



POLICE

SiPR | Scottish Institute
for Policing Research

annual report
2022/23

Scottish Institute for Policing Research

Annual Report and Accounts 2022/23
for the academic year ending 31 August 2023

**Annual Report and Accounts presented to the
SIPR Board of Governance 23 August 2023**



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director's introduction



Professor Liz Aston
SIPR Director
(Edinburgh Napier University)

LOOKING BACK

The past year has been an exciting one, with the University of Aberdeen joining us as our 15th HEI partner. A number of in-person events have been real highlights, including the dissemination events for the five Seldom Heard Communities reports and the Applied Cognitive Psychology in Forensic Settings mini conference.

Our SIPR networks continue to provide an important route to bringing academics and practitioners together and I am grateful to all the Associate Directors for their hard work. In particular, many thanks to Professor Denise Martin who has stepped down after seven years as Associate Director for the Education and Leadership Network. Congratulations to the new co-leads of the E&L network, Drs Andrew Wooff and Andy Tatnell. We are also delighted that Dr Kirsteen Grant will be joining the leadership team as Associate Director for Development.

In addition to awarding three SIPR funded grants through the 'Developing Effective Policing Systems' grant we have also supported members to leverage external research grants, in line with our strategic priority themes. Over the past year I am pleased to say that, through securing external funds, we have appointed a SIPR Administrator and a Dissemination Officer.

SIPR has continued to do a huge amount over the last year to work closely with our partners. This includes supporting various advisory and steering groups, for example the Independent Advisory Group on Emerging Technologies in Policing, which published its final report this year. We were also pleased to successfully run the Northern Police Research Webinars with international partners from Finland, Sweden, Norway, Iceland and Northern Ireland.

RESEARCH:	'Developing Effective Policing Systems' grants awarded; Think Big Leverage Fund embedded, and external funds leveraged.
KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE:	Publications and KE events including Seldom Heard Communities events; publication of IAG on Emerging Technologies in Policing reports.
LEARNING AND INNOVATION:	Appointment of new co-leads for the Education and Leadership Network; appointment of new Associate Director for Development.
PARTNERSHIPS:	University of Aberdeen joined SIPR; delivered Northern Police Research Webinar series with international partners.

LOOKING FORWARD

In 2022-2023 a key focus will be on developing the SIPR consortium agreement for the next five-year phase of funding. We will also continue to respond to key developments in policing, for example, the Chief Constable's statement on institutional racism, sexism, misogyny and discrimination. Members of the academic community and policing organisations have acknowledged that there has not been enough research or action to address discrimination and I am sure SIPR members will look forward to working with others as part of the solution.

SIPR will launch two 'Responsive Research Fund' calls, co-produced with policing partners, as well as continuing to support partners to secure external grants and scoping small grants for Early Career Researchers.

We are excited to host the 16th Scottish International Policing Conference at the end of November and will continue to support Knowledge Exchange and dissemination through a variety of means. Our second round of SIPR Impact Awards will be announced and we will also focus on documenting and maximising pathways to impact.

Our Postgraduate community look forward to the Postgraduate Symposium and supporting the development of our International Postgraduate Summer School. We plan to bring improvements to our Practitioner Fellowships scheme and will continue to run the Northern Police Research webinars.

As the policing landscape continues to face a variety of societal challenges, we are confident that SIPR's research and approach to working with partners will bring real value to policing. At the same time, critical distance and reflection are central to ensuring academic research has value and yields opportunities for learning and improvement. I look forward to working with you all over the coming year to support SIPR in its mission to support internationally excellent, multi-disciplinary policing research to enable evidence-informed policy and practice.

RESEARCH:	Launch of two 'Responsive Research Fund' calls; scoping of small SIPR grants for Early Career Researchers.
KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE:	16th Scottish International Policing Conference 29th November; SIPR Impact Awards 2023; and maximising pathways to impact.
LEARNING AND INNOVATION:	Postgraduate Symposium, 28th November; supporting our International Postgraduate Summer School; developing our Practitioner Fellowships scheme.
PARTNERSHIPS:	Extending our partnerships and continuing to run the Northern Police Research webinar series.

As always, I would like to thank all core SIPR staff, the Leadership team, Executive Committee, Board of Governance, International Advisory Committee and the Single Points of Contact at each of our HEIs. Thank you to our academic and practitioner members and our wider partners for making all SIPR's collective achievements possible.

I hope you enjoy reading about some of the activity SIPR members have been involved in during 2022-2023. Finally, I would like to thank all those who have contributed to this report and encourage you to keep in touch and continue to engage with SIPR.



about SIPR

"SIPR's mission is to support internationally excellent, multi-disciplinary policing research to enable evidence informed policy & practice."

theme 1: Policing and health, safety and well-being		theme 2: Technology and digital policing		theme 3: Policing systems capability and resilience	
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OUR AIMS

1. RESEARCH	2. KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE	3. LEARNING AND INNOVATION	4. PARTNERSHIPS
			
Facilitating internationally excellent, independent research of relevance to policing.	Engaging in a range of knowledge exchange activities to strengthen the evidence base on which policy and practice are improved & developed nationally and internationally.	Nurturing a culture of learning & innovation.	Promoting the development of national & international partnerships with researcher, practitioner and policing communities.

5 YEAR PLAN OBJECTIVES: Within these four aims we will strive to achieve the following:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supporting internationally excellent policing research under three strategic research themes in order to shape strategic focus and respond to external drivers. Enhance excellence of SIPR policing research through improvements to quality assurance processes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitate events and enhance knowledge exchange tools with international reach. Support evidence to practice routes and develop pathways to enable and document impact. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nurture learning and innovation in policing organisations and universities, supporting the postgraduate community and the next generation of researchers and practitioners. Foster links between higher education and policing organisations and partners to support training, education, leadership, and innovation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitate networking and collaboration between academics, practitioners, and policy makers nationally and internationally. Develop strategic links with new and existing partners.
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financial summary

INCOME

SIPR is the product of aspiration for genuine, meaningful, and sustained collaboration between academic policing research and practical policing.

It represents a true collaboration between academia and policing throughout Scotland with all members investing time, energy, and resources into ensuring our mutual success. As such, SIPR's core funding is provided from both Police Scotland and the Scottish Police Authority as well as contributions from 15 Higher Education Institutes (HEIs) throughout Scotland. We are particularly delighted this year to have Aberdeen University join as our newest member. For more information on Aberdeen University and some of the expertise there, please see more at page 25.



James Smart
Memorial Lecture

We are honoured to host the James Smart Memorial Lecture for which we receive annual sponsorship from the James Smart Memorial Fund. We are looking forward to taking place at the Scottish International Policing Conference in November 2023.

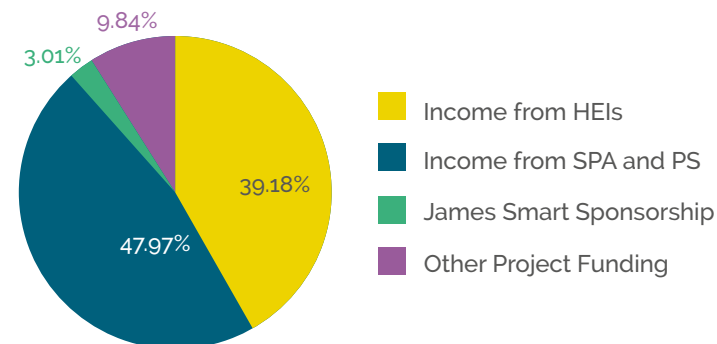
The institute received a total of £265,470 in funding from these members and via sponsorship in 2022/23.

SIPR is currently a member of the project team delivering the 3PO project (Protecting Public Facing Professionals Online) which aims to better understand the challenges, risks and harms police officers and their families face when they are online and to develop direct, sustainable solutions to protect this group from online harms. As a project member, SIPR is receiving some project funding to support the delivery of this project. For more information on 3PO, see page 92.

Our involvement in this project has enabled us to expand SIPR core functionality with Dr Olivia Coombes taking on the role of 3PO Communications and Dissemination Officer and Simon-Lewis Menzies joining as the SIPR Administrator. Both have been incredible assets to our team, and we are delighted to have them both on board.



**SIPR INCOME
2022/23**



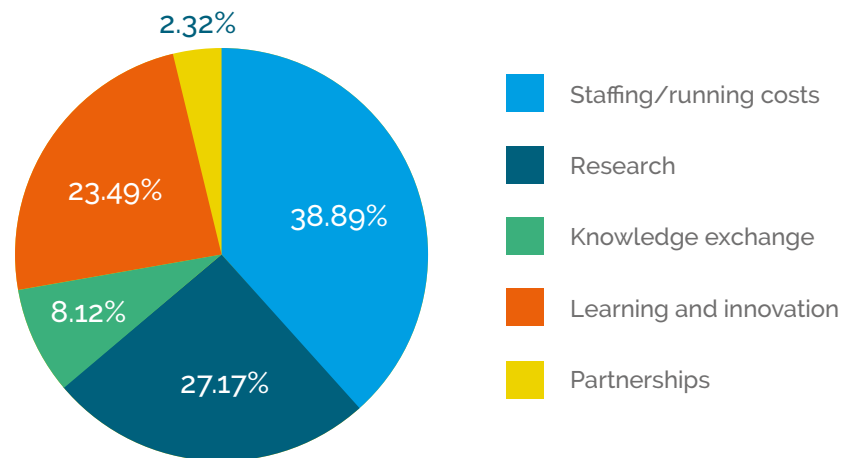


EXPENDITURE

With many of our the SIPR funded research projects completing, this year SIPR has focussed on dissemination and engagement activities delivering a range of successful in-person events along with several large internationally focussed on-line events. Alongside our commitment to ongoing research, we have allocated funds to explore existing research gaps within policing capability and resilience.

The majority of SIPR's expenditure continues to be through our research grants. In 2022/23, we committed £60,000 in new projects (three projects funded as part of the new 'Developing Effective Policing Systems: Capability and Resilience' grants, and one grant as part of our 'Think Big Leverage Fund' which support researchers in applying for large external funding.

SIPR EXPENDITURE 2022/23



FUNDING ALLOCATIONS 2022/23

As an institute, throughout 2022/23 we have been able to commit significant funding to support the achievement of our four aims. Many of these activities have commenced and will continue to be delivered throughout 2023/24.

Over £117,000 allocated to fund RESEARCH.

Significant funding was committed in 2022/23 to support ongoing and new research grants including the Public Protection Network Grant and the Responsive Research Grants.

Approximately £35,000 allocated to KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE activities.

SIPR organised, delivered and co-hosted several larger events this year including the Seldom Heard Voices Community Impact Event and the Applied Cognitive Psychology in Forensic Settings networking event.

Approximately £10,000 allocated to support PARTNERSHIPS.

SIPR contributed £2,600 to support the delivery of partnership events including sponsorship of 'Scotland Day' which showcased some of the excellent work being undertaken in Scotland at the Law Enforcement and Public Health conference in Umeå, Sweden.

Approximately £102,000 allocated to fund LEARNING AND INNOVATION.

SIPR continued to support five PhD studentships through matched and contributions of funding.

SIPR support for Postgraduate Network and Practitioner Fellowships.



highlights 2022/23: our year in review



Monica Craig
Knowledge Exchange
and Business Manager

SIPR operates on five-year cycles and we are currently in year four. Over these 4 years, we have spent significant time and effort and have allocated a large portion of our available expenditure to developing and funding new research. It is great to see so many of these grants now come to fruition and we can start the

exciting task of sharing, disseminating, and promoting the findings and insights gleaned from this research.

The effort and collaborative spirit in which these projects have been undertaken is a credit to the wonderful community of policing academics and partners we have in Scotland. We are pleased to be able to share some of the fascinating and valuable findings from these completed projects throughout this annual report, and look forward to sharing more in the coming year.

One key development this year has been the expansion and change to key members of the core SIPR team. We are grateful to have Simon-Lewis Menzies and Olivia Coombes join the team this year as the SIPR Administrator, and Communications and Dissemination Officer respectively. Their input has been invaluable and thanks to their hard work, we have been able to deliver some key in-

person events and progress vital dissemination activities. Additionally, with Professor Denise Martin moving on from her Associate Director position, I am excited to be welcoming not one but three new Associate Directors – Dr Andrew Tatnell and Associate Professor Andrew Wooff (Edinburgh Napier University) who will be co-Directors of the Education and Leadership network, but also Dr Kirsteen Grant (Edinburgh Napier University) who will take on a new role of Associate Director for Development at the start of 2024.

Finally, we are delighted to welcome Sam Conway and Oana Petcu as the new postgraduate coordinators, and you can hear more about their work on page 47.

As always, I am keen to develop new ideas or collaborations so please don't hesitate to get in contact to discuss any SIPR matters (at m.craig2@napier.ac.uk). Also please don't forget to engage with us through our [website](#), subscribe to our newsletter, engage with us on [twitter](#), or [LinkedIn](#), and subscribe to our [YouTube channel](#).

We measure our success against our 4 guiding aims:

- 1. Research** - Facilitate international excellent, independent research of relevance to policing;
- 2. Knowledge Exchange** - Engage in a range of knowledge exchange activities to strengthen the evidence base on which policy and practice are improved & developed;
- 3. Learning and Innovation** - Nurture a culture of learning & innovation;
- 4. Partnerships** - Promote the development of national & international links with researcher, practitioner and policing communities.



research highlights

GRANTS

In 2022/23, we committed approximately £60,000 in new projects - three projects funded as part of the new 'Developing Effective Policing Systems: Capability and Resilience' grants, and one grant as part of our 'Think Big Leverage Fund' which supports researchers in applying for large external funding.

Throughout 2022/23, SIPR has committed over £124,000 to the creation of research of direct relevance to Scottish policing, some highlights are included below.

