

Key Centre for Ethics, Law, Justice and Governance

Monday 3 August 2009

A Watchful Eye; A Helping Hand?: 'Third-Party Policing' and Philanthropic Action in the UK night-time economy

Presented by Dr Philip Hadfield

Seminar Abstract

Criminologists, practitioners and policy makers increasingly recognise that responses to crime, disorder and substance use in the streets of our towns and cities cannot be the sole responsibility of the police and other public services. Whilst public sector 'partnerships' are legally required to develop strategies to these ends, they almost invariably seek assistance from private individuals, businesses, the voluntary sector and charitable organisations. Academic research has highlighted the emergence of an extended 'family' of publicly-funded street patrols, but has neglected the street-level policing and welfare activities conducted by these 'third parties'. Various agencies working in and around the night-time economy of British cities provide an excellent example of these third party policing (TPP) processes in action. Charities such as the Street Pastors have a rapidly expanding network of local projects which operate alongside those of statutory authorities. In addition to these 'citizens' patrols', so-called 'safe havens' have been established which operate as drop-in centres for people seeking physical assistance, counselling and basic first aid. The private sector also plays important roles, with taxi services helping to

disperse crowds and remove people from scenes of danger. Taxi drivers also witness crimes, accidental injuries, and high risk behaviours involving intoxicated persons; and often possess local knowledge and access to communication and tracking technologies. Charitable organisations and taxi drivers may, however, retain deeply rooted values and 'ways of working' which militate against full integration into the agendas of public sector networks, particularly those of the criminal justice system. This paper will discuss a range of issues to be explored in a proposed 3-year UK-wide research project. Issues for discussion include how and in what ways such activities enhance public protection over and above the provisions of local statutory partnerships; how each agency in each location approaches staff training in relation to TPP, what are TPP's key concerns and values; how are welfare objectives balanced with those of crime control; is the assistance provided conditioned by assessments of moral worth? How are benefits distributed and how is knowledge shared? Are private and voluntary sector approaches different, and what can the public sector learn from them?

About the Speaker

Dr Phil Hadfield is Senior Research Fellow at the Centre for Criminal Justice Studies, School of Law, University of Leeds, UK. He research interests include;

- Urban civility and the governance of public space
- Nightlife cultures and the regulation and policing of the 'night-time economy'
- Comparative criminology
- Innovations in qualitative research methodology
- Domestic wildlife crime

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12:30pm - 2:00pm

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 Thursday 30 July 2009.