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The alternative war on drugs

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Propositions

1. Using empirical research methods is important to bridge the gap between the law in the books and the law in action, but doctrinal legal research and theories are essential to contextualise, understand and explain (unexpected) empirical findings.
2. The governments of the Netherlands and Canada have used the international drug treaties mainly as a political tool, rather than an authoritative source of law in the discourse on cannabis regulation.
3. In the Netherlands and Canada, the underlying rationale for the regulation of cannabis has varied between fighting (organised) crime and protecting public health, which is reflected in policy mood swings between prohibition and liberalisation.
4. The way the instrument of eviction is used as a tool for drug-related crime control in the Netherlands and the US reveals that adaptive responses can change into repressive instruments, almost leading to non-adaptive responses in disguise.
5. Adapting to the limitations of criminal law in the field of drug control is expanding the war on drugs as the arm of the law becomes longer, transcending the traditional borders of criminal law and entering the scope of private and administrative law.
6. A proportionality defence in Dutch court cases on drug-related evictions is a procedural hurdle, rather than a legal safeguard against the loss of one's home.
7. The US 'one strike' eviction policy shows that President Clinton was not a baseball fan as the rule 'one strike and you're out' already implicates its unfairness, at least to baseball fans.
8. Conducting PhD research is like playing baseball: you want to cover all the bases with your research, hit the curveballs your supervisors and peer-reviewers throw at you, play in the Major League with the big hitters, and hit a home run with your dissertation.