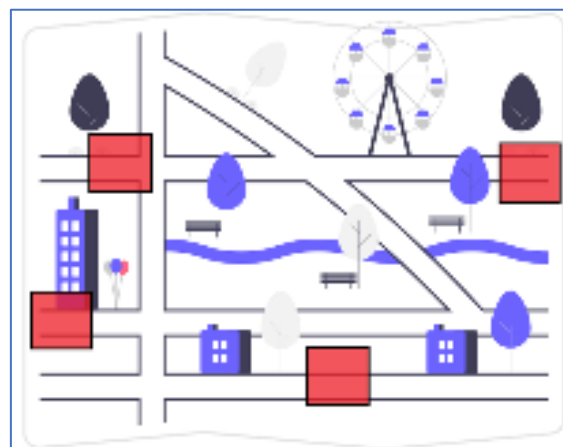


The future of big data policing for law enforcement agencies

Wednesday 22th March 2023 – Ghent



In honor of his contributions to advancing criminology's knowledge of how crime patterns form in space and time, Ghent University Faculty of Law and Criminology will confer an honorary doctorate on Professor P. Jeffrey Brantingham (Department of Anthropology, University of California, Los Angeles). In his research on how the environment shapes crime, Professor P. Jeffrey Brantingham has laid the foundation of predictive policing algorithms. The honorary doctorate will be awarded on March 24, 2023, 3.30 p.m. during the Ghent University Dies Natalis celebration in the Aula of Ghent University.

In addition to being a recognition for Professor P. Jeffrey Brantingham's interdisciplinary and multifaceted contribution to criminology and a token of gratitude for the ways in which he shaped the discipline, the honorary doctorate is also an expression of the track record built by Ghent University Faculty of Law and Criminology in spatiotemporal criminology and applications of big data policing. In 2020, Professor Christophe Vandeviver (Ghent University) received a Ghent University Research Council Research Professorship to pursue research in spatiotemporal criminology. Most recently in January 2023, Professor Wim Hardyns (Ghent University) was awarded a prestigious ERC Consolidator Grant by the European Commission to expand his research on big data policing. Combined this has led to the establishment of a center of expertise on the spatial and temporal analysis of crime and applications of big data policing.

In the lead-up to the conferral of the honorary doctorate, Ghent University Faculty of Law and Criminology is organizing a study seminar on the future of big data policing in the Belgian police. During this study seminar, Professor P. Jeffrey Brantingham will share his expertise



and insights regarding predictive policing. Professors Christophe Vandeviver and Wim Hardyns will introduce the expertise on this topic that has been developed within the Faculty, paying close attention to how law enforcement can benefit from this expertise.

Program

Chair: Prof. dr. Christophe Vandeviver

- 13.00 – 13.30: Walk-in with coffee
- 13.30 – 13.35: Word of welcome & program
Prof. dr. Michel Tison, Dean of the Faculty of Law & Criminology
- 13.35 – 13.55: Big data & spatiotemporal crime research: an overview
Prof. dr. Christophe Vandeviver, Research professor of Criminology
- 13.55 – 14.25: Keynote: predictive policing & big data--why, what, and how?
Prof. dr. P. Jeffrey Brantingham, Professor of Anthropology at UCLA & Doctor Honoris Causa UGent 2023
- 14.25 – 14.45: BIGDATPOL: Towards an evidence-based model for big data policing
Prof. dr. Wim Hardyns, ERC Grant winner 2023 #ERCCoG
- 14.45 – 15.10: Research pitches
dr. Kuralarasan Kumar, Thom Snaphaan, Maite Dewinter, Robin Khalfa, dr. Laure De Cock
- 15.10 – 15.40: Coffee break
- 15.40 – 16.00: Data protection & AI
Prof. dr. Gert Vermeulen, Professor of International and European Criminal Law & Data Protection
- Police & big data in Belgium: Reflections from police practice
- 16.00 – 16.10: Police & big data in Belgium: Are the federal police ready to take up the challenge?
Wim Liekens, Chief Commissioner eng. MSc, Director police information & ICT (CIO), Belgian Federal Police



- 16.10 – 16.20: Police & big data in Belgium: Are the local police ready to take up the challenge?
Eva Braeckman, Advisor Specialist data analytics, Antwerp Local Police
- 16.20 – 16.30: Police & big data in Belgium: The role of big data policing in police criminal investigations
Erik Snoeck, Chief Commissioner, Director-General Federal Judicial Police, Belgian Federal Police (TBC)
- 16.30 – 16.40: Reflections from a police dedicated Data Protection Authority & oversight body
Frank Schuermans, Chairman a.i. Supervisory Body for Police Information
- 16.40 – 16.55: Police & big data in Belgium: Reflections from the Federal Parliament and the Federal Parliamentary Committee on the Interior
Koen Metsu, Mayor of Edegem, vice-chairman Committee on the Interior
- 16.55 – 17.00: End & word of thanks
Prof. dr. Christophe Vandeviver
- 17.00 – 18.30 Networking drink

Location

Zebrastraat,
Zaal Nick Ervinck
Zebrastraat 32/001
9000 Gent

Working Group

Prof. dr. Christophe Vandeviver (Ghent University)
Prof. dr. Wim Hardyns (Ghent University)
Dr. Arne Dormaels (Ghent University)
Prof. dr. Marc Cools (Ghent University)



Practical information

Participation at the event is free of charge, but registration is compulsory. The registration deadline is 20 March 2023.

For registration please visit the [following event link](#).

Language: the presentations will be given in English.

More information:
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