

# **‘Policing violent crime: a case study of international criminal justice policy transfer’**

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# Research Aims and Contribution to Knowledge

- **Allows an examination of the process of criminal justice policy transfer between Cincinnati and Glasgow**
- **Dearth of empirical research in the field of criminal justice policy transfer (Newburn and Sparks, 2004; Jones and Newburn, 2007)**
- **Crime control and penal policies imported from USA**
  - **Zero Tolerance**
  - **Private Prisons**
  - **'Broken Windows'**
  - **Electronic Tagging**

# Background to Research - Gangs

- **Greater Glasgow – Population 2.5 million**
- **Glasgow City – Population 600,000**
- **West of Scotland – 170 gangs identified**
- **East end of Glasgow – 55 gangs**
- **Numerous studies over the years – Patrick (1973); Kintrea et al (2010); Deuchar and Holligan (2010)**
- **Crimes ranged from minor ASB through to serious crimes/violence and murders**
- **New ideas required to deal with the problems**



# Research Context - USA

- **Boston Operation Ceasefire – mid 1990s**
  - **Focused Deterrence Strategy and ‘Pulling Levers’**  
(Kennedy, *et al*, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2001, 2002, 2005).
- **Cincinnati Initiative to Reduce Violence (CIRV) – 2007**  
(Engel *et al*, 2007)
  - **‘Trigger Point’ reached**
- **Led to new approach being adopted – success story**
- **Identified as ‘good practice’**

# Research Context - Glasgow

- **Community Initiative to Reduce Violence (CIRV)**
- **Partnership hub**
  - **Police**
  - **Housing**
  - **Community safety**
  - **Education**
  - **Social Work**
  - **Careers**
- **3 Key messages - Violence must stop/Community has had enough/There are ways out – Delivered at Self-Referral Sessions**
- **Results – 52% reduction in violent crimes/82% reduction in weapon offences (CIRV Quarterly Reports; Williams et al, forthcoming)**

# Review of Previous Research – Policy Transfer

- Policy transfer has always existed
- Communication development since WW2 led to increase in transfer policies on global scale
- Roots in comparative policy analysis
  - Policy diffusion (Walker, 1969; Eyestone, 1977)
  - Lesson drawing (Rose, 1991)
  - Policy Convergence (Bennett, 1991)
- Policy transfer focuses more on voluntary transfer by rational actors. Societies grow more alike
- Develop similar structures, processes & performances

# Review of Previous Research – Policy Transfer

- Defined by Dolowitz and Marsh (1996 & 2000) as;  
  
‘a process in which knowledge about policies, administrative arrangements, institutions etc. in one time and/or place is used in the development of policies, administrative arrangements, institutions in another time and/or place’
- Encompasses both ‘voluntary’ policy transfer and ‘coercive’ acts of transfer, which can occur when a government of supra-national body forces or pushes another to adopt a policy



# Theoretical Framework

## Policy Transfer Process Questions

- What is policy transfer?
- Who transfers policy?
- Why is there policy transfer?
- What is transferred?
- Are there different degrees of transfer?
- From where are lessons drawn?
- What factors constrain policy transfer?
- What problems are there with the literature?
- The extent of and reasons for the growth of policy transfer.
- Outline a framework for the analysis of policy transfer.
- Present a continuum to distinguish between different types of policy transfer.
- Address the relationship policy transfer success and failure.



# Theoretical Underpinnings and Research Methodology

- Previous role – Deputy Project Manager in CIRV
- Outsider/Insider perspective (Brown, 1996) – Defined as a Police officer who has left the police and who engages in research into the police service
- Advantages – in-depth knowledge of project and access to key informants and data
- Could lead to bias!
- Qualitative approach – semi-structured interviews and documentary analysis of reports, journals, media sources
- Not an evaluation of CIRV!
- Set out to test the validity of the PT model and add to it!

