

Desistance

Criminal Justice

How people actually stop offending, which is not the same as being deterred.

Desistance research is longitudinal and largely qualitative.

Associated with stopping

Ageing and maturation

Stable employment and routine

A committed personal relationship

A shifting sense of self and identity

Hope, and someone who believes in it

What it implies

Desistance is a process, not an event

Lapses are normal within that process

Support may matter more than surveillance

Criminal records block the routes out

Services can build on strengths as well

Educational reference. Desistance research complements risk-based practice rather than replacing it; the two answer different questions.