



Is Social Participation The Same For All Older People? The Case Of Older Former Offenders In A Sobriety Process

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Presentation plan

01

Aging and sobriety among older former offenders

02

Social participation

03

Methods: literature review & qualitative research

04

Social participation among older former offenders

05

Discussion and how we can move forward



01

**Aging and sobriety among
older former offenders**

The aging

- A multidimensional process
 - Redefinition of the person
 - Taking into consideration their strengths, their limits, their interests and their abilities
- Threshold age: 65 years old
 - ↑ of the proportion of older adults
 - In Canada: 18.9%
 - In Québec: 20.8%

*People with history of precarity :
Acceleration of the aging process*

(Caradec, 2008; Grenier et Ferrer, 2010; Massé et T.-Brault, 1984; Kunkel et Settersten, 2021; Statistique Canada, 2022)

Aging among older former offenders

- Starting at 50 years old
 - Early development of geriatric conditions: difficulties related to mobility, to accomplish the activities of daily living, and early onset of cognitive impairment
- ‡ of life expectancy
 - 70 instead of 83 years old

Older offenders
25% in prison
+ 40% into the community

(Bureau de l'enquêteur correctionnel et Commission canadienne des droits de la personne [BEC et CCDP], 2019; Bushnik et al., 2018; Carlsen et al., 2019; Merkt et al., 2020; Laws et coll., 2022)

Substance use among older former offenders

- At the admission to prison
 - Between 70% and 80% mentioned having problems related to their substance use
- Consequences of substance use and incarceration
 - Disruption of the social connection
 - Reduction in financial resources
 - Debts

Process to change substances use when they are incarcerated

(Cram and MacDonald 2022; Fazel, Yoon, and Hayes 2017; Wyse, 2018)

Sobriety process among older former offenders

- 40% of the older former offenders
 - Non-voluntary detoxication
 - Awareness of health problems
 - Fear of death while they are incarcerated

To foster social and community reintegration

Sobriety process

Journey while a person develops his/her capacities with his/her capital recovery (personal, social, and community)

(Cram and MacDonald 2022; Fazel, Yoon, and Hayes 2017; Wyse, 2018)

Social and community process

- A multidimensional adaptation process which aims to integrate the person into his neighborhood, into his community and into society.

Social and community reintegration



Organisation



Occupation



Personal



Relationship



Sociojudicial



(Bérard, 2015)



02

Social participation



“Interest and engagement of a person in activities which allows them to interact with others, and globally with the members of the community and the society.”

(Levasseur et al., 2022)

Social participation

Social participation

- Typology at 6 degrees of implication, with specific goals

Solo daily activities to meet the basic needs

Solo activities with indirect contacts with others

Solo activities with direct contacts with others

Social activities

Activities with the goal to mutual aid

Activities to contribute to the society

Stigmatization and
fear of judgement
among older former
offenders



Objective

To critique social participation as it is commonly conceptualized and reflect on its applicability to the reality of older offenders in sobriety process.



**Methods : literature
review & qualitative
data collect**

03

Narrative review of the literature

- Certain level of methodological rigor
 - Variety of articles
 - Inclusion of gray literature
- Allows to produce a state of knowledge on a subject that is still insufficiently explored

Postdoctoral fellowship

Qualitative analysis

- Face-to-face interviews with 22 older former offenders
- Analysis focused on social participation as an emergent theme

Doctoral thesis

(Grant & Booth, 2009; Sandelowski, 2000)



