

Voluntary false confessions

Citation for published version (APA):

Schneider, T. (2023). *Voluntary false confessions: why do people take the blame and how do others assess guilt in such cases?* [Doctoral Thesis, Maastricht University]. Maastricht University. <https://doi.org/10.26481/dis.20230315ts>

Document status and date:

Published: 01/01/2023

DOI:

[10.26481/dis.20230315ts](https://doi.org/10.26481/dis.20230315ts)

Document Version:

Publisher's PDF, also known as Version of record

Please check the document version of this publication:

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- The final published version features the final layout of the paper including the volume, issue and page numbers.

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Propositions of the thesis

VOLUNTARY FALSE CONFESSIONS

Why do People Take the Blame and how do Others Assess Guilt in Such Cases?

1. Voluntary false confessions for close family members happen more often than for close friends. (this thesis)
2. People state that incentives do not play a crucial role when taking the blame. (this thesis)
3. Blame-taking is more likely for in-group members than for out-group members. (this thesis)
4. Voluntary false confessions are harder to detect than coerced-compliant false confessions. (this thesis)
5. In so far as a scientific statement speaks about reality, it must be falsifiable; and in so far as it is not falsifiable, it does not speak about reality. (Karl Popper)
6. Real knowledge is to know the extent of one's ignorance. (Confucius)
7. All research should be open access.
8. Don't become a mere recorder of facts, but try to penetrate the mystery of their origin. (Ivan Pavlov)
9. Knowledge on potential risk factors for voluntary false confessions can help legal professionals and police officers to formulate alternative hypotheses when investigating criminal cases with multiple suspects. (this thesis; impact)

Teresa Schneider

Berlin, February 2023