



SCHOOL OF LAW RESEARCH SEMINAR SERIES
SPRING 2016

Nightlife ethnography and alcohol-related assaults- Australian violence then and now

PROFESSOR STEPHEN TOMSEN

DATE

Wednesday 27 JULY 2016

TIME

11.30am - 12.30pm

VENUE

Moot Court, Building EO, Parramatta

LUNCH PROVIDED

RSVP

law.research@westernsydney.edu.au

INQUIRIES

m.blissenden@westernsydney.edu.au

ABSTRACT

Twenty six years ago the pathbreaking Australian National Report on Violence (1990) mirrored community concern about a range of violent behaviour including illegal gun use, domestic assaults, hate crime, youth violence, and violence in and around licensed premises. In more recent years, there has been a further interest in dealing with serious and fatal alcohol-related violence and disorder in nightlife spaces.

What has changed or remains the same in relation to this form of crime and fears about it? This presentation explores the highly gendered situational context of urban drinking settings and its relationship with this violence. It draws on research conducted over three decades in Sydney, a time of expanded liberalisation of night-time drinking. These sources provide evidence about historical shifts in levels of unreported violence and the attitudes and practices of police and private security in relation to this violence and its victims. This presentation will argue for the value of detailed ethnographic research to criminology concerned with critical explorations of crime and violence.

BIOGRAPHY

PROFESSOR STEPHEN TOMSEN

Stephen Tomsen is Professor of Criminology at Western Sydney University and he is a leading researcher in the areas of masculinity, crime, violence and public drinking and social order.