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Where to go from here: Advancing the Mendez Principles and continuing the research on ethical interviewing

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ETICA (Ethical Training in Interviewing, Communication and Advocacy) Global is a not for profit social enterprise, established in 2021 to deliver capacity-building through training, professional advisory services, knowledge exchange, and innovation for ethical investigative practice across the globe.

Through the provision of high-quality, evidence-based training and professional advisory services, ETICA (Global) aims to eradicate poor and coercive practices through promoting skilled investigative practice consistent with international human rights and ethical conduct while meeting the needs of investigative, military, security, and legal practitioners, irrespective of global location.



Working in collaboration with:



INDICO

[CONTACT US](#)To contact us please email enquiries@eticaglobal.org

Contributors:

DENOVA





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- We have a wonderful Professional and Scientific Advisory Board;
- We collaborate with the African Civilian Oversight Forum (APCOF), Fair Trials and Davidhorn (previously Indico Systems);
- We are just about to sign an agreement with the Association for the Prevention of Torture (APT).



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Dialogue of the Deaf



The Dialogue of the Deaf

The Academic: Why do the police ignore research findings?

The Police Officer: Why don't researchers produce useable knowledge?

The Academic: Why do the police always reject any study that is critical of what they do?

The Police Officer: Why do researchers always show the police in a bad light?

The Academic: Why don't police officers even read research reports?

The Police Officer: Why can't researchers write in plain English?

The Academic: Why are the police so bloody defensive?



The Dialogue of the Deaf

The Police Officer: Why are academic researchers so bloody virtuous?

The Academic: Why are the police unwilling to examine their own organisational performance?

The Police Officer: Why are researchers unwilling to produce information that a practical person exercising power can use to change a limited aspect of the organisation instead of theoretical and explanatory structures of no use to us?

The Academic: Why do the police insist that they know better, when the researchers are the experts in knowledge construction?

The Police Officer: Why do researchers write recipes when they can't even cook?



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The Dialogue of the Deaf

- The basis of any healthy relationship is **open** communication;
- However, despite some organisations saying that they are working together, many are not doing this effectively;
- Quite often, both parties are seemingly ‘unresponsive’ to what the other has to say;
- So how has the international community responded to this ‘dialogue’;
- How can WE change things together?



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The Mendez Principles



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The Mendez Principles

- In May 2021, after over 4 years, the six [Mendez Principles](#) became a reality;
- They offer concrete guidance on the practice of effective interviewing:
 - Recognised as a process encompassing all interactions between authorities and persons being questioned.



Principle 1
On Foundations

Effective interviewing is instructed by science, law and ethics



Principle 2
On Practice

Effective interviewing is a comprehensive process for gathering accurate and reliable information while implementing associated legal safeguards



Principle 3
On Vulnerability

Effective interviewing requires identifying and addressing the needs of interviewees in situations of vulnerability



Principle 4
On Training

Effective interviewing is a professional undertaking that requires specific training



Principle 5
On Accountability

Effective interviewing requires transparent and accountable institutions



Principle 6
On Implementation

The implementation of effective interviewing requires robust national measures



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The Mendez Principles

- The Principles recognise that the key purpose of interviewing is to secure accurate and reliable information:
 - While implementing associated legal and procedural safeguards, and...
 - Upholding the rights of all persons to remain silent, to the presumption of innocence, to fair trials, and...
 - To be free from discrimination and any other mistreatment.
- The Principles seek to ensure a movement away from confession-driven interrogations and other unlawful or coercive practices.



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The Mendez Principles

- But if practitioners around the world are not aware of what different guidance and models are available, how can we ensure change is implemented and maintained?
- There are many groups and projects ongoing that you may find useful.....



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ImpleMendez

- Commenced in 2023 and is a 4-year project;
- Establishing networks to enable wider implementation of the 'Mendez Principles' to end cruel and inhumane practices that have adversely affected so many lives through unethical interrogation processes;
- Funded by COST (European Cooperation in Science and Technology);
- So far, there are 175 members in 47 countries.



