

Faculti Summary

<https://faculti.net/transforming-restorative-justice-for-transitional-settings/>

The speaker discusses their research on transitional justice, focusing on the experiences of South Africa, the Czech Republic, and Northern Ireland in overcoming dictatorship and conflict. They highlight a gap in the existing scholarship regarding restorative justice, which they explored during their PhD. The speaker defines transitional justice as a response to systemic crimes, such as human rights abuses, and describes its evolution over time, particularly following global conflicts like World War II.

They distinguish between two main approaches to transitional justice: **retributive**, which involves punishing offenders through legal mechanisms like tribunals, and **restorative**, which seeks to address the harm caused by these crimes in a manner that fosters reconciliation and healing within communities.

Restorative justice is characterized by various applications including truth and reconciliation commissions, youth justice reforms, and community responses to crime in places lacking effective criminal justice systems. The speaker emphasizes the importance of contextualizing individual transgressions within the broader community dynamics and identities to effectively address past injustices and promote future peace.

However, they critique the effectiveness of transitional justice processes, noting that political and resource constraints often make them selective and inadequate. They argue for a more inclusive understanding of justice that empowers individuals rather than focusing solely on the agendas of international or supranational organizations.

Overall, the speaker advocates for a shift in how transitional justice is conceptualized, underscoring the need for community-led dialogues that can bridge divisions and address the structural issues leading to conflict. They stress the importance of meaningful conversations rooted in the experiences and concerns of individuals in the community as a path towards fostering genuine reconciliation and lasting peace.