

## *Twenty-First Annual Bill McWilliams Memorial Lecture*

### **Why Punish? A Colloquium**

#### **Professor Rob Canton**



Rob Canton is Professor in Community and Criminal Justice at De Montfort University, Leicester. Before joining De Montfort, Rob had worked for the Nottinghamshire Probation Service for some 20 years in a number of different roles. While working as a senior probation officer in the Home Office Student Unit, he was invited to become a visiting lecturer in criminology at the University of Nottingham and taught there for several years.

Rob has contributed to probation development and general penal reform in more than ten different countries, mostly in Europe. His first such venture was as the rapporteur for the Council of Europe Committee for the Reform of the Russian Prison System. He has subsequently acted as a ‘Short Term Expert’ in a number of EU-funded projects (PHARE Programme) to develop penal policy and practice. His involvement has gone well beyond presentations in large meetings and has included detailed discussion with senior policymakers and managers in national penal systems, as well as some local practitioner training. He was co-opted to the Council of Penological Cooperation in the Council of Europe to develop the European Probation Rules (2007–10) and again in 2015–16 to revise the European Rules on Community Sanctions and Measures. He also acted as a specialist adviser to the House of Commons Justice Select Committee in its Inquiry into the Role of the Probation Service (2010–11).

Rob has written a number of articles and book chapters, mostly about probation, although also about international work and policy transfer. He has co-edited two books: *The Dictionary of Probation and Offender Management* (with David Hancock, Willan, 2007) and *Policy Transfer in Criminal Justice: Crossing Cultures, Breaking Barriers* (with Mary Anne McFarlane, Palgrave Macmillan, 2014). His book, *Probation: Working with Offenders*, was published by Routledge in 2011, and a second edition, *Probation*, written with Jane Dominey, came out at the end of 2017. *Why Punish? An Introduction to the Philosophy of Punishment* was published by Palgrave Macmillan in June 2017.