Physical Security
Observatory Report *

May 2010

This report contains recent references in the field of policing written between 2009 and 2010 by the following authors:

- Laurence Abbott
- Jan Bachmann
- Jyoti Belur
- Hans Boutellier
- Mark Button
- Benoît Dupont
- Graham Ellison
- Jerome Ferret
- Benjamin Goold
- Peter Grabosky
- Jana Hönke
- Martin Innes
- Trevor Jones
- Irvin Kinnes
- Anthony LaRose
- Ian Loader
- Trudy Lowe
- Cynthia Lum
- Sean Maddan
- John Manzo
- Otwin Marenin
- Lorraine Mazerolle
- Andreas Mehler
- Mary O’Rawe
- Hyeonho Park
- Janet Ransley
- Colin Roberts
- Tony Roshan Samara
- Graham Smith
- Vincent Spenlehauer
- Elizabeth Stanko
- Jonny Steinberg
- Justice Tankebe
- Angelica Thumala
- Ronald van Steden
- Jennifer Wood
- Lena Zhonge

Your comments and suggestions are welcome. Please forward topics for research and newly released articles to Jameelah.Omar@uct.ac.za.

Abstract: This article analyses the merging of development and security in Western policies vis-à-vis ‘deficient’ states in the Global South, looking at the social life of anti-terror policies in Kenya. The attacks on 11 September 2001 renewed the interest in strong and stable states, leading many donors to focus on capacity building and security sector reform. In Kenya, the repressive use of these new powers by the Kibaki government has created significant resistance and the main external actors have taken the local opposition into account and have adapted their anti-terror agendas. They have complemented hard security assistance with soft interventions aimed at addressing local issues such as conflict prevention and development in communities perceived as being ‘at risk’ of harbouring terrorists. Representing a more general shift in security interventions in Africa, countering terrorism is now presented as part of a broader ‘peace and security’ agenda, but despite using new methods to engage with so-called crucial parts of the population, this repositioning is not a paradigm shift. Despite the different approaches and objectives, the various projects have ambiguous effects and donors have not abandoned the traditional rationality, which privileges homeland protection over civil rights in the recipient country.

Available at:  
http://afraf.oxfordjournals.org/cgi/content/full/109/434/97


Abstract: This paper attempts to answer the question: why do the police use deadly force in a democratic country? Police shootings in India are better known as encounters, a term that refers to a specific type of police contact—a spontaneous, unplanned ‘shoot-out’ between the police and alleged criminals, in which the criminal is usually killed, with few or no police injuries. The police use of deadly force remains largely unquestioned or unaccountable. This paper explores the wider structural and systemic factors that create conditions in which killing ‘hardened’ criminals seems to be the last resort for the police to gain some control in the fight against crime. Wider cultural and specifically police sub-cultural factors that make police killing of alleged criminals both feasible and acceptable in a democratic country are discussed. Based on a qualitative study of Mumbai police officers’ narratives accounting for use of deadly force, the paper draws upon wider policing literature in the United Kingdom, United States, Australia, South Africa and certain Latin American countries to explain why this form of police violence occurs.

Available at:  
http://bjc.oxfordjournals.org/cgi/reprint/50/2/320

**Abstract:** This paper provides empirical data on security officers in South Korea. It begins by examining broader international research on security officers identifying key traits, before assessing the findings from this research, which are based upon interviews with 60 security officers drawn from three distinct sites where they are commonly used in South Korea. These include an apartment complex, factory and retail outlet. The findings suggest several parallels with other empirical research on security officers in the United Kingdom and USA, including low commitment to job, long working hours, feelings of alienation and experience of abuse and violence. The research also shows a distinct older profile of security officers at two of the assignments and most significantly, very low levels of confidence in their knowledge of their legal tools as well as rare use of them.

Available at:

http://www.informaworld.com/smpp/content~content=a914863775~db=all~jumptype=rss


The article reviews the book "Security" by Lucia Zedner.

