

Speaker: Liqun Cao (Ontario Tech University, Canada)

Presentation title: Procedural justice and its discontents

Tyler's groundbreaking study of procedural justice has greatly enriched the literature of police study and criminology. The issue of police legitimacy has increasingly occupied our attention these days. Yet the study of police legitimacy is not without controversial. This research examines the several key concepts within the burgeoning literature of police legitimacy, such as confidence in the police and procedural justice. In so doing, I juxtapose democratic policing theory into the study of police legitimacy. I posit that the research of procedural justice must focus on the issue of race/ethnicity. Race is the manifestation of a lack of confidence in the police but the underlying issue of race/ethnic is the differential treatment. Therefore, fairness with a focus on race/ethnicity should be the priority tactic in police training and in police reform. The tests of procedural justice cannot avoid the issue of outcome justice, which is ultimately police legitimacy.