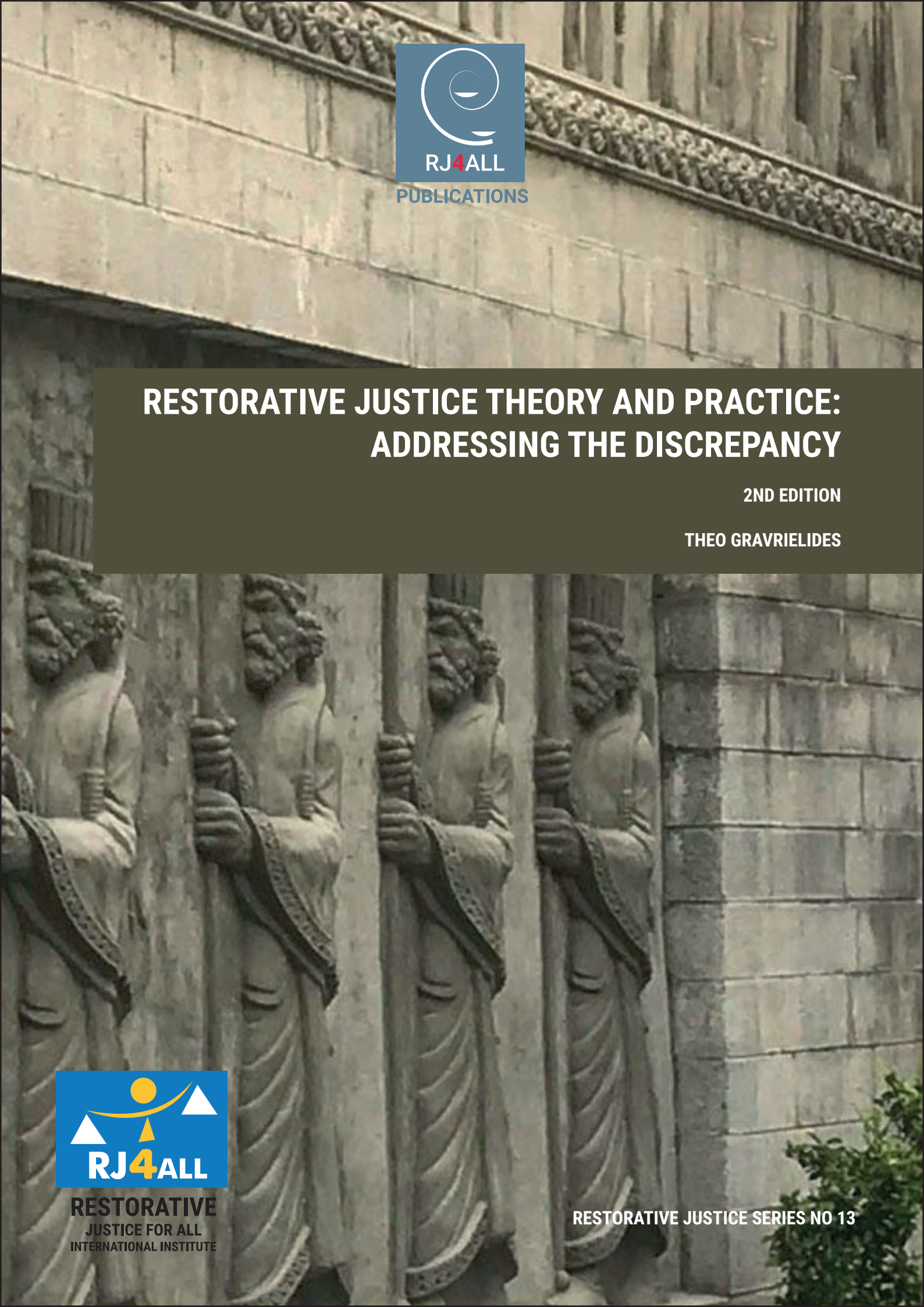

RJ4ALL
PUBLICATIONS

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE THEORY AND PRACTICE: ADDRESSING THE DISCREPANCY

2ND EDITION

THEO GRAVRIELIDES

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE SERIES NO 13

RJ4ALL
RESTORATIVE
JUSTICE FOR ALL
INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE

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The Restorative Justice for All (RJ4All) International Institute is an international NGO with a mission to advance community and social cohesion at the local, national and international levels. Through our programmes, we redistribute power in society using the values and practices of restorative justice.

