

Advancing the Méndez Principles on Effective Interviewing:
How painful lessons in suspect interviewing have led to just practice
in the UK and beyond

23-24th November 2023, MS Teams

Speaker information

Day 1 speakers:

Prof Juan E. Méndez

Keynote

Biography:

Professor Juan E. Méndez is an esteemed figure in the field of human rights law, currently serving as the Professor of Human Rights Law in Residence at the American University-Washington College of Law in Washington, DC. His influential career has encompassed pivotal appointments and roles that have significantly shaped global human rights advocacy.

Hailing from Argentina, Professor Méndez's commitment to human rights commenced early in his legal career. His steadfast dedication to defending political prisoners during Argentina's repressive military dictatorship resulted in his arrest, subsequent torture, and administrative detention for over a year. Amnesty International recognized him as a "Prisoner of Conscience" during this challenging period.

Following his expulsion from Argentina in 1977, Professor Méndez continued his unwavering pursuit of justice in the United States. He embarked on a remarkable 15-year tenure with Human Rights Watch, focusing extensively on human rights issues in the western hemisphere. His dedication and expertise culminated in his appointment as General Counsel of Human Rights Watch from 1994 to 1996.

Professor Méndez's profound impact on human rights extended globally. He served as the President of the International Center for Transitional Justice (ICTJ) until May 2009, significantly influencing transitional justice efforts worldwide. Simultaneously, from 2004 to 2007, Professor Méndez was appointed as Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide by the Honourable Kofi Annan, former Secretary-General of the United Nations.

From November 2010 to October 2016, Professor Méndez held the esteemed position of UN Special Rapporteur on Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman, and Degrading Treatment or Punishment. His tenure in this role was marked by an unwavering commitment to advancing the prevention of torture, leading to groundbreaking reports and initiatives that profoundly influenced international policies.

In July 2020, Professor Méndez's expertise received further acknowledgment with his appointment to the Board of Trustees of the UN Voluntary Fund for the Victims of Torture, underscoring his dedication to supporting survivors and advancing their rights.

Notably, in January 2022, Professor Méndez's contributions were recognized once again by the UN Human Rights Council as he was appointed to a three-year term as a member of the

International Independent Expert Mechanism on Racial Justice and Law Enforcement. This appointment highlights his ongoing commitment to addressing issues of racial justice within policing and other law enforcement systems globally.

A decisive achievement in Professor Méndez's illustrious career is the formulation of the Méndez Principles for Effective Interviewing and Information Gathering. These principles, rooted in his experience and dedication to ethical investigation techniques, are rapidly becoming the cornerstone for professionals engaging with survivors of human rights abuses worldwide.

Prof Dave Walsh

Title: Taking steps to more widely implement the Mendez principles

Abstract:

Interviews and interrogations conducted across the world by police and other law enforcement agencies with suspects, victims, witnesses and indeed, informants are crucially important in determining the commencement, progression of criminal investigations and, in turn, their outcomes. In terms of the questioning of suspects, we know that there are two distinct fundamental approaches worldwide.

Firstly, several countries have developed (or are developing) an ethical approach termed 'investigative interviewing', that aims to obtain detailed and reliable information, while respecting human rights. This approach is consistent with the 2021 United Nations Declaration of the 'Principles of Effective Interviewing', now more commonly known as the 'Mendez Principles'. However, despite the UN formally supporting such principles only 54 countries have since declared support for them and there are notable countries who have yet to do so. At the same time, amongst those countries who have declared support for the principles, are several who are known to undertake practices that either have little or no resemblances to the Mendez principles, and where it is known that there are no plans for national implementation of the Principles.

There are also countries, regardless of whether they have supported the principles, who undertake another approach to interview and interrogation (the second of the approaches referred to above). That is, it is well chronicled both from the literature and actual cases that law enforcement agencies in some (if not most) countries remain unaware or indifferent of the investigative interviewing approach, undertaking unethical practices, characterized by guilt presumption (based either on stereotypical thinking, and/or poor sensemaking during investigations). Such investigation practices can involve a confession-orientation towards the questioning of suspects that often rely on psychological manipulation, intimidation or even physical torture, and can lead to miscarriages of justice and failed investigations.

This presentation covers firstly an introduction to an emerging four-year project that supports a timely and much-needed strategy of convening regional and in-country networks of researchers, practitioners and policy makers working with each other to build on earlier work to enable wider implementation of the 'Mendez Principles', ending cruel and inhumane (and too often ineffective) practices that have adversely affected so many lives through unethical interrogations.

Biography:

Professor Dave Walsh, Ph.D., is Professor of Criminal Investigation at the School of Law, De Montfort University, Leicester, UK. He works with many academics and law enforcement agencies around the world, advising on their investigation and interview methods. He has published over 70 peer-reviewed journal articles, books and book chapters on the subject of criminal investigation. He has given talks in over 30 countries across the world to academics and practitioners in this subject area.

