

## SEMINAR

## Art Crime – An International Problem?

**Dr. Saskia Hufnagel***ARC Centre of Excellence in Policing and Security,  
Griffith University, Australia***Friday, 16 August 2013, 12:30 pm - 1:30 pm  
Room AO723, 7/F Cheng Yu Tung Tower  
The University of Hong Kong**

‘Art crime’ encompasses a range of offences depending on the jurisdiction it is committed in. These include forgery, theft, extortion, money laundering, and different forms of fraud, such as document and identity fraud. To investigate art crimes, police need to have a solid knowledge of what art is and how the market works. Furthermore, as most art crime today is at least transnational, if not multinational, police need to cooperate and in particular share the relevant information. States involved usually include Western nations as potential final destinations for stolen or forged art objects, source countries and ‘transit’-jurisdictions.

Investigations of art crime are therefore extremely difficult, but not many countries have addressed this issue. While a number of European countries realised the challenge and in response established specialised art crime units, such as Italy and Germany, Commonwealth jurisdictions recognised the issue later and many countries did not at all.

This presentation gives an overview of policing strategies in the field of art crime including most prominently Interpol and national European initiatives. It will argue that art crime is an important problem and that national and international efforts to counter it should be enhanced. To emphasize this point an analysis of a number of cases that had international political impact across Europe, North America and South-East Asia will be analysed.

**Dr. Saskia Hufnagel** is a Research Fellow within the 'Vulnerable Infrastructures' Project at the Australian Research Council Centre of Excellence in Policing and Security, Griffith University, Brisbane, Australia. In March 2013 she was awarded a Leverhulme Visiting Fellowship to conduct comparative research on international police cooperation at the Centre for Criminal Justice Studies, University of Leeds.

Saskia is a qualified German legal professional and accredited specialist in criminal law. Her PhD studies were completed at the Australian National University (ANU), Canberra. She was previously employed as Assistant Professor at the University of Canberra (UC) and taught various courses in the field of comparative, criminal and EU law at UC, the ANU College of Law and the ANU Centre for European Studies. For her research on art crime she received a Griffith University International Workshop Award in 2011 and the papers from this event will be published in a co-edited collection with Duncan Chappell: *Contemporary Perspectives on the Detection, Investigation and Prosecution of Art Crime* (Ashgate, 2013, forthcoming).

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