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To cite this article: Flore Croux , Dorien Brosens , Liesbeth De Donder , Bart Claes & Stijn Vandevelde (2020) Foreign national and ethnic minority prisoners' participation in formally organized occupations in prisons: A scoping review, Journal of Occupational Science, 27:4, 474-491, DOI: [10.1080/14427591.2020.1734859](https://doi.org/10.1080/14427591.2020.1734859)

To link to this article: <https://doi.org/10.1080/14427591.2020.1734859>



Published online: 26 Mar 2020.



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Foreign national and ethnic minority prisoners' participation in formally organized occupations in prisons: A scoping review

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ABSTRACT

This scoping review investigated foreign national and ethnic minority prisoners' participation in formally organized occupations (prison activities) such as active citizenship, healthcare and treatment, leisure time, and reintegration occupations. It aimed to: (1) map available studies on both groups of prisoners' participation in these occupations within prisons, and (2) evaluate existing research topics on participation and types of occupations available in prisons. Following a search in electronic databases, manual searches, and expert consultation, 36 studies met the inclusion criteria. Data from these studies were extracted and synthesized qualitatively. The results demonstrate that most literature has focused on ethnic minorities' participation, rather than that of foreign nationals. There was also unequal research attention regarding types of prison occupations studied, with healthcare and treatment programs predominating. In addition, this review provides some evidence for the importance of acknowledging and considering the 'cultural' diversity among prisoners in providing occupations to them. Research gaps and future research avenues on this topic are identified. Finally, the limitations and the implications of this review are considered.

ARTICLE HISTORY

Accepted 4 December 2019

KEYWORDS

Occupational science; Foreign national prisoners; Ethnic minority prisoners; Participation; Prison activities; Scoping review

Prisons today are multicultural (Martínez-Gómez, 2014) and multinational spaces, accommodating persons with different nationalities, ethnicities, and languages (Yildiz & Bartlett, 2011). Prisons worldwide are confronted with high numbers of foreign national prisoners (i.e., prisoners who do not have the passport of the country in which they are detained) (Atabay, 2009). In 2015, 22.1% of the European prison population were foreign nationals. The numbers of foreign national prisoners are remarkably higher in some European countries, representing 40.1% in Belgium and 71.0% in Switzerland of the total number of prisoners (Aebi et al., 2016). High percentages of foreign nationals

can also be found on other continents. In 2019, Australia's prison population had 18.5% foreign national prisoners, with higher numbers in some Middle Eastern countries (e.g., Israel: 38.9%, United Arab Emirates: 87.8%) (World Prison Brief, 2019). In addition, ethnic minorities are over-represented in prisons compared to the numbers in the general population (Atabay, 2009). For instance, the U.S. prison population consists of 33% Black and 23% Hispanic prisoners, compared to 12% Black and 16% Hispanic people in the general U.S. population (Pew Research Center, 2018).

Although foreign national and ethnic minority prisoners are presented as separate groups

in the previous paragraph, they have some similar characteristics (Ugelvik, 2014). Foreign national and ethnic minority prisoners are both marginalized groups, as they face similar disadvantages in terms of language, discrimination, and religious tolerance. Being both a foreign national and of an ethnic minority group intensifies many problems, for example, being subject to discrimination and isolation. In addition to that, foreign national prisoners might experience additional problems related to their foreign national status, such as the possibility of being deported to their home country (Atabay, 2009).

In recent years, academics and practitioners have shown a growing interest in the concept of participation (Rochette et al., 2006). Also, in prison research, the issue of participation has gained more prominence, with several studies stressing the benefits to prisoners of participation in formally organized occupations (prison activities),¹ such as more well-balanced feelings (Falardeau et al., 2015), as well as to the correctional institution, in terms of improved prisoner-prison staff relations (Meek & Lewis, 2014), and to the wider community by reducing recidivism (Davis et al., 2013). However, a clear definition of the concept of participation is still lacking (Piškur et al., 2014), which has led to broad conceptualizations of the topic, as can be found in the World Health Organization's (WHO; 2002) definition of participation as the involvement of a person in a life situation. According to literature about participation in prison settings, the concept of participation can be defined thematically, according to prisoners' involvement (active versus passive), or from an organizational perspective.

Using a thematic classification, participation can be defined as taking part in four types of formally organized occupations in prisons, which will be explored in this paper: (1) active citizenship occupations such as prisoner councils and peer support schemes (Edgar et al., 2011), (2) healthcare and treatment programs, like medical services, mental healthcare and sexual offender treatment, (3) leisure-time occupations such as sports and using the prison library, and (4) reintegration and resocialization occupations, including work and (vocational) education (Drenkhahn, 2014a, 2014b, 2014c, 2014d).

Second, participation can be defined in relation to prisoners' level of participation. That can vary along a continuum ranging from prisoners as passive recipients, where occupations are organized *for* them (such as conducting prison work), to being active contributors, where occupations are instead organized *with/by* the prisoners themselves. Active participation includes the possibility of being involved in making improvements in prison, such as being a representative of the prisoner council or being a peer supporter (Edgar et al., 2011).

