



UNIVERSITY of
TASMANIA

Forensic Studies UTAS



For information on current Forensic Study Units, please visit Courses and Units pages, University of Tasmania website

www.utas.edu.au/courses

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For information on Forensic Science Research in TILES, please visit

www.utas.edu.au/tiles/research

A key element of forensic studies is how 'evidence' is socially constructed within legal and scientific discourses and practices, and how different players within the criminal justice system conceptualise the nature of criminal investigation, criminal procedure, criminal evidence and courtroom practices.

The study units cover topics such as:

- crime scene investigation • forensic science and the law
- e-forensics • the sociology of forensic studies
- forensic psychology • popular media and forensic science

The main emphasis of forensic studies is on providing a generalist understanding of the forensics field, including how developments across the field might feed into particular criminal justice processes. Typically, the concern is less with 'how to' (e.g., laboratory science and crime scene techniques), than with the overall implications of forensic science for society as a whole, with analysis drawing upon the special expertise and concepts of the social sciences. This involves providing space for critical reflection on specific forensic practices (for example, the expanded use of DNA testing), and to inquire into the effectiveness or otherwise of forensic science in regards to how the police, the courts and corrective services undertake their basic roles.

About Forensic Studies UTAS - It is a consortium of researchers at the University of Tasmania (UTAS) who engage in the study of forensics as a social phenomenon, and who primarily draw upon the social sciences in undertaking work in this field. Forensic Studies is distinct from forensic science, which generally refers to specific areas of technical and vocational expertise.

Established in 2012, Forensic Studies UTAS provides a forum that brings together diverse researchers from across the university to undertake innovative research on key trends and issues in forensic science, explore the application of social science methodologies in forensic investigations, and to foster cross-disciplinary discussions and analysis of significant criminal justice and social justice issues. It also provides a major contact node for collaborations with relevant external organisations (e.g., National Institute of Forensic Science), and other academics and practitioners at both national and international levels.

Members of Forensic Studies UTAS - include researchers who have expertise in criminology, sociology, psychology, law and police studies. Projects undertaken at UTAS have included examination of the skill attributes of crime scene examiners, the effective use of forensic science in police investigations and prosecutions, environmental forensic studies and toxic towns, and the reception of forensic evidence by courts and judges and magistrates.

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