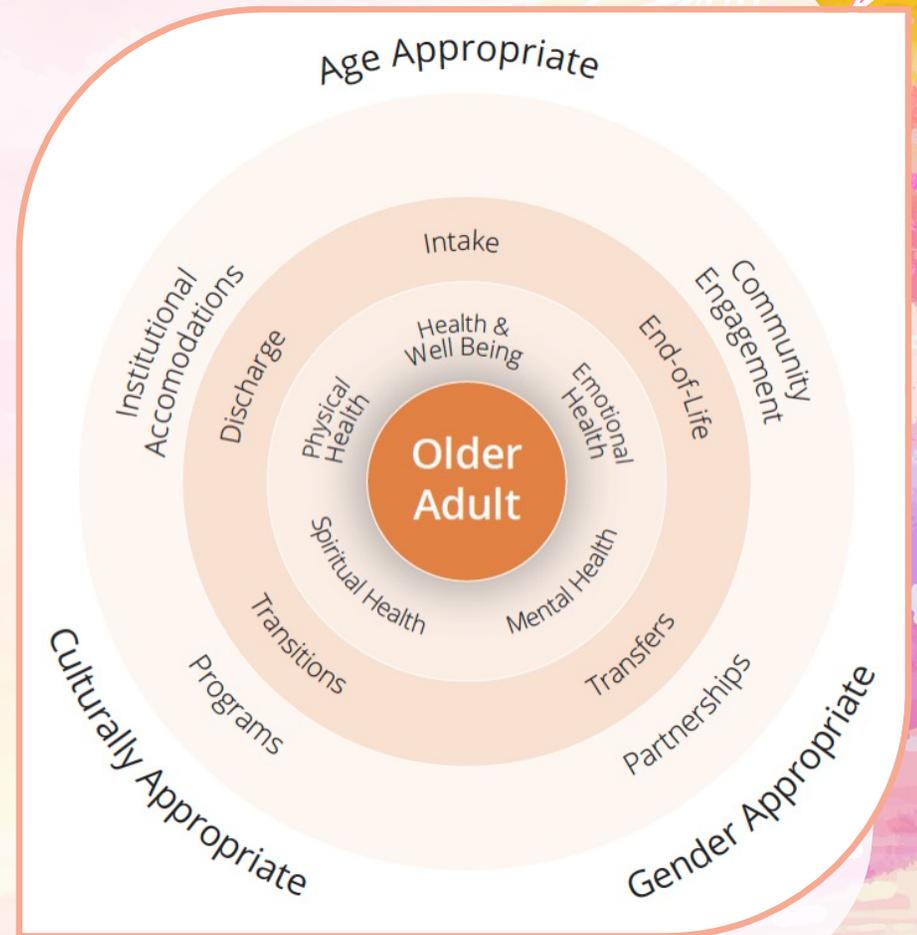
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Social participation among older former offenders

Aging policy in the correctional systems

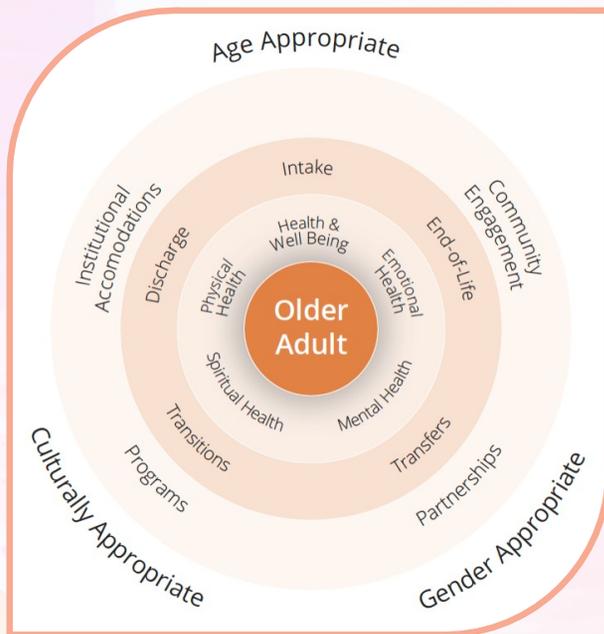
- Guide by the Nelson Mandela Rules

- Humane Treatment
- Non-discrimination
- Normalization
- Safety and security
- Tailored rehabilitation



(Colibaba et al., 2019; Office des Nations Unies contre la drogue et le crime, 2015)

Aging policy in the correctional systems



- Patient care centred on health problems
 - Medical vision
- Non-recognition of social participation as a determinant of health

(Colibaba et al., 2019; Lares et Montgomery, 2020; de Souza, 2019)

Occupations among older former offenders

In prison

- Nelson Mandela Rules
- Strongly encouraged to participate
- Integrate into the daily routine

Into the community

- Work, volunteering
- Integrate into the release plan

82% of older former offenders did volunteering, sport, school, solo
(reading, playing)

VS

64% while they were back into the community

(Norman et al., 2022; Norman & Andrews, 2019; Office des Nations Unies contre la drogue et le crime, 2015)

Impact of the occupations on the sobriety process and social and community reintegration

- Outlet for negative feelings
- Seeking positive emotions
- Learning and integrating social norms
- Searching for meaning in their lives
- Contributing to the development of an identity

(Aubut et al., 2022; Connell, 2019; Connell et al., 2019)

To foster social participation as a dimension among older former offenders...

