

The Power
of Collaboration

May 14 to 20
2023

Victims
and
Survivors
of Crime
Week

Conference program

Gender-based violence and restorative justice : A victim-centred approach

Monday, May 15 2023 | 13H – 17H

Online and in person

Mandatory registration

Event in English only



Department of Justice
Canada
Ministère de la Justice
Canada

Canada

Conseil de recherches en
sciences humaines du Canada



CJ/VAC

Social Sciences and Humanities
Research Council of Canada

Université
de Montréal



CICC
Centre international de
criminologie comparée

This international symposium,
organized as part of Victims and
Survivors of Crime Week 2023, aims to
promote scientific advances in
gender-based violence and
restorative justice in order to enrich
the public debate and improve our
responses to victims of gender-based
violence. We are delighted to welcome
international experts, specialized
lawyers and a survivor of sexual
violence to enrich our reflections on
the issues of restorative justice and
gender-based violence.

SCHEDULE

Opening

13H – 13H10

Jo-Anne Wemmers, Université de Montréal, École de criminologie

Doing Justice: my journey with restorative justice after sexual violence

13H10 – 13H50

Marlee Liss, survivor of sexual violence, somatic coach, award-winning speaker and restorative justice advocate



Questions & discussion – 15 mins



Coffee break – 10 mins

Exploring the development of the Scottish national service for restorative justice in sexual harm cases

14H15 – 14H45

Estelle Zinsstag, Edinburgh Napier University, Scotland

Criminal justice's conventional responses to gender-based violence and why we need alternatives

14H45 – 15H15

Fernanda Fonseca Rosenblatt, Catholic University of Pernambuco, Law, Brazil and International Institute for Restorative Practices, USA



Questions & discussion – 15 mins



Coffee break – 15 mins

SCHEDULE

Panel discussion: Gender-based Violence and Restorative Justice for Victims

15H45 – 16H45

Marlee Liss, survivor of sexual violence, somatic coach, award-winning speaker and restorative justice advocate

Estelle Zinsstag, Edinburgh Napier University, Scotland

Fernanda Fonseca Rosenblatt, Catholic University of Pernambuco, Law, Brazil and International Institute for Restorative Practices, USA

Tinneke Van Camp, California State University-Fresno, Criminology

Marika Lachance Quirion, Université de Montréal, Coordinatrice CJVAC

Alain-Guy Sipowo, Université de Montréal, École de criminologie

Closing

16H45 – 17H00

Jo-Anne Wemmers, Université de Montréal, École de criminologie

For more information, contact :
victimologie.events@gmail.com

PROGRAM

13H – 13H10



OPENING

Jo-Anne Wemmers, Université de Montréal

Jo-Anne Wemmers is a full professor at the School of Criminology at the Université de Montréal where she co-created the new Justice and Victims program, and is the co-founder of the "clinique juridique pour les victimes d'actes criminels" (CJVAC). An expert in victimology, her research themes include victims and victimizations of domestic as well as international crimes. Professor Wemmers is the author of over a hundred publications, including the book *Victimology: A Canadian Perspective* (PUQ, 2017). She is a regular researcher at the International Centre for Comparative Criminology (ICCC), where she is responsible for the research group Victims, Rights and Society. She is editor of the *International Review of Victimology*, and a member of the Canadian Partnership on International Justice.

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE AND RESTORATIVE JUSTICE : A VICTIM-CENTRED APPROACH

13H10 – 13H50

DOING JUSTICE: MY JOURNEY WITH RESTORATIVE JUSTICE AFTER SEXUAL VIOLENCE

Marlee Liss, survivor of sexual violence, somatic coach, award-winning speaker and restorative justice advocate

Following my sexual assault, I reported the crime in an effort to find justice. However, as my case progressed through the criminal justice system, I realized that what was happening did not represent justice to me. That's when I learned about restorative justice, an approach to justice that seeks to repair harm by providing an opportunity for those harmed and those who take responsibility. In this presentation, I will address what is justice for victims and its importance for healing after sexual assault. I will present the notion of healing justice that breaks cycles of harm and ignites cycles of healing.



Marlee Liss is a somatic coach, an award-winning speaker and a restorative justice advocate. A pioneer, her story made history in Ontario's criminal justice system when her sexual assault case became one of the first to conclude with restorative justice through the courts. Marlee stood up to the disapproval of criminal justice professionals who thought they knew better and was able to find justice and healing through restorative practices. Since then, she has written a book about her experience, done numerous interviews and public speaking engagements, and coached hundreds of victims of sexual violence in healing and reclaiming their power.

**EXPLORING THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE SCOTTISH NATIONAL
SERVICE FOR RESTORATIVE JUSTICE IN SEXUAL HARM CASES**

Estelle Zinsstag, Edinburgh Napier University, Scotland

This presentation focuses on a Scottish Government funded project led by the 3rd sector organization 'Thriving Survivors', aiming to develop and set up a national service to offer RJ to sexual violence survivors. This service was funded within the framework of Scottish Government's ambitious plan to offer RJ to everyone in Scotland by 2023. I will present the origins of the project and main aspects such as the types of services developed, the risk frameworks, the parties it is aimed for but also the training of the future facilitators. Having contributed developments and now undertaking an internal evaluation of the service, I will be discussing the main challenges and successes to date encountered by the service and similar undertakings elsewhere.



Estelle Zinsstag is an assistant professor of criminology at Edinburgh Napier University and researcher of the Scottish Centre for Crime and Justice Research (UK). She is also currently a research associate at the Leuven Institute of Criminology (KU Leuven, Belgium) where she coordinated and was PI on a European Commission grant, on sexual violence and the possibilities of restorative justice. She publishes mainly in the fields of sexual/gendered violence, restorative and transitional justice. She is a founding member and a co-chief editor of 'The International Journal of Restorative Justice' and of the book series 'Studies in Restorative Justice' published by Eleven (The Netherlands). She is co-chair of both the 'Scottish Network of Restorative Justice Researchers' and of the Working Group on Restorative Justice at the European Society of Criminology.

