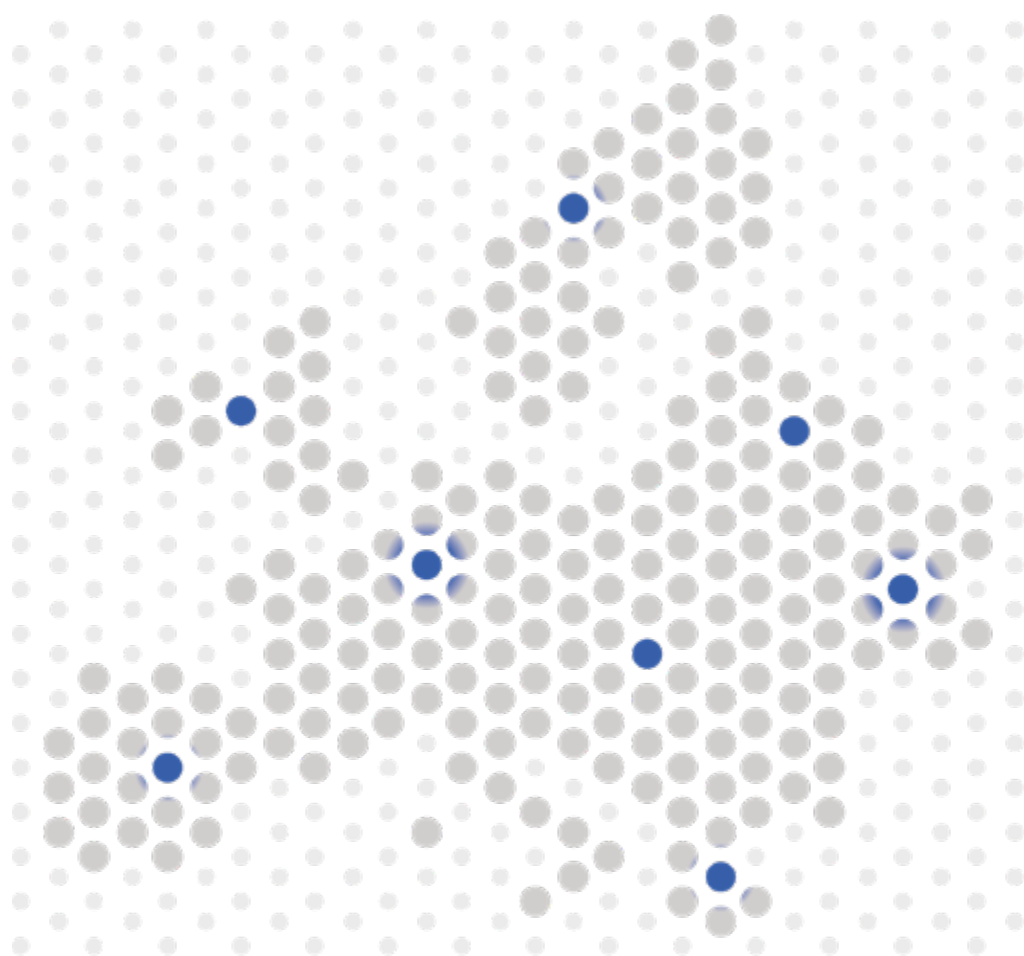


NWSLTR

TOWARDS AN EVIDENCE-BASED MODEL FOR BIG DATA POLICING



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EDITORIAL PROF. DR. WIM HARDYNS

Welcome to the third edition of our BIGDATPOL newsletter!

On behalf of the full BIGDATPOL team I want to wish you a successful and innovative 2025!

In the previous newsletter we shared some of the initial results of our Big Data Policing research programme. In this edition, we will share some updates on the progress and look back on the steps we have taken and share some of the publications that were issued.

During the past year, we have gathered valuable input from survey and focus groups we have organised in light of our Belgian field test. This helped us to further refine our model, by better understanding the structure of patrol routes and optimising of prioritisation criteria within police zones. Thanks to these insights, we can better adapt our model to the internal organisation and execution of police patrols within Belgian police zones .

Important steps were taken in 2024 to prepare for the field test, such as establishing data flows and protocols for data protection. Given the fact that getting access to all necessary police data takes a significant amount of time, we continue to refine and extend the initial model, carefully considering potential pitfalls from both a practical and ethical perspective.

Please share this newsletter with your network and contact us if you would like further information or would like to explore potential collaborations.

Kind regards,

PROF DR WIM HARDYNS
PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR BIGDATPOL



RECAP SEMINAR BIG DATA & AI

A new era for professionals in the security domain

On Friday, 13 December 2024, the Circle of Police Leadership (CPL) organised an inspiring seminar at the Provincial House in Antwerp, focusing on the impact of big data and AI on the security domain.

