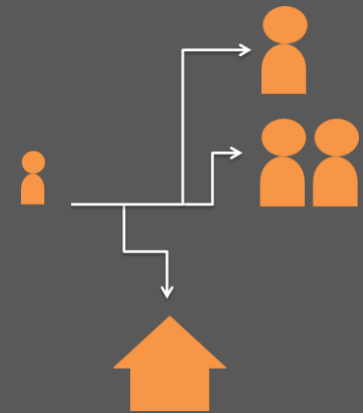


Cross-national comparison of caseworkers' attitudes towards child welfare issues and their impact in assessments and decisions to place a child out-of-home

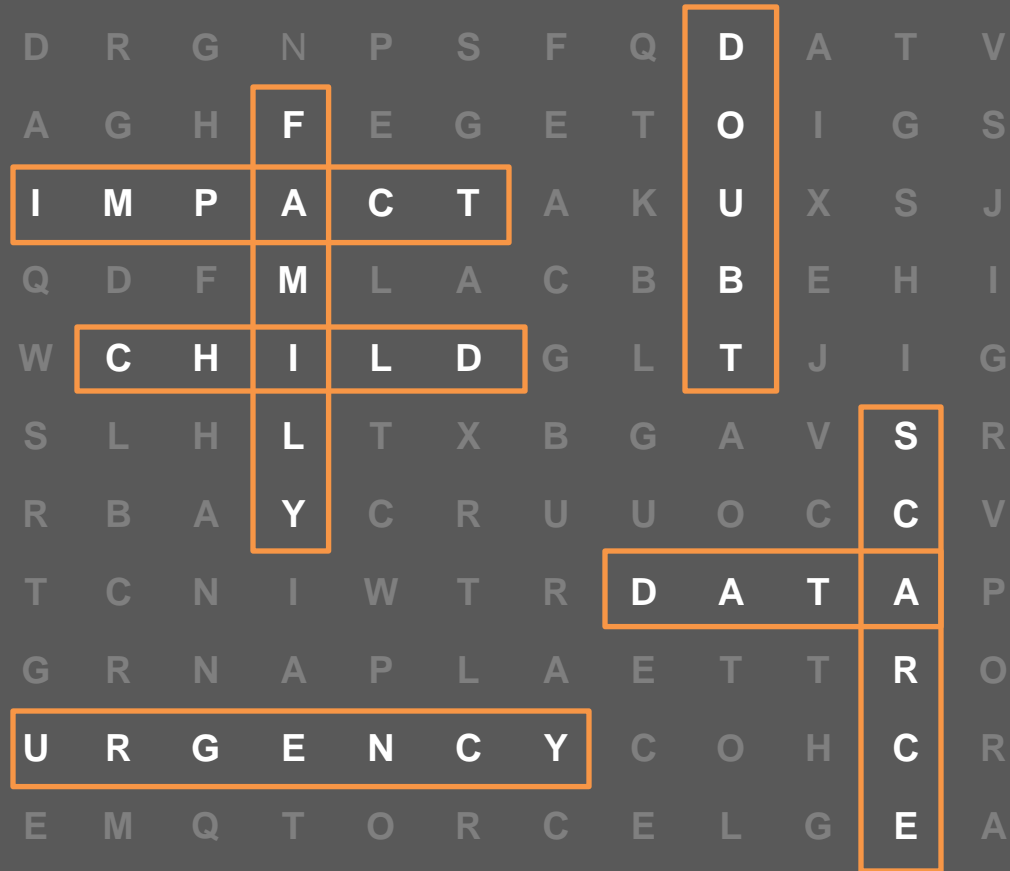
Mónica López, A. Carien Koopmans and Erik J. Knorth (University of Groningen, The Netherlands); Cilia Witteman (Radboud University, The Netherlands), Rami Benbenishty (Bar Ilan University, Israel), Bilhah Davidson-Arad (Tel Aviv University, Israel); Jorge F. del Valle (University of Oviedo, Spain); Trevor Spratt, David Hayes and John Devaney (Queen's University Belfast, Northern Ireland)



7th International Foster Care Research Meeting Padova, 9-11 September 2013

Foster Care in Europe: What do we know about outcomes and evidence?

