

# Urban Security Work Spaces

## Policing the Crisis – Policing in Crisis

### Berlin, August 28-30, 2010

The 21st century is witnessing what has been called the »pluralization of policing«: **Private security companies** have conquered urban spaces and are developing some expertise in public policing. Current studies claim that the **private security industry** will grow further and take over more tasks formerly executed by state police; at the same time technologies complement and even incur human security work. State police has also undergone significant changes, including commercialization, new public management, and »police-private-partnerships«. Alongside these developments, the police apparatus has trans-nationalized, and rigorous strategies, in particular against transnational protesters, have reemerged significantly since the early 1990s. Last not least, the »policing family« itself diversified, and we can witness (relatively) new phenomena such as **nonprofit organizations** deploying long-term unemployed as security forces; »Community Wardens« or »Ambassadors« overseen by the local municipalities; or unpaid volunteers policing sports events. With these in-law family members the tasks of policing extended into the realm of the »civil society«, and the consequences still need to be discussed.

Looking at **North America and Europe**, we can observe specific varieties of policing that appear, at first sight, very heterogeneous, but that are, in our perspective, closely connected. They are shaping a formation we propose to define as the »urban security work space«, new in both quality and quantity. This idea is, firstly, guided by the fact that, at the present time, more than 50 percent of the population on planet earth lives in »urban« environments, a highly contested terrain. Even before 9/11, »security« underwent a (re)definition and inclusion of literally everything into the realm of »homeland security« (US) and »homeland defence« (EU) – most visible in the German case within the current discourse of »erweiterter Sicherheitsbegriff« (extended security concept) introduced in 2000. »Work«, in turn, currently is understood as a »gift« and a »duty« at the same time and relates to »security« in ways that lead to »the poor policing the poor«. Finally, in neoliberal times, »space« undergoes a transformation that shuffles, supersedes, and/or substitutes public space with semi-public and private space, directly affecting »urban security work«.

It is against this background that we want to discuss the recent situation in Europe and North America. We can identify three levels of redefinition and rearrangement of the »urban security work space« that are guiding our conference:

- **Public space:** The current crisis might lead to the extension of privately managed urban space, and/or mixed forms, described as the extension of »mass private property«, such as Shopping Malls and **Business Improvement Districts**. By the same token, aggressive policing of (transnational) protest seems to grow. Our aim here is to discuss how and at which point security »nodes« are strengthened, loosened, or rearranged – and what might be the consequences for the »private« policing of public space in particular.
- **Security:** Competition is increasing and previously outsourced security might in part be again provided in-house by the former commercial customers while former state responsibilities might be supplied by **rent-a-cops or in public/police private partnerships**. The current crisis might create new opportunity structures for the security management strategies to fulfill their self-declared goal, the »peace keeping mission with regard to society«.
- **Work:** »Security as work« obviously is not only related to the individual but also directly linked to labor relations. We want to explore the potentials for **workers' resistance and union organizing** with regard to the deepening pressures of competition in one of the classic low-wage sectors. Is there a chance for change, backed by European Union projects like the »Social Dialogue« between employers' and employees' organizations within the private security industry or organizing models?

The conference intends to shed light on these heterogeneous situations in the field of »urban security work spaces« by bringing together international experts to combine theoretical as well as empirical insights.

