Registration Form Valorisation Grant GSH 2018

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PhD Project Title: Police Interviews with child witnesses: managing multiple tasks
Start PhD project: November 1, 2013
End date PhD contract: October 31, 2018

Please answer the questions below by using a maximum of 1000 words in total.

1. WHAT SORT OF ACTIVITIES WOULD YOU LIKE TO IMPLEMENT AND WHO ARE THE STAKEHOLDERS OF YOUR INITIATIVE?

The activity that I would like to develop is two workshops for professionals in the field of police interviews with child witnesses. The aim of the workshop is to identify and discuss difficulties and interactional dilemmas for police officers when they interview children.

Police officers have to comply with a range of guidelines that aim at a testimony that is as ‘uncontaminated’ by police officers’ presumptions as possible. For example, police officers should adopt a neutral stance and not accept the child’s story too quickly, because this version of events is still under investigation.

Yet, applying such guidelines in real interaction can be problematic. For example, children sometimes judge themselves negatively for being stupid or having done something wrong. In most other contexts this makes relevant denials such as ‘it’s not your fault’. Police officers thus face a dilemma: should they keep their neutral stance or do they reassure the child? During the workshops, such dilemmas will be discussed as well as potential solutions.

Primary stakeholders
The primary stakeholders in this workshop are:

- trainers for police interviews with vulnerable witnesses at the police academy and elsewhere,
- coordinators of child friendly interview rooms,
- police officers who conduct police interviews with child witnesses.

The reasons to aim at this group first are a) that this group is directly involved in police interviewing and therefore will benefit most, b) in the beginning of my research project, I have had great help from this group. Offering this workshop is a way of reciprocating their time and energy.
Secondary stakeholders

Secondary stakeholders in the workshop are:

- officers from immigration and naturalization office who conduct hearings with minor refugees,
- other professionals working in related field, including organizations like the INTERVICT, NSCR, LOCK, National Rapporteur Human Trafficking and Sexual Violence against Children, Defence for Children, Slachtofferzorg, the Public Prosecutor’s office, etc.

The reason to aim at these groups in the stakeholders’ group is that these groups are involved in policy making and therefore have a wider reach.

Indirect beneficiaries

Indirectly, future child witnesses will hopefully benefit from the insights that police officers have gained during the workshop.

Workshop form, location and planning

A consequence of aiming at these stakeholders is that the workshop needs to accommodate busy schedules. Therefore, the aim is to make the threshold as low as possible. The workshops will be a half-day workshop and will be held in a central locations in the Netherlands.

In order to keep the workshop as interactive as possible, a maximum of 15 participants will be allowed.

The aim is to give two workshops. One for the coordinators of child friendly interview rooms and trainers at the police academy (workshop A). They are the gatekeepers of the community of police officers who are certified for interviewing children. The second workshop (B) will be for the secondary stakeholders, who allow a much broader reach and who can impact policies. We will attempt to reach other police officers by offering the workshop more often.

2. Please explain the social benefit of your project and demonstrate the knowledge utilisation of your PhD project.

Police interviews with child witnesses are important encounters. The vast majority of these interviews concern sexual violence. Especially in these cases, the child often is the only witness. Therefore, it is important for the criminal justice system to carry out the interviews in a way that is
robust in the face of critical assessment in terms of reliability. Simultaneously, the way in which the interview is conducted is important for the child. The last thing that anyone should want is that the child is further damaged by the interview itself. Therefore, continuous exchange between practice and scientific research is of great importance to keep improving interviewing practices. The workshops are a natural spin off from my PhD project that concerns a comparison of guidelines for police interviews with actual interview practice.

3. Please consider a detailed planning consisting of a timeline of deliverables as well as a budget plan to implement your initiative. All spendings must be planned for 2018.

Developing a workshop is in line with the current initiative by Wyke Stommel within the Centre for Language Studies (CLS) to explore the possibilities for developing workshops for professionals, based on the Conversation Analytic Role-play Method (CARM). She has received a Small Research Grant from the CLS for this initiative.

CARM has been developed by Liz Stokoe (Loughborough University)\(^1\) and is based on study of real interaction. The method allows workshop participants to live through interaction line by line, opening up the question what happens next. This way of working mobilizes participants’ professional expertise and encourages discussion.

Wyke Stommel is available for input for and feedback on the workshop. Additionally, Joyce Lamerichs (VU and Wageningen University) has agreed to assist in the development of a workshop. She has developed the Discursive Action Method\(^2\) and her input will be of great value.

Finally, the workshop will be planned in deliberation with the police. Maaike van Os is the chair of the coordinators of the child friendly interview rooms. She has confirmed their interest and that the proposed timeframe suits the police. Jan Boom (Teamchef Thematisch Onderzoek, Police) is also willing to support a workshop for police officers who conduct interviews with vulnerable witnesses.


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<th>Activity</th>
<th>When</th>
<th>Costs</th>
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| Preparation: CARM workshop in Loughborough (UK) | January 31 - February 1, 2018 | 651   | 229 course registration  
200 flight ticket+bus  
222 hotel |
| Developing workshop - with Wyke Stommel and Joyce Lamerichs | Februari-March 2018 | -     | -                                          |
| Workshop A                                   | April-May 2018            | 400   | PM-printing materials                      |
| Workshop B                                   | August-October 2018       |       | 400 Catering  (bread lunch, coffee, tea, water, biscuits)  
PM Location rent  
PM Printing materials |
| Total                                        |                           | 1051  |                                            |

To lower the costs and to increase accessibility, workshop A will be organized in company with the police. Costs that exceed 1000 euro will be matched by the ‘Fonds wetenschapsbeoefening’, within reasonable limits.

*word count: 999 including references*