



Bundeskriminalamt



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Criminal careers in organised crime

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Abstract

Over the last decades criminal career research has blossomed, yet has mainly focused on juveniles and ‘petty’ crime. The research has been abundant and has yielded a lot of new knowledge about risk factors, protective factors, and developmental pathways. The abundance of this research contrasts sharply, however, with the attention paid to the criminal careers of people involved in organized crime or white-collar crime. The reason for this lack of attention is clear: usually, tough guys do not fill out questionnaires and neither do their launderers. Yet, isn’t it odd that the most relevant phenomena would be left aside only because it takes more effort to investigate? Both from a practical and from a theoretical point of view, precisely these criminal careers give rise to new questions: how exactly do people get involved in organized crime? Are they born to crime, so to speak, or does it cross their path only later in life? And what do their developmental pathways look like? Edward Kleemans will present empirical findings from the unique dataset of the Dutch Organized Crime Monitor, including 120 cases of organized crime and 1,623 offenders. He elaborates on involvement mechanisms and criminal careers in organized crime and contrast these findings with assumptions of scientists and practitioners.