

## **ELLEN VAN DAMME**

Ph.D. in Criminology

Post-doctoral Fulbright Scholar at the Center for the Study of International Migration  
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Los Angeles, California, United States  
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### **EDUCATION**

- 2016-2020 Ph.D. Criminology, KU Leuven  
Dissertation: “The ecology of violence and silence: The position and role of women in and around gangs in Honduras”  
Committee: Stephan Parmentier (KU Leuven), Mo Hume (University of Glasgow), Letizia Paoli (KU Leuven), Jody Miller (Rutgers University)
- 2014-2015 M.A. Conflict and Development, Ghent University – *Magna Cum Laude*  
M.A. Thesis: “(Non-)governmental interventions regarding gangs in El Salvador and the DRC (a comparison)” – *Magna Cum Laude*
- 2013-2014 M.A. Criminology, KU Leuven – *Cum Laude*  
M.A. Thesis: “The reintegration of youth gangs in Honduras” – *Magna Cum Laude*
- 2010-2013 B.A. Criminology, KU Leuven – *Cum Fructu*  
B.A. Thesis: “Youth at risk in Cape Town: How does the sense of belonging and purpose start to counter the impact the crime?” – *Cum Laude*

### **VISITING RESEARCH STAYS**

- 10-11/2019 Department of Criminology, Law and Society, School of Social Ecology, University of California, Irvine
- 09-10/2018 The Scottish Centre for Crime and Justice Research, University of Glasgow
- 09-10/2017 The Scottish Centre for Crime and Justice Research, University of Glasgow

### **OTHER OBTAINED DEGREES OR COURSES**

- 2020 SmartReading
- 2019 Focus Group Interviews, KU Leuven
- 2019 ITACE, English C1, KU Leuven
- 2019 Critical Discourse Analysis, Free University of Brussels
- 2019 Qualitative Messes: Realities of Documentary and Interview-based Analyses, Ghent University
- 2018-2019 Academic Writing – Humanities, ILT KU Leuven
- 2018 Optimize your International Cooperation, KU Leuven
- 2018 LERU Doctoral Summer School ‘The Global Society – the Importance of Interdisciplinary Collaboration to Tackle Societal Challenges’, KU Leuven
- 2017 Creative Problem Solving, KU Leuven
- 2017 Crime & Social Control (CRIM) Thematic Group Workshop ‘Whither Societal Impact for Criminology and Criminal Justice Research?’, KU Leuven
- 2017 EndNote, KU Leuven
- 2017 Management of the PhD, KU Leuven
- 2017 Central Lecture Research Integrity, KU Leuven
- 2017 Presentation Skills – Humanities, ILT KU Leuven
- 2015-2016 Crash Course Proposal Writing, KU Leuven
- 2015-2016 French B2 Vantage 1, CLT Leuven
- 2015 Advanced Summer Course – Human Rights for Development (HR4DEV), KU Leuven

- 2015 Head of the organization of the 1<sup>st</sup> UNYA Joint Conference, Brussels and The Hague
- 2014 BTC Infocycle Belgian Technical Cooperation, Brussels
- 2014 WFUNA Human Rights Training ‘So, You Want To Be The Next High Commissioner? 2014’, including a Project Cycle Management course of the NGO Management School Switzerland, UN Headquarters Geneva
- 2014 Lecture series on ‘International Humanitarian Law’ of the Belgian Red Cross – Flanders, Belgium
- 2014 JEF (Young European Federalists) Belgium training, Belgium  
2014: Practitioner’s course on ‘Human Rights Advocacy and Practice’, KU Leuven
- 2014 London international Model United Nations (Representing Guatemala in the UNODC on the topic ‘A legal status for recreational drugs’), London
- 2012 First Aid, Belgian Red Cross – Flanders, Brussels
- 2010-2011 Spanish B2 Vantage 1A/2A, CLT Leuven