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[FOREWORD]

The underlying assumption of the current criminal justice system is that criminal conflicts are matters of public interest, and hence they should be aired and managed in a manner that brings 'just deserts'. Although some may argue that there is nothing wrong with this philosophy per se, factors such as court caseload, discrimination, rising costs and high recidivism rates often shift the focus of the criminal justice system from delivering justice to 'processing cases'. This type of justice disregards the needs of victims, while it pays little attention to offenders' reintegration.

It is easy to assume that retribution has always been the underlying philosophy of criminal justice systems worldwide, whether adversarial or inquisitorial. Historians would argue against such assumption (Gavrielides, 2011). One attempt to bring a fresh approach to the way we view and deal with antisocial behaviour is reflected in the writings and practices of reformers from around the world who in the 1970s wished to introduce a new model of criminal justice called restorative justice.

Since then, restorative justice has caused a phenomenon of global interest stemming from a number of stakeholders both within and outside the criminal justice system. The hard work of passionate and dedicated practitioners is to be credited for this success. In the shadow of the law and with little or no financial or state support they make restorative justice an available option to those who seek it. Their views, fears and needs, however, are rarely recorded by the literature.

On the other hand, the pace in which different theoretical claims and normative aspirations have been generated to support restorative justice practices has been unprecedented. However, the application of restorative justice does not seem to catch up with these promises. Many practitioners in the field fear that the extant literature might not be in accordance – or at least at the same speed – with the practical development of the restorative notion. More importantly, they seem to pay none, or little attention to their alarming warnings as they become increasingly concerned about a developing gap between the well-intended normative understandings of restorative justice and its actual implementation (Gavrielides, 2013).

This is the second edition of this book, which was written to give the opportunity to restorative justice practitioners to identify problems that they face during implementation and which could help understand the gap that appears to exist between the theoretical and practical development of restorative justice. Since the publication of the first book's edition by HEUNI, the gap between the theory and practice of restorative justice has widened. This is not a mere claim. The argument is reflected in the recent literature as well as the concerns that many victims, practitioners and users of the criminal justice system have expressed to governments and funding bodies independently of location (Gavrielides, 2007).

To this end four original surveys were carried out through a combination of various qualitative methodologies. Over a period of seven years, this study aimed to understand the alleged gap by unravelling its implications for practice and the future development of restorative justice. The research aimed at producing evidence that would benefit the wider restorative movement and hence it avoided focusing on any particular criminal justice system. Practitioners from around the world kindly offered their expertise by responding to long questionnaires, attending interviews and focus groups and by giving detailed feedback on early drafts of this book.

While carrying out the research, I witnessed a power-interest battle within the restorative movement, which included not only different professionals (e.g. practitioners vs theoreticians), but also types of practices (e.g. mediation vs family group conferencing) as well as fundamental restorative justice principles (e.g. voluntariness vs coercion). Although constructive debates are always essential for the advancement of criminal justice doctrines, it is my conclusion that if the restorative movement does not restore its own power struggles, the consequences will be severe. This book collects some evidence that bears evidence to this claim and posits recommendations on how to reconcile our different views and practices as 'restorativists'.

Restorative justice was reborn not out of formal structures and legislation, but of voluntary action by enthusiastic and dedicated practitioners from around the world. As the restorative tradition is now expanding to deal with crimes, ages and situations that it has never addressed before and as it starts to make sense in national, and also regional and international fora, the responsibilities of both restorative justice practitioners and academics redouble. Bridges must be built in order to synthesise. The tensions characterising the field have to congeal to create a stable platform. Awareness must be increased both at the macro and micro level. This book aspires to respond to this urgent need.

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE THEORY AND PRACTICE: WHAT IS THE PROBLEM?

