

Professor Fergus McNeill

Fergus McNeill is Professor of Criminology and Social Work at the University of Glasgow where he works in the [Scottish Centre for Crime and Justice Research](#) and is Head of Sociology. Prior to becoming an academic in 1998, Fergus worked for a number of years in residential drug rehabilitation and as a criminal justice social worker.



His many research projects and publications have examined institutions, cultures and practices of punishment and rehabilitation – and questions about their reform. Most recently, his work has focused on the policy and practice implications of research evidence about the process of desistance from offending. He recently led an ESRC funded project, '[Discovering Desistance](#)', which aims to develop the dialogue between academics, practitioners and ex-offenders about how criminal justice can better support people to leave crime behind. Currently, he is Chair of an EU funded research network on '[Offender Supervision in Europe](#)' which involved about 100 researchers from across 23 jurisdictions.

As well as researching, teaching and writing, Fergus has been involved in providing consultancy advice and support to governments and criminal justice organizations in many jurisdictions around the world. He currently serves as Chair of the Scottish Advisory Panel on Offender Rehabilitation, and is a Trustee, Council or Board Member of several criminal justice charities including [CLINKS](#), [Faith in Throughcare](#), '[Positive Prisons? Positive Futures...](#)', the [Scottish Association for the Study of Offending](#) and [Vox Liminis](#).

He has co-written or co-edited several books including [Offender Supervision: New Directions in Theory, Research and Practice](#), [Offender Supervision in Europe](#), [Reducing Reoffending: Social Work and Community Justice in Scotland](#), [Understanding Penal Practice](#) and [Youth Offending and Youth Justice](#). His next book, [Community Punishment: European Perspectives](#) (co-edited with Gwen Robinson) is due to be published by Routledge in July 2015.