He has a world-wide reputation as one of the leading scholars in this subject area. He is currently involved in projects that focus upon implementation of the Mendez principles across Europe and beyond, developing networks of researchers (or researchers and practitioners) to support these aims while understanding the barriers to implementation. Furthermore, following on from a 2016 edited book that he undertook with colleagues across the world that covered the interview and interrogation practice in 28 countries, Dave is currently involved in leading the undertaking a follow-up edition that includes coverage of practice in a further 45 countries. In his spare time (usually amounting to six to seven hours per day) he sleeps.

Dr Frances Surmon-Bohr

Title: Revenge versus rapport - why tough tactics fail and rapport gets results

Abstract:

This presentation will discuss the problems associated with using coercive interrogation/interview methods and the benefits of using Humanistic rapport-based approaches. It will first outline the historical use of harsh interrogation methods (including torture) by both US and UK interrogators as well as the shift in the UK from interrogation to investigative interviewing and the adoption of non-coercive approaches. It will then provide an overview of ORBIT - the first empirically-grounded and comprehensive model of investigative interviewing/interrogation based on analysis of the largest sample of interviews with terrorism suspects in the world. Bringing together over 70 years of combined research on Humanistic therapeutic approaches and interpersonal relating, ORBIT provides a theoretically-rich model of rapport-based communication for investigative/intelligence interviewing. As an internationally recognised model, ORBIT has been trained to a range of organisations including UK, US and Dutch law enforcement and Military, UK War Crimes unit, UK Border Force, and international Humanitarian organisations.

Biography:

Dr. Frances Surmon-Böhr is a research associate at the University of Liverpool and a consultant psychologist at Protagoras Forensic Services Ltd. Her PhD, supervised by Prof. Laurence Alison, examined rapport-based interviewing approaches with High Value Suspects. She has worked on numerous research projects funded by U.K. Ministry of Defense (MoD), the U.S. High Value Detainee Interrogation Group (HIG) and the National Crime Agency (NCA), where she was involved in the design, development, analysis, and write-up of research projects relating the application of the ORBIT model in various interviewing/interrogation contexts. As part of this work, she has observed and coded large numbers of interviews with terrorist suspects, covering a range of ideologies including Al Qaeda, Extreme Right-Wing, and ISIS. She is also actively involved in the development, planning and evaluation of training programmes for a range of law enforcement and intelligence gathering contexts.

Frances is a lead trainer on the U.K. National Counter Terrorism Unit (NCTU) interviewer training programs and has delivered training to to the U.S. High Value Detainee Interrogation Group (HIG), Police Service in Northern Ireland (PSNI), U.K. Military Joint Forces Intelligence Group, South East Regional Organized Crime Unit (SEROCU), U.K. Border Force and The International Committee for the Red Cross, in the ORBIT communication framework. She has presented at Human Rights, Law Enforcement and Security conferences internationally.

Prof Gisli Gudjonsson

Title: A multi-level assessment model of risk factors to false confession

Abstract:

The behavioural and social science behind the understanding of false confessions from the 1980s onwards has continued to grow. This has involved improved understanding of the psychological types of false confession, labelled in this presentation as *voluntary*, *pressured-compliant*, *pressured internalized*, and *pressured-reactive* types. Theoretical development, combined with extensive empirical and experimental research has led to improved understanding of relevant risk factors to false confession. This has resulted in the development of a multi-level process model for evaluating risk factors to false confessions in real-life cases. The model is comprised of five [level] factors: *Background*, *Contextual*, *Situational*, *Personal*, and *Protective* factors, which often act cumulatively. A recent case is presented to illustrate the model and its use in the preparation of an expert report.

Biography:

PROFESSOR GISLI H. GUDJONSSON CBE.

Professor Gudjonsson is an Emeritus Professor of Forensic Psychology at the Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology & Neuroscience, King's College London, and an honorary Professor of Psychology at Reykjavik University. He pioneered the empirical measurement of interrogative suggestibility and has published extensively in the areas of psychological vulnerabilities, false confessions, and police interviewing. He has provided expert evaluation in several high-profile appeal cases in the UK, including the Guildford Four, Birmingham Six, the Tottenham Three, the Cardiff Three, and case of Colin Stagg [including the police undercover operation]. He has provided expert testimony in several high profile cases in the USA (e.g., Joe Giarratano; Henry Lee Lucas; John Wille – all on death row and death sentences subsequently commuted/vacated, and Melissa Lucio whose execution was “stayed” indefinitely on April 2022, the case is currently awaiting court outcome regarding a re-trial); Canada (e.g., Andrew Rose [undercover operation]; Norway (e.g., Birgitte Tengs case); Iceland (The Gudmundur and Geirfinnur cases – known in the United Kingdom as the ‘Reykjavik Confessions’); Israel (a terrorist case); The Hague, Netherlands (An International War Crimes Tribunal). Professor Gudjonsson was awarded an Honorary Doctorate in Medicine in 2001 by the University of Iceland for services to forensic psychiatry and psychology. He has been awarded three lifetime awards for his work. In April 2009, the British Psychological Society presented him with a Lifetime Achievement Award. He was awarded The European Association of Psychology and Law (EAPL) Lifetime Achievement Award for 2012 and received the 2017 Tom Williamson (illRG) Lifetime Achievement Award ‘In recognition for his outstanding lifetime achievement to the area of investigative interviewing’. Professor Gudjonsson was appointed a Commander of the Order of the British

