

The walls of cities and the criminalization of the others

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The closing of the urban space, the use of private security apparatuses and the production of more Criminal Law, are the contemporary strategies chosen by the social control agencies to provide a sense of security to citizens. Despite of this, the critical observation of the development of the large cities in the world, the urbanistic forms and the criminal statistical data is necessary in order to provide a dialogical analysis of the sense of insecurity with contemporary criminalization processes.

At the same time, the perception of “who” should be include or not in the society is closed to the meaning of how the sense of “safety” and “security” is perceived and reproduced by the social legal systems. Taking this into account, the aim of this workshop is to discuss and reflect about the use of the urban space and the criminal law as a symbolic mechanism or effective strategy to provide equality and security in cities. Finally, the debate about the purposes of criminal law and the (re) production of the "other" as strange or dangerous both in peripheral countries such as Brazil as in other rich countries is also one of the objectives of this group.