

Demande de bourse au CICC pour le colloque de l'ESC, Liège, 8-11 septembre 2010
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Abstrait de la présentation inclut dans un panel intitulé '*Victim participation through restorative justice: empirical and theoretical accounts*', qui sera soumis au comité scientifique de la conférence de l'ESC

« Restorative justice as procedural fairness? Reflections from the victim's point of view »

Worldwide restorative justice projects have been developed and implemented to respond to the offenders' and victims' need to communicate and work together on a way to resolve the consequences of the crime committed. Restorative programs are available to victims of property crime and of crime against a person, including serious violence, committed by juvenile or adult offenders. Research data demonstrates that victims of any type of crime are very satisfied with their participation in a restorative intervention, in contrast with their frustrations with the traditional criminal justice system. Restorative justice seems to respond more efficiently to the needs of victims. These are for instance the opportunity to express how victimization impacted their lives and to be involved in the procedures in response to the crime. The aim of our research project is to explore the ability of the theory of procedural justice (Tyler and Lind, 1988) to explain the observed satisfaction of victims of violent crime with restorative justice. The theory of procedural justice predicts that procedural variables, such as trust, neutrality, participation and respect, are at least equally important in the appreciation of the traditional criminal justice system and the fairness of its outcome by offenders and victims as outcome variables. Furthermore, we want to determine if and to what extent restorative justice exceeds the predictions with regard to fairness made by the procedural justice theory. In search of such parallels between the theory of restorative justice and procedural justice, we consulted victims of violent crime regarding their assessment of their participation in a restorative intervention. In-depth interviews have been conducted with victims of violent crime who have participated in victim-offender mediation or victim-offender encounters in Canada (N=13) and in Belgium (N=21). After a brief description of the research objectives and theoretical framework, we will present our research results on the compliance of restorative justice with the procedural justice determinants from the victim's point of view.