

# **Criminal Mind Research Network launch event**

This event will be held at Nottingham Trent University on **May 23<sup>rd</sup> 2025**. This is the launch event of the **Criminal Mind Research Network**.

The Criminal Mind Research Network is being established to look at the doctrine of automatism.

The network will collect a number of experts (academic and non-academic) on relevant areas across a number of disciplines in order to discuss the issues of defining the “Criminal Mind”. The aim of the project is to examine the different conceptions of mind that can be applied with reference to criminal responsibility and mental absence. If we can provide a coherent operational definition of mind that can be applied to defendants where there is an issue of whether their actions were directed by their mind, this will aid the courts in the application of the defence of automatism in the same way that the *McNaughtan Rules* apply to the defence of insanity.

This event will be a forum for discussion of the issues in this area, and will look to establish the priorities for future events. We aim to attract a diverse audience of lawyers, clinicians, philosophers and other interested parties in order to generate an interdisciplinary discussion of the topic.

The venue will be the Nottingham Conference Centre in the Newton Building, which is in the centre of Nottingham.

There will be a nominal fee to cover refreshments (£25).

Please contact John Rumbold [John.Rumbold@NTU.ac.uk](mailto:John.Rumbold@NTU.ac.uk) if you require any further details.

## **Presentations**

### **0845 Registration + refreshments**

### **0915 Opening session**

1. The background to the project and some general issues with the approach of the English law (John Rumbold) 45 mins
2. Neurology of consciousness (Ian Morrison) 30 mins
3. Dissociation (Iram Shah) 30 mins

### **1100 Morning Break for Coffee/tea 30 minutes**

### **1130 Clinical section**

4. Dissociation and functional disorders (Alan Carson) 30 mins
5. Complex sleep-related cases (Renata Riha and Ian Morrison)

Include examples of sleep walking, dissociation and indeterminate (sleep eating – biscuits, meals and dog food) 45 mins

6. Review of morning session/ Panel discussion 1 hour

**Lunch 1345** Hot lunch inc vegetarian option

**1430 Jurisprudence section**

7. Prior Fault 30 mins (John Child)

8. Philosophy of mind and criminal responsibility (Claire Hogg) 30 mins

9. Legal issues John Rumbold 30 mins

**1600 Afternoon break for Coffee/tea** 30 minutes

**1630 Concluding Session**

10. Some thoughts on criminal responsibility (Hannah Wishart) 30 mins

11. Review of afternoon session/ Panel discussion and concluding remarks 1 hour 30 mins

**1800 End of Conference**

**1930 Conference dinner for speakers** Venue tba