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The International Investigative Interviewing Research Group

- Founded in 2007;
- Holds annual conferences and specialist masterclasses:
 - This year it is being held Ottawa, Canada.
- Has its own open access journal;
- Now has regular webinars.





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Training and Working Together

- Imperative that we continue joint collaborations:
 - Perhaps through the groups mentioned or national/local organisations
- Joint training is vital;
- In England and Wales, we have various routes to becoming a police officer:
 - The Police Constables Degree Apprenticeship (PCDA)
 - The Degree Holders Entry Programme (DHEP)
- A new route was established in 2024 known as the Police Constables Entry Programme (PCEP);
- Courses like the PCDA and DHEP could make the most impact at entry level.



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Enacting Change

1. Define the problem/s (or change needed);
2. Define the desired end goal;
3. Outline the activities needed to achieve the goal;
4. List down the resources that you have and/or are needed;
5. Test your assumptions;
6. Develop a theory of change that will be rolled out across the organisation.

We must also evaluate the implemented changes and everything that we do



Training and Working Together

- But.....also vitally important that we provide training to senior and more experienced officers:
 - This specifically links back to Principles 4 & 5 of The Mendez Principles ('On Training' & 'On Accountability').
- We also need to ensure that legal and procedural safeguards are in place;
- Should there ever be exceptions to The Mendez Principles?
 - e.g., Undercover officers



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Summary

- There is a real need to move towards rapport-based interviewing, worldwide;
- We need to provide training, skills and advocacy underpinned by *The Mendez Principles*;
- Organisations like the illRG, ImpleMendez, ETiCA (Global) and many other organisations/projects around the world can help (e.g., the ORBIT team, iKat, Project Alethia and various others);



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In terms of research....

- Practitioners and academics can work together very well:
 - Let's increase and maintain the collaborations.
- We need to conduct additional research together to ensure practice keeps up with the scientific research;
- Be an advocate of The Mendez Principles and non-coercive interviewing and investigation methods;
- Reach out to the new friends you have met at this conference;
- Finally, try to publish in open access outlets;
- If we do these things, hopefully, we can put an end to the Dialogue of the Deaf and change practice.



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New Book

In collaboration with the International Chiefs of Police (IMPACT Section), a new open-access book was published in November 2023

Interviewing and interrogation: A review of research and practice since World War II.

Editors: Gavin Oxburgh, Trond Myklebust, Mark Fallon and Maria Hartwig

TOAEP | Torkel Opsahl
Academic EPublisher



**Interviewing and Interrogation: A Review of Research
and Practice Since World War II**

Gavin E. Oxburgh, Trond Myklebust, Mark Fallon and Maria Hartwig (editors)



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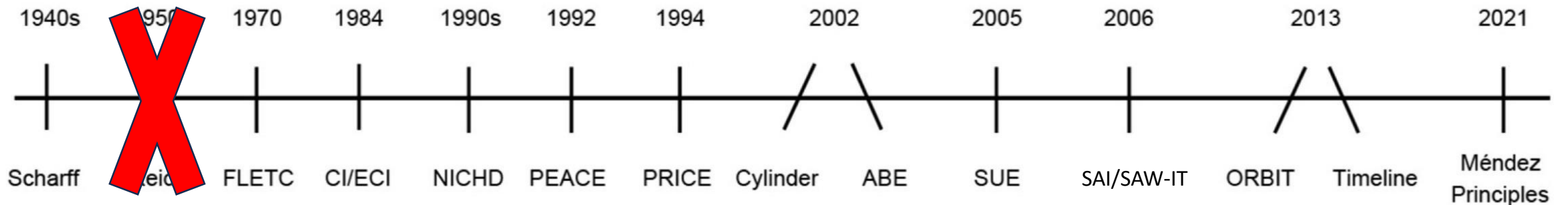
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New Book

- This edited collection seeks to outline the advancement of science-based practice, often restricted to academic researchers, to ensure that international policing, law enforcement, military and intelligence practitioners are kept up-to-date with the current known methods with:
 - Suspects, victims and witnesses of crime, together with intelligence/military and security sources.



History of Interviewing and interrogation covers the main interview and interrogation techniques developed since World War II





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Thank you for
listening.....

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