

## ***SHAPING THE FUTURE***

2019 ATSA Conference | Thursday November 7 | 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM

**T-10**

### **A Symposium on Registries and Community Notification**

Symposium Chair: Kieran McCartan, PhD  
University of the West of England

This is a proposal for a symposium on registries for people who have committed sexual offences and community notification of their information, comprising of 4 intertwined papers. The papers introduce the global, and historical, nature of registries and community notification before going on to highlight versions which have occurred, or are occurring, internationally, but with special reference to the USA, Australia and New Zealand.

#### **The Impact of Registration in the Management of People Who Have Been Convicted of a Sexual Offence**

Kieran McCartan, PhD  
University of the West of England

The management and integration of individuals who have committed sexual offences back into society can be challenging for professionals, the criminal justice system and communities themselves. One solution to the challenge of community management of people who have committed sexual offences is the creation of a “sex offender’s register”. This presentation will discuss the history of sex offenders registration and community notification internationally, the rational and the evidence base before going on to discuss police officer understandings of and attitudes to the sex offenders’ register, Violent and Sex Offenders’ Register (ViSOR) and Child Sexual Offender Disclosure Scheme (CSODS) in England and Wales. This research utilises a mixed-methods approach, combining an online questionnaire survey (N = 227) with a series of semi-structured interviews (N = 27). The study found that police officers, irrespective of role, were generally supportive of the register, ViSOR and CSODS in principle, but they thought that logistics, practicalities, infrastructure, multi-agency collaboration and public understandings had problematic impacts on the scheme in practice. The participants believed that greater investment was needed in terms of time and resource to make the register, ViSOR and CSODS easier to use and access and thus fit for purpose.

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### **Learning Goals:**

- To present an perspective on politics of registries and community notification internationally
- To better understand major differences between the implementation of registries and community notification internationally
- To better understand police attitudes to registries and community notification in the UK

### **Evidence Based Practice Within a Sex Offender Register**

Senior Sergeant Margret Anne Laws  
New Zealand Police

It is well accepted in the research that sex offender registries are not effective in reducing sexual recidivism, so how do you then incorporate evidence based practice into a sex offender register? This presentation will discuss the development, implementation and current practices within the New Zealand Child Sex Offender Register. Specific focus will be on incorporating evidence based approach to the management of registered persons, and in terms of the overall philosophy of registry staff. Data will be presented from staff surveys to highlight points made. The incorporation of a risk management framework and risk assessment practice will be discussed in detail, being pivotal to the success of an evidence based approach to the practice of managing persons on the register.

### **Learning Goals:**

- To present an perspective on politics of registries and community notification in New Zealand
- To better understand major differences between the implementation of registries in New Zealand compared to other countries internationally
- To better understand professional attitudes to registries and community notification in New Zealand

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### **What Difference Does It Make? Impact of Evidence-Based Practice and Future Opportunities**

Karla Lopez, PhD  
Victoria Police

Following the previous two papers, this presentation will deal with the ongoing evolution of evidence-based practice as it pertains to the risk assessment and management of registered sex offenders by Victoria Police. Six years after the implementation of the offender management framework and three years after the development and implementation of a dynamic risk assessment tool for police – what has been the impact? This paper will explore what the data is telling us has been working well and where the remaining challenges lie. The paper will also explore new opportunities for emerging policy, evidence-based policing strategies and community partnerships to further efforts to prevent sex offence recidivism.

#### **Learning Goals:**

- To present an perspective on politics of registries and community notification in Australia
- To better understand major differences between the implementation of registries in Australia compared to other countries internationally
- To better understand professional attitudes to registries and community notification in the Australia

#### **Learn from Our Mistakes: Registration & Community Notification in the United States**

Katherine Gotch, MA, LPC, ATSAF  
Integrated Clinical & Correctional Services, LLC

Public registration and notification of individuals convicted of sexual crimes has been standard in the United States for over two decades. Research has repeatedly demonstrated these policies do little to prevent sexual abuse and have a number of unintended consequences, including compromising community safety by increasing an individual's risk potential through destabilization, stigma and lack of access to rehabilitative opportunities. This session will provide a comprehensive overview of the research on the registration, notification and residence restrictions of adults and youth convicted of sexual crimes within the United States with the goal of providing a comprehensive understanding of the

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pros and cons of these practices. Suggestions and strategies for implementing effective public policy related to individuals convicted of sexual crimes will also be provided.

### **Learning Goals:**

- To present an perspective on politics of registries and community notification in the USA
- To better understand major differences between the implementation of registries and community notification in USA compared to other countries internationally
- To better understand professional attitudes to registries and community notification in the USA

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**Kieran McCartan** is a Professor in Criminology at University of the West of England, an adjunct at QUT and a visiting research fellow at the University of Huddersfield. Kieran is the leader of the Social Science Research Group (2013 - ongoing) and joint coordinator of the Sexual Violence Research Network (2014 - ongoing) at UWE. Professor McCartan has a track record of public, academic and professional engagement on criminological issues, including the origins and causes of sex offending, and societal responses to people who commit sexual offences. Professor McCartan has a number of academic outputs, including, 75+ academic publications; 110+ blogs & online publications; generated over 1/2 million pounds in external research funding; and has given 125+ external presentations; & taken part in over 30 media interviews.

**Senior Sergeant Margaret-Anne** is a registered psychologist and sworn Police Officer. She has worked with persons who have committed sexual offences for over 20 years across both community and prison settings. She has worked as a Corrections Psychologist, Police Detective investigating sex crimes, Behavioural Science Unit Detective/Psychologist, and as a private practitioner in private practice. Margaret-Anne is currently the psychologist with the New Zealand Child Sex Offender Register.

**Dr. Karla Lopez** is the Senior Forensic Psychologist within the Offender Management Division at Victoria Police. She has 20 years' experience working with a broad range of offender populations, including violent and sexual offenders, as well as youth and female offenders. She has held senior roles within correctional, community health, prison and policing settings. She has a particular interest in risk assessment and offender management and training practitioners in relation to evidence-based practice.

**Ms. Katie Gotch** earned a bachelor's degree in psychology from Boston University and a master's degree in forensic psychology from the University of Denver. She has worked in the field of sexual abuse since 2000 as a clinician, evaluator, trainer, educator, and in legislative/policy development. She currently maintains a private practice, Integrated Clinical & Correctional Services, which provides specialized clinical and consultation services related to adults with sexual behavior problems and other forms of abusive/violent behavior. She is a Clinical Member & Public Policy Executive Board Member – ATSA and Board Member & Public Policy Action Team Co-Chair – NPEIV. She believes strongly in the importance of public education and multi-disciplinary collaboration to address sexual violence, beliefs which are reflected within her policy and public affairs work. She regularly provides training to correction agencies, treatment providers, policy makers, and other community partners on sexual abuse specific management and treatment, static and dynamic risk, public policy, public engagement, and related topics.