

# System D Academy Goes Criminal



photo: Ukraine

How can you be the producer of safety and community without breaking the law? Self-organization is the most natural way to do this but has become in many cases a criminal act because of the monopoly on safety by the state. System D Academy is going into the gray area of positive criminal behavior in order to make new social spaces possible, which are openly defined, developed and defended by its citizens.

## **Introduction to Positive criminology:**

Safety and security are often seen in the light of crime, disorder and fear. This fuels a political and social climate obsessed with a negative logic of 'fighting' criminals, 'controlling' populations, and 'excluding' unwanted others. Other, more positive or constitutive discourses and practices about safety and security have fallen out of fashion. But what alternatives to contemporary processes of securitization and criminalization can be imagined when starting from a positive critique of security?

## **Introduction to Social Space:**

The right to shape your environment is a natural need of every human being. If this is a right, all the land should be equally shared property. Since the establishment of the social democracy there are many attempts to define social space, regulate it and uphold codes of behavior to sustain it. It is often produced and enforced by the state and nowadays more privatized parties. The state manages social space by trying to prevent crime and disorder by city planning, policing and formal regulations. Once in place, citizens have to deal with this rigid context, leaving little room for creative self-regulation.

The tension between the public sphere and the self-organized space is an ongoing debate. As cities grow more complex by new systems constructed over the old ones, gaps appear to create new formats of social spaces, and with the rise of digital applications there is a new dimension in the public sphere. The connectivity creates a massive self-organization potential which can become a powerful tool.

SDA will find out what is really going on in the streets, and what can be learned from self-regulation of our social spaces. Are there alternative systems that empower people to be more engaged with the governance of their social space? We will investigate who is presently engaged in this role, from policemen to architects, gangs, local peers and squatters.

**Context for testing Positive Criminology:**

The Leidseplein in Amsterdam is a location where the city council's on-going struggle is forcing them to find alternatives to making this terrain productively safe. It is a frequented area by tourism as a cultural hub of theatre and partying and at the same time a place that thrives on criminal activity. SDA researchers will make a social space of connectedness, pro-action, and inclusion inspired by positive criminology and various activist models.

We will learn about the Leidseplein's history of safety maintenance from a representative of Amsterdam Council in charge of its design, and a recent case study of reformatting the Leidseplein developed in partnership with a New Zealand design school. SDA's research will be supported with local researchers in criminology and sociology who focus on informal actions of creating safety. SDA will also visit local activist groups bending laws that they support dynamic and socially defined spaces of activity rather than inflexible and obsolete cells of inaction and entrapment.

**Research Partners:****Het Nieuwe Instituut: The Built Environment of Social Space**

Whether one cherishes its humanist and overall cultural ambitions or criticizes it for being an architecture of good intentions, Dutch Structuralism represents one of the most important moments in the development of twentieth-century architecture in the Netherlands. In the autumn of 2014, the exhibition Structuralism opens in Het Nieuwe Instituut. This exhibition "focuses on Dutch Structuralism, a movement in architecture in the late '50s and early '60s that renounced the technocratic planning that characterised the post-war reconstruction of the country. Instead, its proponents asked space for the poetic and emotional aspects of architecture, in order to come to a truly dignified living environment."

Dirk van den Heuvel has curated the exhibition "Open Structures" and will guide us through influential Dutch models that spoke of a social purpose of architecture, its successes and/or failures. See the following information:

[http://www.hetnieuweinstituut.nl/sites/default/files/INSERT\\_VOLUME\\_35%20Structuralisme.pdf](http://www.hetnieuweinstituut.nl/sites/default/files/INSERT_VOLUME_35%20Structuralisme.pdf)

**Criminologist Joost van Onna: Informal Justice Systems Lecture**

One of the areas where the commons has been lost or forgotten and social capital weakened is the justice system. In its origin the justice system is an informal social system where the community deals with social problems of disorder, crime and insecurity. Now the justice system is highly formalized and not always seen as part of community practices especially in neighborhoods where social problems are abundant. Criminologist Joost van Onna shows us alternatives how communities deal with the social problems outside of the formal justice system.

**Jan Dirk de Jong Excursion: Neighbourhood Activism and Crime**

To research this concept we focus on Osdorp, a challenged neighborhood in Amsterdam. In Osdorp many of its youth end up in street gangs, and the socially weaker boys become victims of organized crime who use them for dirty jobs. We will explore the social fabric of the neighborhood under the guidance of sociologist Jan Dirk de Jong. He has been embedded for seven years in communities of Moroccan youth gangs. One of his themes is how role models are a crucial influence on young people.

**Positive Criminology Lecture by Marc Schuilenburg**

Which theoretical and empirical resources support and inspire more positive notions of security? This lecture stresses that security also includes notions of care, trust and belonging. By taking the concept of security beyond traditional criminal law, this lecture brings cutting edge theoretical and empirical analyses on the importance of human connectedness, community building and feelings of solidarity as a way to resist hegemonic and negative meanings of security.

