



INTERNATIONAL TRANSFER OF PRISONERS, OFFENDERS' REHABILITATION AND BREXIT

This three-day international conference brings together leading scholars, practitioners, and policymakers to explore the complex intersections between the international transfer of prisoners, the rehabilitation of offenders, and the evolving legal and political landscape shaped by Brexit. Through interdisciplinary dialogue spanning criminology, law, critical studies, as well as policy studies, the conference aims to critically examine how cross-border penal practices affect the rights, experiences, and rehabilitation prospects of foreign national offenders. Particular attention is paid to how these processes are shaped by race, gender, nationality, and other axes of inequality, approaching these themes not in isolation but through a broader critical lens concerned with power, structural disadvantage, and social justice. The conference responds to growing concerns about the increasing use of extradition and repatriation as tools of criminal justice as well as migration governance. While such mechanisms are often justified in the language of efficiency, security, or rehabilitation, their real-world impact on individuals and communities remains contested. By bringing together empirical research, legal analysis, and theoretical reflection, the event seeks to deepen understanding of these processes and contribute to more informed, humane, and effective policy responses.

Themes and Structure

Across six panels, a keynote address, and a concluding roundtable, participants will engage with three overarching themes. First, the conference examines the rehabilitation of foreign national offenders. Participants are invited to reflect on how rehabilitation is conceptualised in the literature and how this matches, if at all, the experiences of those who face linguistic, cultural, legal, and social barriers within the criminal justice system. This discussion situates rehabilitation not only as a policy objective but also as a lived process shaped by inequality and exclusion.

Second, several panels address the legal frameworks governing extradition and repatriation, with particular attention to international law and human rights, both from a positive law perspective and through a more theoretical lens considering different theories of punishment. Participants are invited to explore how far existing legal regimes genuinely prioritise rehabilitation and whether positive law reflects the normative aspirations often claimed by states. They are invited to look at these questions through both international and national lenses, including focused discussions on the UK, Polish, and Italian perspectives as case

studies. The aim is to allow for comparative reflection on cooperation, divergence, and the practical consequences of Brexit for cross-border justice.

A third core theme concerns the intersections between criminal law, immigration law, and broader structures of power. Participants are invited to discuss the phenomenon of “crimmigration,” exploring how migration control increasingly operates through penal mechanisms, disproportionately affecting racialised and marginalised groups, as well as how migration management policies end up amounting to punishment for the individuals concerned. Contributions from scholars working on race, gender, and mobility highlight how foreign national offenders experience multiple, overlapping forms of disadvantage within and beyond the criminal justice system.

Among other aspects, the conference places strong emphasis on empirical research to complement the legal and theoretical discussions. In particular, it aims to showcase emerging studies that scrutinise the assumptions underpinning policy and law. Presentations by research teams from Poland and the UK illuminate how extradition and repatriation function in practice and what they mean for those directly affected.

The conference culminates in a roundtable discussion bringing together academic chairs, representatives of prison services, policy experts, and stakeholders such as EuroPris, Home Office representatives, and prison governors. This session is designed to synthesise insights from across the event and to consider how research can meaningfully inform policy, practice, and public debate.

Overall, the conference aims not only to advance academic understanding but also to foster dialogue between scholarship and practice. By situating international transfers within broader debates about rehabilitation, justice, mobility, and inequality, it seeks to contribute to more critical, reflective, and humane approaches to criminal justice in a post-Brexit Europe.

Conference Venue and Accommodation: Collingwood College, South Road, Durham, DH1 3LT

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DAY 1 – 13 July 2026

11.00 – 12.00
RECEPTION DESK OPEN

12.00 – 13.00
LUNCH

13.00 – 13.30
WELCOME ADDRESS
Irene Wieczorek (Durham University, UK)

13.30 – 15.00
FIRST PANEL

REHABILITATION OF FOREIGN NATIONAL OFFENDERS

This panel is meant to take stock of the criminological debates on the challenges foreign national offenders experience, with a specific focus on the challenges they face in their rehabilitation paths. It looks at the various conceptualisations, and types, of rehabilitation and whether foreign nationals have similar chances at different types of rehabilitation.

Chair:
Fergus McNeill (University of Glasgow, UK)
Speakers:
David Doyle (Maynooth University, Ireland)
Elias Woodbridge (Vrije Universiteit Brussels)
Hindpal Singh Bhui (HM Inspectorate of Prisons, University of Oxford)

15.00 – 15.30
COFFEE BREAK

15.30 – 17.00
SECOND PANEL

EXTRADITION AND REPATRIATION: A DOMESTIC PERSPECTIVE

This panel is meant to discuss the law on extradition and repatriation procedures from a domestic perspective, looking, among other things, at the impact of Brexit on the law, as well as on the practice of cooperation between European States and the UK.

