

Procedural Justice in Policing: Insights, Complexities and Future Priorities: A One-Day Symposium

1 Overview of the Project

‘Procedural justice in Policing: Insights, Complexities and Future Priorities’ was a one-day Symposium held at the University of the West of Scotland’s Paisley Campus on 5th December 2018. The event was supported by joint funding from the British Society of Criminology (BSC) and the Scottish Institute for Policing Research (SIPR). The symposium had 30 participants, including academics, senior police officers from Police Scotland, and the Police Service of Northern Ireland as well as those working for local authorities and third sector organisations. The symposium included an academic keynote from Professor Ben Bradford (UCL, Jill Dando Institute of Security and Crime Science) *Public responses to police use of force: The promise and the limits of ‘policing by consent’* and a practice-based keynote from Chief Inspector Moffatt (Police Scotland) *How the rubber hits the road; delivering a values-based police service in Scotland*. In addition, there were three panel sessions with 10 papers in total. Sessions included a Q&A enabling speakers and delegates to share insights from research and practitioner enquiry. Of the presenters, 7 were from English universities, 2 from Scottish universities and one represented Griffith University, Australia.

Funding supported, inter alia, a travel bursary for a Professional Doctoral student, Anthony Laird, from the University of Portsmouth, who delivered his paper *Policing in Finland, Procedural Justice or Societal Norm?* and was travelling from Helsinki. He reported that he “found this symposium to have been of great value both as a source of learning, and as an opportunity to network with, and get feedback from, an extremely knowledgeable and inspiring group of people.”

2 Statement of Outcomes

Opening up a shared dialogue among policing scholars and practitioners about the importance of procedural justice, and how best to create evidence-based approaches that support the continued emergence of ethical, rights-based policing in the years to come. Sharing insights into the extent to and ways in which procedural justice principles are currently embedded within police policy and rhetoric, from an international perspective.

‘From the outset, this was clearly a well-planned event. The keynote speakers were particularly well chosen, Chief Inspector Moffatt set the tone for the day from an operational policing ethics perspective.’ (*delegate and winner of travel bursary*)

‘My colleague...and I thoroughly enjoyed the Procedural Justice in Policing symposium and we intend to harness this learning when developing our approach to Ethics Advisory Panels’ (*delegate*).

‘Fascinating conference – very interesting talks and well chaired’ (*delegate*).

‘Very well organized. Great Day. Very informative speakers. Ben Bradford was excellent. Good location (*delegate*).

Disseminating research insights into the reality of how procedural justice is experienced among diverse groups of citizens and offenders, and the implications for police legitimacy.

Cementing of future, shared aspirations to produce **an edited academic collection** of research keynotes and symposium papers for further dissemination among policing scholars on the subject of procedural justice in policing.

Main thing taken from the day: ‘how PJ [procedural justice] could be applied to an online environment’ (*delegate*).

‘Excellent event. Well worth the trip! Lots of ideas to take forward and contacts made. A like-minded bunch, but with sufficient critical challenge (*delegate*).

Presented ‘a range of perspectives’ (*delegate*).

Sharing and dissemination of powerpoint slides from keynotes and symposium papers, and an **impact report** detailing the outcome of the discussions and future action plans emerging from the symposium.

3 Impact Summary

- PowerPoint slides to be hosted on the Scottish Institute for Policing Research (SIPR) website and British Society of Criminology
- Social media platforms were utilised, with attendees using the hashtag #PJ2018uws
- Attended by members of the wider community, police practitioners and those working for local authorities.
- Opportunities for networking have allowed researchers to forge contacts, with plans for future shared publications and research.
- Having established interest from the speakers, the symposium organisers plan to submit an edited collection featuring academic papers deriving from the symposium. We have been contacted by Routledge with regards to submitting a proposal for their Studies in Policing and Society series. Palgrave Macmillan and Bristol University Press have also expressed an interest in an edited collection on this topic. An edited collection will allow for further dissemination among policing scholars on the subject of procedural justice in policing.

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