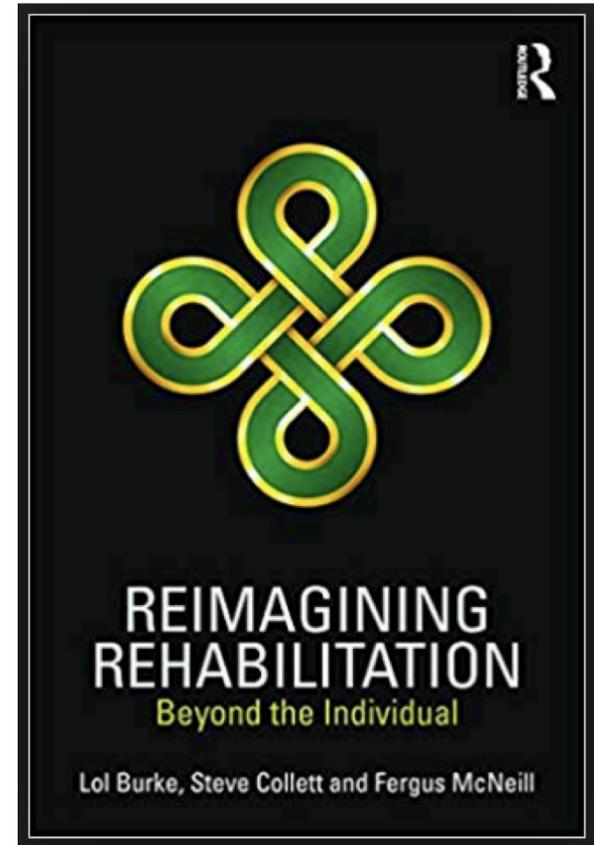


# Reimagining Rehabilitation?



Fergus McNeill  
Professor of Criminology & Social Work  
University of Glasgow  
[Fergus.McNeill@glasgow.ac.uk](mailto:Fergus.McNeill@glasgow.ac.uk)  
[@fergus\\_mcneill](https://twitter.com/fergus_mcneill)

- McNeill, F. (2014) 'Punishment as Rehabilitation', pp. 4195-4206 in, G. Bruinsma and D. Weisburd (eds.), *Encyclopedia of Criminology and Criminal Justice*, DOI 10.1007/978-1-4614-5690-2, Springer Science and Business Media: New York. [A final draft version of this paper is available open access online at: <http://blogs.iriss.org.uk/discoveringdisistance/files/2012/06/McNeill-When-PisR.pdf>]



