

COMMON SESSION GHENT

NOVEMBER 30 –
DECEMBER 2, 2016

REGULATING PLEASURE

VENUE: LAW FACULTY
MAIN ROOM: ACADEMIARAADZAAL
(VOLDERSTRAAT 9)



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Introduction and call for papers

The autumn Common Session of 2016 will be organised between November 30 and December 2, 2016 in Ghent. There will be a welcome drink on November 29 in the evening and a goodbye dinner and party on December 2.

The conference is organised by the Institute for Social Drug Research. The sessions will take place at the Law Faculty, campus Aula (Universiteitstraat – Volderstraat).

This Common Session's topic is *Regulating Pleasure*. There is room for discussion of 'pleasure' regulation in the broadest sense: listening to music, dancing, 'fun activities' with friends, the use of legally available or illegal psycho-active substances, sex and sex work, gambling and gaming, sexually 'transgressive' behaviour, or any kind of thrill seeking described as 'dangerous', 'deviant', 'pathological' or 'criminal'.

The period of Enlightenment instigated profound debates about 'pleasure'. Thinkers as diverse as Freud, Nietzsche, Foucault, Deleuze, Guattari, Bauman, Crossley, Preciado, Sassatelli, Featherstone, Katz and others have engaged in these philosophical and sociological discussions. Translated to criminology, 'pleasure' is a much neglected aspect in positivist criminology. Whereas theoretically, critical criminological schools (most notably, cultural criminology) have addressed the notions of pleasure, thrill, excitement, dissolution and alike, this does not sufficiently echo in policy making. I.e. in debates on e.g. harm reduction, regulation of sex (and sex work), etc. 'pleasure' remains only marginally articulated.

The aim of this common session is to critically reflect on the question whether and how pleasure can and should be regulated. In this, 'regulation' can refer to criminalisation, policing, welfare provision and social services, media representations, moral entrepreneurship, self-control, self-regulation, etc.

This theme invites a wide array of debates:

- Historical grounding of regulating pleasure
- Sociological debate on how to define pleasure
- Epistemological debate on how to approach pleasure
- Normative debates with regard to policy making: should pleasure be regulated and should it as such be central in policy making (if so, is pleasure a fixed something, cf. the relative indeterminacy of the notion). Are current regulatory regimes for pleasure-seeking behaviors still adequate in today's society?

- Where to draw the line between pleasure merely *framed* as deviant and pleasure that is harmful to oneself, to other humans or species/ecosystem?
- Nuances in regulating pleasure in the public and private sphere
- Classed, gendered and racialized aspects of control of pleasure
- Practical debates: how can pleasure be regulated/policed? Bottom up practices and self-regulatory practices related to pleasure-seeking behaviors. And can new arrangements that empower communities become effective or do they run the risk of being taken over by sectarian interests or commercial pressures?

Papers on these topics are warmly invited, but also papers on other subjects approached through a critical criminological lens are welcomed.

The debate

We warmly invite two teams (preferably two students and two academics) to participate in the final debate. Please actively encourage your students and colleagues to join, as we are very keen on keeping this tradition alive. We propose a possible motion, but feel free to make other suggestions.

In attempts to regulate 'deviant' pleasure, state institutions intervene as order protectors and as public protectors, but they also take up the role of moral guardians. The latter aspect is particularly problematic. In spite of the fact that the current cultural context does invite constant consumption of pleasure, state institutions are not the best placed actors to impose limits to thrill and excitement seeking. Such normalizing politics of sex, drugs and rock'n'roll are necessarily sources of domination. Moreover, they proceed top down and can be merely seen as band aids. Alternatively, the vital power of desire is a central force of empowerment and self-transformation.

Important deadlines

Please note that we will expect you to send us the names of participants and the titles of the papers before **November 14**.

In case one of your students wishes to **defend** her/his **thesis**, please notify us as soon as possible, so that we can compose a commission.

Please send us the names of third time participants before November 14, so that we can make the certificates.

How to get to Ghent

1) By train from Brussels airport to Ghent

The national airport lies just outside of Brussels. Its railway station is located under the airport. A fast train to Ghent “Sint-Pieters” is the one in the direction of De Panne or Oostende (the inter-city train marked with “IC”). There is one direct train every hour (at hh:26) – more trains are available if you change at Brussels Zuid/Midi (which takes 15min. less than the direct train). The trip takes approximately an hour and one way ticket costs 15,40 euro.

