


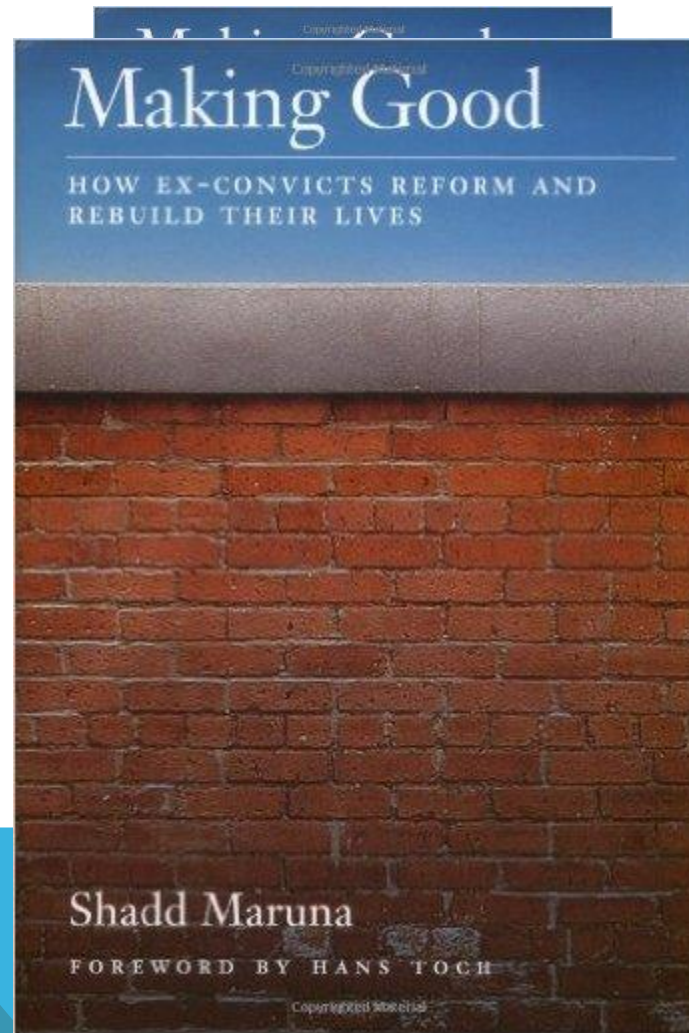
**'WHAT WOULD A
RESISTANCE-ORIENTED
PRISON AND RELEASE
PROCESS LOOK LIKE?'**

SHADD MARUNA, RUTGERS UNIVERSITY


CORE ELEMENTS OF THE 'REDEMPTION SCRIPT'

- An account of one's past that separates the offending behaviours from the individuals "real self."
 - A "tragic optimism" that finds meaning and purpose in the darkest parts of one's past.
 - The desire to put one's past to use, helping others in similar situations.
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DO OUR PRISONS AND COMMUNITY PROJECTS...

Allow individuals to separate their true selves from their offences?

Provide opportunities for “offender” to not become a total identity or master status?

Allow individuals to be treated as good people who maybe made bad choices in difficult circumstances?

Or do they reinforce stereotypes of failure and worthlessness?



DO OUR PRISONS AND COMMUNITY PROJECTS...

Institutionalize tragic optimism?

Provide opportunities for prisoners to find meaning and purpose in their punishment?

Take fundamental self-transformation seriously?

Facilitate and celebrate such change?

Allow room for hope?

Or are they filled with dead, wasted time, passivity, and boredom?



DO OUR PRISONS AND COMMUNITY PROJECTS...

Provide opportunities for prisoners to “do good,” “give back” and make a contribution, not as unpaid punishment but as good citizenship?

Allow individuals to be leaders, to take initiative and assist in the overall mission of the prison/program?

Or do we ask them to keep their heads down, do “their time”?

