

Panel 6: Shifts in Public Safety Governance

Chaired by: Peter Marks (Erasmus University Rotterdam), Ruth Prins (Erasmus University Rotterdam) and Ronald van Steden (VU University of Amsterdam).

Theme: Public safety governance

The past decades, public safety governance has undergone various shifts. Nowadays, the traditional actors, such as national and local government, the police and criminal justice, cooperate closely with a high number and a wide variety of other actors from public, semi-public or private backgrounds. At the same time the need for steering and coordinating new and complex arrangements of public safety governance has grown.

This panel focused on shifts and trends in (local) public safety governance. We invited papers that are related to topics such as:

- * Changing roles, positions and responsibilities of individual actors in public safety governance: the changing role and position of the mayor, state, societal actors, semi public organizations or the police.
- * The breakdown of the state/police monopoly in delivering public safety: the rise of private security companies, the marketization of safety governance, new forms of municipal police (gemeentepolitie), various forms of 'quasi police' actors, alternative forms for maintaining public safety and supervising public spaces and how these various forms of policing converge and/or diverge with each other.
- * Changing administrative and/or operational arrangements in public safety governance bringing together various actors: regional arrangements, triangular consultation (driehoeksoverleg), intervention teams, case consultations (justitieel casusoverleg, for example) or more informal arrangements.
- * Steering new arrangements addressing public safety: steering responsibilities and (in)capabilities, the information sharing arrangements in these arrangements or whether or not steering and coordination of public safety governance arrangements is a public task.
- * Changing relations between public and private actors in public safety governance: the involvement of citizens and societal actors, emerging new types of citizenship or the active involvement of private security companies.

Link with research program

Nowadays, governance of safety is one of the central themes in the relations between citizens and their government(s). Citizens' trust in government is heavily influenced by governments ability to provide an adequate level of safety. Citizens' claims or expectations concerning safety are extremely high, while many (new) safety problems are difficult to control. In highly developed societies the provision of safety has become a very complex activity in which many actors are involved. Steering, coordinating and ordering the activities of many different actors has become a dominant characteristic of modern forms of safety governance.

The papers presented in this panel will further our understanding of the complexities in the relations between citizens and modern government on both the local and the national levels and the ways they can be dealt with.