

Centre for Forensic Science Seminar
Friday 9 October, 12 noon, Seminar Room Level 5: 5.01

The Effectiveness of Forensic Science
By Dr Sally Kelty

Abstract:

This presentation will provide an update about a current ARC Linkage project. This research explores how effective forensic science can assist in police investigations, preparing briefs for courts and in court outcomes. Most research to date has looked empirically at developing the science (improving tests), in this project we look at how police officers and DPP use forensic science. This collaborative project is between the Tasmanian Institute of Law Enforcement Studies (TILES) and Victoria Police, the Australian Federal Police, the National Institute of Forensic Science, University of Technology Sydney and the University of Lausanne in Switzerland.

The kinds of questions to be explored include:

- What are the outcomes of forensic analyses (across different forensic disciplines and crime types) on police investigations?
- How significant is forensic evidence in influencing police investigations and court proceedings?
- What is the value of forensic intelligence from volume crime and can this intelligence be useful in linking multiple cases of volume crime and also in investigating serious crime?

About the author:

Dr Sally Kelty is the research fellow on the project. She has a background in social psychology and applied criminology. Her research interests include grievance escalations, the psychology of revenge and punishment, restorative justice, and adolescent drug use, drinking and risk-taking. She worked in the Justice Department in WA where she managed high-risk adult offenders on parole as well as being a court report writer for District and Supreme courts and the WA parole board. When not thinking about crime and evidence she pampers her spoilt cats, likes to eat out and learns the tango.

Anyone welcome!

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