Taxi rate would be about 80 euro (if you are planning to take a taxi, mail Olga and she will book you a somewhat cheaper and reliable transfer from the airport)

2) From South Charleroi airport to Ghent

This small low-cost airport is further from Brussels and there is a direct connection to Ghent provided by the bus company called Flibco. Check out www.flibco.com in advance, as the tickets are cheaper (+/- 15 euro) if bought online and the busses don't go that often (another option is to take a bus to Brussels and take the train from there).

The taxi rate (Charleroi-Gent) is about 120 euro.

3) By train from Brussels to Ghent

There are three big stations in Brussels: “Brussel Zuid/Midi” (where Thalys & Eurostar stop as well), “Brussel Centraal” and “Brussel Noord”. You can take the train in either of them (just make sure it’s an IC train and that it stops in Ghent right after Brussels) and get off in Ghent at “Gent Sint-Pieters”. The trip takes 35 minutes. One-way ticket costs 9 euro.

4) By train from Antwerp to Ghent

If you take an international train to Antwerp (Central Station), you can catch a direct train to Ghent. Take an intercity train that leaves three times every hour. The trip should take about 50 minutes and a one-way ticket costs 9 euro.

!!! Make sure that you take an inter-city train (marked with “IC” on billboards and time tables) and NOT a local train (marked with “L” on billboards and time tables).

!!! Buy your ticket at the station, if you are running late, it is possible to buy a ticket from the conductor but it will cost you more and you could get a fine if the ticket inspector is having a bad day...

5) Ghent by Car

From Antwerpen (Antwerp)

Take highway E17 in the direction of Gent (Ghent). Do not leave the highway by exit 10 “Gentbrugge” but take exit “Gent Centrum” (just after exit 10). Now you are driving on the Zuidparklaan. Follow the yellow P-route to parking P5 (Kouter), P6 (Center Parking, located in the Korte Meer) or P7 (Sint-Michiels) (all centrally located but quite expensive parking garages).

The Universiteitstraat is opposite the parking garage P6 (Center Parking). From parking garage P5 (Kouter) you can reach the Universiteitstraat via either the Kouterdreef or the Korte Meer. Parking garage P7 (Sint-Michiels) is situated near the University congress centre/restaurant “Het Pans”, located in Onderbergen. Via the following streets you will reach the Universiteitstraat: Onderbergen, Jakobijnenstraat, Hoornstraat, Volderstraat and Korte Meer.

From Brussels

Take highway E40 in the direction of Ostend (Oostende). Do not leave the highway by exit “Merelbeke-Gent-Zeehaven” but take the following exit “Gent-Zwijnaarde” (nr.15). Keep to the right in the direction of “Gent-Antwerpen”. At the next junction DO NOT follow direction Antwerpen-Gent Zeehaven” but take direction “Gent” (left side of the highway). At the next junction take “Gent Centrum”. Now you are driving on the Zuidparklaan. Follow the yellow P-route to parking P5 (Kouter),

