

2023 Workshop Empirical Research Design for PhD candidates from Law-VU, Criminology-VU and NSCR

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Autumn, 2023, (ca. medium October- Christmas), 9 weeks, weekly one afternoon, 1.30 pm – 5 pm, dates and location see below.

WHAT? NSCR, Faculty of Law VU and A-LAB have Ph.D. candidates from widely varying background, ranging from people holding a masters in social science methodology to people with a law degree to whom empirical research is quite new. The workshop *empirical research design* is, for that reason, an *open discussion workshop*, in which participants work together on mini research design problems. The supervisors give just a short introduction, then small groups of four or five participants have to develop and specify in, say, an hour time a design for investigating a given research question. The designs proposed in this way have to be presented to the other participants, who criticise and compare them with their own solution. This approach usually results in lively if not fierce discussions, and people get confronted with questions and solutions originating from quite different disciplines than their own. Research problems presented for solution tend to be widely different, in such a way that various research methods (observation, survey, interviews, experiments, participation, ...) are suggesting themselves.

After having spent a few meetings this way, we gradually switch over to presenting and discussing the research design of the participants themselves, even if they are at present in an early, very provisional, or embryonic stage. One of the others is asked as discussant, and has to prepare critical questions and supportive suggestions, in order to open the general discussion.

Participants are supposed to be present at all meetings.

FOR WHOM? Experience has shown that this workshop is interesting and useful to every researcher, irrespective of his or her methodology background or lack of it. The course is especially meant for starting PhDs from NSCR, Law-VU, Criminology-VU and A-LAB research institutes, from all disciplinary backgrounds and whatsoever thesis subjects. No conditions on earlier training apply. Relevant fields are, among others: criminology, law, sociology (of law), psychology (of law), anthropology (of law), law and economics, public administration, ... Participation sharpens insight into empirical research design questions and it offers opportunity to discuss informally ins and outs of research design with people from varying academic disciplines. Don't be afraid if you have started only a week ago! Talking about research design is just as fruitful for newbies as for experts! We like to emphasize that also law PhDs are welcome, if they feel interested in empirical research.

AND ALSO FOR WHOM? People holding junior research positions from the organising institutions, without being on a PhD track, or PhD candidates from outside the organising bodies are welcome, *if there are still places vacant*. They are asked contact Berber Laarman in advance. **Feel free to mention this workshop to others!**

FORMAT? Nine afternoons, once a week, in Autumn 2023.

INTERESTED? QUESTIONS? SUGGESTIONS? REGISTERING? As soon as the registration will be opened, you should express your interest by e-mail to Manon Mulders via m.j.mulders@vu.nl, indicating your research project (½ A4) and your methodology background (or lack of it). Use ERD2023 in the subject line of your e-mail. As soon as the dates have been fixed, we'll ask you to confirm your participation. Upon registration you get a small syllabus. There is only place for a limited number of participants, so don't wait too long. Feel free to approach us with questions and remarks, mail us (at b.s.laarman@vu.nl) or give us a call at +31 20 5985405.

FANMAIL from PREVIOUS YEARS: It is fun!

Dates & location

Wed Oct 11 2023	13:30	17:00	NU-4B17 (24/12T)
Wed Oct 18 2023	13:30	17:00	NU-4B17 (24/12T)
Wed Oct 25 2023	13:30	17:00	NU-4B17 (24/12T)
Wed Nov 01 2023	13:30	17:00	NU-4B17 (24/12T)
Wed Nov 15 2023	13:45	17:15	NU-2B17 (24/12T)
Wed Nov 29 2023	13:45	17:15	NU-2B17 (24/12T)
Wed Dec 06 2023	13:45	17:15	NU-2B17 (24/12T)
Wed Dec 13 2023	13:45	17:15	NU-2B17 (24/12T)
Wed Dec 20 2023	13:45	17:15	NU-2B17 (24/12T)

NB: Due to the shortage of classrooms we teach at a different location and start 15 minutes later from week 4 onwards!