



SIMONE GRIGOLETTO

BIO

Simone Grigoletto is a post-doc researcher in Social Innovation at Area Science Park. He is working on a theoretical expansion of the Restorative Approach beyond the Penal Justice system. His further research interests deal with the major issues in contemporary moral philosophy. Other than Restorative Justice, he is the author of publications on supererogation, moral excellence and moral exemplarism.

ANNA MATCZAK

BIO

Anna Matczak is a criminologist and is currently appointed as a lecturer in comparative criminology at the Hague University of Applied Sciences. She holds a Ph.D. from the Department of Sociology, LSE. She also holds Master's degrees in Social Policy (Research) from the LSE and in Social Policy from the University of Warsaw. Her doctoral research discusses how lay people in Poland understand punishment and justice and how these understandings can shed light on the viability of restorative justice in the Polish context. Prior to beginning her Ph.D. she was appointed as Research Associate at Kingston University & St George's University of London and Anglia Ruskin University. Since the beginning of 2019 she has been involved in a collaborative project: Restorative Justice: Strategies for Change, which aims to encourage the development of restorative justice in Europe. Since November 2019, she has been a





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member of the Research Committee, European Forum for Restorative Justice. She runs a blog entitled: Lost in Translation: Interpreting the Polish Penalty and tweets at @matczakania.

ABSTRACT

Although apology and forgiveness are often associated with each other and discussed as powerful elements of a restorative justice process, they are not necessarily interrelated. The aim of this conversation is to delineate the fragilities of these two elements. The notion of apology will be discussed based on empirical findings from Poland, which explore how lay people's confidence in apology is limited due to cultural and socio-linguistic reasons. Similarly, forgiveness, when taken to be the primary goal to be reached by a restorative process, can generate mistrust and suspicion. This is especially true on the victims' side who feel to be forced to grant it. Neither apology, nor forgiveness (while being valuable and very powerful tools) can play this role. A fundamental question then arises: what is the goal of Restorative Justice?

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