicate. We argue that such pedagogical tools should be built into criminology courses to serve as a valuable source of teaching and learning and potentially for research purposes.

4. *Ciara Molloy - Folk devils and flower power: constructing the hippie counterculture in Ireland, 1967-72*

This paper examines the social construction of the hippie counterculture in Ireland during the period 1967-72. Based on original archival research, it outlines three main phases in this construction, namely sensitization, mobilization and diversification. International developments sensitized the Irish press to align the hippies with drug abuse, violence and murder. The emergence of a commune on Dorinish Island, Co. Mayo, sparked the mobilization of moral entrepreneurs such as the Irish Countrywomen's Association who attempted to frame the hippies as folk devils. The hippies, however, diversified social knowledge by effectively offering resistance to hostile reactions. The final section considers the extent to which the counterculture in Ireland may be regarded as distinctive. It argues that the absence of mobilization by the Catholic Church and the presence of colonial discourses grounded in Ireland's historical relationship with Britain emerge as notable features. Overall, this paper makes important empirical contributions by offering new insights from a jurisdiction whose experiences of the counterculture have been largely overlooked. It also contributes conceptual insights into how folk devils are constructed from various vantage points and rooted in specific historical contexts.

Roundtable 21: How can I help the people who my research affects? A stakeholder analysis training for early career academics and justice sector researchers

Participants: Ian Marder, researchers, practitioners

A stakeholder analysis training for early career academics and justice sector researchers - Government and academic research is most likely to benefit society when we identify the needs of those most affected by our work and seek their input on its design and dissemination early on in the research process. A recent Training Needs Analysis for criminology PhD students in Ireland found that 70% of respondents wished to receive training on how to plan and design research in ways that navigate the potential positive social impact. This roundtable proposal is for a practical session, aimed primarily at early career researchers in both academia and the justice sector. The session introduces the Stakeholder Analysis Matrix, a practical tool which researchers working in any setting can use to consider who is affected by their work, and prioritise and plan engagement based on interest, influence and ethical considerations. We will discuss recent work by Jensen et al. (2025) outlining a framework for the ethics of engagement and impact for researchers and their institutions. This session will support participants to develop a practical and value-led approach to research co-creation, dissemination and translation.