

The Impact of Moral Panic in the Process of Making Public Policies

Abstract:

The process of shaping public policy is commonly perceived in the social sciences as a more or less harmonious settlement of the interests of particular groups, having a real impact on the governance in the specific area being the subject of changes. The ideal model of creating institutional solutions seems to omit the effects of a disproportionate growth of social anxiety, called the moral panic. This phenomenon, interposing society into the atmosphere of suspension, favors the pursuit of interests as if outside the ordinary mode, sometimes leading to the establishment of a policy contrary to the common weal.

Keywords: moral panic, public policy, public discourse, social problems.