## PEER REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

- Van Damme, E. (2021). Corruption, impunity and mistrust: moving beyond police gatekeepers for researching gangs. *Journal of Aggression Conflict and Peace Research*.
- Miller, J. (2020). On Urban Criminology Encounters: Gender, Race, and Class in Urban Contexts [Interview by E. Van Damme]. *Criminological Encounters*, 3(1), 82-91. doi:10.26395/CE20030108
- Van Damme, E. (2019). When overt research feels covert: Researching women and gangs in a context of silence and fear. *Journal of Extreme Anthropology*, 3(1), 121-134. <http://dx.doi.org/10.5617/jea.6696>
- Van Damme, E. (2018). On the Road with the Beast: Violence, Corruption, and Migration in Central America. *Latin American Perspectives*, Issue 223, 45(6), 175-178. doi: 10.1177/0094582X18788332.
- Van Damme, E. (2017). Gangs in the DRC and El Salvador: towards a third generation of gang violence interventions? *Trends in Organized Crime*, 21(343). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12117-017-9316-5>.

## BOOKS AND BOOK CHAPTERS

- Van Damme, E. (2021). El secreto a voces, prólogo del libro Tierra de narcos, cómo las mafias se apropiaron de Honduras. In Ó. Estrada, *Tierra de Narcos: Cómo las Mafias se Apropiaron de Honduras* (pp. 11-14). Casasola.
- Van Damme, E., & Carballo, W. (2020). Women and gangs in the digital media: a distorted image? In C. Melde, & F. Weerman (Eds.), *Gangs in the Era of Internet and Social Media* (pp. 61-79). Switzerland: Springer Nature.
- Van Damme, E. (2017). Mareros and pandilleros in Honduras: the reintegration of youth gang members. In E. Viano (Ed.), *Cybercrime, Organized Crime, and Societal Responses: International Approaches* (pp. 269-287). New York: Springer.

## OTHER PUBLICATIONS

- Janssens, J., Van Damme, E., Loobuyck, A., & Consuegra, E. (2020, November 20). Een van de gevaarlijkste landen ter wereld? Niet volgens België. *De Standaard*.
- Van Damme, E. (2019, September 12). No truth, nor reconciliation: 10 years of post-coup in Honduras. *Leuven Transitional Justice Blog*.
- Van Damme, E. (2019, February 27). The best PhD is a finished PhD. *The SCCJR Blog*.
- Van Damme, E. (2018, November 2). Should we have transgender wings in prison? *Inside Time*.
- Van Damme, E. (2018, September 18). LERU’s Global Challenges: “#StaySafe #StayHome co-housing project”. *KU Leuven blogt*.
- Van Damme, E. (2017, November 22). Verkiezingen Honduras: een nieuwe staatsgreep in de maak? *KU Leuven blogt*.

- Van Damme, E. (2017, November 6). From Bourdieu's vision on masculine domination to why cats are cooler pets than dogs. *The SCCJR Blog*.
- Van Damme, E. (2017, April 27). Op veldwerk tussen de vrouwen van Nicaragua. *KU Leuven blogt*.
- Van Damme, E. (2016, November 4). 'Meneer Trump, het Amerikaans immigratieprobleem wordt niet opgelost met een muur'. *Knack*.
- Van Damme, E. (2016). Linking conflict to development: a case study of the role of women in Nicaragua. In S. Lembrechts & F. Fröhlich (Eds.), *Advanced Summer Course on Human Rights, Development and Transitional Justice* (pp. 77-81). Leuven: Human Rights for Development (HR4DEV).
- Van Damme, E. (2015). Edito. *Wereldbeeld*, 39(175), 1.
- Van Damme, E. (2015). Eredoctoraat President Michelle Bachelet, voormalig hoofd van UN Women. *Wereldbeeld*, 39(175), 42-43.
- Van Damme, E. (2015). Verslag special event 'mobilizing local finance to implement the Post-2015 development agenda'. *Wereldbeeld*, 39(174), 76-78.
- Van Damme, E. (2014). In de kijker – "So You Want To Be The Next High Commissioner? 2014": WFUNA Mensenrechtentraining voor VVN Youth leden. *Wereldbeeld*, 38(172), 31-33.

