



Royal Irish Academy Grants Report

Title:	Dr.
First Name:	Katharina
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Discipline:	Humanities and Social Sciences
Year of Award:	2018
Project Title	A critical analysis of voluntary sector participation in criminal justice in the Republic of Ireland

I. Research background:

Voluntary sector organisations (VSOs) play a pivotal, but as yet unevaluated role in the Irish criminal justice system. We know very little about the exact scope, dimensions and consequences of this 'partnership' for voluntary sector organisations and their service users. The aim of this research is to systematically address this research gap by adapting the learning from recently completed large scale, state-of-the art research on 'Adaptation and resilience of voluntary sector organisations', conducted by Corcoran et al. (2017) in England and Wales to the Republic of Ireland.

By gaining first hand insight into the research process, data collection methods, protocols and analytical dimensions of this innovative study, the proposed research will devise a comparative scoping study in the Republic of Ireland.

2. Please outline the findings of your research and/or milestones achieved (did you achieve the primary objectives - if not, what did you learn from the process)?

Findings of my research trip/milestones

- 1) To gain familiarity with the development, delivery and analysis of Corcoran et al's (2017) study - I achieved this objective. Dr. Corcoran generously shared all research instruments with me, as well as important strategic advice how to 'open up' such a novel/large research area in an unchartered field in the RoI.
- 2) Devise a research proposal for IRC funding in partnership with umbrella VSO organisation in Ireland- The IRC has just recently announced the New Foundations grant and I am submitting a proposal in partnership with the Jesuit Centre for Faith and Justice in Dublin. Building up this partnership was possible through the Charlemont Grant.
- 3) To conceptualise and publish a comparative article (England/Wales and Ireland) for publication in Crime and Criminal Justice with Corcoran on the regulatory landscape of the VSO-state-market triangle - This is still in process as some more groundwork has to be done here in the RoI, but I have started to address this gap through my publication in the Irish Probation Journal (see below). Discussions on joint article with Dr. Corcoran ongoing.
- 4) To prepare a joint international funding bid involving both Keele Criminology and UCC Criminology- This has not come to pass as Dr. Corcoran is currently on a sabbatical, but through the VSO roundtable, I have started to build up a network of scholars and organisations interested in this topic. I am currently exploring avenues how to support the formalisation of a CJVSO network in the RoI.