

Progress of the programme (updated March 2016)

On-going PhD Research

- **Proving claims of asylum seekers: measuring knowledge of people and places** (T. van Veldhuizen).

This research concerns credibility assessment in the European asylum procedure. The central research question focuses on how best immigration services can assess whether asylum seekers are veracious about their identity, origin, and past experiences when other evidence for their claims is lacking. The main focus is on methods of questioning and the possibilities and limitations of human memory.

- **Regulating and reporting in eyewitness memory: Failing to retrieve or failing to report?** (A. Clark)

This research is concerned with the consequences of nonbelieved memories, and their relationship with memory omissions, testing the hypothesis that undermining people's belief will result in them developing a nonbelieved memory (which will be withheld in subsequent memory tests). This research will further our understanding of eyewitness memory.

- **Social influence and metamemory** (J. Rechdan)

This research seeks to explain the effects of social influence manipulations on metacognitive monitoring and control processes in eyewitness reports through the Revised Dual Criterion Model (Ackerman & Goldsmith, 2008), examining potential changes in the amount and degree of detail provided by eyewitnesses, as well as their reported level of confidence in their recollections, as influenced by social comparison, conformity, and the introduction of misinformation by social means.

- **Are children really the poorer eyewitnesses? An analysis of counter intuitive developmental trends in eyewitness identifications, memory and suggestibility** (N. Brackmann)

Many professionals believe that children's eyewitness accounts are inferior to statements made by adults. This research project challenges these sometimes unfounded assumptions by looking at memory processes that may undergo a counter intuitive developmental trend. Under forensically relevant conditions, children can provide accurate and exhaustive memory reports and sometimes children might be even less prone to memory distortions and erroneous witness reports than adults.

- **Tactical aspects of the SUE technique: The effect of tactical disclosure of evidence on suspects' counter interrogation strategies** (S. Tekin)

This research focuses on suspects' counter-interrogation strategies as one of the factors that determine the amount of information they disclose in an interview. By using the Strategic Use of Evidence (SUE) technique, we aim to examine to what extent it is possible to alter liars' strategies (from a less to a more forthcoming strategy) and elicit new information.

- **Eyewitness identification in the case of multiple perpetrator crimes** (N. Tupper)

Despite the fact that a large number of violent crimes are committed by multiple perpetrators, and that the rising rate of those crimes is a global phenomenon, little is known about eyewitness identification in the context of multiple perpetrator crimes. This research examines the memory and decision processes of eyewitnesses making multiple identifications, as well as perceptions and practices of officials that administer such identifications.

- **Separating genuine threats from bluffs** (R. Geurts)

This research examines i) whether 'bluffers' and genuine 'threateners' avail of different cognitive processes when thinking or speaking about their threat and ii) whether these differences can be elicited during interviews with those who make threats.

- **In(Consistencies) as a cue to deceit** (H. Deeb)

This research examines new strategic and cognitive interviewing techniques that increase the differences in liars' and truth-tellers' between-statement consistency as well as statement-evidence consistency. It also investigates consistency when liars use strategies to counteract these interviewing techniques.

- **Confirmation Biases and Expectancy Effects: The Making of a False Confession** (N. Adams-Quackenbush)

This research investigates the phenomena of confirmation bias and expectancy effects in relation to investigative interviews and false confessions. The focus of this research is to understand how police officers' beliefs may lead to the creation of confirmation bias in an investigative interview, to study how the presence of confirmation bias and expectancy effects influence suspect and interviewer behaviour, to examine how expectancy effects within investigative interviews may lead to false confessions, and to determine whether certain types of investigative interviews are more effective in reducing confirmation bias and expectancy effects.

- **Inducing disclosure in HUMINT interviews** (D. Neequaye)

This research examines how empirically developed interview strategies pair with a subtle persuasion tactics. Priming is a subtle persuasion tactic as it operates (partially) outside awareness. In this project, we will attempt to bolster the information elicitation prowess of the Scharff technique by priming interviewees to be helpful. In its conception, the Scharff technique is applied such that the interviewer approaches the interviewee in a friendly and non-confrontational manner. Stimulating helping behavior through priming as a complementary persuasion tactic intuitively fits with the friendly and non-confrontational Scharff style. The Scharff technique, by its nature, presents a fertile environment for an interviewee to be helpful by providing information.

- **The effectiveness of the facial composite in police investigations** (K. Carter-Rogers)

The purpose of this dissertation is to determine the most effective way to use the information cues given with the facial composite. More specifically in how information partnered with the facial composite increases the

probability for recognition of the facial composite, and how this information can elicit more precise and correct tips from the public.