[Katy Hutchison remembers a magical evening, celebrating the last few hours of 1997 with her husband, Bob McIntosh, and a few close friends at their home. "At one point, I looked around the room at everyone and I thought: There is no place on earth I would rather be at that particular moment", Ms. Hutchison recalls. As midnight neared, however, Mr. McIntosh became worried about a rowdy house party down the road where he knew the owners were away. He went over with a few of their guests to try to calm things down. "They walked out the door and that was the last time I ever saw Bob," Ms. Hutchison told a rapt audience of 500 high-school students… Mr. McIntosh was killed during a sudden, savage assault by two local intoxicated 19-year-olds. Resenting his suggestion that they close the party down, one knocked him out with a single punch. The other man, Ryan Aldridge, delivered five fierce kicks to his head. An artery to Mr. McIntosh's brain was severed and within minutes, he was dead, leaving Ms. Hutchison and their four-year-old twins. In the spring of 2002, Mr. Aldridge admitted his involvement to an undercover agent, and was arrested. He refused to repeat his confession, however, until police played a tape from Ms. Hutchison imploring him to accept what he did and seek forgiveness. There have been too many tears shed since for anyone to doubt Mr. Aldridge's sincerity… The two have met twice face-to-face. He has consistently expressed deep remorse over his actions. Ms. Hutchison calls their first encounter the most intense human experience of her life. Last month, she spent five hours with Mr. Aldridge…reporting happily that there was "a twinkle in his eye" when he was not overcome by the guilt and regret still ruling his emotions. "There was a salvageable person who wanted to move ahead with his life and who was remorseful," Ms. Hutchison said. Mr. Aldridge is now serving a five-year term for manslaughter and hardly a day goes by when Ms. Hutchison does not think about him and wonder how he is doing. He is almost part of the family. At a recent meal, she wondered what Mr. Aldridge was eating in prison. Her second husband likes to joke that Mr. Aldridge is his wife's third child.

To critics who question her forgiveness of the man who took her husband's life, Ms. Hutchison said, "Anger is a dead end. We do have choices…I chose to move ahead and I am going to help Ryan move ahead too…Not one thing remained the same for me, except I had two young children and the next morning they wanted Cheerios…I had this feeling I was the only one in control. I thought: how am I not going to make my life about this?" Many in her school audiences are stunned by her compassion. "They can't understand where I am coming from," she said. "But when I look into my children's eyes, I am always reminded that everyone has to be given a chance"][1].

The experience of Ms. Hutchison is an example of a case managed by criminal justice systems around the globe using the ideology of restorative justice (hereafter RJ). Unquestionably, RJ has finally gathered some real momentum. To begin with, it attracted the interest of many reformers and policy makers particularly those working within the voluntary and community sector. RJ also captured the imagination and determination of many dedicated practitioners, who with their personal commitment and hard work made it available in a number of justice systems worldwide. Subsequently, it inspired many academics the writings of whom continue to expand. RJ has now become a top policy area in many national and international agendas. It has been applied and discussed in a variety of contexts throughout the world's legal systems, including educational institutions, interpersonal and organisational conflicts, public disorders and criminal justice cases. This book will focus on the latter.

The writings on RJ's application within the criminal justice context have been numerous and their contribution profound. However, as the restorative practice expands to deal with crimes, ages and situations it has never addressed before, at least in its contemporary version, and as it starts to make sense not only to national, but also to regional and international fora, new questions are posed. The question that this book aims to address is critical for RJ's future development.

IMPETUS FOR THE BOOK

The impetus for this book came from a basic observation. After talking with several practitioners in the RJ field at home and abroad, I observed that despite their many disagreements around a number of issues (such as what constitutes a genuine restorative practice, what the primary RJ principles are or even what RJ really is), there was at least one view that was shared by everyone without exception: the normative restorative concept, as it is currently reflected in the numerous volumes of theoretical and historical writings, is not in accordance with the way RJ is currently applied.

This observation is still valid many years after the first edition of this book. The various problems faced by RJ practitioners do not seem to fit with the impressive literature in the field and the many theories that have been developed on RJ's potential. Many of these writings portray RJ as the new 'big thing' in the policy agendas of our Western societies and the basis for a paradigm change in the way we view and approach criminal justice or even justice. The harsh reality is that RJ practitioners are often left without state support, guidance or coordination, striving to find the means to continue practising. Therefore, their fears and the theoreticians' proclamations of a new criminal justice era do not seem to add up.

Admittedly, it was not until recently that the RJ movement took a step back to attempt a self-critique and evaluate the fast-growing literature on RJ. Some authors even identified the aforementioned discrepancy. This is what came to confirm my fears. For example, many who have been associated with RJ's development from its earliest days now view its growth with a certain degree of suspicion (Braithwaite 1999; Zehr 1989). What triggered their concern was the growing diversity of opinions in what constitutes RJ theory and practice. According to these writings, RJ theory is sometimes stretched to fit elements that are not restorative in nature, whereas, on other occasions, it is narrowed

[1] The case was taken from Mickleburgh 2003. It has attracted the public interest in many countries, and appeared in various versions in newspapers, magazines and online articles e.g. O'Connor; November 17, 2003. Ms. Hutchison, who was contacted by this study, gave her consent for her case to be included in the book.

down to a notion that cannot take in all the essential features that characterise its thought (Walgrave 2001; Zehr and Mika 1998). This also seems to be true for its practice, which is not always founded upon RJ's core principles. Nine years ago, Sullivan, among others, saw these problems and the way RJ is developed as its first "potential step toward [its] demise" (Sullivan et al. 1998, 7). This book examines these fears and provides evidence-based solutions to them.

