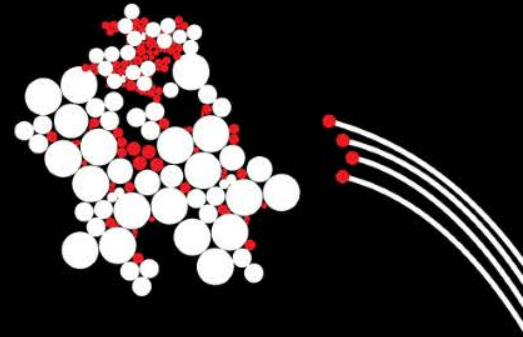


UNIVERSITY OF TWENTE.

AN EVALUATION OF
THREE VICTIM IMPACT COURSES
AMONG PRISONERS IN THE NETHERLANDS



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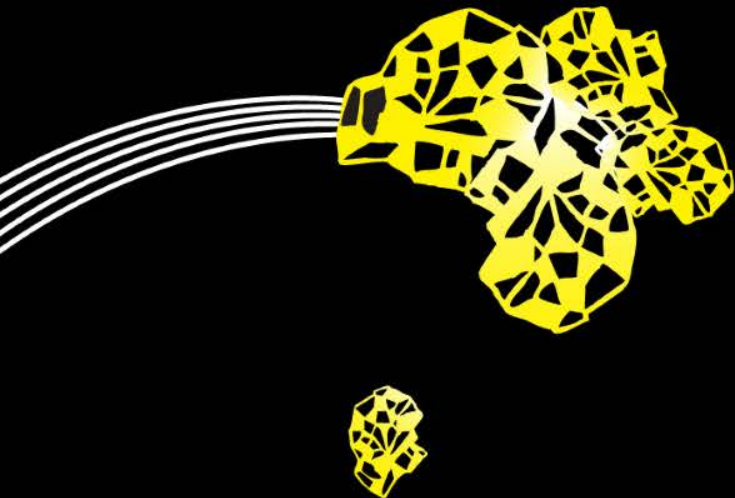
Elze Ufkes

University of Twente: dept. Psychology of Conflict, Risk, and Safety

Commissioned by:

Research and Documentation Centre, Ministry of Security and Justice

Custodial Institutions Agency in the Netherlands





Reasons for the current research

- Mission Custodial Institutions Agency:

incarceration, restoration, & prevention

→ *to develop further a restorative way of working in prisons in the Netherlands*

Focus: three existing Dutch victim impact courses

- *Puinruimen* [Removal of debris]
 - - since 2004; inspired by Belgian restorative prison programs and programs in prison youth facilities
 - - adult prisoners (male and female); group course
- *SOS* [Speaking about victims, guilt, society, responsibility and restoration]
 - - Since 2006; adapted from Sycamore Tree Project
 - - different programs (group & individual course, meeting)
 - - Adult, male prisoners
- *DAPPER* ['Courageous']
 - - Since Nov 2015; group course for juveniles in prison
 - - Based on former training-order Slachtoffer in Beeld &

course VASSST

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Trainingsmodule DAPPER, Opmaat tot herstel gereed!

18 december 2012
De module DAPPER, Opmaat tot herstel, is een trainingsmodule rondom het thema: Dader-Slachtoffer-Herstel. De module is een onderdeel van de busimethodiek YOUTURN en sluit aan op één van de peilers van YOUTURN: het vergroten van moreel besef.



Training



Research goals

- Evaluation of courses' plan and design

RQs: - Goals?

- Similarities and differences between courses?
- Can be goals be attained according to literature?

- Evaluation of courses' execution


RQs: - How many courses and for whom?

- Experiences of professionals and participants?
- Are goals obtained according to professionals and participants?



