AUSTRALIAN SCHOLAR DISCUSSED SECURITY NETWORKS AT TING FORUM

On April 16, the School of Criminology hosted a David & Cecilia Ting Occasional Forum on Justice Policy for the SFU community. The forum, titled “On the Properties & Organizational Challenges of Security Networks” was arranged and moderated by Associate Professor Martin Bouchard.

The forum invited Dr. Chad Whelan, a senior lecturer in criminology at Deakin University, Australia to discuss his research on security networks.

The term “security networks” refers to collaborations between agencies in the security field such as the police, border services, federal special agents and the military. Collaborations among such agencies are increasing in number and in importance as agencies realize that working together will help them achieve broader collective goals like enhanced national security.

Whelan’s research aims to help improve the functionality of security networks. Although many agencies understand the growing
necessity of working together on issues of national importance, they must work to better understand best practices when collaborating. Shared goals will be reached more efficiently by improving how these agencies interact with each other.

“Most of these agencies are focused on their targets such as disrupting crime and terrorism. While they often talk about interagency relationships, it is normally after something happens that they focus more on themselves and their relationships with each other. And when there have been incidents, we often see that cooperation, coordination, collaboration, and information sharing doesn’t happen as well as it could have, with the benefits of hindsight. Agencies know that they can be doing more to improve, but true collaboration is something that requires considerable and ongoing effort,” said Whelan.

His research focuses on two broad categories for evaluating and understanding how organizations function: structural properties and relational properties. Structural properties include the design, size, level of goal consensus and internal coordination for network activities. Relational properties include the many factors shaping relationships between security networks at the interpersonal and interorganizational levels, including organizational culture and trust.

“Understanding the different structural relationships and contingencies that shape the way police agencies relate to one another will improve cooperation, organization, collaboration, and of course integration, especially for defined work units focusing on achieving integration,” said Whelan on the purpose of his research.

“Relational properties are not so well understood but are equally important. They evolve around organizational culture, trust and personal relationships. It comes down to the people that are working in these groups and how they trust each other and how they work together. In that sense, it will help the agency identify their work environment and what type of people they want to employ.”

Applying this research to security networks will help agencies recognize their internal culture, providing useful information on improving interactions within the organization itself and with other agencies. The overall aim of applying this research to security networks is to improve performance and deliver better results.

The School of Criminology thanks the David and Cecilia Ting Foundation for making this event possible. The David and Cecilia Ting Foundation provides funding for public forums to discuss key issues of interest to the community, across Canada and beyond. The School also thanks the forum’s panel of discussants for their valuable contribution to the event: Garth Davies, Associate Professor, Criminology and André Gérolymatos, Director of the Stavros Niarchos Foundation Centre for Hellenic Studies’ at SFU.

Further Reading

BOOKS

BOOK CHAPTERS

Continued on page 5
Criminology professor Bryan Kinney is taking a cycling trip in the Pacific region this summer for a good cause: The Ride to Conquer Cancer benefiting the BC Cancer Foundation.

The Ride to Conquer Cancer encourages cyclists to join together to help raise funds to support life-saving research and enhancements to care at the BC Cancer Agency. The funds raised will have a direct impact on cancer patients living in British Columbia and beyond.

Kinney aims to raise $5,000 for the cause, a portion of the overall $25,000 goal for the SFU cycling team he is heading up.

It’s a cause that is close to Kinney’s heart as a cancer survivor. In 2002, he was diagnosed with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia (ALL), an aggressive type of blood cancer uncommon in adults. Kinney was fortunate to go into remission on the first cycle of chemotherapy, and has remained cancer free since.

However, like many affected by cancer, his mother and uncle were not so lucky.
“I’m riding in honour of my mother, Francis Kinney, and my uncle, Larry Weibe – both lost to cancer. Larry survived the first string of battles in the 1980s, but lost to the last round only a few short years ago. My mum succumbed to her first diagnosis and passed away approximately twenty years ago,” said Kinney.

Weibe was also part of the SFU community, working for many years in the Faculty of Education.

“I’m especially proud to be leading the SFU cycling team. SFU, and the School of Criminology particularly, took excellent care of me when I was diagnosed with Leukemia,” said Kinney.

“Cancer is too big of a disease to ignore. I have, like nearly everyone I know, lost friends and colleagues to cancer. By riding in this event we are doing something about it. We’re rolling closer and closer to the end of cancer.”

To support Kinney and the SFU Team with a monetary donation, visit Dr. Bryan Kinney’s Personal Page.

To date, The Ride to Conquer Cancer has helped raise over $59.1 million for the BC Cancer Foundation, a fundraising partner of the BC Cancer Agency.

GRADUATE FOCUS

JOSH MURPHY PRESENTED AT VISUALIZING JUSTICE CONFERENCE

Recently, Josh Murphy, PhD student, and researcher in the Police Studies Centre attended the 2015 Visualizing Justice Conference at the University of Winnipeg.

The theme of the conference involved the exploration of justice, visuality, and visibility, and included presentations on a wide range of topics, crossing a broad spectrum of disciplines. Topics included the representation of justice through film and other visual media, visibility and sex work, visibility in the penal system, the role of social media in social protest, and visualizing indigenous justice.

While representing SFU, Josh presented on an aspect of his MA research, which looked at the impact of increased public visibility on police
use decision-making and training. This was the only police-related presentation at the conference and offered a different lens through which to examine visibility in the justice system.

“I think any discussions of visibility and justice must include the perspective of the police. They are the most visible branch of the justice system and this visibility has only increased with the proliferation of technology and social media. This visibility has a real impact on police and I think it was important to speak about this at the conference,” said Murphy.

The presentation received considerable interest and generated lively discussion among attendees.

Overall, the conference provided an excellent opportunity to highlight the interesting research that the Police Studies Centre is producing.

Click here for more information on Josh Murphy.

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHT

CON’T FROM PAGE 2

_Terrorism, Counterterrorism, and Internal War_ (CRC Press: Boca Raton, Fla).

JOURNAL ARTICLES

Whelan, C. (forthcoming) 'Security Networks and Occupational Culture: Understanding Culture Within and Between Organisations', _Policing & Society_.


Save the Date:  
Ting Forum on June 22  

The topic of the next Ting Forum is “Broadening Powers of Lawful Disruption Into Cyberspace,” presented by Dr. Adam Molnar, Criminology, Deakin University, Melbourne, Australia.  

Date: Monday, June 22  
Time: 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.  
Location: Faculty Conference Room  

The presentation is free to attend. No registration is required.

UN Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice  

In April, Dr. Rick Parent and Dr. Richard Frank attended the 2015 United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice that was held in Doha, Qatar. Frank provided a presentation regarding the complexities of cyber crime and the issue of child exploitation.  

Click here to watch the session.
Visit to Northern Germany to participate in the Star Program

In May, Dr. Rick Parent attended Northern Germany and participated in the Star Program involving police officers from Germany, Spain and the USA. In addition to conference activities, participants enjoyed a wet ride on an emergency response tactical boarding craft.

SEEKING VOLUNTEERS TO PROFILE

Do you know a dedicated volunteer who deserves some recognition?

Send us their name!

We’re preparing a series of articles to honour volunteers from Crim. We’re looking for the names of students, staff and faculty who are making a difference in their communities.

Send an email to crimcomm@sfu.ca with the volunteer’s name, contact information and a sentence on how they are making a difference.

WE WANT TO HEAR YOUR FEEDBACK.

Send your comments, questions and ideas to the editor, Christine Palka at crimcomm@sfu.ca.