About NSCR

NSCR conducts fundamental scientific research into crime and law enforcement. Our research is substantively innovative, methodologically state-of-the-art and contributes to the solution of major societal issues in the field of security and justice. NSCR operates at the intersection of theory, practice and policy. We focus on traditional and new manifestations of crime, testing existing theories and developing new investigative tools.

NSCR Research program

Our research program is based on four leading questions: Who commits crime and why? Where, when and how is crime committed? What are the consequences for victims and society? How does society respond to crime? Those four research questions form the basis for our research groups. In addition, we have a fifth research group that conducts research into evidence-based policing.
Sources of Income 2019-2021 in k€

New director at NSCR

Since 1 November 2021 the NSCR has a new institute director: Prof. Beate Völker. She succeeds our former director Prof. Peter van der Laan, who is retiring. Beate Völker is a sociologist, researcher on questions related to social cohesion, networks, and social capital in different settings and circumstances. She studied networks in neighborhoods, work organizations, hospitals, prisons; cross-sectional, longitudinal, and through life-courses. She was formerly employed at Utrecht University, in the Department of Sociology (1997-2014, since 2007 as professor) and Human Geography and Planning (2019-2021), as well as at the Sociology Department of the University of Amsterdam (2014-2019).

What made her join the NSCR? ‘Many things. The institute consists of excellent and passionate researchers, who are working at the crossroads of disciplines and at the forefront of science. The diversity of people and projects is large, but the mission of the NSCR to do fundamental research into crime and law enforcement creates homogeneity and cohesion. This is how I envisage NSCR: as an open institute with a facilitating role that helps to bring people together for developing the ideas that solve our scientific and social problems.’

Full interview with Beate Völker