No Risk Developments: Crime Risk Assessments in NSW

Dr. Murray Lee, Senior Lecturer in Criminology and Director of the Sydney Institute of Criminology at the University of Sydney

Date: Monday 17 June 2011
Time: 1:00pm - 2:30pm
Venue: School meeting rooms via video link
Kingswood Campus Building P.G.26
Bankstown Campus Building 1.1.30

ABSTRACT
The control of crime has increasingly incorporated ‘pre-crime’ (Zedner 2009) processes and technologies imagined in the context of preventative and spatial turns (Hughes 2007). The assessment and minimization of crime risk has permeated through practices and processes that extend well beyond traditional criminal justice systems. This paper analyses the largely ignored risk-informed mechanism of crime risk assessment reports as an example of what has been termed ‘security governance’ (Valverde 2011). The specific analytical focus is on an assemblage of crime prevention or security projects in New South Wales (NSW). Under the NSW Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 79c crime risk assessment reports are required for many large-scale commercial and residential developments and redevelopments. The paper uses an analytical framework drawn from the governmentality literature, but specifically deploys and tests Valverde’s questions of security (2011) framework. The paper suggests that although the crime risk assessment reports analysed here deploy a language that equates with a specific risk logic, there is a messiness and inconsistency in practice that raises significant questions about their utility.

SPEAKERS
Dr. Murray Lee is a senior lecturer in criminology and director of the Sydney Institute of Criminology at the University of Sydney. He is author of Inventing Fear of Crime: Criminology and the Politics of Anxiety and co-author of Fear of Crime: Critical Voices in an Age of Anxiety. He is currently researching in the areas of police public relations and crime prevention.

Plan to attend this regular series of seminars

For information contact: Laura Schatz (Convenor) L.Schatz@uws.edu.au