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FALL 2007 COLLOQUIUM SERIES

Professor Justin Ready

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**The Impact of Surveillance Cameras
On Perceptions of Privacy, Safety and Civil
Liberties in Drug Market
Areas**

Wednesday, October 24, 2007 3:00pm
Sociology Department, Suite 520.14T

This paper examines the impact of CCTV cameras on residents' attitudes relating to safety, privacy and due process rights in drug market areas in Jersey City, New Jersey. I use telephone survey data to study the effects of household factors, neighborhood crime levels, prior victimization, and proximity to CCTV cameras on attitudes either favoring the cameras or opposing them based on concerns for the protection of civil liberties. In May 2001, CCTV cameras were installed in 10 treatment areas in Jersey City. The treatment areas were street intersections that contained open-air drug markets and produced large numbers of calls for service for drug activity, public disorder and violent crimes. Prior to the installation of the cameras, I matched each treatment area with a control area that was comparable in terms of physical layout and volume of calls for service for serious crimes. This research is based on a randomized telephone survey of 300 residents living within a one-block radius of the treatment and control intersections.

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