

Key Centre for Ethics, Law, Justice and Governance

Seminar Series 2009

Thursday 10 December 2009

Visible Minorities and Confidence in the Police

Presented by Dr Liqun Cao

Seminar Abstract

Few studies have been conducted about differential public perceptions of the police in Canada. Based on the 2004 General Social Survey of Canada, this article examined the impact of visible minorities on citizens' confidence in the police. Consistent with the theoretical prediction, the results of multiple regression analyses show that visible minorities had lower levels of confidence than Canadian whites even after the effects of perceptions, community contexts, and crime-related variables were controlled for. The small but persistent effect of visible minorities raises questions about racial relationships in Canada. Other interesting significant predictors of confidence in the police are residence in Quebec, community context, perceptions, and crime experiences. The findings indicate that equal racial confidence in the police is yet to be achieved and continued reform measures are needed for the police force to win the hearts and minds of visible minorities in Canada.

About the Speaker

Liqun Cao, Ph.D. (1993), is Professor of Sociology and Criminology at the University of Ontario Institute of Technology, Canada. His research interests include comparative studies, criminological theory, gun ownership, minority-majority relationship, and policing. His research essays have appeared in many national and international journals, including *Australian & New Zealand Journal of Criminology*, *Journal of Criminal Justice*, *Justice Quarterly*, *Policing*, *Social Forces* etc. Prof. Cao published his monograph "*Major Criminological Theories: Concepts and Measurement*" and a co-edited book "*Lessons From International/Comparative Criminology/ Criminal Justice*" in 2004. In addition, he has three co-authored criminological books in Chinese. He spent his sabbatical leave as a visiting scholar at Max Planck Institute of International Criminal Law and Criminology, Germany in 2000 and another sabbatical leave as a visiting professor at National Taipei University in 2007. He was a Fulbright Senior Scholar in Lithuania in 2005.

Thursday 10 December 2009

2:00pm - 3:30pm

Mt Gravatt Campus, Building M10 Social Sciences, Level 5, Room 5.01

Light refreshments served on arrival.

RSVP preferred - please email kceljag-events@griffith.edu.au or phone 3735 5997 by Tuesday 8 December 2009.