

# Restorative justice and the criminal courts: Developments and possibilities in Scotland, Belgium and Beyond

Tuesday 4 May 2021

## The 3rd Seminar of the Scottish Network of Restorative Justice Researchers

1pm-4pm BST / 2-5pm CEST

This event will be held online via ZOOM (due to the current pandemic)

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The Scottish Network of Restorative Justice Researchers, with the support of the Scottish Centre for Crime and Justice Research, are running an international online seminar on Restorative Justice and the Criminal Courts.

The seminar focuses on developments and possibilities in Scotland, Belgium and beyond

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1pm Welcome and introductions

1:10pm Prof Ivo Aertsen

1:50pm Judge Luc Potargent

2:30pm BREAK

2:40pm Sheriff David Mackie

3:20pm Sheriff Alistair Duff

3:55pm Closing remarks

4pm END

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The event is free but registration is mandatory.

Only those that register will receive the Zoom link.

Please register by completing the online [registration form](#)  
Registration will close on Thursday 29th April

For any queries or further information please contact:  
Jenny Johnstone  
Jenny.Johnstone@newcastle.ac.uk

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**Prof Ivo Aertsen: A general framework for the role of the courts in restorative justice**

Prof Aertsen will draw some general lines and provide some contextualisation of the possible role of the courts in restorative justice practices. Why would the court invest in restorative justice and how could its role fit into a conception of sanctioning practices in general and restorative justice in particular? What precisely are the roles of judges and other judicial actors involved in restorative justice processes? What are the benefits for, and the limits of, the court system, and under which conditions can courts operate and cooperate with restorative justice programmes while fully respecting restorative justice values and principles?

Ivo Aertsen is Emeritus Professor of Criminology at the University of Leuven, Belgium. He is actively involved in restorative justice research and practices at the local, European and international level, and is leading The International Journal of Restorative Justice as one of the two Editors.

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**Judge Luc Potargent: Restorative justice and the court in Antwerp (Belgium)**

Judge Luc Potargent will speak about the project JOK-chamber (youth follow-up room), which they recently started in the court of Antwerp. This specific criminal chamber will closely monitor young criminals. As part of this project, they are also trying to establish a dialogue between the victim and the offender.

Luc Potargent, president of division of the court of first instance Antwerp. Criminal judge and Coordinator of the JOK-chamber (youth follow-up room)

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**Sheriff David Mackie: Developing restorative justice in the context of Scottish courts**

Sheriff David Mackie will address the subject of restorative justice from the perspective of practitioners and practice within the Scottish Criminal Justice system. He will discuss how a meaningful restorative justice process for both victims and perpetrators of crime might be introduced by building upon the existing framework for community-based disposals arguing that restorative principles already underpin much of Scottish Government policy toward criminal justice and the regime around Community Payback Orders.

David Mackie was in private practice both as a Solicitor and an Advocate before his appointment as a Sheriff. For fifteen years he was the resident Sheriff in Alloa. Now retired, he continues charity work in which he was previously involved and a little teaching.

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**Sheriff Alistair Duff: Reflections on the potential for restorative justice in relation to Scottish courts**

Sheriff Alistair Duff will provide reflections on the presentations and commentary on the potential challenges and possible ways forward for restorative justice in relation to Scottish criminal courts.

Alistair Duff was appointed as sheriff in 2004, sitting in Dundee. Since 2011 he has been involved in judicial training and is now Director of the Judicial Institute for Scotland which provides training to Scottish judges.