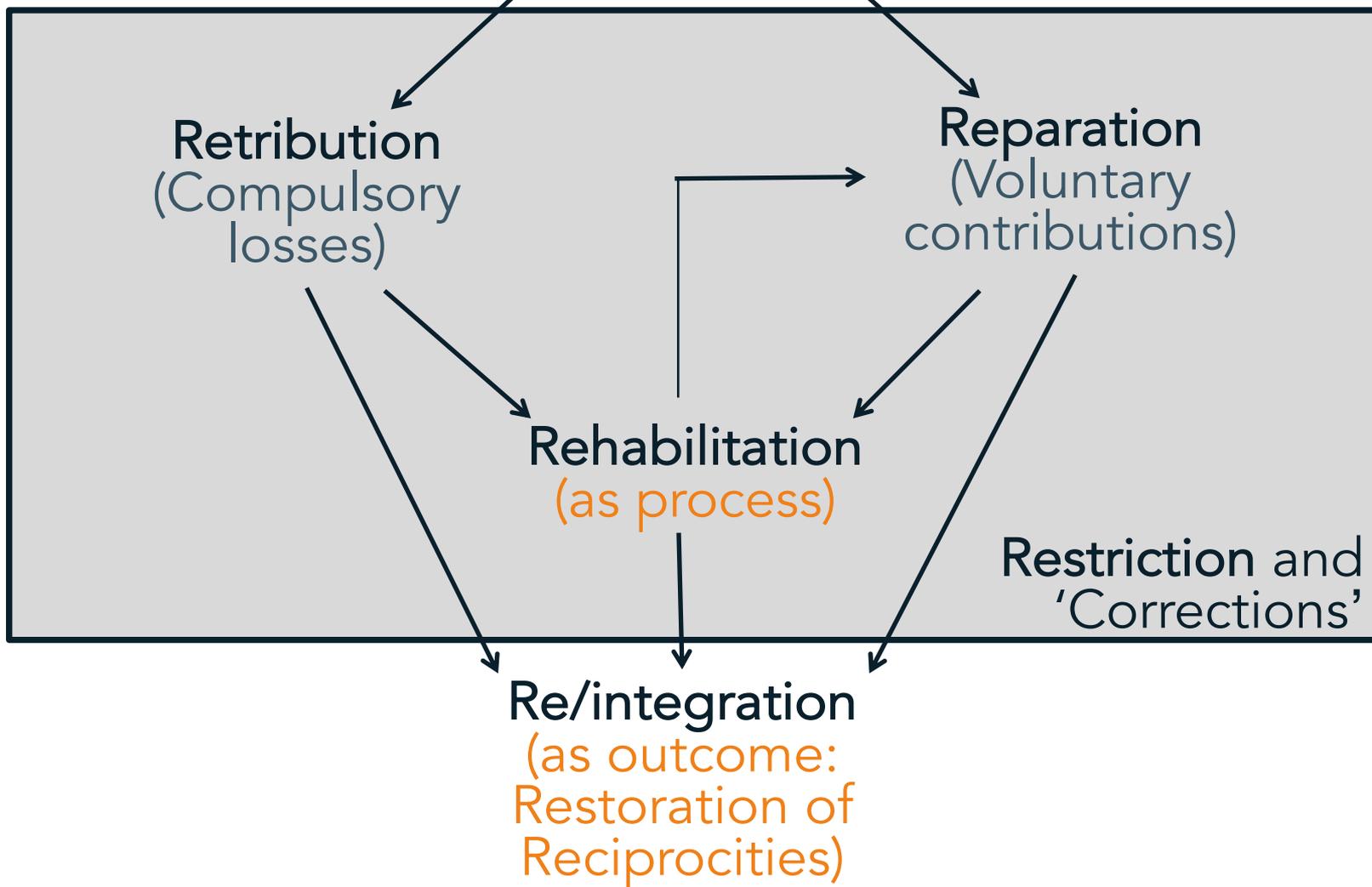
# Reintegrative momentum?

- 'As a general social practice, punishment does not merely mark out the punishee's actions as wrong and blames him for engaging in this wrongful act. It also defines how both punishee and punisher will move forward from here. **The penal agent lays down the terms of his or her future co-existence with the offender in a shared social world.** Because this is punishment's central social function, **there is reintegrative momentum inherent in punishment** that gives the offender himself an interest in being punished. Far from threatening or challenging an offender's membership in the community, punishment reasserts or reinforces it' (du Bois Pedain, 2017: 203).

# Reintegrative momentum, in practice?

- [Even if you don't agree entirely with that argument, whether you are **a reductivist or a retributivist**, you have to care about reintegration...]
- In practice, **reintegrative momentum** is very hard to generate and very easily lost by penal agents in three penal moments:
  - When we sentence
  - When we implement sentences
  - When sentences end

# Sanctions as Redress for Breaches of Reciprocities



Personal  
rehabilitation

Social  
rehabilitation

Desistance

Judicial  
rehabilitation

Moral and political  
rehabilitation

The Traveller

Companions,  
climate and  
welcome

The  
Journey

Passport control

Dialogue and  
destination

## Generating reintegrative momentum?

- You don't fix a tear by working on one side
- Both the tear and the repair are relational
  - Between the people involved
  - Between citizen, civil society and state
  - Processes of mutual recognition
- Structure and culture shape the relational possibilities...  
and the problems
  - 'Corrections' cannot duck these issues
  - It is necessary to work on both sides of the tear
  - The needle hurts but the thread binds; it is better to live with a scar than an open wound.

# For more information

- Discovering Desistance
  - <http://blogs.iriss.org.uk/discoveringdesistance/>
- Distant Voices: Coming Home
  - <http://www.voxliminis.co.uk/distant-voices/>