

Guest talk: From Prison to University

Overview: Breaking the cycle of re-offending

This session features a guest speaker sharing their story from prison to reconnecting with education and becoming a self-published author. The talk will start by explaining how early signs of deviance, such as school truancy, could be seen starting from the age of 15. This developed as a result of poor schooling and a lack of parental guidance due to his parents' divorce, which significantly impacted his education and self-esteem. At the age of 20, and only two years after leaving the army, the speaker was sent to HMP Durham for robbery, where he then experienced the transition from the Young Prisoner (YP) wing to the adult estate within the same prison, which highlighted the certain level of protection on the YP wing that was suddenly no longer there. The talk will also discuss the traditional prison regime during the days of 'slopping out' and the dehumanising prison routine and structure predating the Strangeways riots in 1990. This period is significant because within a decade, the prison riots lashed out at this degrading treatment, which then led to the Woolf report in 1991. The individual was thrust into the prison system at 20 but also reconnected with education in prison following their failed schooling during earlier years.

Class Resources Required: Access to internet-enabled computer.

Class Resources Required: None

Proposed Session Plan:

Learning Objectives	Learning Activities
<p>By the end of the guest talk, students will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gain an insight into some historical anecdotes of imprisonment from the 80s and 90s. 	<p>Breaking the cycle of re-offending</p> <p>Introduction and background information will be presented to students and a recap on the previous workshop that was presented to the previous cohort.</p> <p>After a 10-year break from study I returned to university following the publication of my self-published, autobiography <i>Never Ending Circles</i> which was inspired by the aftermath of the 2011</p>

- Understand the challenges of imprisonment, criminal records and power of education.
- Be able to make connections between criminological, psychological and sociological theories and real-life stories.
- Understand the challenges of reintegrating back into society with a criminal record.
- Students will learn about criminological theories including:
 - Desistance
 - Labelling
 - Stigmatisation
 - Re-integrated shaming
 - Strain theory
 - Subcultural theory

Students will gain lived experience insight about the transformative power of education.

London riots. My book led to an ongoing career as a guest speaker and visiting lecturer on the university circuit. I have since become well known in criminology circles as a convict criminologist which is a branch of criminology consisting of individuals who have first-hand experience of prison and the wider criminal justice system and who have since become academics. I have published extensively on my own lived experiences and of others with similar experiences in relation to my expertise of desistance theory. One of my most recent publications is a short monograph *The Ambiguities of Desistance: Ex-offenders, Higher Education and the Desistance Journey*.

Students will be encouraged to make connections to the workshop based on a real case study (myself)

- Youth crime and how it all began? Deviance and criminality as a youth offender.
- The dangers of carrying knives
- Experiences of being in youth custody.
- How probation was an essential part of my rehabilitation
- What were the key challenges for both the probation officer and myself?

I will discuss my life trajectory while making links through the lens of my own lived experience as an ex-soldier, ex-prisoner and someone who has experienced mental health issues. This talk will provide insight into the ways in which young men can slide into a cycle of substance misuse, crime and hopelessness. As an academic and researcher, I will share how a successful and fulfilling life after imprisonment is possible.

Recap and review learning in the session and link to objectives/Q & A