DEVELOPING EFFECTIVE POLICING SYSTEMS – £57,000 AWARDED IN 2022/23

This fund was launched at the 2022 SIPR Annual Conference with the aim of supporting research projects exploring knowledge gaps within the SIPR Strategic Theme of "Policing systems, capability and resilience". Three projects were funded:

- 1. Great Expectations! An examination of the rhetoric and reality of police officers' psychological contracts**
£19,000 awarded to Dr Kirsteen Grant (PI) Edinburgh Napier University
- 2. Policing after Lockdown: re-building relationships with the Covid Generation**
£18,000 awarded to Dr Ian Fyfe (PI) University of Edinburgh
- 3. Children Count: Using Policing Data to Inform Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse Protection and Prevention**
£20,000 awarded to Professor Deborah Fry (PI) University of Edinburgh





THINK BIG LEVERAGE FUND – £2,000 AWARDED IN 2022/23

The purpose of 'Think Big Leverage Fund' is to provide support (both financial and otherwise) to researchers applying for external funding. It operates on a rolling deadline (or until the funding allocation is exhausted). Please visit the SIPR website if you are interested in applying for this funding.

1. **Application Development for Horizon 2023** £2,000 awarded to Dr Estelle Clatyon, Edinburgh Napier University

PUBLIC PROTECTION GRANT COMPLETED IN 2022/23

The purpose of these grants is to support the creation of original and innovative research which focusses on challenges and emerging issues related to Public Protection particularly within Scotland but also internationally.

This year research undertaken by Professor Sarah Pedersen (Robert Gordon University) was completed. £12,000 was allocated to research exploring the impact of covid-19 on partnerships between police and Gender Based Violence service providers in remote, rural and island communities in Scotland. This report has now been published and there is an accompanying film.

SELDOM HEARD COMMUNITY GRANTS - £66,400 AWARDED IN 2021/22. COMPLETED IN 2022/23

The purpose of these grants is to support the creation of original and innovative research which focusses on challenges and emerging issues related to Public Protection particularly within Scotland, but also internationally.

1. **"Inquiring together: Collaborative Research with BAME communities and serving officers"** £10,000 awarded to Dr John Mendel (PI) University of Dundee
2. **"To be seen and heard: developing photovoice as a method for the police to engage with young people in underserved communities"** £9,000 awarded to Dr Andrew Williams (PI) St Andrew's University
3. **"Accounting for Complexities: an Intersectional Approach to Enhancing Police Practitioner Accountability, Legitimacy & Sustainable Reform"** £14,400 awarded to Dr Julie Berg (PI) University of Glasgow
4. **"Hearing seldom heard groups: Policing with empathy in conversation with LGBT and young people from disadvantaged backgrounds"** £13,000 awarded to Professor Jim Moir (PI) Abertay University
5. **"Refugee and asylum-seeker experiences, trust and confidence with Police Scotland"** £19,909 awarded to Dr Nicole Vidal (PI) Queen Margaret University



knowledge exchange highlights

SEPTEMBER

3PO Consortium Meeting

OCTOBER

Policing and Intersectionality workshop

Dr Julie Berg and Emily Mann

As part of their Seldom Heard Communities funded grant, the project team presented the preliminary findings from their literature review on policing and intersectionality. This online and interactive workshop with police practitioners aimed to inform a best practice toolkit for police engagement with 'seldom heard communities', intersectional accountability, legitimacy and sustainable reform of policing in Scotland.

NOVEMBER

Bodies in Water – session 2

Dr Lorna Dennison-Wilkins and Jon Rees

This Evidence & Investigation Network explored the complex issues surrounding the movement of bodies in water and the particular challenges related to predicting where a body will be found or where a body entered the water depending on the nature/stage of the investigation and/or search. Due to popular demand in 2021/22 a second and

third session took place in 2022/23 and further are planned for 2023/24.

Supported Restorative Justice and Policing Webinar event

The 4th Webinar of the Scottish Network of Restorative Justice Researchers (SNRJR), organised in collaboration with the Scottish Institute for Policing Research (SIPR). The aims of the webinar were to learn from different jurisdictions about practices and developments as well as from research in RJ and policing; to think together how this could be relevant for Scotland; and contribute to the reflection around the future role of Police Scotland in the rollout of RJ.

Hosting Oslo Police – Stop and Search Meeting

For more information see page 35

Seldom Heard Communities – Sharing Finders with Police Partners

This event, co-hosted with Police Scotland and the Scottish Police Authority, was created to provide an opportunity for the Seldom Heard Community project teams to present initial research findings and recommendations to police colleagues.

DECEMBER

Policing Vulnerability: can Systems Thinking foster more collaborations between law enforcement and public health?

SIPR & SCLEPH co-hosted seminar with invited guest speaker Dr Isa Bartkowiak-Théron (University of Tasmania)

JANUARY

Post-graduate Event – Norwegian Postgraduate Student Knowledge Exchange

SIPR hosted postgraduate students from the University of Oslo who, in conjunction with students from SIPR institutions, presented their work which covered the full range of criminology and policing in both Norway and Scotland.

Police-Community Relations Brokering Team Meeting

Joint Research and Evidence Forum

SIPR is a core member of these forums hosted by the SPA and Police Scotland. These aim to build up a shared evidence base on good practice, challenges and opportunities for collaboration.



FEBRUARY

Northern Police Research Webinar Series ***"How cross-service collaboration can improve community safety and well-being"***

Professor Nadine Dougall, Associate Professor Inga Heyman, and Dr Andrew Tatnell, Edinburgh Napier University

The international Northern Police Research Webinar presents recent research in the field of policing for researchers, practitioners and other interested parties in Finland, Sweden, Norway, Iceland, Scotland and Northern Ireland. For more information see page 41.

Presentation from Superintendent Jari Taponen,, Helsinki Preventative Policing Unit

Supt Taponen presented his work from the Preventative Policing Unit of the Helsinki Police.

MARCH

Northern Police Research Webinar Series ***"Intelligent-Led Policing"***

Dr Shane Mac Giollabhui, Ulster University, Ireland

Northern Police Research Webinar Series ***"Domestic Violence and Risk Assessment"***

Dr Marianne Mela and Dr Jarmo Houtsonen, Police University College, Finland

Drug Checking Project Event

3PO Consortium Meeting

APRIL

Northern Police Research Webinar Series ***"Jacks (and Jills) of all trades: the gentle art of policing rural ireland"***

Guðmundur Oddsson and Andrew Paul Hill, University of Akureyri, Iceland, and Thoroddur Bjarnason, University of Iceland and University of Akureyri, Iceland

"Organisational Learning: A Driver for Change and Resilience within Policing"

Dr Kirsteen Grant (Edinburgh Napier University) and Professor Denise Martin (Abertay University)

The event featured opportunities for networking along with be a series of seminars related to the overarching theme 'Organisation Learning as a Drivers for Change and Resilience within Policing.' For more information see page 44.

Seldom Heard Voices: A Community Impact Event

This event provided an opportunity for the five research teams who received funding though the SIPR Seldom Heard Communities Grant to present and discuss their work with a public audience and allow the general public to gain a greater insight into seldom heard communities.



MAY

Bodies in Water Online Seminar – session 3

Law Enforcement and Public Health Conference – Umeå, Sweden

SIPR supported 'Scotland day' with Police Scotland Chief Constable and ACC Ritchie which showcased some excellent research from Scotland within the theme of policing and public health. SIPR also hosted a networking session and evening reception as part of this day.

Northern Police Research Webinar Series

"Police corruption in a Nordic Context"

Gunnar Thomassen, Norwegian Police University College, Norway

Joint Research and Evidence Forum

SIPR is a core member of these forums hosted by the SPA and Police Scotland. These aim to build up a shared evidence base on good practice, challenges and opportunities for collaboration.

Applied Cognitive Psychology in Forensic Settings – networking event

The SIPR Evidence and Investigation Network followed up on the very successful networking event held online with Queen Margaret University in 2021. Organised by Dr Penny Woolnough (Abertay University) and Dr Julie Gawrylowicz (Abertay University). The event focussed on two overarching themes vulnerable groups and novel technologies.

JUNE

Northern Police Research Webinar Series

"Tactical police information: design challenges for situational awareness"

Erik Borglund, Mid University and Umeå University, Sweden

SIPR Guest Talk – "Police use of Force, pain compliance and ocular trauma: The relevance of regulation of less lethal weapons"

Dr Javier Velásquez Valenzuela, Universidad de la Frontera, Chile

Scottish Institute for Policing Research welcomed Dr Velásquez Valenzuela for a guest talk on the use and regulation of less lethal weapons by state agents in Chile, particularly focussing on the use of less lethal weapons in South America and the use of kinetic impact projectiles and police regulations on the use of force.

JULY

Protest Liaison Policing - A Knowledge Exchange Workshop co-sponsored by The Scottish Institute for Policing Research and The University of Edinburgh

Dr Hugo Gorrington and Dr Michael Rosie University of Edinburgh

This workshop brought together academics and practitioners to reflect on key lessons that can be learned. It explored innovations in proactive liaison

policing and reflected on training and practice to identifying and share experiences in this difficult area.

Examining the pathways into cybercrime with University of Strathclyde Cybersecurity Group

Dr Rutger Leukfeldt, Netherlands Institute for the Study of Crime and Law Enforcement

This event presented findings of interviews with Dutch hackers about their online and offline pathways into cybercrime, co-offending and desistance. Results showed that the first steps in pathways into cybercrime include gaming, Google and YouTube. Additionally, there was a discussion of two interventions that are currently utilised to deter starting cybercriminals.

AUGUST

Joint Research and Evidence Forum

International Perspectives on Cybercrime Symposium

Dr George Weir, University of Strathclyde

SIPR is supporting this event which aims to bring public sector, policing, and academic colleagues together to explore contemporary issues in cybercrime.

SIPR Annual Board of Governance Meeting



EVENT HIGHLIGHT – 3rd Applied Cognitive Psychology in Forensic Settings Networking Event

Dr Susan Griffiths, Robert Gordon University, Aberdeen | **Dr Julie Gawrylowicz, Abertay University, Dundee**

The 3rd Scottish Institute for Policing Research (SIPR) Evidence and Investigation Networking Event on 'Applied Cognitive Psychology in Forensic Settings' took place on 16th May 2023 at Abertay University. Co-hosted by Dr Julie Gawrylowicz (Lecturer, Abertay University) and Dr Susan Griffiths (Lecturer, Robert Gordon University), this event was organised with support from SIPR (Monica Craig and Simon-Lewis Menzies) and Dr Penny Woolnough (Senior Lecturer, Abertay University/SIPR Associate Director).

The aim of this event is to bring together delegates from both practice and academic settings around the world for networking, collaboration, and the sharing of knowledge. Initial presentations by Detective Inspector Norman Stevenson (Police Scotland) and Dr Victoria Morton (Scottish Police Authority Forensic Services) provided insight into their applied experience of Cyber Investigation and Forensic Services respectively. This set the scene for presentations of research relating to the two themes of the day, both of which were followed by an opportunity for networking and discussion.

The first theme, 'Emerging Technologies', explored the use of innovative technology in policing. Presentation topics included identifications with super-recognisers, use of AI in facial recognition, virtual reality interview training, citizens' perspectives of AI use by police in ethnically diverse communities, and body-worn video evidence.

The second theme, 'Vulnerable Groups' focussed on the challenges faced by police and other practitioners when investigating crimes against vulnerable people. Topics within this theme included interpreting in emotionally charged investigative interviews, eliciting information in asylum cases, effects of acute alcohol intoxication on memory, interviewing in cases of repeated events, and the use of avatar interviewers with young people.

Co-hosts Dr Julie Gawrylowicz and Dr Susan Griffiths are both academic members of SIPR's Evidence and Investigation Network Steering Group. Dr Julie Gawrylowicz is interested in the use of innovative methods to obtain accurate testimony from vulnerable people. She provides expert advice to police officers and social workers on age-related differences in memory and suggestibility and the Cognitive Interview. Dr Griffiths has a PhD in eyewitness memory and worked as a Clinical Psychologist with the NHS before commencing her lecturer post. She is keen to apply her expertise of child and adult mental health to eyewitness research.





EVENT HIGHLIGHT: Bodies in Water Webinar

Bodies may enter water as a result of a number of criminal and non-criminal circumstances (e.g., homicide, suicide, accident) and the investigation of such cases is complex.

Bodies in Water

Online Seminar

SIPR | Scottish Institute
for Policing Research

Particular challenges relate to predicting where a body will be found or where a body entered the water depending on the nature/stage of the investigation and/or search.

Organised by the Evidence and Investigation network, this double event brought together two leading researchers within this field – Dr Lorna Dennison-Wilkins (Police Search Advisor, Surrey and Sussex Police) and Jon Rees (Principal Physical Oceanographer at CEFAS - Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science).

While there is little published work to assist search planners and investigators in predicting how human bodies move in an aquatic environment, Lorna and Jon presented on their work which seeks to develop and apply predictive models for inland waterways and marine environments.

Utilising her most recent research findings, Lorna discussed the operation applications of her research in the context of her Police Search Advisor role.

Jon described the processes that the model uses to predict the fate of Missing persons and described some cases from Scotland. Whilst over 50% of predictions are correct, Jon explored some of the reasons why in some cases, predictions are wrong in terms of timing or location.

This event quickly sold out, with over 250 registrations. We were delighted to attract a diverse range of attendees from policing, academic and practitioner backgrounds including police search advisors, police investigators, coastguard, and search and rescue teams.

Due to popular demand, we will organise a fourth session of this webinar to take place in October 2023 as part of the Norther Research Seminar Series.



Dr Lorna Dennison-Wilkins and Jon Rees





EVENT HIGHLIGHT: Liaison Police in Context

Dr Hugo Gorringe | **Dr Michael Rosie**, *University of Edinburgh*

A knowledge-exchange workshop focused on liaison policing was held on 21st July 2023 in Edinburgh, part funded by SIPR. About 30 people attended, over half of whom were serving police officers. There were a series of presentations from a senior officer and multiple academics, and plenty of opportunity for questions, discussions, and networking.

As one of the academic presenters put it: 'great day, I learnt so much and fascinating discussions. Thanks so much for organising it' Similarly, a police attendee said: 'Thanks so much for organising. Success of an event can usually be determined by the amount of discussion that takes place and the audience participation. This was present in abundance, and everyone was engaged throughout. We appreciate the time every speaker offered. It certainly has afforded us food for thought.' The talks covered the theory and practice of liaison and raised questions for consideration.

