



Ward Vanlaar

Chief Operating Officer Traffic Injury Research Foundation

Ward Vanlaar is the Chief Operating Officer (COO) of the Traffic Injury Research Foundation (TIRF), a charitable, independent road safety institute. TIRF is a world leader in research, safety programs, and policy development.

As both a statistician and criminologist, Ward brings a unique set of quantitative and methodological skills to TIRF. Ward is trilingual (professional proficiency in English, French and Dutch).

Career and research highlights:

- > Ward's main fields of interest are traffic enforcement issues, risky driving behaviours, young drivers, senior drivers, statistics and methodology, data management, safety performance indicators, and implementation of road safety programs.
- > Before working at TIRF, Ward worked for the Behaviour and Policy Department of the Belgian Road Safety Institute (IBSR) from 1999 to 2005, where he served as Head of Research from 2001 to 2005.
- > Ward has authored many reports and articles in the grey literature and the peer-reviewed academic literature on a variety of topics including drinking and driving, drugged driving, fatigued driving, distracted driving, cognitive impairment, aggressive driving, senior drivers, graduated driver licensing (GDL), automated vehicles and risk compensation, wildlife vehicle crashes, roadside surveys, survey research, multilevel modeling, and multidimensional scaling.
- > During his career Ward has blended academic research with meaningful real-world implementation of proven road safety countermeasures by providing technical assistance to a broad variety of audiences around the world.

Academic highlights:

- > He received his Ph.D. in Transportation Science from the University of Hasselt in Belgium in 2009.
- > Ward has a Master's degree in Criminology from Ghent University (1999) and a Master's degree in Quantitative Analysis from the Catholic University of Brussels (2001).
- > He taught quantitative methods in criminology as a part-time professor at the University of Ottawa, both in English and French, and has taught multivariate analysis as a Teaching Fellow at the Essex University Summer School. He also served as a guest faculty member at the University of Hasselt where he taught a course on traffic safety.
- > Ward is an Associate Editor of Accident Analysis and Prevention (AAP), a Handling Editor of Transportation Research Record (TRR): Journal of the Transportation Research Board, and an editorial board member of the Journal of Safety Research (JSR).

Professional memberships and affiliations:

- > Member of the Committee on Safety Data, Analysis and Evaluation of the Transportation Research Board (TRB) of the National Academies;
- > Member of the Committee on Alcohol, Other Drugs and Transportation of the Transportation Research Board (TRB) of the National Academies;
- > Member and previous board member of the Canadian Association of Road Safety Professionals (CARSP/ACPSER);
- > Member and previous board member of the Association of Transportation Safety Information Professionals (ATSIP);
- > Member of the International Council on Alcohol, Drugs and Traffic Safety (ICADTS); and,
- > Member of the American Probation and Parole Association (APPA).