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Restorative justice theory and practice: addressing the discrepancy

Dr. Theo Gavrielides

Restorative justice was reborn not out of formal structures and legislation, but of voluntary action by enthusiastic and dedicated practitioners from around the world. As the restorative tradition is expanding to deal with crimes, ages and situations that it has never addressed before and as it starts to make sense in national, and also regional and international fora, the responsibilities of both restorative justice practitioners and academics redouble. Bridges must be built in order to synthesise. The tensions characterising the field have to congeal to create a stable platform. Awareness must be increased both at the macro and micro level. This book aspires to respond to this urgent need. This book was written to give the opportunity to restorative justice practitioners to identify problems that they faced during implementation and which could help understand the gap that appears to exist between the theoretical and practical development of restorative justice.

CONTENTS: Foreword; Part ONE: Arguing and analysing the literature; Restorative theory and practice in context; Restorative justice: The Perplexing concept; The International Dimension of Restorative Justice: From Theory to Policy and Practice; Part Two: Measuring the Gap between the restorative justice theory and practice; Findings from Survey I: The International Practitioners' Account; Analysing and Triangulating the Findings of Survey I; The Findings: Problems in the Practical and Theoretical Development of Restorative Justice; Findings from Survey II: The UK Practitioners' Account; Part Three: Pushing the Barriers—Findings from Survey III and IV on the Application of Restorative Justice with Hate Crime and Sexual Offences;; Part Four: Critical Reflections; Mind the Gap Between the Restorative Justice Theory and Practice; A Way Forward; Recommendations for the Restorative Justice Movement; Conclusion.

"Theo Gavrielides has provided a constructive and thought-provoking contribution to our understanding of the dynamics of one of the most significant contemporary developments in thinking about criminal justice." Prof. Nicola Lacey, LSE, UK

"In a time when restorative justice has been embraced with unbridled enthusiasm by virtually every criminal justice network and dispute resolution stakeholder outside of the criminal justice system, Theo Gavrielides presents us with an original, comprehensive, and essential examination of the subject. This work should be read by anyone and everyone who is the least bit interested in the future health of the restorative justice movement." Prof. John Winterdyk, Department of Justice Studies, Chair, Mount Royal College, Canada

It is a concise, engaging, innovative and informative book for practitioners and scholars. This comprehensive introduction to restorative justice provides a much-needed textbook for an increasingly popular area of study and practice, which can be used as a basis for further theoretical development and elaboration on the concept's limitations and accountability. Prof. Effi Lambropoulou, Panteion University, Greece

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or from:

Criminal Justice Press, P.O. Box 249, Monsey, New York 10952, USA, phone +1 845 354 9139, fax +1 845 362 8376, To e-mail click [here](http://www.criminaljusticepress.com)
www.criminaljusticepress.com

ISBN 978-952-5333-32-9
ISSN 1237-4741

The book can be downloaded for free from [here](http://www.heuni.fi/). Hard copies cost 40 EURO + VAT