# Program

## Saturday – August 28, 2010

<b>10.00 am</b>	Registration & Welcome	
<b>11.00 am</b>	<b>Session I: Spaces of Crisis – Crisis of Spaces</b> Chair: Johanna Hoerning (Goethe University Frankfurt/M., Ger)	
11.00	Kirstie Ball ( <i>Open University Business School, UK</i> )	Brandscapes of control? The construction of subjects and spaces in late capitalism
11.45	Jenny Künkel ( <i>FU Berlin, Ger</i> )	Public-private security provision in the sex Industry
12.30		<i>Coffee break</i>
1.00	Bernd Belina ( <i>Goethe University Frankfurt/M., Ger</i> )	Ending public spaces as we know them
1.15		<i>Lunch break</i>
<b>3.00 pm</b>	<b>Session II: Crisis of Dissent – Dissent of Crisis</b> Chair: Tilla Siegel (Goethe University Frankfurt/M., Ger)	
3.00	Luis Fernandez & Chris Scholl ( <i>Northern Arizona University, USA</i> )	The geography of global governance and the spatial dimension of controlling dissent
3.45	Charles Woolfson ( <i>Linköping University, S</i> )	Suppressing the ‘discourses of discontent’: The ‘spatial choreography’ of protest and passivity in post-communist society
4.30		<i>Coffee break</i>
5.00	Nik Theodore ( <i>University of Illinois at Chicago, USA</i> )	Razing Arizona: Policing and the politics of citizenship
<b>6.00 pm</b>	End of first day	

## Sunday – August 29, 2010

<b>10.00 am</b>	<b>Session III: Crisis of Policing – Policing in Crisis</b> Chair: Eric Töpfer (TU Berlin, Ger)	
10.00	Massimiliano Mullone ( <i>University of Montreal, Can</i> )	When private and public policing merge: Thoughts on commercial policing
10.45	James Sheptycki ( <i>York University Toronto, Can</i> )	The world gun crisis
11.30		<i>Coffee break</i>
11.45	Alison Wakefield ( <i>University of Portsmouth, UK</i> )	Private policing in neoliberal societies
12.30		<i>Lunch break</i>
<b>2.30 pm</b>	<b>Session IV: Crisis in Policing – Policing of Crisis</b> Chair: Volker Eick (FU Berlin, Ger)	
2.30	Francois Bonnet ( <i>Universiteit van Amsterdam, NL</i> )	Obstacles to community policing implementation: A comparative perspective
3.15	Eric Töpfer ( <i>TU Berlin</i> )	Phoenix from the ashes? Urban CCTV surveillance in crisis
3.45		<i>Coffee break</i>
4.15	Kendra Briken ( <i>Goethe University Frankfurt/M., Ger</i> )	The urban security work space: Producing and selling security in times of crisis
5.00		<i>Coffee break</i>

**5.15 pm**      **Session V: Crisis of Work – Work of Crisis**

Chair: Nik Theodore

- 5.15      Oliver Arning      The private security industry in times of  
*BDWS, Ger*      financial and economic crisis
- 6.00      Peter Bremme      Employees in the private security industry in  
*ver.di Hamburg,*      times of financial and economic crisis  
*Ger*
- 7.00           *Coffee break*
- 7.15      All      Urban security work spaces. Policing the  
crisis – Policing in crisis  
*Final discussion & presentation of book  
proposal*

**8.00 pm**      End of second day

**Monday – August 30, 2010**

**10.00 am**      **Session VI: Boat Trip through Berlin**

Chairs: Kendra Briken & Volker Eick

**1.00 pm**      *Final lunch (optional)*

End of conference

**Organization:**

*Kendra Briken* Goethe University Frankfurt, Inst. for the Analysis of Society and Policy  
*Volker Eick* Freie Universität Berlin, John F. Kennedy Institute, Department of Politics

**Conference venue:**

Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung  
Room: Großer Konferenzsaal  
Franz-Mehring-Platz 1 - 10243 Berlin  
<http://www.rosalux.de/english/foundation/address.html>

S-Bahn/train station: Berlin-Ostbahnhof  
Subway station: U5 – Weberwiese  
Busses: # 142,147, 240, 340

From the airports:  
Tegel: Bus X9 to S-Bahnhof Zoologischer Garten, then the S5, S7 or S9 to Ostbahnhof  
Schönefeld: S9 to Ostbahnhof. Alternatively, the train RE4 to Rathenow; also stops at  
Ostbahnhof.

**Registration:**

Via email: [policing.crisis@googlemail.com](mailto:policing.crisis@googlemail.com)  
Via website: <http://www.policing-crowds.org/registration.html>

Admission fee: € 20/ € 10 (students, retirees, unemployed)  
Note: There is a maximum of 70 participants.

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