



Interdisciplinary Approaches to Elder Justice:
Unlocking the Potential of Restorative Practices

Syracuse University

Interdisciplinary Approaches to Elder Abuse: Unlocking the Potential of Restorative Justice:

A Virtue Conference

October 15th, 2 PM – 6:00 PM EST and October 16th, 2 PM – 5:15 EST

Agenda

Thursday, October 15th

2:00 – 2:15 Welcome and Introduction

Craig Boise, JD, Dean and Professor, Syracuse University College of Law

Janet Wilmoth, Professor and Chair, Sociology Department and Director, Aging Studies Institute, Syracuse University

Maria Brown, Ph.D., LMSW, Assistant Research Professor, David B. Falk College of Sport and Human Dynamics

Mary Helen McNeal, JD, Professor of Law and Director, Elder and Health Law Clinic, Syracuse University College of Law

2:15 – 3:00 Opening Circle

Brief Introduction to Circles – Sarah Reckess, JD, Director, Upstate New York Office, Center for Court Innovation

Circle Instructions and Prompt: Why do you do the work that you do?

3:00 – 3:20 Restorative Justice 101

Chris Marshall, The Diana Unwin Chair in Restorative Justice, Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand

Restorative justice is a significant innovation in the administration of justice and involves a different way of thinking and responding to crimes and other harms. In this keynote, Professor Marshall will outline the philosophy and practice of restorative justice and share how lessons learned from past implementation might inform future use in the field of elder abuse, neglect and exploitation.

3:20-3:25 Short Break

3:25-4:00 Panel on Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Elder Abuse

Dr. Tony Rosen, MD, MPH, Assistant Professor of Emergency Medicine, Weill Cornell Medicine / New York Presbyterian Hospital

Dr. Shelly Jackson, Ph.D, Assistant Research Professor, Institute of Law, Psychiatry, and Public Policy, University of Virginia

Lisa Nerenberg, MSW, MPH; Executive Director, California Elder Justice Coalition

Moderator: Deborah J. Monahan, Ph.D., L.M.S.W., Associate Dean for Research, Professor, School of Social Work, Research Center, Falk College, Syracuse University

The issue of elder abuse is complex. Research is increasingly available, and new interventions are being evaluated. In this session, expert panelists will share their perspectives about current practices in the field from their particular disciplines, what has worked and what is problematic, suggestions for alternative interventions, and how they measure success.

4:00-4:20 Break Out Groups: What are the barriers in the system that limit access to positive interventions with, and on behalf of, older adults experiencing neglect, abuse, or financial exploitation? What one question about barriers would you like the panelists to address?

4:20-4:40 Q and A with panelists

4:40-4:45 Short Break and Word Cloud

4:45–5:05 What is Justice?

Jennifer Llewellyn, Yogis and Keddy Chair in Human Rights Law,
Schulich School of Law, Dalhousie University

How and what do we measure when evaluating programs designed to achieve “justice?” Professor Llewellyn will challenge us to reconsider how we think about success, moving away from individualistic notions embedded in mainstream justice systems, to consider an approach that reflects the relational nature of a restorative justice.

5:05-5:55 Panel on Existing Projects – Brief Description, Successes and Challenges

Coleta Walker, MA, Director of Community Contracts, Save Our Streets Bronx, Center for Court Innovation

John Williams, Emeritus Professor of Law, Aberystwyth University, Wales

Jocelyn Yerxa, Co-Lead NS GovLab, Nova Scotia Department of Seniors

Jacqueline S. Gray, Ph.D., Director, National Indigenous Elder Justice Initiative (NEIJI) and Associate Director/Research Associate Professor, Center for Rural Health, University of North Dakota School of Medicine and Health Sciences

Moderator: Merrill Silverstein, Majorie Cantor Professor of Aging Studies, Dept of Human Development and Family Science, Falk College, Syracuse University

In this session, panelists will briefly describe their current projects and their use of restorative principles to address elder abuse. They will discuss how these projects have been successful, explore the challenges they have encountered, and discuss how they are addressing these challenges. Q and A discussion to follow.

5:55-6:00 Word Cloud and Closing for Day 1

Friday, October 16th

2:00-2:10 Feedback and Polling

2:10-3:00 Panel on Emerging Restorative Approaches Addressing Elder Abuse

Ashley Rivera, Peacemaking Associate, Upstate New York Office,
Center for Court Innovation

Marie-Therese Connolly, University of Southern California, Davis
School of Gerontology and Patricia Kimball, Executive Director, Elder
Abuse Institute of Maine (EAIME)

John P.J. Dussich, Ph.D., Professor Emeritus of Criminology, California
State University, Fresno; Founder of Elder Abuse Services, Inc.

Moderator: Nina Kohn, JD, David M. Levy Professor of Law and
Faculty Director of Online Education, Syracuse University College of
Law

In this session, panelists will explore how issues of elder abuse have
challenged and informed their restorative practice work. Attendees
will learn how restorative practices are being incorporated to address
social isolation and prevention of elder abuse as well as creating
accountability for those who harm older adults.

3:00-3:15 Q and A with panelists

3:15-3:45 Break Out Groups: In light of the models presented yesterday and
today, what opportunities do you see for incorporating restorative
principles in your work?

3:45-4:15 Report Back

Facilitator: Jennifer Ackley, MSW, Abuse in Later Life Project
Coordinator, Vera House, Syracuse, NY

4:15-4:25 Break and Short Video

4:25-5:15 Bringing Restorative Justice to Elder Abuse: A Dialogue

Erika Sasson, BCL, LLB, LLM, Director of Restorative Practices, Center for Court Innovation, New York, New York

Lisa Nerenberg, MSW, MPH, Executive Director, California Elder Justice Coalition

5:15-5:30 Closing Remarks