Part of SIPR's mission is to support internationally excellent policing research by facilitating events and enhance knowledge exchange tools with international reach. Through funding events such as these, SIPR is helping to nurture learning and innovation in policing organisations and universities. These events also serve to highlight how SIPR is facilitating networking and collaboration between academics, practitioners, and policy makers which helps to develop and strengthen strategic links with new and existing partners.





Tom McMahon,
Director of Strategy
and Analysis

SIPR partner:

police scotland

Police Scotland continue to work closely with SIPR as part of our commitment to evidence-led policing, and to support research which helps improve the public experience of engaging with police, enhances public safety and wellbeing, and improves colleague experience working within the Service. Our academic research team are part of our Strategy & Analysis Directorate led by Director Tom McMahon and were established to manage organisational oversight of research and police-academic collaborative working. The team are led by Kirsty Louise Campbell and are currently supporting over fifty live collaborations between Police Scotland and external research practitioners, and work to ensure co-ordinated dissemination of research outputs so that they are integrated into policy and practice.

Following a series of engagement sessions with members of the Police Scotland Executive, priority research themes were identified in line with our Strategic Outcomes and Objectives for policing. Through collaboration with SIPR, we have continued to develop and support a programme of research in alignment with these themes, so that we enhance our evidence base for informing and supporting the delivery of our policing service.

The 'Protecting Officers Online' research project Home | 3PO (3po-project.co.uk) is an example of how SIPR is able to leverage its knowledge and experience to secure funding and enhance Police Scotland's capacity to achieve its strategic objectives. By coalescing the expertise of colleagues in policing and academia, 3PO will identify the online risks and harms faced by police officers and develop sustainable solutions to address this challenge and support officer wellbeing.

The '[Seldom Heard Communities' research programme](#) was a further example of the value which can be gained from collaboration with research institutions, with each project being underpinned by a commitment to identify challenges and design solutions in collaboration with communities. Partnership working is at the heart of our policing service and the Service is committed to strengthening the foundations that were built between policing colleagues and community participants within this programme.

We are continuing to engage with the research participants to take forward the recommendations to improve policing practice in an open and collaborative manner. This will include the development of further research to support practical implementation of findings i.e. listening forums with refugies using innovative engagement techniques such as 'Photovoice'.



Additionally, the development of SIPR-funded research into 'Developing Effective Policing Systems, Capability, and Resilience' will further enhance the development of Police Scotland's priority objectives:

- **Data-led approaches to Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse Prevention (Protecting Vulnerable People)**
- **Police Engagement with Young People Post-Pandemic (Working with Communities)**
- **Probationer Expectations and Experiences (Support for Operational Policing)**

In the year ahead Police Scotland's research priorities will be:

- Public Health approaches in Policing
- Police-led options for prevention and evaluation
- Drivers of violent crime and approaches for prevention
- Local policing and community engagement
- Policing culture, leadership and our people
- Training models and 'what works?'
- Understanding good practice in creating an anti-discriminatory service.

We encourage researchers to approach Police Scotland through the SIPR network to discuss potential collaboration on new proposals which align with any of our research priorities outlined above.





Tom Halpin,
Board Member

SIPR partner:

scottish police authority

In delivering our commitment to 'policing in the public interest' the Scottish Police Authority works to both seek and provide assurance that policing in Scotland is undertaken in the public interest. Our approach to triangulated assurance focuses on data, people and evidence. Through our joint research and evidence forum, led on behalf of the Authority by member Tom Halpin and supported by our Strategy & Performance team, we work to commission and collaborate with academia and the wider international research community to build our understanding and insights in relation to good practice and emerging approaches in evidence led policing.

Over the last year we have continued to draw insights from a range of sources of evidence including academic research, officer and staff experience, insights from civil society, the views of citizens and experience from other jurisdictions. We continue to increase our use of evidence from data, people and observation, and continue to build our public and stakeholder engagement to learn from the views and experience of citizens, officers and staff. Work over this year has included:

PLACES OF SAFETY FOR CHILDREN IN CONFLICT WITH THE LAW

On 15 November, the Authority and Police Scotland hosted a roundtable event chaired by the SPA's Michelle Miller, with a wide range of civic and civil society partners to discuss how we can work together to reduce the number of children under 18 who are held in police custody cells as the only available place of safety. Participants included senior social workers from local authorities across the country, the Children and Young People's Commissioner, the Children and Young People's Centre for Justice, Social Work Scotland, Who Cares Scotland, Barnardo's and the Scottish Violence Reduction Unit, to name only a few. A post event report was considered by the Authority's policing performance committee in June 2023.



Fiona Douglas
Director of SPA
Forensic Services

SIPR partner: SPA forensic services

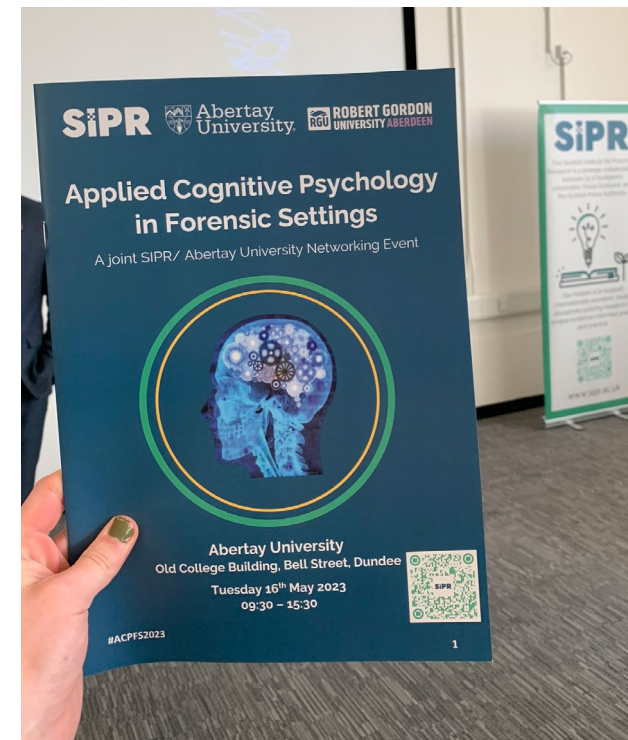
Forensic Services supported the joint SIPR/Abertay University Networking Event Applied Cognitive Psychology in Forensic Settings with a presentation by Dr Victoria Morton, Forensic Services' Chief Operating Officer. Discussions at this event included looking at the challenges Forensic Services staff, Police Officers and social workers face when dealing with the crimes against vulnerable people, particularly children, refugees, asylum seekers and survivors of sexual and domestic abuse.

Academic research plays an important part of delivering our Forensic Strategy: Delivering excellence in forensic science for a safe and resilient Scotland. Forensic Services have a strategic outcome to be "sustainable, adaptable and prepared for future challenges". To help Forensic Services deliver this and our objective to "drive forward the implementation of digital and new technologies to enable forensic services for the future" we created a new post of Research Development & Innovation Manager – and appointed Dr Benjamin Mallinder.

This strategy was produced after wide consultation with stakeholders, including SIPR, and provides Forensic Services with our strategic direction for the coming years with our vision: Scientific excellence for safer communities.

As a member of the SIPR Executive Committee, Fiona Douglas, the Director of SPA Forensic Services, supports the Institute's aims and objectives in research, knowledge transfer, capacity building and long-term sustainability and its plan of activities to support the development of national and international partnerships.

SIPR is also supporting a working group on Demonstrating the Value of Forensic Services, which seeks a suitable methodology to assess the value of the work carried out by Forensic Services SPA brings to the public sector, and this was launched in early 2022.





Craig Naylor

Director of HM Inspectorate
of Constabulary in Scotland

SIPR Board of Governance Member:

HMICS

HM Inspectorate of Constabulary in Scotland (HMICS) is an independent scrutiny body, which has been in existence since the nineteenth century. Its role was reaffirmed by the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012, which gave HMICS wide ranging powers to look into the "state, effectiveness and efficiency" of both Police Scotland and the Scottish Police Authority (SPA).

We also have a statutory duty to ensure that the Chief Constable and the SPA meet their obligations in terms of best value and continuous improvement. If necessary, we can be directed by Scottish Ministers to look into anything relating to the SPA or Police Scotland as they consider appropriate. We also have an established role in providing professional advice and guidance on policing in Scotland.

HM Chief Inspector of Constabulary, Craig Naylor, is a member of the board of SIPR and takes an active interest in the academic cross overs in to every day policing delivery. Craig spoke at the SIPR conference in 2022 and continues to support the endeavours of the research community. Currently Craig Thompson, an ESRC and SIPR supported PhD student based at the University of Dundee is an associate inspector with HMICS and Dr Annie Crowley, University of Glasgow, is about to join HMICS as a lead inspector having previously worked as an associate inspector. The links that they bring to the inspection role provide effective methods to gather current thinking and understand where good practice can be found and considered.

During inspections HMICS regularly use experts to provide a wider knowledge of specific policing threads. A good example of this is the current inspection of Policing Mental Health in Scotland which is supported by an independent advisory panel. Representatives of SIPR are on this panel and have provided support to the inspection from their research backgrounds. This knowledge exchange is critical to ensuring the HMICS inspections refer to the best available evidence in seeking to improve policing across Scotland.



UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN JOINED SIPR IN MAY 2023

To mark the occasion of University of Aberdeen joining the SIPR community, we prepared profiles of selected researchers who conduct applied work related to policing. Please get in touch if you are interested in collaboration!

School of Psychology

Agnieszka Konopka, PhD

Much of the information we need to retrieve in different situations, including in eye-witness testimony, is encoded with the help of language. My work focuses on understanding how language guides attention, how it biases what we do and do not remember, and how it can explain the generation of false memories. I compare memory for information presented with and without language in individuals with different linguistic backgrounds, linguistic proficiency, and exposure to accents.

Email: agnieszka.konopka@abdn.ac.uk

Eva Rubínová, PhD

It may be difficult for victims or witnesses to accurately report what happened at an event if it happened more than once because they may confuse what happened when. My research focuses on understanding repeated event memory and developing interviewing approaches that help facilitate collecting complete, accurate, and informative reports in cases of repeated offending.

Email: eva.rubanova@abdn.ac.uk

Travis Seale-Carlisle, PhD

Broadly speaking, my research seeks to advance our theoretical understanding of human memory so that memory can be more reliable in applied and forensic settings. One component of this research investigates human memory when tested on police-constructed lineups. I aim to design lineup procedures that maximize the chances of identifying the guilty suspect while, at the same time, minimize the chances of identifying the innocent suspect.

Email: travis.seale-carlisle@abdn.ac.uk

Clare Sutherland, PhD

My work looks at facial recognition as well as more subjective judgements from faces (e.g. trustworthiness). I investigate both adult and children's face perception as well as both adult and child images. I also have an interest in AI-generated faces ("deep fakes") as well as AI facial recognition accuracy and bias.

Email: clare.sutherland@abdn.ac.uk

Ben Tatler, PhD

My research focuses on how people gather and use visual information from complex, real-world environments. I have worked on visual attention in CCTV surveillance and previously worked with Police Scotland on how expert CCTV operators monitor multiple screens at once and how this varies between day and night shifts.

Email: b.w.tatler@abdn.ac.uk

School of Natural and Computing Sciences

Thuan Yew Edward Chuah, PhD

My research targets security in large-scale systems. Large networks perform extensive logging of NetFlow data, and processing this data is an advocated basis for intrusion detection. Currently, I am developing novel correlation analysis approaches to detect intrusions in large networks. Based on studying patterns and correlations of malicious activities, I will develop novel and efficient workflows to predict where and when an attack will occur.

Email: thuan.chuah@abdn.ac.uk

Nir Oren, PhD

My work in explainable AI was previously used by intelligence analysts and can support users understand complex relationships, for example between events or evidence. My work in optimisation can contribute to blue light service delivery improvement, e.g., by suggesting how vehicles should be placed around a city to minimise response time.

Email: n.oren@abdn.ac.uk



overview of SIPR networks

EVIDENCE AND INVESTIGATION

Effective investigation of crimes and incidents is central to all police organisations. An investigation will seek to find all available evidence and intelligence that enable its objectives to be met. Today's investigator operates in an increasingly complex social and legal arena and is likely to lead a team of police and police staff with a wide range of skills and knowledge. Science, technology, psychology, criminology and other areas of specialist knowledge continue to grow rapidly, presenting the investigator with new opportunities and risks. For example, the existence of national DNA databases with the potential for highly sophisticated intelligence use, has revolutionised how many investigations proceed and has identified the need for continued review of individual cases. This network provides a focus for research in a range of specialist areas related to the role of the police in the recovery, interpretation and effective use of intelligence and evidence in the investigation of crime and major incidents. This includes the development and evaluation of policy and good practice in the strategic and tactical use of forensic sciences.

POLICE-COMMUNITY RELATIONS

This network provides a focus for independent research concerned with the relationships between police and the communities they serve. This relationship is a major factor in determining the effectiveness of policing. For example, a positive relationship might be expressed in communities' willingness to cooperate with the police in solving crime. By contrast, a negative relationship might be reflected in communities' reluctance to help the police and, potentially, by a breakdown in public order. In addressing these issues the network draws upon research expertise across a range of academic disciplines, to provide a multi-disciplinary approach to the study of complex areas such as translating research findings into local policing practice, working in partnership with other organisations and increasing public confidence in policing. Through close collaboration with police and other stakeholders the network ensures that research results impact on police policy, procedure and practice.



EDUCATION AND LEADERSHIP

The aims of this network are to promote research in police education and leadership development; to support Police Scotland with research in education and leadership towards increased professionalism and capability; and to address issues of professional education and CPD. Education refers to initial education as well as career-long professional development, workplace learning, and organisational learning. Leadership refers to leadership practices and capabilities in all levels and aspects of policing. The Education and Leadership network focusses on the internal dynamics of the police organisation including:

- issues of management, policy, leadership and organisational structure and culture;
- police education at a local, national and international level to support Police Scotland with research in education and learning and enhance capability in this area;
- enhance the links between evidence based policing, education and leadership;
- identifying and establishing what good leadership development in policing for the future look like;
- examine and consider innovations from other organisations and how they can support or increase organisational and workforce capability; and
- consider what are the most significant differences that we need to attend to - both differences in individual learning needs, and differences in diverse contexts of policing.