Decision making



in child welfare

“

*decisions to place children in out-of-home care are currently **arbitrary** and the consequences of these decisions are largely **unknown***

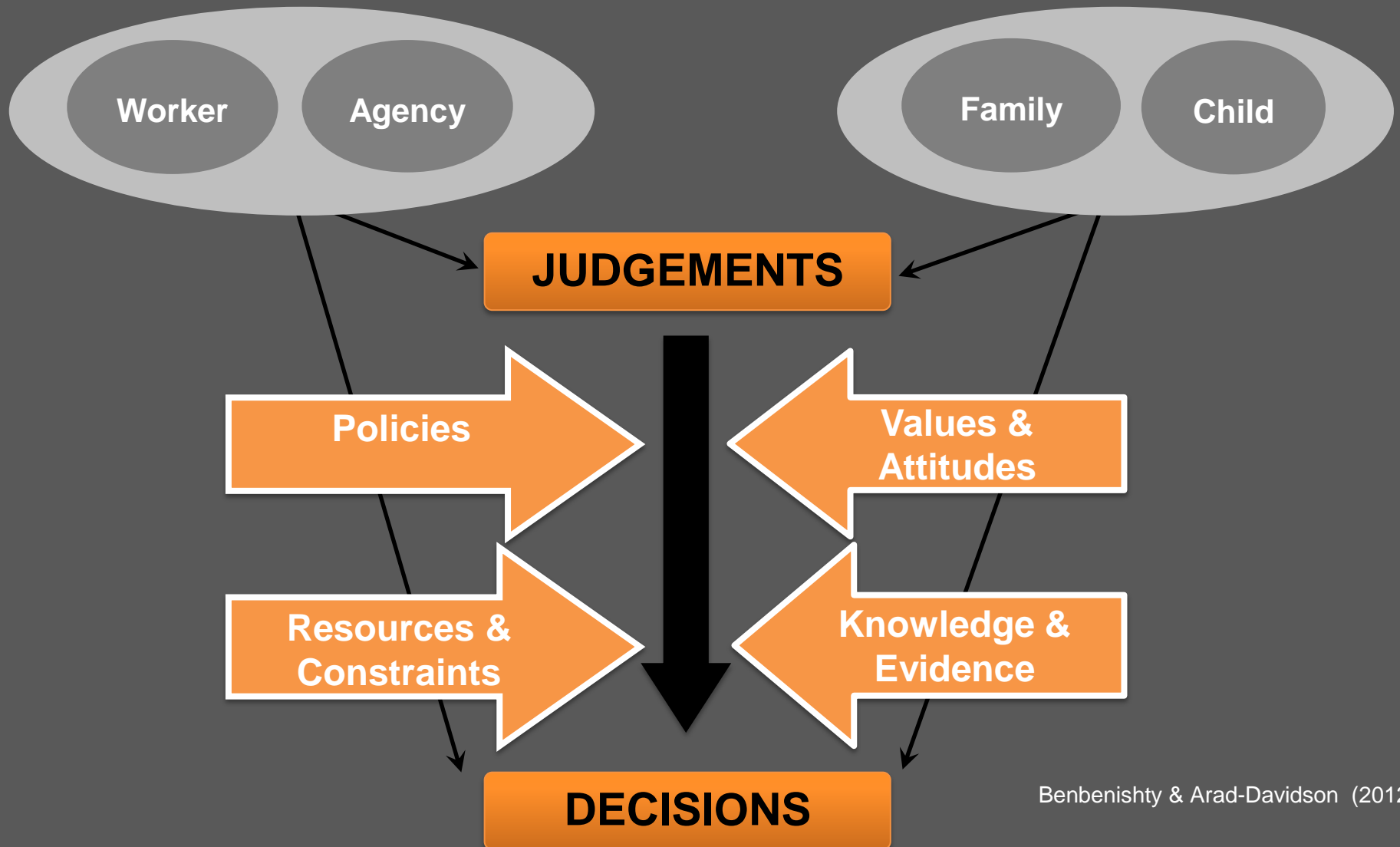
McDonald et al. (1996)

