

Tilburg University

## Forensic psychiatry and the conscience

Oei, T.I.

*Published in:*  
[n.n.]

*Publication date:*  
2008

[Link to publication in Tilburg University Research Portal](#)

*Citation for published version (APA):*

Oei, T. I. (2008). Forensic psychiatry and the conscience. In [n.n.] (Vol. 104, pp. 450). (Journal of Czech and Slovak Psychiatry; Vol. 104, No. 9). Unknown Publisher.

### General rights

Copyright and moral rights for the publications made accessible in the public portal are retained by the authors and/or other copyright owners and it is a condition of accessing publications that users recognise and abide by the legal requirements associated with these rights.

- Users may download and print one copy of any publication from the public portal for the purpose of private study or research.
- You may not further distribute the material or use it for any profit-making activity or commercial gain
- You may freely distribute the URL identifying the publication in the public portal

### Take down policy

If you believe that this document breaches copyright please contact us providing details, and we will remove access to the work immediately and investigate your claim.



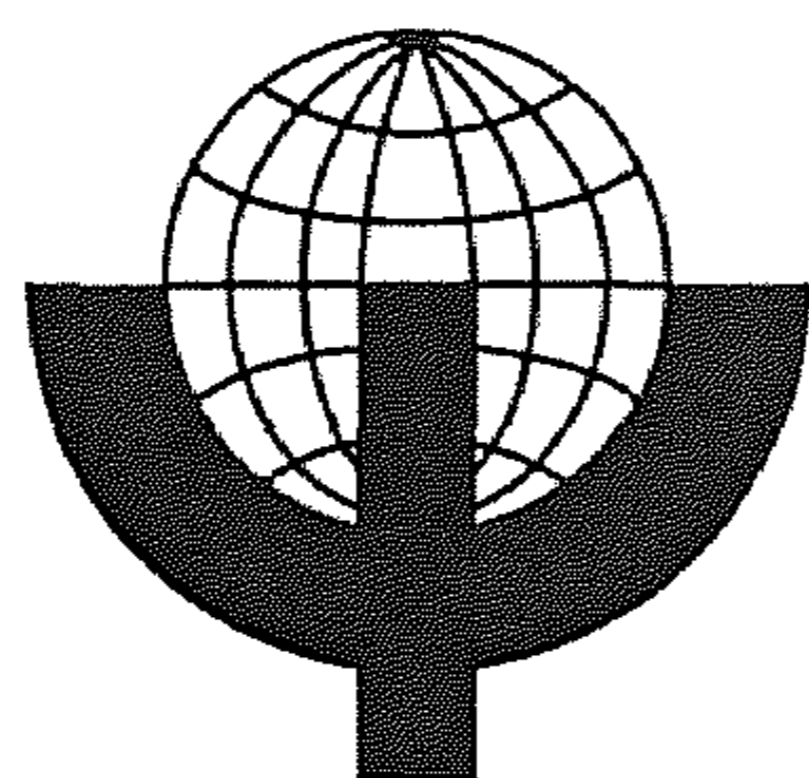
# ČESKÁ A SLOVENSKÁ PSYCHIATRIE

JOURNAL OF CZECH AND SLOVAK PSYCHIATRY

## XIV WORLD CONGRESS OF PSYCHIATRY

20-25 SEPTEMBER 2008

PRAGUE, CZECH REPUBLIC



XIV WORLD  
CONGRESS  
OF PSYCHIATRY

20-25 September 2008  
Prague • Czech Republic

# ABSTRACTS

SUPPLEMENTUM **2**

ISSN 1212-0383

VOLUME 104 SEPTEMBER / 2008

## FORENSIC PSYCHIATRY AND THE CONSCIENCE

### INSTITUTIONS

1. *University of Tilburg, Faculty of Law, Tilburg, The Netherlands*

### AUTHORS

1. Karel T.I. Oei<sup>1</sup>, dr., MD, PhD, t.i.oei@uvt.nl

Is conscience a balancing function in the justification of one's own or someone else's actions?

This question is ventral to the present paper, in which I will present a limited overview of what the forensic psychiatrist meets in his work in terms of the concept conscience.

It seems that in the more recent past the primary legitimation for court-imposed punishment was retaliation, whilst in today's world greater attention is being paid to the victim. And the chance is high that in an era in which the individual is expected to carry more and more responsibility for his deeds and practices, the concept of 'conscience' will also gain in importance. First the concept will be outlined, as seen by the adult. Second, the concept of conscience will be

illustrated, as is in the case of how a child would like to understand it. It is clear that in order for the human conscience to function properly, an individual has to be able to call on images from his own fantasies. The conscience is hardly activated in a life largely devoid of fantasy. Recognizing faces corresponds with a brain function and a neuro-anatomic substrate. There is a burden of conscience. There is also self determination and taking justice into one's own hands. In forensic psychiatry there are difficult situations, especially when a non-cooperative defendant is denying everything of a criminal act. For doctors and police makers there is a painful moment in situations of conflicts of duties.