- Should make sense for them
- Should be aligned with their interests
- Should take into consideration their capacities and limitations
- Should not be monitored in order to realize their release plan objectives

(Aubut et al., 2022; Connell, 2019; Connell et al., 2019)

Type of occupations



(Aubut, 2023)

Individual occupations



I listen **to music**. It is the only thing I've got at the moment that's **taking my mind off things** and changing my mood, **keeping me in a good mood** instead of being mad.

Claude, 55 years old

Social occupations

I bought myself a **bike**, so I cycle a lot. In the winter I went **snowshoeing** too, and then I got in-line skates. I play in a **garage hockey league**, so as I say, I'm 68 years old, but in my head I'm still 30, 40 years old, and I **play sport all the time**.

Gilbert, 68 years old

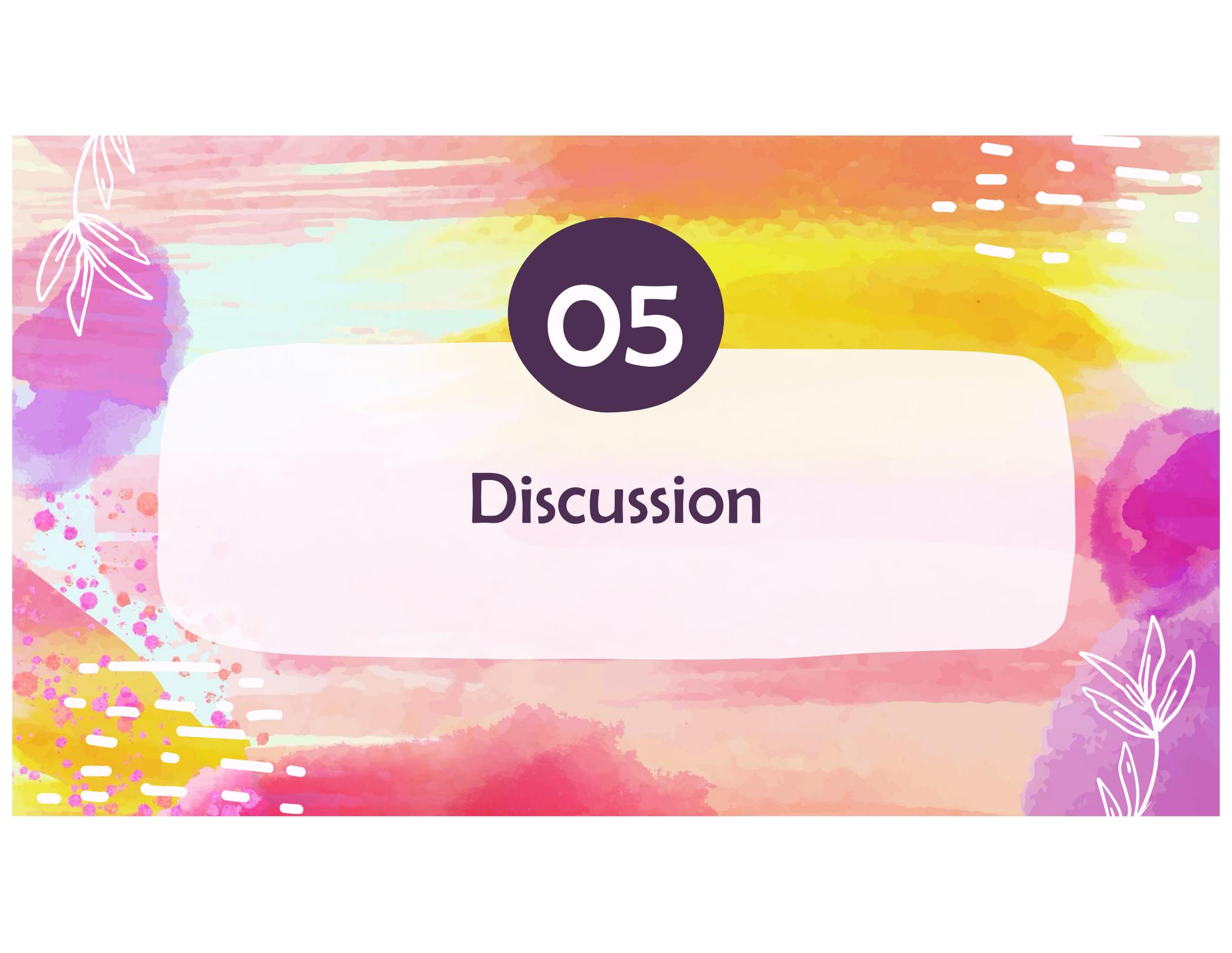


Community occupations



Well, I go to a **community mental health center** [name of organization] that helps us move on when we've been incarcerated or something like that. We do **activities**. We go to the apple orchard, we play cards.
Mado, 50 years old

