"It's for your own good"
A century of juvenile justice practices in Belgium (1912-2012)

INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR FOR CRIMINOLOGISTS, HISTORIANS, JURISTS, LAWYERS, SOCIAL SCIENTISTS

MONDAY 4TH OF JUNE 2012

A century ago a separate juvenile justice system was introduced in Belgium. Since then minors are brought before the juvenile justice judges and court because of both delinquent and non-delinquent behaviour. The Belgian juvenile justice system is known in Europe for its welfare model character. One of the key features of this system is the best interest of the child, legitimating pervasive interventions, once famously described as a police des familles.

This international seminar titled "It's for your own good: A century of juvenile justice practices in Belgium (1912-2012)" launches the three seminars we organise at the end of 2012 and beginning of 2013 (see below).

A lot of historical, social and criminological research has been done on the Belgian juvenile justice system, its principal actors and the practices they developed during the past hundred years. After a century of juvenile justice practices, it is necessary to bring together this research, confront insights from different perspectives, and come to a state of affairs on the Belgian juvenile justice. We will do so in the coming three seminars.

A call for papers is launched. As a final result we plan a joint publication in 2013.

FEE 30 euro for the international seminar; 60 euro for all 4 seminars; students (master and bachelor) for free.

DATE Monday 4th of June 2012 from 9h till 18h.

LANGUAGE English.

ACCREDITATION for lawyers requested.

LOCATION Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Pleinlaan 2, 1050 Brussel – Promotiezaal, building D.

INFO instituut voor PostAcademische vorming van de Vrije Universiteit Brussel/iPAVUB, tel.: 02-629 20 93, e-mail: iPAVUB@vub.ac.be.

REGISTRATION Online at www.vub.ac.be/iPAVUB or iPAVUB@vub.ac.be. Once you have registered, you will receive an invoice for payment.

Seminars “A century of juvenile justice practices in Belgium”

The purpose of these 3 seminars is to bring together historical, criminological, sociological and pedagogical research on juvenile justice practices in Belgium.

The main goal of the seminars is to confront insights from different perspectives concerning both past and present juvenile justice issues.

Paper proposals (max. 300 words) should be submitted to foryourowngood.conference@gmail.com, before August 20th 2012.

All abstracts will be assessed by a scientific committee, which consists of scholars of the organising universities (ULB, UCL and VUB). The committee will give priority to papers that draw on empirical research.

The seminars are organised as follows:

The first seminar on juvenile justice practices (November 16th 2012) will focus on the role of actors involved in decision making processes within the juvenile justice context (e.g. juvenile judges, social workers, medical-psychological experts, pedagogues, others) and their impact on juveniles’ pathways through the justice system.

The second seminar on re-educational practices (February 8th 2013) will focus on the question of how the juvenile justice goal of re-educating minors was and is put in practice. This rather broad question relates to several youth justice practices such as re-educational regimes, diagnosis of re-educational treatment by experts, and, institutional trajectories.

The third seminar on perspectives of youngsters and their families (May 3rd 2013) will focus on the experience of “the object” of juvenile justice interventions. In this seminar we particularly aim at voicing perspectives and experiences of juvenile justice clients with regard to juvenile justice practices in general (seminar 1) and re-educational practices in particular (seminar 2).
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9h00 Registration in Promotiezaal, VUB
9h30 Introduction: It’s for your own good: A century of juvenile justice practices – Jenneke Christiaens (VUB)
10h00 Juvenile justice decisional practices – Els Dumortier (VUB)
10h30 Coffee break
11h00 Re-educational practices – Margo De Koster (UCL)
11h30 Perspectives of youngsters and their families – Dominique De Fraene (ULB) and Sarah Van Praet (ULB)
12h00 Questions – Reflections
12h30 Lunch break in Convivium
14h00 What’s the point of criminal justice history? – Paul Lawrence (Open University Milton Keynes, UK)
14h45 Gender issues in youth justice research, past and present – Pamela Cox (University of Essex, UK)
15h30 Juvenile Justice in Europe: Conceptual legacies, contemporary trends and comparative complexities – Barry Goldson (University of Liverpool, UK)
16h15 Conclusions
16h30 Reception in Convivium, with poster presentation

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