

Seminar Series 2009

Wednesday 25 March 2009

Neighbourhood and school climate effects on delinquency among students attending Toronto schools

Presented by Dr Robin Fitzgerald

Seminar Abstract

Extant research has theorized that student violent and delinquent behaviour is influenced by community and school conditions, yet few studies have tested this proposition directly and none of these studies have been conducted in the Canadian context. Dr Fitzgerald will present results from two studies in this area. The first study explores factors that may explain variation in student involvement in delinquency across Toronto schools. The aim is to assess whether contextual-level factors, related to the school and the neighbourhood in which the school is located, exert any independent effects on the students' chances of involvement in violent and delinquent behaviour, over and above students' individual characteristics. The second study explores the possibility that parenting strategies are more or less effective at reducing youth violent behaviour depending on the school contexts to which youth are exposed. In particular, the paper tests the hypothesis that the negative influence of poor parental monitoring on youth violent behaviour is magnified when youths are also exposed to a negative school climate and a pool of delinquent peers. Both studies employ multilevel analyses of the International Self-Report Delinquency Survey (ISRD), collected in Toronto schools in 2006, in addition to geocoded police-reported crime incident data and census data.

About the Speaker

Dr Robin Fitzgerald is a research fellow at the Key Centre for Ethics, Law, Justice and Governance at Griffith University. She received her PhD in 2008 from Carleton University in Ottawa, Canada. She spent 12 years at the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics where, as a senior analyst, she completed research on youth delinquency, neighbourhood and community effects on crime, the spatial distribution of crime, and disproportionate minority contact with the justice system.

Wednesday 25 March 2009

12:30pm – 2:00pm

Mt Gravatt Campus, Building M10 Social Sciences, Room 5.01

Tea, Coffee & Biscuits will be provided

RSVP preferred - please email rachael.williams@griffith.edu.au or phone 3735 5997 if you will be attending.

For further information on the Key Centre and Seminar Series visit www.griffith.edu.au/kceljag