



acjrd

ACJRD

ANNUAL REPORT

2018

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Executive Summary

The Association for Criminal Justice Research and Development (ACJRD) has hosted a wide array of events and seminars during 2018. These included our 21st Annual Conference entitled "*Unlocking the Power of Data for Criminal Justice Research, Policy-Making and Practice*", and the 5th Annual Irish Criminal Justice Agencies Conference entitled "*Towards a Trauma Responsive Criminal Justice System - Why, How and What Next?*" which was a collaboration of the ACJRD, the Irish Youth Justice Service, The Probation Service, The Department of Justice, the Irish Prison Service and An Garda Síochána. The ACJRD also held Working Groups seminars and events at which attendees had the opportunity to contribute their opinions and share perspectives. The ACJRD also provided administrative support for the 2018 Parole Board Conference.

The Association also continues to further current and future Research opportunities, maintains a membership base and a number of Working Groups and also contributes to the criminal justice community in Ireland via quarterly newsletters and continued memberships and relationships with other not-for-profit organisations who share common ground with the objectives of the ACJRD. In 2018 the ACJRD began collaboration with Northumbria University and Queen's University Belfast on a UK-Irish Criminal Justice Cooperation Network.

This report provides a summary of the events and activities for 2018 under the following headings: Research, Events, Membership, Working Groups, Student Engagement, Newsletter, Commitment to Achieve Change, Governance, Annual General Meeting and Collaborations, Associations and Memberships.

Throughout the report are links to further information on the ACJRD website <https://www.acjrd.ie>, just click on any text with a green font.

1. ACJRD Research

The ACJRD Research-Sub-Committee oversaw the following projects during 2018:

Conducting Efficient and Effective Criminal Justice Research Projects

Best Practice, Current Difficulties, Future Needs

The Association believes that quality research findings are essential to a more effective and responsive criminal justice system. To assist future research efforts, the Association wishes to explore how collaboration between criminal justice policy makers, practitioners and researchers might be further enhanced to their mutual benefit. To this end a study has been commissioned to consider what works best in conducting criminal justice research projects, what difficulties arise in terms of data, access, etc., and what actions might be taken to support efficient and effective research projects into the future. The ongoing study involves the compilation of the views of policy makers, practitioners and researchers who have recent experience of criminal justice research projects.

This study has been funded by a grant from The Children's Act Advisory Board.

2. ACJRD Events 2018

Below is a summary of ACJRD events during 2018. Please note the following outputs do not include the ACJRD Working Groups outputs which are profiled separately on pages nine/ten.

MARTIN TANSEY MEMORIAL LECTURES

The ACJRD marks the contribution Martin Tansey made to criminal justice in Ireland, and to this association, with a memorial lecture each spring.

Information and papers from the lectures which have taken place since the inaugural event in 2008 can be found at:

www.acjrd.ie/publications

Pictured Right: Maura Butler, ACJRD Chairperson and Tim Chapman.

11th Annual Martin Tansey Memorial Lecture, 17th April, 2018

The 2018 Lecture entitled "*A more humane approach to addressing the harm of criminal behaviour starts with victims*" was delivered by Tim Chapman, Chair of the Board of the European Forum for Restorative Justice (EFRJ).

As always this event was well attended and Mr Chapman's lecture was very well received.

ACJRD would like to thank the staff at the Criminal Courts of Justice for their continued assistance in hosting this annual memorial lecture.



Launch of 2017 Annual Conference Report "The Brexit Impact on Criminal Justice Co-operation in Ireland"



Pictured left:

Ben Ryan, ACJRD Council, Maura Butler, ACJRD Chairperson, and David Stanton TD, Minister of State for Equality, Immigration and Integration

David Stanton TD, Minister of State for Equality, Immigration and Integration launched the publication of the ACJRD 20th Annual Conference Report " *The Brexit Impact on Criminal Justice Co-operation in Ireland*" at the Criminal Courts of Justice on Tuesday, 17th April, 2018.

The 2017 Annual Conference Report was printed by the Arbour Hill Print-shop facilitated by IPS representative on the ACJRD Council, Jim Mitchell. ACJRD is grateful to Jim for making this possible once again this year, and also to his colleague Dermot Hearne who assisted us with the report cover and overall report design.

Pictured right:

Conference speakers: Hugh Dockry, Ray Briscoe and Gemma Davies.



