

# LEGAL INTERSECTIONS RESEARCH CENTRE (LIRC) **CONNECT: SCHOOL OF LAW**

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## **Policing and Media: Public Relations, Simulations and Communications**

**Presented by:** Murray Lee, University of Sydney  
Alyce McGovern, University of New South Wales

**Date:** Wednesday 22 October 2014

**Time:** 4.30 - 6.00pm

**Location:** Building 67, Room 202

**RSVP:** [Online](#) by 20 October

### **Abstract:**

Policing and public relations are being reshaped with the advent of new technologies, social media platforms and the growth in public relations work. In a 'viewer society' where the public is increasingly interested in dramatic accounts of crime and policing, police are regularly encountered on the information superhighway rather than the street beat. This paper argues that new forms of 'simulated policing' are increasingly occurring in hyper-real contexts. The paper provides accounts of policing in these heavily mediatized contexts. We suggest these modes of policing also reinforce policing's symbolic nature. Policing must be seen to be effective – whether it is or not is secondary.

### **Biography:**

**Dr Murray Lee** is Associate Professor in criminology at the University of Sydney. He has a broad set of research interests around the way in which crime is perceived and represented. His work includes research on fear of crime, policing and media, sexting and young people, crime and the physical environment and crime and risk. Murray is author of *Inventing Fear of Crime: Criminology and the Politics of Anxiety* (Willan/Routledge), co-editor of *Fear of Crime: Critical Voices in and Age of Anxiety* (Routledge), co-author of *Policing and Media: Public Relations, Simulations and Communications* (Routledge), co-author of a soon to be published book on sexting and Young People (Palgrave), and has authored over 40 book chapter and journal articles. He is editor of the journal *Current Issues in Criminal Justice* and served as director of the Sydney Institute of Criminology from 2008-2012.

**Dr Alyce McGovern** is a Senior Lecturer in Criminology at the University of NSW Australia. She has researched widely on police-media relations, leading to the publication of her work in a number of well-respected journals, including *Policing and Society* and the *Australian and New Zealand Journal of Criminology*. She recently published her monograph *Policing and Media: Public Relations, Simulations and Communications* (with Dr Murray Lee) through Routledge. Alyce's current research projects are focused on crime depictions in (social) media, proactive police public relations activities, sexting, craftivism, and criminology education. Alyce was awarded a Criminology Research Council Grant (2012/2013) with colleagues at the University New South Wales, University of Sydney and the University of Western Sydney to explore experiences and perceptions of 'sexting' amongst young people.