Available at:

http://www.informaworld.com/smpp/content~content=a919088236~db=all~jumptype=rss


**Abstract:** Based on a nodal governance perspective, this article attempts to make the case for connecting disciplinary perspectives in the study of urban governance. We argue for more robust analytical enterprises that incorporate mixes of quantitative and qualitative techniques that capture both "bottom-up" and "top-down" empirical developments. Whilst stressing the need to measure the nature and strength of ties between governing nodes, we suggest there must be equal emphasis on depicting the various rationalities, and the forms of knowledge and capacities that inform them, at various nodal sites. We also highlight a number of cross-disciplinary contributions that could be made to this project by research fields such as psychology, economics, health and social work, geography and urban planning. The authors draw from the work they are undertaking respectively in Montreal, Canada and in Melbourne, Australia.

Available at:

http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/canadian_journal_of_law_and_society/related/v022/22.2.dupont.html

**Abstract:** The article suggests that while the report of the Independent Commission on Policing (ICP) provides a police reform blueprint for Northern Ireland and elsewhere, it can also be seen as an attempt to engage more elliptically with contemporary debates in security governance vis-a-vis the increasingly fragmented nature of late-modern policing and the role of the state. A decade into the reform process in Northern Ireland and in spite of the networked approach postulated by the ICP, the public police continue to enjoy a pre-eminent place and little evidence exists of any significant weakening of state steering and rowing of security. The discussion proposes a tentative typology explaining the continued colonization of security spaces by the State using constituent attendant processes of compartmentalizing, crowding out and corralling.

Available at: [http://tcr.sagepub.com/cgi/content/abstract/14/1/31](http://tcr.sagepub.com/cgi/content/abstract/14/1/31)


**Abstract:** Ericson and Haggerty’s book, Policing the Risk Society (1997), sets out to annul Bittner’s classical, coercion-based reading of the police and replace it with a radically new paradigm that foregrounds the panoptical or knowledge work dimension of the police and its potential to serve the interests of non-police social-disciplinary institutions. In this article, we test this neo-Foucauldian paradigm on the basis of a body of research into road traffic policing. As a result, we observe that though non-police owner-managers of new risks challenge the societal immanence, centrality and publicness of police organizations, with time, these challenges fail. We therefore argue that Ericson and Haggerty’s notion of panoptical policing should be taken as a theoretical innovation, which, far from eliminating Bittner’s paradigm, enhances it with a new force.

Available at: [http://bjc.oxfordjournals.org/cgi/reprint/49/2/150](http://bjc.oxfordjournals.org/cgi/reprint/49/2/150)


**Abstract:** How does our understanding of private security alter if we treat security consumption as consumption? In this article, we set out the parameters of a project which strives—theoretically and empirically—to do just this. We begin with a reminder that private security necessarily entails acts of buying and selling, and by indicating how the sociology of consumption may illuminate this central—but overlooked—fact about the phenomenon. We then develop a framework for investigating security

Available at: [http://tcr.sagepub.com/cgi/content/abstract/14/1/31](http://tcr.sagepub.com/cgi/content/abstract/14/1/31)
consumption. This focuses attention on individual acts of shopping; practices of organizational security that individuals indirectly consume; and social and political arrangements that may prompt the consumption of, or themselves be consumed by, security. This way of seeing, we contend, calls for greater comparative enquiry into the conditions under which markets for security commodities flourish or founder, and close analysis of the social meanings and trajectories of different security goods. By way of illustration we focus on four such categories of good—those we term commonplace, failed, novel and securitized. The overarching claim of the article is that the study of private security currently stands in need of greater conceptual and empirical scrutiny of what is going on when ‘security’ is consumed.

Available at:

http://tcr.sagepub.com/cgi/content/abstract/14/1/3


Abstract: This paper describes an innovative community engagement methodology designed to provide police with a 'rich' community intelligence picture of the 'drivers' of insecurity in neighbourhoods. Informed by empirical data from three case studies where this methodology has been trialled it is argued the approach facilitates a 'community intelligence-led policing' approach. This has the potential to establish meaningful connections between community policing and other aspects of the modern police mission, such as managing the impacts of major crimes and responding to inter- and intra-community tensions.

