



Call for Papers
Neighbourhood and Policing
21 March 2025
University of Tübingen, Germany

Scientific description of the workshop

The idea of neighbourhood has been studied from various perspectives including geography (Keller, 1968; Morris & Hess, 1975; Chaskin, 1995), spatial (Suttles, 1972; Galster, 2019), urban planning/designer (Kallus & Law-Yone, 2000; Colquhoun, 1985; Lynch, 1960) and sociology (Hunter, 1974, 1979). A few scholars have also attempted to integrate social and geographical perspectives to understand the idea of the neighbourhood (Hallman, 1984; Warren, 1981; Downs, 1981).

The neighbourhood is not just understood as a territorial boundary but also considered as a series of overlapping social networks (Castells, 1997; Schoenberg, 1979) and their role is to promote a sense of community and social cohesion (Forrest & Kearns, 2001) and a sense of identity (Morrison, 2003). However, the idea of neighbourhood is understudied and less explored from a policing perspective. There are a few studies which focus on the relationship between police and trust in the context of the neighbourhood (Bradford, et. al., 2018) and neighbourhood influence in the use of police force (Shjarback, 2018). Police and experiences of policing are linked to perceptions of neighbourhood and community (Jackson and Bradford, 2009; Kwak and McNeeley, 2017). Therefore, police are a vital mediator of neighbourhood cohesion, belonging, a sense of community, law and order in society as representatives of society, embodiments of commonly shared identities and of the general order (Bradford & Myhill, 2015; Thomassen and Kaarianen, 2016).

Against this background, the broader aim of this workshop is to explore the idea of a neighbourhood from a policing perspective focusing on both policing as an institution and practice. Through this workshop, we would like to invite the reflection on neighbourhood and policing and will address the following central questions: 1) How do spatial and temporal identities of neighbourhoods shape the idea of policing in the context of urban citizenship? 2) How do social identities (religion, gender, caste, class and race) as a marker of social inequality shape the idea of policing and vice-versa? 3) How does the policing of protest and resistance impact the idea of social cohesion, neighbourliness, and neighbourhood? 4) How does policing as an everyday practice shape the idea of the neighbourhood as policing is more of an embodied social practice than merely a state institution (Ibrahim (202, p. 3)?

In other words, how do non-state actors-ranging from family, and kin networks to privatised security companies, neighbourhood watches and digital surveillance- shape the notion of neighbourhoods/neighbourliness?

The workshop would also explore how policing as both institution and social practice transcend the territorial understanding of the neighbourhood and provide a more comprehensive idea of the neighbourhood considering social, cultural, emotional and cognitive dimensions into account. In light of the above, we seek an understanding of ‘neighbourhood and policing’ and invite papers relating to any aspect of policing and neighbourhood including (but not limited to).

1. Neighbourhood and Police
2. Police and Identity
3. Protest and Policing
4. Policing Beyond the State
5. Policing and Security

Concept of the workshop

The aim of a one-day international workshop on ‘Neighbourhood and Policing’ is to invite PhD and early career researchers who broadly work on police and policing, citizenship and democracy, and neighbourhood and social cohesion across disciplines such as sociology, anthropology, and political science. This workshop will bring different theoretical and methodological approaches across the geographical location to broaden the understanding of police, and policing in a neighbourhood context.

The workshop will be scheduled on 21 March 2025 along with Jun.-Prof. Dr. Bani Gill at the Institute of Sociology, University of Tübingen, Germany with the collaboration of other disciplines and faculty members at the University of Tübingen including the global platform encounters and college of fellows.

Abstract submission: Interested participants are invited to submit an abstract of no longer than 300 words in English, which should be submitted to Dr. Deep Chand (deep.chand@cof.uni-tuebingen.de) by 30 November 2024. All submissions will be reviewed, and the authors will be notified of the outcome by 15 December 2024.

Outcome of the workshop: We hope to compile a special issue or edited volume from the papers, so we ask for the submission of original and unpublished research papers. Selected participants will be expected to submit a draft paper of 6000-7000 words by 15 February 2025. Papers will be precirculated before the workshop to allow for robust discussion.

Funding: Limited funding is available for those who lack institutional financial support. Depending on the budget, partial funding will be provided for travel. Participants who need partial funding are asked to submit a travel budget. Accommodation will be provided for the workshop. The workshop will have a hybrid format to allow for accessible participation.