





Issue 5: April 2023

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Institute: Equitable Systems Design for Restorative Justice

We would like to thank all who attended our recent institute on Equitable Systems Design for Restorative Justice! On March 31, 2023, the NCORJ, in partnership with the University of California College of the Law, San Francisco invited practitioners, academics, advocates, system-impacted people, and professionals at the intersection of criminal legal processes and restorative justice to attend a one-day institute on equitable systems design for restorative justice.

Throughout the day, participants examined the challenging question of how to advance equitable systems design for restorative justice. Speakers brought a wide range of expertise in equity, law, policy, restorative justice, and health. Attendees were invited to participate in think tanks on various critical issues and to attend a screening of the short film *Sippin'* by Artist-in-Residence for the event and the film's director Rosa Navarette.

The Institute began with a morning keynote address from Founder and President of the New Breath Foundation Eddy Zheng, who shared his own powerful story to highlight the importance of community-owned and driven, culturally responsive restorative justice practice. Eddy urged attendees to remember the centrality of CHI-- culture, history, and identity--to collective healing.

The morning also included a panel presentation featuring Dr. Daryll M. Heller,

Professor Lydia Nussbaum, Professor Eve Hanan, and Professor Deborah M. Weissman, four authors of the Hastings Journal on Gender and the Law & Hastings Race and Poverty Law Journal, Special Issue on Restorative Justice. One attendee said, "From all the panelists, I learned insight into the formation of Restorative Justice processes in America." You can read the special issue here.

A recording of the morning sessions will be available soon.

Learn More About Upcoming Events and Institutes



Webinar: Restorative Justice for Police

The National Center on Restorative Justice is excited to announce the next webinar in our "Restorative Justice in the Criminal Legal System" series, "Restorative Justice for Police" on April 26, 2023 from 3-4:15pm ET.

This 75-minute webinar will introduce viewers to the key principles of restorative justice and ways of implementation for police officers. The panelists will share experiences and recommendations for police officers working in the criminal legal system that encourage self-reflection, engagement with the

community members they serve, and strategies relevant to their direct role in the legal system.

Register and find out more about the webinar series below. If you have any questions about this or any other webinars in the series, do not hesitate to reach out to Avery Arrington at aarrington@vermontlaw.edu.



Register and Watch Past Webinar Recordings Here



As a part of its mission to expand access to Restorative Justice Education, the National Center on Restorative Justice currently provides scholarships to the University of San Diego's Professional Certificate in Restorative Justice Facilitation and Leadership program. Scholarships for the Vermont Law & Graduate School Professional Certificate are coming soon.

The Professional Certificate in Restorative Justice Facilitation and Leadership at the University of San Diego is for mid-career professionals wishing to deepen their understanding of restorative justice, become skillful restorative facilitators, and lead efforts to implement restorative justice programs and policies in their work. This three-course program provides a comprehensive introduction to restorative justice facilitation and leadership through asynchronous online coursework, a skill building intensive, and a practicum experience where you will be connected to a community of practice and paired with a restorative mentor in your field of interest. The next scholarship application deadline for the USD certificate program is May 31, 2023 (for the Fall 2023 cohort). Apply here!

The Vermont Law and Graduate School Professional Certificate in Restorative Justice allows recent college graduates and early to mid-career professionals to learn about restorative justice and its relevance to their current or intended career. Students in the program take a foundational course and then select from a wide range of elective courses, depending on their professional interests. Courses include: RJ in Education, New Approaches to Domestic and Sexual Violence, RJ in Indigenous Communities, Global Restorative Justice, Race/Crimes/and Restorative Justice, Environmental Restorative Justice, Pleas Sentencing and Accountability, and many more. Courses are available to take online, on campus, or in a hybrid of both.

Visit the NCORJ Website for Updates Regarding Scholarships

National Restorative Coaching Program Webinar

Please join us on **May 9, 2023 from 1pm PST (4pm ET)** for an informational webinar on the NCORJ's National Restorative Coaching Program (NRCP). Register for the webinar here!

The NRCP provides restorative justice practitioners with individualized support in restorative skills, frameworks, and programmatic implementation. One-on-one coaching is delivered by restorative justice leaders who have a depth of experience from a wide range of restorative justice contexts. As a continuation of formal training, coaching aims to deepen the innate capabilities and confidence of practitioners nationwide.

The NRCP's goal is to draw on the experience and knowledge of a national team of RJ coaches who partner with next generation RJ practitioners to enhance the use of restorative justice and improve US criminal justice policy and practices. Restorative coaching is offered to RJ practitioners who can benefit from both thought partnership and leveraging further RJ resources to improve or expand their RJ efforts.

Apply to be a Coach or Receive Coaching Here

Map of RJ Programs and Services

The National Association of Community and Restorative Justice (NACRJ), in collaboration with National Center on Restorative Justice (NCORJ), is creating an online map and directory of organizations, education institutions, and other entities across the United States that offer restorative justice services.

Launch of the map is scheduled for May 2023. By signing up for the launch list, you will receive updates and information when the project goes live. Individuals and organizations who are interested in being listed on the map and directory will receive further information and instruction on how to submit an entry.

Sign Up



RJRC Fellows Roundtable

The Restorative Justice Research Community (RJRC) was launched in 2022 to support and advance research on restorative justice and addressing inequities in the context of the US criminal legal system. RJRC projects are developed using an emergent approach, grounded in the needs of the field. One of the projects advanced by the RJRC includes a cohort of academic research fellows. The fellows project was developed in response to an identified need for academic researchers to build relationships with each other, and with their local communities. To this end, the RJRC supports a cohort of fellows to engage in quarterly, 3-hour facilitated discussions. In preparation for the discussions fellows are asked to review selected readings and to engage with their local communities, to help stimulate and expand their thinking. These facilitated discussions are intended to provide the space to raise issues and deepen thinking, not solve issues or come to consensus. Fellows recently completed their third facilitated discussion which focused on concepts including restorative approaches to research, the restorative justice identity conundrum, and issues of co-option. Current research fellows include: Anne Hobbs from University of Nebraska Omaha NE, Shannon Sliva from the University of Denver CO, and Rochelle Arms Almengor from Berea College KY.

Learn More About the RJRC

NCORJ Virtual Resource Library: The Gathering Do you teach a higher education course in restorative justice, or train new practitioners? The National Center on Restorative Justice invites you to help with the creation of a virtual resource library to support restorative justice education. We envision a resource library for higher education that is inclusive, helpful, accessible and continuously improved. We invite you to take a few minutes to share the teaching resources that have been most beneficial to your work with students – readings, videos, podcasts and more. Thank you for participating!

Share Resources Here

Thank you for being part of our community! If you know someone who would like to receive updates on the activities of the NCORJ, please encourage them to sign up for our newsletter here.

With gratitude,

The National Center on Restorative Justice team

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Graduate School, the University of Vermont, the University of San Diego, and the U.S. Office of Justice Programs. The NCORJ is funded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) to educate and train the next generation of justice leaders and to support and lead research focusing on restorative justice and addressing social inequities to improve criminal justice policy and practice in the United States.

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