

Biographies



Marianne Fuglestved has a master degree in psychology from the University of Copenhagen (1991) and she is a specialist in clinical sexology and psychotherapy. For the past 7 years she has been working as RNR-consultant in the Directorate of the Danish Prison and Probation Service. She is responsible for ensuring evidence based approaches in community supervision and prison through implementing RNR based practices. She is engaged in organisational change, development of RNR-supervision model, RNR-based correctional programs and in training probation officers and managers in evidence based practice. Her study field and previous work experience has mainly been connected to psychological/psychiatric treatment of psychiatric patients and treatment of sexual offenders, including designing cognitive programs for delinquents in Greenland, and motivational program for sexual offenders in prison settings. Since March 2019, she has been appointed scientific expert to the PC-CP (Council for Penological Co-operation, Council of Europe).



Nicholas Blagden is an Associate Professor in Forensic Psychology, a co-founder and trustee of the Safer Living Foundation - charity which reintegrates men with sexual convictions into the community, Chartered Psychologist and Co-Head of the Sexual Offences Crime and Misconduct Research Unit (SOCAMRU). He has worked and researched within criminal justice and prison settings for over 10 years. He has taught undergraduate and postgraduate courses in psychology, forensic psychology and criminology. He has also trained police officers. His work has been funded by the Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS) and he is currently engaged in numerous collaborative forensic projects with NTU, HMPPS, Institute for Mental Health, Canada and Correctional Services Australia. He sits on NOTA's policy and practice committee. He has led programme evaluations, authored numerous books and book chapters, has a track record of high quality and impactful research and disseminated his work widely in international journals and conferences.



Kieran McCartan (Professor) has a track record of public, academic and professional engagement on criminological issues, including the origins and causes of sex offending, and societal responses to sex offenders. He has developed a wide-ranging, multi-disciplinary network around sex offender management and reintegration. He has experience of qualitative, quantitative and mixed-method research from several funders. He has previously co-lead a nationally based ESRC funded Knowledge Exchange Network on the limited disclosure of sex offender information (2012) and an international Leverhulme Trust-funded network on sex offender management (2014-16). He is currently involved in a Council of Europe project examining, and developing recommendations, around the assessment, management, and integration of people who have committed sexual offenses (2019-ongoing). Prof. McCartan is the international representative on the Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers board, the Conference Chair of National Organization for the Treatment of Abuse, a member of the Confederation of European Probation working group on sexual offenses, a member of the ethics committee of Brave hearts and is a member of the International Working Group for the Prevention of Online Sex Offending. Prof. McCartan has advised the Council of Europe, New Zealand Police, Bravehearts as well as Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, Australia. Prof. McCartan has a number of academic outputs, including 105+ academic publications and 130+ blogs; he has generated over 1/2 million pounds in external research funding, has given 175+ external presentations, and has taken part in 40+ media interviews nationally as well as internationally.



Hannah Merdian is an Associate Professor in Psychology at the University of Lincoln, completed her degrees at the University of Wuerzburg (Germany) and Waikato (New Zealand). Her research is focused on enhancing professional practice, including psychological assessment and case formulation, with a specific focus on child protection issues. This work is embedded in classical test-theory and the Scientist-Practitioner Model, with a specific interest in the analysis of "real life" data. Together with Professor Derek Perkins, she is co-lead of online PROTECT [Pathways of Risk and Offender Typologies in the Exploitation of Children through Technology], a research and consultation programme on online child protection. For more details, visit www.onlineprotect.org.uk. Dr. Merdian is a founding member of the International Workgroup for Best Practice in the Management of Online Sex Offending (IWG), dedicated to facilitate the development and dissemination of a framework for evidence-led practice in the management of online sex offending behaviour.



Vincent Mercer is the Restorative Practice Lead for the AIM Project (www.aimproject.org.uk). This Project has developed pioneering restorative practice in cases of child and adolescent Harmful Sexual Behaviour (HSB). He is trained and experienced serious case mediator, restorative conference facilitator and family group conference facilitator. He ran the Greater Manchester FGC Project (Family Group Conference) dealing with adolescents who had committed serious offences. Vince has extensive experience of training on Restorative Practice and Harmful Sexual Behaviour both within the UK and Europe. He is the author of the recently revised AIM Best Practice Guidance for Restorative Practice in HSB cases, which outlines in detail the AIM Project approach and the AIM RP Assessment framework for HSB cases. Additionally Vince is the co-author of the European Forum for Restorative Justice's Best Practice Guide for Restorative Practice in Cases of Sexual Violence.



Kristel Buntinx studied Criminology and Law at the Catholic University of Leuven in Belgium. She works nineteen years as a victim-offender mediator for a non-profit organization 'Moderator' (previously known as 'Suggnomé') in Belgium. Moderator is recognized and gets funding by the government as the umbrella and forum organization for victim-offender mediation for adults in the Flemish part of Belgium. She started in 2001 as a mediator in the stage of execution of punishment, in almost all prisons in the Flemish part of Belgium. Since 2008 she has also experience with mediation before trial. She has 19 years of experience in serious cases as homicide, murder, armed robbery and sexual violence. She did a few hundred face-to-face meetings in those serious cases. Kristel also gives classes, "Restorative Justice and victim-offender mediation", to the students of the Criminology Master programme and Law Master programme at KU Leuven and is a senior trainer in restorative justice practices.