Desirability report and teaching and research remits of the Social Resilience, Safety and Security [Sociale Veerkracht en Veiligheid] initiative area

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1. Social Resilience, Safety and Security (Sociale Veerkracht en Veiligheid) initiative area

The theme of safety and security is one of the key themes in today's modern society. The nature, extent and intensity of safety and security are directly related to the quality of society. In recent years, various forms of safety and security, and threats to safety and security, have been studied in international, national, LDE (Leiden, Delft & Erasmus) and Leiden University research programmes. Ensuring the safety and security of citizens is one of the core functions of the rule of law, and many public organisations have crucial tasks in this field, including implementing interventions, such as invoking criminal law, preventing radicalisation and terrorism, combating domestic violence, and child protection. There is also a strong link between safety and security and the protection of fundamental rights in our society, which can involve both the government and non-state actors, with differing implications depending on the specific context and target group.

Research on brain, cognition and behaviour over the last two decades has created a knowledge revolution with direct relevance for the areas of education, law, conflict and cooperation. The Dutch National Research Agenda (NWA) includes an incentive to make a strong connection between brain science and society, applying knowledge about the brain and behaviour to questions within society through the medium of co-creation. An important societal theme that touches on issues relating to the quality of society is how we can make society more 'liveable' by reducing individuals' transgressive behaviour, which puts pressure on society's safety and damages the interests of other people and society as a whole. Making a link between the knowledge from brain-behaviour research and insights from criminology and law is an essential step in increasing our insight into the effects on society, and hence the possibility of translation into societal structures and interventions (prevention, treatment, protective context, punishment, etc.).

Against this background, the Social Resilience, Safety and Security initiative area aims to bring together cross-disciplinary scientific insights in the fields of brain, safety and security, and interventions. On the basis of initiatives within five faculties (Faculty of Governance and Global Affairs, Faculty of Social and Behavioural Sciences, Leiden Law School, Faculty of Humanities and Faculty of Archaeology), the intention is to gain a better understanding of transgressive behaviour, making it possible to then give a broad and in-depth picture of the background, procedures and effects of interventions in the area of safety and security. This could relate, for instance, to determinants of violent behaviour and resulting initiatives in the field of prevention, but it also covers the effects of social interventions (individual or more large scale), the use and objectives of judicial interventions, and the effects of policy interventions.
Societal context

The theme of safety and security touches on the key societal issues of the present time. The public debate on safety and security (particularly in relation to personal safety), risk management and sentencing practices is accompanied by firmly held assumptions and obstinate myths, and is increasingly characterised by an emotional overtone. The concurrence of these factors makes it essential to introduce scientific insights into this public debate.

Personal safety is particularly impaired by instances of violent behaviour. Each year, there are more than 400,000 victims of violence in the Netherlands; of these, around 150 are killed. Such cases raise the question of how far this (future) victimisation could have been prevented. Despite the great diversity in forms of interpersonal violence, more or less the same organisations (or ‘stakeholders’) are involved with violence and its prevention: Safe at Home (Veilig Thuis), the Police, the Public Prosecution Service (OM), the Council for the Judiciary (RvdK), Victim Support (Slachtofferhulp) and the Probation Service. Separate organisations have been set up for some forms and causes of violence, such as shelters for victims of violence in dependency relationships, forensic institutions for people with mental health problems, and the Child Care and Protection Board (RvdK) for children who are confronted with violent behaviour. It can be seen from everyday practice, however, that the evidence base for safety interventions in general, and interventions in the field of violence management in particular, is still seriously underdeveloped. In-depth and integrated knowledge about the aetiology of transgressive and violent behaviour, including neurobiological factors, is needed if effective interventions are to be developed.

Scientific context

Research in the Netherlands on neurobiological aspects of transgressive behaviour and the effects of interventions aimed at stopping or preventing this behaviour has hitherto been fragmented on the basis of separate disciplines, which is reflected in the monodisciplinary approach. Depending on the type of safety or security and the context, interventions are studied in the specific disciplines of law, political science, public administration, education and child studies, psychology, criminology or sociology, to name a few. Moreover, knowledge from brain-behaviour research is rarely if ever applied to safety and security interventions.

The limited extent of combining knowledge in the fields of brain, safety and security, and interventions in general, and violence as impairment of safety in particular, can also be seen at universities and knowledge institutes. From the international perspective, a few research groups are working in this area, or on specific aspects of this area, for instance in the United States, Finland, Sweden, Switzerland, Denmark, Estonia and the United Kingdom.

