

University of Groningen

The 'other' side of compassion

Meerholz, Ernst

IMPORTANT NOTE: You are advised to consult the publisher's version (publisher's PDF) if you wish to cite from it. Please check the document version below.

Document Version

Publisher's PDF, also known as Version of record

Publication date:

2018

[Link to publication in University of Groningen/UMCG research database](#)

Citation for published version (APA):

Meerholz, E. W. (2018). The 'other' side of compassion: How the self avoids responsibility for past wrongs [Groningen]: University of Groningen

Copyright

Other than for strictly personal use, it is not permitted to download or to forward/distribute the text or part of it without the consent of the author(s) and/or copyright holder(s), unless the work is under an open content license (like Creative Commons).

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.

Downloaded from the University of Groningen/UMCG research database (Pure): <http://www.rug.nl/research/portal>. For technical reasons the number of authors shown on this cover page is limited to 10 maximum.

**The 'other' side of compassion:
How the self avoids responsibility for past wrongs**

Ernst Willem Meerholz

Cover design: Sinan Subaşı, www.behance.net/SinanSubasi

Printing: Ridderprint BV, www.ridderprint.nl

ISBN (printed version): 978-94-034-0369-4

ISBN (electronic version): 978-94-034-0368-7

© 2017 Ernst Willem Meerholz. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise, without prior permission in writing from the proprietor.



university of
 groningen

The ‘other’ side of compassion

How the self avoids responsibility for past wrongs

PhD thesis

to obtain the degree of PhD at the
 University of Groningen
 on the authority of the
 Rector Magnificus Prof. E. Sterken
 and in accordance with
 the decision by the College of Deans

This thesis will be defended in public on
 Monday 29 January 2018 at 14.30 hours

By

Ernst Willem Meerholz

born on 21 February 1987
 in Groningen, The Netherlands

Supervisor

Prof. R. Spears

Co-supervisor

Dr. K. Epstude

Assessment committee

Prof. A. S. R. Manstead

Prof. E. J. Doosje

Prof. S. Scheibe

Table of contents

| | | |
|------------------|--|-----|
| Chapter 1 | General introduction | 7 |
| Chapter 2 | It's not about us, it's about you: How compassion can ironically deflect guilt, shame and anger for high identifiers of a perpetrator group | 23 |
| Chapter 3 | Having pity on our victim's soul to save ours: Compassion reduces self-critical emotions and self-blame about past harmful behaviour among those who highly identify with their past self | 57 |
| Chapter 4 | Let's focus on you: When the other-focused nature of compassion and an imagine other-perspective can ironically reduce regret, responsibility and reparation support among perpetrator group members | 97 |
| Chapter 5 | General discussion | 131 |
| | References | 147 |
| | Dutch summary (Nederlandstalige samenvatting) | 159 |
| | Acknowledgements | 177 |
| | Curriculum Vitae | 181 |
| | KLI dissertation series | 185 |