Third, using an organizational classification, a distinction can be made between formally organized prison occupations, which are supported by activity organizers, and informal types of participation and involvement, which take place in a non-organized manner and are not supported by activity organizers. To give an example: peer support can take place as formally organized schemes or in an informal non-organized manner when prisoners inform each other about the daily aspects of prison life (Brosens, 2019). A similar definition, focusing on both formal and informal participation, can be found in a description of occupational participation that refers to "engagement in work, play, or activities of daily living that are part of one's sociocultural context and that are desired and/or necessary to one's well-being" (Kielhofner, 2008, p. 109). The definition of occupational participation includes participation in formally organized occupations (such as work and attending school), as well as daily living occupations (Kielhofner, 2008), which belong to informal participation according to the participation literature in prison settings. In this scoping review, emphasis is placed on prisoners' participation in formally organized occupations in prisons (prison activities).

All prisoners in European prisons, including foreign nationals and ethnic minorities, are entitled to participate in prison occupations. These rights are set out in international documents such as the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners, also known as the Nelson Mandela Rules, which are applied worldwide (United Nations, 2016) and the European Prison Rules (Council of Europe, 2006). For EU member states, there is a recommendation from the Council of Europe about foreign

national prisoners, stipulating that prison authorities should organize (vocational) education and prison work for foreign nationals and provide access to the same treatment and healthcare that is available to other prisoners. In addition, exercise and recreation should respect the foreign nationals' culture, and prison libraries should take their linguistic and cultural preferences into account. However, despite foreign nationals being entitled to participate in prison occupations just as national prisoners, and the requirement that prison authorities undertake specific actions to counter the problems of foreign nationals (Council of Europe, 2012), foreign national and ethnic minority prisoners experience unequal access to prison occupations (Atabay, 2009).

Against this background, a scoping review was undertaken to: (1) map available studies on foreign national and ethnic minority prisoners' participation in formally organized prison occupations, and (2) evaluate existing research topics on participation and types of occupations made available in prisons. Moreover, future research avenues on this topic have been formulated by identifying research gaps.

Methods

The reasons for undertaking a scoping review, and for considering the scoping review technique as the appropriate type of review for addressing the review questions, were twofold: (1) to obtain a descriptive overview of a diverse body of studies regarding a broad topic, and (2) to identify future research avenues, as the scoping review technique is specifically designed to identify research gaps in the existing body of literature (Arksey & O'Malley, 2005). This scoping review used the methodological framework of Arksey and O'Malley (2005): (1) identifying research question(s), (2) identifying relevant research, (3) selecting studies, (4) charting data, and (5) collating, summarizing, and reporting the findings.

Identifying research questions

Two research questions guided this scoping review:

- 1) Which studies are available on foreign nationals' and ethnic minorities' participation in formally organized prison occupations?
- 2) What are existing research topics on participation and types of occupations in prisons?

Identifying relevant research and selecting studies

Search terms were identified and divided into different strings, including terms that captured the target group (i.e., foreign national and ethnic minority prisoners), the setting (i.e., prison), and the concept of participation (i.e., synonyms of participation and specific occupations such as education and work) (Appendix 1. Search terms). In May 2017, this comprehensive set of search terms was applied to the following databases: Web of Science Core Collection, ProQuest Social Sciences, EBSCOhost, Ovid PsycINFO, and PubMed.

Only full-text English-language manuscripts were considered for practical reasons (i.e., time constraints and translation costs) (Arksey & O'Malley, 2005), but no restriction was placed on either country or publication date. To be eligible for inclusion, the study needed to: (a) deal with foreign national prisoners, ethnic minority prisoners, or illegal migrants of any age or sex. Illegal migrants in detention centers were also included, as the distinction between those centers and prisons is often unclear (Ugelvik, 2014), (b) refer to participation and involvement in formally organized occupations (prison activities) prior to release from custody of persons remanded in custody and convicted persons, but not in the context of probation, and (c) employ either empirical or theoretical studies. Abstracts, conference proceedings, research notes, and commentaries were excluded.

First, after omitting duplicates, the titles and abstracts of the studies gathered by the search were screened by the lead author to decide whether they were eligible for inclusion. Second, the full texts of the remaining articles were screened for eligibility, as were the reference lists of the included articles. Experts in the field from the authors' network were contacted to request papers that may have fallen within the

scoping review. In case of doubt as to whether the gathered studies met the inclusion criteria, the second and third authors were consulted. The study identification and selection process is depicted in Figure 1, with 36 studies included in the scoping review.

Data charting and analysis

Data were tabulated using data charting tables in Microsoft Excel. The first author drafted the data charting forms following examples of scoping reviews and input from co-authors. The extracted data were tabulated in two tables: (1) Available studies on foreign nationals’ and ethnic minorities’ participation in formally

organized occupations in prisons (i.e., reference, publication year, country, research location, methodology, sample size, respondent group (s), ‘cultural’ variables), and (2) Evaluation of existing research topics on participation and types of prison occupations (i.e., reference, types of prison occupations, level of involvement, approach used in prison occupations, participation theme). To synthesize the included studies, analysis was performed within the studies and then across studies, searching for variations and common features across these studies (Coemans et al., 2015). To ensure rigour during the analysis of the included articles, the second and third authors were consulted if any doubt arose.

