

# **The Transformation of Triad ‘Dark Societies’ in Hong Kong: The Impact of Law Enforcement, Socio- Economic and Political Change**

**Authors:** Roderic Broadhurst and Lee King Wa

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## **Abstract**

Late colonial and post-colonial attempts to suppress triad societies have occurred in the context of modernisation and socio-economic and political change in Hong Kong. Anti-corruption efforts, improved enforcement, a focus on illicit entrepreneurs and tainted wealth have contributed to a decrease in public tolerance of triads and greater confidence in police. The scale, form, visibility and activities of triad societies have also changed with recent declines in triad-related lethal violence and membership activity. Following market reforms, rapid economic development in the People’s Republic of China, notably in the Shenzhen Special Economic Zone, offered attractive illicit opportunities that encouraged triad-related commercial vice enterprises away from Hong Kong.

## **About the Authors**

Professor Roderic Broadhurst is an Associate Investigator at the ARC Centre for Excellence in Policing and Security, Research School of Pacific and Asian Studies, RegNet, Australian National University. [roderic.broadhurst@anu.edu.au](mailto:roderic.broadhurst@anu.edu.au).

Lee King Wa holds a PhD on Triad related homicide in Hong Kong and is at the Department of Sociology, Chinese University of Hong Kong.