

# Point of view of young people (16-35 years) on socio-penal interventions facilitating their social reintegration

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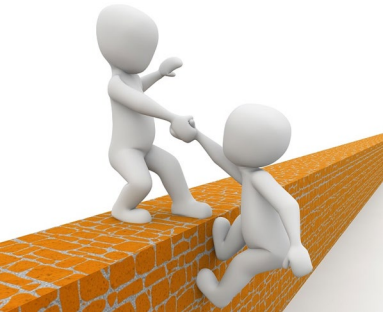
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in a Fractured Era





(RÉ)intégration sociocommunautaire  
Partenariat recherche communauté

- Directed by Natacha Brunelle (UQTR) and Daniel Bellemare (Maison Radisson)
- 16 researchers from 5 universities
- 22 services providers from the community
- Aims to grasp and support the socio-community (re) integration process of judiciarised youth aged 16 to 35.
- 3 AXIS of research
- **Axis 1: Perceptions of judiciarised youth**
- Axis 2: Perceptions of service providers
- Axis 3: Intersectoral actions and implementation of a pilot project



## Context

Primary, secondary (Maruna, Immarigeon & LeBel, 2004) and tertiary (McNeill, 2016) desistance.

Nonlinear process (Villeneuve, F.-Dufour and Turcotte, 2020).

Strewn with obstacles (Halsey, Armstrong & Wright, 2017; Nugent & Schinkel, 2016).

- Facilitators: formal and informal support (Halsey et al., 2017).



# Questions

1) Which actors have intervened in the trajectory of judicialised persons aged 16 to 35 and have had a positive impact on their desistance process(es)?

2) At which point in their trajectory?

3) What were the most significant actions?



## Method

Axis 1 (RE) SO: 146 young judicialised persons

- Having been in contact with the judicial or correctional system during the past two years;
- Come from 3 regions: Quebec, Montreal, Mauricie-Center-du-Quebec;
- 78% men, 22% women;
- Average age: 25 years old.

Subject of this presentation: the first 47 interviews carried out

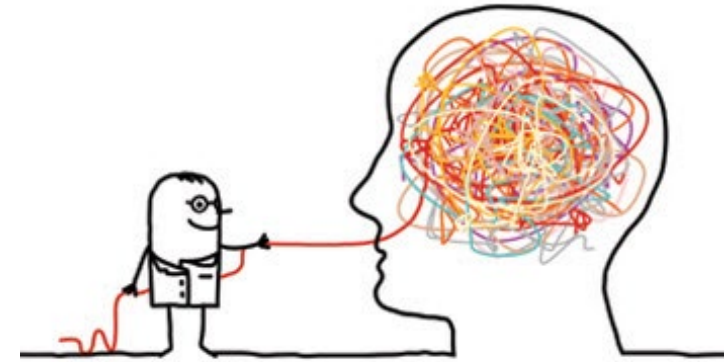
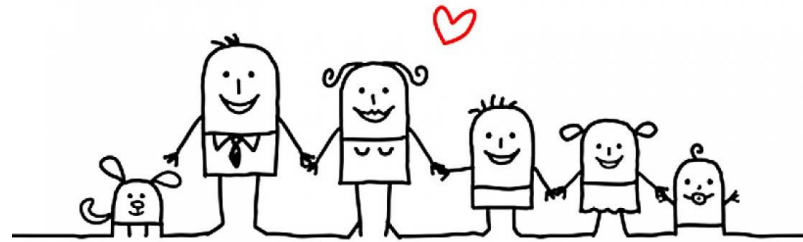


# Method

- Semi-structured interviews
  - the psychosocial and deviant trajectory of the participants;
  - the different services they received;
  - their perception of their journey;
  - their opinion on what is or would be the most helpful for them to facilitate their desistance process and their social (re)integration.
- Verbatim transcription / Inter-judge agreements / Nvivo codification / thematic analysis (Paillé & Mucchielli, 2003)



# Results



		Actors	
		Family, entourage	Probation agent
desistance moment	Primary	Between two worlds: offender vs citizen Renew, maintain or improve an important relationship Desist yes, but where? How? 'Or' What?	Refer the client to the right services Offer concrete help
	Secondary	Group importance Support	Wounded healer System and process knowledge Support Trust relationship Listening Tailoring intervention
	Tertiary	Social pressure to maintain compliance Social capital	Get out of the box Building lasting relationships



