



Transnational Organized Crime: A Qualitative Social Network Analysis of the Production and Trade in Counterfeit Medicines

by Prof. Heather HAMILL
Professor of Sociology
Dean of St Cross College
University of Oxford



HKT |

Friday, November 15 2024
3:30 p.m.- 05:00 p.m.



Scan to
register

Webinar via
zoom



Heather's research primarily centres on the various ways in which problems related to establishing trust and reputation are solved. These issues are particularly pertinent in the low trust environments of high crime neighbourhoods and illegal political and criminal organisations. She has researched these issues in a number of different settings including: informal justice and policing in Northern Ireland; how taxi drivers establish the trustworthiness of their customers and how illegal political and criminal organisations recruit their members. Her current research focuses on the problems of trust created by the global proliferation of sub-standard and falsified (SF) medicines. Heather was formerly a British Academy Postdoctoral Research Fellow and has been awarded research grants from the Russell Sage Foundation, the Economic Social and Research Council (ESRC), the Nuffield Foundation and the Wellcome Trust. Her books include *Streetwise: How taxi drivers establish their customer's trustworthiness* (Russell Sage Foundation 2005, with Diego Gambetta) and *The Hoods: Crime and Punishment in Belfast* (Princeton University Press, 2011).

Abstract

Substandard and falsified medicines pose a significant threat to global health, particularly in low and middle-income countries where the World Health Organisation estimates the prevalence of these products as ranging from 10 to 30 percent. However, very little is known about the organizational structure of this trade and the ways in which it penetrates legal markets. This paper qualitatively analyses the organization and network structure of a transnational organized crime group involved in the production and trade in falsified medicines. It draws on a detailed investigation of the largest known breach of the United Kingdom's regulated supply of medicines and describes and analyzes the criminal production and trade networks that spanned seven countries from China to the UK.