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The Netherlands

From doorstep to dashboard: community-oriented policing, technology, and neighbourhood police officers

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Citation

De Paepe, J. (2026, September 3). *From doorstep to dashboard: community-oriented policing, technology, and neighbourhood police officers*. Retrieved from <https://hdl.handle.net/1887/4309035>

Version: Publisher's Version

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Note: To cite this publication please use the final published version (if applicable).

Acknowledgements

Increscunt animi, virescit volnere virtus

With the above quotation in mind, I began my academic journey. Early career researchers are more often warned about the risks and hardships of a PhD trajectory than about the reasons or added value of embarking on one in the first place. From the accounts of scholars who are already well seasoned within academia, one may easily infer that the life of a doctoral researcher is not unlike that of Archibald Strohalm in the novel by Harry Mulisch, marked by loneliness, despair, and occasional madness. Although my own doctoral trajectory certainly included such moments, it is with nostalgia that I will look back on this period after the doctoral defense. It has been a unique and profoundly meaningful chapter in my life. I owe these positive memories to a number of people whom I would like to thank here.

First and foremost, I wish to express my sincere gratitude to my supervisor, Marleen Easton. Marleen, from the very first moment I became part of your team at Ghent University, I was drawn into a whirlwind of enthusiasm, initiative and opportunities. You taught me that anything is achievable, provided one takes sufficient initiative. Through you, I came to understand what it should mean to be an academic. I will always carry with me a deep sense of gratitude for the opportunities you gave me and the trust you showed in me.

I would also like to thank my second supervisor, Edwin Bakker, who initially gave me the benefit of the doubt when, during my job interview, I answered rather vaguely his question of whether I would dare to speak up when needed. Edwin, this had more to do with the Dutch way in which the question was posed than with the question itself. My later, unannounced phone calls will no doubt testify to that. I have always greatly appreciated your clear sighted and pragmatic perspective on my dissertation, as well as your willingness to think along with me about matters that concerned me, both within and beyond the scope of my PhD trajectory.

In addition to Edwin and Marleen, I would like to thank my co-supervisor, Joery Matthys. As someone with a deep appreciation for all things Belgian, Joery will likely understand when I say that he was the mayonnaise of my doctoral journey. Joery, you ensured that I always felt comfortable and welcome at the office. Beyond our feedback meetings, I will especially remember the stories you enthusiastically shared from behind your computer screen about the events you attended and about Aalst culture, which, according to you, is far more refined than many would imagine.

Beyond this triumvirate of supervisors, I would like to acknowledge several other academics who crossed my path along the way. In particular, I wish to thank Jan Terpstra, for whom I have long felt both admiration and curiosity. Jan, your approach to research and your meticulous analysis of empirical fieldwork have consistently inspired my own work. I was

therefore delighted when you agreed to participate in several supervisory meetings to discuss chapters of my dissertation. I greatly valued our conversations about policing and the work of neighbourhood police officers, especially when we reflected on similarities and differences in our fieldwork observations and explored possible explanations for these patterns.

Without wishing to overlook anyone, I would also like to thank the many scholars I met during my international research stays, who welcomed me warmly and with whom I had stimulating conversations. In Scotland, I thank Liz Aston, Megan O'Neill, and Alistair Henry, and in England, Michael Rowe, Denise Martin, Liam Ralph and Jean-Pierre Roux.

Outside academia, I wish to express my deepest gratitude to my family for their unwavering support throughout this process. To my parents, Marlies and Jean-Pierre, few would have imagined that the same boy who struggled to obtain his secondary school diploma would one day earn a doctoral degree. No-one except you. You believed in me from the very beginning and supported me unconditionally in this journey.

I would also like to thank my sister Maaïke, and by extension her partner Jeroen. Maaïke, although our personalities and life paths could hardly be more different, our conversations always offered me a sense of familiarity, warmth, and perspective that proved invaluable. Much like your renovation projects, this dissertation often seemed never ending.

I am deeply grateful to my beloved Judith De Paepe for her love, honesty, and unwavering presence throughout this journey, and through her to my extended family Bruchhaus and Tebartz-van Elst, for always being there for me.

Finally, I wish to acknowledge those who could not be present to witness this moment but who remain close in my thoughts: my friend Matthias, godmother Maria, grandfather Roger, grandfather Lucien, and grandmother Lea.

Curriculum vitae

Jasper De Paepe

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Date of Birth: 04.06.1997, Gent

Work Experience

2021 – 2026: PhD Researcher at the Institute of Security and Global Affairs, Faculty of Governance and Global Affairs, Leiden University, the Netherlands

2021 – 2026: PhD researcher at the Department of Public Governance and Management, Faculty of Economics and Business Administration, Ghent University, Belgium

2020 – 2021: Research assistant at the Department of Public Governance and Management, Faculty of Economics and Business Administration, Ghent University, Belgium

Internships:

2019: Cabinet Governor of East-Flanders, Belgium

2017-2018: Emergency Planning and Safety Department of the City of Zottegem, Belgium

2017-2018: Solva intermunicipal safety department, Belgium

Education

Master in Public Administration and Management, Ghent University	2018-2020
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Bachelor in Security Studies, Vives University College	2015-2018
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Economics–modern languages, Onze-Lieve-Vrouw college	2010-2015
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Languages

Dutch

English

French

German

The components of the training program that were followed during the doctoral trajectory

The PhD candidate has completed 140 hours of scientific training activities and 140 hours of transferable skills training activities, including the following mandatory courses:

- FGGA-PhD course Scientific Conduct (15h),
 - FGGA-PhD course Research Data Management (20h)
 - UL Introductory PhD course (10h)
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Other

Chair of the Working Group on Technology & Innovation within the European Police Research Institutes Collaboration (EPIC)

Board member European Society of Criminology Working Group on Policing