



OUTREACHING HONORS PROGRAM

Tilburg: a City with Safe Streets for Women?

Main characteristics

<u>Title of lab</u>	Tilburg: a city with safe streets for women?
<u>Professor/Lab supervisor:</u>	Asa Ekvall (UNwomen), Prof. Josette Dijkhuizen, Anna Meijknecht (TiU),
<u>General information</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students will receive skills and research training in several Modules and Searl meetings. • Dutch speaking students and English speaking students • Different disciplines
<u>Number of students</u>	8-10
<u>Period</u>	September 2019 – June 2020
<u>Effort per student</u>	~80h/student
<u>Effort for supervisor</u>	Meetings at the start, mid term and end presentation. Email and phone contact during the full term.
<u>Final presentation</u>	A Report, a presentation, and (if feasible) an article in Univers
<u>Background of the project</u>	<p>More and more attention is rightly given to the pervasive problem of street harassment. Research is still lacking on many of its aspects: who are the men who harass women and why do they do it? Are there areas in Tilburg where women feel less safe than others? Do different research methods yield different results? What are the best practices to address street harassment from other countries that we could apply in the Netherlands? Students from the honour program in Tilburg can contribute to the increase of knowledge on these topics by carrying out small research projects on these themes. The academic staff at the Tilburg honour program would be assisted by UN Women Netherlands and their Safe Streets program coordinator.</p>
<u>Problem statement</u>	

Harassment of and violence against women is one of the world's most pervasive problems. It does not only have physical and psychological consequences; it also limits women's mobility and forces them to adapt their behaviour. Tilburg is no exception. Finding out more about the perpetrators as well as collecting and analysing information about possible hotspots in order to develop better preventive measures is crucial to reduce levels of harassment and violence.

Stakeholders

- The students participating in the honours program
- All students at the university (as participants in surveys and maybe also focus groups and other settings)
- The municipality of Tilburg (? – on a later stage)
- UN Women Netherlands
- You (?)

Research approach

- The students would be divided into groups. One group would approach young men (maybe only male students or Tilburg at large?) with an anonymous survey about behaviour towards women. There would also be peer group discussions and interviews. Interviews would take place at different moments and places – such as outside classes, in the gym, at the Friday night pub – to see if different places and times might have an impact on what kind of answers are given. Special attention will also be given to possible discrepancies between the anonymous survey and the peer group discussion and interviews. The possible impact of having a male vs. female interviewer will also be taken into account.
- One group would make a survey over women's experience of safety in Tilburg. An online survey for Tilburg's female students will be made but peer group and focus group discussions as well as interviews with women from different professional and geographical sectors around the town will also be made. The methodological questions cited above will be applied here as well.
- One group, probably mostly comprising foreign students, would do research about best practices in the field of addressing street harassment and violence against women in their home countries – collecting and analysing information about various programs and projects.

Final reporting

- Final presentation – each group will present their findings at an event at the end of the academic year.

- Final report (type?) – each group will write a report about their research project (method, what data was used, findings, analysis).

Organizational issues

In general, students are expected to work independently, cooperate well in a team and to be highly organized and motivated.

There will be several lectures and meetings in which the background and aim of this Lab is explained (September/October), a midterm- meeting and an end presentation. More meetings will be planned, if needed, and there will be e-mail and phone contact during the full term.

Between the meetings, students will work independently or together with (some) group members on the problem statement. The students will also pay visits themselves to organisations that may be important for this project.