



# Sentencing Forum: Shadowing sentencing work

27 May from 15.00 - 17.00 CET

The “Shadowing Sentencing Work” edition of the Sentencing Forum turns its attention to the practice of close observation: what it means to shadow, deeply and attentively, the work of those who do sentencing, principally judges and prosecutors, but also others involved in shaping sentencing decisions. Together, we will explore what scholars and society more broadly stand to learn from sustained immersion in this work. What insights does shadowing yield that other methods cannot? What is the cost of obtaining them, for researchers and for those being observed? And what are the methodological and ethical risks of looking this closely?

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

**Session will be delivered on Zoom.**

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

**Cyrus Tata** is a professor of law and criminal justice at the University of Strathclyde in Glasgow, Scotland, where he also directs the Centre for Law, Crime and Justice. His research focuses on sentencing, judicial decision-making, defence advocacy, and the realities of penal reform. His work examines how criminal justice decisions are actually made in practice and explores alternatives to mass imprisonment. An internationally recognised expert, he is also the co-founder of the European Sentencing Group and consults for various governments and judiciaries on legal reform.

**Irene van Oorschot** is an assistant professor at the Department of Public Administration and Sociology at Erasmus University Rotterdam in the Netherlands. Irene is a sociologist and ethnographer whose research concentrates on practices of knowing, valuing, and decision-making. Informed by science and technology studies (STS), her recent monograph *The Law Multiple: Judgment and Knowledge in Practice* (Cambridge University Press) develops a theorization of judicial decision-making that approaches it as fundamentally a situated and materially mediated practice, shedding light on how judges read files, interpret information, and in doing so ‘get things done’ in Court.

*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**