PUBLIC PROTECTION

The aims of the network are to both promote, and provide a focus for, independent research on policing and public protection; to collaborate with Police Scotland and other community stakeholders to produce quality research on all relevant areas of public protection; to ensure that independent academic research on public protection is made accessible to police forces, practitioners and policy makers; and to ensure research results impact on police policy, practice and procedure. In support of these aims, the network draws upon expertise from a range of academic disciplines including: sociology; criminology; geography; psychology; social policy; law; social work; economics; and health

The network defines public protection broadly and includes research on areas such as: all forms of gender based violence; child abuse and sexual exploitation; children and young people; gangs and youth violence; hate crime; homicide; missing persons; human trafficking; mental health; vulnerable adults; and the intervention, treatment and management of sexual and violent offenders. Research of relevance to the network may be directly on policing or the police, but may also focus on other areas or institutions, but with direct relevance for policing or the police. In Scotland there are a number of consortia and groups focusing on public protection issues, however none focus specifically on policing and public protection and this remit will be met by this SIPR thematic network.



education and leadership network

**Professor
Denise Martin**

Professor of
Criminology, Abertay
University (outgoing
Associate Director)



Associate Professor

Andrew Wooff

Head of Social
Science, Edinburgh
Napier University
(incoming co-
Associate Director)



Dr Andrew Tatnell

Honorary Senior
Research Fellow
(Policing), Edinburgh
Napier University
(incoming co-
Associate Director)



The purpose of the Education and Leadership Network is to promote research in the area of police education, learning, and leadership, and support areas such as continuing professional development through engagement activities and events. It also seeks to provide support for the postgraduate community and encourages the creation of opportunities to enable PhD student development.

The network steering committee meets twice a year and through the network we discuss key priorities and organise events. The first priority for the network this year was the assessment and award of research grants under the third strategic research aim for SIPR, Policing Systems, Capability and Resilience. It was the first network specific grant, and we received a number of high-quality applications and were able to award 3 grants applications funding. The panel consisting of members of the network and our partner organisations were impressed by the high quality of research proposals submitted and look forward to the outcome of the research in the coming year.

The network was also involved in several other events to support international students and police practitioners. At the end of September Professor Martin attended the annual London Police College's to deliver a keynote speech on Skills, Education and Wellbeing. In January a number of members of the network including the postgraduate co-ordinators hosted an event for Masters students from Oslo. Professor Martin sat on an expert panel with other colleagues including Dr Megan O'Neill to answer question on policing research and SIPR's role in the Scottish landscape.



MEMBERSHIP

- **Dr William Graham** - Abertay University
- **Professor Ross Deuchar** - University of the West of Scotland
- **Dr Kirsteen Grant** - Edinburgh Napier University
- **Dr Maureen Taylor** - Glasgow Caledonian University
- **Dr Yvonne Hail** - Police Scotland
- **Superintendent Rob Hay** - Police Scotland
- **Darren Paterson** - Scottish Police Authority

KEY ACTIVITIES/ HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2022/23

In April 2023 Professor Denise Martin Abertay University and Associate Professor Kirsteen Grant Napier University organised an event with SIPR to explore Organisational Learning in a Police context. The Conference hosted by Napier Business School was attended by a cohort of visiting police leaders and academics from Norway. They were accompanied by Professor Cathrine Filstad last years' Nick Fyfe lecture presenter. At the conference Professor Martin presented her work on police organisational learning alongside a colleague from Police Scotland Inspector Amanda Nicholson who has been collaborating with academics including Professor Martin on the development of Police Scotland's Learning and Development Strategy. Other guests included Professor Sarah Charman of Portsmouth University discussing her work on police retention and Professor Gavin Roxburgh and colleagues from Workforce Foundation Jon Freegard and Niall Allen-Curry.

In May 2023 Professor Denise Martin attended the Law Enforcement and Public Health Conference in Umea Sweden. On one panel with colleagues from Police Scotland and the Edinburgh Futures Institute and Australian Institute of Police Management, she presented about her work on Police Learning and Development and the importance of this is providing police leaders with the right skills and capabilities. She also presented on a second panel on Police Education with colleagues from England, Scotland and Australia.

Professor Denise Martin, Neil Leslie and Andy Wilson (both current PhD students involved in police related research) worked with the College of Policing to develop a new National Talent Development Strategy in England and Wales.

And finally, Professor Martin will pass over the two new co-directors Dr Andrew Wooff and Dr Andrew Tatnell to outline the plans for the coming session. It has been a pleasure and an honour to be part of the SIPR leadership Team leading the Education and Leadership network for the past 7 years. Good luck to the new co-directors who will continue to develop and grow the work of the Education and Leadership network.

PLANS FOR 2023/24

As new Associate Directors coming in to post in August, we plan to build on Prof Martin's work by further enhancing the capacity and capability of the Network. This will involve pro-actively consulting with both existing members and with prospective members and ensuring we have a clear and exciting vision, a clear strategy and a coherent plan around which to structure activities for delivering the vision. In co-operation with members and the SIPR Executive we will aim to:

- Pro-actively engage with key stakeholders, identify key people and secure their commitment to be actively involved with the network;
- Increase and broaden our membership to include other institutions;
- With members and the SIPR Executive, develop an exciting vision for the future of the network, formulate guiding principles for the network, and develop a clear strategy and implementation plan based on key aims and expectations;
- Review practitioner fellowships and, in conjunction with members, devise a plan for developing and reinvigorating these;
- Support the George Mason University summer school;
- Work with the SIPR exec and other partners to ensure the education and leadership network is supporting the broader SIPR strategic objectives;
- Ensure there is flexibility within the network to respond to new and emerging priorities.



evidence and investigation network



Dr Penny Woolnough,
Associate Director Evidence
and Investigation Network –
Abertay University

The Evidence and Investigation network provides a focus for research in a range of specialist areas related to the role of the police in the recovery, interpretation and effective use of intelligence and evidence in the investigation of crimes and major incidents. This includes the development and evaluation of policy and good practice in the strategic and tactical use of forensic sciences. Consequently, we work closely with key partners in Police Scotland, SPA Forensic Services and the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS) across the range of projects and activities that are aligned with the network.

MEMBERSHIP

The work of the network is coordinated and steered by a Network Steering Group comprising nine academics and three practitioners from Police Scotland, SPA Forensic Services and the National Crime Agency:

- **Professor Lucina Hackman**, Senior Lecturer in Human Identification, University of Dundee
- **Dr Penny Haddrill**, Centre for Forensic Science, University of Strathclyde
- **Dr Niall Hamilton-Smith**, Senior Lecturer in Criminology, University of Stirling
- **Dr Richard Jones**, School of Law, University of Edinburgh
- **Dr Jennifer Murray**, Psychology Research Group, Edinburgh Napier University
- **Dr Lee Curley**, Department of Psychology, Open University
- **Dr George Weir**, Computer and Information Sciences, University of Strathclyde
- **Dr Susan Griffiths**, Psychology, Robert Gordon University
- **Ms Fiona Douglas**, Director Forensic Services, Scottish Police Authority
- **Detective Chief Superintendent Gary Cunningham**, Police Scotland.
- **Detective Sergeant Stephen Halls**, National Crime Agency



KEY ACTIVITIES/ HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2022/23

Over the past year, we have completed our involvement with the College of Policing Committee to write new guidelines for effective investigations through developing and improving the application of the investigative mindset. The Committee, comprising frontline practitioners and subject matter experts (specialist practitioners and academics) has completed the development of guidelines which will shortly be published by the College for use by all UK police forces.

In June we hosted the third biannual Network event on Applied Cognitive Psychology in Forensic Settings. While the last event in 2021 had to be held online due to Covid-19, this time we went back a fully in-person event with a fantastic line-up of UK and International speakers. Special thanks to Network Steering Group members Dr Julie Gawrylowicz and Dr Susan Griffiths for leading the organisation for the event. See page 16 for full details.

Members of the Network Steering Group (Dr Penny Woolnough and Dr Penny Haddrell) continue to contribute to the ongoing SPA Value of Forensic Science Working Group which aims to seek a suitable methodology to: understand the contribution of forensic science within the Justice System; determine how forensic science contributes to overall public safety, crime prevention and confidence in policing; influence decision making in the justice process; to influence research and innovation; support change and future strategic direction; use resources effectively and; define and track investment outcomes as well as demonstrate value for money to the taxpayer.

In November we hosted a second sell-out webinar on the movement of bodies in water. UK experts Dr Lorna Dennison-Wilkins (Sussex Police / Dundee University) and Mr Jon Rees (Centre for the Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science) shared their research and operational practice regarding predicting where a body will be found or where a body entered the water depending on the nature/stage of the investigation and/or search. Lorna and Jon have been developing and applying predictive models for inland waterways and marine environments respectively, which form the basis of this webinar to an audience of just under 200 academics and practitioners (including Police Search Advisors, police investigators, HM Coastguard and search and rescue teams) from around the UK. This was followed in May with another seminar timed specifically for colleagues in Australia and New Zealand.

PLANS FOR 2023/24

Over the next academic year, we have a few things planned. We will continue to support the SPA-Forensic Services Value of Forensic Science Working Group and look forward to working closely with newly appointed staff who will be driving forward SPA-FS research and development work.

Due to practitioner demand, we will also continue the Bodies in Water seminar with an event as part of the Northern Research Seminar series group now which includes representatives from Sweden, Finland, Norway, Iceland, Denmark, and Northern Ireland.

Directly emerging from discussions and connections made at the Applied Cognitive Psychology in Forensic Settings event in June, members of the Network will be taking forward work to support the Scottish Police College with a review of Investigative Interview Training, as well as further engaging with the Police Scotland Cyber Investigations and Digital Forensic team regarding opportunities for SIPR/ Network support.

Please do get in touch if you have ideas for activities / collaborations you would like the Network to support as we would be delighted to hear from you.



public protection network



**Professor Lesley
McMillan**

Associate Director Public
Protection Network
(Glasgow Caledonian
University)

The aims of the network are to both promote, and provide a focus for, independent research on policing and public protection; to collaborate with Police Scotland and other community stakeholders to produce quality research on all relevant areas of public protection; to ensure that independent academic research on public protection is made accessible to police forces, practitioners and policy makers; and to ensure research results impact on police policy, practice and procedure.

The network defines public protection broadly and includes research on areas such as: all forms of gender based violence; child abuse and sexual exploitation; children and young people; gangs and youth violence; hate crime; homicide; missing persons; human trafficking; mental health; vulnerable adults; and the intervention, treatment and management of sexual and violent offenders. Research of relevance to the network may be directly on policing or the police, but may also focus on other areas or institutions, but with direct relevance for policing or the police.

MEMBERSHIP

The work of the network is coordinated and facilitated by a steering group comprised of academics from across the SIPR consortium institutions, Police Scotland representatives from across the Public Protection portfolio, and Scottish Police Authority representatives.

ACADEMIC MEMBERS

- **Dr Colin Atkinson** (University of the West of Scotland)
- **Dr William Graham** (University of Abertay)
- **Dr Scott Grant** (University of the West of Scotland)
- **Dr Inga Heyman** (Edinburgh Napier University)
- **Amy Humphrey** (University of Dundee)
- **Dr Lynn Kelly** (University of Dundee)

- **Dr Rachel McPherson** (University of Glasgow)
- **Dr Maureen Taylor** (Glasgow Caledonian University)

POLICE SCOTLAND & SCOTTISH POLICE AUTHORITY MEMBERS

- **Detective Chief Superintendent Sam Faulds** (Public Protection)
- **T/Detective Superintendent Martin MacLean** (Adult and Child Protection)
- **Detective Superintendent Fil Capaldi** (Rape and Sexual Crime; Human Trafficking and Exploitation; and Prostitution)
- **T/Detective Chief Inspector Gillian Fairlie** (Domestic Abuse; Honour-based Abuse; Forced Marriage, Stalking and Harassment)
- **Chief Superintendent Linda Jones** (Safer Communities)
- **Eleanor Gaw** (Scottish Police Authority)



KEY ACTIVITIES/ HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2022/23

The network has made valuable contributions including research, knowledge exchange, public engagement and the establishment of new areas of practice.

Members of the network have taken an active role in supporting Police Scotland's work to develop the Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy, including participation in Academic Challenge Events. Professor McMillan is a member of the Stakeholder Engagement Forum (SEF) for VAWG, and colleagues have offered a range of help and assistance.

During 2022/23, research teams funded under the SIPR Public Protection Research Funding call launched in summer 2022 have been undertaking research on Pathways of Trust: Help Seeking for Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and Gender Based Violence (GBV) in Scotland and the impact of COVID-19 on partnerships between the police and gender-based violence (GBV) service providers in remote and rural island communities of Scotland

The network continues to support the Scottish Cold Case Unit, which has developed a highly successful partnership with Police Scotland's National Missing Persons Unit. Co-directed by steering group members Dr Maureen Taylor and Professor Lesley McMillan, and in collaboration with Locate International, the unit is working on nine unsolved missing person and unidentified remains cases from Scotland and England. The unit works in successful partnership with Police Scotland's National Missing Person's Unit and was recently shortlisted for the Herald Higher Education Awards in the Partnership category recognising the unique value garnered from collaborative working.

A range of other research projects are underway within the group including work on access to forensic medical examination and post-sexual assault care in rural areas, the domestic abuse disclosure scheme, mental health, emotional labour of public protection officers, institutional responses to domestic abuse and stalking, public attitudes to complainers anonymity in sexual offence cases, image-based abuse, sexual offences and risk, sexual violence in higher education, and sexual assault of young women and girls.

