



ECAN themed issue: Reuniting Probation Call for Abstracts

We invite abstracts for proposed articles to form part of a themed issue of the Howard League ECAN Bulletin ([Early Career Academics Network](#)). This themed issue will explore the return of the formerly outsourced probation services which were brought back into the public sector in June 2021. The bulletin will make a specific contribution to these debates by inviting early career researchers to provide focused, research-informed pieces. Each piece will focus on one specific issue (examples given below), in order to explore what lessons can be learnt from the experience of outsourcing, devolving and reconfiguring a mixed market of probation services. Contributors will be encouraged to keep a tight focus on a specific element of what may likely be a much larger study (or indeed consideration of a broad area), in order to enable sufficiently detailed and nuanced consideration of the issue under consideration in the space available. Questions and themes to explore could include (but are not limited to):

- The challenges of reuniting a bifurcated workforce within a National Probation Service and the impact on structure and roles
- Identity and culture among probation practitioners
- The experience of service users during a phase of organisational change (particularly in relation to diversity and the provision of gender sensitive services)
- How can the reconfigured organisation seek to (re) build legitimacy with sentencers and the wider public?
- Examples of innovative probation practice and interventions that support resettlement and desistance

Proposals for novel approaches will be considered, for example shorter 'in conversation' pieces, audio/video contributions, or a paired sets of shorter pieces providing perspectives on a particular development. Proposals by early career researchers will be given priority. Abstracts should be submitted to Professor Lol Burke (L.Burke@ljmu.ac.uk) by **5pm on Friday 7 January 2022**. For those abstracts accepted, the word limit for full papers will be 3,000 words. The deadline for full pieces will be **Friday 18 February 2022**, with publication in **March 2022**.

The 2021 themed double issue of the ECAN bulletin can be found [here](#) and [here](#).

About the editor:

Lol Burke is Professor in Criminal Justice at Liverpool John Moore's University and specialises in the areas of probation research, policy and practice. He has an extensive publication record in CJ/Probation. These include co-authored monographs 'Delivering Rehabilitation' (Routledge 2014) and 'Redemption, Rehabilitation and Risk Management' (Routledge 2011), chapters in 7 edited collections, and over thirty published outputs in refereed journals and professional publications. He has an outstanding record of research and external income

generation, being part of a team that secured a major ESRC grant (2014) and a European Commission award (2012). He has nationally/internationally recognised external engagement activities and achievements across a wide range of professional and governmental bodies, including especially: NAPO, The Howard League; and Probation Institute. Lol has impressive links with probation work in Europe, has represented NAPO at an event in the House of Lords, provided evidence to the Justice Committee, and has given keynote speeches across Europe and to the American Society of Criminology. He was editor of the leading Probation Journal from 2007-2016 and is on the editorial board of the European Journal of Probation. He is a Fellow of the HEA. Lol is a member of the Howard League's Research Advisory Group.