ACJRD 21st Annual Conference, 5th October 2018: Unlocking the Power of Data for Criminal Justice Research, Policy-Making and Practice

This one day conference featured distinguished speakers from Ireland, joined by speakers from England, Northern Ireland and Europe. The conference structure facilitated the presentation of plenary sessions supported by break-out groups, where delegates from the public and private sector shared their views, experiences and expertise. The Chatham House Rule was invoked, as necessary, to facilitate free discussion.

The Conference Plenary speakers included: **Aidan O'Driscoll**, Secretary General, Department of Justice and Equality; **Gurchand Singh**, Chief Information Officer, Department of Justice and Equality; **Claire Loftus**, Director of Public Prosecutions; **Professor Marcelo Aebi**, Vice-Director, School of Criminal Sciences, University of Lausanne; **Professor Betsy Stanko OBE**, Chair of the Data, Evidence and Science Board for the UK Ministry of Justice; **Dr Seán Redmond**, Adjunct Professor in Youth Justice, University of Limerick; **Michael O'Neill**, Head of Legal, Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission.



Pictured left: Aidan O'Driscoll, Gurchand Singh, Claire Loftus, Professor Marcelo Aebi and Maura Butler, ACJRD Chairperson.

The conference programme also featured a number of workshops presentations delivered by: **Angela McCarthy**, Head of Clinical Services, Dublin Rape Crisis Centre; **Eoin Kelly and Natasha Browne**, Department of Justice and Equality; **Asst. Commissioner David Sheahan**, Roads Policing and Major Event Management; **Dr John Danaher**, Lecturer Above the Bar, School of Law, NUI Galway; **Gerry McNally**, Assistant Director, The Probation Service and President of the

Confederation of European Probation (CEP) and **Supritha Subramanian**, The Probation Service Statistician; **Séamus Carroll**, Head of the Data Protection Unit, Civil Law Reform Division, Department of Justice and Equality; **Rory Staines**, Michael J. Staines & Company Solicitors; and **Dr Deirdre Healy**, Sutherland School of Law, UCD

ACJRD sincerely thanks the expert presenters for their contributions and for providing papers and reviewing summaries for inclusion in the Conference Report.



Pictured left:

Professor Seán Redmond,
Professor Betsy Stanko OBE and
Michael O'Neill.

5th Annual ICJA Conference, 4th July, 2018: Toward a Trauma-Responsive Criminal Justice System - Why, How and What Next?

This one day conference was a collaboration of the Department of Justice and Equality, Irish Youth Justice Service (IYJS), Irish Prison Service, An Garda Síochána, The Probation Service and the Association for Criminal Justice Research and Development (ACJRD). The lead partner for 2018 was the Irish Prison Service.

The event featured the following speakers: **Michael Donnellan**, Director General, Irish Prison Service; **Charles Flanagan TD**, Minister for Justice and Equality; **Mary Rose Gearty, SC**; **Ciara McCarthy**, Senior Clinical Psychologist, Primary Care Psychology Service, Health Service Executive; **Dr Sharon Lambert**, School of Applied Psychology, UCC; **Dr Conor O'Neill**, Consultant Forensic Psychiatrist, Central Mental Hospital. Ten workshops took place during the

Conference, with each delegate attending one workshop in the morning and one in the afternoon.

Thanks to all of the conference rapporteurs at this event: Alaina Maher, Beth Duane, Annita Harty, Kate Daniels, Rory Penny, Ciara McQuillan and Tina Cronin.

Our thanks also to the workshop chair volunteers from the ACJRD Council: Gerry McNally, Ben Ryan, Dr Susan Leahy and Deirdre Byrne and our workshop chair volunteers from the Irish Prison Service: Dr Emma Black, Assistant Governor Constantin Cazac, Fergal Black, Mark Wilson, Enda Kelly and Dr Lucy Rowell.



Pictured above: Maura Butler, ACJRD Chairperson, Charles Flanagan TD and Michael Donnellan

[Parole Board Conference](#)

The Parole Board Conference was held at the Law Society of Ireland on Thursday, 10th May, 2018. This event was sponsored by Sheehan and Partners and supported by the ACJRD.

The event featured the following speakers: **Mr. Justice Garrett Sheehan**, Conference Chairperson; **Shane McCarthy**, The Parole Board; **Michael Lynn SC**; **Paul Mageean**, Commissioner, Parole Commissioners for N.I.; **Martin Jones**, CEO, Parole Board for England and Wales; **Dr Laura Janes**, Legal Director, The Howard League; and **Barry Donoghue**, Deputy Director, Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions.

