Book Review

Bennett, Colin J. and Haggerty, Kevin D. (eds.) 2011. *Security Games: Surveillance and Control at Mega-Events*. Milton Park, UK / New York, USA: Routledge.

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At the time of writing the Rugby World Cup 2011, hosted by New Zealand, is well under way and with it a major security operation. This is an unprecedented police and security operation for this small state in the South Pacific. Although one may think that in this case dangers to health are lying on the pitch rather than among the spectators, security is, as with all major mega-events these days, something accompanying such events as a default - *a routine component of such initiatives* (2). This is why a year after the FIFA World Cup in South Africa and not a year before the London Olympics in 2012, the book by Bennett and Haggerty is a timely and highly important contribution to the discussion. This discussion is, as the contributions to the book make clear, situated at the interface of security issues, corporate interests and surveillance strategies, and hence important for questions regarding democracy and civil rights - not only during such events, but in these societies in general.

The volume presents ten cases or approaches to the subject that focus on particular cases of mega-events (FIFA 2006, UEFA 2008; the 2006 and 2010 winter Olympics, the 2004 Olympics at Athens), the future event of the London Olympics in 2012, or provide general assessments of the issue - one concerned with the Olympics in general, and one concerned with Japan and its history of mega-events. Unfortunately none deals with the FIFA World Cup in South Africa in 2010, which was so widely anticipated to be a security disaster - which it was not, as it turned out. I suspect the production time for the volume did not leave time to include analysis of this particular event. Besides the multitude of cases, the volume draws its quality from the internationality of its authors - thus various perspectives and research foci are maintained and portrayed. Although there are overlapping arguments and links between the articles, each of them deals with a particular issue, giving a full account of the various aspects of the subject.

Bennett and Haggerty's introduction is a summary of the arguments brought forward in the subsequent contributions. However at the end of their contribution they pose the paramount questions that can guide the reader through the volume, i.e. "... *this book takes up the long overdue task of critically interrogating what is being secured, why and for whose benefit.*" This can be taken as the main question against which all the articles have to be read.

Daniel Bernhard and Aaron Martin take a look at security at the Olympics in general, explaining what they call an Olympic mind-set, that views the Games as *sui generis* objects of surveillance as the Olympics affirm modernity and security protects the Games. Hence, security and the Games cannot be separated from each other, which means that any discussion or criticism of security involves questioning the Olympics as such. Pete Fussey and Jon Coaffee discuss such security measures and how their look and impact becomes a standard over time and place at Olympic Games. Concentrating on urban developments,

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the authors frame the discussion with what they refer to as Olympic “rings of steel”, which will shape urban spaces long after the spectacle has travelled on. In this regard Minas Samatas gives an account of what happens when the Olympics depart, leaving the city and country with a burden of debts for the procurement of security goods and technology that nobody really needs, but which were bought as a precondition to host the Games in the first place. Samatas’ account is almost angry, having been directly affected as a Greek citizen by the greed and splendour of the ultimately useless Greek security structures.

David Murakami Wood and Kiyoshi Abe see mega-events as exemplary interfaces between the global and the local or national - an observation which resonates well with the modernity claim of the Games presented by Bernhard and Martin. Wood and Abe discuss mega-events in the light of the relationships between Japan and the outside world. They claim that external factors impacted on how the Japanese state had to change its style of governmentality in relation to the “outside”, and towards “others” from 1945 onwards. Referring to the G8-summit in Japan 2000, these others are now also coming from the inside - a notion that seems to be new to Japanese society. Security becomes part of the “*travelling circus of new global governance*” (80) – an expression that fits well with arguments advanced by other contributors.

Three articles deal with major football tournaments, i.e. FIFA 2010 and UEFA 2008 events. Volker Eick analyses and radically criticises FIFAs policies and shows how their rules exploit the host environment with what he characterizes as “*the FIFA world cup as a neoliberal cash-machine*” (88), in which security ultimately means secure profits. Stefanie Baasch looks at the same event, focusing on the spatial re-orderings in Germany that have had an impact beyond the Games. Francisco Klauser studies the UEFA 2008 event in Switzerland and Austria from the perspective of security governance and what consequences these bring for hosts. He highlights the whole apparatus of such governance and shows how external security offers often match with internal desires of the hosts communities to procure new technologies. The articles on the Winter Olympics in Turin 2006 and Vancouver 2010 pick up many issues that have been highlighted through other case studies, i.e. the security architecture in Turin, where the main public issue was the environment and not the surveillance measures, or the profit driven security measures in Vancouver. Philip Boyle finishes the book with an interesting piece on the security knowledge that is held within formal and informal global networks and through which security regimes and global surveillance may proliferate, rendering civil rights obsolete as volumes of data that should not be shared are simply made available to the authorities in the context of such mega-events.

In conclusion, this volume provides an excellent overview on the academic discussion of mega-events, which are so important to our societies, given that they tend to get bigger and more frequent, with a mega-event occurring on the global stage probably at least every year. They shape economies and impact national and supra-national policies and demand ever more of societies and its citizens – occasionally jeopardising their rights in the process. With the Olympic Games coming to the heart of Europe, to a city that recently has been the target of a terrorist attack (in 2005), many of the concerns and issues raised in this volume will provide a blueprint for analysis. However, for future research it may also be worthwhile to engage with citizens, to unearth their views on security, possible forms of resistance and strategies to counter the effects of these neo-liberal cash machines. Such a perspective is largely absent from the articles in this collection, which is about the only downside I can see. This volume should stimulate further research on mega-events, and provides a solid grounding for future inquiries.