

## 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 8<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:Magali.Deblock@just.fgov.be), at the latest by Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> 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. Pascalle 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*