



Sentencing Forum: Sentencing Guidelines in 4 March from 15.00 - 17.00 CET Comparative Perspective

This session will explore sentencing guidelines across jurisdictions, focusing on their design, use, and effects on judicial discretion, consistency, and legitimacy from a comparative perspective. Bringing together perspectives from England and Wales, Germany, and the Netherlands, the discussion will examine how guideline regimes shape decision-making in practice, what they can and cannot achieve, and how different legal traditions address the tension between structure and discretion.

The presentations will be followed by an extended discussion, with space for attendees to share their experiences and ideas on sentencing guidelines.

Session will be delivered on Zoom.

Link to register for mailing list: [REGISTER HERE](#)

Julian Roberts: Sentencing Guidelines: Elements of an Ideal Regime

Julian Roberts is an Emeritus Professor of Criminology at the University of Oxford and an Emeritus Fellow of Worcester College. A leading international authority on sentencing theory and policy, he has authored numerous seminal books and papers, and served a decade-long tenure on the Sentencing Council of England and Wales. He is the Executive Director of the Sentencing Academy and was appointed King's Counsel (Honoris Causa) in 2023 for his contributions to sentencing in E&W and internationally.

Johannes Kaspar: Sentencing Guidelines: the discussion in Germany

Johannes Kaspar holds the Chair of Criminal Law, Criminal Procedure, Criminology, and Sanctions Law at the University of Augsburg. A prominent figure in German legal reform, he authored the primary expert opinion on sentencing law for the 72nd German Jurists' Assembly. His research interests span across the whole spectrum of criminal law, with a focus on the intersection between constitutional and criminal law and interdisciplinary approaches to criminal law and policy, including the law and practice of criminal sanctions and sentencing. He brings a grounded perspective from German sentencing law and practice, situated within Germany's well-established civil law tradition.

Sigrid van Wingerden: Structuring prosecutorial discretion: Prosecutorial sentencing guidelines in the Netherlands.

Sigrid van Wingerden is the Chair of the Criminology Department at Leiden University. A recognized expert on the Dutch penal system, she has conducted extensive research on sentencing and judicial decision-making, with her work appearing in both Dutch and leading international journals. Her expertise specifically centers on the empirical and normative aspects of the Dutch justice system, including the significant role of prosecutorial sentencing guidelines and the use of offender risk profiles in determining legal outcomes.

The Sentencing Forum is a recurring online meeting space that keeps conversations on sentencing and criminal justice decision-making going between conferences and workshops. It offers short, focused sessions around a single theme, with plenty of room for exchange across jurisdictions and disciplines. Hosted by Mojca and Jakub's ERC projects:

- **Sentencing architecture: Building a decision-making matrix, SENTRIX (Grant ID 101166131), ERC starting grant, Horizon Europe**
- **Re-Constructing Sentencing: A Multidimensional Study of Judicial Discretion in Continental Europe, RE-CON-SENT (Grant ID 101219946), ERC starting grant, Horizon Europe**