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# A Qualitative Study of Reintegration Focusing on the Perceptions of Female Ex-Offenders Returning to Society

Lisa Marie Carter  
*Indiana University of Pennsylvania*

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STUDENT HAS RESTRICTED ACCESS TO FULL TEXT OF THE DISSERTATION.

ONLY COVER PAGES AND ABSTRACT ARE AVAILABLE AT THIS TIME

A QUALITATIVE STUDY OF REINTEGRATION FOCUSING ON THE  
PERCEPTIONS OF FEMALE EX-OFFENDERS RETURNING TO SOCIETY

A Dissertation

Submitted to the School of Graduate Studies and Research

in Partial Fulfillment of the  
Requirements for the Degree

Doctor of Philosophy

Lisa Marie Carter

Indiana University of Pennsylvania

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Indiana University of Pennsylvania  
School of Graduate Studies and Research  
Department of Criminology

We hereby approve the dissertation of

Lisa Marie Carter

Candidate for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy

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Erika Davis-Frenzel, Ph.D.  
Associate Professor of Criminology, Advisor

---

Rosemary L. Gido, Ph.D.  
Professor Emerita of Criminology

---

Kathleen J. Hanrahan, Ph.D.  
Professor of Criminology

---

James B. Wells, Ph.D.  
Professor of Criminal Justice and Police Studies  
Eastern Kentucky University

ACCEPTED

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Timothy P. Mack, Ph.D.  
Dean  
School of Graduate Studies and Research

Title: A Qualitative Study of Reintegration Focusing on the Perceptions of Female  
Ex-Offenders Returning to Society

Author: Lisa Marie Carter

Dissertation Chair: Dr. Erika Davis-Frenzel

Dissertation Committee Members: Dr. Rosemary L. Gido  
Dr. Kathleen J. Hanrahan  
Dr. James B. Wells

The purpose of this study was to add to the criminological research on the topic of reentry. This study was conducted to examine the process of reintegration from female ex-offenders' perspectives as they move through reintegration programming. Specifically, this study was concerned with the barriers women face as they return to society and whether or not reentry programming makes them feel as though they are successfully prepared to return to society.

To address the research questions, a qualitative design implementing one-on-one interviews to question female ex-offenders was utilized. Respondents for this study were asked to participate by responding to a posted flyer. Recruitment during activity during observation periods at an organization providing reentry services located in Pennsylvania was also conducted. Respondents also answered a series of questions through a two-week period of individual journaling. These questions primarily addressed the theoretical components of the study.

Barriers to obtaining employment, adjustment issues, and issues related to substance abuse and addiction were primary concerns for this sample of returning female ex-offenders. The need for further research surrounding gender-specific issues and needs, treatment, and criminal justice policies should be addressed.