Available at:

http://www.informaworld.com/smpp/content~db=all~content=a794919344


Abstract: Recent decades have seen a growing ‘pluralisation’ of policing providers and authorisers in liberal democracies (Crawford 2003, Johnston and Shearing 2003). Some have interpreted this as part of a major transformation of policing in western liberal democracies that reflects fundamental shifts in the nature of governance (Bayley and Shearing 1996, 2001). Others have stressed continuities with the recent history of policing and the persistence of significant national and local differences in policing structures (Jones and Newburn 2002, Ferret 2004). These discussions have some parallels with wider debates about convergence and divergence in penality and the ways in which structural and cultural shifts influence policy developments across different societies (Garland 2001). We here examine recent changes in policing within two EU countries - Britain and the Netherlands. This paper discusses areas of similarity and difference in plural policing developments, and speculates
about what factors might explain these. There is evidence of structural and cultural shifts working to shape policing in similar ways, but also of the mediating influence of distinctive national and local political institutions and cultures. These particular contexts provide possibilities for the resistance and re-shaping of global forces, as well as provide a framework for the emergence of distinct policy innovations.

Available at:

http://www.informaworld.com/smpp/content~content=a911172655~db=all~jumptype=rss


Abstract: Gangs have long been a feature of the social landscape of the City of Cape Town and its environment. They have endured the heaves and sighs of change which have accompanied South Africa’s social and political transformation. Whilst local scholarship on gangs is well-established, the complex dynamics accompanying the actual policing of gangs have received relatively little attention. By drawing on a series of in-depth interviews with members of the police organisation and on a small sample of interviews with gang leaders, this article begins to explore selected aspects of the policies and practices associated with the policing of gangs in Cape Town. Central to this exploration is the argument that a wide range of factors influences the operational strategies vis-à-vis gangs including that of the institutional culture of the police itself.

Available at:

http://journals.sabinet.co.za/WebZ/AdvancedQuery?sessionid=01-50226-1145062747


Abstract: Historically, policing in Mexico has been known more for its rampant corruption than crime fighting or public service. However, recent decades have seen not only a marked rise in crime, but a boom in substantive reform efforts. This study examines the historical development of law enforcement reform in Mexico with an emphasis on the last decade which has produced the most revolutionary changes in policing practices in Mexico. Not only does this discussion include the last decade of substantive reforms and subsequent outcomes, but also explores an overview of the current Mexican president’s law enforcement reform initiatives, and potential reforms based on US attempts. This research then focuses on survey responses and direct interviews of criminological experts on law enforcement in Mexico and their predictions on the future of police reforms, with a focus on policing in Mexico City. The interviews focused on the reform initiatives by Mexico’s two most recent presidents and predictions of their likely success. These experts see success of current reforms as very unlikely. Policy implications are also discussed.

**Abstract:** Since the 1970s, approximately 60 countries in the world have experienced major political transition away from authoritarianism towards democracy and more liberal modes of governance. Subsequently, this era has provided opportunities for researchers to observe how major changes in the political environment affect a country's policing practices. This study is the first of a two paper series on the relationship between democratization and police attitudes, preferences and behaviours. This study reports the results of a pilot study of 315 police supervisors from 22 transitioning nations asking about their preferences towards two different styles of crime prevention—community-oriented policing and zero tolerance approaches. The results indicate that the officers from countries more democratically consolidated tend to have stronger relative preferences towards community-oriented policing over zero tolerance styles.