In an era where big data and artificial intelligence (AI) form the backbone of innovation, their influence is increasingly extending into the field of security. With this seminar, CPL aimed to provide participants with in-depth insights and practical tools for the application of big data and AI in the security domain.

The BIGDATPOL research team was invited to shape the content of the day, focusing on the latest findings of its research programme, the scientific context, and the newest developments in big-data analytics. Participants explored how these advanced technologies could play a pivotal role in the future of crime management and prevention.

Through a series of inspiring lectures, use cases, and discussions, the event illustrated how big data and AI could be used to predict, understand, and combat criminal activities. The programme addressed not only technological aspects but also the ethical and legal considerations at play. Additionally, the societal evaluation of big data policing was discussed, including how police officers perceive its use and how the effectiveness of such models can be assessed.

Big data and AI: a robust foundation

The day began with the programme's opening by the chair, Professor Dr Wim Hardyns. The first session provided an accessible introduction to the fundamental concepts of big data and AI, highlighting their relevance to the security domain and their connection to big data policing.

Data and governance: the core of trust

Naomi Theinert delved into the complex world of police data, data governance, and security. Her presentation covered critical topics such as data selection, privacy concerns, and the role of data registration in developing and evaluating predictive models.

Innovation and practice: big data, AI, and crime scripting

After lunch, Dr Thom Snaphaan discussed practical applications of big data and AI. He stressed the importance of generating value and introduced crime scripting as a powerful method to facilitate intelligence-led policing.

AI-driven policing: opportunities and challenges

Robin Khalfa presented an in-depth analysis of predictive policing and big data policing. Combining theoretical insights and practical examples, he showcased the potential and the challenges of using big-data analytics to predict crime.

Reflections from practice: the panel discussion

A highlight of the day was the panel discussion led by Carolle Van Dijk (Securitas Belgium). Joined by prominent panelists such as Mark Crispel (Chief of Police, Zennevallei), Pieter Tersago (DPO, Antwerp Police Zone), Kevin Laleman (Chief Inspector, Region Rhode & Schelde Police Zone), Tina De Mey (Consultant, Zennevallei Police Zone), Prof Dr Wim Hardyns, and Dr Thom Snaphaan, the session explored the collaboration between academia and policing.

The debate revolved around pressing questions, such as how police zones currently manage interventions: are these data-driven, or do intuition and experience still take precedence? Ethical and privacy-related aspects were also examined. What does the use of predictive models mean for balancing efficiency with protecting citizens' rights?

Additionally, the discussion critically assessed feasibility: do local police zones have the expertise to work with complex data analysis? When a model identifies a 'hot spot', how can this be translated into a practical and effective action plan?

The panel also highlighted the crucial role of on-the-ground police officers, whose practical experience is essential for refining and complementing the models. Finally, the discussion looked ahead: how can predictive models help tackle emerging phenomena such as cybercrime?

The debate brought together inspiring ideas and critical perspectives, underscoring the need for innovation, ethics, and practical knowledge to go hand in hand in the evolution of policing.

The day concluded with a summary of the seminar and a networking reception.

A big thank you to all speakers, participants, and CPL for an engaging and successful event!



HIGHLIGHTED PUBLICATION

‘Predicting crime across cities and regions: A comparative analysis of predictive modelling in three Belgian settings’

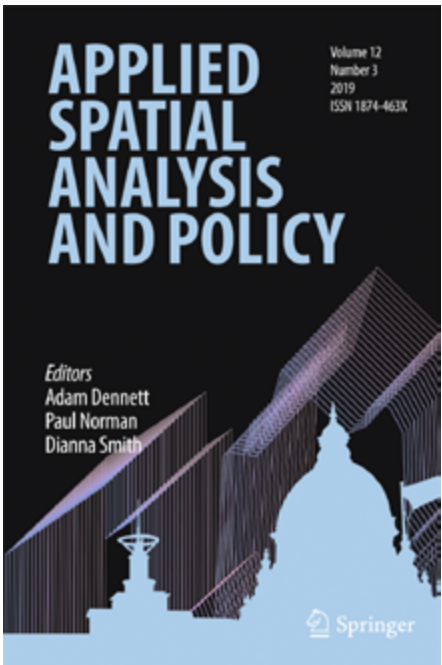
In 2022, we published an academic article on a comparative study of predictive models in three Belgian cities. This article appeared in the journal *Applied Spatial Analysis and Policy* and was authored by Wim Hardyns and Robin Khalfa.

The study focuses on the question of whether predictive crime models can be consistently applied across different urban environments. A comparative analysis was conducted in three Belgian urban settings (A, B, and C) using a machine learning model to predict crime. Both crime and supporting data were employed spanning the period from 2012–2016.