For example, how is this discrepancy interpreted in practical terms? What does it mean for restorative practices? What are the exact practical areas that are affected by it? Are practitioners aware of the many writings in the field? And if they are, then why are they not using them? How can the normative work be used to overcome this pitfall? What about the RJ standards and principles that have been produced at both national and international levels?

Questions such as the ones above led me to assume that there is a gap between the way RJ's theory and practice have developed since the 1970s. This constituted this book's underlying hypothesis and focus of investigation. This inconsistency concerns not only the different chronological starting points after which the RJ theory and practice re-appeared, but also something far more complex. The hypothesis mainly refers to a discrepancy that seems to exist between the priorities, outcomes and processes of the various practices that are labelled 'restorative justice' and the abstract theoretical norms and principles that constitute RJ's normative and historical notion.

Claims that have been made in the past were never tested with empirical research (Daly and Imarrigeon 1998; Harris 1998; Smith 1998; Sullivan et al. 1998; Zehr and Mika 1998). As a result, they remain either assumptions of various theoretical writings or observations of practitioners that were never validated with the end users. On the other hand, suggestions that were put forward to address them can only be valued as ideas in abstracto. The need for an ad hoc study, which could provide the empirical evidence to test these assertions, was therefore identified. This could reveal the factors that are causing this discrepancy, and identify its practical implications. For the RJ movement to advance and reach its potential, the alleged discrepancies between its theory and practice have to be bridged.

In my writings I have tried to stay objective avoiding to speak for or against RJ. The many writings in the field well cover RJ's advantages and disadvantages in relation to the traditional criminal justice system. Secondly, I do not wish to question the theoretical or philosophical arguments surrounding the validity and ethical legitimacy of RJ's theory or practice2. For the purposes of its research, I accept all these matters a priori and move on to investigate RJ not as an opponent or advocate, but as an outsider appraiser. Thirdly, I will not investigate matters that concern RJ's substance. The various aspects of RJ's content as a theory or as a practice do not constitute the focus of this research. For example, I will not ask questions such as "what are the aims of RJ" or "what are its limits". On the contrary, I will seek to investigate matters such as "are these aims, as they currently appear in the literature, compatible with the goals of practice and vice versa"? "Do RJ theory and practice share the same limits?

To conclude, this book neither tries to sell nor condemn RJ, but rather to identify what has gone wrong with its development so that it can be better used in the future.

I do not believe in any constant or superiority models; nevertheless I do hope that practical ways can be found to advance an RJ orientation. I am particularly sceptical of hasty findings that present RJ to be a fully- fledged criminal justice alternative, disregarding the extant data literature and the evidence which is still accumulating. I also accept that normative accounts can never be fully reflected in practice. Hence, I do not simply aim to observe the space that the alleged gap creates between RJ's theory and practice[2]. It is easier to find disciplines where theory and practice developed inconsistently rather than fields of study where normative values developed in absolute agreement with practices. Therefore, I will ask: "How is this gap understood in practical terms?" "If it is indeed existent, then how is practice affected by it?" "What are the exact areas that have been negatively affected?" "What are the particular factors that seem to be causing them?" "Have these

[2] For a detailed analysis of RJ's philosophical justification see Theo Gavrielides (2005) "Some Meta-theoretical Questions for Restorative Justice", 18:1 Ratio Juris, pp. 84-106. Gavrielides, T. (2013). "Restorative Pain: A new vision of punishment" in Gavrielides, T. and V. Artinopoulou (Ed). *Reconstructing Restorative Justice Philosophy*, Ashgate Publishing: Furnham, UK, 311-337.

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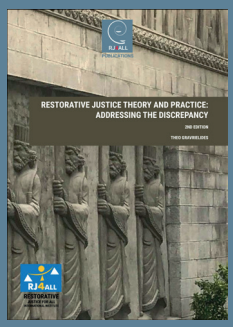


RJ SERIES no 13

Gavrielides, T (2019)

Restorative Justice Theory and Practice: Addressing the Discrepancy, 2nd Edition, London: RJ4All Publications. ISBN 978-1-911634-17-1

This is the 2nd edition of the Restorative Justice Theory & Practice: Addressing the Discrepancy, a ground-breaking book that examines the harmful gap between the restorative justice theory and its application in the U.S., Europe, and internationally. Data were obtained from four international surveys with over 300 restorative justice practitioners, using a combination of qualitative methodologies, including questionnaires, interviews and focus groups. The 2nd edition provides critical updates for restorative justice research, policy and practice.