**Available at:**


**Abstract:** At a time in which private security is becoming more and more ubiquitous, questions as to the adequacy of security officers’ training for their positions become more relevant as well. However, calls for increased or improved training are rooted in abstract concerns with legality, governance, and accountability, and not in actual analysis of how useful extant training regimens are for actual security officers. Utilizing a grounded, ethnomethodological analytic perspective, this paper explores recollections of training in open-ended interviews with 29 shopping-mall-based security officers and then considers whether and how officers found their training useful in emergency (or otherwise unexpected) situations. Despite patchwork standards for training, this study finds that the security officers interviewed manage emergencies by marshalling not only their formal training but also resources from security experience outside their current positions and even outside the realm of private security entirely. This study does consider efforts to improve security training; however, with its focus on officers’ own descriptions and understandings of their work, it also suggests that security officers are more adaptable than might be expected. Based on these findings, suggestions for security practice and research are offered in the conclusion.

**Available at:**

http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/canadian_journal_of_criminology_and_criminal_justice/v051/51.3.manzo.pdf

Abstract: The current organizational arrangements, cultures, and practices of policing in Sub-Saharan African states, and likely future developments to more democratic forms of policing, are constrained by persistent patterns of political instability, pervasive insecurity, identity-based and often quite violent conflicts, corruption, vast class and status distinctions among the rich and the poor, weak civic society organizations, and a withdrawing from the state into survival activities by much of the population. Unless these social contexts change, through international pressures and assistance programs and sustainable domestic political and economic reforms, the efforts of progressive police leaders are not likely to move policing in Africa toward more democratic forms.

Available at:

http://www.informaworld.com/smpp/content~content=a916364699~db=all~jumptype=rss


Abstract: Peace accords usually involve top politicians and military leaders, who negotiate, sign, and/or benefit from an agreement. What is conspicuously absent from such negotiations is broad-based participation by those who should benefit in the first place: citizens. More specifically, the local level of security provision and insecurity production is rarely taken into account. The analysis of recent African peace agreements shows important variations in power-sharing devices and why it is important to ask who is sharing power with whom. Experiences with power sharing are mixed and far less positive than assumed by outside negotiators.

Available at:


Abstract: The twenty-first century has brought new challenges for police, in Australia as in other Western democracies. Terrorism, globalisation, large-scale population movements, and entrenched social problems pose crime control threats that are increasingly seen as beyond the scope and capabilities of traditional policing. New agencies have been established, private policing has boomed, and governments have sought to make individuals, businesses, and community organisations increasingly responsible for their own safety. To maintain, or regain, their leadership of this new agenda, police agencies need first to recognise and understand the changing environment and its challenges. Our paper uses the theory and policy framework of 'third party policing' to examine the role of police in this age of insecurity, complexity, and uncertainty.

Abstract: This paper examines the evolution of policing in the townships of Cape Town in the context of a neo-liberalising city. Policing is situated in relation to the shifting meaning of security, the city’s emphasis on economic growth and attempts to develop the townships through a law-enforcement-driven urban renewal process. Research conducted in the city suggests that current approaches to urban renewal risk exacerbating social instability by reproducing aggressive forms of policing associated with the apartheid era. Further, as crime is framed as a security threat because of the danger it is thought to pose to market-led growth, urban governance in the townships increasingly takes on the character of a containment strategy. Current security ideology and policing practice create an expanding law enforcement web in which millions of poor residents are caught annually and which appears to undermine the very developmental goals used to justify its expansion.

Available at:

http://usj.sagepub.com/cgi/rapidpdf/0042098009349772v1.pdf


Abstract: This paper examines the reproduction of racialized urban spaces in post-apartheid South Africa through a case study of the Central City Improvement District in Cape Town. Urban neoliberalism provides mechanisms of governance that reproduce spaces generated by apartheid under conditions of democracy. My focus is on private policing and the regulation of the central city through the socio-spatial ordering of downtown in ways that secure the interests of property owners and more affluent consumers. Private policing in this context produces a form of social ordering based on emerging conceptions of racialized citizenship linked to market access. It works to exclude or tightly regulate the black urban poor, who are unable to participate freely in this quasi-public neoliberal space, and to remove these ‘undesirable’ elements back into the townships. In doing so, it contributes to reproducing the spatial segregation and the racial identities of the apartheid period.

