

The Scottish Institute for Policing Research : a model for Knowledge Exchange

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The establishment of the Scottish Institute for Policing Research (SIPR) was the product of a remarkable collaborative effort involving the Association of Chief Police Officers in Scotland, the Scottish Funding Council and Scotland's universities. This collaboration has resulted in a unique institute. There is no other policing research centre in the world that can boast of such a wide ranging partnership between the police and the university research community.

SIPR brings together researchers from 12 universities* working in at least 15 different disciplines - from forensic science to psychology, computing to international relations, criminology to human geography - all committed to working with the police to undertake high quality, relevant research and to ensuring that such research provides a robust evidence base to inform policing policy and practice.



www.sipr.ac.uk

The SIPR Website

Details of and outputs from **Seminars**, the **SIPR Annual Conference** and the **SIPR Annual Lecture**

A **discussion forum**, open to all *bona fide* academics and practitioners involved in policing

Personal Profiles of leading Scottish researchers involved in policing-related research

A **publications resource** of relevant research by researchers in Scotland, including **SIPR Briefing Papers**

The SIPR Practitioner Fellowship Programme

Practitioner Fellowships are aimed at all practitioner groups involved with the policing of Scotland. They provide an opportunity for practitioners to work together with members of academic staff from the consortium universities on the practical and/or policy applications of a policing topic or issue. By drawing on the expertise of practitioners to undertake rigorous and robust analysis of specific issues, the Fellowship programme aims to make a significant contribution to improving policing in Scotland.

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*The consortium of Higher Education Institutions involved in the Institute are: the Universities of Aberdeen, Abertay, Dundee, Edinburgh, Glasgow, St Andrews, Stirling, Strathclyde, and The West of Scotland, and Glasgow Caledonian University, Robert Gordon University and Napier University.

SIPR is engaged in a range of Knowledge Exchange activities

By providing a single focus for policing research in Scotland, SIPR facilitates the development of national and international links with other researchers, policy makers and practitioners involved in policing research.

SIPR's activities are centred on three Networks (Police-Community Relations, Evidence & Investigation, and Police Organization), the aims of which are to coordinate research and Knowledge Exchange activities within their particular fields of interest.

These include: **organising seminars and cpd events** that bring together academics, practitioners and policy makers; **providing information** on recent and on-going research on policing in Scotland and identifying researchers with expertise in particular topic areas; **facilitating access** to relevant police personnel and police data; **providing resources** for a range of different types of research, from three year PhD studentships and Post-Doctoral Research Assistantships (see below), to shorter **Practitioner Fellowships** aimed at police staff and others working in the policing field who wish to spend time at a university undertaking a piece of supervised research.

The relationship between the police and different socio-economic and geographical communities

Police-Community Relations

- What are the impacts and implications of collective radicalization for police-community encounters?
- What lessons can be learnt from a local case study of policing and racial and ethnic diversity?
- What are the challenges for policing and democracy in Scotland and Northern Ireland?
- How do we best meet the needs of the community when policing the night-time economy in Scotland?



Photo: Tayside Police

Police Organization

- What are the organizational challenges for local policing in Scotland?
- How do we use police inter-agency co-operation across jurisdictions to maximise Scottish based anti-money-laundering operations?
- What consultation, decision making and evaluation needs to be made to determine new strategies for the policing of street prostitution?
- What are the key factors affecting resilience and well-being in police forces?

The internal dynamics of police organizations, including issues of management, policy and leadership



Photo: Anja Eller



Photo: Amira Memon

Evidence & Investigation

- How can best evidence be obtained from young eyewitnesses and other vulnerable and intimidated witnesses?
- What are the challenges for the police of working with people with a learning disability in the construction of facial composites?
- How can investigation and forensic science be best integrated in tackling volume crime?
- How can we best use time critical intelligence information to provide a verifiable and auditable intelligence interface between the Scottish police and community partners?

The role of the police in the recovery, interpretation and effective use of intelligence and evidence

Examples of SIPR-supported research

SIPR is funding three PDRA positions and nine PhD studentships; these are a crucial part of SIPR's strategy for delivering relevant research on policing and building the research capacity and critical mass of the networks.