



*The Killing Consensus:
Police, Organized Crime
and the Regulation of Life
and Death in Urban Brazil*



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Institute of Criminology Public Seminar Series

Thursday 5th February 2015, 5.30pm

Seminar Room B3, Institute of Criminology,
Sidgwick Avenue, Cambridge, CB3 9DA

A drinks reception in the basement foyer will follow this seminar for attendees

How is homicide regulated in Latin America's largest city? The city of Sao Paulo is in the midst of a dramatic homicide decline. More than 6000 fewer people died in 2009 compared to 1999. Concurrently, though, Sao Paulo has witnessed the growth of a complex organized crime group known as the Primeiro Comando da Capital, or PCC, which controls both prisons and many of the historically violent urban districts in the city. Rooted in three years of ethnographic research that examined homicide and other detectives' investigations of the two most routine types of killing - homicides and police killings known categorically as 'resisting arrest followed by death', *The Killing Consensus* tracks the ways that the moral systems and practices of regulation on the part of the state and the PCC quietly coincide and, occasionally, devolve into violent confrontation. How regulation coincides or collides indeed reflects the cyclical pattern of relative peace and urban crisis that mark this city.

This seminar focuses on Dr Denyer Willis's book '*The Killing Consensus: Police, Organized Crime and the Regulation of Life and Death in Urban Brazil* (UC Press 2015), based on a multiple-award winning manuscript. Dr Denyer Willis has also published in leading scholarly journals such as *World Development* and *Latin American Research Review*, as well as *The New York Times* and *Boston Review*. He is currently engaged in a research project that examines the ways that Brazilian police increasingly use common social media platforms such as Facebook and YouTube to document and display their own violence - up to and including killings and torture - to an emergent and increasingly important political constituency supportive of truculent policing.

This seminar is free, and is open to all interested in attending, with no ticket required. If you wish to be added to the seminar mailing list, please contact: Joanne Garner, on: jf225@cam.ac.uk
For full listing of IoC Seminars: <http://www.crim.cam.ac.uk/> For directions: <http://map.cam.ac.uk/>