Available at:

http://www.informaworld.com/smpp/content~db=all~content=a917329394~tab=content

Abstract: By examining developments in England and Wales this article considers police reform in the context of the tension between operational independence and citizen oversight. The article assesses the nexus between regulation and accountability in order to shed light on how a bifurcated accountability paradigm has protected police autonomy. Particular significance is attached to the cold-blooded police shooting of an innocent man as a critical moment in the recent history of police governance. The lesson-learning strategy of the Independent Police Complaints Commission, created under the Police Reform Act 2002, is singled out as an important driver of police reform. Although police governance reform in England and Wales is context specific, it is held that appreciation of the regulation accountability nexus and complaints as lesson-learning opportunities are of significance in other jurisdictions and sectors.

Available at: http://www3.interscience.wiley.com/journal/123226714/issue


Abstract: This group of papers is meant to spark further conversation about the role of social science evidence in driving better policing. For many academics, seminars and conferences are common events for on and off line spoken frustration about the failure of policing to take on board ‘good academic evidence’ to improve policing. In many ways such frustration is surprising. In the UK at least, the police service should be advantaged in its ability to harness best academic advice. Senior police officials throughout the UK are exposed to the virtues of what systematic criminological approaches offer during their training for promotion to the most senior management roles.

Available at: http://policing.oxfordjournals.org/cgi/reprint/3/4/306


Abstract: During the apartheid era, Wilfried Schärf’s abiding intellectual concern was with the organisational forms that developed in the nexus between private protection and illicit commerce in black, urban South Africa, and with the mutually corrupting relationship between these two structures and apartheid security agencies. At the beginning of the democratic era, Wilfried was thus uniquely positioned to understand that the largest question facing the police was its relationship with non-state structures of protection. I argue here that the post-apartheid state has failed to articulate productively with these structures; the
result is that the stage is set for the buying and selling of violence by state actors.

Available at:

http://journals.sabinet.co.za/WebZ/AdvancedQuery?sessionid=01-50226-1145062747


Abstract: Nearly every study of police corruption hypothesizes that public experience of police corruption undermines the moral standing of the police. However, scarcely any studies actually test the hypothesis. My aim in this empirical study is to compare the effects of three dimensions of police corruption on perceptions of police trustworthiness, procedural justice and effectiveness. These three dimensions of corruption are personal experience, vicarious experience and subjective evaluations of police anti-corruption measures. The data come from a survey of people living in Accra, Ghana. The findings show that both vicarious experiences of corruption and satisfaction with reform measures explain assessments of police trustworthiness, procedural justice and effectiveness, but that personal experiences of police corruption do not do so.

Available at:

http://bjc.oxfordjournals.org/cgi/content/full/azq001v1


Abstract: Policing in China is by nature in the community, for the community, and by the community, as manifested in the ‘mass line’. With crime soaring and fear of crime growing in the reform era, policing in China encountered numerous challenges, and community policing was imported from the West. This paper first delineated the history of policing in China since 1949 and then used an example to illustrate what community policing is and how it could be implemented in China. It argued that community policing per se in China since 2002 is no more than ‘old wine in new bottles.’

Available at:

http://www.informaworld.com/smpp/content~db=all~content=a794917299


Abstract: Policing in China has undergone tremendous change during the economic transformation of the past three decades. This paper describes the plural policing bodies that have existed during pre- and post-reform periods in China. In the pre-reform period the policing bodies were generally public in nature with the public security police playing an important role in providing professional guidance to
the other policing bodies. In the post-reform period, there has been a transition from a monopoly of public policing to an integration of public/private policing, with the public security police still playing a leading role in the policing network. Apart from the emergence of private policing (the security service industry), there is also a trend towards privatizing some previously public policing bodies in line with the movement toward strengthening the rule of law and towards privatization in general.

Available at:

http://www.springerlink.com/content/x94028kp82l70n65

__________________________________________________
* Compiled by Jameelah Omar (LLB)
Physical Security Observer
Centre of Criminology, Public Law Department
University of Cape Town
jameelah.omar@uct.ac.za