Empire (CBE) in the Queen's Birthday 2011 Honours List for services to clinical psychology (i.e., mainly in relation to my contribution to criminal justice cases in the United Kingdom).

Prof Becky Milne and James Harris

Title: Necessary steps to reform - getting it right

Abstract:

Forensic psychology has a history of research impacting upon the real world. One key area that demonstrates this influence is within the field of investigative interviewing-interrogation where the elicitation of information that is full and faithful is paramount. The *Principles on Effective Interviewing for Investigation and Information Gathering* were published in 2021, and were subsequently endorsed by the UN, and constitute a set of guidance laid down by a group of practitioners and academics aimed to promote ethical interviewing practices for suspects, victims and witnesses. In England and Wales, ethical practices have been considered 'the norm' since 1992 and are often cited as an example for others to follow. But has it always been this way? What painful lessons occurred along the way? This presentation will endeavour to outline how research has transformed practice in England and Wales, by exploring it through Framework of Investigative Transformation (FIT) (Griffiths and Milne, 2018). Finally, it will also point to future avenues of research and the importance of collaboration.

Biography:

Prof Rebecca Milne, BSc (Hons), PhD CPsychol CSci AFBPsS

With over 150 publications (H-Index 44, with over 8700 citations), her research as a Chartered Forensic Psychologist has concerned the best to access reliable testimony, especially from those most vulnerable, by developing novel interviewing techniques. Jointly with practitioners, she has helped to create procedures that improve the quality of interviews of witnesses, victims, intelligence sources, and suspects. She works closely with the police (and other criminal justice organisations), creating practical solutions based on research, developing training, running interview courses, and providing case advice (e.g. London Bridge terror attacks, War Crimes Team). She is the Founder and Director of the Collaboration of Forensic Interviewing, an internationally recognised centre of excellence. She has supervised 30 Doctorate students to successful completion, the majority being practitioners within the CJS from all over the world (e.g. Australia, Brazil, Norway, USA). She was awarded the National accolade of Research Supervisor of the Year – Highly Commended by the Times Higher Education (December 2022). She is Editor in Chief of the *International Journal of Police Science and Management*. She was given the Tom Williamson award for her outstanding achievements in the field of investigative interviewing by NPCC in April 2009. In 2020 she was the sole awardee of the British Psychology Society Award for Excellence in Forensic Psychology Research. She is the UK MC Representative for the European Cooperation in Science and Technology (COST) project- Establishing Networks to Implement the Mendez Principles.

James Harris

James Harris is a Lecturer in Policing at Canterbury Christ Church University and a former City of London Police Officer. He currently teaches a number of undergraduate modules, including investigative interviewing and is the department lead on the subject.

James has a wide range of experience in Investigative Interviewing as a practitioner; he was one of a handful of Interview Advisors in the force and provided strategic advice in relation to the Fishmongers Hall Terror Attack in 2019, where he coordinated the interviews of all City of London Police first responders. He additionally received a Commendation for his work in relation to the 2017 London Bridge/Borough Market attack. James completed specialist training both in the UK with the UKCTU and also with the High Value Detainee Interrogation Group in the United States. James is also an accomplished interview trainer, having delivered a range of interviewing training products both in the UK and internationally.

Additionally, James is an active member of the International Investigative Interviewing Research Group.