Within the Netherlands, there are several research groups and organisations that focus (to a certain extent) on researching brain, safety and security, and interventions:

- University of Amsterdam. The focus of the Forensic Child and Youth Care group is on issues such as juvenile delinquency and judicial interventions.
- Netherlands Institute for Forensic Psychiatry and Psychology. Knowledge institute in the area of forensic diagnosis and care.
- Research and Documentation Centre (WODC). Research on various sanctions under criminal law and civil law in the field of safety and security.
- Tilburg University, Intervict. This knowledge centre focuses on the legal, psychological and social implications of victimisation of many forms of crime, including violent crime, with a particular emphasis on victimology. The centre also offers a master’s programme: MA in
Victimology and Criminal Justice.
- Utrecht University, Montaigne Centre for Rule of Law and Administration of Justice. Research is conducted within this centre on fatal violence and domestic violence, from the perspective of forensic psychology and psychiatry.
- Erasmus School of Law. The Erasmus School of Law conducts historical criminology research on the nature and extent of violence in history, particularly during the Middle Ages.
- VU University Amsterdam, Faculty of Law. Within the Criminal Law and Criminology department, research is conducted on, for example, the correlation between violent behaviour and mental disorders, from the perspective of forensic psychology.
- Avans University of Applied Sciences, Centre of Expertise for Public Safety and Criminal Justice. One of the research groups in this centre of expertise focuses on safety in dependency relationships, particularly honour-based violence, from the anthropological perspective.

As outlined above, the existing scientific attention is fragmented and disparate. Moreover, each of these existing research groups studies the phenomenon from a monodisciplinary perspective, i.e. from the perspective of victimology, forensic psychology and psychiatry, education and child studies, history, criminology or anthropology. In view of the societal impact of violence and the effect of violence on local and national safety and security, this situation is clearly undesirable.

In the broader context of the Social Resilience, Safety and Security (Sociale Veerkracht en Veiligheid) initiative area, the aetiology of transgressive behaviour will be studied from an interdisciplinary perspective, making a distinction between macro, meso and micro factors, which together contribute to engendering the phenomenon. Within the Social Resilience, Safety and Security initiative area, the central focus of the research on macro factors – in close collaboration with the Faculty of Archaeology, Leiden Law School and the Faculty of Humanities – will be respectively the historical, legal and normative context of this field. Meso factors will be studied within the Faculty of Governance and Global Affairs, focusing particularly on the social (and other) systems in which violence occurs and the governance of safety, security and interventions. At the micro level, the Faculty of Social and Behavioural Sciences will conduct more detailed research on the influence of individual factors, including neurobiological factors, and the influence of childhood and the family of origin, and will also explore the role and effects of behavioural and judicial interventions on the further development of violent behaviour.

Professors of Social Resilience, Safety and Security

In the context of the Social Resilience, Safety and Security (Sociale Veerkracht en Veiligheid) initiative area, the Executive Board of Leiden University has made funding available to appoint full professors in this field within the Faculty of Social and Behavioural Sciences (0.5 FTE) and the Faculty of Governance and Global Affairs (0.5 FTE). The proposal is to appoint these 0.5 full professors not only in one faculty but rather in both faculties, to facilitate optimum collaboration. The teaching and research remits of these two full professors are defined in the remainder of this document.
2. Teaching and research remit of Brain, Safety and Resilience (Brein, Veiligheid en Veerkracht), Institute of Education and Child Studies, Faculty of Social and Behavioural Sciences, Leiden University (0.5 FTE)

Teaching and research remit

The teaching and research remit of the Brain, Safety and Resilience (Brein, Veiligheid en Veerkracht) chair is to make a well-founded contribution to the scientific and societal debate about issues in the field of brain and safety, and the relationship between brain and safety. The Brain, Safety and Resilience chair is closely linked with the Security and Interventions (Veiligheid en Interventies) chair, established in the Faculty of Governance and Global Affairs within this initiative area. The two chairs will work together to fill the current scientific and societal vacuum by conducting innovative interdisciplinary research and explaining the scientific findings so that they can explicitly contribute to the public debate.

A particularly innovative feature of this chair is its interdisciplinary character. At present, a chair that makes an explicit link between neurobiological aspects and safety in this way does not exist, either within or outside the Netherlands. A chair of this kind is extremely important because neuroscientific knowledge can make an important contribution to increasing levels of safety. Knowledge about the interaction between social determinants (such as family of origin, peer influence) and neurobiological processes that play a part in transgressive behaviour, for instance, can yield new insights for various aspects of forensic care, in terms of diagnosis, prevention and treatment. Studying the effects of interventions and treatment on neurobiological processes can also lead to a better understanding of the underlying problems and hence to more effective methods of intervention.