The analysed urban areas varied in size and population density. The predictive variables included historical crime data, demographic and socio-economic indicators, environmental and opportunity-related characteristics, and seasonal variables. An ensemble of neural networks (a supervised machine learning algorithm) was employed to produce monthly predictions for three types of crime: residential burglary, battery, and aggressive theft.

Overall, the findings indicate that the performance of predictive crime models can vary significantly depending on the type of crime and the context in which they are applied. For residential burglary, the model performed relatively consistently, with stable predictive accuracy showing little variation across settings. In contrast, battery predictions exhibited more erratic and inconsistent patterns, with significant performance disparities between the settings. The most pronounced fluctuations were observed for aggressive theft, both between the different settings and within the same setting over time. The analyses also revealed that the model performed better in urban areas with higher population and crime densities (setting C) compared to areas with lower population and crime densities (settings A and B).

This research thus underscores the importance of tailored approaches to predictive modelling rather than adopting a uniform application across diverse urban contexts.



Three key conclusions from this study:

- Scale and context:** The scale and crime density of an area influence the performance of predictive models. Larger urban areas with more data generally yield better results.
- Variation across crime types:** The performance of models varies significantly by crime type. Stable patterns, such as those for residential burglary, are easier to predict than fluctuating patterns, such as those for aggressive theft.
- Future research:** We advocate for more cross-regional and cross-national studies and the integration of emerging data technologies, such as CCTV and non-police data, to enhance predictive quality.

For further reading, see: <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12061-022-09485-9>

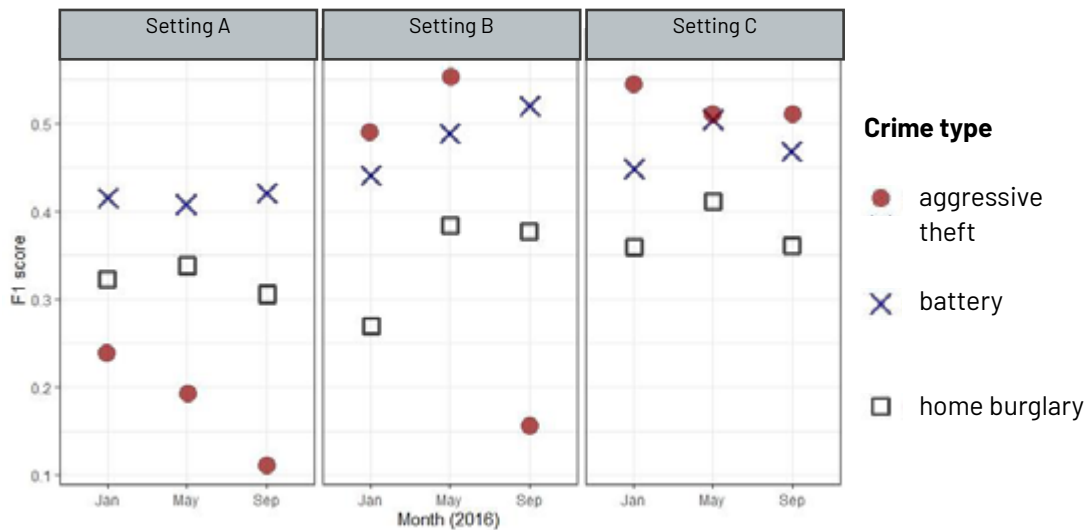


Figure 1: Predictive model performance according to the F1 score for each setting.

The F1 score is a metric used to assess the balance between two key aspects of a predictive model's performance: how well it identifies actual events (direct hit rate) and how efficient it is at making accurate predictions (precision). The harmonic average of these two aspects lies between 0 and 1; the higher, the better the balance.

BIGDATPOL IN THE PRESS

THE BIGDATPOL RESEARCH PROGRAMME: A SCIENTIFIC FIELD EXPERIMENT ON THE APPLICATION OF BIG DATA AND AI IN POLICING

By PROF DR WIM HARDYNS

Translated from Blue Minds Magazine

2024/03 - De AI-revolutie voor politiediensten

The use of big data and AI in criminology offers innovative opportunities for predicting and preventing crime. As part of the BIGDATPOL research programme, a model was developed to predict criminal activities through extensive data analysis. This model, which has already delivered positive results in a pilot study in the Zennevallei Police Zone, is set to be tested on a larger scale across 20 Belgian police zones. This article discusses the background, methodology, and objectives of this groundbreaking field experiment.

Background

BIGDATPOL is an innovative research programme that uses big data and AI to predict crime patterns. This programme builds on a thorough review of criminological theories and extensive analyses of police databases and other criminologically relevant datasets. Central to this research is the question of why certain locations and times experience higher crime rates than others and how these patterns can be predicted and mitigated. The BIGDATPOL programme not only aims to predict crime but also to prevent it, leveraging a comprehensive database of various crime phenomena developed by my research team over the years.