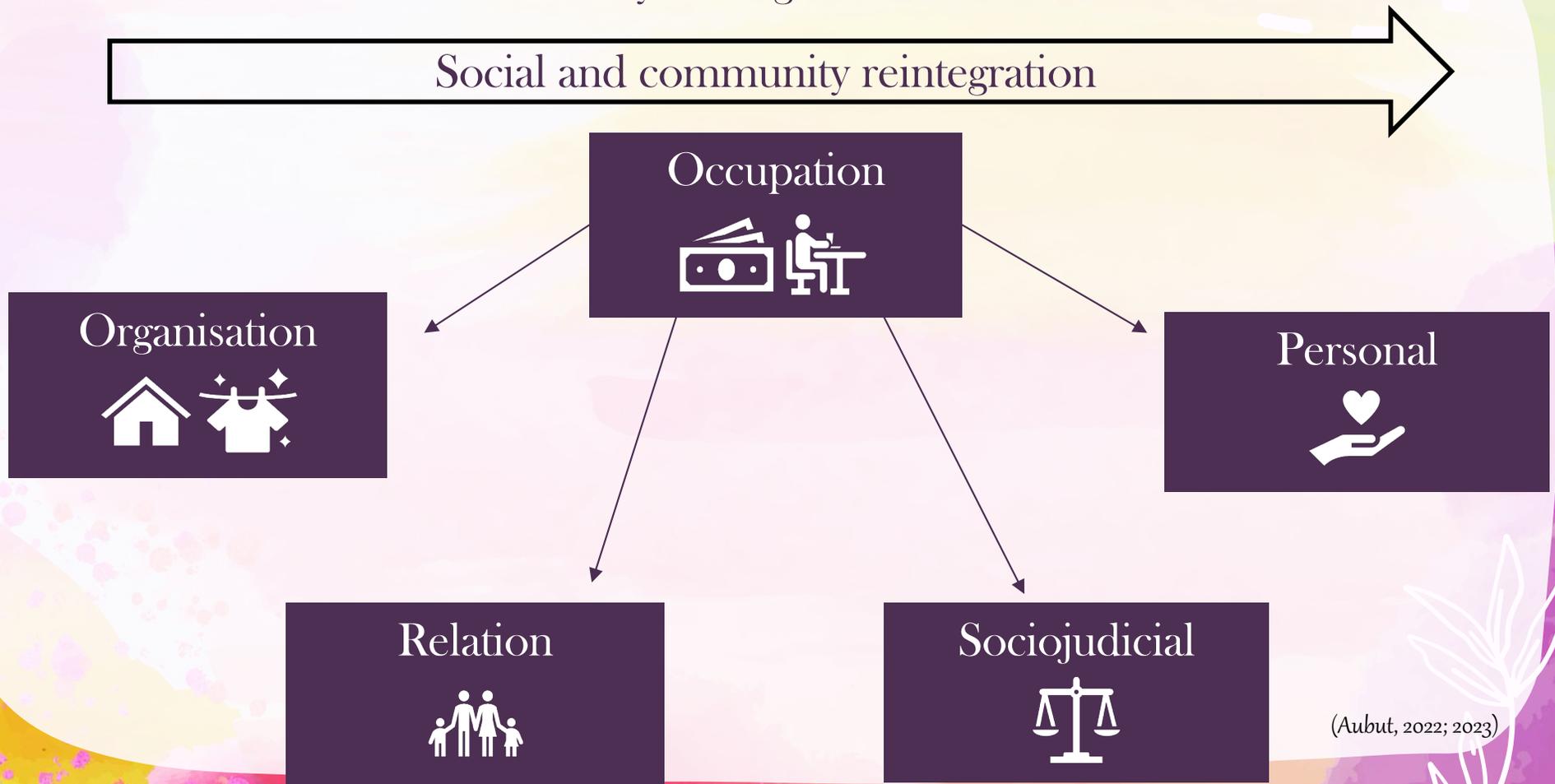
(Aubut, 2023)



05

Discussion

- To foster social and community reintegration



(Aubut, 2022; 2023)

Social and community reintegration

Organisation

Occupation

Relation

Sociojudicial

Personal

Social Participation

Past experiences

Older former offenders

Interests

Strengths and capacities

Social network

(Aubut, 2023)

THANKS!

Questions ? / Comments / Discussion

To contact me, scan me



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