Asbjørn Rachlew

Researcher, Norwegian Centre for Human Rights, University of Oslo

Erik Valberg

Title: How cool can Méndez get? Developments in suspect interviewing in Iceland

Abstract:

The Icelandic Police is highly trusted by the public. The latest survey of public confidence in Iceland found that 69% had high confidence in the police. Only three public organisations scored higher: The Coast Guard and the University of Iceland. There is nevertheless a low crime rate in Iceland. Officially, there is only one miscarriage of justice case, in which five suspects saw their sentences, for double murder in 1974, quashed in 2018. This situation: the low crime rate, public confidence in the police, and low numbers of miscarriages of justice might be either a recipe for fair and safe investigations or the complete opposite. The awareness of this delicate situation and measures made by the authorities are critical to support safe and healthy investigations. In recent years, developments have been made in investigative interviewing in the Icelandic police. Shift has been made in the overall approach to interviewing training, implementing a more information seeking interviewing methods, as opposed to a guilt presumptive investigative stance. More recently, special focus has been put on the interviewing, and overall service given by the police, e.g. to vulnerable people. The changes have been based on the PEACE and KREATIVE models. The question of how this new approach to training has transferred to actual practice remains unanswered. This presentation will examine the history of investigative interviewing practices in Iceland, and address the current situation, issues and how the present practices in suspect interviewing compare to the Mendez Principles.

Biography:

Eiríkur Valberg is a Detective Chief Inspector in the Reykjavik Metropolitan Police in Iceland and a Ph.D. student at the Canterbury Christ Church University. He is also heavily involved in the training of police recruits and new detectives at the Centre for Training and Continuing Professional Development at the National Police Commissioner in Iceland, and the University of Akureyri, respectively. Both through his academic and police careers, he has specialised in investigative interviewing of victims, witnesses, and suspects alike. He has been a member of a national steering group for developments in investigative interviewing

and been an advisor for interviewing training in the Icelandic police. He has conducted research on investigative interviewing in Iceland. His current Ph.D. is on the management and investigative decision-making in serious and complex criminal investigations.

Jim Smyth

Title: The Slow Evolution of Investigative Interviewing in North America

Abstract:

For decades, police officers throughout North America have been taught an interview strategy, commonly known as the Reid Technique, that has not stood the test of time very well. It has been linked to hundreds of false confessions and has been scientifically proven to be ineffective in obtaining reliable and voluntary statements from suspects.

Gradually, we have been allowing research and our own experience to guide us towards a more science based and rapport focused approach.

We will discuss this transition, why it is occurring, and how police services are modernizing their methods to ensure the public trust is maintained.

Biography:

Superintendent (ret) Jim Smyth

Jim served as a member of York Regional Police and the Ontario Provincial Police for 35 years. His career involved working as a violent crime investigator before completing the International Criminal Investigative Analysis Fellowship Understudy Program, resulting in certification as a criminal profiler. He also completed the Canadian Police College Polygraph Examiner's course resulting in his certification as a forensic polygraph examiner and forensic interviewer. He is the only Canadian police officer certified in both disciplines.

Jim was later promoted to the role of Major Case Manager, overseeing homicide, serial and organized crime investigations.

In 2017, Jim was promoted to Superintendent and assigned as Director of Operations for the OPP's Central Region, overseeing approximately one thousand uniform, crime unit, traffic, marine, and emergency response team personnel.

Jim is the recipient of six OPP Accolade Awards, the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal and is a Member of the Order of Merit of the Police Forces.

Currently, Jim is the founder and lead instructor for Integrity Interviewing, a company dedicated to teaching investigators the most reliable and scientifically sound principles for obtaining voluntary and credible statements.

Dr Solomon Arase

Title: Advancing the Mendez Principles on Effective Interviewing: The Nigerian Interviewing Experience

Abstract:

In Dr. Arase's session on "Advancing the Mendez Principles on Effective Interviewing: The Nigerian Interviewing Experience," he underscores the historical prevalence of human rights abuses in Nigeria's criminal justice system, exacerbated during the country's military rule and exemplified by the 2020 #EndSARS protests. The Mendez Principles, offering an alternative to coercive and confession-driven interrogation, align with international human rights standards and promote a rapport-based interviewing approach proven to be more effective in solving crimes. Despite Nigeria's tumultuous past, significant strides have been made through the implementation of laws, guidelines, and technology to counteract abusive practices, with the Mendez Principles serving as a crucial guide for achieving more efficient and humane interviewing techniques. 2. The alignment of the Mendez Principles with the Administration of Criminal Justice Act (ACJA) and the Anti-Torture Act of 2017 reflects a paradigm shift towards respecting human rights and ensuring fair treatment of suspects in Nigeria's legal landscape. The #EndSARS protests, triggered by prolonged pretrial detention, systemic police brutality, and human rights abuses, underscore the urgency for reform and accountability. The adoption and implementation of the Mendez Principles emerge as a potential solution to prevent future occurrences, fostering a transparent, accountable, and just investigative process. The convergence of legal frameworks and technological advancements, including the use of video technology in recording interviews, signifies a collective commitment to upholding human rights, eliminating torture, and advancing a fair and transparent legal system in Nigeria.

