



Workshop Neighbourhood and Policing
21 March 2025 | University of Tübingen
Seminar Room, Villa Köstlin, Rümelinstr. 27

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.