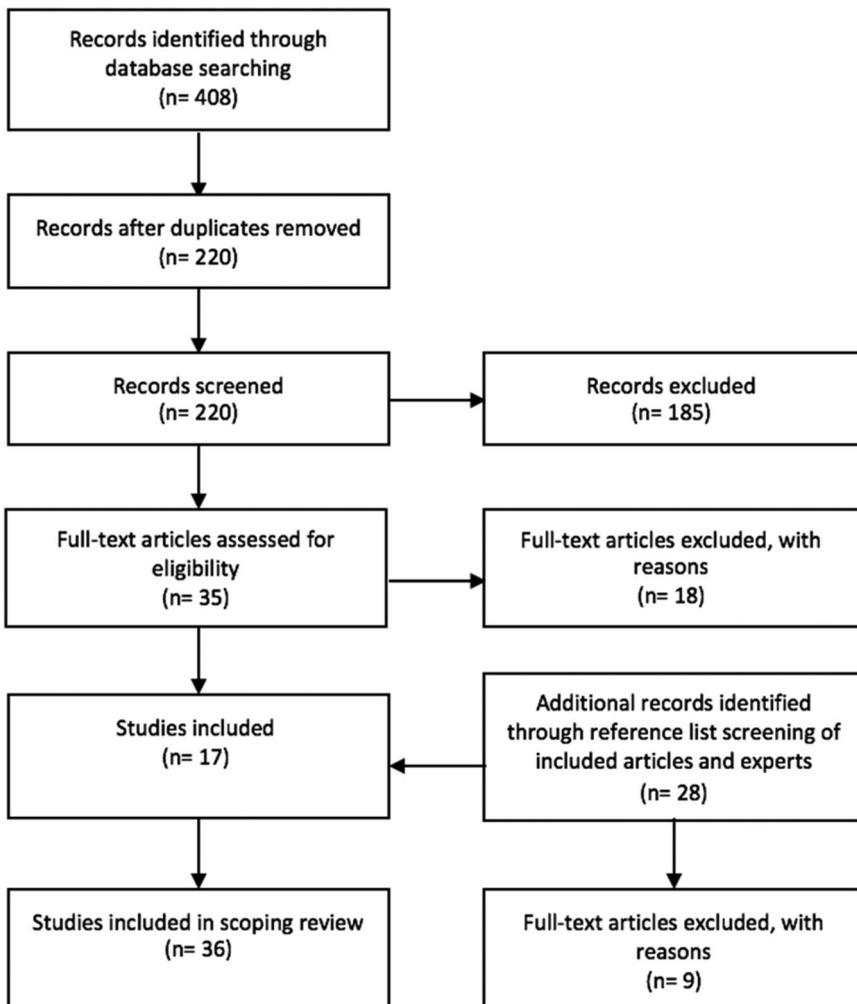


Figure 1. Adapted PRISMA flow diagram (Moher et al., 2009)

Results

Available studies on foreign nationals' and ethnic minorities' participation in formally organized prison occupations

Table 1 presents a synopsis of the characteristics of the included studies.

Publication year and country

The 36 articles included studies published between 1982 and 2017, with 30 studies published since 2000. Unequal geographical research attention regarding the topic is apparent; of the 36 studies, 18 were carried out in North America, 14 in Europe (10 of which in the United Kingdom), and 3 in Oceania. There was only one meta-analytic review including studies from three geographical regions (i.e., North America, Europe, and Oceania).

Methodology

The methodology used varied among the studies. Quantitative research was most common ($n = 15$): 5 employed surveys, 8 performed secondary data analysis of case files, offender management systems, previous surveys, etc., and 3 were meta-analytic reviews. Conversely, 5 studies used only qualitative methods, of which 4 employed individual interviews, and 1 employed a focus group. A mixed-method approach was applied in 10 studies. Finally, there were 6 theoretical studies.

Research location

In terms of the research location, almost all of the empirical studies were carried out in one ($n = 9$) or more ($n = 16$) prison settings, with the exception of two studies conducted in the community with former prisoners, concerning the effects of their participation in prison on their post-carceral lives.

Sample size and respondent group(s)

There was a large variation in terms of the sample size, which varied between 2 and 10,110 respondents. In all of the empirical studies, (former) prisoners were the subject of inquiry. In addition, five studies collected complementary data from other respondent groups (i.e., activity organizers, correctional staff, community members). Of

those empirical studies with (former) prisoners as respondents, 13 considered the participation of both male and female prisoners. In all of the studies that mentioned the gender distribution of their sample (except for Borrill et al., 2003), there were remarkably fewer female participants. Two studies conducted research with female prisoners only, and 11 studies involved only male prisoners.

'Cultural' variables

There seemed to be some vagueness and blurring in the content and use of the overall classifications 'ethnic minorities' and 'foreign nationals'. For instance, 4 studies used the categories 'foreign (national)' and '(black and) ethnic minority'/'ethnically diverse' interchangeably, which indicates that the authors consider these categories to refer to a single group (e.g., Fountain et al., 2007; Westrheim & Manger, 2013, 2014). The included studies were also screened to discover how the diversity of the two groups was reflected, in particular, which 'cultural' variables of the target group were taken into account. Twenty-seven studies focused on one variable of their target group, with 26 studies concentrating solely on ethnicity (e.g., Anitha, 2007; Baglivio et al., 2017; Borrill et al., 2003) and 1 on nationality (Brosens & De Donder, 2016). Nine studies acknowledged, and provided more information about, the different 'cultural' variables of their target group (e.g., Brookes et al., 2012; Nowotny, 2015; Westrheim & Manger, 2013).

