

## 2009 International Campbell Collaboration (C2) Colloquium

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### Abstract Information

**Abstract Title:**

Towards a science driven evidence-based criminal justice policy, an inventory of 10 years research

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Paper

**Themes:**

crime and justice

**Authors:**

Elke Devroe Criminologist, Member since 2005 of the Belgian Steering Committee of the Belgian Campbell movement, Head of department "Research, Development and Statistics", Service for Criminal Policy, Ministry of Justice, Belgium

**Abstract:**

Towards a science driven evidence-based criminal justice policy Campbell Field: crime and justice Paper for the 9th annual Colloquium of the Campbell Collaboration, in Oslo may 18-20 2009 Elke Devroe Criminologist, Member since 2005 of the Belgian Steering Committee of the Campbell movement, Head of department "Research, Development and Statistics", Service for Criminal Policy, Ministry of Justice, Belgium Knowledge-based policy is a very recent reality in Belgium, and certainly not yet a tradition as it is in Anglo-Saxon countries. The criminological research in our country tends to be scattered, causing a rift between the policy-makers and the academic world. Yet, using scientific results as a factor in shaping criminal policy is becoming of more interest. In 1990, the 'Pentecost Plan' described the scientific bases of criminal policy as one of the greatest challenges for the politician. But do policy officials increasingly acknowledge the value of criminological input in the articulation of options for criminal policy? Since 1988, a surge in criminological research at the universities has taken place, financed by the federal government. Given this as a fact, an inventory of the themes of this research, the methodology used, the scientific results and the use for the policy maker, was not available in Belgium. I conducted a research to collect all this evidence. I started to gather the contracts between the different ministers of justice and the universities. Then I tried to obtain all the scientific reports from the universities and made an overview of ten years research in the broad criminological domain, so that this became transparent to the government as well as to the tax. In my lecture I will present an overview of the results of this (you can call it a kind of) "systematic review", with particular attention to the "evaluation research". Only few criminological researches can be subscribed as "evaluative research", and none of it reaches the methodological standards of experimental design as prescribed by the Maryland Scientific methods Scale. I will give an overview of the type of research conducted, the criminological research field, the money spend, etc...My conclusions will be based on a book that I wrote in 2002 titled 'the relationship between scientific research and criminal policy' and will focus upon two mayor points of attention (1) some specific aspects of the "gap" between science and policy based on empiric findings and (2) some recommendations for as well policy maker as scientist in attempts to narrow this gap and to broaden the use of scientific results in policy making and in practice.

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