

Title of thesis: Criminological Assessment of Prison Inmates: A Constructive Mechanism Towards Offender Rehabilitation.

By: A E Hesselink-Louw

Degree: Doctor of Literature and Philosophy

Subject: Criminology

Promotor: Prof S J Joubert

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

ANN-MARI ELIZABETH HESSELINK-LOUW

**submitted in accordance with the requirements
for the degree of**

DOCTOR OF LITERATURE AND PHILOSOPHY

in the subject

CRIMINOLOGY

at the

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH AFRICA

PROMOTER: Prof S J JOUBERT

November 2004

Student number: 741-893-0

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.

SIGNATURE
(MRS A E HESSELINK-LOUW)

DATE

Acknowledgements

My sincere gratitude and appreciation to the following individuals and Institutions:

Professor Sandra Joubert, for valuable and appreciated professional guidance, academic inputs, support and motivation throughout this research project.

The Department of Correctional Services, for granting permission and access to the research participants to conduct the study.

The research participants, for their voluntary participation in this project.

Professor Ricky Snyders of the Department of Psychology, the University of South Africa, for assessing the validity of the professional parameters and evaluating case study D of the study.

Ms Marielle Labuschagne, for professional proofreading of the study.

Professor Johan Prinsloo for support, motivation and granting me the time to complete this study.

Dr Willie Coetzee, for invaluable support and motivation.

Dr Michelle Ovens, for valuable support and motivation throughout this research project, and for proofreading the study.

Ms Elaine van der Merwe, for endless support, motivation, friendship and proofreading the study.

Advocate Charmaine van der Merwe, for proofreading and support.

Hennie and Jeanne Louw, for devoted love, support and motivation.

Jannie Hesselink, for inspiration and love.

Marinus Hesselink, for being a wonderful father and supporter of my professional endeavours.

Advocate Henk Louw, *Meo marito: Tu omnibus praestans et patientia amore et favore. Absque tuo sustentaculo et patientia et amoro id non posserit. Tu superum est qui meam umquam adveniverit. Hoc certum est: tu mihi carissimus atque amantissimus.*

The Lord, to whom I owe everything.