The BIGDATPOL research programme is financially supported by the European Research Council (ERC) through an ERC Consolidator Grant and by the Industrial Research Fund at Ghent University.

Methodology

The BIGDATPOL predictive model uses geographical mapping to divide a city or police zone into small grids, approximately 200 metres by 200 metres. For each grid, data is collected, including crime statistics, patrol information, and other relevant variables such as the presence of nightclubs, train stations, and even weather forecasts. These datasets are analysed using AI techniques to identify patterns that can help predict where and when crimes are likely to occur.



***“SINCE THE START OF MY
DOCTORAL RESEARCH IN 2007,
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After many years of analytic work, we were able to field-test our prediction model for the first time in 2019. Police Zone Zennevallei was the first police zone in Belgium to take the initiative to start running the prediction model within their zone. According to Police Chief Mark Crispel, the BIGDATPOL programme combines scientific precision with practical applicability, which is essential for the future of policing.

Despite interruptions due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the initial test in the Zennevallei Police Zone was successful. The system provided accurate predictions and demonstrated that focusing on high-risk areas can improve police effectiveness.

The test also offered valuable insights into the do's and don'ts and how the prediction model can be used in practice in a user-friendly way. The positive results of this test led to the preparation of a large-scale field test in 20 police zones in Flanders (see box on the next page). This field test, scheduled to commence in 2025 (*pending the data exchange, the date from the original article was adjusted to the current reality*), will run for a year and is the largest of its kind in Europe, and even worldwide.

“THE BIGDATPOL RESEARCH PROGRAMME COMBINES SCIENTIFIC PRECISION WITH PRACTICAL APPLICABILITY, WHICH IS ESSENTIAL FOR THE FUTURE OF POLICING”

Objectives

The primary aim of the BIGDATPOL programme is to develop a reliable and transparent predictive model that can contribute to more effective and proactive policing. The model is intended to help police officers better target their patrols and interventions, ultimately reducing crime and enhancing citizens' sense of safety.

Additionally, the programme focuses on co-creation with police officers to ensure that the model is not only data-driven but also human-driven. Input and feedback from police personnel are crucial for further developing and optimising the predictive model.

The upcoming field test will take place in 20 Belgian police zones, ranging from urban areas such as Ghent to rural municipalities. This diversity provides a broad spectrum of data and contexts for evaluation. The involvement of police officers throughout the process ensures a human-driven approach, with the technology tailored to the needs and experiences of its users.

This large-scale experiment aims to evaluate and optimise the effectiveness of the BIGDATPOL predictive model.

Field test

The field test has been meticulously prepared with input from various stakeholders, including police officers, academics, and technology experts. During a kick-off event in February 2024, the participating police zones were briefed on the setup and expectations of the experiment. Preparations included identifying data requirements, establishing ethical and legal guidelines (e.g., GDPR and the AI Act), and developing support software (see box) to integrate the model into operational practice.

The BIGDATPOL model utilises diverse data sources, such as police data, demographic data from Statbel, geographic information from OpenStreetMap, and weather data. These datasets are analysed using machine learning techniques to identify crime hotspots. Predictions are continuously generated at a fine-grained grid level of 200 by 200 metres, helping police precisely determine where and when to deploy patrols.

During the field test, police officers will pay extra attention on high-risk areas highlighted by the model during their patrols. After each patrol, they will record their observations and the time spent in these areas. Additionally, officers will participate in focus groups and surveys three times during the test to share their experiences and feedback, which is critical for refining and optimising the model.

The field test includes several evaluation components to assess the effectiveness and usability of the BIGDATPOL predictive model:

- **Model performance:** Measuring the accuracy of predictions and the impact on crime reduction.
- **Police capacity and deterrence:** Evaluating the model's influence on the efficiency of police work and its deterrent effect on criminals.
- **User experience:** Collecting and analysing feedback from police officers on the model's practical application.
- **Ethical and legal aspects:** Compliance with ethical standards and legal requirements, such as privacy protection, is closely monitored.
- **Cost-benefit analysis:** Comparing the implementation costs with the benefits to assess economic feasibility.

Throughout the field test, the research team at Ghent University will provide intensive support to the participating police zones. Regular updates, including interim results, will be shared via a dedicated website (bigdatpol.com) and a [LinkedIn-page](#). A communication channel has also been established for both urgent and non-urgent questions from the police zones.

The participating police zones are expected to collaborate closely with the research team, actively sharing their findings and experiences. This co-creative approach ensures that the BIGDATPOL predictive model is both data-driven and human-driven, which is crucial for its successful implementation and acceptance in practice.

The ultimate goal of the BIGDATPOL research programme is to develop a scientifically validated, ethically sound, and practically applicable predictive model that can contribute to more effective and proactive policing across Belgium and beyond. Unlike many AI projects in the security domain, which often focus solely on one aspect—whether the opportunities presented by big data and AI, the ethical implications, or the regulatory framework—BIGDATPOL adopts an “and-and” approach, integrating all these considerations simultaneously.