It became apparent that there is large diversity in the ethnic and racial sub-categories used to refer to ethnic minorities. Some British studies used a general classification, such as 'ethnic minority', while others (mainly U.S.) used several sub-categories to describe the target group (e.g., white, black, Hispanic). In most studies, however, the authors provided no information about the conceptualization/operationalization of those classifications.

Evaluation of existing research topics on participation and types of prison occupations

Table 2 provides an overview of existing research topics on prisoners' participation and types of prison occupations.

Table 1. Available studies on foreign nationals' and ethnic minorities' participation in formally organized occupations in prisons

Authors/year	Country	Research location	Methodology	Sample size	Respondent group(s)	'Cultural' variables			
						Ethnicity	Nationality	Language	Birth country
Anitha (2007)	UK	8 prisons	Interviews & focus groups Survey	334	(Ex-)prisoners, (prison) professionals, correctional staff, community members, & organizations	X			
Baglivio et al. (2017)	US	Long-term juvenile prisons	Secondary data analysis on Juvenile Justice Information System and data from Community and Residential Positive Achievement Change Tool risk/needs assessment	10,110	Juvenile prisoners	X			
Borrill et al. (2003)	UK	10 female, 3 male, and 4 young offender prisons	Survey Interviews	421 36	<i>Quantitative:</i> (juvenile) prisoners <i>Qualitative:</i> prison professionals & peer supporters	X			
Brookes et al. (2012)	UK	Therapeutic community prison	Interviews	11	Prisoners	X			X
Brosens & De Donder (2016)	EU	22 prisons	Online survey Interviews Focus group	108 12 1 (n = 3)	<i>Quantitative:</i> educational professionals, prison managers, prison administrators, ICT-staff, prison guards, & social workers <i>Qualitative:</i> teachers, educational coordinators, ICT-staff, volunteers, & prisoners		X		
Brosens et al. (2016)	BE	Remand prison	Survey	486	Prisoners		X	X	
Case & Fassenfest (2004)	US	Communities with post-release centers	Focus groups	4 (n = 29)	Ex-prisoners	X			
Coid et al. (2002)	UK	All prisons	Survey Secondary data analysis on health care files	3,142	Prisoners	X			
Cowburn et al. (2008)	UK	Prison	Theoretical paper	/	/	X			
Cull & Wehner (1998)	AU	Prison	Theoretical book chapter	/	/	X		X	
Dalton et al. (2009)	US	Juvenile prison	Secondary data analysis on archived admission records from clinical databases	937	Juvenile prisoners	X			
Ellerby & Stonechields (1998)	CA	Medium- and minimum-security prison	Theoretical book chapter	/	/	X		X	

(Continued)

Table 1. Continued

Authors/year	Country	Research location	Methodology	Sample size	Respondent group(s)	'Cultural' variables			
						Ethnicity	Nationality	Language	Birth country
Fountain et al. (2007)	UK	8 prisons (qualitative) 135 prisons (quantitative)	Interviews Surveys Focus groups	334	(Juvenile) (ex-)prisoners, (prison) professionals, correctional staff, community members, & organizations	X			
Haymann-Diaz (1989)	US	Prison	Interviews	2	Prisoners	X			
Jones et al. (2013)	UK	Therapeutic community prison	Interviews	8	Prisoners	X			
King (1994)	US	Prison	Theoretical paper	/	/	X			
Kunic & Varis (2010)	CA	Community	Secondary data analysis on Offender Management System	2,685	Ex-prisoners	X			
Le & Proulx (2015)	US: Hawaii	Juvenile prison	Secondary data analysis on case files, & personal reflection journal Survey Pre- and post-measure of biomarkers	34	Juvenile prisoners	X			
Mansion & Chassin (2016)	US	2 juvenile prisons	Longitudinal survey	638	Juvenile prisoners	X			
Newberry (2010)	UK	Therapeutic community prison	Theoretical book chapter	/	/	X		X	
Nobles (1982)	US	Prison	Theoretical book chapter	/	/	X			
Nowotny (2015)	US	286 prisons	Secondary data analysis on the 2004 Survey of Inmates in State Correctional Facilities	5,180	Prisoners	X			X
Patel & Lord (2001)	UK	Several prisons	Interviews	24	Prisoners	X			
Rawal et al. (2004)	US	Multiple juvenile prisons	Secondary data analysis on juvenile court, & case records	473	Juvenile prisoners	X			
Shearer et al. (2001)	US	2 prisons and substance abuse felony punishment facility	Survey	153	Prisoners	X			
Simpson et al. (2003)	NZ	All prisons in New Zealand	Diagnostic interviews	1,287	Prisoners	X			
Stewart et al. (2009)	CA	Medium-secure prison	Secondary data analysis on Offender Management System, Offender Intake Assessment, Correctional Planning Results, Static Factors Assessment, Canadian Police	217	Prisoners	X		X	

(Continued)