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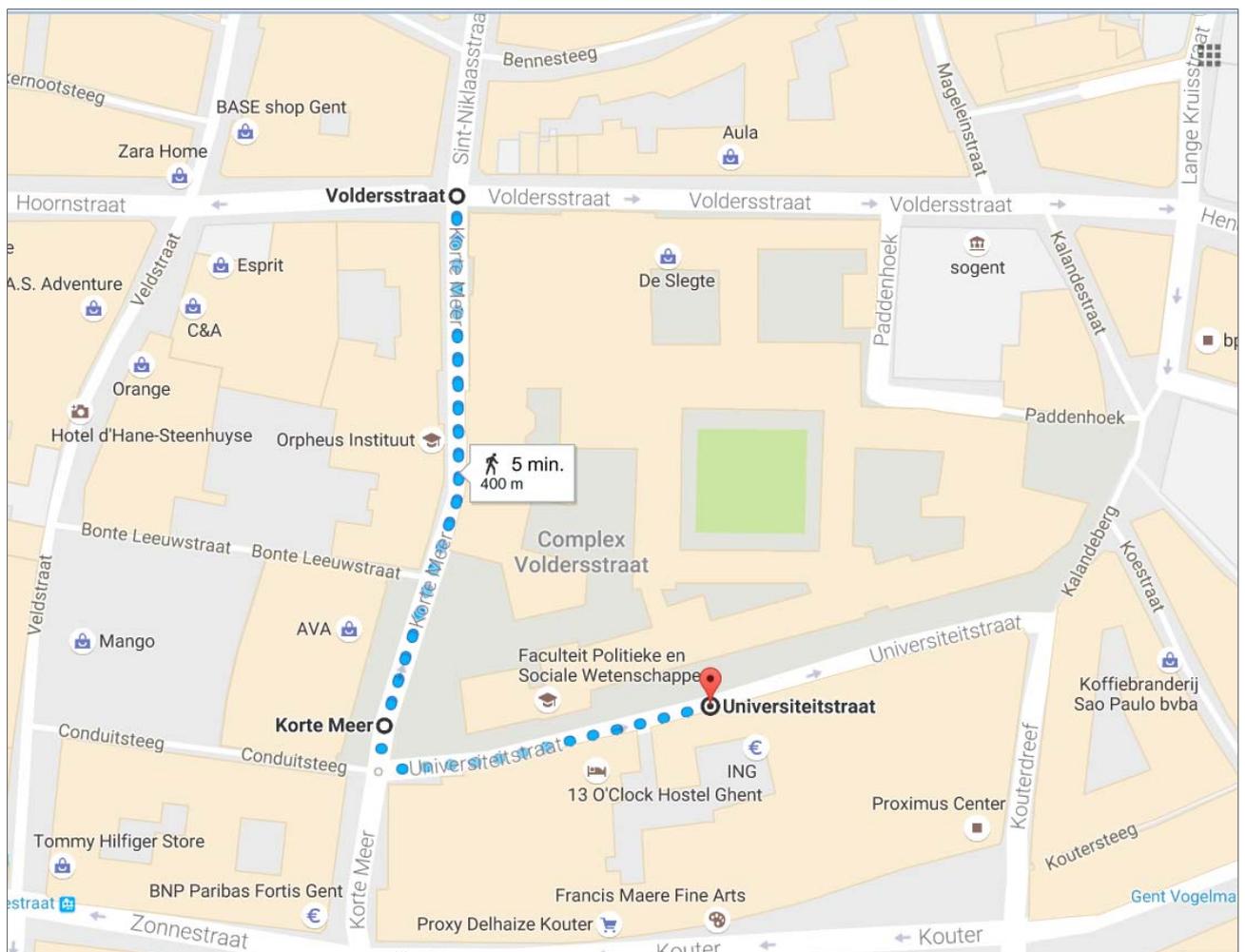
If you need more information concerning parking facilities, please contact us.

When you arrive at Ghent Sint-Pieters

Tram

The tram is a convenient means of travel within Ghent. The tram station is on the right side of the station's main entrance, just behind the taxi station. To get to the university (and to the city centre), you need to take tram 1 (direction "Korenmarkt", NOT Expo) and get off at "Korte Meer" (after approximately 10min., depending on the traffic). You can buy a ticket from the driver (make sure that you have change though) but it will cost you 3 euro (instead of 2 euro if you get your ticket for example at a news agent or from the vending machine).

See the map below for directions from "Korte Meer" to the university (Volderstraat or Universiteitstraat, where the conference venues are) – it is very close.



Taxis

Of course, you can also take a taxi. Leave the station and cross the square. Just opposite to the station there is an underground taxi parking. Taxis are more expensive than in southern countries though – a short drive to the centre will cost you about 10 euro.

Where to stay

Student accommodation

For students we recommend **Backstay Hostel**. This is pretty much the nicest and most affordable place. The cheapest way is to book via their website www.backstayhostels.com/ (the prices per bed are from 19 euro/night). You can refer to 'common session'. **Please communicate to your students that it is important to book as soon as possible, Ghent hostels are very popular** (even in November – December).



Another option is the **13:00 O'CLOCK hostel**. It is right next to the conference venue but the number of beds available is rather limited and the prices are from 30 euro/night in a shared room.

Staff accommodation

Harmony (very nice 4* hotel at the canal and within walking distance from the faculty, it's rather small and personal, they have rooms with jacuzzi and also family rooms + it's relatively affordable within its category, prices are around 130 euro per night).



Sandton or **NH Belfort** (both well-located decent 4* hotels, but they are larger and more conference-like). Price indication: 150 euro per night.

Two typical Ghent hotels (no chain, central and good prices): **Hotel de Flandre** (4*) or **Hotel Gravensteen** (3*). Price per night 80-120 euro.