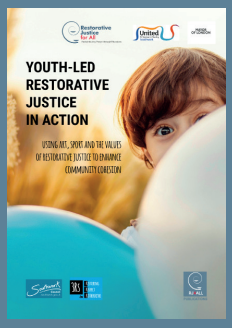
Restorative justice projects strive to restore peace after a crime has been committed by involving victims, offenders and community representatives in dialogue. Previous studies reviewed by Dr. Gavrielides have credited these programmes with such benefits as lower recidivism, and higher levels of satisfaction with outcomes among victims, offenders and community representatives, compared to the traditional criminal justice system. However, the author's seven-year research programme uncovered a pervasive gap between restorative justice principles and current restorative justice operations. This gap is blamed for widespread difficulties such as insufficient funding for restorative justice, inadequate training and accreditation of practitioners, lack of faith and commitment among staff, and a tendency for restorative justice over time to become increasingly similar to the standard criminal justice system. Dr. Gavrielides warns that if these problems are not corrected, the original values and benefits of restorative justice may never be realised.

RJ SERIES no 12

Gavrielides, T et al, (2019)

Conducting youth-led research informing and influencing social policy, London: RJ4All Publications. ISBN 978-1-911634-18-8

This e-book is part of the RJ4All Restorative Justice Series. It also forms part of the RJ4All›s accredited e-course «Conducting youth-led research informing and influencing social policy».
This training manual aims to provide assistance young people and anyone wishing to learn how to conduct youth-led research in order to inform and influence social policy. The e-course is the result of years of working with young people from all walks of life.

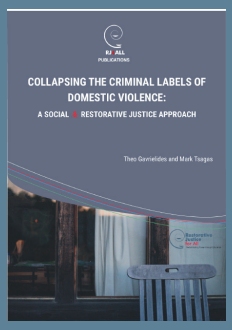


RJ SERIES no 11

Gavrielides, T et al, (2019)

Youth-led restorative justice in action: using art, sport and the values of restorative justice to enhance community cohesion, London: RJ4All Publications. ISBN 978-1-911634-16-4

This e-book presents the work of children and young people who used the values of restorative justice to create and deliver youth-led social action projects that enhanced community cohesion. The two projects were Watersports Youth Matters funded by the Mayor of London and Restore Respect in Rotherhithe funded by the United St. Saviours Charity and Southwark Council. The e-book brings the results of their work to life with the aim of inspiring other children and young people to do the same, and become community leaders in their localities independently of where they are from. The e-book is a live testimony of the value that youth-led social action can bring to community cohesion and it articulates how art, sports, dialogue and restorative justice can be used to empower marginalised groups to become inspirational leaders.

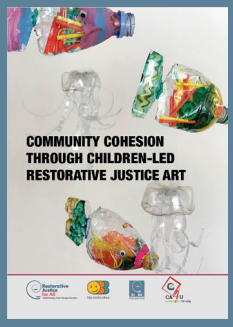


RJ SERIES no 10

Gavrielides, T and Tsagas, M (2019)

Collapsing the Criminal Labels of Domestic Violence: A Social & Restorative Justice Approach, London: RJ4All Publications. ISBN 978-1-911634-15-7

Domestic violence is a pervasive problem that has plagued most societies throughout history; affecting women, men, boys and girls alike, in a myriad of different ways. Typically, how the issue is conceptualised, addressed, resolved hinges greatly on cultural norms, formal and informal practices of conflict resolution and legal frameworks. This ebook addresses the sensitive and controversial topic of using restorative justice in cases of domestic violence. Through an evidence-based manner, it purports to bring forward new insights and reflections acquired through recent fieldwork with victims, offenders and restorative justice practitioners. Most importantly, it makes these firm assertions while recognising the need for caution and without disregarding potential opposing arguments.



