SIGNIFICANT FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO YOUTH OFFENDING

by

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submitted in fulfillment of the requirements for
the degree of

MASTER OF ARTS

in the subject

CRIMINOLOGY

at the

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH AFRICA

SUPERVISOR: Prof S J Joubert

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I declare that

SIGNIFICANT FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO YOUTH OFFENDING is my own work and that all the sources that I have used or quoted have been indicated and acknowledged by means of complete references.

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This study is dedicated to my late father Rinaldo Leita. Spero che addesso sei orgogliosa di me.
Title of thesis: Significant factors contributing to youth offending

By: N Maderthaner

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Summary

This study was conducted to determine the significant factors contributing to youth offending. A wide range of literature was consulted in order to identify risk factors in youth offending and to guide the researcher throughout this research project.

A qualitative research design, supported by descriptive and explanatory goals directed the methodology of this research project. Research tools utilised included case studies, in-depth interviews (aided by an interview guide). Research participants included young, coloured, incarcerated male offenders ranging between 16 and 23 years. The data was interpreted within the criminal event framework; suitable theoretical explanations for youth offending included social bonding and learning.

Significant factors that were found to play a role in youth offending were presented under the main themes of family, school and youths environment/community.