PLANS FOR 2023/24

The network will continue our successful webinar series in 2023/24 with a number of events already planned covering image-based sexual abuse, violence and desistance, legislative change around complainers anonymity in sexual offences, child sexual exploitation and missing Vietnamese in the UK. We will seek to further develop the work recently funded by UKRI on domestic homicide and work towards further funding to support this work, develop work with the Risk Management Authority and collaborative work with an NHS Trust.



police-community relations network



Dr Megan O'Neill
Associate Director,
Police - Community Relations
Network, University of Dundee

This network provides a focus for independent research concerned with the relationships between the police and the communities they serve. This relationship is a major factor in determining the effectiveness of policing and the network aims to increase public confidence in policing. In addressing these issues, the network draws upon research expertise across a range of academic disciplines to translate research findings into local policing practice, working in partnership with other relevant organisations.

MEMBERSHIP

The Police-Community Relations Network is led by a Brokering Team which meets at least twice per year. Membership of this team will fluctuate depending on the topics being discussed, who is most relevant from each organisation to take work forward in these areas and disseminate those findings to the most appropriate users. Current membership of the Brokering Team includes:

- **Dr Niall Hamilton-Smith** (deputy chair of the Network, University of Stirling)
- **Valerie Arbuckle** (Police Scotland, Partnership Development Manager)
- **Superintendent Gregg Banks** (Police Scotland, Local Policing Programme)
- **Davina Fereday** (Police Scotland; Strategy, Insight and Innovation Division)
- **Superintendent Matthew Richards** (Police Scotland; Partnerships, Prevention and Community Wellbeing)
- **Superintendent Jim Royan** (Police Scotland; Events, Emergency and Resilience Planning)
- **Martin Smith** (Scottish Police Authority)
- **Jennifer Galbraith** (Scottish Police Authority)
- **Dr Andrew Wooff** (Edinburgh Napier University)
- **Dr Shane Horgan** (Edinburgh Napier University)



KEY ACTIVITIES/ HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2022/23

The primary focus of the PCRN in 2022/23 was finalising the Seldom Heard Communities grants and sharing the findings with our partners in Police Scotland, The Scottish Police Authority (SPA) and with the communities who contributed to this research. The grants emerged from discussions in the PCRN in 2021 about the need to have a stronger evidence-base for enhancing communication between the police and those communities whose voices are not usually heard in traditional engagement channels. The funding came from a collaboration between SIPR, Police Scotland and the SPA and five applications were successful. These grants and their outcomes are discussed in more detail on p.54 of this report.

In November 2022, we were delighted to support a visit from academic researchers, police officers and members of NGOs in Oslo, Norway to discuss the Scottish experience of reforming stop and search practice. The police and city council in Oslo were examining ways to introduce reforms, such as a receipt book and how best to capture and monitor police practice. Dr Megan O'Neill assisted with identifying relevant researchers, police officers and other partner agencies to consult with the Norwegian colleagues over their three-day visit. The feedback from our Norwegian visitors was that the consultations were extremely valuable, and they were especially grateful for the open and detailed discussions.

On outcome from a previous Brokering Team meeting was the need to better understand how to measure prevention, and what prevention looks like in other jurisdictions. In response to this, a Superintendent from the Finnish Police, Jari Taponen, was invited to give an online presentation to Brokering Team members about the work of his Preventative Policing Unit in Helsinki. Supt Taponen spoke

to us at length in Feb 2023. There were several areas of common practice and common challenges identified, as well as interesting points of deviation. Several invitations for Supt Taponen to visit Police Scotland and continue the conversation were extended. We are planning to facilitate such a visit in Autumn 2023.

In March 2023, Dr Megan O'Neill facilitated a conversation between Chief Superintendent James Royan and Dr Niall Hamilton-Smith and Dr Colin Atkinson in relation to current academic research on football and protest policing. There had been several recent events in these areas that CS Royan identified as benefitting from reflection from subject experts.

In her capacity as the chair of the Police-Community Relations Network, Dr Megan O'Neill has been involved in the Cross-Justice Working Group on Race Data and Evidence, run by Justice Analytical Services of the Scottish Government. This work has involved attending periodic meetings with a wide range of researchers and practitioners about what is needed to gather more robust data on how people of different ethnicities are represented in the various agencies of criminal justice. Dr O'Neill was also a member of the research sub-group of this committee.

PLANS FOR 2023/24

Next academic year, the PCRN will be involved in an assessment of existing research on discriminatory practice in policing in Scotland and the scope for developing new research in this space. We will facilitate a visit from Supt Taponen from Helsinki to discuss measures of prevention and will also assist in the development of the annual SIPR International Policing conference.



impact



Dr Rhonda Wheate
Senior Knowledge
Exchange Fellow

The concept of “impact” has developed over the last few decades as a means of recognising and measuring how research, innovation, ideas and actions can affect culture, economics, environment, society, health, policies, law, and technology. SIPR’s raison d’etre, as a collaboration between Police Scotland, the Scottish Police Authority, and 15 Scottish universities, to carry out high quality, independent research and to make evidence-based contributions to policing policy and practice, immediately lends itself to creating impact. Over 2022-3, SIPR has continued its programme of funding impactful dynamic research which responds to policing needs and priorities, supporting evidence to practice routes, and developing pathways to better enable and document impact.





As set out in the Annual Plan 2022-3 and the Annual Report 2021-2, we have commenced mapping the impact of: SIPR's contributions through representation on steering groups, advisory boards, strategic enhancement groups, government consultations; SIPR's Practitioner Fellowships; SIPR's contributions to REF Impact Case Studies; collaboration within and outwith higher education and policing in SIPR-funded research; and SIPR's annual impact awards and early career researcher impact prizes.

In particular, the five research projects funded through SIPR's Seldom Heard Communities Grants have continued to progress over 2022-3. From this work, impact is anticipated in the areas of police practitioner accountability, legitimacy, and sustainable reform; collaborations between Police Scotland and BAME communities; trust and confidence in policing amongst refugee and asylum seekers; novel methods for police to engage with young people in underserved communities; and policing in the LGBT community and amongst young people from disadvantaged backgrounds.

These projects will come to fruition in 2023-4 and will be presented in dissemination events including events with Police Scotland and the Scottish Police Authority. Following this, the impact of the outcomes will be subject to ongoing capture, tracking, mapping and documentation. For although some impact may be evident in the immediate or short term (e.g. the success reported in previous years in relation to the naloxone trials), impact more usually develops over the medium to long term and thus needs to be mapped on an ongoing basis. Our strategy is to not only facilitate the sharing of research findings and recommendations, but to work collaboratively to develop and revise strategies to put the findings and recommendations into practice, and over time to maximise the beneficial impact.

Key goals arising from the above include maximising the opportunity for serving and experienced police officers to interact with research(ers); maximising SIPR's engagement with the third sector, industry, civil rights organisations, institutions of civil society, and non-government organisations; continuing to emphasise and reward multi-disciplinary work; sharing examples of good practice in knowledge exchange and impact from within and outwith SIPR; continuing to monitor and exploit the Research Excellence Framework (REF) developments in impact, to align SIPR research with this industry standard and to maximise researchers' ease in understanding what SIPR is looking for in relation to impact; developing with Police Scotland a means of viewing, considering, and participating in a feedback loop for Police Scotland Strategies; building in feedback loops to all research projects, including those co-funded or conducted collaboratively with Police Scotland and requiring evidence to be logged with SIPR; building impact and feedback loops into SIPR knowledge exchange and dissemination activities; considering the creation of impact grants, specifically to focus on and fund the collection of evidence of the impact that may arise from a research project; examining SIPR's impact on other jurisdictions, both within the UK and abroad, and; maximising the future impact of SIPR's activities by including the benefits of inter-disciplinarity and non-academic evidence in our work.

Finally, following the success and wide appeal of the inaugural SIPR Impact Awards, celebrated at the SIPR annual conference in 2022, nominations will again open in 2023 with the prize-giving at the annual conference in December this year.

international advisory committee



Hon Dr Gill Imery
Chair of the International
Advisory Committee

We are delighted to welcome Hon Dr Gill Imery as the new Chair of the International Advisory Committee.

Gill has over 36 years of public service experience, all in roles related to criminal justice and policing. A serving police officer for 32 years, most recently she was HM Chief Inspector of Constabulary (HMICS) in Scotland between 2018 and 2022, responsible for providing independent scrutiny of policing and its governance body, the Scottish Police Authority. She has been a close colleague of SIPR for many years having represented HMICS on the Board of Governance. We are delighted that she will be leading work in our international area and are looking forward to working with her throughout her tenure as chair.

We would also like to take this opportunity to extend our sincerest thanks to Hon Dr Derek Penman, outgoing Chair of the International Advisory Committee (IAC). Derek was instrumental in re-establishing the committee, bringing together a truly diverse group (both in terms of geography and discipline) to guide the strategic direction of SIPR and support our international capacity building. We are incredibly grateful for his valuable support and guidance for SIPR and look forward to working together soon.

The SIPR International Advisory Committee, (IAC) draws our membership from relevant national and international organisations and includes individuals of international standing, with significant experience in academia or policing.

MEMBERSHIP

- **Hon Dr Gill Imery** (Chair)
- **Professor Liz Aston** (Edinburgh Napier University)
- **Dr Nick Bland** (Scottish Government)
- **Professor Nick Crofts** (Global Law Enforcement and Public Health Association, Australia)
- **Professor John Firman** (American University, USA)
- **Dr Victoria Herrington** (Australian Institute of Police Management, Australia)
- **Dr Vesa Huotari** (POLAMK - The Police College of Finland)
- **Professor Sofie De Kimpe** (Free University Brussels, Belgium)
- **Professor Cynthia Lum** (George Mason University, USA)



- **Professor Monique Marks** (Durban University of Technology, South Africa)
- **Dr Vesa Mutttilainen** (POLAMK - The Police College of Finland)
- **Dr Rick Muir** (Police Foundation, UK)
- **Amanda Coulthard / Martin Smith** (Scottish Police Authority)
- **Professor Richard Southby** (The George Washington University, USA)
- **Rachel Tuffin** OBE (College of Policing, UK)
- **Amy Wilson** (Head of Justice Analytical Services, Scottish Government)
- **Monica Craig** (SIPR)
- **ACC Gary Ritchie / ACC David Duncan** (Police Scotland)

We provide professional support and advice the Director, Executive Committee and Board of Governors on measures that will assist SIPR and its members to deliver the maximum impact from its work both nationally and internationally. We provide support and advice, but do not form part of the formal governance, accountability, or performance management mechanisms for SIPR.

KEY ACTIVITIES/ HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2022/23

We are delighted that 2022/23 has provided so many more opportunities to re-engage and collaborate with our International Advisory Committee members and other international partners.

Some highlights include:

- SIPR hosted Dr Dr Isa Bartkowiak-Théron from the University of Tasmania to present on "Policing Vulnerability: can Systems Thinking foster more collaborations between law enforcement and public health"
- Hosted Supt Jari Taponen – presentation to Preventative Policing Unit in Helsinki
- SIPR supported the attendance of delegates at the Law Enforcement and Public Health Regional (LEPH) meeting in May 2023
- SIPR also hosted an evening networking reception as part of 'Scotland Day' at the LEPH conference which showcased some excellent research from Scotland within the theme of policing and public health.
- Throughout February until June SIPR co-hosted six webinars as part of the 'Northern Police Research Webinar Series'. This featured presenters from presents Finland, Sweden, Norway, Iceland, Scotland and Northern Ireland and

covered a diverse range of subjects from tri-service collaboration to police corruption.

- SIPR hosted Postgraduate delegations from students from the University of Oslo, Norway and George Mason University, United States of America
- Co-hosted a delegation of academic researchers, police officers and members of NGOs from Oslo, Norway to discuss the Scottish experience of reforming stop and search practice to explore ways to introduce reforms, such as a receipt book.
- Professor Liz Aston was invited as a plenary speaker at the 14th North South Criminology Conference at Dublin City University which focussed on "Facing the Future: Pathways, Priorities, and Pressure Points in Contemporary Criminology".
- Dr Megan O'Neill and Professor Liz Aston attended the final EU COST Action Polstops conference at the University of Leiden in The Hague. The event brought together key researchers and practitioners to further the conversation about improving and reforming the practice.
- SIPR hosted Dr Javier Velasquez Valenzuela from the Universidad de la Frontera, Chile to present "Police use of Force, pain compliance and ocular trauma: The relevance of regulation of less lethal weapons".

PLANS FOR 2023/24

Having now adjusted post-pandemic, and with a new Chair, the International Advisory Committee will be reinvigorated during 2023-24. Given the public and political focus on police culture following various high profile cases of police misconduct, and the findings of independent reviews relating to institutional racism, misogyny and discrimination, the IAC will collaborate and share learning about discrimination in policing contexts across the world.

The priorities of the IAC during 2023-24 will include:

- Diversifying and enhancing the membership of the International Advisory Committee
- Including the voices and perspectives of younger people, potentially through engaging an early career researcher
- Introducing shorter, more frequent meetings dedicated to one topic. The first session will be on discrimination
- Establishing an online space for the IAC to share knowledge and comments.

SIPR input at the European Law Enforcement and Public Health Conference, Umea, Sweden

Professor Liz Aston, Edinburgh Napier University

LEPH 2023 Europe 'Together towards resilient communities' provided rich opportunities for the sharing of knowledge between academia, policy and practice internationally. SIPR was delighted to host a Networking Event at the end of the first day. Given SIPR's aims of facilitating research and knowledge exchange, and fostering learning, innovation and partnerships, we were pleased to be able to provide this opportunity for Scottish colleagues to connect with attendees from across the globe.