RJ SERIES no 9

Laura, D. et al (2019)

Community cohesion through children-led restorative justice art, London: RJ4All Publications.
ISBN 978-1-911634-14-0

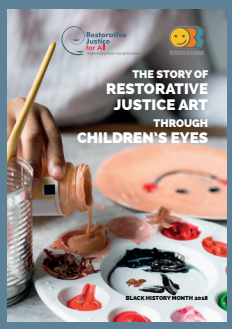
This unique e-book presents the results of the children-led project Culture and Art for Unity (CA4U that was carried out by RJ4All in partnership with Bizzie Bodies from September 2018 until April 2019 giving to 22 children access to art workshops every Friday after school. The project had two objectives in mind. First, to create a fun and educational space for local children who could not afford to attend art classes outside of school, increasing in this way not only their skills, but also their awareness around issues of equality. They were mixed with children of different backgrounds, races, socio economic status and abilities. The second objective was to use their work to get local people to talk. Indeed, one of the key principles of restorative justice is dialogue. Something as innocent and as creative as our children's art became the best prompt for getting parents, teachers, policy makers and local organisations to talk.

RJ SERIES no 8

Gavrielides, T. (2019)

Safeguarding and Empowering Victims: Training manual on restorative justice in the Victims' Directive.
London: RJ4All Publications. ISBN 978-1-911634-09-6

This e-book is part of the RJ4All Restorative Justice Series. It also forms part of the RJ4All›s accredited e-course «Safeguarding and Empowering Victims»
This training manual aims to provide assistance to crime victims and practitioners focusing on safeguards and best practice when implementing restorative justice.
This training handbook has been designed with the following target groups in mind independently of their location. The manual uses the Victims' Directive (Directive 2012/29/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2012 establishing minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of crime, and replacing Council Framework Decision 2001/220/JHA) as its legal and theoretical framework for achieving its objectives.
The manual includes information on the rights of the victim, a definition of restorative justice, case studies illustrating safeguarding issues and a victim assessment guide.

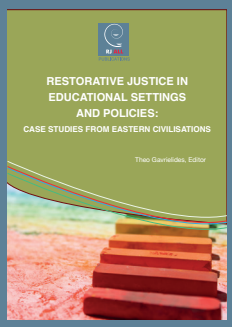


RJ SERIES no 7

Gavrielides, T and et (2018).

The story of restorative justice art through children's eyes, London: RJ4All Publications.
ISBN 978-1-911634-08-9

At RJ4All, we strive for a more cohesive society by distributing power through educational activities, awareness raising and user-led projects. This e-book is the result of our latest "Restorative Art through children's eyes project" leading to a unique exhibition, led by our children. The project falls within our wider partnership programme with local art club, Bizzie Bodies, titled "Culture and Art for Unity" and is supported by Southwark Council as part of Black History Month. The project is founded upon the belief that culture and art can bring people together and encourage community cohesion. We use restorative justice values such as equality, involvement in decision making, inclusion and empowerment, to support our children to lead on the art creation, and through their work increase cultural awareness.

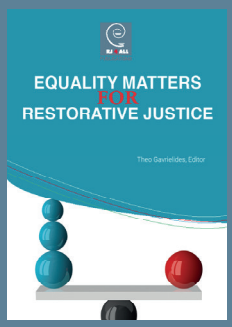


RJ SERIES no 6

Gavrielides, T. and Wong, S.G.D (2019).

Restorative Justice in Educational Settings and Policies: Case studies from Eastern Civilisations, London: RJ4All Publications. ISBN 978-1-911634-07-2. RRP £9.99

Edited by two leading restorative justice scholars from the West and East, this unique book bridges a gap in the literature by bringing together new evidence on the application of restorative practices in educational settings. The book has two aims. First, it builds a bridge between the restorative justice world in the East with that of the West. The volume demonstrates how similar the theoretical and practical experiences are in the two sides of the world. It presents us with evidence of what works in policy, research and practice and allows us to make comparisons for the future. Secondly, the book challenges restorative justice which is often seen through the narrow lenses of the criminal justice system.
"It is arrogant indeed to think that schools in the west have all the answers and we are somehow more advanced in our thinking and practice. The scope of the chapters in this book travails many of the issues that face schools and systems everywhere. This book is highly recommended for anyone practicing, studying or legislating restorative justice in educational settings. Restorative practice is who we are, not what we do!" Margaret Thorsborne, Restorative practitioner, trainer, facilitator and author.



