Any researcher undertaking a policing study is bound to encounter issues related to gaining access, obtaining data, ethical considerations, dilemmas, and managing relationships. While supervisors are available to assist early-career researchers, and the policing literature reflects on several issues, some aspects remain undiscussed. Moreover, it is sometimes challenging to safely express concerns, problems, and strategies for addressing matters. Consider, for example, insider/outsider perspectives or experimenting with new methodologies.

During this online seminar, dr. Laura Keesman is going to offer a space to discuss the nuanced challenges that emerge during the research process. This session aims to create an open and supportive environment for Early Career Researchers to share experiences, discuss dilemmas related to access, grapple with ethical considerations, and navigate the intricacies of relationship management with participants in the context of policing studies. By fostering a collaborative dialogue, we hope that we can collectively illuminate potential solutions, share effective strategies, and contribute to a deeper understanding of the complex landscape researchers face in the field of policing studies. Your insights and experiences are invaluable, and this seminar offers an opportunity to learn from each other and collectively enhance the quality and ethical standards of our research endeavors.

Laura Keesman (1989) is an Assistant Professor at the department of Sociology at the University of Amsterdam. She obtained her PhD based on a long-term multi-site ethnographic study into violent interactions within the Dutch Police Force between 2017 - 2022. She accompanied police teams throughout The Netherlands in different roles: front line policing, riot policing, specialized arresting units, and trainings for police officers and recruits.

Last September Laura received the Early Career-Prize from the European Society of Criminology (ESC) Policing Working Group, specifically for her article ‘The showability of policing: How police officers’ use of videos in organizational contexts reproduces police culture’, published in European Journal of Criminology. She is currently Visiting Scholar at Ghent University (UGent) Belgium in the research group 'Governing and Policing Security' (GaPS).

Check her full profile: https://research.vu.nl/en/persons/laura-keesman