



Activating Lived Experience in Criminal Justice

Newsletter #1, May 2025


UKRI-funded | £1.3m | UK and Ireland | 4 years


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Project summary

The first large-scale participatory study across the UK and Ireland to explore lived experience-led criminal justice, focussing on:





 **The past:** historical and archival research

 **The present:** Innovative, arts-based participatory methods


 **The future:** future focused design methods and lived experience voices


Our goal? Ethical and imaginative praxis that could transform criminal justice.


Team Highlights


-  Kicked off with a 2-day team retreat at Gladstone's Library (Flintshire)
-  Trauma-Informed Research training completed
-  Design based pilot and design sprint manifesto completed
-  Published *Generative Justice* chapter and submitted history-based article


Gill Buck – Principal Investigator

 Archival work revealed 19th-century lived experience-led justice efforts


 Conducted interviews with lived-experience leaders (England and Ireland)


 Co-authoring an *autoethnographic book* on lived experience research


 Published *Generative Justice in Hindsight* – exploring transformative arts-based research practices


 Presented at: Safer CJ Symposium (Manchester), Storyhouse Women Panel (Chester) and ICPA Symposium (Keynote address – Belfast)

Emma Murray – Co-Investigator

 Partnered with FACT (Liverpool) to develop a creative research framework:
Being | Seeing | Knowing | Learning | Doing | Sharing

 Piloted with E4J and FACT to co-design an equitable research ethics scaffold for the British Society of Criminology.

 Presenting design-based methodology at British Society of Criminology Conference

 Published *Generative Justice in Hindsight* – exploring transformative arts-based research practices

 Leading a creative programme at Anglia Ruskin University – delivering tools, artefacts and practical outputs for broader adoption

Paula Harriott – Visiting Researcher (Unlock)

- 📄 Conducted qualitative interviews with lived experience leaders (England)
- 👥 Recruited a national lived experience advisory board for E4J and FACT pilot and worked on co-designing equitable research ethics scaffold for the BSC.
- 🎤 Presenting design-based methodology at British Society of Criminology Conference
- 🌟 Launching [Prisoner Leaders book](#) at London's Parliament and European Society of Criminology Conference.
- 🗣️ Speaking engagements: Lived experience leadership with Frankland prisoner leaders, Storyhouse Women Panel (Chester), Bournemouth University: lived experience leadership, Edinburgh Royal Society of Forensic Psychiatry, HMP Isis: lived experience leadership, Old Bailey: City and Legal seminar series, University of Birmingham Annual Criminology lecture, International Seminar on lived experience leadership, RESPECT: building international ethics for Research.

Natasha Ryan & Kemi Ryan – Visiting Researchers (Reformed Development)

- 👥 Recruited regional lived experience advisory board who will become legacy leaders
- 🎓 Coordinating accredited peer researcher training with EP:IC
- 📖 Co-writing an autoethnographic book on lived experience research: Ethical approval secured, first chapters drafted
- 🎤 Presenting book methodology at British Society of Criminology Roundtable
- 📖 Published *Generative Justice in Hindsight* – exploring transformative arts-based research practices

📅 What's Next?

- Photovoice case study 1
- Interviews in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland
- Presenting at British Society of Criminology (July 2025) & European Society of Criminology (September 2025)
- Publishing autoethnographic book
- Launching creative collaborative ethics tools

Keep your eyes on our [News & Events](#) page – or better yet, get involved!

💖 Stay Connected

Want to collaborate, contribute or keep in touch?

✉ Email: g.buck@chester.ac.uk

🌐 Website: imaginejustice.co.uk



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