

The semi-autonomous world of corporate investigators

Modus vivendi, legality and control

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Propositions

1. The corporate security market – providing services of advice and investigations to ensure the financial and intellectual property of organisations – has remained in the (criminological) research margins.
2. The corporate security market constructs a semi-autonomous social field: a private legal order that is loosely contained within public law.
3. Corporate investigators enlist the aid of law enforcement actors only when this is deemed desirable by the private parties.
4. Public/private relations in the context of corporate investigations can be characterised by coexistence, rather than by (long-term) cooperation.
5. Within the context of commercial corporate investigations, there is room for (non-contractual) moral agency.
6. The interdisciplinary character of criminology provides the tools to investigate interdisciplinary fields of research.
7. Observation as a research method is valuable for understanding the social reality of research subjects.
8. In so far as a scientific statement speaks about reality, it must be falsifiable; and in so far as it is not falsifiable, it does not speak about reality. [Karl Popper]
9. Criminology has evolved beyond being the science of criminal behaviour and state responses to criminal behaviour.
10. Every scientific fact finds a temporary truth.
11. If trust comes by foot and leaves on horseback [Dutch proverb], a racing horse may allow you to recapture it.