*empirically grounded standardized **criteria** for placement decisions are still **lacking***

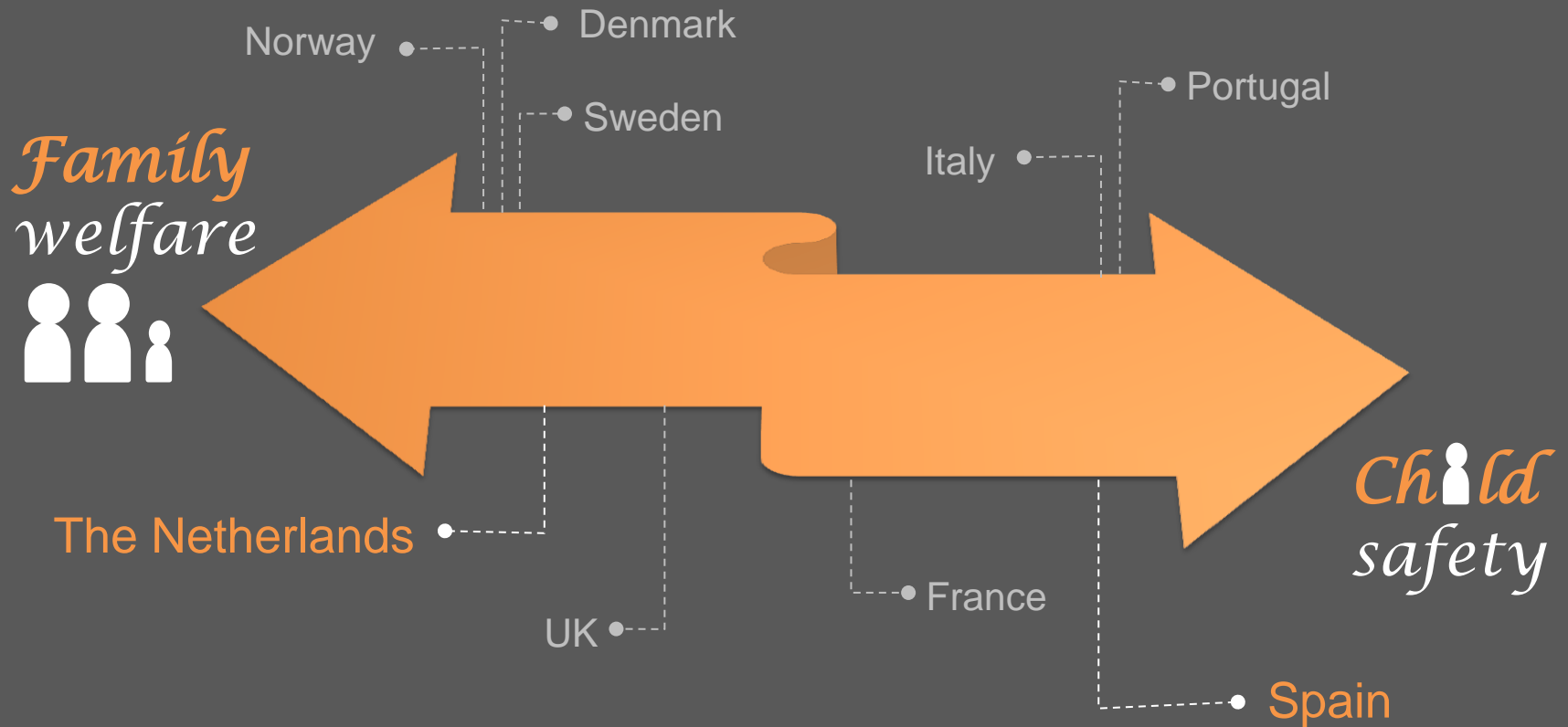
Bates (1997)

