

COST Action: IS1106

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STSM dates: from 01-09-2013 to 30-11-2013

STSM Applicant: Anna Meléndez

STSM Topic: Restorative Justice and Desistance

Host University and: University of Sheffield

Host Supervisor: Pr. Johanna Shapland. J.M.Shapland@sheffield.ac.uk

• ***Purpose of the STSM***

The stage of research in the University of Sheffield took place in the third year of my PhD Programme, between September 1st 2013 and November 30th 2013. The purpose was analysing and writing the results of the research in order to discuss them with respect to international research.

The aims of the Stage of research as a visiting student in Sheffield were on the one hand theoretical, which included reading and writing tasks; and on the other hand, the objectives of contrast, compare and discuss the empirical results from my research.

• ***Description of the work carried out during the STSM***

a) Theoretical contextualisation of the international and European research

I updated the theoretical framework of the thesis reading some of the most important criminological literature about restorative justice and desistance, focusing specially on the scientific British papers on the field under the supervision of Johanna Shapland.

b) Research contextualisation in the host research group

The host group evaluated some restorative justice programmes in England and Wales as well as the group did research in the field of desistance. The group background allowed me to contextualise my research about penal mediation and desistance in Catalonia, having had the opportunity of being in contact with them by sharing methodologies and results. In particular I was able to learn about the analysis and explanations they found in their researches in order to improve my interpretation of the results.

c) Contrast, discuss and compare the results in an European level and with the host group

I was able to contrast, discuss and compare the results in a European, and more specifically, in a UK level with the results obtained in the Catalan research using my fieldwork data, looking at both quantitative data from a survey of offenders undertaking restorative justice in Catalonia and at qualitative case study data. The discussion and comparison was undertaken considering theoretical aspects relating to both restorative justice and desistance and my empirical findings.

• Description of the main results obtained: writing task

I wrote up two articles including all the comments, reflections and corrections discussed with my supervisor, Dr. Joanna including a comparative part with the UK experiences. On the one hand, using the results of the quantitative data of my research I analyzed the most relevant variables in the restorative process in Catalonia; and on the other hand, I wrote an article comparing my qualitative case studies with those published in Dr. Joanna Shapland book, *Restorative Justice in Practice*, which relates to conferencing in England.

• Future collaboration with host institution (if applicable)

Both articles are a first version and this work will continue during the next months, keeping in touch with Dr. Joanna Shapland in order to write a final version and try to publish them in a criminological journal.

• Foreseen publications/articles resulting or to result from the STSM (if applicable)

Both articles could be published in a near future.

• Confirmation by the host institution of the successful execution of the STSM (attached the original document)

“Anna Melendez spent the period from September to December 2013 at the University of Sheffield in the Centre for Criminological Research, School of Law. During this period she was supervised by myself. In my view, her stay was very successful and Anna worked very hard. Her main work was to discuss with myself and others in the School her PhD research on restorative justice and desistance. She had brought with her her fieldwork data and we looked both at her quantitative data from a survey of offenders undertaking restorative justice in Catalonia and at her

qualitative case study data, considering theoretical aspects relating to both restorative justice and desistance and her empirical findings. She was able to analyse her quantitative data using SPSS and understand what the offenders were saying and how this related to the scheme in Catalonia, compared to other mediation and conferencing schemes elsewhere (including the ones I had evaluated in England). She wrote up much of this work and then turned to writing an article comparing her qualitative case studies with those published in our book, Restorative Justice in Practice, which relates to conferencing in England. This work will continue when she is back in Spain and I will continue to work with her on it.

In addition to this main work, she also attended the GERN White Rose doctoral conference which was held in Sheffield in September 2013, at which papers were given on both restorative justice and desistance. She was able to make contact with key restorative justice practitioners in England.

Yours faithfully,

Professor Joanna Shapland

Edward Bramley Professor of Criminal Justice”