Table 1. Continued

Authors/year	Country	Research location	Methodology	Sample size	Respondent group(s)	'Cultural' variables			
						Ethnicity	Nationality	Language	Birth country
Trevethan et al. (2005)	CA	9 Prisons	Information Centre, & Corporate Reporting System Interviews Secondary data analysis on case files and program documentation	83 272	Qualitative: prisoners, program facilitators, older people, & correctional staff	X			
Usher & Stewart (2011)	CA	Prisons and parole office	Meta-analytic review	8	Prisoners	X			
Usher & Stewart (2014)	CA	Prisons and parole office	Meta-analytic review	8	Prisoners	X			
Webster et al. (2004)	UK	Multiple prisons	Secondary data analysis on psychometric data of national database	104	Prisoners	X			
Westrheim & Manger (2013)	SE, DK, NO, IS, FI	More than 12 prisons	Structured and semi-structured interviews	62	Prisoners	X	X	X	X
Westrheim & Manger (2014)	NO	3 prisons	Structured and semi-structured interviews	17	Prisoners	X		X	X
Wilson et al. (2003)	US, CA, UK, NZ, AU	(Juvenile) prisons	Meta-analytic review	305	Juvenile prisoners	X			
Youman et al. (2010)	US	Prison	Interviews Two computer-based surveys Secondary data analysis on jail records and official requests/enrolment records from database	414	Prisoners	X			
Young (1999)	US	Women's prison	Secondary data analysis on medical records Interviews	129 15	Prisoners	X			

Note. / The study did not yield information about this topic or this topic is not applicable

X The study used this category

US = United States; AU = Australia; NZ = New Zealand; CA = Canada; UK = United Kingdom; EU = Europe; SE = Sweden; DK = Denmark; NO = Norway; IS = Iceland; FI = Finland; BE = Belgium

Types of prison occupations

There are differences regarding the types of prison occupations studied: 29 studies addressed the involvement of ethnic minority prisoners in *healthcare and treatment*, such as mental health, medical services, substance abuse, and sex offender treatment programs (e.g., Anitha, 2007; Borrill et al., 2003; Brookes et al., 2012); 10 studies discussed both groups' participation in *reintegration and resocialization occupations*, such as prison education and work (e.g., Brosens & De Donder, 2016; Case & Fasenfest, 2004; Coid et al., 2002); 7 studies considered both groups' involvement in *active citizenship occupations* (e.g., Borrill et al., 2003; Brosens & De Donder, 2016; Cull & Wehmer, 1998), where they take up the role of peer supporter/educator or volunteer in prison; and finally, 7 studies focused on foreign nationals' and ethnic minorities' participation in *leisure-time occupations*, such as using the prison library and receiving visits (e.g., Coid et al., 2002; Haymann-Diaz, 1989; Nowotny, 2015). The study by Nobles (1982), concerning an occupation for prisoners with intellectual disabilities, provided too little information on its content to enable classification. In addition, 22 studies researched one type of prison occupation (e.g., Baglivio et al., 2017; Brookes et al., 2012; Case & Fasenfest, 2004), while 13 studies focused on multiple types (e.g., Borrill et al., 2003; Brosens et al., 2016; Coid et al., 2002).

Level of involvement

In terms of level of involvement, 29 studies described only passive participation of ethnic minorities and foreign nationals, as they were passive recipients of occupations that were organized for the participants (e.g., Baglivio et al., 2017; Brookes et al., 2012; Brosens et al., 2016). Only the study of Haymann-Diaz (1989) examined the active participation of ethnic minority prisoners in developing an ethnic library collection. In this case, the ethnic library collection was organized by the participants. A combination of active and passive participation of foreign nationals and ethnic minorities was described in 6 studies (e.g., Borrill et al., 2003; Brosens & De Donder, 2016; Cull & Wehmer, 1998). In these cases, two groups of prisoners were involved in the same occupation: one

group functioned as passive recipients as peer support was provided for them, and another group operated as active contributors, by taking up the role of peer educator/supporter and providing education/support to fellow prisoners.

Approach used in prison occupations

In addition to sub-dividing by type of prison occupations, occupations can also be classified in terms of their approach. First, 29 studies included a *Western generic, mainstream, or standard approach*, whereby the occupation is available to the general prison population, with no attention to the prisoners' cultural/ethnic background (e.g., Anitha, 2007; Baglivio et al., 2017; Borrill et al., 2003). Of these 29 studies on mainstream prison occupations, 17 studies appealed for attention to cultural sensitivity, culturally appropriate services, multicultural or cultural competences, and awareness of cultural diversity in their discussions and recommendations (e.g., Anitha, 2007; Baglivio et al., 2017; Borrill et al., 2003). Second, 15 studies included occupations with a *culture- or language-specific approach*, targeting particular groups of prisoners (e.g., King, 1994; Nobles, 1982; Stewart et al., 2009), or a *blended approach*, combining mainstream, generic, contemporary approaches/best practices with those that are more traditional, culture-specific, and culturally appropriate, which are targeted to particular groups, but are also available to prisoners that do not belong to this particular group (e.g., Ellerby & Stonechids, 1998; Kunic & Varis, 2010; Trevethan et al., 2005).