## ACADEMIC CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- Van Damme, E. & Parmentier, S. (2021). Honduras' truth commission: truth finding or ticking the box? Presented at the Stockholm Criminology Symposium, 15-16 June 2021.
- Van Damme, E. (2021). The ecology of violence and silence: the position and role of women in and around gangs in Honduras. Presented at the congress of the Latin American Studies Association: *Crisis Global: desigualdades y centralidad de la vida*, 26-29 May 2021.
- Van Damme, E. (2020). Playing with gender: femininities and masculinities of girls in gangs. Presented at the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting of the Criminology Consortium, 18-20 November 2020.
- Van Damme, E. (2020). Playing with gender: femininities and masculinities of girls in gangs (Eurogang Network panel). Presented at the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the European Society of Criminology: online edition, 10-11 September 2020.
- Doria, C., Van Damme, E., Markowitz, A. (2020). Towards a trauma-informed ethics of care: Questions for before, during, and after fieldwork. Presented at the first meeting of the Network of Women doing Fieldwork, Zoom (hosted by the University of Birmingham), Birmingham, United Kingdom, 10 September 2020.
- Van Damme, E. (2020). When overt research feels covert: researching women and gangs in a context of silence and fear. Presented at the Law and Development Virtual Research Day: Research ethics in practice, Starleaf (hosted by Ghent University), Ghent, Belgium, 29 May 2020.
- Van Damme, E. (2020). The darker side of fieldwork: ethical, emotional and physical issues of conducting fieldwork in Latin America (roundtable discussion). Presented at the Annual Conference of the Society for Latin American Studies: Mind the gap: Strengthening connections in Latin American Studies, Zoom (hosted by Centre for Latin American Research and Documentation, University of Amsterdam), Amsterdam, The Netherlands, 1-22 May 2020.
- Van Damme, E. (2020). La ecología de violencia y silencio – El impacto de la violencia en la vida de la mujer y la perspectiva de la criminología. Presented at Seminario – Taller: Comprendiendo la violencia y su impacto. La perspectiva de la sociología criminológica, Tegucigalpa, Honduras, 24 February 2020.
- Storrod, M. L., Van Damme, E. (2019). Girls and gangs: what has changed in the past two decades of gang research? Presented at the 75<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the American Society of Criminology: Confronting injustice and inequalities, San Francisco, CA, 13-16 November 2019.
- Van Damme, E., Saeed, H., Sheremeti, F. (2019). Qualitative data analysis with the QUAGOL: a practical and critical review of three criminological cases. Presented at the 75<sup>th</sup> Annual