There was a strong Scottish contingent, with SIPR International Advisory Committee member Prof Monique Marks, who was in attendance, commenting on how impressive the presentations from Scotland were. Clair Thompson and her team at Police Scotland had put a lot of work into organising a 'Scotland Day'. ACC Gary Ritchie and Paul Johnston, Chief Executive of Public Health Scotland, delivered a plenary session on 'Embedding



a Public Health approach to Policing in Scotland'. Major sessions were delivered, including one on Collaborative Leadership with input from Police Scotland colleagues (Clair Thompson and CI Graham Binnie), Prof Denise Martin (Abertay), Dr Kristy Docherty (UoE) and Dr Vicki Herrington (AIPM and SIPR IAC member). Papers were also delivered by many more colleagues from Police Scotland (including PI Martin Tierney and CI Patricia Robertson), the Scottish Violence Reduction Unit (Kristy Giles and James Docherty) and SIPR academic members (Dr Inga Heyman, Prof Nadine Dougall, Callum Thomson and Professor Liz Aston, all ENU).

SIPR and its members have had a key role, alongside policing partners, in bringing us towards this point, where there is so much research and innovative practice to share in the field of policing and public health. Dr Inga Heyman directed the Scottish International Policing Conference on Policing and Public Health in 2018. This was a launchpad to LEPH 2019, hosted in Edinburgh. SIPR's first strategic research priority theme is 'Policing, Health, Safety and Wellbeing'. SIPR has funded research in this area, including that of Dr Kristy Docherty, who has recently launched a Prevention Hub at UoE's Edinburgh Futures Institute, with Police Scotland and Public Health Scotland.



Northern Research Seminar Series

In 2022, SIPR teamed up with the Police University College of Finland to develop the international Northern Police Research Webinar series.

The intention of this series was to present recent research in the field of policing for researchers, practitioners, and other interested parties across Finland (Police College University), Sweden (Umeå University), Norway (The Norwegian Police University College), Iceland (Universities of Akureyri and Iceland), Scotland (SIPR and Edinburgh Napier University), and Northern Ireland (Ulster University).



These six seminars delivered in the first half of 2023, explored a diverse range of topics including:

"How cross service collaboration can improve community safety and wellbeing"
(presented by Professor Nadine Dougall, Dr Inga Heyman, and Dr Andy Tatnell – Edinburgh Napier University, Scotland)

"Intelligent-led Policing" (presented by Shane Mac Giollaibhui, Ulster University, Ireland)

"Domestic violence and risk assessment" (presented by Marianne Mela and Jarmo Houtsonen, Police University College, Finland)

"Jacks (and Jills) of all trades: the gentle art of policing rural Iceland" (presented by Guðmundur Oddsson, Andrew Paul Hill, and Thoroddur Bjarnason, University of Iceland and University of Akureyri, Iceland)

"Police corruption in a Nordic context" (presented by Gunnar Thomassen, Norwegian Police University College, Norway); and

"Tactical police information: design challenges for situational awareness"
(presented by Erik Borglund, Mid University and Umeå University, Sweden)

The series attracted over 250 attendees across the Northern Hemisphere and has been a great success. The group are delighted to confirm that the series will continue in the second half of 2023, continuing into 2024 and has even attracted new membership from Colleagues in the Republic of Ireland. The next series of seminars will include:

"Grasping the Complexity in Policing Traffic: A Methodological Explication"
(presented by Vesa Huotari, Police University College, Finland)

"Police Legitimacy in Iceland" (presented by Guðmundur Oddsson, University of Akureyri, Iceland)

"Bodies in Water" (presented by Dr Lorna Dennison-Wilkins, University of Dundee and Surrey and Sussex Police; and Jon Rees, Centre for Environment Fisheries, and Aquaculture Science, UK)

"Conflict Management and Mental Health Among Police Officers and Recruits"
(presented by Dr Mikael Emsing, and Jonas Hansson, Umeå University, Sweden)

"An introduction to current policing research in Ireland" (presented by Dr Ian Marder and Dr Yvonne Daly, Maynooth University, Ireland)

Check the [SIPR website](#) for more details.

Professor Liz Aston invited SIPR presentation at the 14th North South Criminology Conference – Dublin, Ireland

The 14th North South Criminology Conference took place on 15-16 June 2023 at Dublin City University. The conference brought over 140 delegates together including representatives from academic, practice and policy backgrounds. This year's conference explored the theme "Facing the Future: Pathways,

Priorities, and Pressure Points in Contemporary Criminology".

Prof Liz Aston, presented at a plenary panel focused on academic-practice engagement where she discussed the work of SIPR and our role in making evidence-based contributions to policing policy and practice. This session also featured Dr Sandra Peake (CEO of WAVE Trauma Centre which provides care and support for people affected by the Troubles/ Conflict in Northern Ireland). Dr Peake discussed the benefits, challenges and sensitivities of conducting academic research with, or on, victims of violence

and their experiences. Dr Ian Marder of Maynooth University rounded off the session with an engaging and interactive discussion on co-creating principles for collaborative research in criminology.

Doireann Ansbro (Irish Council for Civil Liberties), Dr Lambros Fatsis (University of Brighton) and Dr Anthony Gunter (Open University) led a fascinating discussion on the policing and prosecution of rap and drill music, providing eye-opening insights into the history of the criminalisation of certain music genres, the racial underpinnings of such criminalisation, and the contemporary courtroom presentation of purported evidence of gang membership and violent offending on the basis of rap and drill videos. This was complimented by real life discussion from Irish rap/drill artist Selló who offered further, personal insights on this topic and took delegates through the reality behind the making of a rap/drill video, highlighting the ways in which appearances can be deceptive and presumptions can be dangerous. He also discussed the challenges of being a young Black man in Ireland.

A session on Historical Criminology, chaired by Dr Mark Coen (University College Dublin) with Dr David Churchill (University of Leeds) and Dr Lynsey Black (Maynooth University), set out the value of historical research to criminology and applied this lens to work on Ireland's detention of women and girls. Finally the conference also launched a new book by Prof Ian O'Donnell (University College Dublin) *Prison Life: Pain, Resistance, and Purpose*.





The EU COST Action on Police Stops draws to a close

The EU COST Action, PolStops, officially ended in February 2023. PolStops was a network of researchers and practitioners interested in sharing knowledge and practice on police stops in the EU, led by SIPR IAC member Prof Sofie de Kimpe (VUB).

Over the course of five years, our work considered the different and contrasting perspectives of those who conduct stops, those who experience them and, finally, those who are involved in oversight and accountability. To mark the occasion, a final conference was held at the University of Leiden in The Hague. The event brought together key researchers and practitioners to further the conversation about improving and reforming the practice. Prof Susan McVie and Ian Thomson were amongst the line-up of invited plenary speakers.

The PolStops website will continue to operate, and is a great resource, including country-specific information and links to other online resources and publications. Dr Megan O'Neill and Prof Liz Aston have been involved in PolStops since its inception and had leadership roles, together with Dr Genevieve Lennon. Other SIPR members have also participated in PolStops events over the years, including Dr Estelle Clayton, Dr Kath Murray, Dr Conor Wilson, Abby Cunningham and representatives from Police Scotland.

As a result of connections through the PolStops network Megan and Liz were approached by the French Embassy who are interested in Scottish reforms to stop and search. Liz's invited presentation on SIPR and the learning from the Scottish journey was very well received by the delegation from the French inspectorate. Megan and SIPR also supported a visit to Scotland from colleagues in Oslo, Norway in November 2022. The city of Oslo and the Norwegian Police are reforming the practice of police stops and spent three



days in Edinburgh and Glasgow. They met with SIPR members as well as Police Scotland, the SPA, HMICS and representatives from Scottish NGOs to learn more about the reform journey. The PolStops network led to the connection.

Look out for two PolStops books which are forthcoming this year:

de Maillard, J., Rowe, M. and Verfaillie, K. (eds.) *The politicisation of police stops in Europe: public issues and police reform*. Palgrave.

and Aston, E., Fazekas, J., de Kimpe, S., Rowe, M. and Lennon, J. (eds.) (forthcoming) *Governing Police Stops Across Europe*. Palgrave.



Organisational Learning as a Driver for Change and Resilience within Policing

Jonathan Freegard, *Principal Consultant, Workforce Development Trust*

Skills for Justice were recently invited to present at a Scottish Institute for Policing Research (SIPR) event held at Edinburgh Napier University. The focus of the event, which was attended by senior policing figures from across Scotland and beyond, was organisational learning. Organisational learning refers to the process of creating, retaining and transferring knowledge within an organisation.

This was a topic that is particularly salient at the moment, what with an increase in experienced officers leaving the service and the uplift programme having recently drawn to a close.

SIPR is a strategic collaboration between likeminded partners, including 14 of Scotland's universities, Police Scotland and The Scottish Police Authority, and its mission is to support the development of multi-disciplinary policing research to enable evidence-informed policy & practice.

As experts in the field, Skills for Justice were invited to present some of our research findings which looks at the link between leadership and organisational learning in policing.

Having surveyed police forces across the UK, we found that front-line Sergeants are the key enablers of organisational learning in policing. What's more, front-line Sergeants and middle managers (as a collective) also tend to have the greatest influence over the culture of an organisation.

The implication of these findings is clear: we need to look after our front-line staff and middle managers.

They are a central part of negotiating leadership and followership in our organisations, or in other words, the link between senior and junior colleagues that facilitates the setting and maintaining of standards.

Assessing the current context, the findings of the 2019 research, which was led by Skills for Justice Head of Research Jon Parry, may prove prescient.

With the culture of policing under intense political and public scrutiny and 20,000 relatively new recruits coming onboard in England and Wales, the enabling role Sergeants play in supporting culture change and promoting learning beyond cannot be overlooked.

Following the conclusion of our presentation, we heard reflections from policing colleagues about their own experiences. The great thing about SIPR is that we got an international perspective on our insights too, with a delegation of academic and senior Police from Norway attending the event. This provided a unique opportunity for shared learning and collaboration on internationally universal themes and gain the perspectives from across different nations.

My co-presenter (Senior Workforce Data Analyst, Niall Allen-Curry) and I came away from the event with a reinvigorated sense of the value that research, and collaboration brings to policing. There were a mix of academic and practitioner colleagues in the room who had a common shared goal to improve policing and justice outcomes. Coming together in this way bridges the gap between academia and practice and brings out the best of both in my view.

Skills for Justice continue to support the ongoing efforts of policing and the wider justice sector and are grateful to partner with organisations such as SIPR who share our mission.

We are grateful to artist Jenny Capon who expertly captured the discussion of the event which can be seen in the next pages







postgraduate community

INTRODUCING THE SIPR POSTGRADUATE COORDINATORS

Sam Conway

Abertay University



"I am a Psychology PhD student at Abertay University in Dundee. I started my PhD in June 2021. My research focuses on how the use of novel technologies (such as avatars) might assist forensic interviewers with eliciting disclosure and episodic memory from children. In 2019, I graduated with a BSc in Psychology from Abertay University. In 2020, I graduated with an MSc in Forensic Psychology from Glasgow Caledonian University. My research interests are in applied memory research and investigative interviewing. I am particularly interested in which factors improve witness memory and which factors may facilitate greater witness disclosure. I am also interested in missing persons' research and how we can apply this knowledge to police practice. As one of the SIPR postgraduate coordinators, I am looking forward to networking with other PGR students and helping create a sense of community."

Oana Petcu

*Universities of
Glasgow and
Edinburgh*



"I am a postgraduate researcher in Criminology at the University of Glasgow and the University of Edinburgh. My research focuses on drug markets and the ways in which space, policing, and technology are shaping illicit drug access and supply. I am particularly interested in the experience of drug markets in rural Scotland, how and what technology is adopted in drug practices, and how police experience policing drug markets in rural areas. In 2017 I graduated with a BSc in Psychology from University of Bath and in 2018 I graduated with an MA in Criminology from University of Manchester. I have previously worked on projects on missing people, human trafficking, sex work, financial crimes, and mental health. In my new role as PGR coordinator at SIPR, I look forward to becoming involved with the community, meeting new people and contributing to creating a welcoming environment for all."



WHAT HAS THE SIPR POSTGRADUATE NETWORK BEEN UP TO?

In January 2023 we hosted our first postgraduate event of the year at the University of Edinburgh Napier. This event was in-person and in collaboration with the University of Oslo, Norway. The event focused on exchanging knowledge on criminology and policing related topics, with students affiliated at either institute presenting their research work and sharing their insights on the different policing systems in Scotland and Norway. The event also hosted a discussion panel comprised of senior members of SIPR and academic researchers who have completed their doctorate degree with an interest in policing. The panel discussed life after the PhD and prospective career paths after the PhD. The second half of the event was a Questions and Answers where students and panellists discussed contemporary policing issues in Scotland and In Norway.

In May 2023, Sam and Oana connected with the new ECR Officer of the British Society of Criminology Policing Network, with whom we are planning future collaborative events between the two networks.

In June 2023, we welcomed to Edinburgh Napier University students from George Mason University, Washington DC. This event was a knowledge exchange focusing on the comparison between Scottish and American policing and the criminal justice system. The event involved the SIPR postgraduate coordinators introducing Police Scotland, its past, present and future, followed by a question-and-answer session and an open debate about the differences in legislate between Scotland and the US regarding violent and sexual crimes.

THE FUTURE

Over the summer we are aiming to organise an in-person networking event, so an email will be circulated with prospective dates. We are also looking to expand the network and create links with other postgraduate societies.

We have already started the preparation work behind the scenes for the exciting PGR symposium which this year will take place in November at University of Edinburgh.

As always, we'd love to hear from you so if you have any suggestions for events or questions regarding SIPR, please get in touch at: siprstudent@gmail.com

There have been two international knowledge exchange events hosted by SIPR so far in 2023. In January, we welcomed a delegation of over 20 Master's students from the University of Oslo, Norway. The event had a panel of highly esteemed researchers and practitioners who have completed a PhD in a policing related field working within academia and beyond. Panel members discussed their experiences of completing their PhD, the career options upon completion and their top tips for PhD students preparing for the PhD afterlife.