”

Judgment and Decision Processes in Context (JuDPiC)



Child protection



International study on decision-making in child care

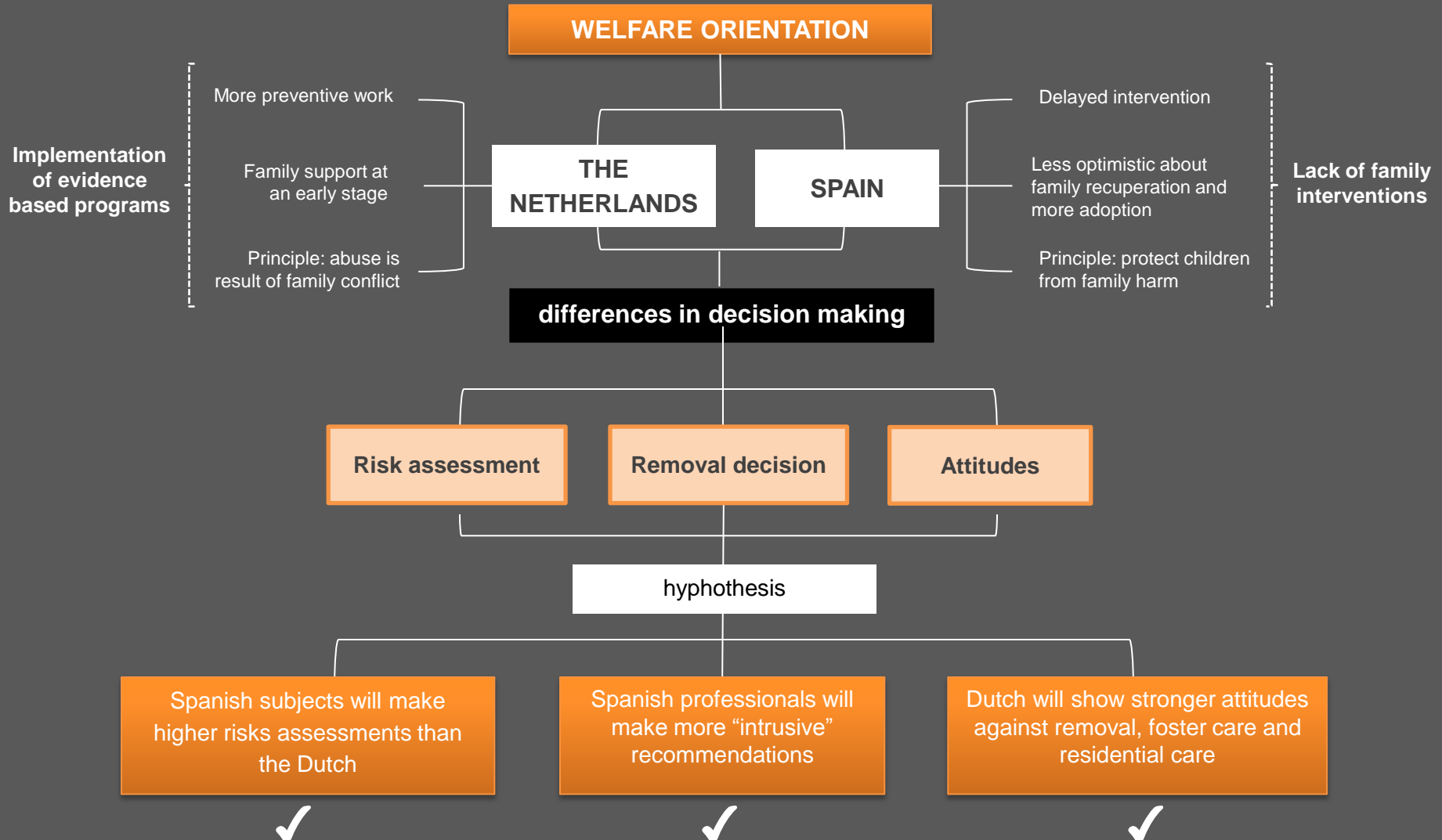
- Germany, Israel, the Netherlands, Northern Ireland and Spain
- 1034 child care workers
- Focus: role of context and influence of attitudes
- Vignette + Child Welfare Attitudes Questionnaire

