

## SEMINAR

### Labyrinths of Drug Trafficking: the youth's life involved in illegal activities. Is there exit for them?

**Thursday 19th June 2014 at 10am**

**Room 2S14, Dalhousie Building, University of Dundee**



Dr Andréa Rodriguez

Dr Andréa Rodriguez is a psychologist from Rio de Janeiro who worked for 15 years with children victims of violence, young people involved in crimes and families experiencing poverty and deprivation in favelas (slums). During her PhD, she explored the life trajectory of young drug gang members in the Favelas. The methodology involved participant observation and semi structured interviews with former drug dealers and also with professionals who have worked in this field. The aim was to understand transition processes and the change to other social networks outside crime among young offenders who are heavily stigmatised. In addition she identified how professionals from different backgrounds represent young offenders and which strategies were used to support those groups and help them build a new way of life.

This seminar will focus on the entrance and exit process of criminal life. It will also provide an opportunity to explore this complex social problem: youth involvement in drug trafficking gangs. For society's majority they are lost cases in a lost generation and for them there are just two ways: prison or death. This research goes in other direction and presents the ways to proceed outside this sinus labyrinth. Based on my experience as psychologist working with marginalised groups and communities in Brazil, this study comes with a belief: social transformations happen through the engagement between theory and practice, knowledge and action. The choice to introduce an optimistic perspective into a scenario always understood as hopeless, revealed new alternatives to these groups and added more value to professional's practice which works in this field.

**ALL WELCOME**

For catering purposes, if you would like to attend, please contact Rosanne Bell  
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