Chair:
Gemma Davies (Durham University, UK)
Speakers:
Ben Keith (Barrister, 5 St Andrew's Hill Chambers, UK)
Laura Janes (Solicitor, GT Stewart Solicitors & Advocates, UK)
Małgorzata Wąsek-Wiaderek (John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin)

18.00 – 19.00
DINNER

DAY 2 – 14 July 2026

9.30 – 10.00
BREAKFAST

10.00 – 11.00
KEYNOTE ADDRESS
Thom Brooks (Durham University, UK)

11.00 – 12.30
THIRD PANEL
TRANSFERS AND REHABILITATION: AN INTERNATIONAL LAW PERSPECTIVE

This panel is meant to discuss the general rules and principles regulating extradition and repatriation from an international law perspective, especially international human rights law, as well as the effectiveness of the law. It looks at it through both a positive law lens and a theory of punishment one, enquiring to the weight given to the ideal of rehabilitation within positive law.

Chair:
Lorena Bachmaier-Winter (Complutense University of Madrid, Spain)
Speakers:
Valsamis Mitsilegas (University of Liverpool)
Emanuela Pistoia (University of Teramo, Italy)
Luigi Prosperi and Aart de Vries (Utrecht University, Netherlands)

12.30 – 13.30
LUNCH

13.30 – 15.00
FOURTH PANEL
EXTRADITION AND REPATRIATION: AN EMPIRICAL PERSPECTIVE

This panel is meant to take stock and showcase the emerging criminological studies on the realities and the impact of extradition and repatriation procedures. It is meant to verify or shed new light on the assumptions made by the law and the policymakers, and to uncover what policy priorities, and connected penological theories, actually drive policymaking in this area.

Chair:
Kate O'Brien (Durham University, UK)
Speakers:
Irene Wieczorek (Durham University, UK) - Joanna Bannach-Gutierrez (University of Warmia and Mazury, Poland)
Witold Klaus - Dominik Wzorek (Polish Academy of Sciences, Poland)
Agnieszka Martynowicz (Edge Hill University, UK)

15.00 – 15.30
COFFEE BREAK

15.30 – 17.00
FIFTH PANEL
EXTRADITION AND DEPORTATIONS: AN EMPIRICAL
PERSPECTIVE

Chair:

Demet Caltekin (Durham University, UK)

Speakers:

Irene Wiczorek (Durham University, UK) - Salman Khan (University of Manchester, UK)

Agnieszka Radziwinowiczówna (University of Warsaw, Poland)

Liz Kullman (University of Bath, UK)

18.00 – 20.00
COLLEGE DINNER

DAY 3 – 15 July 2026

9.30 – 10.00
BREAKFAST

10.00 – 11.30
SIXTH PANEL

IMMIGRATION AND CRIMINAL LAW INTERACTIONS

This panel explores the intersections between immigration law and criminal law, and the phenomenon of “cimmigration” in the UK and globally. It highlights the dual dynamics at the heart of this phenomenon: first, the increasingly punitive character of migration law and governance; and second, the growing use of criminal law and criminal justice mechanisms as tools of migration management. The panel is meant as an interdisciplinary bringing together lawyers, criminologist and geographers, who are asked to examine how these dynamics intersect with the additional legal, social, and institutional burdens faced by foreign national offenders. Drawing on both legal analysis and empirical research, it adopts a critical diversity lens, paying particular attention to how issues of race, gender, and other axes of inequality shape these experiences.

Chair:

Belen Mattos-Castañeda (Durham University, UK)

Speakers:

Kat Langley (Durham University, UK)

Ioana Vrabiescu (University of Amsterdam, Netherlands)

Helidah Ogude (University of Oxford, UK)

11.30 – 12.00
Coffee break

12.00 – 13.00
ROUNDTABLE

This roundtable is meant to take stock of the discussions on the legal and empirical aspects of international transfers of prisoners, either through extraditions or repatriations; It explores what the role of the law is, both domestic and international, and how specificities of European Union law have played out. It considers how this type of research can best contribute to broader academic debates on the meaning and forms of rehabilitation and how this objective is situated in theory and in practice. Invited participants to the roundtable include the chair of the panels' sections, as well as representatives of Polish and UK public services, especially the prison service.

Chair:

Irene Wieczorek (University of Durham)

Participants:

Stephen Johnson (HMP Wandsworth, UK)

Andy Wright (HMP Doncaster, UK)

Jade Davies-Roper (HMP Durham, UK)

Gemma Davies (Durham University, UK)

Fergus McNeill (University of Glasgow, UK)

Demet Caltekin (Durham University, UK)

Lorena Bachmaier Winter (Complutense University of Madrid, Spain)

13.30 – 13.45

FINAL ADDRESS

Irene Wieczorek (Durham University, UK)

Packed lunch will be offered.