



# Join Radboud Summer School 2018!

When Science Meets Law: Forensic Epidemiology in Legal Practice

*change perspective*

Radboud University



# Forensic Epidemiology in Legal Practice

As written by Sherlock Holmes in 1887, "It is a capital mistake to theorize before you have all the evidence; it biases the judgement".

Epidemiologists have been called the Sherlock Holmes of public health, as they use empirical observation and logic reasoning in their search for the truth. Although epidemiology generally studies the distribution and causation of disease in populations, its tools may well be applied in forensic venues. This is what forensic epidemiology is all about.

Initially, the field of forensic epidemiology was introduced to systematically investigate acts of bioterrorism. Recent years, however, have seen a rapid increase in the use of forensic epidemiology in legal practice. The discipline currently covers a wide range of medicolegal issues, combining principles from epidemiology with those from general medicine, pharmacology, pathology, biostatistics, and biomechanics. These methods developed in (bio)medical sciences are applied to criminal and civil court cases. For example, a forensic epidemiologist may evaluate the causal relationship between an alleged act of medical negligence and an adverse health outcome; or the risk that injury would have occurred, had a driver worn his seat belt.

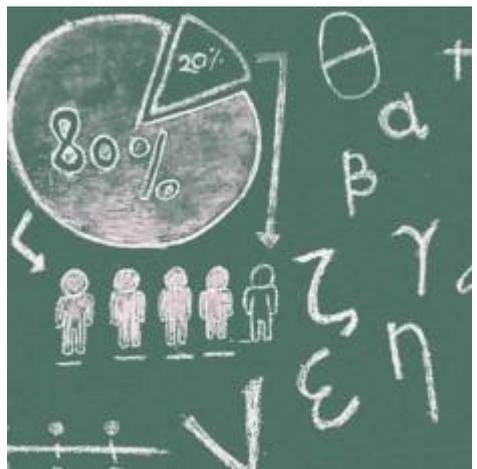
The practical application of forensic epidemiology also concerns the recognition of improper use of epidemiologic methods in forensic settings. Several wrongful convictions are known to have resulted from incorrect use of expert evidence.

A basic understanding of procedural law and conditions for the use of expert testimony are crucial for a proper application of forensic epidemiology in the practice of law.

This is the first international course for jurists and (bio)medical scientists, offering an interdisciplinary approach to legal fact finding. Scientific methods as well as implications for legal procedures will be addressed to provide a broad view of forensic epidemiology. Case-based education and small-scale interactive lectures by experts in their field will help you make the most out of this unique learning opportunity.

Topics covered in this course include:

- Common forensic scenarios in which epidemiologic terms and probabilistic language are (subconsciously) used to



present evidence;

- Methodological concepts which can be applied in forensic settings such as frequency and association measures, causation, test accuracy, and Bayesian reasoning;
- Fallacies resulting from improper use of epidemiologic methods, including examples of wrongful convictions in (inter)national legal practice;
- Conditions for a proper use of forensic expert evidence in legal procedures, based on the principles of procedural law.

### Number of EC

2 ECTS credits

### Course leader

- Prof. Michael D. Freeman (MedDr, PhD), professor of Forensic Medicine, CAPHRI (Care and Public Health Research Institute) and Maastricht University
- Prof. Maroeska Rovers, Chair: Evidence Based Surgery, Radboudumc
- Prof. Bart Kiemeneij, Department for Health Evidence, Radboudumc
- Machteld van Egmond, MSc, PhD candidate of (Bio)Medical Sciences and BSc student of Law, Radboudumc



### Entry level

Master, PhD, Post-doc and Professional

### For whom is this course designed

MSc/PhD students and professionals involved in public health, (bio)medical sciences or law enforcement. The course level is fitted to accommodate and challenge participants with different backgrounds.



# Want to be part of the RSS experience?

## After this course you will be able to:

- Demonstrate an understanding of similarities and differences in public health and law enforcement investigative goals and methods;
- Recognize when to involve the other discipline; coordinate mutual investigations and share information between public health and law enforcement;
- Identify fallacies resulting from improper use of epidemiologic methods in forensic settings;
- Understand implications of using forensic expert evidence for procedural law.

## Course fee

€660

## Discounts

- 10% discount for early bird applicants. The early bird deadline is 1 April 2018.
- 15% discount for students and PhD candidates from partner universities.

**Deadline application: 1 June 2018**



## Dates

Monday 13 August – Friday 17 August 2018

## More than just a course!

Radboud Summer School also has an elaborate and fun social programme you can choose from.

## Contact

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[www.ru.nl/radboudsummerschool](http://www.ru.nl/radboudsummerschool), 5-17 August 2018