

Prof. dr. Willem Elias, Decaan van de Faculteit Psychologie & Educatiewetenschappen, nodigt u uit op de [openbare verdediging](#) tot het behalen van de academische graad van [Doctor in de Psychologische Wetenschappen](#) van mevrouw [Joke Van den Broeck](#).

Deze zal plaatsvinden op **donderdag 21 februari 2013** om **16u00** in de aula **D.0.02** (Pleinlaan 2, ingang 13, gebouw D).

Gelieve uw aanwezigheid vóór 19/02/2013 te willen bevestigen via Joke.Van.Den.Broeck@vub.ac.be.

A Trait-based Perspective on the Assessment of Personality and Personality Pathology in Older Adults

dra. Joke Van den Broeck

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SITUATION OF THE DISSERTATION

In recent years, there have been a remarkable increase of interest and knowledge about the assessment of personality and personality pathology in older adults. Yet many questions remain unanswered, largely due to conceptual and methodological quandaries which mutually affect each other. The most fundamental issues concern the applicability and relevance of the current DSM-IV nosology in older age groups. In addition, the majority of the current personality assessment measures have been developed for and validated in mixed-age younger adult samples, and the lay-out, item content, and norms are often not attuned to the specific context of later life. As a result, geriatric researchers and clinicians have to deal with a lack of valid personality measures for older age groups, which hampers a reliable assessment of personality in later life. An adequate measurement system is needed to fully understand the prevalence, course, and influence of personality in later life.

The four empirical studies in this dissertation address these issues by investigating the age-neutrality of existing personality measures, examining the validity of a Five-Factor Model (FFM) based approach for assessing personality pathology in older adults, and investigating the relevance of the proposed dimensional DSM-5 trait system for use with older adults.

CURRICULUM VITAE

Joke Van den Broeck was born on the 28th of May 1985, and grew up in Hoeilaart, Vlaams Brabant. In 2008, she obtained the degree of Master in Clinical Psychology at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel. In January 2009, she started as a junior researcher in the Department of Clinical and Lifespan Psychology (KLEP), under supervision of Prof. Dr. Gina Rossi (VUB), Prof. Dr. Eva Dierckx (VUB), and Prof. Dr. Barbara De Clercq (UGent). With her work she aims to contribute to the relatively young research area of personality disorders in older adults, by focusing on the assessment of personality and personality pathology in older adults. Over the past four years, she presented her work at various national and international conferences, and authored several national and international peer-reviewed journal articles.

JURY

- Prof. dr. Liesbeth De Donder (voorzitter)
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