

Speaking Truths to Power: Policy Ethnography and Police Reform in Bosnia and Herzegovina (Clarendon Studies in Criminology)

By Jarrett Blaustein

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Speaking Truths to Power: Policy Ethnography and Police Reform in Bosnia and Herzegovina presents a rigorous institutional-level analysis of the effects of globalisation on local policing, drawing on data generated from two ethnographic case studies conducted in 2011 in the transitional, post-conflict society of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Through a study of the structures, mentalities and practices, it situates the phenomenon of 'glocal policing' in relation to the converging development and security discourses following the collapse of the Soviet Union, and raises important questions about the purpose and value of criminological engagement with transitional policing.

The idea of 'speaking truths to power' (as opposed to a single 'truth') is illustrated by the author's 2011 fieldwork, covering active police capacity building projects implemented by international organisations. Both studies indicate that global inequalities affect police reform projects, but also that nodal opportunities do exist for seemingly disempowered stakeholders, specifically international development workers and rank-and-file police officers, to exercise reflexivity and use their available power resources to mitigate structural harms, thus rendering their work responsive to the needs of policy recipients. This mediatory role is then analysed through the conceptual lens of 'policy translation', providing an innovative framework for interpreting how policy meaning and content are altered as a result of their transmission between contexts.

Through detailed and persuasive investigation, *Speaking Truths to Power* argues that it is time for criminology to move beyond the established broad structural critiques of transnational policing power. As the author demonstrates, an institutional perspective employing ethnographic methods can ensure that the revealed criticisms adequately reflect the diverse interests, experiences and understandings of the research participants.

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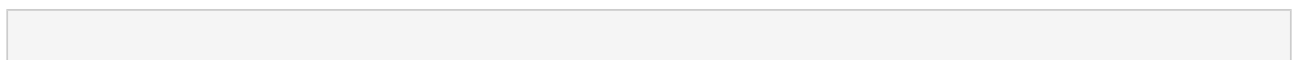
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Editorial Review

Review

Few topics are more important than learning the lessons, negative and positive, of policing reform in post-conflict Bosnia. Jarrett Blaustein's book tells the story of security sector reform in a nuanced fashion. It is a contribution with deft use of social theory that advances criminological and peacebuilding praxis, as well as our understanding of a Bosnian politics of place. John Braithwaite, Australian National University This study provides a sophisticated, meticulous analysis of an oft-neglected aspect of liberal state building: the role of individual agency in adopting and adjusting foreign security models. It is a careful and nuanced contribution to the policy transfer debate, skilfully integrating concepts from different academic disciplines into one coherent argument. It is written with a clear purpose in mind and remarkable insight into the tensions and challenges local actors in BosniaHerzegovina face when trying to improve public safety and policing. Dorian Schaap, *Policing: A Journal of Policy and Practice* With this important book on police reform efforts in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Jarrett Blaustein demonstrates the importance of a glocal perspective that acknowledges local agency and the relational and competing discourses and policies forwarded by donors and recipients. Blaustein wisely discusses how reflective ethnographic research, engagement, and collaboration have the capacity to improve the political dialogue so that local empowerment and democratically responsive policing practices can be more effectively promoted, created, and sustained. This book is a must-read for scholars studying and researching transnational policing, police reform, and global governance. Nathan W. Pino, Professor of Sociology, Texas State University A really excellent book that should be of interest to all scholars engaged in debates about globalisation and policing, democratisation in post-conflict societies, and cross-national policy transfer. A rare example of transnational 'policy ethnography', it provides a number of significant theoretical insights based on very detailed empirical research. Carefully argued, conceptually sophisticated and empirically rigorous, Blaustein has provided a compelling analysis of the interaction local and global influences in the development of policing and community safety initiatives in post-conflict Bosnia and Herzegovina. He charts a middle way between the overwhelmingly negative assessments of international policing interventions by radical scholars on the one hand, and the naive universalism of neo-liberal reform models on the other. In doing so, he sets out the way forward for more realistic and just pathways to reform. Prof. Trevor Jones, University of Cardiff

About the Author

Dr Jarrett Blaustein is a Lecturer in the Department of Law and Criminology at Aberystwyth University. He holds a PhD in criminology from the University of Edinburgh. His research interests include comparative and transnational aspects of criminology and policing and he has spent the past few years researching the normative and sociological aspects of police capacity building projects in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

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This *Speaking Truths to Power: Policy Ethnography and Police Reform in Bosnia and Herzegovina* (Clarendon Studies in Criminology) book is simply not ordinary book, you have it then the world is in your hands. The benefit you get by reading this book is information inside this book incredible fresh, you will get

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