Biography:

Dr Solomon E. Arase, NPM, fdc, (IGP, Rtd) is a 1980 Political Science graduate of Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, a holder of LL. B degree from University of Benin and LL.M from Lagos State University, specialising in Corporate Management and Finance Law. He holds a Master's degree in Strategic Studies from University of Ibadan, and a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Public Law from Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma, Edo State. He is a Fellow of Nigeria Defence College, (fdc), and recipient of the National Police Medal (NPM). He is also a Fellow of Chartered Institute of Arbitrators.

He served as the Secretary to the Presidential Committee on Nigeria Police Reform in 2006 and was a member of Nigeria Police Committee on Review of the Nigerian Constitution/Police Act. Dr. Arase co-edited *'Policing Nigeria in the 21st Century'* and was the editor of *'Monograph on Criminal Investigation'* and *'National Security: Intelligence and Community Partnership Approach.'* He was also on the Editorial Board of *'Nigeria Police: The Journey So Far'*.

During his service years, Dr Arase served as the Principal Staff Officer (PSO) to a record three different Inspectors-General of Police between 2002 -2008 and was at a time, the Commissioner of Police, Akwa Ibom State Police Command where he developed a policing model and provided professional leadership that did not only restore police primacy, but proved potent in addressing challenges of kidnapping, armed robbery and other highly-organised crimes that were bedevilling the State at the time. As an Assistant Inspector-General of Police (AIG), he served as the Head of the Force Intelligence Bureau (FIB) where he undertook landmark reform and restructuring initiatives. He also succeeded in establishing a state-of-the-art technical intelligence platform which has today restored the pre-eminence of the Bureau as the most strategic intelligence agency in the internal security architecture of the country and also the Complaint Response Unit as an internal oversight platform for monitoring police accountability.

Until his appointment as the 18th indigenous Inspector-General of Police on 22nd April, 2015, Dr Arase was the Head of the Criminal Intelligence and Investigations Department (FCIID) of

the Force. He retired from service upon attaining the mandatory retirement age of 60 Years on 21st June, 2016 and has dedicated his post-retirement undertakings to legal practice, Security Consultancy with organizations such as the Office of the National Security Adviser (ONSA), the European Centre for Electoral Support, the Human Rights Centre at the University of Oslo, Public Speaking, Research and other Academic engagements. He is a member of the Committee on Prevention of Torture, Geneva Switzerland currently developing a universal protocol on Investigative Techniques. In recognition of his great service to the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Dr. Arase was in October, 2022 conferred the National Honour of Commander of the Order of the Federal Republic (CFR).

On the 24th of January, 2023, Arase was appointed the Chairman of the Nigeria Police Service Commission by President Muhammadu Buhari. Dr Arase is married and blessed with children.

Day 2 speakers:

Nick Harvey

Title: Navigating Critical Conversations: Pressures and Considerations in the Urgent Interview of the Sarah Everard Case

Abstract:

The process of interviewing suspects in significant police investigations requires careful navigation of numerous factors. These interviews demand a careful approach, especially when urgency provisions apply. Drawing from direct experience in the Sarah Everard case, this presentation aims to provide insights into the considerations and challenges inherent in conducting urgent interviews.

When interviewing in such high-profile cases, there are distinct pressures to manage. These range from the need for accurate and swift information gathering to ensuring the process adheres strictly to procedural and ethical standards. The emphasis on respect, integrity, and fairness cannot be understated, as these principles form the bedrock of any robust investigative methodology.

The outcomes of these interviews can have profound implications, affecting not only the immediate case but also broader investigative and judicial processes. Thus, understanding the environment, potential pitfalls, and best practices in these situations is crucial.

In this presentation, we aim to offer a comprehensive overview of the factors at play during urgent interviews, highlighting the demands placed on the interviewer, and detailing the considerations that drive decision-making in such pivotal moments.

Biography:

Nick Harvey is a distinguished former Detective Inspector with a notable 16-year tenure at the Metropolitan Police in London, specialising in Serious Organised Crime investigations. Establishing himself as an expert in tackling wholesale drugs and firearms supply, Nick placed a significant focus on the incorporation of digital data as evidence. He holds a BSc in Forensic Science, an academic pursuit that underpinned his law enforcement career.

In his most recent policing role, Nick developed and implemented an innovative investigative and operational strategy named Operation Orochi, specifically designed to combat those controlling County Lines drug supply. Unique to his approach was the reliance on digital material as the sole form of evidence, a method that has proven to be highly effective and has since been adopted nationally.

Under his leadership, Operation Orochi attained substantial success over 2.5 years, resulting in the arrest and conviction of over 1000 offenders, significantly disrupting the illicit drug supply chain. Testament to his leadership skills, he has been twice awarded the accolade for 'Operational Team of the Year' for two distinct teams he led.

In January, Nick joined Cellebrite, a global leader in digital evidence, bringing his vast experience, in-depth knowledge of digital data, and specialized skills in serious organised crime investigations to the forefront of digital intelligence.

