

Episode 5 SHOW NOTES

Episode 5: Restorative Justice

Sterling's intense educational pursuits led him to a class on restorative justice, where he developed a vision for completely changing the toxic prison culture where he'd likely spend the rest of his life. What started as a path toward forgiving himself grew into a tool for brokering peace and mediating clashes between gangs inside. We hear from Danielle Sered, a foremost expert on alternatives to incarceration.

For an intimate look at the men inside Oregon State Penitentiary discussing accountability, guilt, shame, reformation, and making amends, watch our three mini-documentaries, *Restorative Justice*, *Class Inside*, and *True Accountability*.

Show Notes

Featured in this Episode

Cheryl Cunio

Sterling Cunio

[Daniella Sered](#), Founder and Executive Director of [Common Justice](#); Author of [Until We Reckon: Violence, Mass Incarceration, and a Road to Repair](#)

Karuna Thompson, Former Prison Chaplain and Victim Liaison at the Oregon Department of Corrections

[Professor Melissa Buis](#), Professor and Chair of Politics, Policy, Law and Ethics Department (PPLE) at Willamette University; Director, [Transformative Justice Initiative](#) Since 2016 she has taught "Restorative Justice" classes at Oregon State Penitentiary with both "inside" and "outside" students. Here is the [class syllabus](#).

"Inside" Discussion Group Members: Omar Herrera, Cameron Hayes, Ben Pervish, & Key Davis.

Media

[Herald Press](#): Howard Zehr, "Changing Lenses: A New Focus for Crime and Justice" (1990)

[Youtube](#): Oregon Public Broadcasting, "College Classes at Oregon State Penitentiary (Interview with Sterling Cunio)" (June 2014)

References and Sources

[Article](#): Prison Journalism Project, "New Mexico Lifers' Requests for Education Rebuffed - Year After Year" (December 2023)

[Article](#): Open Campus Media, “College Inside: Nothing Academic is Offered Here” (August 2022)

[Article](#): Open Campus Media, “Two Lifers on the Role of College in Prison: ‘I found a new habit. Education.’” (October 2022)

[Research](#): WestEd Justice & Prevention Research Center, “Restorative Justice in U.S. Schools: An Updated Research Review” (March 2019)

[Article](#): International Institute of Restorative Practices, “Restorative Justice Practices of Native American, First Nation and Other Indigenous People of North America: Part One” (April 2004)

[Article](#): Center for the Study of Social Policy, “Honoring the Global Indigenous Roots of Restorative Justice: Potential Restorative Approaches for Child Welfare” (November 2019)

[Report](#): Danielle Sered, Common Justice, Vera Institute of Justice, “Accounting for Violence: How to Increase Safety and Break Our Failed Reliance on Mass Incarceration” (2017)

[Report](#): Common Justice, “Something Else is Possible: Common Justice 2023 Impact Report”

[Article](#): Learning for Justice, “Toolkit: Peace-Building Circles” (May 2023)

[Article](#): USA Today, “Despite skewed media image, Black men are more likely to be victimized than other groups” (October 2021)

[Report](#): Vera Institute of Justice, The National Resource Center for Reaching Victims, “Open the Door to Healing: Reaching and Serving Crime Victims Who Have a History of Incarceration” (January 2020)

[Research](#): Open Journal of Medical Psychology, “Study on the Mental and Emotional Cost of Incarceration” (April 2020)

[Report](#): Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority, “Trauma-Informed and Evidence-Based Practices and Programs to Address Trauma in Correctional Settings” (July 2017)

[Research](#): American University Washington College of Law, The Criminal Law Practitioner, “The foster care-to-prison pipeline: A road to incarceration” (October 2023)

[Article](#): Oregon Live, “Parole Board: Man convicted in 1992 Oak Hills murder to be freed from prison” (October 2012)

More Information

[Article](#): Vera Institute of Justice, “How College in Prison is Changing Lives” (June 2023)

[Article](#): The Marshall Project, “Students Behind Bars Regain Access to College Financial Aid” (July 2023)

[Article](#): National Education Association: “Do Restorative Practices Work?” (November 2023)

[Article](#): The Oregonian, “Oregon sends hundreds of foster kids to former jails, institutions, not families” (March 2019)

[Article](#): Well+Good, “What Yom Kippur Can Teach Us About Forgiveness” (September 2021)