Integration

The chair is part of the Social Resilience, Safety and Security (Sociale Veerkracht en Veiligheid) interfaculty initiative area. The professor will collaborate intensively with academic staff at the Faculty of Governance and Global Affairs, Faculty of Archaeology, Faculty of Humanities and Leiden Law School. This collaboration will be strengthened by designing and conducting future joint research projects.

In terms of its subject matter, the chair will be accommodated in the Institute of Education and Child Studies of the Faculty of Social and Behavioural Sciences of Leiden University. In addition, the chair will be accommodated in the Faculty of Governance and Global Affairs, to facilitate optimum collaboration between the two 0.5 full professors. The two faculties will work in close cooperation.

Collaboration will also take place outside Leiden University with research groups from, for example, University College London, Cardiff University and the University of Pennsylvania.

The chair will have close connections with other research groups within the Institute of Education and Child Studies: Forensic Family Studies, where research is conducted from the neurobiological and environmental perspective on family problems, such as abuse and neglect, and behavioural problems in children, such as aggression, antisocial behaviour and bullying; and Clinical Neurodevelopment Studies, with research on neurobiological indicators of social development and antisocial behaviour.

Tasks: Research
The chair is part of the Social Resilience, Safety and Security (Sociale Veerkracht en Veiligheid) initiative area, which is described in the appendix to this document. This shows the agenda for research themes and output indicators for the period 2020–2023, focusing on the active research collaborations between the five faculties specified.

The tasks in the area of research are as follows:

- Conducting scientific research with a national or international orientation, both independently and collaboratively, in line with Leiden University's Social Resilience, Safety and Security (Sociale Veerkracht en Veiligheid) initiative area;
- Participating in the public and scientific debate, giving presentations at national and international conferences in the field of brain, safety and resilience, and contributing to national and international scientific publications;
- Acquiring external research funding (2nd and 3rd sources of funding) and PhD candidates in the field of neuroscience and transgressive behaviour;
- Supervising the ongoing research of assistant professors and postdoctoral researchers;
- Supervising PhD research tracks;
- Expanding the national and international network of researchers and stakeholders in this field.

Core focus of the chair

- University chair relating to Brain, Safety and Resilience (Brein, Veiligheid en Veerkracht): studying a societally urgent field from an interdisciplinary perspective;
- Developing new theoretical insights based on high-quality empirical data, and disseminating these insights both nationally and internationally;
- Independent reflection on the existing evidence base with regard to understanding and stopping transgressive behaviour in the Netherlands and beyond, and providing evidence-based research to players engaged in the practice of policy-making and governance.

Profile of full professor

- PhD, background and experience in the field of brain, safety and resilience;
- Up-to-date knowledge of brain, safety and resilience, and of developments in this field, in the national, international and global context;
- Excellent research qualities, as evidenced by national and international publications and acquired research projects;
- Excellent teaching qualities, as evidenced by delivering and/or coordination of teaching, and by teaching evaluations;
- Experience with supervising PhD research;
- Excellent command of spoken and written Dutch and English;
- Excellent management qualities.

Time allocation and funding

- Part-time (0.5 FTE) in the Institute of Education and Child Studies of the Faculty of Social and Behavioural Sciences, with a dual appointment in the Faculty of Governance and Global Affairs;
- Funding of the salary and other expenses (such as travel expenses and academic literature) of the full professor;
- Funding of assistance.
3. Teaching and research remit of Security and Interventions (*Veiligheid en Interventies*), Institute for Security and Global Affairs (ISGA), Faculty of Governance and Global Affairs (FGGA), Leiden University (0.5 FTE)

**Teaching and research remit**

The teaching and research remit of the *Security and Interventions* (*Veiligheid en Interventies*) chair is to make a well-founded contribution to the scientific and societal debate about issues in the field of security and interventions in the broad sense, focusing specifically on violence and violence management. The *Security and Interventions* chair will work to fill the current scientific and societal vacuum by means of research and teaching, and will contribute significantly to the public debate by explaining the academic findings.

This chair is innovative in several respects. There is not yet, either within or outside the Netherlands, a chair that focuses specifically on security and interventions, and has a research group in the field of Social Resilience, Safety and Security (*Sociale Veerkracht en Veiligheid*) with broad support within the university, exclusively dedicated to studying this theme from an interdisciplinary perspective. This research group is distinctive in bringing together knowledge, stakeholders, and national and international partners in the field of security and interventions. In addition, the interdisciplinary perspective on various forms of impairment of safety and security (both personal and collective) and interventions is also innovative. This offers an opportunity to greatly increase understanding of this theme, because it can highlight the parallels between the aetiology on the one hand, and the options for prevention and intervention on the other.