Brian Quirke

Title: Investigative Interviewing within An Garda Síochána Process Improvement: Good - Better – Best

Abstract:

The function of An Garda Síochána, set out at Section 7 of Garda Síochána Act 2005 (as amended), is to provide policing and security services for the State with the objective of bringing criminals to justice, including by detecting and investigating crime. Eyewitness evidence and interviews with victims, complainants, witnesses and suspects is essential in this regard. Evidence, including oral evidence, must be collected and recorded within a legal and procedural framework. It must be accurate, relevant, and complete.

Historically, An Garda Síochána did not always deliver a consistent, open and accountable approach to investigative interviewing in criminal investigations and were on the receiving end of some justified criticism, arising from a number of public enquiries, most notably as set out in the Morris Tribunal Report (2008). Ethical and effective interviewing practices have since developed in Ireland from a legal, practical and research standpoints. An Garda Síochána embarked on a number of necessary reformatory steps which led to the creation of our Manual of Guidance for Investigative Interviewing in 2014 and the subsequent implementation of the Garda Síochána Interviewing Model (GSIM), both of which have since received a number of essential upgrades as the evolution of its basic principles took hold and cultivated within the force.

The GSIM provides a framework around the practice of interviewing victims, complainants, witnesses and suspects during criminal investigations. The model comprises three elements: the structured interview; interviewee specific considerations and a competency framework for interviewer training. These elements provide a professional approach encompassing all aspects of national and international best practice. The model provides for an effective and fair methodology for investigative interviewing. The central value underpinning the GSIM is that investigative interviewing must comply with the fundamental principles of legality, necessity, proportionality and accountability and their application in a non-discriminatory manner. A tiered approach to interviewer competency and training (GSIM Levels 1 - 4) reflects the importance of achieving basic skills and experience at the lower levels before advancing to develop knowledge and skills for the more serious or complex investigations. The implementation of this tiered training approach has certainly led to improvements within An Garda Síochána and raised the standards of our investigative interviewers. It has also fostered a knowledge sharing environment where upskilling is sought out by the majority who have bought into the doctrines of this model. That is not to say this process improvement path passed without its challenges (Covid-19, training impediments & recruitment freeze) and dissenters. Policing services must be provided independently and impartially, in a manner that respects human rights whilst also supporting the proper and effective administration of justice. The GSIM adheres to these policing principles. In this respect, the investigation, detection and prevention of crime depends to a great extent on a professional and sound method of investigative interviewing. An Garda Síochána is on the right path and has reaped the benefits of learning from our painful lessons of the past, but we need to aim for continuous service improvements by seeking out and learning from fellow police practitioners and academics in the field of investigative interviewing.

Biography:

Inspector Brian Quirke is the National Interview Advisor attached to the Garda National Bureau of Criminal Investigation within An Garda Síochána, Ireland's National Police & Security Service. Inspector Quirke has over twenty-one years of policing experience having served in a variety of operational and investigative roles including frontline and specialist policing in the Dublin Metropolitan Region and the Garda National Bureau of Criminal Investigation.

Inspector Quirke has formed part of investigation teams in major criminal investigations and has represented An Garda Síochána on multiple joint investigation teams at an international level. He is a member of the Europol Platform for Experts in relation to homicide investigations. Inspector Quirke has an extensive knowledge of relevant law, guidance, policy and process for interviews with victims, witnesses and suspects and he has worked on a number of high profile and complex investigations at national level as a GSIM Level 4 Interview Advisor. His operational experience in this investigative area is supported by his academic qualifications at undergraduate and postgraduate levels in criminal psychology and criminology.

Inspector Quirke acts as a central contact point for information and advice relating to all aspects of investigative interviewing so as to ensure that the objectives of An Garda Síochána's policy on investigative interviewing are met and maintained. He also assesses his organisation's operational needs in relation to investigative interviewing and provides advice, support and assistance to the National Interview Training Coordinator on all aspects of investigative interviewing including the delivery of GSIM Level 3 & 4 training programmes.

Inspector Quirke provides a wide range of guidance in relation to operational, training and policy issues. He also provides strategic and tactical advice to all Garda Divisions and Specialist Units, directly supporting SIO's, GSIM Level 4 Interview Advisers and GSIM Level 3 Interviewers throughout Ireland on serious criminal investigations (live & historical).

Martin Vaughan

Title: Managing investigative interviews with vulnerable suspects in high stakes crime investigations: An examination of the role of an Interview Manager

Abstract:

An understanding of how personal vulnerability in addition to event trauma impacts on the investigative interview is important to those advising on forensic interviewing. Large scale investigations involving a vulnerable suspect can be potentially complex and challenging. Strategic planning and management need scrupulous attention. The employment of ethical strategies should enable the interviewers to maximise the interviewee's productive participation in the interview, minimise the interviewee's tendency to disrupt, distort or control proceedings and to avoid the use of potentially fruitless or counterproductive techniques.