1. Against removal from home of children
2. Favor reunification and optimal duration of care
3. Positive assessment of foster care
4. Positive assessment of residential care
5. Favors children's participation in the decisions
6. Favors parents participation in the decisions

Decision making regarding suspected child maltreatment in *Spain* and *The Netherlands*



Decision making regarding suspected child maltreatment in *Spain* and *The Netherlands*



International study on decision-making regarding suspected child maltreatment



Differences in attitudes between countries

	Israel	N. Ireland	Spain	Germany	Netherlands
Against removal from home of children at risk	3.11 (.51)	3.19 (.57)	3.02 ^b (.54)	2.77 ^{abc} (.49)	3.16 ^{cd} (.53)
Favor Reunification and short-optimal duration of alternative care	3.02 (.65)	3.28 ^a (.64)	3.05 ^b (.56)	2.90 ^b (.56)	2.98 ^b (.56)
Favor children's participation in the decisions	3.47 (.54)	3.78 ^a (.48)	3.44 ^b (.58)	3.42 ^b (.51)	3.02 ^{abcd} (.45)
Favor parent's participation in the decisions	3.43 (.43)	3.43 (.47)	3.04 ^{ab} (.49)	3.13 ^{abc} (.45)	3.02 ^{abd} (.38)
Negative view of foster care	2.55 (.44)	2.48 (.52)	2.33 ^{ab} (.50)	2.43 ^{ac} (.39)	2.48 ^c (.36)
Negative view of residential care	2.41 (.45)	3.12 ^a (.56)	2.65 ^{ab} (.48)	2.41 ^{bc} (.40)	2.81 ^{abcd} (.50)

(F(24, 3964)=30.79, p < .001)

Significantly different from: a. Israel b. N. Ireland c. Spain d. Germany

Substantiation by country

	Israel	N. Ireland	Spain	Germany	Netherlands
Emotional Abuse	4.49 (.73)	4.67 ^a (.49)	4.55 (.58)	3.90 ^{abc} (.89)	4.02 ^{abc} (.86)
Physical Abuse	3.85 (.85)	3.73 (.93)	3.71 ^a (.86)	3.72 (.87)	3.41 ^{abcd} (.79)
Emotional Neglect	4.63 (.59)	4.64 (.53)	4.51 ^{ab} (.60)	4.52 (.56)	4.47 ^{ab} (.59)
Physical Neglect	4.38 (.70)	4.39 (.80)	4.33 (.71)	4.10 ^{abc} (.76)	4.14 ^{abc} (.68)
Sexual Abuse	1.60 (.75)	2.71 ^a (1.60)	1.90 ^{ab} (.78)	1.73 ^b (.57)	2.19 ^{ab} (.67)

(F(20, 3696)=16.49, p < .001)

Significantly different from: a. Israel b. N. Ireland c. Spain d. Germany

Intervention Recommendation by Country

	Israel	N. Ireland	Spain	Germany	Netherland
Direct social work without additional services	19 9.1%	3 1.6%	44 21.8%	9 4.6%	25 11.7%
Direct social work with additional services	136 65.4%	114 59.4%	51 25.2%	107 54.9%	122 57.0%
Removal from home	53 25.5%	75 39%	107 53%	79 40.5%	67 31.3%

($\chi^2(12) = 143.82, p < .001$)

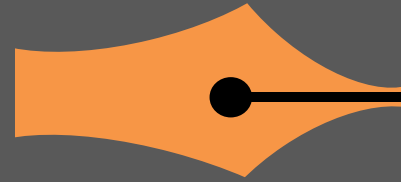
Conclusión  *ns*



*Thank you
for your
attention*

monicalopezlopez@gmail.com
University of Groningen

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