- Meeting of the American Society of Criminology: Confronting injustice and inequalities, San Francisco, CA, 13-16 November 2019.
- Van Damme, E. (2019). How gangs evolved from being an urban issue to a widespread phenomenon. Presented at the 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the European Society of Criminology: ConverGENT: Convergent roads, bridges and new pathways in Criminology, Ghent, Belgium, 18-21 September 2019.
- Van Damme, E. (2019). Qualitative data analysis with the QUAGOL: A practical and critical review of its implementation within criminological research on women and gangs. Presented at the 19<sup>th</sup> Eurogang Workshop: Gang research without borders: moving beyond traditional approaches, Canterbury, UK, 26-29 June 2019.
- Van Damme, E. (2019). Researching women and gangs in a field of constant change and high volatility. Presented at the Crime and Control Ethnography Symposium: Recrafting Ethnography, Glasgow, UK, 13-14 June 2019.
- Van Damme, E. (2018). Ver, oír y callar: researching women related to gangs in a context of silence and fear. Presented at the Between Edges and Margins, Ghent, Belgium, 13-14 September 2018.
- Van Damme, E., Saeed, H., Sheremeti, F. (2018). Qualitative data analysis with the QUAGOL: a practical and critical review of three criminological cases. Presented at the Between Edges and Margins: Innovative methods in the study of deviance, Ghent, Belgium, 13-14 September 2018.
- Van Damme, E., Saeed, H., Sheremeti, F. (2018). Qualitative data analysis with the QUAGOL: a practical and critical review of three criminological cases. Presented at the 18th Annual Conference of the European Society of Criminology: Crimes Against Humans and Crimes Against Humanity: Implications for Modern Criminology, Sarajevo, Bosnia & Herzegovina, 29 August-1 September 2018.
- Van Damme, E. (2018). Being So Close and Yet So Far: Researching Gang-Related Women in a Context of Silence. Presented at the 18th Annual Conference of the European Society of Criminology: Crimes Against Humans and Crimes Against Humanity: Implications for Modern Criminology, Sarajevo, Bosnia & Herzegovina, 29 August-1 September 2018.
- Van Damme, E. (2018). Women and gangs in the media: a portrait of online and offline machismo?. Presented at the Eurogang XVIII: Gangs in a Modern Age of Social Media. Implications for the Eurogang Definition and Instruments for Multi-site, Multi-method, Comparative Research, Almen, The Netherlands, 26-29 June 2018.
- Van Damme, E. (2017). Critical reflection on 'A Human-Rights Based Approach to Development Cooperation'. Presented at the Annual Research Day 'A Human-Rights Based Approach to Development Cooperation', Hasselt University, 21 December 2017.
- Van Damme, E. (2017). Gangs in Central America: the differences between Nicaragua and the Northern Triangle. Presented at the American Society of Criminology 73rd Annual Meeting, Philadelphia Marriott Downtown, 15-18 November 2017.
- Van Damme, E., Parmentier, S., Hume, M. (2017). Girls and gangs in Central America: reflections from the field. (Abstract No. P5.9 - 34). Presented at the Annual Conference of the European Society of Criminology, Cardiff, UK, 13-16 September 2017.
- Van Damme, E. (2017). Girls and gangs in Central America: beyond tomboys and sex objects. Eurogang Workshop, East-Lansing, Michigan, US, 27-30 June 2017.
- Parmentier, S., Rauschenbach, M., Van Damme, E. (2016). Les archives policières au Guatemala comme sources de procédures judiciaires. Colloque International Archives des Dictatures Sud-Américaines, Paris, 12-14 October 2016.
- Van Damme, E. (2016). Víctimas y violadoras: the role and agency of women in Nicaraguan street gangs. EUROCRIM, Münster, 21-24 September 2016.
- Van Damme, E. (2016). Linking conflict to development: a case study of the role of women in Nicaragua. Human Rights for Development: Advanced Summer Course on Human Rights, Development and Transitional Justice. Law & Development Research Conference, Ostend, Belgium, 14-16 September 2015.
- Van Damme, E. (2016). Mareros and pandilleros in Honduras: the reintegration of youth gang members. Eurogang Workshop, Gothenburg, Sweden, 19-22 June 2016.

- Van Damme, E., Salguero Rivera, J., Morales Córdova, H. (2016). Gangs in Central and Latin America: Reflections and lessons learned. World Congress of Criminology, Delhi, India, 15-19 December 2016.
- Van Damme, E. (2015). (Non-) governmental interventions regarding gangs in the DRC and El Salvador: a comparison. Annual Conference of the European Society of Criminology. Porto, Portugal, 2-5 September 2015.
- Van Damme, E. (2014). Mareros and pandilleros in Honduras: the reintegration of youth gang members. World Congress of Criminology. Monterrey, Mexico, 10-14 August 2014.
- Van Damme, E. (2013). Mareros and pandilleros in Honduras: the reintegration of youth gang members in Central America (preliminary results from field research). International Seminar on ‘Violence and Impunity in Central America: Obstacles to Development?’ Leuven, Belgium, 7-10 October 2013.

