

**Speaker:** *Britt Østergaard Larsen*

**Presentation title:** The Effects of a Criminal Record on Juvenile Offenders' Future Outcomes: Evidence from a Natural Experiment.

**Co-authors:** *Tine Louise Mundbjerg Eriksen* (VIVE - The Danish Center for Social Science Research, Denmark)

A long line of research have revealed how the mark of a criminal record can have detrimental effects to adult offenders' future employment opportunities. The first interactions with the criminal justice system often takes place before offenders reach the age of majority, yet much less known about the influence of criminal records to juvenile offenders' future outcomes. This study contributes to the existing literature by investigating the effects of the first criminal record to young offenders (15-17 years of age) and their subsequent crime, education and labor market participation. We explore a natural experiment created by a legal reform in Denmark, which removed the first minor offence from juvenile offenders' criminal record. We use administrative register data to follow the population of juveniles who were convicted in Denmark within three years of the policy reform in 2011 and evaluate the effects of a criminal record in a quasi-experimental design. We compare crime, education and labor market outcomes for juvenile offenders who were convicted just before and after the reform. They were processed in the same criminal justice system with the same rules of prosecution and sanctioning, the only difference being whether the conviction appears on their certificate of criminal records afterwards.