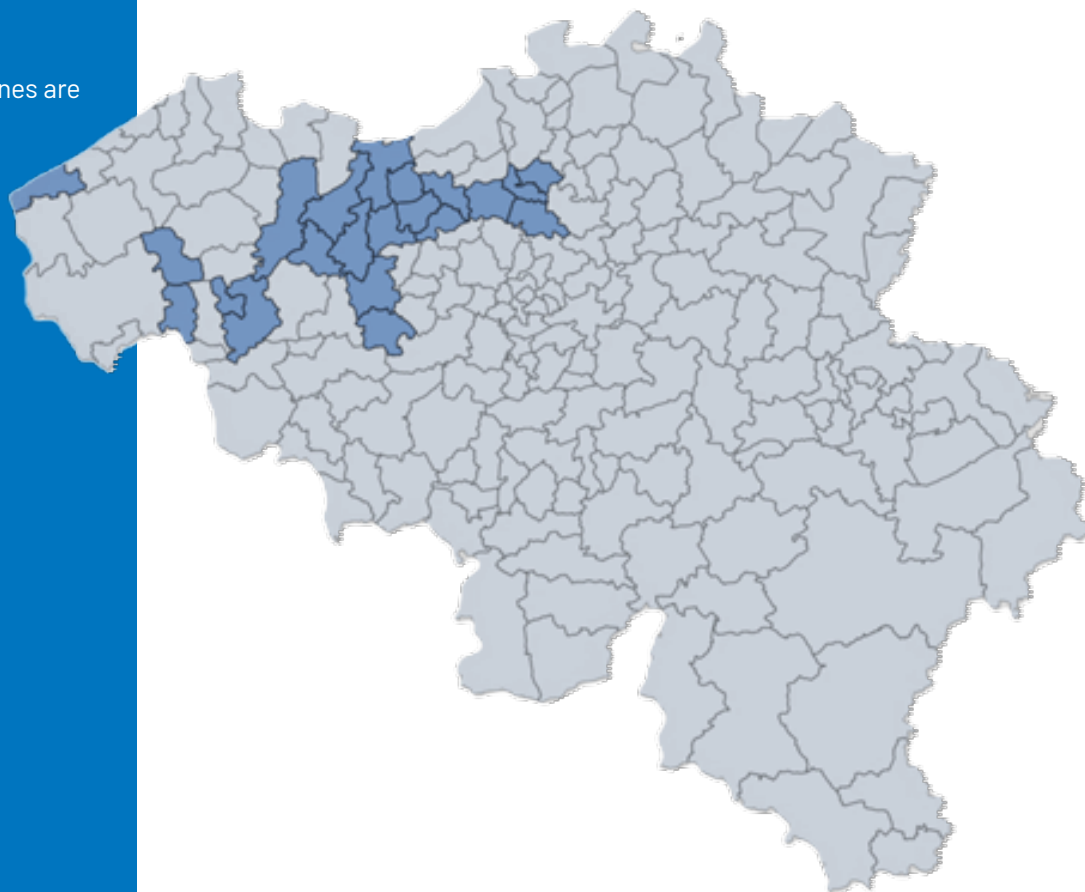
INNOVATION AND COOPERATION

The BIGDATPOL research programme exemplifies successful collaboration between academia and law enforcement. A key component of the programme is the integration of the BIGDATPOL predictive model into existing police applications, such as FOCUS and TSJILP. To achieve this, close cooperation has been established with the Antwerp Police Zone, which manages and distributes these digital platforms to police zones across Belgium. This partnership ensures that the programme is both scientifically robust and practically applicable.

FIELD TEST IN 20 POLICE ZONES

The following 20 Belgian police zones are participating in the field test:

PZ Berlare/Zele
 PZ Dendermonde
 PZ Deinze-Zulte-Lievegem
 PZ Gavere
 PZ Gent
 PZ Geraardsbergen
 PZ Grensleie
 PZ Hamme/Waasmunster
 PZ HEKLA
 PZ Lokeren
 PZ MIRA
 PZ Puyenbroek
 PZ RIHO
 PZ Rivierenland
 PZ Rhode & Schelde
 PZ Rupel
 PZ Schelde-Leie
 PZ Westkust
 PZ Wetteren-Laarne-Wichelen
 PZ Zottegem



Future Perspectives

The ultimate goal of the BIGDATPOL research programme is to develop a validated model that can be widely deployed by police forces across Belgium, and subsequently in other European countries. The project aims to set an international standard for the use of big data and AI in crime prediction, focusing on transparency and ethical considerations.

Throughout the research programme, significant attention has been devoted to the ethical and privacy aspects of big data policing. We are working on a transparent and ethical responsible prediction model that complies with European regulations, such as the AI Act. This is crucial for fostering public trust in law enforcement and upholding the integrity of police operations.

