Sue Trevaskes

Sue Trevaskes is an ARC QEII Research Fellow at the Griffith Asia Institute, Griffith University. She has made contributions to the field of contemporary Chinese criminal justice studies through her work on punishment and policing issues in China. Trevaskes’ research contributions have been recognised by the award of a three-year ARC Fellowship in 2005 and a five-year ARC fellowship in 2009. The first fellowship analysed state responses to serious crime in China focusing on some of the socio-political factors shaping contemporary judicial practice. This resulted in a number of papers and the first full-length book in English on criminal courts contemporary China (2007). Her fellowships have also resulted in two more recent books, *Policing Serious Crime in China: from ‘strike hard’ to ‘kill fewer’* (2010), and *The Death Penalty in Contemporary China* (2012). She is currently also writing on drug crime, the justice system and criminal justice policy reform.

Taking a perspective on the study of justice in China which favoured a sociology of law approach, Trevaskes’ earlier work examined the development of justice practices in the 1980s and 1990s. This resulted in a number of studies on the ways in which the judicial authority to adjudicate cases and punish crime was promoted during this period through practices such as public trials and law propaganda work. This authority was consequently thwarted through the proliferation of other judicial practices such as public sentencing rallies and anti-crime campaigns, which were the subject of a number of her publications.

Her current work explores China’s political concerns with social stability and social order and their impact on the operation of justice. This involves examining the nexus between the development of criminal justice practice and the evolution of crime in China. Through this focus, a number of paradoxes of criminal justice reform and development emerge: the imbalance between a ‘learning’ justice system and the perpetuation of problematic justice practices that affect the development of human rights; growing social injustice, conflicts and contentious politics and the promotion of justice system reforms that aims to build a harmonious society; the growth of serious crime sustained by a deregulated economy and the state’s stern responses that are rationalized in terms of protecting economic development.

Sue Trevaskes is heading the China Justice research stream within CIW.

**MAIN PUBLICATIONS:**


2. ‘Political Ideology, the Party, and Politicking: Justice Reform in China’, *Modern China*, 37(1), 2011, pp.315-344. This paper examines the role of the Communist Party in justice system reform and the political nature of criminal justice in China.


4. ‘Restorative Justice or McJustice with Chinese Characteristics?’, in Mary Farquhar ed., *Twenty-first century China: Views from Australia*. Cambridge: Cambridge Academic Press, 2009, pp.77-96. This study looks at practices of so-called ‘restorative justice’ in punishing minor crime in China. It finds that there are decidedly utilitarian reasons for criminal justice agencies’ support of practices that allow offenders who compensate their victim to be given a reduced sentence.

5. ‘The Death Penalty in China Today: kill fewer, kill cautiously’, *Asian Survey*, 43(3) 2008, pp. 393-413. This is the first academic paper outside China on the politics behind the historic hand back to the Supreme People’s Court in Beijing, of exclusive authority to review and approve death penalty cases. This authority was in the hands of provincial courts for decades, and is arguably one of the main reasons for China’s reputation as the No. 1 state executor in the world.


7. ‘Severe and Swift Justice in China’, *British Journal of Criminology*, 47 (1), 2007, pp. 23-41. This paper is about the policy of ‘severe and swift’ (*congzhong congkuiat*) punishment that was in force for decades, beginning in the Deng Xiaoping era.


**RECENT PUBLICATIONS (criminal justice) (2003-2010)**

**Books**


**Book chapters**


**Journal articles**


‘Tigers, Pandas and Bears: the making of wildlife protection law in the PRC’, Asia Pacific Law Review, 11(2), 2003 pp. 135-156 (with Mary Farquhar.)


OTHER PUBLICATIONS (intercultural communication)


