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**S** VICTIM-OFFENDER  
**Y** MEDIATION  
**M** AND  
**P** AND  
**O** RESTORATIVE JUSTICE  
**S**  
**I** September 26-27, 2003  
**U** SION - SWITZERLAND  
**M**

*2nd International seminar on  
restorative justice and mediation  
from a comparative Francophone  
and Anglophone perspective*

organized by  
Institut Universitaire Kurt Bösch  
SION-SWITZERLAND

supported by  
*European Forum for Victim-Offender Mediation  
and Restorative Justice*

# PROGRAM

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## Friday, september 26

08h30: Welcome

09h00: Opening session

09h30: Plenary session ***Theme 1: Mediation: a form of communication, resolution or reparation?***

11h30: Plenary session ***Theme 2: Victim-offender mediation: a transcultural, multicultural or universal art?***

13h00: Lunch

14h30: Workshops ***Theme 1: Mediation: a form of communication, resolution or reparation?***

16h00: Workshops ***Theme 2: Victim-offender mediation: a transcultural, multicultural or universal art?***

17h30: Synthesis of the workshops

19h30: Seminar dinner

## Saturday, september 27

8h30: Welcome

9h00: Plenary session ***Theme 3: Victim-offender mediation and other forms of mediation***

11h00: Plenary session ***Theme 4: Victim-offender mediation and restorative justice: a new ideology?***

13h00: Lunch break

14h30: Workshops ***Theme 3: Victim-offender mediation and other forms of mediation***

16h00: Workshops ***Theme 4: Victim-offender mediation and restorative justice: a new ideology?***

17h30: Synthesis of the workshops

18h00: Closing aperitif

# OBJECTIVES

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This seminar should stimulate exchange of ideas and thoughts between researchers, academics and practitioners, working in the field of mediation at the European (France, Italy, Spain, England, Belgium, Switzerland...) and international level (Canada, USA...).

In order to facilitate the exchange, French-English simultaneous translation is organized.

# THEMES

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The Scientific Committee has divided the symposium in 4 themes:

## ***Theme 1: Mediation: a form of communication, resolution or reparation?***

The diversity of the objectives and practices in mediation becomes increasingly obvious. The divergence between mediation as it takes place in common law countries and mediation in countries with a roman law tradition shows that the stakes and the objectives are very different, if not opposed. The English-speaking countries tend to reduce the practice of mediation, at worst to a simple technique in the arsenal of the restorative justice tools, at best to a practice that aims to reach an agreement between the conflict parties. In the French-speaking countries mediation should rather be seen in the sphere of communication as part of a project of social regulation and reconstruction of bonds of solidarity.

## ***Theme 2: Victim-offender mediation: a transcultural, multicultural or universal art?***

Studies on the history of communitarian societies have contributed to the development of an intrinsic universality to mediation. Furthermore, some observers reduce the practice of mediation to a simple technique, characterised by a neutrality that is transposable to various social, political and cultural contexts. Other observers do not agree with this perspective and conceive mediation as a process of social regulation, rooted in the distinct juridical, political, cultural and social traditions. Are the practices of mediation universal? Are they different in each country? Is this diversity based in the history of the States that promote it? In that case, what are the particularities of the practice of mediation?

### ***Theme 3: Victim-offender mediation and other forms of mediation***

Victim-offender mediation is often presented as based on a specific logic of functioning because of the specificity of its field of intervention: the control exercised by judicial authorities. Without denying these particularities, we should wonder about the existence of common characteristics between the different types of mediation, either in the definition of the process and techniques of mediation or in the identity of mediators, in their training, in the elaboration of deontological codes, etc. Starting from a comparative approach between the different mediation fields, but also between the different countries, it would be good to find out whether a certain unity or diversity between the mediation processes and the status of mediators exists, referring to still other methods of conflict management.

### ***Theme 4: Victim-offender mediation and restorative justice: a new ideology?***

In the penal field an ideological debate is going on the instrumentalisation of mediation and the promotion of restorative justice as «a third way» by the State and certain social groups. We should question ourselves about the models and practices of mediation interpreted in terms of social pacification, social control or disciplining the body and the mind following M. Foucault's approach. One can wonder whether mediation is not promoting an ideology of social harmony, in which conflicts are reduced to simple communication problems and where power conflicts and larger social inequalities are negated.

## **PROPOSAL TO PRESENT**

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The people, researchers, academics or practitioners, who would like to make a presentation must send their proposal to the Scientific Committee before July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2003 at the following address:

SYMPOSIUM RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

c/o IUKB

C.P. 4176

CH - 1950 Sion 4 - Switzerland

Phone +41 27 205 73 93/00

Fax +41 27 205 73 52/01

E-mail [cdfc@iukb.ch](mailto:cdfc@iukb.ch)

<http://www.iukb.ch>

## PRACTICAL INFORMATION

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A detailed program including information on the presentations during the plenary meetings and the presentations during the workshops will be sent to the participants as soon as the final program is available.

**Maximum number of participants:** 200 people

**Location:** Institut Universitaire Kurt Bösch, Sion, Valais, Switzerland

**Languages:** French and English in simultaneous translation

**Participation fee:** 100 €

**Dinner fee:** 30 €

**Deadline for the registration:** opening of the seminar

**Cancellation policy:** Refunds (75%) will only be made if notice of cancellation is received before September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2003

**Travel:** a shuttle will travel from the station (Sion), then from the accommodations to the IUKB

**Accommodations:** a list of the hotels and the accommodations will be sent to the registered participants

**Information:**

*Phone* +41 27 205 73 93/00 - *Fax* +41 27 205 73 52/01

*E-mail* [cdfc@iukb.ch](mailto:cdfc@iukb.ch) - <http://www.iukb.ch>

## SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

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- **AERTSEN Ivo**, Professor, Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium
- **BONAFE-SCHMITT Jean-Pierre**, Researcher CNRS, France. Scientific leader of the European Master in Mediation of the IUKB
- **CHARBONNEAU Serge**, Coordinator, Meetings of the alternative Justice Organisms in Québec (ROJAO)
- **JACCOUD Mylène**, Professor, School of Criminology, University of Montreal, Canada
- **SCATOLERO Duccio**, Professor, University of Turin, Italy. Pedagogic coordinator of the Mediation Unit of IUKB.

# REGISTRATION FORM

should be sent as soon as possible to  
*IUKB, C.P. 4176 – CH- 1950 Sion 4 - Switzerland*  
E-mail [cdfc@iukb.ch](mailto:cdfc@iukb.ch), fax +41 27 205 73 52/01

Last name: \_\_\_\_\_

First name: \_\_\_\_\_

Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Institution: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

- will make a presentation    yes                       no   
if yes Title of the presentation: \_\_\_\_\_
- 

This presentation is related to

- |         |                          |         |                          |
|---------|--------------------------|---------|--------------------------|
| theme 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> | theme 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| theme 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> | theme 4 | <input type="checkbox"/> |

The title of the presentation and a summary of 1000 characters must be sent to the Scientific Committee before **July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2003** at the following address:

*IUKB, C.P. 4176 – CH-1950 Sion 4 - Switzerland*  
[cdfc@iukb.ch](mailto:cdfc@iukb.ch)

- wants to receive a list of the accommodations                      yes     no
- will participate in the closing dinner    yes     no
- wants to receive the proceedings of the seminar                      yes     no

The payment has to be done when the registration is confirmed by the IUKB.