GOVERNANCE OF SECURITY IN MASS EVENT VENUES
IN-DEPTH STUDY ON DEVELOPMENT & DYNAMICS IN OCCASIONAL SECURITY NETWORKS

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1. INTRODUCTION

A networked organisation is generally perceived as the most appropriate structure to coordinate safety and security. This kind of networks are generally seen in mixed-sector networks and often collaborate within an occasional structure. Mixed-sector networks are often characterized by mixed orientations in the sense that the values and strategic orientations of the actors may differ. This research examines 1) whether these values have an influence on how an occasional network unfolds (formation, development, goal-setting...) and 2) if this differs in a different setting. Thereby the project explores how the common public interest can be secured in a hybrid public space.

2. RELEVANCE

Practical relevance: Studies on mass events predominantly focus on crowd control (SHI, 2014), practical organisation (Paaren, 2011), regulations (Chiapp, 2014) and have less attention for governance arrangements (Wheean, 2012). However, a networked organisation is generally seen as an appropriate structure to deal with safety and security issues (Hayes 2007; Kapucu et al., 2010, Treurniet et al., 2014). Networks are often studied within the field of contingency management and collaborations in crisis response (Kapucu et al., 2010), but less in the field of event safety. This research project’s aim is to bridge this gap and study the governance arrangements within the field of event security, as being an occasional multi-sectorial network. As there is a lack of strong regulation for events (remarkably different for contingency planning), the development of the network may depend on the values of the different actors. The main question is how common public interest can be secured in that given situation? In other words, the research focuses on how to cope with this tension.

Scientific relevance: The aim of this research is driven by the work of Flemming & Shearing (1981, 1983) & Wakefield (2005) and starts form the mass private property hypotheses which is identified as a key factor in the growth of private security. Within the ‘new spaces’, public order by public police was constrained, therefore the property owners provide in their own security measures and agents. Wakefield observed that private security has a different style of policing than state police concerning objectives, care functions and methods of operation. This research wants to contribute to the current literature by developing a framework to study mass events as a mass private property or ‘security bubbles’ (Bottom & Wiles, 1994). Using the insights of Wakefield this project studies if this difference in style has an influence on how a security network develops and functions within a mass event.

3. RESEARCH OBJECTIVES, HYPOTHESIS & RESEARCH QUESTIONS

The purpose of this explorative study is to understand the functioning of an occasional governance arrangement created in a hybrid public space (mass event) by studying how actors who are involved in the event organizations give meaning to the network processes and the common interest. The goal of this project is (1) to gain insight in how governance arrangements in mass events develop, (2) to interpret the values and social construct of different partners towards the network and common interest and (3) to study the functionality of public space.

4. METHODOLOGY

Theoretical research: Insights of public administration literature on the formation and governance of networks are being used to create a framework to study occasional networks.

Empirical research:
- Multiple case study (events in public space, semi-public space, private space)
- Analyses of documents and regulation
- Participant Observations
- Semi structured interviews with key informants and partners involved within the event security

5. FURTHER RESEARCH STEPS

- Finalization of literature study
- Development of conceptual framework to study occasional security networks
- Setting up an indepth comparative case study design

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