

Andy Aresti is a lecturer and research consultant currently working at Birkbeck, University of London and the University of Westminster. His doctoral research focused on former prisoner's experiences of self-change and more specifically criminal desistance. The research particularly focused on 'what it is like to live with the stigmatised status 'ex-offender' and explored how this identity is negotiated in everyday life. Utilising a social psychological lens, the research particularly focused on the psychological/emotional determinants of this lived experience, whilst also exploring the broader existential issues 'being a prisoner/former prisoner' & self-change, naturally generate; experiences Andy has lived through, having served a year and a half of a three year prison sentence, and having lived a 'colourful life' prior to his academic career. As a result of this, much of Andy's consultancy work primarily focuses on prisoner resettlement/desistance. Both past and current research projects have and do involve in-depth interviews with prisoners, former prisoners/ex-convicts and service providers (statutory & voluntary). Andy's latest publication is on British Convict Criminology and is currently in press. It will appear in a special issue of The Journal of Prisoners on Prisons, which specifically focuses on Convict Criminology. Andy is currently the chair of trustees for UNLOCK, the National Association for Reformed Offenders.