



## **UCD School of Sociology – Seminar Series 2017-2018**

**Thursday, September 28th, 2017, 1.00pm**

**Speaker: Dr. Meredith Rosser – London School of Economics and Political Science**

### **Apology and Forgiveness in Restorative Justice**

What are we restoring when we talk of restorative justice? Broken bonds between victim and offender? Offender and community? A sense of citizenship? What are the legal and sociological implications of incorporating this into a judicial process? This paper will explore these issues for adult offenders at the presentence stage. In particular I examine how symbolic reparative acts, such as the expression of apology and forgiveness, can contribute to a judicial process. Drawing on recent work on forgiveness and the law, I provide an empirical analysis of restorative justice processes in Australia and the UK, focusing on the micro-level dynamics of the apology-forgiveness exchange.

#### **Bio**

Meredith Rossner is an assistant professor of criminology in the Law Department at the London School of Economics, and an adjunct fellow at Western Sydney University. Her research interests include emotions and interactions in criminal justice, criminology theory, restorative justice, court design and procedure, and juries. Her book, *Just Emotions: Rituals of Restorative Justice* was published by OUP in 2014.