



PSYCHOLOGY &
EDUCATIONAL SCIENCES



You are kindly invited to the public defense to obtain the degree of

DOCTOR OF ADULT EDUCATIONAL SCIENCES

of Ms. Flore Croux

Which will take place in a digital way on the 25th of November at 5 PM

The defense can be followed via livestream. If you would like to attend the livestream, please send an email to flore.croux@vub.be

PARTICIPATION BEHIND BARS: A STUDY ON FOREIGN NATIONAL PRISONERS IN BELGIUM

JURY

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SUMMARY

In 2018, almost 45% of the Belgian prison population had a foreign nationality. Despite this high number little is known about foreign national prisoners as they are often excluded from research. Available studies mainly focus on the problems foreign national prisoners experience during detention. The aim of this dissertation is to provide a contribution to the current knowledge on foreign national prisoners' participation in prison activities, grounded in a strengths-based approach.

In order to meet this aim, this dissertation leans on a scoping review and qualitative individual interviews with foreign national prisoners using appreciative inquiry. Throughout 4 articles findings revealed that foreign nationals perceive several components of the activity offer as working well and are highly motivated to participate in prison activities. However, mainly organisational/institutional barriers prevent foreign national prisoners from participating in prison activities. In particular, foreign-speaking foreign nationals experience some additional barriers and dreams regarding participation due to language-related difficulties. Informal peer support seems to play an important role as "forms of survival".

This dissertation concludes with recommending practice and policy to establish a progressive universalist activity offer, to use a more strengths-based approach on foreign national prisoners and to create a positive participation climate in prison.

CURRICULUM VITAE

Flore Croux was born in Mortsels on 9 September 1994. She obtained the degree of Master in the Adult Educational Sciences at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB) in 2016.

Flore started her joint PhD at the Department of Educational Sciences of the VUB and the Department of Special Needs Education of Ghent University in February 2017. In her PhD she focuses on foreign national prisoners participation in prison activities, which is a part of the FIP²-project (Foreigners Involvement and Participation in Prison) which is funded by the FWO. Flore's work has been presented at international conferences and has been published in peer-reviewed journals such as European Journal on Criminal Policy and Research, Journal of Occupational Science and Kwalon.

As member of the Participation And Learning in Detention (PALD) research group (VUB), she was involved in several national and European research projects on the participation and learning of prisoners such as the European Prisoners Active Citizenship project, an evaluation study of the Dutch foundation 'Education behind foreign bars', and a joint research project with the University of Bergen (Norway) on the educational participation of female prisoners. She also guided 17 master thesis students.