Interview Managers were introduced to provide strategic advice, coordinate, monitor and evaluate interviews during serious or complex major investigations. Essentially, the IM role concerns the management of the whole interview process, including a quality assurance element for interviews conducted within serious, complex or major investigations. In practice, the IM assists a Senior Investigating Officer by strategically managing the interview process, including liaison with custody management teams and medical assessments; evaluating information from material, statements and interviews, determining appropriate location and resource requirements for interviews, and selecting who is the most appropriate interviewer based on their skills, experience, and suitability.

This presentation will examine the role and present findings from the first ever examination of the functionality of the role.

Biography:

Martin is a retired UK Police Officer and a recognised expert in Interview Management in High Stake Crime (HSC) investigations. As a Detective Sergeant attached to the Major Incident Team, he performed the role of Interview Adviser on numerous high profile investigations including cases of child abuse, high-stake fraud, sexual abuse, internal investigations and over 80 murder investigations including 11 child homicide investigations.

He received 16 Commendations for the high quality of his work throughout his career including excellence in managing homicide investigative interviews with highly vulnerable suspects. He was the Force Interview Adviser and held the position of a National ACPO Accredited Interview Adviser. Martin is a regular contributor to law based and investigative interviewing-based conferences worldwide. Martin is regularly commissioned by Police Forces in the UK and by the Civil Court in childcare cases to review investigative interviewing processes and provide practical case solutions where required.

As an academic Martin is a member of the Collaboration of Forensic Interviewing (CoFI), University of Portsmouth, UK which is a world-renowned centre of excellence in investigative interviewing research. He completed his PhD research into the Interview Management of vulnerable suspects in HSC in 2022 and since his retirement in 2013 has provided training and consultancy to law enforcement agencies throughout the UK and worldwide. He has completed a MA - Investigation Management, at Charles Sturt University, Australia; a BA (Hons) – PCET, at the University of Wales, Newport; a Cert.Ed. - PCET, at the University of Wales, Newport, and a Pg Dip - Child Forensic Psychology and Law, at the University of Leeds. His research interests are centred on vulnerability of witnesses and suspects and the impact on investigative interviews.

Dr Gunn Astrid Baugerud

Title: Investigative interview training supported via a multimodal child avatar

Abstract:

The lives of approximately 300 million children have been marked by physical and sexual abuse, according to an estimate by the World Health Organization (WHO, 2020). A fundamental challenge to helping an abused child is to gather accurate information about what the child has experienced. Not only are children often reluctant to talk, but also those who interview them commonly fail to adhere to ‘best practices’. Attempts thus far to improve the quality of investigative interviewing have focused on teaching general principals, with disappointing results (Lamb, 2016). Recent studies have shown that interactive, computer-based learning activities with mechanical avatars can improve interview performance (Brubacher et al., 2021; Haginoya et al., 2021; Krause et al., 2017; Powell et al., 2015; Røed et al., 2023). Furthermore, immediate and detailed verbal and/or written feedback on question types are found to be effective in online eLearning exercises (e.g., Powell et al., 2016) and within avatar training (e.g., Kask et al., 2022; Pompedda et al., 2017). In this interdisciplinary project we draw on knowledge of the learning process and of cognitive psychology, and witness psychology as well as on unique, comprehensive data from well-designed mock interviews and real-life investigative interviews and present a *new methodological tool*—a multimodal dynamic avatar—to be used to train professionals in best-practice interviewing skills (Baugerud et al., 2021). Those being trained need opportunities to practice their skills in realistic settings and receive immediate feedback. A key step in ensuring the availability of such opportunities is to test this dynamic, conversational avatar, using artificial intelligence (AI) technology that can provide implicit and explicit feedback to trainees.

Biography:

Gunn Astrid Baugerud is an Associate Professor, Faculty of Social Sciences, Oslo Metropolitan University (OsloMet). Holds a PhD in cognitive developmental psychology and is an expert in the fields of child welfare, developmental and forensic psychology. Head of the research group ARGI, and is the current lead of a large study, "Professionals interviewing maltreated children supported via artificial avatars" funded by Research Council of Norway as ground-breaking research (FRIPRO).

