

# ESRC RAiS Final Seminar: A Synthesis

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# The Research Project

- Restorative Approaches to Conflict in Schools

ESRC Seminar series 2009-2011 £18,000

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<http://www.educ.cam.ac.uk/research/projects/restorativeapproaches/>

# Aims

The main aim of the proposed series is to establish an inter-disciplinary cross-national seminar group made up of academics from education, criminology, law, social work and social policy, and key figures from the public, legal and voluntary sectors involved in Restorative Approaches (RA). The group will:

- Examine the commonality and divergence in the key theoretical models which underpin RA in schools and Restorative Justice (RJ) in the criminal justice system
- Develop new theoretical understandings for the study and application of RA in schools and Children's Services, and disseminate these to academics and research users across policy arenas
- Enable those involved in RA research, policy development and implementation in schools and Children's Services to benefit from international and home-international cross-disciplinary and cross-cultural comparison through participation in the seminars and its disseminated outcomes

# Aims

- Explore both the opportunities and challenges offered by RA in educational contexts
- Examine the evidence-base of the fields underpinning RA in schools and RJ in the criminal justice systems in order to determine areas for further research and investigation
- Form a strategy for continuing theoretical and methodological discourse about RA, and the dissemination of this discourse to academic and practitioner communities, especially teachers and teacher educators

# Findings from Thematic Analysis

- Contestation
- Culture and Context
- Social Justice and Transformation

# Contestation

- Definitional issues
- Researching RJ
- Perspectives from psychology / psychotherapy
- Perspectives from philosophy
- Perspectives from law
- Perspectives from sociology

# Culture and Context

- Cultural Perspectives
- The contexts of schooling and looked after settings

# Social Justice and Transformation

- Social Justice
- Transformation

# Conclusions?