3. Membership

Three categories of ACJRD membership per annum are on offer: Student €25, Individual €35 and Organisational Membership €155. Organisational Membership is based on a flat rate: this includes all members of that organisation, with up to five members able to attend any one ACJRD event at special rates.

Benefits to ACJRD members include; special rates for ACJRD conferences and seminars, publications on research and conference/seminar proceedings, priority bookings at all ACJRD events, circulation of the newsletter, the option to become involved in the ACJRD Working Groups and access to a range of peer networks.

Compared to 2017, membership rates for 2018 have increased in all types of membership. There were 41 Individual Members, 34 Organisational Members and 18 Student Members in 2018.

4. ACJRD Working Groups



The ACJRD has established working groups through which members can input into the activities of the association. Current working groups include Addiction, Education, Juvenile Justice, Mental Health, Reintegration, Restorative Justice and White Collar Crime.

Working Groups activities for 2018 are detailed below. The association was facilitated in the delivery of these activities by the generosity of Council members who chaired each seminar.

[Child Defendants and Child Witnesses in Court - Contemporary](#)

[Challenges for Juvenile Justice - 29th November, 2018](#)

The ACJRD and the ACJRD Juvenile Justice Working Group held the seminar 'Child Defendants and Child Witnesses in Court - Contemporary Challenges for Juvenile Justice' at the Education Centre, Law Society of Ireland, Blackhall Place, Dublin 7 on Thursday, 29th November, 2018.

This event was Chaired by Professor Ursula Kilkelly and featured the following speakers:

- Judge John O'Connor spoke on "Challenges in Adjudicating Capacity for Children to Participate in Court Proceedings - Theory and Practice"

- Vivienne Foley spoke on 'Recognising Speech and Language Difficulties and Appropriate Supports'
- Professor Michael Fitzgerald spoke on 'Challenges for Children on the Autism Spectrum'

Thanks to the Law Society who provided the venue for this event free of charge.

Networking Event and Restorative Justice Seminar - 5th December, 2018.

The annual ACJRD Christmas Working Groups Networking Event took place in the Blue Room at the Law Society of Ireland on Wednesday, 5th December, 2018. The evening was an opportunity for ACJRD members and Working Groups to meet those with common interests, to renew acquaintances and share ideas.

A Restorative Justice Working Group seminar also took place at this event. Dr. Ian Marder, Maynooth University, spoke on the Council of Europe Recommendation CM/Rec(2018)8 concerning Restorative Justice in Criminal Matters.

5. Student Engagement

ACJRD Academic Sponsorship in Maynooth University



Sadhbh McGarry and Princess Khumalo were the joint winners of the ACJRD award for the Best Essay in Criminal Law 2017/18 in the Maynooth University. Following the receipt of their awards both Sadhbh and Princess volunteered as rapporteurs at the ACJRD Annual Conference in October 2018.

Pictured above: Sadhbh McGarry, Ben Ryan, ACJRD Council and Princess Khumalo.

6. Newsletter

The ACJRD Newsletter is delivered via email to members and interested parties of the Association and is also available on the ACJRD website. The newsletter keeps members informed about current and forthcoming events and includes news from our members and developments in other agencies and relevant organisations.

As well as promoting the ACJRD, the Newsletter is designed to attract and encourage new members. This service is produced in-house and there are no printing or postage costs. It promotes the creation and development of an online community for the ACJRD.

Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter newsletters were produced in 2018. Shorter news bulletins were also circulated in January, May and August 2018.

7. Commitment to Achieve Change

ACJRD makes appropriate submissions in satisfaction of its mission and vision in areas where there is relevant expertise and interest. All submissions made by the ACJRD are available on our website <https://www.acjrd.ie/development>.

The views expressed in ACJRD submissions are those of ACJRD in its independent capacity and are not those of the ACJRD members' organisations or their employers.

In January 2018, ACJRD made a submission to the Commission on the Future of Policing in Ireland. ACJRD was assisted in this submission by Maura Finnie, MA in Criminology graduate from DIT.

8. Governance

In 2018 the ACJRD Council included representatives from: The Department of Justice and Equality, The Probation Service, the Irish Prison Service, the Office of the DPP, An Garda Síochána, the Garda Síochána Inspectorate, the Department of Children and Youth Affairs, the Revenue Commissioners, Dublin City University, University of Limerick, the Policing Authority and the Law Society of Ireland.