Methods

- Evaluation of courses' plan and design
 - course documents
 - interviews with developers
 - systematic literature review
- Evaluation of courses' execution
 - analyses of course registration data
 - interviews with professionals executing the course
 - repeated measurements among course participants (T0, T1, T2)



Preliminary results: evaluation of courses' set up and design

Course characteristics:

Puinruimen

- Restorative workers inside prisons organise and execute course
- voluntary participation; recruitment by restorative workers
- Selection criteria: motivation, group suitability

- 10 weekly meetings, restorative workers and guest speakers (e.g. probation, VOM mediator, relative of murder victim), from informative to more reflective

- Building trust in the group, information about support and restoration, reflecting about / confronting with own behavior & consequences of (own) crime




Preliminary results: evaluation of courses' set up and design

Course characteristics:

SOS (*group and individual course*)

- Gevangenzorg Nederland ('Dutch prisoners' care') organises and executes courses
- voluntary participation; recruitment differs per prison: folders and/or employees from Gevangenzorg recruit participants inside prisons
- Selection criteria: motivation, group suitability
- 8 weekly meetings, course and dialogue leaders (trained volunteers), taking steps to restoration (e.g. self, victim-offender mediation, restoration of family relations)
- Experiencing acceptance and building trust in the group, information about support and restoration, reflection about own behavior & consequences of (own) crime



Preliminary results: evaluation of courses' set up and design


Course characteristics:

DAPPER

- Professionals inside juvenile prison facilities execute courses
- Compulsory participation early in detention; part of larger YOUTURN methodology
- Selection criteria: group suitability

- 8 weekly meetings, (prison professionals, VOM mediator, ex-offender who participated in mediation), from distant to more personal themes

- Defining victims and offenders, information about support and restoration, awareness of the consequences of crime, exploring own attitude towards VOM



Preliminary results: evaluation of courses' set up and design

Three goals that all courses have in common:

- Increasing awareness of the consequences of (own) crime for direct and indirect victims
 - Facilitating an increase in taking responsibility for own (criminal) behavior
 - More knowledge and insight in the (im)possibilities of repairing material and immaterial damage
- Building trust and a safe group process as an important mechanism for reaching these goals



Preliminary results: evaluation of courses' set up and design

Systematic literature review:

- 35 articles / reports identified in which restorative courses for prisoners were evaluated (IOC, VIP, VAP)
- 7 (of 35) with optimal or suboptimal internal validity
(RCT or comparison groups including matching; pre- / postmeasure design)

Evidence for the three goals in the literature:

- *Increase in factual knowledge about and sensitivity for consequences of crime for direct and indirect victims (5 out of 7 studies)*
- *No conclusive positive evidence for increasing responsibility-taking (2 of 7 studies: + / 2 of 7 studies : 0)*
- *No information about whether courses raise knowledge and insight into (im)possibilities to repair damage caused*

Preliminary results: evaluation of courses' execution

Number of courses and participants in preceding years

| | DAPPER | Puinruimen | SOS | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| | period: 1 Sept 2015 - 28 Apr 2016 | period: 18 Nov 2013 - 8 Apr 2016 | period: 4 Feb 2014 - 22 Apr 2016 | | |
| total number of participants per course | 17 | 194 | Course: 165 | Individual: 14 | Meeting: 135 |
| <i>number of courses given per location:</i> | | | | | |
| JJI Eikenstein | 1 | | | | |
| JJI Hartelborgt | 1 | | | | |
| JJI Teylingereind | 1 | | | | |
| PI Arnhem-Noord | | 1 | | | |
| PI Arnhem-Zuid | | 3 | | | |
| PI Dordse Poorten | | | 1 | | |
| PI Haaglanden | | | 2 | 9 | 6 |
| PI Krimpen a/d IJssel | | | 2 | | |
| PI Leeuwarden | | 3 | | | |
| PI Lelystad | | | 6 | | |
| PI Middelburg | | | 4 | 1 | |
| PI Nieuwegein | | 5 | | | |
| PI Rotterdam, locatie Hoogvliet | | | | 3 | |
| PI Rotterdam, locatie De Schie | | | 4 | | 4 |
| PI Sittard | | | 1 | 1 | |
| PI Utrecht - Nieuwersluis | | 7 | | | |
| PI Vught | | 1 | | | |
| PI Zwolle | | | 2 | | |
| | | | | | |
| total number of courses | 3 | 20 | 22 | 14 | 10 |