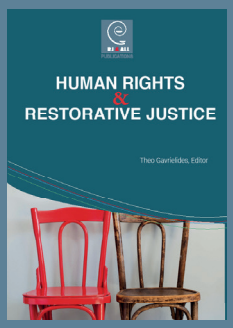
RJ SERIES no 5

Gavrielides, T. (2018)

Equality Matters for Restorative Justice

London: RJ4All Publications. ISBN 978-1-911634-03-4. RRP £9.99

Restorative justice was brought back into the modern world of policy, research and practice in response to a growing disappointment from our criminal justice systems especially in relation to how it treats vulnerable groups such as those experiencing discrimination due to their race, gender, age etc. Therefore, it is surprising why equality hasn't featured more prominently in the restorative justice discourse. This is what the Editor calls the 'paradox of restorative justice', and the battle field where the future of restorative justice will be fought.
This edited collection of papers written by leading equality and restorative justice scholars aims to bring to the restorative justice debate a new dimension that is yet to be explored in its own right. This refers to issues surrounding equality and restorative justice both at the normative and empirical levels. Through an evidence-based approach, case studies from around the world are presented to develop a narrative and a practical tool for considering equality matters when applying or thinking about restorative justice. Particular emphasis was given on gender and domestic violence, Indigenous peoples, gender equality and prisoners.
"This is an important and timely collection... It traverses a great diversity of specific and crucial issues from restorative practices in prisons to deinstitutionalising the stigma of criminal conviction.
Perhaps the single most impressive feature that distinguishes this collection from others on restorative justice is that it corrects the usual focus on North America, Western Europe and the Antipodes with learnings from Central and Southern Europe. Many of these Central European and Mediterranean lessons are profound ones that can greatly enrich the predominantly North Atlantic restorative debate. Professor John Braithwaite, Australian National University.



RJ SERIES no 4

Gavrielides, T. (2018)

Human Rights and Restorative Justice, London: RJ4All Publications. ISBN 978-1-911634-00-3. RRP £9.99

Human rights and restorative justice are rarely brought under the same spotlight despite their normative similarities. This gap becomes even more apparent when put in the context of policy and practice internationally. Firstly, there is a developing gap between public perception and evidence-based depiction of crime. Secondly, scholarly debates are rarely reflected in criminal justice policy and legislation. This failure has an impact on recidivism, the spiralling costs of penal interventions, but most importantly on how we view our interpersonal and intercommunal relationships.
This edited collection of papers written by leading international experts in the fields of restorative justice and human rights aims to address this gap. The tools to achieve this and the role of human rights and restorative justice for personal and community conflicts were researched and tested. Through an evidence-based approach, a narrative and a framework are developed for moving the debate forward on joint human rights – restorative justice approach to conflicts.
"This book is an important contribution to both restorative justice and human rights literature. It develops a conceptual understanding of both that is able to withstand the tensions between the personal (relationships) and the abstract (norms). This collection demonstrates that restorative processes can be effective in producing a just response, repairing harm to victims, holding offenders accountable, and teaching values while recognizing the importance of relationships".
Prof. Daniel Van Ness, Executive Director of the Centre for Justice and Reconciliation, Prison Fellowship International, Adjunct Professor at Pepperdine University

THE INTERNET JOURNAL OF RESTORATIVE JUSTICE (IJRJ™)

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The Internet Journal of Restorative Justice (IJRJ™) is the leading, international peer-reviewed journal on restorative justice. It was established in 2012 to push the boundaries of criminal justice by adopting a unique, practical approach to researching and investigating restorative justice. The IJRJ remains to be the leading, double-blind, peer reviewed international journal that is exclusively focused on restorative justice theory and practice.

THE JOURNAL'S AIMS INCLUDE:

- **Push the barriers of restorative justice**, and challenge conventional approaches to criminology and criminal justice.
- **Enable junior researchers to publish** alongside leading names in restorative justice, and encourage a dialogue between various generations of academics.
- **Increase awareness of restorative justice**, and help address misconceptions about its potential and limitations.
- **Build a strong evidence base for restorative justice**, and inform and influence criminal and restorative justice policy at national and international levels.
- **Enable those with limited resources to access scholarly work on restorative justice**, including students, practitioners and the public.

The journal publishes articles of the highest standard from various areas of expertise including, but not limited, to restorative practices in schools, neighbourhoods, organisations and businesses, family matters and (youth) care, the criminal and juvenile justice systems, prisons and the community. We are also interested in pushing the normative and philosophical boundaries of restorative justice.

The journal is committed to nurturing fresh thinking and innovation. Ultimately, we want to affect positive change and improve the experience and image of justice.

The IJRJ™ is available online via its **website**, **EBSCO** and Kindle store. Institutional and individual subscriptions are available and kindly requested in order to keep the non-profit nature of the publication. The journal is available online only.

