

research includes interviews with current and previous governors (by the use of oral histories), supplemented by ethnographic research in one or two Belgian prisons.

Juvenile sex offender recidivism

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The sexual crimes committed by people under 18 have been increasingly studied and valued in the last years. Sexual violence is defined as any sexual act, or attempt to obtain a sexual act, against a person's sexuality using coercion, by any person regardless of their relationship to the victim. A significant number of important knowledge about risk factors and general characteristics of the problem and strategies intervention with these young's have been accumulated until now. One of the principal research (and, also, intervention) questions is about the circumstances of the recidivism of young people who sexually abuse. The authors are doing the first study in Portuguese context about the young sex offenders populations. This presentation provides an overview of this work in progress, presenting the principal research lines and objectives of the study in the Portuguese context. We expect the final results could give us answers about the maintenance of the problem, specific risk factors of these young sex offender's behaviours and recidivism rates. One important focus in this study is finding the characteristics we must pay attention when we plan interventions strategies with this population.

Doing prison work in a changing context: an ethnographic research on prison officers

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Prisons have lately been the object of many social and political developments, which often have important consequences for the work of prison officers. We want to study how these developments influence the professional context of prison officers and how they experience these changes. This will be analyzed through the professional culture of prison officers in Belgium. This is a largely unexplored domain in Belgian criminological research, compared to some other countries and other professional cultures. The research will focus on the interactions between the professional culture of the prison officers, the organizational culture of the prison system and local and individual differences. In order to achieve this, a longitudinal research will be carried out, based on the analysis of the training of prison officers and on participative observation in different prisons. This should allow us to distinguish between intrinsic personal changes and changes in the professional context. The combination of lengthy observations and semi-structured interviews should enhance the validity of our research.

A Highway to Prison? An analysis of the social and judicial pathways of prisoners without a legal permit of residence from a socio-criminological perspective

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This research starts from three major issues : First, due to past and recent immigration flows, Belgium is witnessing a form of incorporation of illegal immigrants. Second, there is a rising number of prisoners without a legal permit of residence in the Belgian prison population. Third, the release of 'illegal prisoners' is regulated by specific procedures, either at an early stage of the detention period or at the end of the sentence. This research aims to uncover the judicial and social profiles of these illegal prisoners and to describe their judicial and social processes of release and their previous and future incorporation in Belgian society.