Another innovative aspect is the removal of artificial disciplinary borders, which can sometimes be used to define a specific type of violence or intervention. In fact, studying important societal issues, such as violence, requires an interdisciplinary approach. This kind of approach not only contributes to innovation and to broadening of individual disciplines, but above all is essential for analysing major societal challenges. It can be achieved by learning about the conceptual framework and research methodologies of the different disciplines, and thus making cross-disciplinary analyses of safety, security and effective forms of intervention.

**Integration**

The chair is part of the *Social Resilience, Safety and Security* (*Sociale Veerkracht en Veiligheid*) interfaculty initiative area. The professor will collaborate intensively with the academic staff of the Faculty of Archaeology, Faculty of Humanities, Faculty of Social and Behavioural Sciences and Leiden Law School. This collaboration will be strengthened by designing and conducting future joint research projects.

In terms of its subject matter, the chair will be accommodated in the Institute of Security and Global Affairs (ISGA) of the Faculty of Governance and Global Affairs of Leiden University. In addition, the chair will be accommodated in the Institute of Education and Child Studies of the Faculty of Social and Behavioural Sciences, to facilitate optimum collaboration between the two 0.5 full professors. The two faculties will work in close cooperation.

Collaboration will also take place outside Leiden University with research groups from, for example, Utrecht University’s Montaigne Centre for Rule of Law and Administration of Justice, Avans University of Applied Sciences’ Centre of Expertise for Public Safety and Criminal Justice, and with international partners at the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug
Addiction (EMCDDA), the Flemish Peace Institute, Helsinki University, the University of St Gallen, Cambridge University and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.

Within the Institute of Security and Global Affairs, the chair will have close connections with the Terrorism and Political Violence research group. Violence in general and terrorist / political violence in particular share similarities not only in their influence on national and international safety and security, but also in their underlying and possibly determining macro, meso and micro factors. Specific research questions to which empirical approaches drawn from the envisaged chair and the Physical Violence and Public Order research group can contribute include the influence of the lifecycle on radicalisation and deradicalisation; the effect of judicial interventions on radicalisation and deradicalisation; and issues relating to reintegration after release from prison (especially after long sentences). There are also various interfaces between the envisaged chair and research within the Governance of Crises research group, such as studying the impact of violent incidents on society, and their governance. This chair will also build upon collaborations with the Global Affairs research group, with an emphasis on similarities in empirical approaches and research methodologies. The link between these and other ISGA research groups forms the basis on which interdisciplinary approaches can be further developed.

Tasks: Research

The chair is part of the Social Resilience, Safety and Security (Sociale Veerkracht en Veiligheid) initiative area, which is described in the appendix to this document. This shows the agenda for research themes and output indicators for the period 2020 – 2023, focusing on the active research collaborations between the five specified faculties.

The tasks in the area of research are as follows:

- Conducting scientific research with a national or international orientation, both independently and collaboratively, in line with Leiden University’s Social Resilience, Safety and Security (Sociale Veerkracht en Veiligheid) initiative area and EU initiatives, such as Secure Societies: Protecting Freedom and Security of Europe and its Citizens;
- Participating in the public and scientific debate, giving presentations at national and international conferences in the field of security and interventions, and contributing to national and international scientific publications;
- Acquiring external research funding (2nd and 3rd sources of funding) and PhD candidates in the field of interpersonal violence;
- Supervising ongoing research of assistant professors and postdoctoral researchers;
- Supervising PhD research tracks;
- Expanding the national and international network of researchers and stakeholders in this field.

Core focus of the chair

- University chair relating to Security and Interventions (Veiligheid en Interventies): studying a societally urgent field from an interdisciplinary perspective;
- Developing new theoretical insights based on high-quality empirical data, and disseminating these insights both nationally and internationally;
- Independent reflection on the existing evidence base with regard to violence and the governance of violence in the Netherlands and beyond, and providing evidence-based research to actors engaged in the practice of policy-making and governance.
Profile of full professor

- PhD, background and experience in the field of security and interventions, with an emphasis on the field of violence (in the area of both teaching and research);
- Up-to-date knowledge of safety and interventions, and of developments in this field, in the national, international and global context;
- Excellent research qualities, as evidenced by national and international publications and acquired research projects;
- Excellent teaching qualities, as evidenced by delivering and/or coordination of teaching, and by teaching evaluations;
- Experience with supervising PhD research;
- Excellent command of spoken and written Dutch and English;
- Management qualities.

Time allocation and funding

- Part-time (0.5 FTE) in the Institute of Security and Global Affairs of the Faculty of Governance and Global Affairs, with a dual appointment in the Faculty of Social and Behavioural Sciences;
- Funding of the salary and other expenses (such as travel expenses and academic literature) of the full professor;
- Funding of assistance (student assistant).