With this field test, the BIGDATPOL research programme takes a significant step toward integrating big data and AI into daily policing operations. The ultimate objective is to enhance public safety and increase citizens' sense of security.

[Read the original article \(in Dutch\)](#)

***"IN THE BIGDATPOL RESEARCH
PROGRAMME THERE IS
ATTENTION TO BOTH THE
ETHICAL CONSEQUENCES AND
THE OPPORTUNITIES OF AI,
AND FOR THE REGULATORY
FRAMEWORK"***

Prof Dr Wim Hardyns is professor of criminology at Ghent University, visiting professor of security sciences at the University of Antwerp, and president of the Flemish Society for Criminology (VVC). He has developed broad expertise in topics such as perceptions of insecurity, crime prevention and (violent) extremism. He always studies these topics by applying innovative methods and techniques and/or big data analytics. Today, he leads the BIGDATPOL research programme. As an extension of this programme, he was awarded a prestigious ERC Consolidator Grant in 2023 on the basis of which, as Principal Investigator, he has established a research team investigating big data policing, artificial intelligence and crime prediction.

BIGDATPOL IN THE PRESS

Predicting where and when crime is more likely to occur

Translated from Lokaal Magazine

Original article written by Guy Bourgeois, editor Lokaal

2024_11

How can the immense amount of available data be used to predict and prevent crime? For Professor Wim Hardyns, an expert in criminology and security sciences, this is not science fiction but rather the focus of a European research project on Big Data Policing.

"I have always been fascinated by the phenomenon of crime. Why do certain people commit crimes while others do not? Why do some people become victims? Why is crime prevalent in some neighbourhoods and not in others? There is no straightforward answer, but we do know that crime is always a combination of individual characteristics and environmental factors influencing the individual."

"Qualitative research, such as interviews and conversations, is undoubtedly valuable, but data can provide a broader picture, reveal new insights, and help identify trends and patterns. That's why, during my criminology studies, I also pursued additional training in statistics. My doctoral research focused on where and when crimes occur and how they can be explained. Since then, the focus on the timing and location of criminal phenomena has been the common thread in my academic research. I've built expertise in areas such as sports-related crime, extremism, residential burglaries, and various nuisance phenomena like illegal dumping, noise pollution, and traffic disturbances. I also developed databases that provide a detailed picture of the various circumstances related to crime."

"The European research project BIGDATPOL builds on this prior research and focuses on Big Data Policing: we collect and analyse data to transform it into information that could be relevant for law enforcement. In essence, we do four things: describe criminal phenomena, explain them, predict future occurrences, and formulate recommendations for proactive police deployment. Why 'big' data? Because we are dealing with immense streams of information. In our project, we divide police zones into grids of 200 by 200 metres. For these street grids, we gather data from three key sources: police databases with crime statistics, administrative databases from cities and municipalities, and open-source data such as Google Street View or social media. We then apply big data analytics to these datasets, a form of machine learning where AI models are trained to improve themselves and recognise patterns. We are currently building a model that should enable us to predict where and when crimes are more likely to occur."



"Our ultimate objective is to optimise the use of the police's limited resources."

"The selection of parameters is crucial for such a model. Our null model had about 25 parameters; now we are working with 70. These are partly based on data from police databases, which provide crime statistics detailing where and when incidents occurred in the past and the extent of police response. Additionally, we use a large set of administrative data from municipal databases. How many single-person households are there in a specific area? What is the demographic composition? What are the poverty levels? A third major group includes 'opportunity characteristics': what shops, restaurants, stations, access roads, and escape routes exist in a particular location? These are all parameters known to create opportunities for crime."

"The European Commission has provided us with funding to roll out BIGDATPOL across Europe. Our interdisciplinary research team now consists of nine people: a legal expert, an ethics specialist, a statistician, a business developer, a communications and administrative coordinator, a criminologist conducting fieldwork. We also work closely with the Data Protection Officer and IT manager at Ghent University to ensure all data is processed correctly and securely. It's a five-year project, and we have four years remaining."

"This first year, we've primarily done preparatory work, which is crucial even if less visible. Ethically, you have to consider human rights, privacy, and avoiding police bias through our model towards certain neighbourhoods or population groups. Legally, we face strict regulations concerning data protection, privacy, and AI use. This complicates and delays the research and development process, even though some applications could benefit society. For example, it could be useful to create 'sandbox environments' for research and development in this domain. I do not deny that AI poses risks. That is precisely why we emphasise that we use supervised machine learning. Our model does not make decisions on its own; human oversight and interpretation are always required. We are also planning training sessions for all involved police officers. I am aware that we are conducting groundbreaking research, and every aspect must be thoroughly studied. That's why we work interdisciplinarily and focus on a long-term vision. It's unfortunate that there have recently been a few baseless criticisms of BIGDATPOL in the media from so-called 'colleague researchers'. These remarks demonstrate a lack of interest in the actual content and results of our project."

