

INVITATION

Symposium Sex Offenders in and out of Crime (SOC)

Thursday 8 March 2018, Brussels

- Venue: KVAB (Koninklijke Vlaamse Academie van België voor Wetenschappen en Kunsten)
Address: Hertogstraat 1 - 1000 Brussels, Conference room: Auditorium Albert II
(see: [Parking facilities near the venue](#)) – Near Brussels Central Station and near metro-station 'Kunst-Wet'
- Date and Time: Thursday 8th of March, 9.20 - 17.30
- Price: Participation is free of any fee, but every participant has to register in advance.
Please send the completed registration form (see annexe) as soon as possible to Magali.Deblock@just.fgov.be, at the latest by Friday 2nd of March.
- Language: English (no translations provided)
- Maximum number of participants: 200

This Symposium addresses a number of stereotypes and common ideas about sex offenders. First of all, is it true that sex offenders continue to commit (the same type of) sex offences over and over again? How is the recidivism of sex offenders to be compared to that of non-sex offenders? Do their criminal careers differ strongly from non-sexual offenders? Furthermore, are sex offenders an especially incorrigible group of offenders? Can they desist from crime, especially from sexual crimes, or are they beyond redemption? What perspectives does the scientific evidence provide to policy and practice?

During the Symposium, world-renowned experts in the study of sex offenders will tackle these issues and will provide the state of the art about recidivism, criminal careers, desistance and lessons that can be drawn from research. Furthermore, next to the international state of affairs, the empirical results of Belgian (and Dutch) research will be presented.

This conference is aimed at researchers, practitioners (therapists, sexologists, prison personnel, probation staff, organizations involved in the reintegration of offenders,...), policy-makers and a wider audience of people with an interest in the topic.

Organizing committee Symposium:

Prof. dr. Lieven Pauwels (UGent), Prof. em. dr. Johan Goethals (KU Leuven), dr. Eric Maes (NICC), dr. Luc Robert (NICC) & Magali Deblock (NICC)

Research network SOC-project:

- National Institute of Criminalistics and Criminology (NICC): dr. Eric Maes, dr. Luc Robert, Magali Deblock
- University of Mons (UMons): Prof. dr. Thierry Pham, drs. Denis Delannoy, Emilie Telle
- Netherlands Institute for the Study of Crime and Law Enforcement (NSCR): Prof. dr. Arjan Blokland, Lucile de Kruijff, dr. Lidewyde Berckmoes, drs. Pascalie Spaan
- Ghent University (UGent): Prof. dr. Lieven Pauwels

PROGRAM

8.45 *Arrival*

9.20 Welcome & Introduction
Aziz Naji, Belspo
Lieven Pauwels, UGent

9.30 *Minister of Justice Koen Geens*

Recidivism of sex offenders

9.45 Sexual offending victimization: an (inter)national overview
Christophe Vandeviver, UGent & Tom Vander Beken, UGent

10.00 Sex offender recidivism in Belgium: a state of affairs
Eric Maes, NICC & Thierry Pham, UMons

10.15 An international focus on sex offender recidivism: a review of the evidence from various longitudinal studies
Wesley G. Jennings, Texas State University

11.00 *Coffee break*

Sex offender criminal careers

11.30 Comparing criminal careers: sex offenders versus non-sex offenders
Luc Robert, NICC

11.45 Heterogeneity in perpetrators of sexual crimes: a latent class approach
Arjan Blokland, NSCR

12.00 Addressing the multiple gaps between theories and criminal career research on sex offending: the case for a developmental life course approach
Patrick Lussier, Université Laval

12.45 *Lunch break*

Re-entry and desistance

13.45 Dynamic factors and desistance: which is the impact on reintegration?
Denis Delannoy, UMons

14.00 Desistance narratives of men convicted for sexual offences
Lucile de Kruijff, NSCR

14.15 Desistance from sex offending: in search of a narrative
Shadd Maruna, University of Manchester

15.00 *Coffee break*

Sex offender policies

15.30 Evaluation of sex offender treatment: international findings and perspectives for policy and practice
Friedrich Lösel, University of Cambridge & University of Erlangen-Nuremberg

16.15 Questions from the audience
Closing remarks – *Lieven Pauwels, UGent*

16.35 *Reception*