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Thank you for the submission of the abstract of your Oral presentation.

Best regards

Conference Secretariat

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EUROCRIM 2014 abstract

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Form of presentation: Oral

Topic: Policing

Title: Paramilitary groups and policing in Colombia: Violence, security and market capitalism

Abstract:

Unlike the interpretation of violence privatization that takes place in contemporary armed conflicts as a failure of the State ability to monopolize violence (Tilly 1985; Singer 2001) in a kind of medieval conflict between feudal lords (Kalyvas 2006), we argue that current proliferation of illegal armed groups is in part a result of the pluralization of social control agencies in which the State activates the participation of the citizens and the market in the security provision (Bayley and Shearing 1996; Garland 1996; Braithwaite 2000). We analyze the proliferation of paramilitary groups that took place in the 1990's and 2000's in Colombia to show how the State activated citizen's creation of self-defense groups to fight guerillas. These groups were a neoconservative reaction to social

movements and social changes that took place with modernization and market capitalism. Paramilitary groups had become key actors in the security provision, playing the role to eliminate petty criminals and people considered subversive. We make a documentary and ethnographic analysis of current economical changes in the region *Montes de Maria* demonstrating that mass violence against the peasant movement, resulting from an alliance between local elites and drug traffickers favored the development of market capitalism from an intersection between foreign investment and an illegal economy producing social changes.

Keywords:

Policing, paramilitary groups, Colombia, security privatization

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Notes: