

Vendredi 11h 12h30 – Salle L 307

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**Intensive Family Preservation Services in Flanders: What do we learn from process-outcome research? Presentation of new results of research on intensive family preservation services in Flanders**

As in other European countries (e.g., England, The Netherlands, Germany, Luxembourg, Finland) Intensive Family Preservation Services (IFPS) are widely spread in the Flemish part of Belgium. In Flanders, those services – better known as Families First Flanders - started in 1998. From the start, research was an essential part of this IFPS-programme. In 2002, Families First Flanders initiated a large process-outcome research programme in cooperation with the Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB) and the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven (KU Leuven). The research programme is based on an integration of quantitative and qualitative research methods to relate outcome data to the intervention processes and the experiences of the family members.

In the first part of this seminar, we argument and outline the process-outcome research programme, starting from a short review of the international research on intensive family preservation services. Next, we present the results of two studies that are part of the programme. The first study focuses on the impact of Families First Flanders on parents' experiences of parental stress, their relationship and interaction with their child/children, and their impressions of the strengths and difficulties of the minor. In addition, the minors' experiences of the parent-child interaction and their impressions of their own strengths and difficulties were applied. During a period of 12 months, all families involved in Families First Flanders participated in the study. Parents and minors filled out different questionnaires at the start and at the end of the intervention programme, and at a follow-up moment 2 months after starting the programme. Quantitative data-analysis of the families involved in the programme during the first six months will be presented and discussed.

The second study is based on a multiple case-study design, in which three families were involved. Parents and minors were interviewed extensively about the experienced family problems and their participation in the programme, at different moments throughout the intervention process. Data were analysed using grounded theory and narrative procedures.