## INVITED PRESENTATIONS

- Van Damme, E. (2021). Virtual literature review on Gender-Based Violence during data collection (2nd session). Women Doing Fieldwork Network. Zoom, 7 June 2021.
- Van Damme, E. (2021). Interviewer book presentation Óscar Estrada ‘*Tierra de Narcos: Cómo las Mafias se Apropiaron de Honduras*’. Zoom, 5 March 2021.
- Weegels, J. & Van Damme, E. (2020). Of ‘good’ and ‘bad’ men and women: Gender relations, inequalities and violence in Central America. Central American Knowledge Days (FPU). Zoom (hosted by CEDLA, UVA), 16 December 2020.
- Van Damme, E. (2020). The ecology of violence and silence: The position and role of women in and around gangs in Honduras. [Guest lecture of Professor Yana Jaspers]. Zoom (hosted by VUB), 30 November 2020.
- Van Damme, E. (2020). Discussant lecture Prof. Dr. Anthony Fontes ‘No more innocence: Central America, migration, and the crisis of containment’. Zoom (hosted by CEDLA, UVA), 20 November 2020.
- Van Damme, E. (2020). El rol de las mujeres adentro y alrededor de las maras y pandillas en Honduras. Presented at the Foro Explorando Caminos: ‘Rol de las mujeres en las pandillas y perspectivas de género en procesos de inserción social’, Zoom (hosted by PNUD El Salvador), 5 November 2020.
- Van Damme, E. (2020). The ecology of violence and silence: the position and role of women in and around gangs in Honduras. Presented at the (Re)thinking women in violence in Mexico seminar, Zoom (hosted by the Tecnológico de Monterrey, 30 September 2020.
- Van Damme, E. (2020). Agentes de Cambio – Modulo Feminismo: Impacto del control territorial de las maras y pandillas en mujeres. Zoom (hosted by Fundación Friedrich Ebert Honduras), 25 July 2020.
- Van Damme, E. (2019). The position and role of women in and around gangs in Honduras. [Guest lecture of Professor An Nuytiens]. VUB, 2 December 2019.
- Van Damme, E. (2019). The position and role of women in and around gangs in Honduras [Guest lecture class of Professor Robin A. Robinson]. University of Massachusetts Dartmouth, 20 November 2019.
- Van Damme, E. (2019). When overt research feels covert: researching women and gangs in a context of silence and fear [Guest lecture class of Professor Jordan Pickering]. California State University Fresno, 28 October 2019.
- Van Damme, E. (2018). Vrouwen en bendes in Honduras [Guest lecture class of Professor An Nuytiens]. Free University of Brussels (VUB), 26 November 2018.
- Vida, M. & Van Damme, E. (2018). Conference-débat: migrations depuis l’Amérique centrale. Maison de l’Amérique Latine, 15 November 2018.
- Van Damme, E. (2018). Ethnography class: Experiences from the field of women & gangs in Central America [Guest lecture class of Dr. Nughmana Mirza]. University of Glasgow, 9 October 2018.

## AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS & GRANTS

2020 Fulbright post-doctoral research fellowship

|           |   |
|-----------|---|
| 2020      | FWO Travel grant for a short stay abroad ‘Research validation’ (75836/K205220N)   |
| 2019      | Feminist Criminology Graduate Research Scholarship 2019, Division of Women and Crime of the American Society of Criminology     |
| 2019      | FWO Travel grant for a long stay abroad ‘Second (follow-up) field research stay’ (62141/V406319N)                               |
| 2018      | SCCJR International Mobility Grant for visiting PhD student stay in Glasgow   |
| 2018      | FWO Travel grant for a long stay abroad ‘First in-depth field research stay’ (48649/V402418N)                                   |
| 2017      | FWO Grant for participation at a workshop or course abroad ‘17th Workshop of the Eurogang Program of Research’ (40073/K1F8417N) |
| 2016–2020 | PhD fellowship Research Foundation-Flanders (29226/1163517N)  |
| 2013      | VLIR-UOS travel grant for three-month traineeship in Cape Town  |

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

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| 2021 | Lecturer graduate course ‘Social Problems: Social Order’, KU Leuven. |
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## **TEACHING ASSISTANT EXPERIENCE**

