



10th SYMPOSIUM ON
POLICE
LAW

INTERVIEWS IN CRIMINAL PROSECUTION: THE PRACTICAL POTENTIAL OF THE MÉNDEZ PRINCIPLES

**13 MARCH 2026
UNIS, BERN**



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UNIVERSITÄT
BERN



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INTERVIEWS IN CRIMINAL PROSECUTION: THE PRACTICAL POTENTIAL OF THE MÉNDEZ PRINCIPLES

The 10th Symposium on Police Law will focus on the interviewing of persons by the police and the public prosecutor's office. In many cases, interviews are where the decisive evidence is gathered. They are one of the core tasks of prosecution.

The way in which interviews are conducted has a significant impact on the outcome, fairness and reliability of any proceedings that follow.

The purpose of interviews is to obtain the most reliable information possible. Interviews are to be carried out so as to facilitate the solving of criminal offences. In doing so, the dignity of all persons involved (accused, victims and witnesses) must be respected.

At the symposium, experiences in implementing the Méndez Principles in interview practice will be shared. The implementation of the applicable requirements under police law, criminal procedure law and human rights law regarding interviews in Switzerland will also be discussed.

In the morning, experts from Switzerland and abroad will introduce the topic with presentations from a variety of different perspectives. In the afternoon, there will be parallel workshops at which specific topics can be discussed in depth. The event will conclude with a panel discussion with representatives from the police, the public prosecutor's office and academia.

The symposium will be held in three languages (German, French, English). Simultaneous interpreting will be provided for the lectures and the panel discussion.

PROGRAM

8.45 a.m.	<i>Welcome coffee</i>
9.15 a.m.	<i>Start</i> Berina Repesa, symposium host
9.20 a.m.	<i>Welcome address</i> Susan Emmenegger, Dean of the Faculty of Law, University of Bern Christoph III, Chief Public Prosecutor, Canton St. Gallen/President of the Conference of Swiss Public Prosecutors
9.30 a.m.	<i>From Interrogation to Investigative Interviewing and the Méndez Principles</i> Ivar Fahsing, Associate Professor at the Faculty of Law, University of Oslo Richard Kempshall, Detective Inspector, Metropolitan Police England Lennart May, Junior Professor of Legal Psychology, Medical School Berlin (MSB) / COST Action 22128 Implemendez
10.30 a.m.	<i>Break</i>
11.10 a.m.	<i>Interviews in the midst of international upheaval: is a rethink required in Switzerland too?</i> <i>Insights into police interrogation practices: results of a national survey</i> (in German language) Barbara Schärer, Head of service Development, Bern Cantonal Police Helen Wyler, Assistant Professor of Legal Psychology, University of Lucerne
	<i>From the perspective of a public prosecutor</i> (in German language) Linda Sutter, Deputy Chief Public Prosecutor, Cantonal Investigation Office, St. Gallen
	<i>Putting the Méndez Principles into practice: the POVEC model</i> (in French language) Julie Courvoisier, Forensic Scientist, Cantonal Police of Neuchâtel
	<i>Interviews in theory and practice – an assessment from the perspective of police training</i> (in German language) Signe Ghelfi, Head of Research Coordination and Knowledge Management, Swiss Police Institute
	<i>Discussion</i>

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12.30 p.m. Lunch break

1.45 p.m. Workshops (two rounds)

Workshop 1: *Investigative interviewing of suspects and witnesses – best practice*
(with interpreting from English into German and French)
Ivar Fahsing

Workshop 2: *Interviewing children* (in French language)
Julie Courvoisier, Forensic Scientist, Cantonal Police of Neuchâtel

Workshop 3: *Interviewing victims* (in German language)
Linda Sutter, Deputy Chief Public Prosecutor, Cantonal Investigation Office, St. Gallen

Workshop 4: *Training for interviewing children using virtual characters to improve interviewing techniques* (in German language)
Susanna Niehaus, Professor, Lucerne School of Social Work
Teresa Schneider, Research Associate, Lucerne School of Social Work

Workshop 5: *What influences our thinking and decisions in interviews? Effects of bias and potential counter-strategies* (in German language)
Signe Ghelfi, Head of Research Coordination and Knowledge Management, Swiss Police Institute
Franziska Hofer, HF Partners, Zurich
Helen Wyler, Assistant Professor of Legal Psychology, University of Lucerne

Workshop 6: *Recording and documenting interviews* (in German language)
Andreas Kind, Deputy Chief Public Prosecutor, Public Prosecutor for Economic Crime, Canton of Bern
Rodolfo Paredes, Assistant Public Prosecutor, White-Collar Crime Division, Office of the Attorney General

2.30 p.m. Second round of workshops

3.10 p.m. Break

3.40 p.m. Panel discussion
Andreas Kind
Ivar Fahsing
Christoph Ill
Susanna Niehaus

4.30 p.m. Conclusion and closing speech
Christian Brenzikofen, Chief of Bern Cantonal Police
Lennart May, Junior Professor of Legal Psychology, Medical School Berlin / COST Action 22128 ImpleMéndez

4.45 p.m. Refreshments for all conference participants





TARGET AUDIENCE

The event is aimed at police officers, employees of prosecuting authorities, media representatives, experts from the federal, cantonal and municipal authorities, representatives of advice centres and NGOs, researchers and other interested stakeholders.

LANGUAGE

German, French and English
(with simultaneous interpreting)

LOCATION

UniS
Schanzeneckstrasse 1
3012 Bern

COST

The fee for the symposium is CHF 290.00
including catering and refreshments.

REGISTRATION

You can register for the 10th Symposium
on Police Law at the following website:
krim.unibe.ch/tagungen/Einvernahmen

CONTACT

tagung.krim.rw@unibe.ch

The registration deadline is 6 March 2026.