Summary
This study examines offender assessment from a criminological perspective. International and national research findings, as well as the Canadian (Level of Service Inventory – Revised, LSRI-R) and the British (Offender Assessment System, OASys) offender assessment structures, are used as guidelines to illustrate the practice of offender assessment. Offender needs and risk assessment targets are examined and highlighted for general (non-specific) as well as sex and other violent offenders.

A qualitative research design, supported by explanatory, descriptive and exploratory goals, directs the methodology of this research project. Important assessment tools, such as interviewing, observation, document analysis and the application of theoretical explanations are used to assess and analyse four selected case studies (adult male offenders). These case studies are representative of the different dimensions of offender assessment, namely classification, intervention, risk management and pre-parole assessment. The offenders are individually assessed, analysed and evaluated to determine among other factors, the origin, onset, contributory factors, triggers, high-risk situations, and intervention indicators that can assist custodial therapists and the prison authorities with a more focused approach to the rehabilitation and management of offenders. Each case study is also supported by a theoretical explanation. This highlights the key role, function and contribution of criminologists in corrections, as well as the importance of a multi-fold perspective in the rehabilitation and correction of criminal behaviour.
CRIMINOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT OF PRISON INMATES: A CONSTRUCTIVE MECHANISM TOWARDS OFFENDER REHABILITATION

By

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PROMOTER: Prof S J JOUBERT

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I declare that

CRIMINOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT OF PRISON INMATES: A CONSTRUCTIVE MECHANISM TOWARDS OFFENDER REHABILITATION 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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SIGNATURE DATE
(MRS A E HESSELINK-LOUW)
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