- **Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) in the Courts: In Search for the Evidence Finding a solution to a problem of malingering of PTSD in forensic context** (I. Boskovic)

This research is based on testing different methods of deception detection and then applying those methods in cases of PTSD. The importance of this project is not only theoretical, but also practical. Malingering is a common problem in case of Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). There are many possible benefits if a person has this diagnosis, which makes it appealing to malingerers. Additionally, PTSD includes number of subjective symptoms that are easy to fabricate. For those reasons, this research is firstly focused on detecting useful methods that can contribute to detection of malingering subjective symptoms. By applying different methods in work with real PTSD patients, we should be able to establish specific patterns of symptoms or behavior that are distinctive from malingerers'. One of the methods is testing if the people really suffering from PTSD have longer reaction time in color naming trauma related words in Modified Stroop task. Besides that, research includes investigating if truth tellers produce more verifiable details in their statements than malingerers.

- **Strategic regulation and reporting in the alibis of innocent and guilty suspects** (S. Portnoy)

This research examines the effects of different pre-alibi instructions on the regulatory strategies used by innocent vs. guilty suspects when providing an alibi.

- **The development of a memory based lie detection tool** (A. Izotovas)

This research examines how recall of details changes over time in truthful and deceptive statements. In particular, as time passes some details of the experienced events become naturally forgotten. However, some details are remembered better even after many years. This research will focus on the types of recalled details and differences between truthful and fabricated statements after certain period of the event in question.

Articles authored/co-authored by our Doctoral Students

- Clark, A., Nash, R. A., Fincham, G., & Mazzoni, G. (2012). Creating non-believed memories for recent autobiographical events. *PLoS ONE* 7(3). doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0032998.
- Mazzoni, G., Clark, A., & Nash, R. A. (2014). Disowned recollections: Denying true experiences undermines belief in occurrence but not judgments of remembering. *Acta Psychologica*, 145, 139-146.
- Otgaar, H., Howe, M. L., Clark, A., Wang, J., & Merckelbach, H. (2015). What if you went to the police and accused your uncle of abuse? Misunderstandings concerning the benefits of memory distortion: A commentary on Fernández (2015). *Consciousness and Cognition*. doi:10.1016/j.concog.2015.01.015
- Scoboria, A., Memon, A., Gawrylowicz, J. & Clark, A. (2015). Nonbelieved memories across the adult lifespan. *Psychology of Consciousness: Theory, Research, and Practice*.
- Clark, A., Hope, L., Otgaar, H., Ost, J., Sauer, J., Merckelbach, H., Kontogianni, F., & Pedrero Nunez, R. *The consequences of not believing: Nonbelieved memories are not precursors to memory omission errors.* (Manuscript submitted)
- Brackmann, N., Otgaar, H., Sauerland, M., & Merckelbach, H. (2015). Children are poor witnesses. Or are they? *In Mind*, 24, 1-6. (see <http://www.in-mind.org/article/children-are-poor-witnesses-or-are-they>)
- Brackmann, N., Otgaar, H., Sauerland, M., & Jelicic, M. (2015). When Children are the Least Vulnerable to False Memories: A True Report or a Case of Autosuggestion? *Journal of Forensic Sciences*. Advance online publication. doi:10.1111/1556-4029.12926
- Otgaar, H., Jelicic, M., Brackmann, N., van der Poort, J., van der Brink, T., & Cernohorsky, P. (2015). Pseudo-Herinneringen: Over de vermeende kwetsbaarheid van jonge getuigen [Pseudo-memories: About the proposed vulnerability of young witnesses]. *In Mind*, 2. (<http://nl.in-mind.org/article/pseudo-herinneringen-over-de-vermeende-kwetsbaarheid-van-jonge-getuigen>)
- Otgaar, H., Howe, M.L., Brackmann, N., & Wang, J. (in press). When children are the worst and best eyewitnesses: Factors behind the development of false memory.
- Otgaar, H., Howe, M.L., Brackmann, N., & Smeets, T. (2016) The malleability of developmental trends in neutral and negative memory illusions. *Journal of Experimental Psychology. General*, 145(1), 31–55. doi:10.1037/xge0000127

- Tekin, S., Granhag, P. A., Strömwall, L. A., Mac Giolla, E., Vrij, A., & Hartwig, M. (2015). *Interviewing strategically to elicit admissions from guilty suspects*. *Law and Human Behavior*, 39, 244–252.
- Tupper, N., Sauerland, M., Hope, L., & Merckelbach, H.M.J. (2015). *Seeing and believing: Common courtroom myths in eyewitness memory*. In *Mind*, 28, 1-6. (see: <http://www.in-mind.org/article/seeing-and-believing-common-courtroom-myths-in-eyewitness-memory>)