Dr Roxanna Delahani and Chris Bath

Title: Vulnerability and the Appropriate Adult Safeguard

Abstract:

The appropriate adult (AA) safeguard is crucial to ensuring that criminal and terrorism investigations respond fairly and effectively to cognitive and emotional development, psychosocial and intellectual disability, and neurodiversity. However, the support provided to children and 'vulnerable people' is often limited by: ineffective vulnerability identification; ignorance of, or reluctance to apply, the AA safeguard; limited access to people in custody; lack of respect for the role; limitation to interviews; insufficient resources, knowledge and skills, and assertive intervention; and the lack of a statutory duty to provide AAs for adults. Solutions may include: a more effective approach to identifying individual needs; improved police understanding and respect; a foundational shift from safeguarding reliability of evidence to human rights (including UNCRC/ UNCDRP); better information sharing between YOTs/social care and AAs; greater diversity and involvement of people with lived experience; a statutory responsibility to provide AAs for adults; mandatory training, qualifications, and inspection for AA services.

Biography:

Dr Roxanna Dehaghani

Dr Roxanna Dehaghani is a Reader in Law at Cardiff University. She is an expert on vulnerable suspects and is author of *Vulnerability in Police Custody* (Routledge), co-author of *Experiences of Criminal Justice* (Bristol), and lead editor on *Vulnerability, the Accused, and the Criminal Justice System* (Routledge). She has published extensively on vulnerable suspects, criminal legal aid and criminal defence, and the appropriate adult safeguard. She has worked closely with public and third sector organisations to improve protections for vulnerable suspects in police detention and her work with the Home Office and the National Appropriate Adult Network formed the basis of an Impact Case Study. She has continued to work with NAAN to improve the uptake of the appropriate adult safeguard and has recently created training videos which have already been implemented across three police forces in England.

Chris Bath

Chris Bath is chief executive of the National Appropriate Adult Network (NAAN). His work focuses on safeguarding the interests of people who are particularly vulnerable in police detention, interviews, and searches, including people with mental ill health or learning disabilities, neurodivergent people, and all children. NAAN provides a national centre of

expertise on the appropriate adult (AA) role, aiming to maximise its effectiveness as a procedural safeguard, and has around 100 member organisations. Chris is a member of the UK Home Office's PACE (Police and Criminal Evidence Act) Strategy Board, a Fellow of the international Access to Justice Knowledge Hub, and a co-founder of the British Society of Criminology's Vulnerability Research Network. Chris has a degree in Management Science from Warwick Business School and has worked in criminal justice charities since 2005. He was previously Executive Director of Unlock, the national charity for people with convictions.

Shaun Sylvester

Title: Interviewing in the United States

Abstract:

Police interview and interrogation remains underdeveloped within the United States law enforcement community. Current formal and experiential training approaches focus on confession-seeking as the objective, demonstrating an increased incidence of coercion and false confession. Police interview and interrogation methods are accusatory and guilt-presumptive, fueled by confirmation bias that the current coercive tactics have evidenced by admissions of guilt. Investigators commence the interrogation process with a guilt-presumptive belief acquired in the pre-interrogation or interview stage, establishing a series of coercive strategies that confirm their assumptions that the interviewee is the person of interest in their investigation. Therefore, notwithstanding experiential learning, most police agencies employ the highly influential Reid Technique, developed by John E. Reid and Associates, an impelling cause of the confession-seeking theme predominant in the United States.

Scholars and practitioners have advocated for transforming the police interview and interrogation to the rapport-building, information-gathering approach observed in the investigative interviewing method. Exposure to investigative interviewing in the United States remains limited to a select number of federal law enforcement agencies and even fewer local jurisdictional partners. Investigative interviewing is a departure from the guilt-presumptive process that dominates interview and interrogation methods in the United States. Investigative interviewing removes the psychological pressures and negative and confession-seeking themes involved in law enforcement investigators' current training and practices. Eliminating these pressures mitigates false confession, leading to coercion and wrongful conviction. Providing a reliable and trustworthy interview and interrogation method to law enforcement can produce more abundant and accurate information, affirming the guilty suspect and eliminating the innocent suspect, thus saving lives, families, and communities and unnecessary expenditure of taxpayer dollars.

Biography:

Dr. Shaun M. Sylvester is an active member of law enforcement, having served over twenty years across two different agencies as a probation officer, police officer, detective, and Homicide Division trainer. Most recently, he has completed assignments in patrol, Investigative First Responder (IFR), and Homicide. Dr. Sylvester has researched science-based interview and interrogation education for six years while earning a Ph.D. in Forensic Psychology.

Dr. Sylvester has developed and implemented a one-day training course in the scientifically based Investigative Interviewing method and a two-day Advanced course in Investigative

Interviewing. Each training course is currently being taught to members of the Houston Police Department and various other local law enforcement agencies.

Dr. Sylvester holds a BS in Criminal Justice from the University of Houston Downtown, a Master of Public Administration from Texas Southern University, a Master of Philosophy in Forensic Psychology, and a Doctor of Philosophy in Forensic Psychology from Walden University.