The following ACJRD Council meetings took place during 2018:

16th January, 2018, in the Education Centre, Law Society of Ireland, Blackhall Place, Dublin 7.

27th February, 2018, in the office of the Policing Authority, 90 North King Street, Dublin 7.

10th April, 2018, in the office of The Probation Service, Haymarket, Smithfield, Dublin 7.

22nd May, 2018, in the office of the Garda Síochána Inspectorate, St. Stephen's Green, D. 2

26th June, 2018, in the office of the Policing Authority, 90 North King Street, Dublin 7.

4th September, 2018, in the office of The Probation Service, Haymarket, Smithfield, Dublin 7.

16th October, 2018, in the Education Centre, Law Society of Ireland, Blackhall Place, Dublin 7.

4th December, 2018, in the office of the Garda Síochána Inspectorate, St. Stephen's Green, D. 2

Strategic Review and Planning session

The Council met for a Strategic Review and Planning session on 20th April, 2018. Marie Watters facilitated the session which gave Council members an opportunity to reflect on the achievements of the Association and to consider the Vision and Mission of the organisation. The participants also discussed activities of which ACJRD could do more, to help it achieve its Vision. A list of prioritised actions was agreed.

Council representation

The ACJRD Council members have represented the Association at a number of events during the year. These have included:

- Maura Butler attended the Wheel Celebrating Women in Leadership event, 9th March, 2018
- Juvenile Justice Working Group Member Etáin Quigley attended the Law Reform Commission Invitation to Roundtable on Juvenile Justice and Suspended Sentences of Detention for Young Offenders on behalf of the ACJRD, 3rd June, 2018

- Maura Butler attend the North South Criminology Conference at UCD and Chaired the launch of Professor Ian O'Donnell's new book '*Justice, Mercy and Caprice: Clemency and the Death Penalty in Ireland*' (OUP, 2017), 6th September, 2018
- Maura Butler attended the Joint Agency Response to Crime (J-ARC) Conference, 25th September, 2018
- Maura Butler attended Extern Ireland's Annual Report and Justice Showcase event, 24th October, 2018

9. AGM 2018

The ACJRD Annual General Meeting was held at the Hilton Hotel on Friday, 5th October, 2018, following the close of our annual conference. At this meeting of ACJRD members the association's Auditors, Browne Murphy and Hughes, presented the ACJRD audited accounts 2017 for adoption by members.

10. Collaborations Associations and Memberships

The UK-Irish Criminal Justice Cooperation Network

In 2018 the ACJRD began a collaboration with Northumbria University and Queen's University Belfast on a UK-Irish Criminal Justice Cooperation Network.

The UK-Irish Criminal Justice Cooperation Network is an initiative which is funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council and led by Northumbria University, Queen's University Belfast and the Association for Criminal Justice Research and Development in Ireland. The funding commenced on 1st October, 2018, and the project will run, initially, for 18 months. The network aims to bring together policymakers, practitioners and academics to consider the implications of Brexit for criminal justice cooperation between Ireland and the UK. The Network collaborators are deliberately including a range of expertise, policy areas and perspectives in order to make the Network as beneficial as possible to all participants.

The Children's Rights Alliance

The Children's Rights Alliance is a coalition of over 90 non-governmental organisations (NGOs) working to secure the rights and needs of children in Ireland, by campaigning for the full implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. It aims to improve the lives of all children under 18, through securing the necessary changes in Ireland's laws (strengthening children's rights in the Constitution), policies and services. The ACJRD maintained its membership of the Children's Rights Alliance in 2018.

The Wheel

The Wheel is a support and representative body connecting community and voluntary organisations and charities across Ireland. Established in 1999, The Wheel has evolved to become a resource centre and forum for the community and voluntary sector. The ACJRD maintained its membership of the Wheel in 2018.

The Irish Penal Reform Trust

The Irish Penal Reform Trust (IPRT) is Ireland's leading non-governmental organisation campaigning for the rights of people in prison and the progressive reform of Irish penal policy.

Established in 1994, IPRT has a well-established role as an independent voice in public debate on the Irish penal system. IPRT is committed to reducing imprisonment, respecting the rights of everyone in the penal system, and progressive reform of the penal system based on evidence-led policies. The ACJRD maintained its membership of the Wheel in 2018.