Participation theme

In terms of research topics, the effectiveness of the occupation, in terms of recidivism, stress, post-release outcomes, social competences, etc. was reported in 13 studies with ethnic minority and foreign national prisoners (e.g., Case & Fasenfest, 2004; Ellerby & Stonechids, 1998; King, 1994); 16 studies focused on how foreign national and ethnic minority participants experienced/perceived their involvement (e.g., Anitha, 2007; Borrill et al., 2003; Brookes et al., 2012); and 10 studies explored the motives and barriers of foreign nationals and ethnic minorities for participation in occupations within prison (e.g., Anitha, 2007; Brookes et al., 2012; Brosens & De Donder, 2016). The participation

Table 2. Evaluation of existing research topics on participation and types of prison occupations

Reference	Types of prison occupations				Level of involvement		Approach used in prison occupations			Participation theme				
	Active citizenship	Health care/treatment	Leisure-time	Reintegration	Active participation	Passive participation	Blended/Cultural/Language specific	Mainstream/generic	Effective-ness/impact	Experiences/perceptions	Motives and/or barriers	Needs	Participation rate/ access /opportunities/ determinants	Respon-siveness
Anitha (2007)	X	X			X	X		X		X	X			X
Baglivio et al. (2017)		X				X		X					X	
Borrill et al. (2003)	X	X	X	X	X	X		X		X	X	X	X	
Brookes et al. (2012)		X				X		X		X	X			X
Brosens & De Donder (2016)	X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	
Brosens et al. (2016)			X	X		X		X					X	
Case & Fasenfest (2004)				X		X		X	X	X		X		
Coid et al. (2002)		X	X	X		X		X					X	
Cowburn et al. (2008)		X				X		X	X	X	X		X	X
Cull & Wehner (1998)	X	X		X	X	X	X	X					X	X
Dalton et al. (2009)		X				X		X					X	
Ellerby & Stonechilids (1998)		X				X	X	X	X			X		X
Fountain et al. (2007)	X	X			X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X
Haymann-Diaz (1989)	X		X		X		X			X				X
Jones et al. (2013)		X				X		X		X				X
King (1994)		X				X	X	X	X					X
Kunic & Varis (2010)		X				X	X	X	X					X
Le & Proulx (2015)		X				X	X	X	X	X				X
Mansion & Chassin (2016)		X				X		X					X	
Newberry (2010)		X				X		X		X	X	X	X	X
Nobles (1982)						X	X							X
Nowotny (2015)		X	X	X		X		X					X	
Patel & Lord (2001)		X				X		X		X		X		X
Rawal et al. (2004)		X				X		X				X	X	
Shearer et al. (2001)		X				X		X			X			

(Continued)

Table 2. Continued

Reference	Types of prison occupations				Level of involvement		Approach used in prison occupations			Participation theme				
	Active citizenship	Health care/treatment	Leisure-time	Reintegration	Active participation	Passive participation	Blended/Cultural/Language specific	Mainstream/generic	Effectiveness/impact	Experiences/perceptions	Motives and/or barriers	Needs	Participation rate/ access /opportunities/ determinants	Responsiveness
Simpson et al. (2003)		X				X		X					X	
Stewart et al. (2009)		X				X	X	X	X				X	
Trevethan et al. (2005)		X				X	X		X	X		X		X
Usher & Stewart (2011)		X				X	X	X	X					
Usher & Stewart (2014)		X				X	X	X	X					
Webster et al. (2004)		X				X		X	X					
Westrheim & Manger (2013)			X	X		X	X	X		X	X	X	X	
Westrheim & Manger (2014)			X	X		X	X	X		X	X	X	X	
Wilson et al. (2003)		X		X		X		X	X					
Youman et al. (2010)	X	X			X	X		X					X	
Young (1999)		X				X		X		X		X	X	X

Note. X = The study provided information about this topic

needs of foreign national and ethnic minority participants were reported in 11 studies (e.g., Borrill et al., 2003; Rawal et al., 2004; Westrheim & Manger, 2013). Nineteen studies studied the participation rate, access, or opportunities of participants. Of those 19 studies, 15 examined determinants, that is factors/variables that hindered or facilitated the participation of foreign nationals and ethnic minorities (e.g., Baglivio et al., 2017; Borrill et al., 2003; Coid et al., 2002). Eight of those 15 studies on determinants reported a lower participation rate, less participation access, or fewer participation opportunities for the whole group of foreign national and ethnic minorities or certain groups of foreign nationals (e.g., those without the right to stay in the country of imprisonment) and certain groups of ethnic minorities (e.g., African Americans) (e.g., Brosens et al., 2016; Cowburn et al., 2008; Dalton et al., 2009). For comparison, 7 of those 15 studies on determinants found mixed results on differences in participation rate, access, opportunities in terms of gender, types of prison occupations, being on medication for any type of physical/mental condition, etc. (e.g., Baglivio et al., 2017; Coid et al., 2002; Young, 1999). Finally, 15 studies reported on the responsiveness of the prison occupation (i.e., how it responded to the needs and/or culture of the ethnic minority participants, or how it should be developed) (e.g., Anitha, 2007; Brookes et al., 2012; Cull & Wehmer, 1998).

Discussion

This scoping review aimed to: (1) map available studies on foreign nationals' and ethnic minorities' participation in formally organized occupations in prisons, and (2) evaluate existing research topics on participation and types of occupations for prisoners. The goal of this discussion is to identify research gaps leading to future research avenues for each research objective.

