

## BOOK REVIEW/COMPTE RENDU

**Jude McCulloch and Sharon Pickering**, eds, *Borders and Crime: Pre-Crime, Mobility and Serious Harm in an Age of Globalization*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan. 2012, 202 pp. \$ 85.00 hardcover (978-0-230-30029-3)

This edited volume contributes to critical scholarship on transnational crime control, mobility, citizenship, and border governance. The chapters marshal primary research to reveal the dynamics that operate to foster or disallow transnational human mobility. Each chapter provides an account of how the international border is configured as a zone of negotiation and contact where issues of citizenship and identity, race, gender, and mobility are at stake. *Borders and Crime* will be of interest to sociologists, critical criminologists, and critical security scholars who study migration and its control, flows of capital and commodities, the globalization of criminal justice initiatives, biosecurity, the geographies of the global war on terror, and international crime and its construction.

*Borders and Crime* begins with an introduction by the volume editors, Jude McCulloch and Sharon Pickering, who describe the contradiction at the heart of the border: it is at once the foremost site where forces of criminalization and crime control operate on a transnational scale as well as a threshold crisscrossed by state actors, entrepreneurs, corporations and other powerful stakeholders that cause widespread harm. This contradiction is positioned as an incongruity between what the authors describe as hyperactivity and hypoactivity at the border. McCulloch and Pickering situate the border as a site of contact and negotiation where coercive power is concentrated and where the demands of effective control and regulation inevitably exceed the capacity of the border to deal with them. The volume is organized in two parts that in turn address the production and construction of crime and organized responses to it, as well as notable failures in addressing transnational criminal activity. The bipartite organization of the volume mirrors another contradiction identified by the border studies literature: namely, that borders are significant for the forms of policing undertaken at them as well the precrime measures that operate across them.

The first part of the volume addresses hyperactivity at the border, and offers a series of detailed accounts of the role of the border in defining and addressing crime, threat, and unease. This focus implicitly

acknowledges that powerful actors coalesce at the border to come to terms with the mobility of goods and people by making determinations concerning their licit or illicit status; but it also recognizes that the border itself is mobile. For example, the second chapter of the volume — by Leanne Weber — is a rich empirical account of how policing in New South Wales transcends the border as a geographically fixed and singular entity by intercepting “unlawfuls” at multiple and mobile points within the state. Weber shows how a great number of Australia’s so-called “unlawfuls” are identified not by Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) agents at the border, but through other forms of contact with police agencies within the country — and often as victims of crime. Weber’s contribution contrasts with critical security literature that notes how algorithmic risk assessments and international data-mining constitute a “pushing out” of the border. DIAC interdiction of “unlawful non-citizens” is often achieved at infranational (rather than transnational) scales, and in a manner that constitutes an inward movement wherein detection and expulsion result when “the world, in effect, comes to the police” (p. 35) rather than the other way around. In a preceding chapter, Dario Melossi analyses EU imprisonment rates to locate the exclusionary practices of the border in EU prisons, where (im)migrants are disproportionately present. Through their analysis of internal Foreign and Commonwealth and Home Office documents, Marinella Marmo and Evan Smith view present immigration control through a historical lens by juxtaposing the present-day “trafficked woman” to the woman subjected to “virginity testing” at British borders from the late 1960s to late 1970s. They show how race and gender intersect in the discretionary decision-making procedures of the United Kingdom Border Agency (UKBA) and the UK Home Office. Trafficking is also at issue in Sanja Milivojevic’s chapter on the social construction of “e-trafficking.” Her analysis addresses the central concern of the volume by revealing how the US Department of State and Interpol create a sense of threat and provide a framework for the preemptive intervention at the heart of the precrime strategies of detection and anticipatory exclusion.

*Borders and Crime* highlights the discrepant logics of hyperactivity and hypoactivity at and across borders, addressing the latter in the second half of the collection. Gray Cavender and Nancy Jurik use four case studies — spanning from Iran Contra (1986–87) to the Great Bailout Scandal (2008–09) — to show how transnational crime committed by multinational corporations and states themselves escape the anticipatory strategies of precrime and fail to neutralize organizational wrongdoing. Rob White addresses the power states and corporations to define environmental risk and harm according to logics that secure profit and defy the imagined

boundaries of the national border. Raising questions about the contradictions at the heart of legal prevention of trafficking in child soldiers, Patrik Olsson shows how the children's human rights agenda has advanced in an increasingly globalized world but fails to protect large populations of children. Linking restorative justice to an increasingly globalized crime control agenda, Chris Cuneen connects the transnational flow of restorative justice initiatives to logics of empire and neoliberalism in order to provide a picture of crime control strategies and punitive criminal justice policies across national borders. Through an analysis of controlled police operations, Dean Wilson and Jude McCullough argue for the instrumental role of security as a fundamental factor in expanding the range of behaviours, practices, and subjectivities that are singled out as a threats to be addressed through covert policing tactics. Finally, Jeremy Keenan offers an account of how terror has been framed and created through a US-led initiative aimed at policing the "Terror Corridor." These chapters support the collection's underlying argument that borders between nations and global regions are implicated in the production and policing of criminalized threat, insecurity, and unease.

While *Borders and Crime* will surely ignite scholarly interest in the paradoxes of hyperactivity and hypoactivity at the border, one of the few shortcomings of the volume is that the border is somewhat lost in the second section. Scant mention is made of how the border — whether it is understood as fixed and singular or mobile and multiple — constitutes a central actor in transnational crimes carried out or facilitated by states and corporate actors in the second part of the book. Conversation across chapters and between the two parts of the volume would have substantiated the promising formulation of the border as a contact point and site of hyperactivity and hypoactivity. Some chapters took up the challenge of demonstrating how the border constitutes a central site for criminalization, crime control, and criminality better than others. For example, I note, in particular, that while chapters 5–10 address themes of crime, security, and globalization, there is little mention of how these problematics should be viewed through the conceptual frame of border studies. Notwithstanding these issues, McCullough and Pickering note in their introduction that critical criminologists have addressed shifting boundaries between states and the scales of national and international by blurring the boundaries — in creative and productive ways — between scholarly disciplines such as criminology and international relations. In insisting on the value of value of interdisciplinary work in this area, they also seek to move the research agenda forward by suggesting that the study of borders today should address how precrime operates at the border as a distinct form of governance, order maintenance, and crime con-

trol. This excellent volume is sufficiently advanced for graduate courses and a valuable resource for upper-year undergraduate seminar courses. It is an outstanding resource for scholars and students looking for insight into how crime is differentially tolerated and disallowed at and across the boundaries of the border. The book is an instructive example of how great scholarship can happen across disciplinary borders as well.

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