

## Summaries

*Justitiële verkenningen* (Judicial explorations) is published eight times a year by the Research and Documentation Centre of the Dutch Ministry of Justice in cooperation with Boom Juridische uitgevers. Each issue focuses on a central theme related to judicial policy. The section Summaries contains abstracts of the internationally most relevant articles of each issue. The central theme of this issue (nr. 5, 2008) is *Social network analysis*.

### **Theory and characteristics of social network analysis; implications for the combat of crime and terrorism**

*R.C. van der Hulst*

More safety is needed in our society. This need is reflected in the recent policy plans of the Dutch government launching a boost in the combat of fraud, human trafficking, financial-economic and other capital crimes (including ideologically motivated crimes and terrorism). Increased knowledge and insights about the functioning of criminal networks (strengths and weaknesses) are the corner stones to improve preventive and intervention measures. This calls for innovative methods, research and instruments that reveal the opportunity structures and mechanisms behind criminal behavior. Social network analysis (SNA) can be considered a promising perspective to provide key information about the functioning of criminal networks and key players. Given that the concept of network analysis is more and more of topical interest to Dutch policymakers and law enforcement, the questions that are central in this paper are: what is social network analysis, what is the underlying theory, and what kind of information is generated that allows to get to more grips on criminal phenomena?

### **Network analysis as a perspective on organised crime**

*P. Van Calster*

This contribution deals with the assumptions underlying network research into organized crime. It argues these underlying assumptions are steeped in system theory and cognitivism. Therefore, network studies of organised crime often seem to focus almost exclusively on its functionality and rationality. This view holds that success in crime depends on the roles and tasks

people assume. Researchers are seldom interested in everyday, informal elements and events such as coincidental encounters that may occur in everyday life, or personal relationships which have no direct connection with criminal activities. By discussing this system-based perspective on organised crime, this paper illustrates the usefulness of an interaction-based perspective.

### **Traces in the network; network profiling as part of cold case research**

*M. Spreen and Th. Vermeulen*

Social network analysis methods can be useful for cold case research of the police. The purpose of these methods is to disentangle the web of relations among the victim. This is done by detecting those persons who occupy network positions that are likely to yield new information; and by detecting relational, forensic and situational issues among network members, which can be understood in terms of risk behaviors. The network profiling method as applied in cold cases of the Cold Case Team Amsterdam/Amstelland, Gooi & Vechtstreek and Flevoland is discussed and illustrated by some examples. The method can be viewed as a synergy of police and forensic psychiatric expertise.

### **Social network analysis in Dutch forensic psychiatry**

*L. Pomp and S. Bogaerts*

The FSNA is an instrument to estimate the relationship between personal networks of forensic psychiatric patients and the risk (and severity) of recidivism. The FSNA method considers the specific social, cultural and relational circumstances of each individual patient, and defines both negative and positive influences on future behavior. In our view, it is important to pay attention to contextual and environmental factors and underlying mechanism, when future violence behavior has to predict. Furthermore, the FSNA method can be important in managing risk (monitoring, supervision, victim safety planning, treatment and management).

### **Who is bullying who? A network perspective of bullying**

*D.R. Veenstra, G. Huitsing, J.K. Dijkstra and S. Lindenberg*

Bullying in school classes was investigated using social network data. This paper contains three sections. In the first section the dyadic relation between bullies and victims was investigated.

The findings revealed that bullies are rejected by those for whom they are a potential threat, and that bullies generally choose their victims so as to minimize loss of affection. In the second section the impact of the class context on the effect of bullying on acceptance was examined. The findings demonstrated that the negative impact of individual bullying on peer acceptance was weakened if bullying occurs by popular adolescents. In the third part a social network analysis of a school class was presented. The findings suggested that in-group and out-group effects are important in explaining the group process of bullying, especially when bullies are popular and support each other. The social network perspective might provide valuable information for teachers on bullying, because it can inform teachers about dyadic and group processes in their classroom.

### **The impact of five different social networks on youth crime**

*J. Broekhuizen, F.M.H.M. Driessen and B. Völker*

In this article the influence of five different social networks of children on their criminal behavior is examined: the network of kids at school, of friends in the neighborhood, of siblings (of similar young age), of friends at the sports club, and of the peers in a group or gang. How strong is the influence of each network of friends on the criminality of the children, and which characteristics of these networks affect their criminality? As could be expected, results show that children with deviant friends undertake criminal activities far more often. The sheer presence of one or several deviant examples seems to be a more critical factor than the degree of involvement in these deviant groups. The effects of deviancy in the networks of friends do not disappear if the effects of resources, attachment to the parents, (cultural) beliefs and capacities are taken into account. This supports the view that we are dealing with independent effects of these five social networks.

### **Who is who's friend? Sociological theories and empirical studies on the origin of friendships**

*B. Völker*

Arguments and empirical research results are discussed on who becomes a friend of who, a research question which touches upon social openness and closure. Perspectives on the evolution of friendships are different between psychology and sociology. Psychology focuses on demand side theories, while sociology

employs supply side arguments. Both views acknowledge the importance of similarity in friendship ties, but for different reasons. While psychologists explain similarity by individual preferences for similar others, sociologists explain that phenomenon by structural constraints in the opportunity of meeting others. Empirical findings are reviewed and results from primary data from a national representative survey are presented. There are important social demographic differences in the distribution of friendship. Married and older people have least friends. Friendships occur remarkably often among similar persons. Higher educated people are even more selective in their friends than lower educated ones. The article concludes with directions for future research.