Preliminary results: evaluation of courses' execution

Degree of completion & reasons for non-completion:


| | Puinruimen | SOS | | |
|---|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------|--------------|
| | period: 18 nov 2013 - 8 apr 2016 | period: 4 Feb 2014 - 22 Apr 2016 | | |
| total number of participants per course | 194 | Course: 165 | Individual: 14 | Meeting: 135 |
| Degree of completion (%) | | | | |
| <i>course completed</i> | 82,5 | 75,1 | 78,6 | 81,5 |
| <i>course not completed</i> | 17,5 | 24,8 | 7,1 | 18,5 |
| <i>unknown</i> | 0,0 | 0,0 | 14,3 | 0,0 |
| Reasons for non-completion (%) | | | | |
| <i>released / end of detention / suspension</i> | 35,3 | 12,2 | 33,3 | 12,0 |
| <i>translocated / transport</i> | 26,4 | 19,5 | 0,0 | 28,0 |
| <i>deregistered / stopped without reason</i> | 20,6 | 19,4 | 0,0 | 12,0 |
| <i>Other (hospitalized, missed too much)</i> | 11,8 | 14,7 | 0,0 | 16,0 |
| <i>Unknown</i> | 5,9 | 34,2 | 66,7 | 32,0 |

Preliminary results: evaluation of courses' execution

Experiences of participants ($n = 45$):

“What were positive aspects about this course?” (T1)





Preliminary results: evaluation of courses' execution

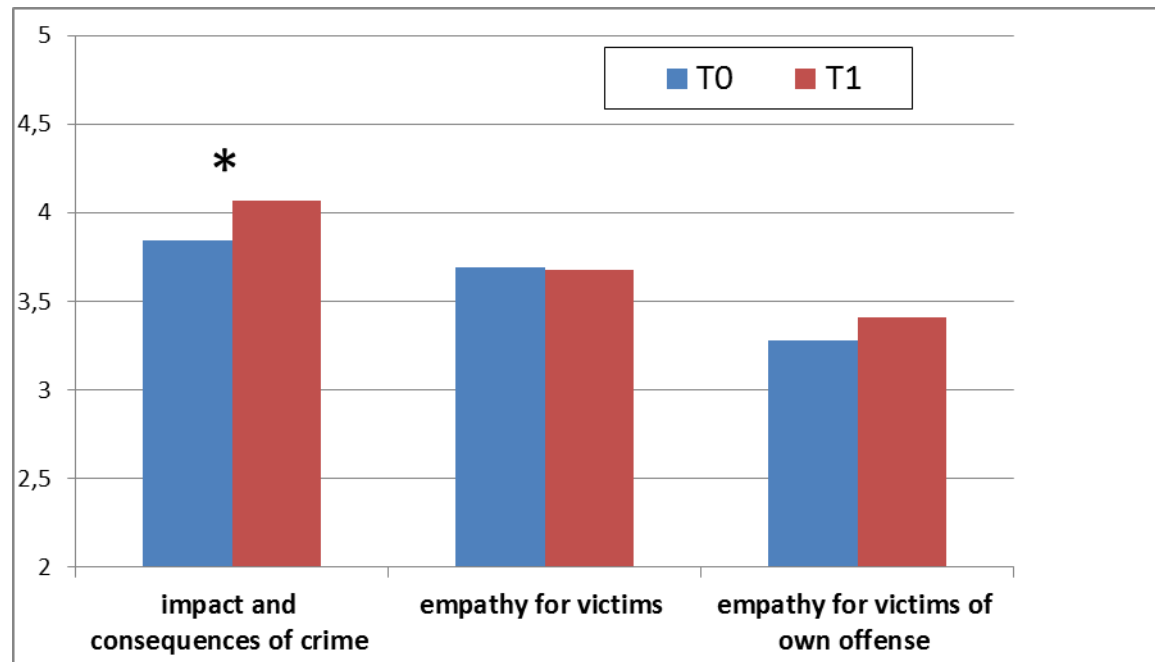
Experiences of participants ($n = 44$):