# Results-

## Primary desistance: Family, entourage

- Between two worlds: offender vs citizen
  - Especially my mother there, because my mother, when I got back here, my mother said to me "Please, don't force me to get you out of my life, it would kill me ". She said, "But I will believe in you until I die. (Éliane, 31 years old)
- Renew, maintain or improve an important relationship
  - To try to sort out my drinking problem because I'm becoming to be aggressive so... I don't want my boy to live in this, ... (Daniel, 32 years old)
- Desist yes, but where? How? 'Or' What?
  - My mom told me about it, I think. Yes, I think it was my mother or my educator, because the people that knew me saw that I was someone violent. Than, they gave me proposals and all. (Timothé, 18 years old)





# Results- Primary desistance- Probation agents

- Refer the client to the right services
  - *She was just starting out, she had only been working for three months there. [...] With the little experience she has, she teaches me. [...] She tries to give help even if she isn't able. If she isn't able, she will refer a colleague or she will search the Internet. She does everything. (Luc, 22 years old)*
- Offering concrete help:
  - *Well we have a good welcoming. Seriously, that's really welcoming. Hey, when you're new, they think of you. "Are you hungry?", »Do you want to take a shower «?, « Want to do this, that?". (Gabriel, 25 years old)*



# Results

## Secondary desistance: Family, entourage

- Group importance
  - Yes, it's going really well, honestly, I made a good bond, I hang out a lot with people who look like me, who have the same injuries as me. The level of understanding is great. (Alice, 31 years old)
- Support
  - I found it fun that (my mother and my sister) came (visit me). At least I wasn't alone. They supported me in that. It helped me stay there, because it was not easy at first. (...) I wasn't alone. I knew there were people there for me. »(Henri, 17 years old)



# Results-

## Secondary desistance-Probation agents

- « wounded healer » (LeBel, 2014)
  - *Their words, their baggage, what they had been through. They spoke of what they had experienced, they said: "Ah, I've been there, I too have sometimes made mistakes ..." Talking about their journey and talking about my journey, I could know what had happened with them. [...] Yes it is serious, but it is not so bad what you can do in life, you can always get out want, want not. This is what I found helping on their side. (Luc, 22 years old)*
- Education
  - *And then the delinquency, the prison it started, but I understood something with my probation officer [...]. The one who made me understand the process of the Ministry of Public Security, she made me understand probation, that it was important and follow up. It was all about coming back down to a normal structure. (Robert, 31 years old)*
- Getting access to resources (« hook for change » Giordano et al., 2002)
  - *The services received, the support of those who work there. They put their personal time, a personal interest too, to help you. Than, for 2 years, they were behind me. It was pretty tough, but i got my builder certificate and one day I ended up working there. Today I have my builder cards. They did everything to get me there. (Nicolas, 33 years old).*



# Results-

## Secondary desistance- Probation agent

- Trust relationship
  - *Well, I could tell everything and it didn't bother me there. As much as, sometimes, I told her that I had relapsed and she wasn't going to say it. She didn't say: "Madam, she breaches ..." There was trust between me and her. She was encouraging me a lot, because it could have broken my trust if she had gone to denounce me, but I wouldn't have told her the truth afterwards. (Cathy, 25)*
- Listen
  - *There was one time when we had talked for 1 hour, 1 hour and a half and it was something that really made me feel good. To talk about it, because it's something that no one had ever really taken the time to really listen to and give me advice on. (Amélie, 17 years old)*
- Tailored intervention
  - *He was my probation officer. I took that with him because I wasn't able... I failed my group therapy. He made me do individual therapy with him, all alone. And that's how I succeeded because in a group I have more difficulty, while there it was just mine, mine. (Luc, 22 years old)*



# Results- Tertiary desistance

## Family, entourage

- Social pressure to maintain compliance
  - *I feel support and I see the pride they have and the pride they have in seeing my journey and also my mother, she feels like I'm here, really. It had been a long time since I last used drugs. I'm more myself than I have been in a really long time. Than to see that reflection, it doesn't make me want, I really don't want to disappoint them there. (...) Knowing that everyone is really proud of me and clearly their support, if they weren't there, I'm not sure I would still be here. (Éliane, 31 years old)*
- Social capital
  - *Especially my mother. My family, my entourage, but it is important to maintain such good relations with those close to you, because it's them, in the end, who will help you all the time. [...] If I'm not well, I know my brother will come and pick me up in the next moment or my father too. They aren't people who will leave me in psychological distress all alone by the wayside. (Jérôme, 29 years old)*



