



Project "Keeping Youth away from crime: searching for best European practices" (Agreement number JUST/2011/FRAC/AG/2671)

Study Visit to Edinburgh – Keeping youth away from crime: Searching for best European practices 28th – 30th October 2013

Speaker Biographies

Lesley McAra was appointed as Head of School in May 2011. Her research interests lie in the general areas of the sociology of punishment and the sociology of law and deviance. Particular interests include: youth crime and juvenile justice; comparative criminal justice; gender, crime and criminal justice; and the impact of multi-level governance on crime control and penal process.

She is Co-Director (with Susan McVie and David Smith) of the [Edinburgh Study of Youth Transitions and Crime](#), a longitudinal study of pathways into and out of offending for a cohort of around 4,300 young people. This programme of research has been funded by grants from the ESRC (R00237157, R000239150), the Nuffield Foundation and the Scottish Government and has an associated doctoral programme.

Susan McVie is Professor of Quantitative Criminology within the School of Law. She has three major research roles within the School. She is Director of the [Applied Quantitative Methods Network](#) (AQMeN) in Scotland, a collaborative network of social scientists which provides advanced training in quantitative techniques and promotes knowledge exchange events aimed at boosting capacity in quantitative methods across Scotland. Susan is Co-Director of the [Edinburgh Study of Youth Transitions and Crime](#), a prospective longitudinal study of youth offending based at the University of Edinburgh since 1998. She has responsibility for strategic management of the research programme and plays a key role in advancing statistical analysis of the data and publishing the results of the research. And she is Leader of the CJ-Quest network for the [Scottish Centre for Crime and Justice Research](#), another collaborative initiative involving Stirling, Glasgow and Edinburgh Universities in partnership with the other Scottish HEIs. The CJ-Quest network has responsibility for conducting and facilitating high quality quantitative criminological research in Scotland, and developing statistical analysis and data modelling.

Susan has a broad range of substantive interests, and her recent work includes research into: youth crime, deviance and substance use; patterns and trends in crime; criminal careers through the life-course; systems of justice, including transitions from juvenile to adult criminal justice systems; neighbourhood effects on offending; patterns of homicide; youth gangs and knife crime; and various projects on violent behaviour. She is also interested in the use of advanced methods in quantitative criminology, and her current work involves modelling trajectories of offending and other forms of behaviour; using multi-level modelling to establish the impact of neighbourhood-level effects and dynamics over and above individual-level effects on individual delinquency; and using quasi-experimental methods to investigate the impact of early youth justice intervention on later behaviour, life chances and criminal conviction trajectories.

Maggie Fallon



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Julie Taylor is the inaugural chair of the Child Protection Research Centre, an innovative partnership between the University of Edinburgh and the UK's leading child protection charity, the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC). Before taking up post in early 2013, she was Head of Strategy and Development (Abuse in High Risk Families) with the NSPCC whilst on a three year secondment from her post as Professor of Family Health in the School of Nursing and Midwifery, University of Dundee. Until March 2010 she was Research Dean and Head of Division (Research and Postgraduate Studies) and led the University's first submission to the Nursing Unit of Assessment in the national research assessment exercise (RAE 2008).

Julie trained as a nurse in the 1980s at St James' University Hospital Leeds and held a number of increasingly senior nursing posts before entering higher education in 1992 at the University of York, moving to Dundee in 1997. Funded research has been focused around optimal service delivery conditions for child care and protection practice, including 'good enough' parenting debates. She is the author of five books and over 100 academic papers in child care and protection, most recently focused on children living with domestic abuse experience and child neglect. Julie was part of the Dept. of Health/Dept. for Education Safeguarding Research Initiative, undertaking a study that looked at recognition and response to neglect. The Government has recently produced the National Training Materials on Neglect – Julie was a member of this production and development team. Julie has been the Royal College of Nursing's representative on a number of recent Scottish Government Child Protection Review Groups.

Julie is a Fellow of the European Academy of Nursing Science, Council member for the Queen's Nursing Institute Scotland, on the steering committee for the Royal College of Nursing's Research Society, a founding member of the international Child Welfare and Gender Network, and a founding member of the Scottish Child Care and Protection Network. In 2010 she was appointed to the Research Excellence Framework for Allied Health, Dentistry, Nursing, and Pharmacy.

Denny Ford

Ian Fyfe

Bill Whyte teaches on youth and criminal justice social work, on practice policy and law, on desistance from crime and effective intervention for undergraduate, postgraduate and post qualifying programmes.

Bill's recent research activities have involved research on routes out of prison, young people under 18 subject to Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA), young people involved in sexually harmful behaviour, young people connected to organised crime, and restorative practice in serious crime.



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He has worked as a social work manager and field social worker in the Lothians area, as a residential care worker in a former List D School, and have acted as an independent chair of a local authority child protection committee.

Mary Clare McMillan has worked with the Children's Hearings system for over twenty years. After working as a Panel Member for three years, she spent six years in the position of Safeguarder for the City of Edinburgh, representing children's interests in the Hearings system and associated Sheriff court cases. In 2003 she took on her current role as a Reporter to the Children's Panel, administering Children's hearings, assessing referrals and making decisions about compulsory measures for children aged from newborn to 18 years old.

Graduating from Durham University with an honours degree in Psychology and Sociology, she completed her postgraduate studies at the University of Edinburgh gaining a Diploma in Pastoral Theology, a Certificate in Community Education, and a MSc in Childhood Studies.

Mary Clare has worked with children and young people in a wide variety of community settings which include: residential care for children with emotional and behavioural issues, youth work focusing on young people with self esteem issues, and setting up and running church youth groups. She has also worked supporting children in education who are affected by their parents' substance use, which entailed working with parents who use substances, their children and the children's schools. In addition she has undertaken setting up and running both group and individual work with children affected by parental substance use.

Her particular interests are promoting and improving children's participation within the Hearings system.