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE AND RESTORATIVE JUSTICE : A VICTIM-CENTRED APPROACH

14H45 – 15H15

CRIMINAL JUSTICE'S CONVENTIONAL RESPONSES TO GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE AND WHY WE NEED ALTERNATIVES

Fernanda Fonseca Rosenblatt, *Catholic University of Pernambuco, Law,
Brazil and International Institute for Restorative Practices, USA*

This session will draw on a Brazilian case study to illustrate the shortcomings of conventional criminal justice responses to gender-based violence, to show why alternatives and complements are needed. Criminal justice responses are not centered on healing and empowerment, and ill-equipped to deal with the emotional dimensions of this type of victimization, and include mandatory and dual arrest, no drop policies at prosecutorial level, and punitive responses. In particular, "standardized justice" reduces the complexity of gendered violence and leaves little room for discussions about the underlying conflicts, which may have led to the reported violence or have come to exist in the aftermath of crime. In addition, there is a lack of appropriate gender training to all CJS staff and awareness-raising programs to challenge discriminatory practices. These shortcomings and how they lead to an urgent need for alternatives will be discussed.



Fernanda Fonseca Rosenblatt is a professor of Law at the Catholic University of Pernambuco (Brazil) and Assistant Professor at the International Institute for Restorative Practices (USA). She is Book Review Editor for the International Journal of Restorative Justice. She is also a member of the Research Committee of the European Forum for Restorative Justice. Fernanda has co-coordinated a national empirical study in Brazil aimed at understanding how domestic violence courts were handling domestic violence against women in the country ten years after their introduction. The study, which was commissioned and funded by Brazil's National Council of Justice, was to be done in light of recent national debates on the need for courts to go beyond standard responses to domestic violence against women and consider restorative alternatives. Fernanda's research interests include restorative justice, critical criminology and victimology.

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE AND RESTORATIVE JUSTICE : A VICTIM-CENTRED APPROACH

15h45 – 16H45

PANEL DISCUSSION: GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE AND RESTORATIVE JUSTICE FOR VICTIMS

Marlee Liss, survivor of sexual violence, somatic coach, award-winning speaker and restorative justice advocate

Estelle Zinsstag, Edinburgh Napier University, Scotland

Fernanda Fonseca Rosenblatt, Catholic University of Pernambuco, Law, Brazil and International Institute for Restorative Practices, USA

Tinneke Van Camp, California State University- Fresno, Criminology

Marika Lachance Quirion, Université de Montréal, Coordonnatrice CJVAC

Alain-Guy Sipowo, Université de Montréal, École de criminologie

Some women's groups and victims' advocates have fought against the inclusion of GBV in RJ programs, arguing that it compromises victims' safety, putting them at risk of re-victimization. As a result, many provinces in Canada that have introduced RJ programs as alternatives to criminal justice, such as Quebec, systematically exclude domestic and sexual violence cases from these programs. However, victims want to have the choice to participate. When victims of GBV have participated in restorative programs, they tend to be very satisfied. Victims consider their participation in RJ to be an important step in their healing process, helping them gain self-confidence and regain a sense of control over their lives. This panel discussion with legal experts, survivors and local victims' advocates will address the question whether the systemic exclusion of GBV cases from RJ disempowers victims rather than protects them, and if so, how to offer RJ to victims of GBV while ensuring their safety.

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE AND RESTORATIVE JUSTICE : A VICTIM-CENTRED APPROACH

15h45 – 16H45

PANEL DISCUSSION: GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE AND RESTORATIVE JUSTICE FOR VICTIMS



Tinneke Van Camp is an Associate Professor in the Department of Criminology, Victimology Option, at California State University, Fresno (USA). Her research interests include crime victims' experiences in the criminal justice system and in restorative justice practices, teen dating violence, understanding of sexual consent and coercion, and victim-oriented policies. She has done qualitative research into experiences with and motives for involvement in restorative interventions among victims of crime (including interpersonal and gendered violence) in Canada, England and Belgium. Tinneke is also co-chief editor of the book series 'Studies in Restorative Justice' (Eleven International Publishing) and editor for the International Review of Victimology.



Alain-Guy Tachou-Sipowo is a lawyer by training and member of the Quebec Bar Association, Alain-Guy is a currently a professor at the School of Criminology, where he teaches victimology and criminal justice. He is particularly interested in vulnerable victims, such as racialized groups and refugees, and the law. He has worked extensively on victims of atrocity crimes, including victims of sexual violence in the context of armed conflict, and international criminal law. He is currently working on a project, which examines criminal justice reform in relation to the #MeToo movement and includes the creation of specialized tribunals for victims of sexual and gender-based violence in Quebec.

**GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE AND RESTORATIVE JUSTICE :
A VICTIM-CENTRED APPROACH**

15h45 – 16H45

**PANEL DISCUSSION: GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE AND
RESTORATIVE JUSTICE FOR VICTIMS**



Me **Marika Lachance Quirion** was admitted to the Quebec Bar in 2016 and has practiced as a lawyer in several areas of law such as civil law, family law, labour and employment law, as well as criminal and penal law. Me Lachance Quirion worked on various research projects in victimology as part of her studies in criminology at the Université de Montréal, where she completed her master's degree under the supervision of Professor Jo-Anne Wemmers. Her master's thesis focused on the experiences of criminal justice and restorative justice for victims of sexual violence. She is the supervisor of Law Students for the Clinique juridique pour les victimes d'actes criminels (CJVAC).



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