

About the Author / Resume

Laura Keesman (1989) is a sociologist specializing in the study of violence. As a former social worker in homeless shelters in the Red Light District of Amsterdam and domestic violence shelter in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, U.S.A., she is interested in how people deal with antagonism. She now transforms her personal experiences with tensed encounters into research on violent interactions, especially within professional occupations.

She previously conducted research into experiences with violence among social workers in homeless facilities for her Master Thesis, published in *Journal of Social Work*. For this PhD dissertation, she conducted ethnographic research into police violence and violence against officers in the Dutch Police organization between 2017 and 2021.

During her time at the Sociology Department of the University of Amsterdam, she was part of the Group-Violence Research Project funded by an ERC grant, affiliated with the Amsterdam Institute for Social Science Research (AISSR) the Amsterdam Centre for Conflict Studies (ACCS), and a member of the Program Group Cultural Sociology. She also worked with the Netherlands Institute for the Study of Crime and Law Enforcement (NSCR) and is a member of The Amsterdam Network for the Study of Violent Interactions.

Prior to obtaining her doctorate degree, Keesman obtained a Bachelor of Social Work and Master of Science degree, was a Researcher at an independent agency, Research Assistant in the Group-Violence Project developing code-books for multimodal analysis of violent interactions on camera and coding video footage, and a University (junior) Lecturer. Throughout her dissertation she taught several classes including Classical Sociological Theory and The Sociology of Art and (Sub)Cultures, lectured in the Interdisciplinary Minor Violence, Research Master Social Sciences and MA and BA Sociology courses, supervised Bachelor theses, and was a departmental internship supervisor.

Her work mainly focuses on qualitative research methods such as ethnographic fieldwork and interviewing to which she includes visual methodologies such as video elicitation. In general, she works at the intersections of (cultural) sociology, criminology and anthropology focused on embodiment, occupational hazards and micro-interactions. She is committed to doing outreach activities with regards to scientific communication and thus sometimes writes for newspapers and occupational journals, and gives expert comments in interviews and media outlets.

In Spring of 2022, she was a Visiting Research Fellow at the Centre for Criminological Research (CCR) University of Alberta in Edmonton, Canada.

As of November 2022, she is an Assistant Professor of Sociology at University of Groningen (Rijksuniversiteit Groningen).

Other international peer-reviewed publications:

Weenink, D., van der Duin, D., Keesman, L., Lekkerkerk, R., Mosselman, F., van Rompu, P. (2020) Taking social ontology seriously: An interview with Jack Katz. *Ethnography*. DOI: 10.1177/1466138120907333

Keesman, L.D., Weenink, D. 2020. Bodies and emotions in tense and threatening situations. *Journal of Social Work*. Vol. 20 (2): 173-192. DOI: 10.1177/1468017318795726

Van der Zeeuw, A., Keesman, L., Weenink, D. 2019. Sociologizing with Randall Collins: An interview about emotions, violence, attention space and sociology. *Sotsiologicheskie issledovaniya [Sociological Studies]*. 2019. No 1. P. 40-5. Original title: СОЦИОЛОГИЗИРОВАНИЕ С Р. КОЛЛИНЗОМ: ИНТЕРВЬЮ ОБ ЭМОЦИЯХ, НАСИЛИИ, ПРОСТРАНСТВАХ ВНИМАНИЯ И СОЦИОЛОГИИ. DOI: 10.31857/S013216250003746-3

Van der Zeeuw, A., Keesman, L., Weenink, D. 2017. Sociologizing with Randall Collins. An interview about emotions, violence, attention space and sociology. *European Journal of Social Theory*. Vol. 21 (2): 245-259. DOI: 10.1177/1368431017714909

Van der Zeeuw, A., Keesman, L., Weenink, D. 2017. Sociologiseren met Randall Collins. Een interview over emoties, geweld, aandachtsvelden en de sociologie. *Tijdschrift Sociologie* 12 (3): 275–94. DOI: 10.5117/soc2016.3.ween

Publications and media performances related to the topic of violence:

Talk at Kennissessie *Gemeente Amsterdam*. Thema: omgaan met anti overheidssentiment op lokaal niveau. Presentation on riots. (21-02-2023).

Interviewed (07-02-2023). ‘Leer medewerkers om met geweld om te gaan’. Author Robert Heeg. *Platform Intermediar.nl*.

Interviewed (10-12-2022) ‘Waarom wijzen we een zondebok aan?’ *EditieNL* Item.

