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Introduction

The essays in the third volume of *The Annual Review of Interdisciplinary Justice Research* critically evaluate security in the decade following the terrorist attacks against the United States on September 11, 2001. These essays were also featured at the Centre for Interdisciplinary Justice Studies (CIJS) annual workshop: “Securing Justice: A Critical Examination of Security Ten Years After 9/11.” The CIJS was very fortunate to be able to gather together an impressive array of local and national scholars doing diverse work on this topic. We would like to express our gratitude to the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) for supporting us in this endeavor through an Aid to Conferences and Workshops grant.

We are especially grateful for the contributions of our invited speakers who set a critical tone for the event. The first essay in this volume takes the form of an interview with one of our keynote speakers, George Rigakos. Using a question and answer format, the essay explores the meaning of security and sketches out the features of ‘anti-security’ as both a critical research orientation and a form of political engagement. Just as Rigakos’ work sets the tone for the conference, this essay is presented first in this volume to set a similar critical and provocative tone.

The other essays in this volume explore a variety of substantive and theoretical issues related to security in the post 9/11 world. Framing her essay with the provocative title “Securing Injustice...” Heidi Rimke sets out to explore the emergence of the new risk category “violent extremism.” She analyzes the penetration of a security logic as evidenced by government sponsored efforts to categorize and pathologize various forms of ideological resistance as terrorism. Specifically, her

essay critically examines the development and theoretical implications of the Violent Extremism Risk Assessment (VERA) protocol. Rimke demonstrates how the concept of ‘anti-security’, as developed by Rigakos and Neocleous, can be used to challenge and deconstruct the notion of ‘violent extremism’.

Anne-Marie Singh and Michael Kempa explore the governance of private security by utilizing ‘thick’ and ‘thin’ conceptions of justice and security. They argue that the regulation of private security in the post 9/11 context has tended to focus primarily around minimalist conceptions of justice (‘thick’) as opposed to broader “cosmopolitan” notions of justice (‘thin’). While so-called thin conceptions of justice have animated discourse and policy in relation to the public security apparatus in the post 9/11 context, the authors call for governments to translate these ideas into a framework for governing private security so that it may better serve the public interest.

The fourth essay in this volume examines the surveillance and regulation of terrorism financing in Canada by responsabilizing front line financial services workers. Vanessa Iafolla reports on her exploratory study of the policing of terrorism financing by examining the way bank employees conceptualize and make decisions to report suspicious transactions. Iafolla examines the theoretical and policy implications of using bank employees as “third party” police in the so-called war against terror. Informed by a host of personal, cultural, and employment-related concerns, the front line financial workers in Iafolla’s study navigate a murky terrain at the edge of informal social control in the interests of national security. This study sounds a cautionary note about the pitfalls of enforcing aspects of Canada’s anti-terrorism financing and money laundering legislation.

The last essay in this volume is an undergraduate student paper that was prepared and presented for the conference by a fourth year honours student in the Criminal Justice program at The University of Winnipeg. We are pleased to

include this work here as it represents the level of interest and academic engagement with the topic of ‘anti-security’ that has been fostered by our active student community. Josh Walker uses the concept of ‘anti-security’ to deconstruct and problematize recent federal legislation aimed at immigration reform and national security. Drawing on Gramscian notions of hegemony, Walker argues the social construction of the refugee claimant as ‘risky’ is coupled with longstanding, commonsense notions of the immigrant as a socially dangerous ‘other’ who threatens to damage Canadian society. Walker further argues that the ‘risky’ refugee claimant has become firmly linked to the ‘terrorist’ who is increasingly seen to threaten Canadian society in the post-9/11 context. Walker argues that the concept of ‘anti-security’ may be used as a way to counter these hegemonic constructions and linkages.

I would like to express my gratitude to my colleagues at the CIJS and in the Department of Criminal Justice at The University of Winnipeg for their invaluable assistance with both “Securing Justice” and the preparation of the *Annual Review*.

Steven Kohm
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