**Background**

Currently, focus in latent fingerprints is only on the friction ridge patterns. However, research has shown there is more information in latent prints:
- New information from fingerprint prints:
  - Detailed analysis of lift and place left in a fingerprint print
  - Information about e.g. DNA, diet, drug use, medicine use
  - The position of fingerprints
  - Information on activity level

Two PhD students study the chemical information and activity level of fingerprints.

This study creates an overview of the current situation and future possibilities of fingerprint evidence.

**Objectives**

Provide an overview of the current situation of the collection, analysis, interpretation of fingerprints in the Netherlands. The needs and opportunities in fingerprint practice are the possibilities for the implementation of new fingerprint opportunities. An international comparison of fingerprint use.

**Method**

Several methods will be used:
- Literature review
- Observations
- Interviews
- Questionnaires
- Analyzing files of criminal investigations
- Analyzing court files
- 3D experiment
- Vignette study

**PhD study: Full use of latent prints – Beyond the lines**

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**Fingerprint evidence throughout the criminal justice system**

**International study**

- What does the process of collecting, analyzing, reporting and interpreting fingerprint evidence in the criminal justice system look like internationally?
- What can we learn from each other?

**Time plan**

- 2016 - 2017: Study current use and interpretation of fingerprint evidence in the criminal justice system
- 2018 - 2019: Study possibilities for implementation of new fingerprint opportunities

**Methods**

- Literature review, literature review, questionnaire, 3D experiments

**SEARCH WITH AFIS (FIDAN)**

- How is the current identification process?
- What is the influence of new techniques on this process?
- Fingerprint experts as advisors at the crime scene?

**FORENSIC REPORTS ON FINGERMARK EVIDENCE**

- Current state of fingerprint evidence reports:
  - Interpretation of these reports by police, public prosecutors and judges?
  - How to report new information from fingerprint marks?

**VISUALIZING THE FINGERMARK**

- When is a fingerprint suitable for evidence?
- What other information can be found in fingerprints?
- How can information on activity level be used in the interpretation of fingerprints?

**EVIDENTIAL VALUE WEIGHED BY THE JUDGE**

- What is the ultimate value of fingerprint evidence in criminal cases?
- How does a judge weigh fingerprint evidence?
- Knowledge of judge on fingerprint evidence?
- How is new information from fingerprint evidence assessed by the judge?

**INTERVIEWS, OBSERVATIONS, 3D-EXPERIMENT, LITERATURE REVIEW**

- What leads a crime scene investigator (CSI) to?
- Focus of CSI’s on fingerprints?
- Focus of CSI’s on fingerprints with less identification value?

**SEARCH FOR LATENT PRINTS AT THE CRIME SCENE**

- What leads a crime scene investigator (CSI) to?
- Focus of CSI’s on fingerprints?
- Focus of CSI’s on fingerprints with less identification value?

**HIGHS ALL EVIDENCE IN A CRIMINAL CASE**

- How do police detectives and public prosecutors use fingerprint evidence?
- How do police detectives and public prosecutors use new information from fingerprint evidence?
- Role fingerprint mark evidence in criminal cases, and compared to other types of evidence?

**EXTRADITIONAL VALUE WEIGHED BY THE JUDGE**

- What is the ultimate value of fingerprint evidence in criminal cases?
- How does a judge weigh fingerprint evidence?
- Knowledge of judge on fingerprint evidence?
- How is new information from fingerprint evidence assessed by the judge?

**FORENSIC REPORT**

- New information on evidence?
- What is the ultimate value?
- What leads a crime scene investigator (CSI) to?
- Focus of CSI’s on fingerprints?
- Focus of CSI’s on fingerprints with less identification value?

**Questionnaires, interviews, observations, 3D-experiment**

- What is the ultimate value of fingerprint evidence in criminal cases?
- How does a judge weigh fingerprint evidence?
- Knowledge of judge on fingerprint evidence?
- How is new information from fingerprint evidence assessed by the judge?