

## Acknowledgements

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## SIPR Annual Lecture

sponsored by ALPHA Translating & Interpreting Services Ltd.

Chair: Peter Wilson (Chair, SIPR Advisory Board))

18.00 Welcome, John Geates (Director, Scottish Police College)  
Introduction: Professor Nicholas Fyfe (Director, SIPR)

18.10 Lawrence Sherman (Director, Police Executive Programme, Institute of Criminology, Cambridge University),  
'Evidence-Based Policing: What We Know and How We Know It'.

c.19.00 Q & A Session

c.19.20 Sponsor: ALPHA Translating & Interpreting Services Ltd.  
Selma Rahman, Business Manager (Public Sector)

c.19.30 Vote of Thanks (Peter Wilson)  
Wine Reception

c.19.15 Depart

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The Third SIPR Annual Lecture  
by Lawrence Sherman

## Evidence-Based Policing: What We Know and How We Know It

1st October 2009  
The Scottish Police College, Tulliallan



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Principal Annual Lecture Sponsor

Alpha Translating & Interpreting Services Ltd is delighted to be again associated with the SIPR Annual Annual Lecture, 1 October 2009 as Principal Annual Lecture Sponsor.

## ‘Police Effectiveness and Continuing Challenges’

Alpha welcomes the opportunity to engage further with SIPR and your Guest Speaker Professor Lawrence W. Sherman, whilst acknowledging our commonality with the speaker's background and themes: research, effectiveness, and challenges.

Alpha's focus & expertise is based on and has evolved from the role and use of linguistics in effective policing, the wider cjs, and public sectors across Scotland over the last 12 years. From this experiential base, we perceive the continuing linguistic 'challenges' and their impact on effective policing to include: the requirement to move forward from an informed and updated base that will influence policing, across the full spectrum: from face-to-face interaction with the ever-changing composition of your 'clients', your cross-sectorial roles and responsibilities, to administration, financial probity and cost effectiveness.

Our eclectic engagement with various stakeholders enables us to promote specialisms including the need for research covering headliners such as: useage-call outs, language spread, gaps in provision, cpd.

But overall, Alpha continues to ascertain two main points based on our 12 years work. Firstly: quality of delivery will only be driven up, maintained and sustained via that informed, experiential base and not by costs. Namely, the false premise that the lower the price, the more acceptable the service. Secondly: a 'one-size-fits-all' delivery service cannot meet the requirements of different clients - even clients with shared commonalities - if delivery requirements are perceived to be cost-led.

Appropriate service delivery is informed by each individual client's particular requirements. For police forces, this would include ever-changing local demographics, potential changes within police structures, and the inevitability of year-on-year budgetary challenges. The urgency therefore for relevant linguistic 'knowledge' that will build the Scottish profile, whilst supporting and informing individual forces, is therefore as relevant and as lacking, as before.

Self evidently, the role, function and delivery of a human rights service: access to and use of appropriate linguistic services: must be sustained. None of us therefore can afford to negate the achievements to date, many pioneered and supported by Scottish police forces in the past. Future delivery must be progressed to ensure a fit for purpose service that will support 'effective and informed policing'.

Alpha would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and congratulate the lecture organisers and Professor Lawrence W Sherman, and to affirm our continued support to SIPR and Scotland's police forces.

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## The SIPR Annual Lecture

### LAWRENCE SHERMAN



Lawrence Sherman is Director of the Police Executive Programme at Cambridge University's Institute of Criminology, where he is also the Wolfson Professor of Criminology. He began his career in police research in the New York City Police Department, where he was a civilian analyst in the Office of the Police Commissioner for two years. Since then he has conducted field research and experiments in over 30 police agencies across the US, as well as with the Australian Federal Police and five UK agencies, showing the effectiveness of police patrols in high-crime hot spots, of stop and search patrols in high gun crime areas, and of covert surveillance of serious offenders recently released from prison. He recently launched the Tactical Effectiveness and Strategic Testing (TEST) programme in a partnership between Cambridge and the Greater Manchester Police, UK, which will conduct a series of randomized field experiments.

## Evidence-Based Policing: What We Know and How We Know It

Evidence-based policing is an approach to making decisions about policing - by constables on the beat, by detective superintendents, chief constables or government ministers. It can address the broadest questions of strategy, as well as the narrowest questions of tactics. These questions include the following:

- Can crime be better predicted for preventive policing by time and place?
- Can unsuccessful police methods be distinguished from cost-effective ones?
- Can different policing reduce crime and a growing prison population?
- What are the possibilities for leading a police service based on a formal knowledge base of evidence?
- What are the prospects for developing a local knowledge base for such evidence?

Each of these questions can be answered, in part, by the rapidly advancing state of knowledge in criminology. Evidence-based policing is a strategy for applying and translating criminological knowledge into more cost-effective police practice. The "evidence" in this context is not about guilt or innocence, but rather about statistical and individual assessments of costs, risks and benefits.

The application of this approach was inspired by recent developments in medicine, which have increased its capacity to cure disease. In evidence-based medicine, clinical trials with real patients are used to determine the cost effectiveness of medical treatments and preventatives. In evidence-based policing, field experiments with real crimes, criminals and victims are used to determine the cost-effectiveness of preventive and responsive policing. In the past three decades, almost 100 field experiments in policing have developed what we know about what works - and what doesn't - to get results.

Those experiments are the basis for what the lecture will cover: what we know (and don't know) from using rigorous field tests, and how we can learn far more about the effects of policing by investing in a local knowledge base for Scotland, or for England, or Australia, the US or anywhere in the democratic world.