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# 2022 Workshop Empirical Research Design

# for PhD candidates from Law-VU, Criminology-VU and NSCR

*supervisor: Henk Elffers, NSCR & emeritus professor of empirical research into criminal law enforcement VU*

Wednesday afternoons, from October 19th until December 21st, 2022, 1.30-5 pm , Initium IN2A-45/47

**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 supervisor gives 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. If you are already further in your PhD project, feel free to join as well. 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! I 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 to e-mail/phone the supervisor first.   
**Feel free to mention this workshop to others!**

**FORMAT?** Every Wednesday afternoon, Oct 19th until December 21st , 2022 .

**INTERESTED? QUESTIONS? SUGGESTIONS? REGISTERING?** Please express your interest in this workshopby e-mail to [HElffers@nscr.nl](mailto:elffers@nscr.nl) , indicating your research project (½ A4) and your methodology background or lack of it. Use ERD2022 in the subject line of your e-mail. 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 me with questions and remarks, dropping in at my office at NSCR, mail me or give me a call at 06 28360261

**FANMAIL from PREVIOUS YEARS**: It is fun!