



Researching Third Sector Organisations' Contribution to the Criminal Justice System

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Seminar 5 aims to:

- Explore the current state of research into the third sector with reference to criminal justice
- Consider the approaches and methodologies which have been used to research the third sector and their strengths and weaknesses.
- Consider the mechanisms by which research is facilitated (or not)
- Critically examine the factors shaping the relationship between researchers, funders and organisations.
- <http://www.law.leeds.ac.uk/research/projects/the-third-sector-in-criminal-justice.php>

What constitutes research ‘of value’?

- ‘Research’ or/versus ‘evaluation’
- “The purpose of evaluation is to improve, not prove.” (Stufflebeam in Fain, JA, 2005: 150).
- Robson. C. (2002) “evaluation profits from the kind of principled, systematic approach which characterises research’.
- Power, M. (1997) on the politicisation of research into ‘an empty ritual of verification’
- ‘More generally, the audit explosion has actually closed off avenues of official scepticism and modesty; auditing has become central to regulatory programmes. It is too greatly needed for many of the changes which have taken place for an open and fundamental diagnosis of benefits and dangers. Diagnosis is necessary and yet constantly deferred by a range of other localised and procedural issues which occupy regulatory energies’ (Power, 1997: 145)