Contents

1 Introduction ........................................ 1
   1.1 Life courses of organized crime offenders .......... 1
   1.2 Developmental and life-course criminology .......... 4
   1.3 Manifestations of organized crime in the Netherlands . 11
   1.4 Criminal careers of organized crime offenders ....... 14
   1.5 Current research questions ........................ 18
   1.6 Data ........................................ 19
   1.7 Thesis outline .................................. 27

2 Criminal trajectories in organized crime .................. 29
   2.1 Introduction ...................................... 29
   2.2 Life-course criminology and criminal careers of older offenders ................................ 31
   2.3 Pathways into organized crime ...................... 33
   2.4 Current study ...................................... 35
   2.5 Data and operationalization ........................ 36
   2.6 Results .......................................... 39
   2.7 Discussion ........................................ 46
   Appendix ............................................. 50

3 Comparing criminal careers of organized crime offenders and general offenders ................. 53
   3.1 Organized versus ordinary crime .................... 53
   3.2 Previous empirical findings ........................ 57
   3.3 Research questions ................................ 58
   3.4 Data ............................................. 58
   3.5 Results .......................................... 62
   3.6 Discussion and conclusions ........................ 70

4 Involvement mechanisms for organized crime ............... 73
   4.1 Introduction ....................................... 73
   4.2 Organized crime and crime causation theories .......... 75
   4.3 Social capital resources for organized crime .......... 77
   4.4 Individual involvement processes .................... 83
   4.5 Data and methods .................................. 84
   4.6 Results .......................................... 85
   4.7 Discussion ....................................... 93
5 The truck driver who bought a café: Offenders on their involvement mechanisms for organized crime

5.1 Introduction ................................................. 97
5.2 Opportunities and capacities for organized crime ........ 98
5.3 Methodology ............................................... 101
5.4 Results ..................................................... 105
5.5 Discussion .................................................. 110

6 General conclusions ........................................... 113

6.1 Aims .......................................................... 113
6.2 Summary of the main results ............................... 114
6.3 Discussion .................................................. 118
6.4 Scientific progress ......................................... 129
6.5 Public relevance ............................................. 131
6.6 Future research ............................................. 132
6.7 Conclusions ................................................ 134

References ......................................................... 135

Samenvatting (Dutch summary) ................................ 149

Dankwoord (Acknowledgements) ................................ 157

Curriculum vitae ................................................ 159

Publications ....................................................... 161
List of Tables

Table 1. Characteristics of offenders ........................................ 40
Table 2. Judicial history ....................................................... 41
Table 3. Descriptive statistics for different trajectory groups .......... 42
Table 4. Distribution of suspects over trajectory groups ............... 46
Table 5. Criminal career characteristics ................................... 63
Table 6. Criminal career characteristics for fraud and drug offenders . 69
Table 7. Overview of participants ............................................ 104

List of Figures

Figure 1. Overview of data sources ........................................... 22
Figure 2. Criminal convictions over age by trajectory group .......... 42
Figure 3. Distribution of age at criterion case ............................ 60
Figure 4. Maximum penalties for relevant offences ....................... 64
Figure 5. Intermittency in the offenders’ judicial history ............... 65
Figure 6. Distribution of age at first judicial contact ...................... 66
Figure 7. Mean lambda in the judicial ancestry by onset age ............ 67
Figure 8. Mean seriousness of offending by onset age .................... 67
Figure 9. Visual representation of relationships ............................ 88