# Research Findings

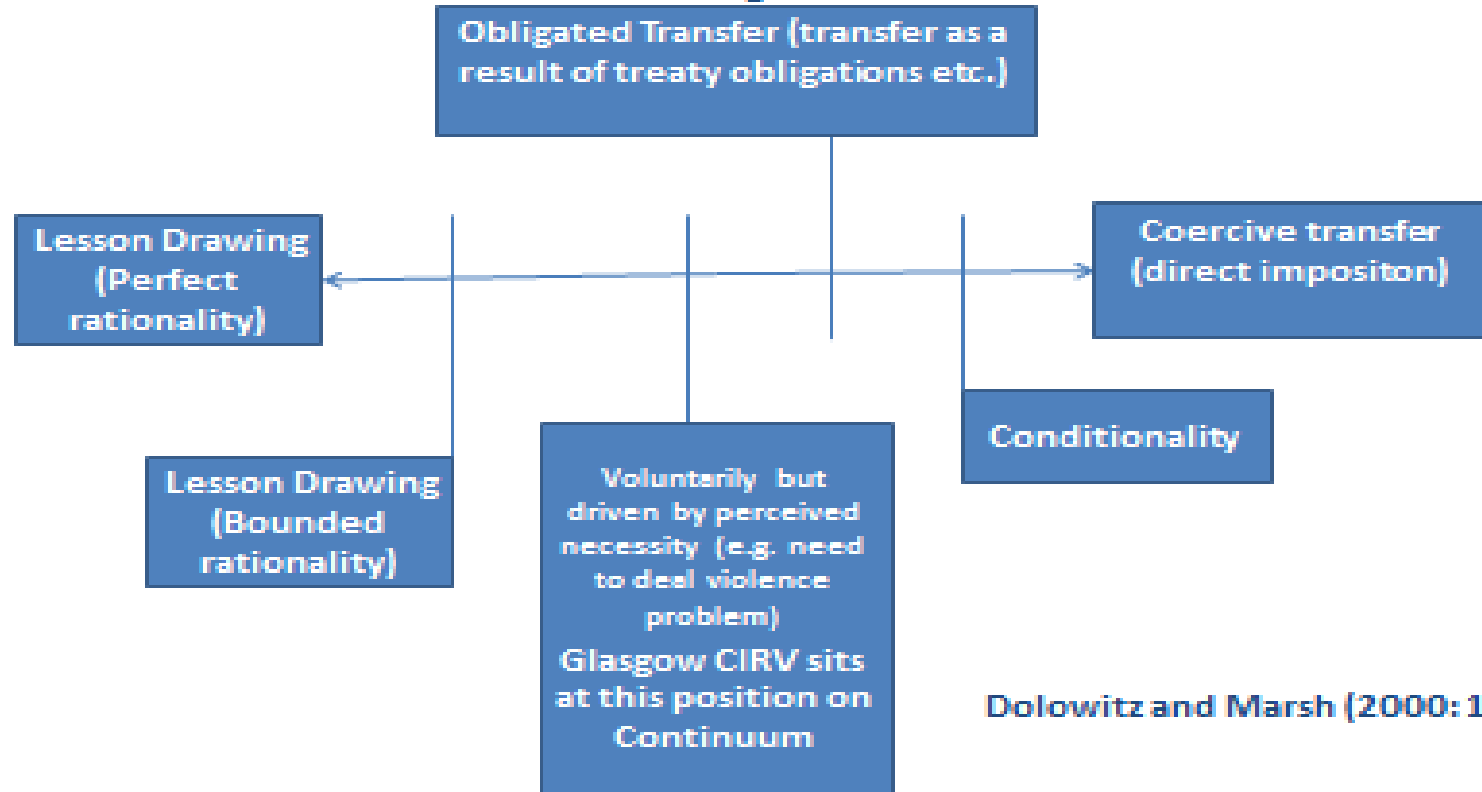
- 30 interviews carried out (20 in Glasgow/10 in Cincinnati)
- Dolowitz and Marsh (1996, 2000) identified 4 degrees of transfer
- Copying; Emulation; Hybridisation/Synthesis; Inspiration
- Evident that Glasgow Copied Cincinnati and then adapted to suits local needs of society – *Emulation*

# Research Findings

- One interviewee described this process as “*tartanisation*”! (Interview: Glasgow 1)
- While another interviewee commented: “..... All we did was put it into the context that was here and changed it to suit our context. We didn’t change it because it was better. We didn’t change it ....to make it better than what was happening in Cincinnati. We changed it so that it would work; because that’s what we had to do you know. We had to tie a ribbon on it and we took some key principles and said okay ....we need to do it in the context of not only Scotland but of Glasgow and the east end of Glasgow.... and break it right down to the local needs.” (Interview: Glasgow 17)

# Research Findings

## Preliminary Findings - Continuum of Policy Transfer



Dolowitz and Marsh (2000: 13)

# Research Findings

## Glasgow

- Lack of 'trigger point' – Gradual recognition that something had to be done
- Central Co-ordinating Hub
- Engagement process – voluntary
- Engagement with young people under 16
- Public Health approach to minimise harm to victim/assailant/society

## Cincinnati

- 'Trigger point' – Sharp rise in homicides
- Project Manager to act as hub for Strategic Managers
- Engagement Process – Compel to attend
- No engagement with those under the age of 16
- No public health approach

# Research Findings

## 'Backflow of Policy Transfer'



- Thank You
- Questions?



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