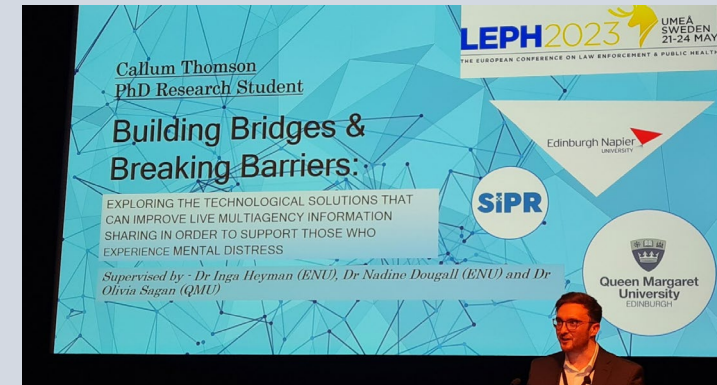




We also hosted a group of undergraduate students from George Mason University. This was a smaller networking and knowledge exchange event in which our postgraduate co-ordinators Sam Conway and Oana Petcu gave the visiting students an overview of policing in Scotland, as well as a history of SiPR and the work SiPR does nationally and internationally.

Both of these events were very well attended and elicited enthusiastic discussions on policing and postgraduate research. These events serve to highlight the dedication and commitment SiPR will always have towards nurturing the next generation of researchers in the fields of policing and policing related work.

My name is Callum Thomson, and I am a 2nd year PhD student at Edinburgh Napier University. In May of this year, I had the privilege to attend, and present at, the 2023 Law Enforcement Public Health (LEPH) European Conference in Sweden. Despite having presented before, this was the first time presenting my research on such a large international stage outside of Scotland - so it was fair to say that I was an equal blend of eager anticipation and cautious nerves at the prospect of doing so. Throughout this, I was grateful to have the continual support and encouragement of my supervision team – Dr Inga Heyman, Dr Nadine Dougall, and Dr Olivia Sagan.



My PhD project seeks to understand and explore the ways in which technology can be used to improve live information sharing between agencies, in order to better support those in mental distress. It was during the conference that I had the opportunity to showcase my research so far. During my presentation, I talked about the rationale for my PhD project, the findings from my integrative literature review, and my upcoming methodological plan.

During the conference, I also had the chance to network with seasoned academics, representatives from the dimensions of policing & public health, and other industry professionals - all of whom collectively shared interesting experiences and sage wisdom. The conference was full of insightful presentations focussing on subject areas such as community policing, collaborative working, and violence reduction, amongst so many others.

I am profoundly thankful to SiPR for supporting my attendance at the LEPH conference. I experienced tremendous benefits from attending the conference. These have included the further development of my subject knowledge, the expansion of my working network, and the enhancement of my own self-confidence when it comes to presenting in front of others. I would absolutely encourage other PhD students to present their work where they can, and when they can. Thank you again to SiPR for this wonderful opportunity.

Estimation of Risk for Missing Individuals: Development of an Empirical Risk Assessment and Decision Support Tool for Missing Person Investigations



Researcher:

Nesha Dixon

*Psychology PhD Student,
Abertay University*

Project Supervisors:

Dr Penny Woolnough, Abertay University | **Dr Lynn Wright, Abertay University** |

Dr Jennifer Murray, Edinburgh Napier University

This research highlight provides an update to the PhD project, supported by Police Scotland and funded by SIPR and Abertay University, that aims to develop an evidence-based structured professional judgement (SPJ) risk assessment tool for missing person investigations, as outlined in the SIPR 2021/2022 Annual Report.

Stage one involved a systematic literature review to identify risk factors within the existing missing persons literature that are associated with harm outcomes. Following a review of 81 papers, a total of 130 risk factors were identified. Seven were considered to be strong statistically supported risk factors: sex/gender; age; mental health issues; repeat missing; history of missing; Dementia and Alzheimer's Disease in combination with duration missing; and cognitive impairment, autism, genetic disorder, intellectual impairment, intellectual disability, learning disability or developmental delay.

Stage two involved analysing Police Scotland's missing persons data using a two-phased approach. Phase one examined 21,476 missing person cases to identify what risk factors are statistically associated with whether an individual was traced alive or deceased. The majority of individuals were traced alive (98.3%), whilst 359 (1.7%) were traced deceased. Those traced deceased were statistically more likely to be adults, male, non-British and were single, married/civil partnership, in a

relationship, or divorced/dissolved civil partnership. When considering vulnerability risk factors, those statistically more likely to be traced deceased than was expected by chance were: at risk of suicide; dependent on drugs, alcohol, medication or other substances; had additional risk present from weather conditions; were not vulnerable due to age, infirmity or another similar factor; did not have a problem interacting safely with others; were not on the child protection register; and had dementia, a medical condition, mental health condition, physical illness or disability. More specifically those statistically more likely to be traced deceased had a mental health condition and did not have dementia or a specific progressive neurological disorder. Additionally, individuals experiencing education, employment or financial issues were statistically more likely to be traced deceased. When considering behavioural risk factors, cases statistically more likely to result in fatality were out of character, had indications of preparation to go missing; had no known reason for going missing; and had not disappeared and been exposed to harm previously. Finally, those traced deceased were statistically more likely to have been reported missing by a family member, partner or another known acquaintance, went missing from their home address, were not a repeat missing person, went missing only once, were missing for over 16 hours and were not in care.

Phase two of the police data analysis will examine a subsample of 2,000 missing person cases to identify risk factors associated with specific fatal and non-fatal harm outcomes. Stage three will involve a survey to examine professional perspectives on what risk factors are considered to be the most important for assessing the risk of harm in missing person cases and explore professional opinions on the current risk grading process. Finally, the collective findings will be used to develop a novel SPJ risk assessment tool for missing person investigations.



strategic priority 1:

policing and health, safety and well-being



This theme explores issues such as Prevention; Role, value and impact of policing within the wider system; Gender Based Violence; Mental health; Substance use; Public protection; Missing persons; Community Safety and harm reduction; Local policing, visibility and accessibility; Police-community relations; and public confidence and legitimacy.

HIGHLIGHTS FOR STRATEGIC PRIORITY 1:

Dr Megan O'Neill (University of Dundee) and Professor Liz Aston (Edinburgh Napier University) supported a three-day visit from academic researchers, police officers and members of NGOs in Oslo, Norway to discuss the Scottish experience of reforming stop and search practice to explore ways to introduce reforms, such as a receipt book and how best capturing and monitor police practice.

Dr Megan O'Neill (University of Dundee) supported the delivery of online presentation from Superintendent Jari Taponen (Finnish Police) to the Police-Community Relations brokering team regarding the work of his Preventative Policing Unit in Helsinki. SIPR will continue to support Supt Taponen in his visits to Police Scotland during 2023/24.

The Scottish Network of Restorative Justice Researchers, in collaboration with SIPR hosted a webinar on **Restorative Justice and Policing**. The aim of the webinar was to learn from different jurisdictions, thinking of the relevance for Scotland and reflecting on the role of Police Scotland during the rollout of Restorative Justice. A link to the recording can be [found here](#).

Professor Nadine Dougall (Edinburgh Napier University) represented SIPR on Police Scotland's Information Sharing Sub group.

Associate Professor Inga Heyman (Edinburgh Napier University) represented SIPR on the HMICS Mental Health steering group.

Public Protection Grants

A significant activity for the network was the Public Protection Research Funding call launched in summer 2022. Funding for projects of up to £15,000 was available to SIPR member institutions to conduct research on any aspect of public protection, including the areas listed above. The call received a number of very high-quality bids which were peer reviewed by members of the academic community, Police Scotland and SPA colleagues.

A project led by Professor Sarah Pederson and Dr Natascha MuellerHirth at Robert Gordon University will explore the impact of COVID-19 on partnerships between the police and gender-based violence (GBV) service providers in remote and rural island communities of Scotland. It seeks to identify both challenges and best practice in partnerships between police and GBV organisations in these areas, and examine how these partnerships have responded to pandemic issues such as court closures, online support and isolated survivors during lockdowns, and what we can learn about police partnership working moving forward. The network looks forward to seeing the outputs and outcomes of both of these funded projects.

Police Scotland have designed the first Autistic Missing Persons Protocol to facilitate the safe and efficient location of individuals missing with autism. The Protocol is currently being evaluated by Abertay University (PGR student Susan Donaldson) to establish the process and experience of those completing the Protocol, prior to its refinement and rollout across the Force.



This year Kelly Johnson, with Oona Brooks Hay and Ruth Friskney at Glasgow University, and other colleagues, has led a work package as part of Operation Soteria Bluestone – a large project funded by the Home Office seeking to improve policing responses to sexual violence in England and Wales (see <https://www.college.police.uk/research/projects/operation-soteria-bluestone>). Kelly's work has focused on how police engage with victim-survivors and third-sector partners, seeking to develop a procedural justice approach which embeds the rights and interests of victim-survivors in the police response.

Rachel McPherson and Dr Richard Kjellgren embarked on a pilot study, funded by the University of Glasgow's 'Ambitious Research Scheme' to look at the offending histories of those offenders subject to an order for lifelong restriction (OLR) who have a conviction for intimate partner violence (IPV). For more information on our findings, see our guest blog: <https://www.rma.scot/guest-ipv-and-the-olr/>

Grant Award: Professor Jemina Napier. Royal Society of Edinburgh. Pl. £10,381 (January - July 2023) SILENT HARM: Empowering Deaf Women Surviving Domestic Violence Post-Covid: An Inclusive approach to resilience & recovery in rural areas. Scotland-Ireland Bilateral Network Grant working in partnership with Police Scotland and An Garda Síochána to deliver training to police officers and interpreters on working with deaf survivors of domestic abuse.

Nomination: Professor Jemina Napier & Lucy Clark, along with partners from Police Scotland - Shortlisted for HWU PRIME (Principal's Research & Engagement) awards for JUSTISIGNS 2 and SILENT HARM – two inter-related projects on providing access to support for deaf women when reporting experiences of domestic abuse.

Skinner, R. & Napier, J. (2023). 'Help is on the way': (In)accessible policing in the UK through sign language interpreting. *Translation & Interpreting Studies*, 17(3), 455-477.

Masterton et al. (2022) *Realist Review of How Community-Based Drug Checking Services Could Be Designed and Implemented to Promote Engagement of People Who Use Drugs*. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*.

Fotopoulou, M. and Aston, E. (2023) 'Policing of Drugs in Scotland: Moving beyond the stalemate to redesigning the chess board' in Bacon, M. and Spicer, J. (eds.) *Drug Law Enforcement, Policing and Harm Reduction: Ending the Stalemate*. Routledge.

Falzon, D., Aston, E., Carver, H., Masterton, W., Wallace, B., Sumnall, H., Measham, F., Fletcher, E. Gittins, R., Priyadarshi, S. and Parkes, T. (2022) *Challenges for drug checking services in Scotland: a qualitative exploration of police perceptions*. *Harm Reduction Journal* 19: 105.

Speakman, E., Hillen, P., Heyman, I., Murray, J. Dougall, N., Aston, E. and McAuley, A. (2023) *'I'm not going to leave someone to die': carriage of naloxone by police in Scotland within a public health framework: a qualitative study of acceptability and experiences (springer.com)*. *Harm Reduction Journal*.

O'Neill, M., van der Giessen, M., Bayerl, P. S., Hail, Y., Aston, E. and Houtsonen, J. (2023) *Conditions, Actions and Purposes (CAP): A Dynamic Model for Community Policing in Europe*, *Policing: A Journal of Policy and Practice*, 17.

The Transnational Crime of Human Trafficking A Human Security Approach, Maria O'Neill, Routledge 2023, forthcoming. <https://www.taylorfrancis.com/books/mono/10.4324/9781003429791/transnational-crime-human-trafficking-maria-neill>

Seldom Heard Communities Grants

In 2021, SIPR, Police Scotland and Scottish Police Authority funded 5 grants to support research into 'Seldom Heard' communities. On Wednesday 26th April, we hosted a collaborative event to present the final research projects to an audience of academics, community members, Non-Government Organisation (NGO) members, and Police Scotland staff and serving officers.

Following the presentations, representatives from Police Scotland and the Scottish Police Authority were invited to reflect on the findings and recommendations, and to provide assurances of the SPA and Police Scotland's ongoing commitment to the communities and the issues raised.

Assistant Chief Constable Emma Bond, said:

"This important research underlines our commitment to listening to all our communities so we can continually improve how we represent, reflect and serve them.

"Providing every citizen with a just and effective police service is fundamental to policing legitimacy and to our ability to keep people safe.

"A great strength of Police Scotland is that our officers and staff are drawn from different backgrounds and experiences. What unites us is our shared and non-negotiable set of values – integrity, fairness, respect and a commitment to upholding human rights.

"I am grateful to everyone who contributed to this work and we are already considering the recommendations made so that we can continue to design our services to best meet the needs of our communities."

Tom Halpin from the Scottish Police Authority said:

"The Authority is committed to policing in the public interest, to do that we must understand public views, opinions, and concerns. The research published today will allow us to gain more insight into where to target our activity and attention to ensure we build the strongest relationships we can with all communities in Scotland."

SIPR Director Liz Aston underlined SIPR's commitment stating that

"SIPR will continue to support the dissemination of these important research findings in order to ensure that they impact policing policy and practice"

SIPR hopes to continue to support research into Seldom Heard Communities.





To be seen and heard: developing photovoice as a method for the police to engage with young people in under-served communities



Dr Andrew James Williams
University of St Andrews



Jason Peter
Scottish Violence Reduction Unit



Dr Katrina Wyatt
University of Exeter

Photovoice is a research method which has been used to work with people in a variety of circumstances to maximise engagement and amplify their voices. We sought to understand whether and how photovoice would engage young people to identify places and spaces where their voices are heard or ignored.

Our project in Wallacetown, Ayr with the Scottish Violence Reduction Unit identified a number of opportunities and challenges to be considered when using photovoice, which are described in the final report.

Participants welcomed the creative opportunity to be heard by the police. The photos can be stark showing what is of concern in a way that surveys or focus groups may not. Twelve participants took part in the project, all of whom were female aged 14 to 25 years. They took over 200 photos, and 7 participants took part in interviews to discuss the photographs they took. There were four themes across the photos and interviews:

- 1. Safety**
- 2. People**
- 3. The Police**
- 4. Positive aspects of Wallacetown**

These four interrelated themes illustrated that there were some fundamental issues linking a sense of belonging to a community with the ability or desire to feel heard.

