

Tom van Yperen



Tom van Yperen is head of the Monitoring and Research Unit at the [Netherlands Youth Institute](#) (Nederlands Jeugdinstituut) and Professor of Monitoring and Innovation in Child and Youth Care at the [University of Groningen](#).

He is located in Utrecht, Netherlands.

Most of Tom's work is written in Dutch but [this article](#) on improving the Netherlands' Youth Care System provides an insight into his work in English.

What is one of your favourite publications on implementation?

A book that I like very much is 'Diffusion of Innovations' by Everett Rogers, because it was written in a time when implementation science was in its early stage, and Rogers had such inspiring ideas on how new practices disseminate.

As to the more recent literature, I'm very interested in papers about transformational and systems leadership. '[Leading improvement effectively](#)' by John Øvretveit is one of my favorites, because it offers a thorough review of the literature.

What are you currently working on that relates to implementation?

My activities at the Netherlands Youth Institute are aimed at improving the quality of child and family services, especially the effectiveness of prevention and treatment programs. I'm involved in the implementation of a system for routine outcome monitoring in the Child and Youth Care. My research and education at the University of Groningen is focused on the issue of what it takes to get the professionals embrace monitoring as a non-bureaucratic, stimulating and relevant instrument for reflection and for improvement of the outcome of their work.

If you were to have lunch with another 'implementer', whom would you pick?

There are so many people from abroad and from entirely different sectors I would love to have lunch with. The implementation researchers from abroad, because we don't see one another very often, and it is always inspiring to discuss the latest developments. But I would also be very interested in having lunch with, for example, marketing specialists and experts from the advertising field, because I think that I could learn much from them on how they inform and influence the public and specific target groups.

If you had the resources for it, what within implementation science or practice would you want to work with next?

I would want to do much more research on the issue of leadership in implementing routine outcome monitoring, aimed at improving the societal impact of prevention and child and youth care. I think that leaders are very important in this matter, because they are a key factor in motivating as well as enabling professionals to use monitoring to improve their work. They are also the ones who are connecting (or should be connecting) the internal reflective practice of the professionals with the organization's external / societal impact, focusing on 'the greater good' that makes outcome monitoring and innovation important.