



Autoportrait au miroir
— Léon Spilliaert (1881-1946)

Reflections on the Boundaries of Perpetrator Studies: Looking at Violence, Politics, and Harm

26TH & 27TH JUNE 2024

**Université libre de Bruxelles
Campus Solbosch, Building U, Entrance D, Room: 6.203 (UB6.203)**

Summary: Research in the field of Perpetrators Studies is navigating between both the study of “perpetration”, and the criticism of the very label of “perpetrator” as a limited and ambiguous category, heavily influenced by legal positivism as well as political or economic strategies. Caught between what might be considered as antagonistic expectations (i.e., the parallel exploitation and problematization of their object of study), researchers in the field of perpetrator studies face epistemological challenges that can be common or divergent across disciplines yet end up having consequences on the framing of the global social issues they tackle. The objective of the Conference is both to explore these challenges and to provide a broader reflection on the boundaries of perpetrator’s studies in the light of their relationships with violence, politics and harm.

Organizing Committee:

Dr. Margaux Coquet, *Université de Luxembourg;*
Pr. Marie-Sophie Devresse, *Université de Louvain;*
Pr. Damien Scalia, *Université libre de Bruxelles;*
Dr. Ellen Van Damme, *Université libre de Bruxelles.*

Wednesday 26th June

9h00-9h10: **Welcoming Address**

Julie Allard, Dean of the Faculty of Law, *Université libre de Bruxelles*

9h10-9h40: **Opening Reflections on the Boundaries of Perpetrator Studies**

Damien Scalia, Professor, Criminal Law, *Université libre de Bruxelles*.

Ellen Van Damme, Postdoctoral researcher, Criminology, *Université libre de Bruxelles*.

Margaux Coquet, Postdoctoral researcher, Criminal Law, *Université de Luxembourg*.

9h40-10h00: Coffee Break

Panel 1: At the Frontiers of Criminalization: Highlighting the Ambivalent Relationships Between Criminal Law and Colonization.

Moderators: Margaux Coquet, Postdoctoral Researcher, Criminal Law, *University of Luxembourg*.

10h15-10h30: **Conquering Lands, Collecting Bodies: Perpetrators' Perspective of the Younghusband Mission.**

Yukti Saumya, Director at the Center for Restoration, History and International Law, *Geneva Academy*.

10h30-10h45: **Law and Litigation Relating to the Colonial Past: Spotlight on the Belgian Case.**

Jeremiah Vervoort, PhD Researcher Criminal Law, *Université libre de Bruxelles*.

10h45-11h00: **The Role of State Violence in the Narratives of Terrorism Offenders**

Ahmed Ajil, Postdoctoral Researcher in Criminal Law, *Université de Lausanne/Université libre de Bruxelles*.

11h00-11h15: **Mass Immigration Detention, Thorny Pathologies and Large-Scale Impacts.**

Lorenzo Bernardini, Postdoctoral Researcher, Criminal Law, *Université de Luxembourg*.

11h15-12h00: **Discussion**

Panel 2: At the Frontiers of Perpetrators: Questioning the Differential Apprehension of the Individuals Concerned by Mass Criminality.

Moderators: Marie-Sophie Devresse, Professor, Criminology, *Université de Louvain*.

13h00-13h30: **Intersectionality and the Victim-Perpetrator Overlap: Examining How Media Covers the Criminal Prosecutions of Black Women Domestic Violence Victims in the United States.**

Miltonette Olivia Craig, Assistant Professor, Criminal Law and Criminology, *Sam Houston State University*
& TaLisa J Carter, Assistant Professor, Criminal Law and Criminology, *American University*.

13h30-13h45: Accepting the Perpetrator Label in Order to Receive Help: Reflections on an Intervention Targeted at Male Domestic Abuse Perpetrators and the Particular Constraints of Randomised Controlled Trial Evaluations.

Helen Cramer, Senior Research Fellow, Health Services Researcher, *University of Bristol*.

13h45-14h00: Domestic Abuse Perpetrators: A Gendered Approach to the Language of Accountability.

Rasha Hamid, PhD Researcher, Sociology, *University of Essex*.

14h00-14h30: Discussion

14h30-14h45: Coffee Break

14h45-15h15: The Categories of Perpetrator and Victim In Transitional Justice: the Argentine dictatorship as a 'restless event'.

Michael Humphrey, Professor Emeritus, Sociology and Criminology, *University of Sydney* &
Estela Valverde, Associate Professor, Spanish and Latin American Studies, *University of Sydney*.

15h15-15h30: Perpetrator Collaboration and Restorative Justice: Lessons Learned from Case 01 in Colombia's Jurisdiction Especial para la Paz (JEP).

Kerstin Carlson, Associate Professor, Law and Society, *Roskilde University*.

Thursday 27th June

Panel 3: At the Frontiers of Perpetration: Rethinking the Definitions and Dynamics of Participation.

Moderators: Ellen Van Damme, Postdoctoral researcher, Criminology, *Université libre de Bruxelles*

10h00-10h15: Perpetrators 2.0 – Rethinking Violence and Violent Actors in the Digital Era.

Timothy Williams, Junior Professor, Political Science, *University of the Bundeswehr Munich*.

10h15-10h30: Breaking down Extremist Organizations through PRISM: A Complex Systems Method for Assessing Extremism.

Etienne Rosas, Postdoctoral Researcher, Public policy analysis, *Princeton University*.

10h30-10h45: Defining 'Perpetrator' Through the Light of 'Domino Theory': An Alternative Approach to Understanding the Epistemological Challenges in Perpetrator Studies.

Nusrat Jahan Nishat, Advocate, District and Sessions Judge Court, *Dhaka, Bangladesh*.

10h45-11h00: 'Joint Criminal Enterprise' as a New Perspective to Deal with International Crimes and Their Offenders.

Stephan Parmentier, Professor, Criminology and Human Rights, *KU Leuven*.

11h00-11h15: **Criminal banalities: unveiling decision-making of cocaine traffickers operating in Colombia and Italy.**

Emilia Ziosi, Researcher, Sociology, *University of Oxford*.

11h00-11h15: **Simulations for Perpetrators Studies: Which Simulations and What Can They Teach Us About Perpetration?**

Benjamin Gaches, PhD Researcher, Transboundary legal studies, *Rijksuniversiteit Groningen*.

11h30-12h20: **Discussion**

Panel 4: At The Frontiers of Perpetrator's Studies: Shifting the Perspective from Legal Categories to Individual Stories.

Moderators: Suzanne Knittel, Associate Professor, Comparative Literature, *Utrecht University*.

13h15-13h30: **The Politics of Studying (German) Post-Terrorist Autobiography.**

Clare Bielby, Senior Lecturer, Women's/Gender Studies and German Studies, *University of York*.

13h30-13h45: **The Ethics and Aesthetics of Bystanding and Implication in Rachel Seiffert's The Dark Room.**

Paula Romo-Mayor, Research Fellow, Contemporary English Fiction, *University of Zaragoza*.

13h45-14h00: **Rereading Klaus Theweleit's Male Fantasies: German Freikorps Militia and the Question of Fascist Desire.**

Deborah Brostaux, Research Fellow, Philosophy, *Université libre de Bruxelles & Center Marc Bloch*.

14h00-15h00: **Discussion**

15h00-15h30: **Concluding Remarks**

Anette Bringedal Houge, Associate Professor, Department of Criminology and Sociology, *University of Oslo*.

End of the Conference