"This project applies scientific research in practice. The results can help make our society safer."

"A pilot project in the Zennevallei police zone showed that our model makes accurate predictions. The collaboration also taught us which parameters are particularly relevant. For instance, we discovered that thieves are less likely to act when bad weather is forecast. (laughs) And, of course, the test provided valuable input. How long were the police present in a certain location? What did they do there? When did they respond, and when did they not? The model's effectiveness depends on the feedback it receives, and the new insights taught us a great deal about how to instruct the police. Available time and capacity proved to be critical. In the Zennevallei zone, there were many calls for service, so the police were primarily reactive, while our research project aims to shift towards greater proactivity. Our ultimate objective is to optimise the use of the police's limited resources."

"We are now ready for a major field test in twenty police zones in Flanders. Such a field experiment is fairly unique worldwide. We have already conducted a survey among the participating police zones, and there is great enthusiasm to collaborate. If our model proves effective, we will also need to explore how to integrate it into existing IT infrastructures and how to best visualise the information it generates. Currently, it's a kind of dashboard where hotspots light up and shift over time. Ideally, our model will be operational in Belgium within five years. Through the project, we have also established contacts with Europol and countries like Serbia, Spain, the Netherlands, Hungary, Switzerland, and Austria."

"This project applies scientific research in practice. It delivers concrete results that can help make our society safer. The research can also be extended to other domains. For example, cybercrime is expected to increase exponentially in the coming years, and the use of data and predictive models could undoubtedly prove useful there. But offline, there are still many challenges. In every Security Monitor, two issues consistently emerge as sources of insecurity: illegal dumping and traffic disturbances. In these areas, we could collaborate with cities, municipalities, or intermunicipal organisations. There is still a wealth of research material awaiting us. If we, as scientists, do not get on board, opportunists will take our place."

Wim Hardyns (°1984)

- Full professor of criminology at Ghent University
- Author of numerous books and papers, including *Applied Statistics – From Zero to Statistical Hero*, specifically designed to spark interest in statistics among social science students
- Coordinator of BIGDATPOL, www.bigdatpol.com

BUILDING THE NETWORK

ZAVENTEM

Securitas Amplifier Meeting



On 14 November 2024, Professor Wim Hardyns was invited to speak at the Securitas Amplifier Meeting, focusing on the intersection of data and security.

The 'Amplifiers'—a group of 100 managers, team leaders, and influencers from Securitas—gathered to connect with colleagues and gain valuable insights from both internal and external speakers about the latest developments in the security sector.

During the event, Carolle Van Dijck, Corporate Communication Manager and Spokesperson for Securitas Belgium, interviewed Professor Hardyns. Their discussion explored big data research and how these insights can be used to predict and prevent crime.

ONLINE LECTURE

Womenpol



On 26 November 2024, Prof Hardyns was invited to give a talk on predictive policing and the BIGDATPOL research programme during the womenpol-talks.

Womenpol is the Belgian association for policewomen, a network of policewomen aiming to improve the place of women within the police. Prof Hardyns gave an online lunchtime lecture on the BIGDATPOL research programme and the cooperation between police and science in the field of big data & AI.

ASSE

SIRCCLE



On 15 December 2024, the Expert Community for Security & Safety Professionals (Sircle) welcomed Professor Wim Hardyns for a presentation on big data and AI. The event was hosted by G4S Training & Consultancy Services.

Sircle is a community of security and safety experts that gathers to exchange experiences, explore the latest advancements in security and safety management, and enhance their professional expertise.

Prof Hardyns provided them an accessible introduction to the fundamental concepts of big data and AI, highlighting their relevance to the security domain and their connection to big data policing.

ONLINE LECTURE National Security Days Slovenia



On 13 November 2024, Professor Wim Hardyns was invited to present the BIGDATPOL research programme to the attendees of the National Security Days in Ljubljana. The event brought together experts and practitioners to discuss pressing security issues.

The two-day conference, hosted by the Faculty of Security Sciences of the University of Maribor, was organised by the IVK Institute for Security Culture, the Slovenian Association for a Safe World, the Faculty of Security Sciences of the University of Maribor and the Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Ljubljana.

The first day focused on exploring the evolving global security landscape and its implications for Slovenia. The next day, offered a series of lectures, including the lecture of Prof Hardyns, on diverse security and defence topics. Experts, both domestic and international, shared their knowledge and practical insights with the Slovenian audience.

[See the full programme.](#)

LONDON

Shaping the future of AI in policing



Prof Hardyns and Arne Dormaels were invited to speak at the European AI event organised by Deloitte in London on 9 December 2024.