Available studies on foreign nationals' and ethnic minorities' participation in formally organized prison occupations

The first research aim, insights derived from mapping available studies, yielded three main

recommendations for further research. First, and most generally, studying foreign nationals' and ethnic minorities' participation in formal occupations in prison seems to be a recent research area, especially research with foreign nationals, as limited studies are available. Therefore, more research on this topic is recommended. Second, in regard to the target group, the two categories lack clarity, with few studies detailing what 'ethnic minorities' and 'foreign nationals' include. In practice, nationality is often confused with ethnicity, which causes invalid assumptions on culture, language, religion, and residential status (Pakes & Holt, 2017). Although there is some overlap between those categories (Ugelvik, 2014), it is important to acknowledge that foreign nationals and ethnic minorities are distinct groups, as some of their needs are particular to their situation. For instance, only foreign nationals can face the penalty of being deported to their home country (Atabay, 2009). More information on the operationalization/conceptualization, and more uniformity in the use, of the categories 'ethnic minorities' and 'foreign nationals' and the sub-categories for describing ethnic minorities (for instance, black and African-American) would help in comparing research findings and would establish a better understanding of the prisoners in each group.

Third, and relatedly, this review has demonstrated that foreign national and ethnic minority prisoners are often approached as uni-dimensional, without considering different 'cultural' variables (e.g., ethnicity, nationality, language, country of birth). Also, previous research has found that foreign national prisoners are often clustered as a homogeneous group, despite their diversity in language, immigration status, and cultural backgrounds (Yildiz & Bartlett, 2011). From an intersectional perspective, human beings cannot be reduced to single identities (e.g., ethnicity, gender, social class). They are multi-dimensional, and shaped by an interplay of dynamics (Hankivsky, 2014). Consequently, we endorse the suggestion of Resnicow et al. (2000) that inadequate and insensitive occupations can be the result of what Trimble (1990) called 'ethnic glossing': failing to recognize the heterogeneity within an ethnic group. Therefore, it is important that future

research on foreign national and ethnic minority prisoners reflect on these diverse, social categories and how they intersect.

Evaluation of existing research topics on participation and types of prison occupations

Regarding the second research aim, evaluating existing research topics on participation and types of formal occupations in prison, four main research gaps can be identified. First, research on types of prison occupations is mainly conducted in the field of healthcare and treatment. This might not be surprising given the high rate of mental health problems among prisoners (Atabay, 2009). By contrast, little to no research focuses on their participation in reintegration occupations (e.g., prison work, (vocational) education), active citizenship (e.g., peer support), and leisure-time pursuits (e.g., sports, using the prison library). These occupations are important given their beneficial effects on prisoners' self-esteem (Edgar et al., 2011), relations with professional staff (Meek & Lewis, 2014), and recidivism rates (Davis et al., 2013). It is, therefore, vital to devote more research attention to foreign national and ethnic minority prisoners' participation in active citizenship, leisure-time, and reintegration occupations.

In addition, this scoping review focuses on ethnic minorities' and foreign nationals' participation in formally organized prison occupations. However, based on literature about participation in prison settings and occupational science literature, the concept of participation involves both formal and informal participation (Brosens, 2019; Kielhofner, 2008). As research also emphasizes the importance of prisoners' informal participation in prison as well (Brosens, 2019), this could be a fruitful avenue for further research.

Second, there is a serious lack of research into foreign nationals' and ethnic minorities' active participation. Despite research suggesting that ethnic minorities rely more on peer support than white prisoners do (Fountain et al., 2007), the opportunities for active involvement appear to be reserved for a small fraction of prisoners, with limited access for ethnic minority prisoners

(Edgar et al., 2011). Further research about this is warranted.

Third, the scoping review provides some evidence for the importance of acknowledging and considering the 'cultural' diversity among prisoners in implementing occupations. Most of those studied fall within the mainstream category. The meta-analysis of Wilson et al. (2003) reported that mainstream occupations provided in prison, without cultural tailoring, do not deliver poorer outcomes for ethnic minorities compared to white youth prisoners. Although these scholars supported the implementation of mainstream occupations for ethnic minorities, they critically question their own findings by arguing that culturally sensitive occupations may benefit, for instance, ethnic minorities' experiences of those occupations and the likelihood of their participation. Other included studies emphasized the importance of implementing blended or culture-/language-specific occupations, for instance, in terms of strengthening treatment engagement and lower recidivism rates (Kunic & Varis, 2010). However, an occupational point of view is more comprehensive by pointing to the need for a person-centred practice (Crabtree et al., 2016).

In addition, this scoping review demonstrates that the framework of blended and culture-specific occupations is mainly applied in treatment and healthcare services for ethnic minority prisoners. This is unsurprising, as cultural sensitivity is one of the most acknowledged assumptions in public health (Resnicow et al., 2000). With little to no results available on culturally specific principles for other types of occupations (e.g., active citizenship, leisure time, reintegration), future studies could explore the (potential) needs of foreign national prisoners for culturally-specific occupations and how they should be developed.