“What is the most important thing you learned during this course?” (T1)



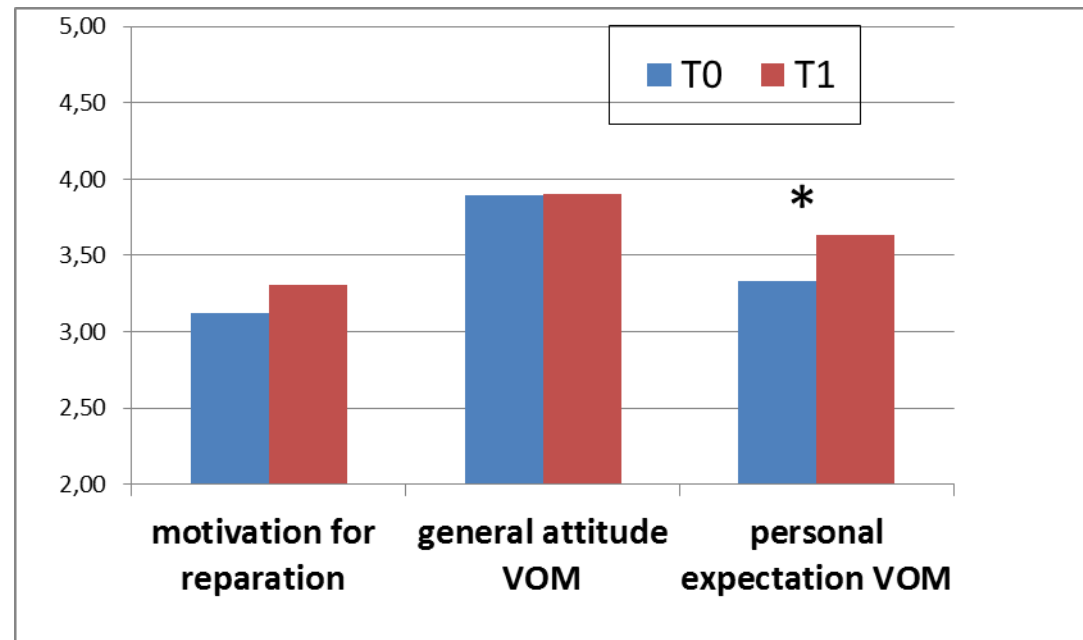
Preliminary results: evaluation of courses' execution

Is goal “increased awareness of the consequences of (own) crime for (in)direct victims” achieved in *Puinruimen* and *SOS* course?



Preliminary results: evaluation of courses' execution

Is goal “more knowledge in the (im)possibilities of repairing (im)material damage” achieved in *Puinruimen* and *SOS* course?





Summary of preliminary findings & final remarks

Evaluation of courses' set up and design:

- Commonalities in terms of main goals , differences in course design and coordination
- Evidence for goal 'increasing victim awareness' in literature
- Less evidence for goal responsibility-taking & 'knowledge about reparation' goal

Evaluation of courses' execution :

- Fair amount of completion (75-83 %)
- Achievement of goals: victim awareness & personal expectation VOM
- Not responsibility-taking

→ Importance of the group process and sharing in the group?

→ Course DAPPER has been implemented recently; proper evaluation of execution

was impossible



Questions? Your own experiences?

Final report will be published online:

Research and Documentation Centre of Ministry of Justice and Security
in the Netherlands:

www.wodc.nl (September 2016)

→ Many thanks in advance to all professionals, course leaders, course participants, etc. for making this research happen!

Thank you for your attention!

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