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Fear of crime and the impact of community policing:

An exploratory study in Macao

Chan Chon In, Wayne

(M-A9-6820-0)

Supervisor: Professor HILAL, Susan Mary

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Declaration

I, Chan Chon In, hereby state that this thesis is my own and original work, apart from the sections where origins are clearly stated. All the materials in this thesis have never been used (partially or wholly) in fulfilling the requirements for any degree or qualification in this or other universities prior to this submission.

Student's Signature:

_____

Date:

UNIVERSIDADE DE MACAU
仁義禮知信
澳門大學

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Abstract

This study focuses on two aspects. First, it explores the prevalence and the nature of fear of crime among Macao residents. Second, it looks at perceptions of community policing in Macao. The study investigates both issues through the use of an online survey given to a convenience sample of 155 Macao residents. Descriptive statistic, t-tests, and correlations indicate that a majority of respondents were concerned with their personal safety and with being victims of crime; they especially feared being victims of property crime. Factors contributing to this fear included satisfaction with police performance, collective efficacy (willingness to intervene), perception of neighborhood disorder and demographics including age, gender, and prior victimization. Furthermore, findings suggest that even though community policing was not generally recognized by respondents, those who believed that community policing was being practiced had lower levels of fear of crime than did those who did not.

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