Presentations by our Doctoral Students

- Brackmann, N., Otgaar, H., Sauerland, M., Merckelbach, H. (2014, June). *The impact of testing on the development of false memories*. Presentation at the 24th annual conference of the European Association of Psychology and Law (EAPL), St. Petersburg, Russia.
- Brackmann, N., Otgaar, H., Sauerland, M., & Howe, M. L. (2015, June). *The impact of testing on the formation of false memories in different ages*. Presentation at the 11th biennial meeting of the Society for Applied Research in Memory and Cognition (SARMAC), Victoria, BC, Canada.
- Brackmann, N. (2014, November). *Legal professionals' credibility assessments based on age and specificity of a statement*. Presentation at 10th annual meeting of the Nordic Network - Psychology & Law (NNPL), Oslo, Norway.
- Brackmann, N. (2015, July). *“Developmental trends in misidentifying a bystander from a lineup”* Presentation at EAPL 2015 in Nuremberg, Germany
- Clark, A., Nash R. A., Fincham, G., & Mazzoni, G. (2012, April). *Creating non-believed memories for recent autobiographical events*. Presentation at the Experimental Psychology Society, Hull, UK.
- Clark, A., Hope, L., Otgaar, H., Ost, J., & Sauer, J. (2015, June). *The consequences of not believing: Do non-believed memories result in memory omissions?* Presentation at the Society for Applied Research Memory and Cognition (SARMAC), Victoria, BC, Canada.
- Rechdan, J., Hope, L., Sauerland, M., Ost, J., & Sauer, J. (2015, June). *The effects of social comparative feedback on grain size and confidence in eyewitness reports*. Presentation at the Society for Applied Research Memory and Cognition (SARMAC), Victoria, BC, Canada.
- Geurts, R. (2014, November). *Separating threats from bluffs: a research outline*. Presentation at the 10th annual meeting of the Nordic Network - Psychology & Law (NNPL), Oslo, Norway.
- Tekin, S., Granhag, P. A., & Mac Giolla, E. (2014, June). *Strategic interviewing to elicit new information: Making liars more forthcoming*. Presentation at the annual conference of the European Association of Psychology and Law, Saint Petersburg, Russia
- Tekin, S., Granhag, P. A. & Mac Giolla, E. (2015, March). *Strategic interviewing to elicit admissions: Making guilty suspects more forthcoming*. Presentation at the annual conference of American Psychology and Law Society, San Diego, USA
- Tekin, S. & Granhag, P. A., (2015, November). *Eliciting incriminating information from perpetrators in denial*, Presentation at the annual meeting of the Nordic Network of Psychology and Law, Reykjavik, Iceland
- Van Veldhuizen, T.S. (2014, October). *When evidence is lacking: Interviewing practice of Swedish asylum officials*. Presentation at the annual conference of the Nordic Network for Psychology and Law, Oslo, Norway.
- Van Veldhuizen, T.S., Horselenberg, R., & Van Koppen, P. (2014, June). *When evidence is lacking: Interviewing and decision practice in the asylum procedure*. Presentation at the annual conference of the European Association for Psychology and Law, Saint Petersburg, Russia.
- Van Veldhuizen, T.S., Van Koppen, P.J., Granhag, P.A., Horselenberg, R., & Landström S. (2015, May). *Credibility assessment of claims about origins: the validity of measuring knowledge of places*. Presentation at the annual conference of Canadian Association for Refugee and Forced Migration Studies, Toronto, Canada.

- Van Veldhuizen, T.S. (2015, October). *Assessing Asylum Seekers' Claims about Origins: Measuring Knowledge of Peoples and Places*. Presentation at the annual conference of the Nordic Network for Psychology and Law, Reykjavik, Iceland.
- Van Veldhuizen, T.S., Van Koppen, P.J., Granhag, P.A., Horselenberg, R., & Landström S. (2015, July). *Credibility assessment of asylum seekers' claims about origins: the validity of measuring knowledge of places*. Presentation at the annual conference of the European Association for Psychology and Law, Neuremberg, Germany.
- Van Veldhuizen, T.S. (2015, February) *A Legal Psychological Perspective on Credibility Assessment in the European Asylum Procedure*. Presentation at the Swedish Migration Board, Gothenburg, Sweden.
http://streamio.com/api/v1/videos/54f09f8e5b903528360000bf/public_show?link=true&player_id=4c9b6854b35ea807b5000001
- Deeb, H., Vrij, A., Hope, L., Mann, S., Granhag, P. A., & Lancaster, G. (2015, August). *Interviewing liars about multiple events: The effect of asking questions in nonsequential order*. Poster session presented at Decepticon Conference, University of Cambridge, United Kingdom.
- Neequaye D.A. (2015, October). *Toward integrative interviewing: the role of situation awareness*. Presentation at the 11th meeting of the Nordic Network for Research on Psychology and Law (NNPL) Reykjavik, Iceland.
- Tupper, N., Sauerland, M., Hope, L., Sauer, J., & Charman, S. (2015). *Identification for multiple perpetrator crimes: Testing the independence of multiple lineup decisions*. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the European Association for Psychology and Law Conference (EAPL), Nuremberg, Germany.