It is indexed and ranked by **Kudos**, **The European Reference Index for the Humanities and the Social Sciences** (ERIH PLUS) as well **Criminal Justice Abstracts and EBSCO Information Services**. It is also in the process of being indexed and ranked by **Scopus**.

Submissions to the IJRJ must follow the Editorial Guidelines, and can be made by email to IJRJ.rj4all@gmail.com at any given time. We aim to complete the review process within 4-6 weeks of receipt.

The Editor-in-Chief is **Professor Dr. Theo Gavrielides**.

The Journal is guided and scrutinised by its **Editorial Board and the International Advisory Board.** All submissions are first reviewed by the Editor-in-Chief, and if judged suitable for this publication, they are then blind-reviewed anonymously and separately by at least two external, expert reviewers.

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This is the 2nd edition of the Restorative Justice Theory & Practice: Addressing the Discrepancy, a ground-breaking book that examines the harmful gap between the restorative justice theory and its application in the U.S., Europe, and internationally. Data were obtained from four international surveys with over 300 restorative justice practitioners, using a combination of qualitative methodologies, including questionnaires, interviews and focus groups. The 2nd edition provides critical updates for restorative justice research, policy and practice.

Restorative justice projects strive to restore peace after a crime has been committed by involving victims, offenders and community representatives in dialogue. Previous studies reviewed by Dr. Gavrielides have credited these programmes with such benefits as lower recidivism, and higher levels of satisfaction with outcomes among victims, offenders and community representatives, compared to the traditional criminal justice system. However, the author's seven-year research programme uncovered a pervasive gap between restorative justice principles and current restorative justice operations. This gap is blamed for widespread difficulties such as insufficient funding for restorative justice, inadequate training and accreditation of practitioners, lack of faith and commitment among staff, and a tendency for restorative justice over time to become increasingly similar to the standard criminal justice system. Dr. Gavrielides warns that if these problems are not corrected, the original values and benefits of restorative justice may never be realised.

"I encourage you to read Dr. Gavrielides' book on restorative justice that examines the disconnect between theory and practice in this field. I believe it is an important book that reminds those of us who are engaged in criminal justice reform to regularly take stock of the direction of the restorative justice movement."

Lisa M. Rea President and Founder of The Justice & Reconciliation Project, USA

"In a time when restorative justice has been embraced with unbridled enthusiasm by virtually every criminal justice network and dispute resolution stakeholder outside of the criminal justice system, Theo Gavrielides presents us with an original, comprehensive, and essential examination of the subject. This work should be read by anyone and everyone who is the least bit interested in the future health of the restorative justice movement."

John Winterdyk, Ph.D. Department of Justice Studies - Chair, Mount Royal College, Canada

"Theo Gavrielides has provided a constructive and thought-provoking contribution to our understanding of the dynamics of one of the most significant contemporary developments in thinking about criminal justice."

Professor Nicola Lacey, LSE, UK.

"Restorative justice is a noble concept, but if the actual practice does not match the ideal, it could be discredited. That would be a great loss. Theo Gavrielides has brought together some challenging thoughts about this danger…"

Dr. Martin Wright, Restorative justice author

It is a concise, engaging, innovative and informative book for practitioners and scholars. This comprehensive introduction to restorative justice provides a much-needed textbook for an increasingly popular area of study and practice, which can be used as a basis for further theoretical development and elaboration on the concept's limitations and accountability.

Dr. Effi Lambropoulou Professor of Criminology Department of Sociology, Panteion University of Social and Politic, Greece.

Dr. Theo Gavrielides' book provides a special journey from the underlying theoretical foundations to the daily practice of restorative justice. By his thought-provoking and critical approach, he gifts the restorative justice field with an essential analysis that bridges theory and practice in an interdisciplinary and multisectoral way.

Borbala Fellegi, researcher and lecturer at the ELTE University, consultant of the Ministry of Justice in Hungary in the field of restorative justice, Hungary.

As a restorative justice practitioner for ten years, I continue to be impressed with the in-depth research Theo Gavrielides does in the field of restorative justice. He meets the challenges with provocative and cutting edge topics directly and succinctly… The struggle of theory vs. practice has been a difficult one in the field since restorative justice began mostly with practice. Gavrielides approaches this struggle with wisdom of historical roots and with encouragement that restorative justice is developing theory to catch up with practice.

Linda Harvey, Program Director and Founder of the Restorative Justice Council on Sexual Misconduct in Faith Communities, USA

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