Fourth, in terms of participation rate, access and opportunities, there seem to be differences between studies, with adverse outcomes for foreign nationals and ethnic minorities sometimes recorded. Townsend and Wilcock (2004) considered such adverse restrictions to participation as matters of occupational injustice. However, from an occupational perspective, it is important to keep in mind that an individual's participation is shaped by both the person and

the environment. It is shaped by the individual because participation is influenced by a person's motivations, capabilities, habits, and constraints; but, at the same time, it is contextual, as the environment in which a person participates can either facilitate or prevent participation (Kielhofner, 2008). Based on the findings of this scoping review, research could further explore the participation rate, access, and opportunities in different occupations of foreign nationals and ethnic minorities as compared to the dominant national and ethnic prisoners.

Limitations

This paper provides a unique contribution to mapping existing evidence on foreign nationals' and ethnic minorities' participation in formally organized occupations within prisons. Nevertheless, this review has some limitations. First, only full-text English-language studies were included, so it is plausible that valuable studies published in other languages have been missed. Consequently, additional studies may supplement or challenge the conclusions drawn from this review. Second, in this review, the occupations have been organized and examined as broad categorical descriptions. We acknowledge the diversity of occupations as well as differences in context (e.g., time) for each occupation. However, we have not taken this into account during our analysis, as we wanted to obtain a broad overview of foreign nationals' and ethnic minorities' participation. Third, a limitation can be formulated regarding this scoping review's focus on only formal participation, as the concept of participation encompasses both formal and informal participation (Brosens, 2019; Kielhofner, 2008). Consequently, this scoping review provides only preliminary insights into foreign national and ethnic minority prisoners' participation. Finally, as participation in occupations in prisons was often not the main research focus of the reviewed articles, the results need to be interpreted with caution.

Implications for policy and prison practice

The findings of this scoping review have several implications for policy and prison practice. First, it is important that policy makers integrate and

implement the legal frameworks of the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (United Nations, 2016) and the European Prison Rules (Council of Europe, 2006) within existing prison legislations and policies to provide equal access to diverse prison occupations for marginalized groups such as foreign national and ethnic minority prisoners. This could lead to benefits such as more well-balanced feelings (Falardeau et al., 2015), better relations between prison staff and prisoners (Meek & Lewis, 2014), and less re-offending (Davis et al., 2013).

Second, in terms of prisoners' involvement in occupations available in prisons, we found that active participation is reserved for only a small group of prisoners. Activity organizers should try to involve more prisoners in setting up and providing occupations to fellow prisoners. However, it is important to keep in mind that not all prisoners want to take up a more active role. Nonetheless, barriers to active participation need to be reduced as far as possible for those who want to become actively involved (Brosens, 2019).

Third, from an intersectional perspective, individuals experience multiple identities (e.g., ethnicity, gender) (Hankivsky, 2014). Consequently, following an occupational perspective, occupations should be person-centred, targeting the individuals' needs (Crabtree et al., 2016).

Conclusion

This scoping review provides preliminary insights into (1) available studies on foreign nationals' and ethnic minorities' participation in formally organized occupations in prisons, and (2) existing research topics on participation and types of formally organized prison occupations. Findings of this scoping review highlight that research on this topic is rather scarce, in particular concerning foreign national prisoners. Furthermore, the results reflect that there is unequal research attention regarding types of prison occupations studied, with a focus on healthcare and treatment programs. Finally, this review provides some evidence of the importance of acknowledging and considering 'cultural' diversity among prisoners in providing and developing occupations available to prisoners. As participation is a right for all prisoners (Council of Europe, 2006; United Nations,

2016) and barriers to participation can be seen as a matter of occupational injustice (Townsend & Wilcock, 2004), it would appear vital that research, policy, and prison practice pay more attention to these underserved sub-populations of prisoners to facilitate optimal participation.

Endnote

1. The international literature predominantly uses the terms (activity) participation and prison activities. To conform to the journal's focus, in this paper, 'activity' is replaced by the concept of occupation to give emphasis to the meaning educational, vocational, recreational, and other pursuits hold for people, even within the prison environment. We variously refer to such pursuits as 'formally organized occupations in prisons' or 'prison occupations', as distinct from occupations prisoners might engage in within their prison cells or everyday occupations such as meal-times and showering. Participation is understood to be implicitly occupational in nature.

Disclosure statement

No potential conflict of interest was reported by the author(s).

Funding

This work was supported by the Research Foundation Flanders (FWO) under Grant number G026917N and is carried out within the FIP²-project (Foreigners' Involvement and Participation in Prison).

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Appendix 1. Search terms

TITLE: (foreign* OR rac* OR ethnic* OR *migra* OR illegal* OR nationalit* OR cultur*) **AND TITLE:**

(*prison* OR detainee* OR offender* OR inmate* OR jail OR captive* OR penitentiary* OR incarcerat* OR penal institution* OR correctional OR detention) **AND TITLE:** (participa* OR involve* OR engage* OR tak* part OR join* in OR program* OR intervention* OR activit* OR leisure OR learn* OR treatment OR service* OR rehabilitation OR recreation* OR entertain* OR education* OR sport* OR exercis* OR gym OR training OR cult* OR art* OR visit* OR religio* OR peer OR council* OR active citizenship OR work* OR labo*r OR employ* OR job OR course* OR theat* OR film OR movie* OR performance* OR ICT OR librar* OR computer OR reintegrat* OR volunteer*)