Organised Crime on the Agenda

Organised crime is discussed increasingly often by politicians and in the media, both in Europe and the Anglo-Saxon countries. Since the year 2000, Swedish journalists have published 8000 articles about organised crime, which represents approximately eight times as many as were written during the 1990s. Discussions of topics that have a place on the political agenda can influence public policy, people's opinions about crime and also their fear of crime. Many actors have much to gain by highlighting organised crime; it has a high news value and sells newspapers, politicians gain more support from voters and the police receive more resources.

The purpose of the study discussed in this seminar is to analyse both the parliamentary debate and media descriptions of organised crime in Sweden since 1989/90. The focus is directed at the interaction between these two arenas and also at how the current view of organised crime has evolved. The study is divided into three case studies; the first study analyses outlaw motorcycle gangs, the second is focusing on trafficking and the third is a case of gang-related shootings in the Swedish city of Malmö.

The seminar presentation will highlight the trafficking discourse in Sweden by focusing on preliminary results from a newspaper analysis and a study of parliamentary debates.

Anita Heber is a Visiting Academic in Criminology during Semester 1, 2015.

Date: Thursday 30 April 2015
Time & Location: 12.30 – 1.30 pm, Room N402, Menzies Building, Monash University, Clayton Vic
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