**Program:**

**Week 1 exploring 24 november 28 november**

**Monday:**

- 10:00 Joost van Onna (researcher OM) lecture at Vetterstraat
- 13:00 Briefing/Critical thinking session with Simon Angel

**Tuesday:**

- 10:00 Excursion Osdorp in Amsterdam - Jan Dirk de Jong
- 14:00 Visit Niek Knol (project leader Leidse plein) Weesperstraat 105A
- 16:00 Interview with Ernst van den Hemel (Activist ) (<http://vandenhemel.net/>)

**Wednesday:**

- 10:00 Meeting with Simon with focus on general program at Vetterstraat
- 13:00 Presentation of Ming Sho
- 15:00 Visit to the stadsdeelvoorzitter Centrum Mr. Boudewijn Oranje at Municipality.

**Thursday:**

- 10:30 Lecture by Prof. Theo P. Total about Control Design at Vetterstraat
- 14:00 Guided tour Dirk van den Heuvel exhibition Structuralism, Het Nieuwe Instituut Rotterdam
- 16:00 Debate on Social space and Structuralism, Het Nieuwe Instituut Rotterdam

**Friday:**

- 03:00 research Leidseplein

**Week 2 1 december-4 december**

**Monday:**

Editorial studio with Jessica Geysel, pitch research plan for Positive Criminology at Leidseplein

**Tuesday:**

Editorial studio with Jessica Geysel, individual coaching

**Wednesday:**

research and action in Leidseplein

**Thursday:**

research and action in Leidseplein

**Friday:**

test case presentation of Positive Criminology at Leidseplein

### Positive Criminology Suggested Literature

- Schuilenburg, M., Steden, R. van & Oude Breuil, B. (2014), Positive Criminology. Reflections on Care, Belonging and Security. The Hague: Eleven International Publishing:  
[www.elevenpub.com/criminology/catalogus/positive-criminology-1](http://www.elevenpub.com/criminology/catalogus/positive-criminology-1)
- Schuilenburg, M. (2012), Op zoek naar een positieve betekenis van veiligheid, in: Essays toekomst van de stad (Raad voor de Leefomgeving en Infrastructuur), Den Haag, pp. 56-59:  
[www.marcshuilenburg.nl/ downloads/opzoeknaareenpositievebetekenisvanveiligheid.pdf](http://www.marcshuilenburg.nl/downloads/opzoeknaareenpositievebetekenisvanveiligheid.pdf)
- Schuilenburg, M. (2011), The right to terroir. Place and identity in times of immigration and globalization, in: Open. Cahier on art and the public domain, no. 21 (Rotterdam, NAI-Uitgevers), pp. 20-28:  
[http://www.marcshuilenburg.nl/ downloads/Het%20recht%20op%20terroirENG.pdf](http://www.marcshuilenburg.nl/downloads/Het%20recht%20op%20terroirENG.pdf)
- De Jong, J-D. (2014). Rolmodellen en het risico op recidive, <http://rebond.nl/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/Rolmodellen-en-het-risico-op-recidive-De-Jong-2013-def.pdf>
- Venkatesh, S.A. (2009) Off the Books. The Underground Economy of the Urban Poor. Chicago: Harvard University Press: [www.amazon.com/Off-Books-Underground-Economy-Urban/dp/0674030710](http://www.amazon.com/Off-Books-Underground-Economy-Urban/dp/0674030710)
- Steden, R. van, Vliet, M. van, Salman, T. and Boutellier, H. (2010). 'Gemeenschap als bron van positieve veiligheid. Een conceptuele verkenning en aanzet tot empirisch onderzoek'. Tijdschrift voor Veiligheid, 9 (2), pp. 31-47:  
[www.boomlemmatijdschriften.nl/tijdschrift/tijdschriftveiligheid/2010/2/TvV\\_1872-7984\\_2010\\_009\\_002\\_003](http://www.boomlemmatijdschriften.nl/tijdschrift/tijdschriftveiligheid/2010/2/TvV_1872-7984_2010_009_002_003)
- Roe, P. (2008). 'The "Value" of Positive Security'. Review of International Studies, 34 (4), pp. 777-794:  
<http://journals.cambridge.org/action/displayFulltext?type=1&fid=2185928&jid=RIS&volumeId=34&issueId=04&aid=2185924>
- Ilse de Groot, Marco van der Land, Rutger Visser en Hans Boutellier, Jaar van uitgave 2014,'s Nachts na tweeën ...Alcohol, geweld en de morele setting van het Amsterdamse uitgaansleven,157 pagina's
- Dr Paul Cozens, Think Crime! Published by Curtin University Western Australia
- Kees Dorst <http://www.designoutcrime.org/> <http://youtu.be/dPsmww461pl>
- Crimethinc <http://www.crimethinc.com/>
- Ernst van den Hemel, <http://youtu.be/UTloTPjxHOE>
- Schijnheilig kraakcollectief <http://schijnheilig.org/>