
JAN-WILLEM VAN PROOIJEN CV

PARTICIPANT AT:

NEUROETHICS: FROM LAB TO LAW. A SCIENTIFIC SCRUTINY OF SOCIABILITY, RESPONSIBILITY AND CRIMINALITY



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Jan-Willem van Prooijen, PhD., works as an associate professor at the department of Social and Organizational Psychology of [VU University Amsterdam](#), and as a senior researcher at [the Netherlands Institute for the Study of Crime and Law Enforcement](#) (the NSCR), The Netherlands.

He graduated in 1998 in Social and Organizational Psychology, and in Psychometrics and Research Methodology, at Leiden University. He received his PhD in 2002 from the Department of Social and Organizational Psychology at Leiden University. His current research interests include procedural justice, punishment of offenders, justice-based responses to crime victims, trust, corruption, and belief in conspiracy theories. His current research program is focused on the social-psychological origins of human concerns for morality, social justice, and fairness. Parts of his research examined underlying motivations of how subordinates evaluate procedural justice—defined as the perceived fairness of decision-making procedures—in their encounters with decision-makers. Findings of both experiments and field studies suggest, for instance, that procedural justice concerns substantially emerge from egocentric needs, such as the need for individual recognition and hedonism. Indeed, his research indicates that procedural justice is closely associated with basic need fulfillment, such as the need for autonomy and belongingness. Besides this focus on recipients of fair or unfair treatment, his research also examines how people deal with injustices that they encounter as independent observers. A series of studies examined how social categorizations of criminal offenders determine people's morality-based punishment responses, delineating when people are more punitive towards ingroup or outgroup offenders. Related to this, studies investigated how the perceived fairness of a punishment system can influence cooperative behaviors in social dilemmas. In addition, he investigated how people's concern for punishment of offenders relates to their concern to compensate victims for the harm done. More recently, his research broadened to related questions surrounding human morality. Van Prooijen recently extended his research program to the question why people sometimes blame innocent victims for their fate, and what factors facilitate forgiveness of perpetrators of injustice. Moreover, some of his most current studies examine why people tend to believe in conspiracy theories following a threat to the social order. These efforts serve the general purpose of his research program, which is to map the psychological processes that shape human morality concerns.

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