The event brought together leading experts in AI and policing to explore the transformative potential of artificial intelligence in law enforcement. The day began with a series of insightful presentations, showcasing current AI applications in policing and offering attendees a comprehensive understanding of its capabilities.

The focus then shifted to the future. Through an immersive exercise, AI was used to help solve a murder, giving participants a firsthand experience of what policing might look like in the years ahead. Following this, Professor Wim Hardyns and Arne Dormaels presented the BIGDATPOL research project.

Further discussions delved into the challenges and risks posed by Generative AI. Deloitte's Responsible AI Lead shared strategies for managing these risks, highlighting the rapidly evolving regulatory landscape and the importance of the Trustworthy AI Framework in ensuring ethical AI deployment.

Illustration by Seriberia.



CALL FOR QUESTIONS

We invite you to share your thoughts!

If you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions for improvement regarding experiences, challenges, specific conditions, or the effectiveness and efficiency of big data policing, please contact our team at bigdatpol@ugent.be or via LinkedIn.

Your input will contribute to our research, and we will feature a Q&A section on our website to address these topics.

PUBLICATIONS

Interested in more? Check out our reading list on [biblio](#) and discover the research that has been published by the team of Prof Dr Wim Hardyns.



CALENDAR

30 JANUARI
STUDY DAY CRIME SCRIPTING (IN DUTCH)

This study day, organised by Centre for Policing and Security (CPS), revolves around crime scripting, the analytical method for crime prevention. Researchers Thom Snaphaan and Robin Khalfa will present, together with Kim Covent (PZ Gent): 'Crime script residential burglary by and for local police Gent'. More info and registration via [this link](#).

GHENT

RADICALISATION AND TECHNOLOGY



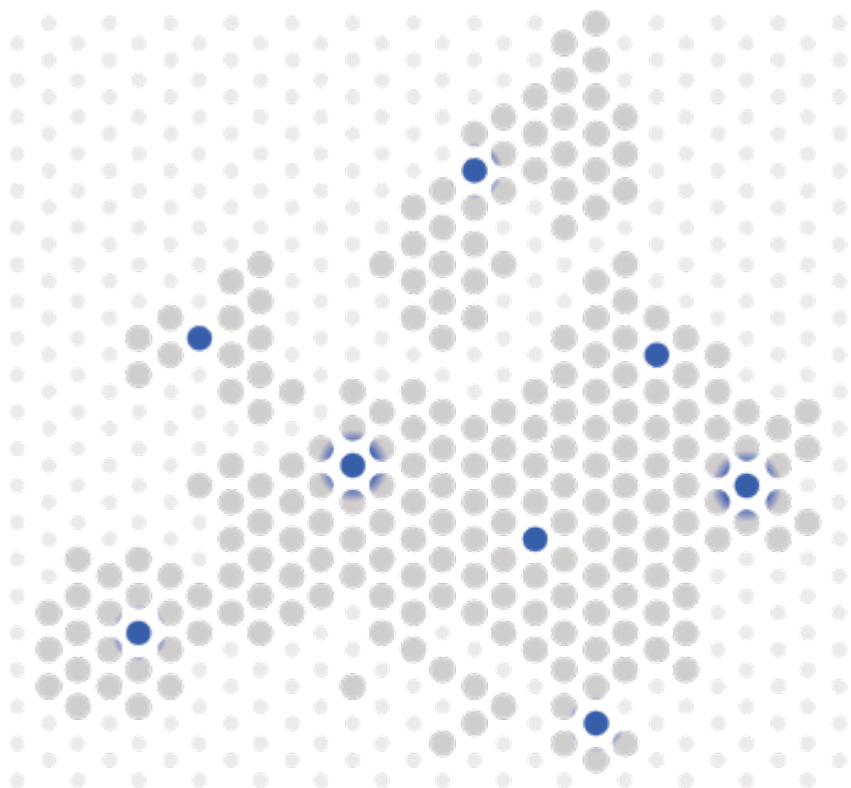
On 24 October 2024, G4S, Centre for Policing and Security and the Ghent University RadiLab organised a study day on technology and radicalisation at Watt the Firms. Professor Hardyns spoke about the recently established Ghent University RadiLab.

The event brought together security experts to explore the role of technology in combating (violent) extremism.

Several speakers such as Paul Van Tigchelt, Maarten De Waele, Clara Vanquekelberghe, Chris Bombeke, Mathias Reveraert, Olivier Caubergs and Eline Darmont each shed light on this phenomenon from their own expertise.

Prof Hardyns spoke about the Ghent University Impact Lab for preventing and countering violent extremism (Ghent University RadiLab), as well as the opportunities it offers for collaboration with the BIGDATPOL research programme and the use of big data analytics in this security domain.

[View the speakers and their presentations.](#)



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BIGDATPOL

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