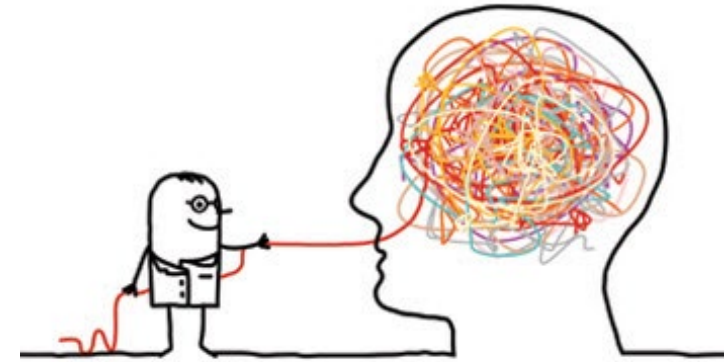
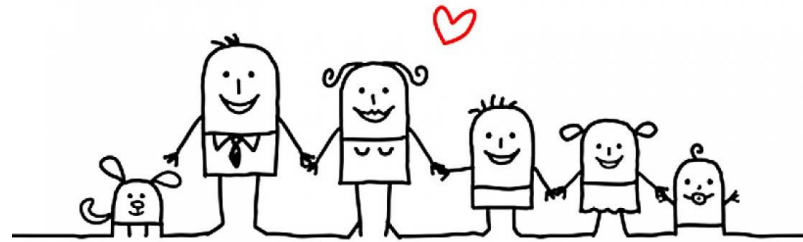
# Results- Tertiary desistance

## Probation agent

- Get out of the box
  - *She was a social worker for the DPJ ( child protection service). But she also followed me for my crimes. When she wasn't supposed to be there, she didn't have to be there in court for my crimes. She came to support my father and my mother... to say or even... to go in front of the Court to say that I am like that. She defended me,. She did more than 'just her job'. , It's helping, it's great having a someone like that. (Samuel, 17)*
- Building lasting relationships
  - *I will continue my probation with my probation officer, go and chat with, once in a while, when I need to. To have an anchor, something like that, because when I find myself with myself, it seems like in my head, I can't imagine not having anything. I got too used to it. I have always had a counselor since I was young, it seems like I always need counselors somewhere for me ... I might need them until I'm 40, I don't know . (Nicolas, 33 years old)*



# Results

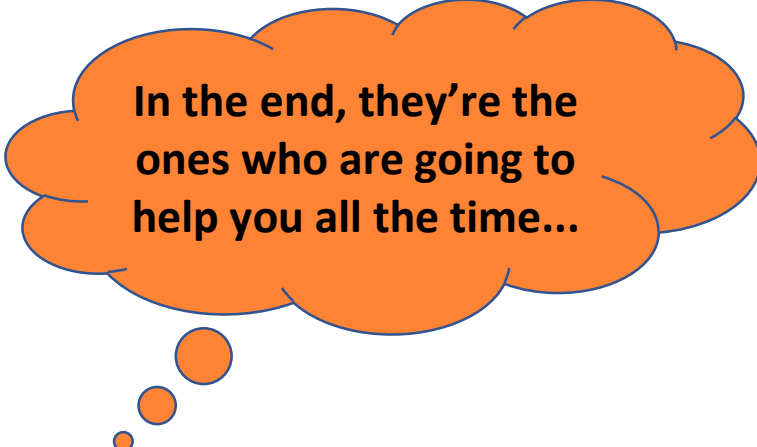


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# Discussion

- Key moments
  - **Formal support:** secondary desistance (Villeneuve, F.-Dufour and Farrall, 2020)
  - **Informal support:** primary and tertiary desistance
- Determinant character of the support of family members in the trajectories of young adults (Alschuler and Brash, 2004; La Vigne, Visher, & Castro, 2004; Wilkinson, 2005)
  - Many transitions (Molgat, 2011)
  - Endorsement of social roles and redefinition of identity



**In the end, they're the ones who are going to help you all the time...**





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