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| 2020-2021 | Research Associate and Teaching Assistant, Research Line on Human Rights and Transitional Justice. M.A. Thesis guidance (Professor Stephan Parmentier, KU Leuven), assistance Global Criminology course Mo Hume (University of Glasgow), correcting of exams and papers.   |
| 2016-2020 | M.A. Thesis guidance (Professor Stephan Parmentier, KU Leuven) & correcting of exams (Introduction to Sociology and Criminological Sociology, Sociology of Law, Human Rights and Criminology, Professor Stephan Parmentier, KU Leuven), papers (Political Crimes and Transitional Justice, Professor Stephan Parmentier, KU Leuven) and M.A. Theses (various topics and professors, KU Leuven).  |
| 2015-2016 | Teaching Assistant of Professor Stephan Parmentier (KU Leuven), assisting in research line ‘Human Rights and Transitional Justice’ events (meetings, lectures, seminars, and other extra-curricular activities), supervising B.A. trainees and TA for various courses: Introduction to Sociology and Criminological Sociology, Sociology of Law, Human Rights and Criminology, Political Crimes and Transitional Justice, M.A. Thesis seminar. |

## **RESEARCH ASSISTANT EXPERIENCE**

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|------------|---|
| 02-06/2016 | Research Assistant for Professor Geert Vervaeke (Leuven Institute of Criminology, KU Leuven, Belgium), in the project ‘ <i>Op.Recht.Mechelen</i> ’ on the reform of the Administration of Justice, regarding the themes Justice & Diversity, Justice & Wellbeing, and Justice & Management. |
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## **OTHER WORK EXPERIENCE**

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|---------------------|--|
| 02-06/2021          | Researcher project Integrated Youth Work, Children’s Rights Knowledge Centre, Belgium      |
| 2020-2021           | Researcher qualitative analysis corona survey, Children's Rights Knowledge Centre, Belgium |
| 09/2015–<br>01/2016 | General Secretary United Nations Association, Flanders-Belgium.                            |

## **ACADEMIC MEMBERSHIPS**

American Society of Criminology  
Eurogang Network  
European Society of Criminology  
Latin American Studies Association

## **PROFESSIONAL SERVICE & EXPERIENCE**

- 2018–present Editorial Board Member of the Leuven Transitional Justice Blog.  
03-05/2015 Research internship at the Conflict Prevention and Peace Forum, M.A. Thesis research on ‘(Non-)governmental interventions regarding gangs in El Salvador and the DRC (a comparison)’, Social Science Research Council, Brooklyn, New York.
- 2014–2019 Program Officer International Society of Criminology.  
08-09/2013 Student researcher; M.A. Thesis field research on youth gangs in Central America; Honduras, El Salvador, Guatemala, Nicaragua and Costa Rica.
- 02-05/2013 B.A. Trainee, wilderness courses with youth at risk, monitoring and evaluation of programs, B.A. Thesis research on the impact of crime on youth; EDUCO Africa, Cape Town, South Africa.

## **SOCIAL SERVICE**

- 2014–present Board Member of the Colombia Working Group of Amnesty International Flanders; Antwerp-Brussels, Belgium.
- 2014–2019 Board Member vzw Guatebelga, Belgium.
- 2014–2016 Board Member of the UN Working Group of the Flemish Youth Council, De Ambrassade; Brussels, Belgium.
- 2014–2015 Vice President and UN Affairs Deputy President of the youth and student branch of the United Nations Association Flanders-Belgium (UNA Youth); Flanders, Belgium.
- 2012–2014 Chapter Leader UNA Youth Leuven, Belgium.  
2014 Youth ambassador for ‘De Ambrassade’; raising awareness among youngsters on the impact of the EU on their daily life (in the run-up to the European elections of May 2014); game facilitator ‘EuroWa?! EuroQuoi?!’; representation on the European Youth Event (EYE) in Strasbourg; Flemish Youth Council, Belgium.
- 05/2010 Translator/interpreter English/Spanish for American doctors of True North Missions; Rfo Dulce, Guatemala.
- 11-12/2009 Assistant tour operator; Garífuna Tours Tela, Honduras.
- 2009-2010 English teacher, educator, translator/interpreter, working with children and youth at risk or living in poor/dangerous areas; Club Municipal San Juan Bosco Tela, Honduras.

## **LANGUAGE SKILLS**

|            |                 |
|------------|-----------------|
| Dutch      | Native          |
| English    | Fluent          |
| Spanish    | Fluent          |
| French     | Proficient      |
| German     | Basic Knowledge |
| Portuguese | Basic Knowledge |