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Co-producing Desistance

Beth Weaver
Aims

• Key points: desistance research

• Co-producing desistance
  – With individuals
  – With families
  – With groups
  – With communities
What is desistance?

- Stopping offending and keeping it up.
- Ontogenic: Age and maturation: growing out of crime
- Sociogenic: Investment in social relationships, impact of turning points / key events: work and family.
- Narrative: Subjective, internal shifts in identity, motivation, empathic concern.
- Integrative: Interrelationships between all three for individual & interaction with other concerns (Weaver and McNeill 2007; McNeill and Weaver 2010).
Dynamics of Desistance #1

- Motivation and hope are critical in the early stages (LeBel et al 2008).

- Acquiring sense of control / choice over one’s life.

- Relational & social contexts critical to user engagement and desistance supportive practices (Weaver 2011; 2012).

- Development of social capital – different kinds of relationships between people are a key concern.

- Generative activities facilitate identity shifts, offset stigma, promote self worth (Maruna 2001; Maruna and LeBel 2009; McNeill and Maruna 2008) (for an overview also see McNeill et al 2012)
Dynamics of Desistance #2
(for an overview see Weaver and McNeill 2010)

• **Triggers**
  – Openness to change: negative events/experiences, advancing maturity, new relationships / roles.

• **Maintenance**
  – Characterised by increased agency, shift in attitudes, values & beliefs; sustained by new social and economic opportunities: family and work: embed change, realise / consolidate identities

• **Motivations and Supports**
  – Stability, belonging, recognition, health, well-being, being listened to and heard, opportunities for social participation (Barry 2006, 2007).
So what can we do about it?

- Collaborative practice: service users, informal/social networks, professional services & communities.
- Co-production
- Different forms and levels of involvement in different aspects of service design, development, delivery & evaluation.
- Continuum / typology: individual, group and collective forms.
- Beyond agency-led interventions with individuals → interaction with users, families, volunteers and communities.
- (See Weaver 2011, Weaver and McCulloch 2012)
Individual co-production (see McNeill and Weaver 2010)

• Collaborative approach to support individual pathways to desistance.
• Approach: active and participatory, mutually respectful, transparent.
• Placing individual at centre of change process – not programmes / procedures.
• Personalised assessments (narratives) and holistic but tailored packages of support.
Working with families

- Eco-maps / social network analyses.
- Parenting classes
- Recognition of caring responsibilities.
- Problem-solving family work.
- Mutual aid groups
- Resource mapping

(See for example Shapiro and DiZerega 2010; Trotter 2010)
Group co-production

• Currently – for delivery of cognitive behavioural correctional programmes.

• Group co-production: groups of service users shape / provide services.

• Desistance focussed: strengths based, collaborative, development of social capital and new social networks, opportunities for generative engagement.

• Activism / advocacy → helping, mutual aid
  – Prison councils / user led consultation fora → mutual aid groups, mutual aid based group work.

(see for example Weaver and McCulloch 2012)
Collective Co-production: communities

• Community engagement, development and community social work approaches:
  – multi-agency innovations i.e. community justice centres, one-stop-shop.

• Community navigators:
  – identifying and facilitating access to and aligning available community resources;
  – cultivating new partnerships, and promoting collaboration between individuals, organisations and communities

• Community Resource Mapping
Cooperatives and mutuals
(Weaver and Nicholson 2012)

• Multi-stakeholder co-ownership
• Provide and create employment and support for their members both in prison and in the community.
• The professional facilitates the promotion, development, and success of each social co-operative
• Contribute to pro-social identity, self-esteem, self-efficacy; provide a sense of purpose, promote active citizenship and generate social capital.
Concluding comments

- Task: promote social participation, capitalise on strengths, build capacities, recognise lived realities, offer meaningful and sustainable opportunities to live differently.

- Beyond simply reducing re-offending and extant service provisions to good lives and collaborative, innovative practices.
References

References


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