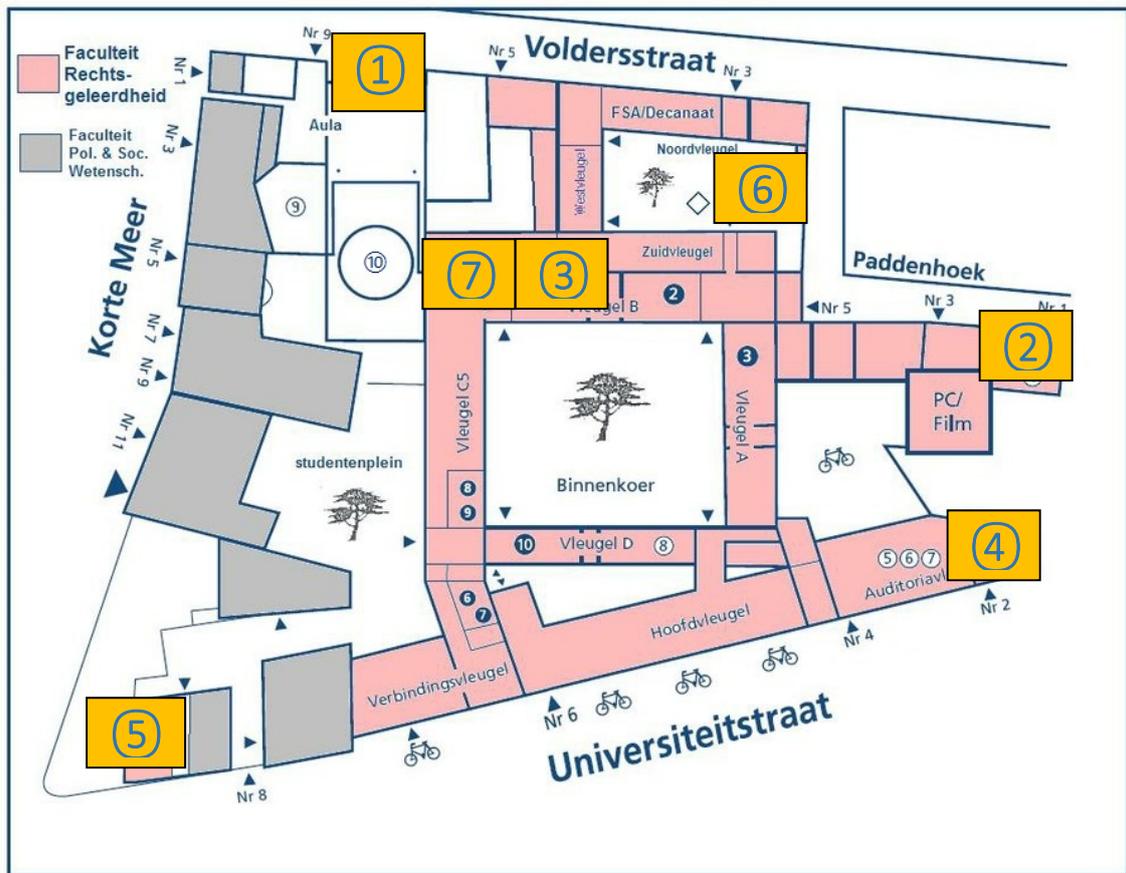
There are also 2 **Ibis** hotels, Ibis Opera is apparently a better one. Price per night +/- 80 euro.

There are also some nice **bed and breakfast** places, if you prefer. Check out this site:

<http://www.bedandbreakfast-gent.be/>

(and obviously, AirBnb)

Venue (cf. the next page)



Main conference room and coffee breaks: **Academieraadzaal** (Volderstraat 9, ground floor).
 Marked with “1” (large blue digits, in orange frames)

Rooms for **parallel sessions**:

- **Paddenhoek 1.1.** (Paddenhoek 1, 1st floor). Marked with “2”
- **Auditorium B** (entrance via Univeristeitstraat 4 or via Volderstraat 4, ground floor). Marked with “3”
- **Auditorium D** (Univeristeitstraat 2). Marked with “4”
- **Auditorium E** (Universiteitstraat 8, ground floor). Marked with “5”

Staff meeting

- **Facultaire Raadzaal** (Volderstraat 5, ground floor). Marked with “6”

Student debate

- **Auditorium A** (entrance via Univeristeitstraat 4 or via Volderstraat 4, ground floor). Marked with “7”

Tourist information

You will receive the social programme, a survival guide and some tourist information upon arrival.

If you want to plan your trip in advance and check out the most important sites and events, visit this website: <https://visit.gent.be/>

Contact

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WE CAN'T WAIT TO WELCOME YOU IN GHENT!

Tom, Olga & the entire ISD team