Invited key note with Dr. Don Weenink at ‘Politiques de l’interaction. Relire Goffman sous l’angle du politique’. Centre de recherches Sociologiques sur le Droit et les Institutions Pénales. École des hautes études en sciences sociales (EHESS) Paris. Title ”Problems of ‘nextness’ in emotionally intense encounters. A study of social workers and police officers”. (29-11-2022).

Interviewed (26-10-2022). Politiegeweld tijdens demonstraties. *Platform Investico / De Groene Amsterdammer*. To be published March 2023.

- Interviewed (21-06-2022). Ongewenst gedrag risico van het vak? Agressie tegen sociaal werkers. Author: Ineke Westbroek. *Movisies* Relatieblad voor het sociaal domein, juni 2022, nummer 2.
- Interviewed (11-03-2022) 'Link directe voor voordrager. Waarom worden mensen agressief als anderen voordragen?' *EditieNL* Item 02:52 minutes.
- Invited Talk at Centre for Criminological Research, University of Alberta, Canada. Conference 'Policing', panel Police Organizational Practices, presenting 'Police experiences with violence: reading bodies, collective action, and the risk of freezing.' (01-04-2022)
- Invited Talk at Kerstdebat kennisinstituut Movisie. Theme 2021: Vertrouwen (trust). Marc Chavannes, Nazmiye Oral en Laura Keesman over vertrouwen. 7th edition, 300 visitors. (17-12- 2021).
- Keesman, L. (07-12-2021). We moeten geweld tegen professionals leren doorgronden. *Movisie*.
- Keesman, L. (2021, September). We moeten geweld tegen sociaal professionals leren doorgronden. *Tijdschrift voor Sociale Vraagstukken*, NAJAAR 2021 nummer 3. (pdf available).
- Keesman, L. (05-08-2021). De term 'zinloos geweld' is misleidend. Benoem daadwerkelijke gebeurtenissen. *Nederlands Dagblad*.
- Guest NPO Radio 1 'Dit is de dag' 03-08-2021. *Moeten we stoppen de term 'zinloos geweld' te gebruiken?* Radio clip: 18:30 – 18:45.
- Keesman, L. (02-08-2021). Hou op 'zinloos geweld' steeds weer als zinloos te bestempelen, dat is een misleidende term. *De Volkskrant Opinie*.
- Invited Lecture at 'Workshop sensory ethnography for early career researchers working on the intersection of security, religion and urban space' Utrecht University, SACRASEC research project. Presentation on audio visual methods in ethnographic policing research (07-06-2021).
- Keesman, L. (04-06-2021). Agressie tegen sociaal werkers: melden, melden, melden. *Sociale Vraagstukken*.
- Organiser of the Sociology & Society Seminar UvA, 'Understanding Public Dissatisfaction' with Covid Measures' about the January 2021 riots in The Netherlands. (May 2021).
- Invited Lecture at Victoria University Melbourne, Australia, for the police partnership and intelligence group The Applied Security Science Partnership (ASSP), presenting: 'Police experiences with violence: reading bodies, collective action, and the risk of freezing. How do police officers deal with antagonism?' (27-04-2021).
- Invited Lecture at *Open Huis* on 'violence against police officers'. Open University faculty of Psychology together with TNO Human Behavior & Training. (10-04-2021).

- Short documentary GoodHabit Moments (30-03-2021) and interviewed by Ikenna Azuike on my experiences with violence in homeless shelters, and sociological view and research on violent incidents in policing for e-learning module 'conflict management'. Internationally distributed, production by Myrugia Joseph. Full video password upon request.
- Invited Talk at Netherlands Institute for the Study of Crime and Law Enforcement (NSCR) for the Evidence-based policing project. (05-03-2021)
- Invited Talk at online platform De Nieuwe Wereld (30-01-2021). Hoe ontsporen rellen? Een gesprek met Laura Keesman. On the 2021 Dutch 'corona/curfew riots' in January and my PhD police research, 45 minutes.
- Interviewed by KRO-NCRV Pointer/De Monitor (23-10-2020). "Onderzoeker van geweld bij hulpverleners: 'Verantwoordelijkheid wordt vaak bij medewerkers gelegd'".
- Keesman L. (08-09-2020) "Oproepen om normaal te doen tegen hulpverleners hebben nog nooit geholpen". *Het Parool*.
- Keesman L. (2019, August). Instellingen mogen alerter zijn bij geweld tegen sociaal werkers. *Tijdschrift voor Sociale Vraagstukken*, Summer Edition 2019, shorter version also published online.
- Keesman, L. (2019, April 17). Blog: On ongoing fieldwork and zooming in on police experiences. Published: Violent Interactions.
- Keesman, L. (2018, March 27). Blog: Violence and the police, why do we need more research on this? Published: Violent Interactions.