Military courts and tribunals form part of the legal landscape in many modern states, although they might have seemed at times as belonging in the past. In Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territory they play a primary role in the criminal justice system, currently responsible for the conviction of about one third of the prisoner population. In this paper, I explore the normalization and transformation of military courts from an instrument of colonization and armed conflict into a routine criminal system. The proliferation of civilian and military criminal systems is a case of what Nasser Hussain called hyperlegality. Offering an empirical exploration of hyperlegal mechanisms, this paper traces the jurisdictional politics that transformed military courts’ jurisdiction from territorial into personal jurisdiction drawn along ethno-national lines. Military courts, it is argued, are not made for special times or for special issues, but for special people.

PABLO RANDO CASERMEIRO
University of Sevilla

“Urban Crime Control and Disorder: The New York Export”

During the 1990s, New York City was the setting for urban security policies developed under the paradigm of Broken Windows Theory. Echoes of the ‘New York Experience’ arrived in Europe between the late 1990s and early 2000s. In this paper, I discuss the influential role of the New York model in several European countries: the United Kingdom, France, Spain and Italy. The paper traces significant differences across the four compared countries in key aspects of their control system, such as models of policing or systems of sanctioning. However, it is observed that such differences were not an obstacle for the rapid spreading of the zero tolerance approach. The New York model mixed in peculiar ways with pre-existing prevention strategies of each country, showing a previously unknown potential for homogenization of urban security policies. At the same time, changes were introduced in the control systems of each country in order to embrace this imported model.