Safety was not just about the other people in the community, but the environment making this a combined police, local authority and community responsibility. The experience of being done to by the 'Council' was reported as being similar to experiencing antisocial behaviour from other residents, increasing someone's sense of not belonging or feeling part of the community.

Discussion of topics which may not often be discussed with the police was facilitated by the photovoice method. With the interviews being conducted by the police, it was felt that the method enabled a different kind of conversation with the community. Particularly making it possible to see the community perspective. These insights might support more work in collaboration with communities hopefully supporting more positive change.

The photos are now be shared widely as well as with Wallacetown as stark illustrations of being heard.

We would like to thank the participants for taking part and sharing their experiences with us.

The full report can be found here: https://www.sipr.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/Williams-Russell-Wyatt-Peter-Hughes_merged.pdf



Accounting for Complexities: an intersectional approach to enhancing police practitioner accountability, legitimacy & sustainable reform



Dr Julie Berg
*University of
Glasgow*



Emily Mann
*University of
Glasgow*

The authors undertook a literature review on intersectionality and policing to provide a critical, impact-based account of scholarly/academic engagement with policing and intersectionality. This review informs an intersectional good practice toolkit by which police organisations can better engage with the phenomenon of intersectionality and its implications for policing and 'seldom heard communities'. Additionally, the authors hosted two interactive workshops to share preliminary findings, consult with academics and police practitioners and request feedback.

FINDINGS

The review highlighted that intersectional convergence of certain social identities and characteristics can provide complex challenges for policing, for example:

- The impact of micro-interactions between the police and those with intersecting social identities.

- Meso-level institutional issues may mitigate or aggravate negative interactions between the police and those with intersecting identities (such as police culture, resources, specialist training, and/or whether the police have specialist teams or programmes).
- Macro-level factors; the police operate under broader structural influences and power dynamics which negatively impact on certain groups, and which is informed by both historical and contemporary factors such as law, policy, political and public discourses and expectations.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- A review of policy and practitioner engagement; field research engaging specifically with intersectionality in the Scottish context; a review of policies, programmes, and practices which Police Scotland are already undertaking.
- Adopt a set of 'best principles' which inform a positive approach to intersectionality and which can be practically applied – these include: examining unconscious biases; enhanced focus on empathy; a 'whole of society' approach; a substantive and inclusive model of equality; focusing on underlying and social causes of harm alongside individual agency.

The full report can be found here: https://www.sipr.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/Berg-Mann_merged.pdf.



Inquiring together: Collaborative Research with Black and Minority Ethnic (BAME) communities and serving officers



Dr Jonathan Mendel
University of Dundee



Dr Karen McArdle
University of Aberdeen



Kirsty Forrester
Dundee City Council

PROJECT SUMMARY

This project, based in Dundee, aimed to find out from Scotland's minority ethnic communities their thoughts on communication, safety, and trust in policing. The process involved training serving police officers and community workers to undertake participatory action research with ethnic minority community groups based in Glasgow, Dundee, and North Aberdeenshire.

FINDINGS

- Police in Scotland are highly regarded by minority ethnic communities and there is trust in local policing.
- Ethnic minorities have significant gaps in their knowledge about the police.
- BAME communities do not understand Police Scotland's role and relationship to other organisations, such as the Home Office.
- Research participants felt that when they had dealings with the Police, communication had been poor and, as victims, that felt as though they had committed a crime when being interviewed.
- Community engagement is valued by both communities and police officers as an important tool in promoting community safety.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Communities need accessible, basic information, in multiple languages, about Police Scotland.
- Police Scotland should look at how local officers can be involved in community engagement activity with local communities, using the model developed through this project.
- Interviewing should use a Trauma Informed Approach for victims.
- Police Scotland should make their interpreter service more accessible as current systems require English language to get past the first stage of the phone call.
- Training on intercultural communication and awareness needs to be a regular part of police Continued Professional Development (CPD).

The full report can be found here: https://www.sipr.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/Forrester-Mendel-and-McArdle_merged.pdf

Hearing seldom heard groups: Policing with empathy in conversation with LGBT and young people from disadvantaged backgrounds



Professor James Moir
Abertay University



Dr Corinne Jola
Abertay University

PROJECT SUMMARY

This report is concerned with a study of young people identifying within the LGBTQI+ community and with the additional intersectional criteria of being care-experienced. The aim of the first part of the investigation examined the Joint Strategy for Policing (2020): Policing for a safe, protected and resilient Scotland.

This is a key document for publicly communicating Police Scotland's overall strategic intent with regard to community-based policing. The second part of investigation was to examine police recruit training lesson material on the issue of dealing with diverse groups. Our aim was to find out the nature of what is covered in recruit training and to explore the underlying basis of what is taught in terms of prevailing concepts and ideologies. The third and final part of our investigation was to explore what young care-experienced people have to say about coming into contact with police officers.

FINDINGS

- The term 'community' is presented in the Joint Strategy for Policing (2020): Policing for a safe, protected, and resilient Scotland as reflecting a modern conception of identity and is presented within the notion of 'inclusivity'.
- Police recruit training in diversity often omits the crucial role of police officers' understanding of everyday discourse and how suspects' talk may seek to excuse or offer mitigation.
- Interviews with our care-experienced participants revealed that experiences often included mistrust of police, being made to feel like a suspect, and a lack of empathy.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Police Scotland's overall strategy with regard to contact with diverse groups should be based explicitly on a model of new public governance that incorporates 'public values'.
- Police Scotland's approach to police recruit training (with respect to inclusion and diversity) should focus upon 'real life' encounters. Police Scotland's approach to policing young people from the LGBTQI+ community should recognise 'boundary' issues in encounters as well as intersectional issues such as also being care-experienced.

The full report can be found here: https://www.sipr.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/Moir-Jola-Scott-Law_merged.pdf



Refugee and asylum-seeker experiences, trust and confidence with Police Scotland



Dr Nicole Vidal
Queen Margaret University



Bryony Nisbet
Queen Margaret University

PROJECT SUMMARY

This study builds an understanding of the quantity and quality of refugees' social networks, and their role in influencing public perceptions and engagement with the police.

It applies the Social Connections Mapping Tool (SCMT) methodology, combined with in-depth interviews with refugees, asylum-seekers, police personnel, and associated services to identify refugee and asylum-seeker experiences, trust and confidence with Police Scotland and associated services.

FINDINGS

- Visibility, trust & confidence: Some participants had limited knowledge of Police Scotland or how to contact them. Confidence in Police Scotland is good despite negative experiences in their countries of origin. Most agreed increased police visibility is important.

- Resources & Engagement: Officers recognised the importance of engaging with refugees and asylum-seekers but highlighted the challenge of operational demands and resourcing.
- Language: Limited English language makes engaging with the police difficult, and ineffective interpretation and translation impacts on trust and confidence in the service. Police personnel agreed that language barriers can increase call and response times.
- Gender: Efforts are being made to improve the gender imbalance in the police workforce.
- Racism and hate crime: There was a general concern surrounding racism both at the hands of the community and the police, exacerbated by anecdotal accounts from others.
- Equip all officers with community policing information and resources (e.g. cultural awareness training, working with interpreters, agreeing methods to support inclusion).
- Enlist support of refugee-related organisations, local community organisations and/or faith-based organisations; these can serve as a bridge between the police and communities.
- Work with the wider community to encourage knowledge sharing and mutual understanding of people's needs and expectations from police.
- Implement structured information sessions aimed to raise awareness of laws in Scotland.
- Work with offenders to identify effective crime prevention strategies and emerging threats.
- Counteract casual hostility and racism to benefit refugees' health and productivity.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Engage with refugees and asylum-seekers to gain familiarity of their social networks.
- Increase community support and empower communities to develop solutions to problems.
- Utilise police officers' cultural insights to assist with understanding community issues.

The full report can be found here: https://www.sipr.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/Vidal-Nisbet_merged.pdf

Pluralised responses to policing the Pandemic: Analysing the emergence of informal order maintenance strategies, the changing 'policing web', and the impacts of COVID19 in rural communities.

Dr Andrew Wooff | Dr Shane Horgan | Dr Andy Tatnell, Edinburgh Napier University

The central aim of this study was to explore how the policing of rural communities in Scotland had been impacted by the COVID-19 epidemic and what the likely long-term implications of these impacts were on trust and confidence in police/policing in these communities.

The project employed a multiple case study design (Yin, 2018), taking as its sample two different communities within rural areas of Scotland. We employed group and individual interviews (n=38) with police officers (senior managers, middle managers, and community constables), National Park employees, Local Authority employees (senior managers and team supervisors), community volunteers, elected Community representatives (Community Councillors and local Councillors), Mountain Rescuers, and Forestry and Land Scotland employees. The interviews and focus groups explored their experiences of maintaining social order, promoting social safety and wellbeing, and sensibilities towards the police and policing during the pandemic. They took place during the second period of national lockdown (March and April 2021) thereby necessitating the use of 'virtual' face-to-face individual interviews.

Whilst the focus of this study was the differential impacts on rural Scottish communities during the COVID-19 pandemic with regards order maintenance (see full report here: Wooff et al, 2022), an unexpected finding was that the pandemic exacerbated and magnified pre-existing concerns about Police Scotland's move towards a more centralised and 'abstract', less personal, face-to-face police service provision. In particular, the closure of many small rural stations, the reduction in opening hours at the remaining stations (no longer 24/7), and the increasing reliance on technology as the principle means of making initial contact with Police Scotland, had resulted in members of the public feeling increasingly distanced from

their local police. Influenced by a combination of societal changes, Police Scotland's rational efficient organisational notion of professionalism appears in some respects to be at odds with remote rural communities' notions of what 'good' policing is. This we argue has significant and potentially far-reaching unintended consequences for police/public relations within remote-rural communities, particularly with regards trust, confidence, and legitimacy. We also found police officer frustration at the distant, centralised demand and resource allocation model which, they argued, was preventing them from providing a policing service which reflected the situated, nuanced and sometimes complex needs of the community.

We therefore echo the call made by Terpstra et al., (2019, p. 355) that a public debate should now take place on "how to deal with this increasing abstractedness of the police... "the main question for which should be "is this the kind of police that we want, at a distance from the public and partners, fragmented, and largely dependent on system knowledge and IT systems?" The results of this study suggest that COVID-19 was a critical moment in reflecting on the purpose of policing and the modes of engagement with different types of community. These are important lessons to consider in the post-pandemic policing landscape.

Terpstra, J., Fyfe, N., and Salet, R. (2019) 'The Abstract Police: A conceptual exploration of unintended changes of police organisations', *The Police Journal*, 92(4) pp.339-359.

Yin, R.K. (2018) *Case Study Research and Applications: Design and Methods*. 6th rev.edn. London: Sage

Wooff, A., Horgan, S., and Tatnell, A. (2022) *Pluralised responses to policing the Pandemic: Analysing the emergence of informal order maintenance strategies, the changing 'policing web', and the impacts of COVID19 in rural communities*. Found here: [Pluralised responses to policing the Pandemic: Analysing the emergence of informal order maintenance strategies, the changing 'policing web', and the impacts of COVID-19 in rural communities. A Report on Interim Findings \(napier.ac.uk\)](#), accessed 27/06/23



Encountering Policing – a dialogic exploration of Scottish Pakistanis' experience of 'policing'

Abigail Cunningham, *Carnegie Grant PhD Scholar, Edinburgh Napier University*

In recent decades Scotland has positioned itself as an inclusive society united by civic – rather than racial – nationalism. But how do minority Scottish citizens experience this and how do their everyday social encounters and routine interactions with police, institutions, and members of the public define their sense of belonging within Scotland?

Within the UK, the events of 9/11 and 7/7 have contributed to an increase in security concerns regarding British Asians, particularly those with Pakistani heritage (Abbas, 2005). However, Scotland is often portrayed as an exception to such racialized policies through its political promotion of a civic, rather than ethnic, nationalism with suggestions that this is reflected in better relationships between authorities and minorities than in the wider UK. (Hussain & Miller, 2006). Yet, while Scotland as an 'inclusive society' may be invoked discursively and at policy level, Islamophobic encounters in public and work spaces remain a concern for ethnic Scottish minorities, with 55% of reported hate crimes in Scotland racially based (COPFS, 2023). Thus minority Scottish citizens are positioned between two dominant but contradictory discourses; included within the context of Scottish civic nationalism, yet 'othered' through experiences of Islamophobic hate crime and processes of policing including reserved counter-terrorism legislation (Hopkins, 2021).

Through interviews with 30 self-identifying Scottish Pakistanis (conducted in rural and urban spaces) my PhD examines the idea of an inclusive Scotland from the perspective of Scottish Pakistanis and explores ways that they participate in,

respond to and internalise policing in everyday life. Interview dialogue is alive with a multiplicity of voices, perspectives and unmerged identities (Bakhtin, 1986). Indeed, some express discomfort at being seen by police, other institutional bodies (e.g. NHS, Councils), or members of the public as 'just' a religious or ethnic minority rather than as an individual with a unique sense of self and experience of the world. However, one unusually consistent expression across participants, whether born, raised or migrated here, is an affinity for Scottish identity, and a sense of cultural and spatial belonging, though this is troubled by everyday racist or Islamophobic encounters.

With regards to the police, early findings are that generally participants have positive, if infrequent, direct contact with Scottish police, though, in line with existing research (e.g. Bonino, 2018), problematic encounters with authorities at airports and other borders mean that these spaces remain a concern for participants and their families. Further, vicarious experiences of police encounters – that is, seeing or hearing about others' negative contact with domestic or international police, whether directly or through media coverage – permeate participants' ideas about the police. Many express reluctance to engage with the police routinely as either individuals, a community, or as victims of a crime (particularly racial or religious hate crime). This wariness denotes a lack of confidence in Police Scotland's ability to protect or engage dialogically with Scottish Pakistanis (Bottoms and Tankebe, 2012). These and subsequent findings might help to inform policy makers and practitioners, and assist Police Scotland's renewed commitment to improving engagement with minorities (Police Scotland, 2023).

Principles for Accountable Policing

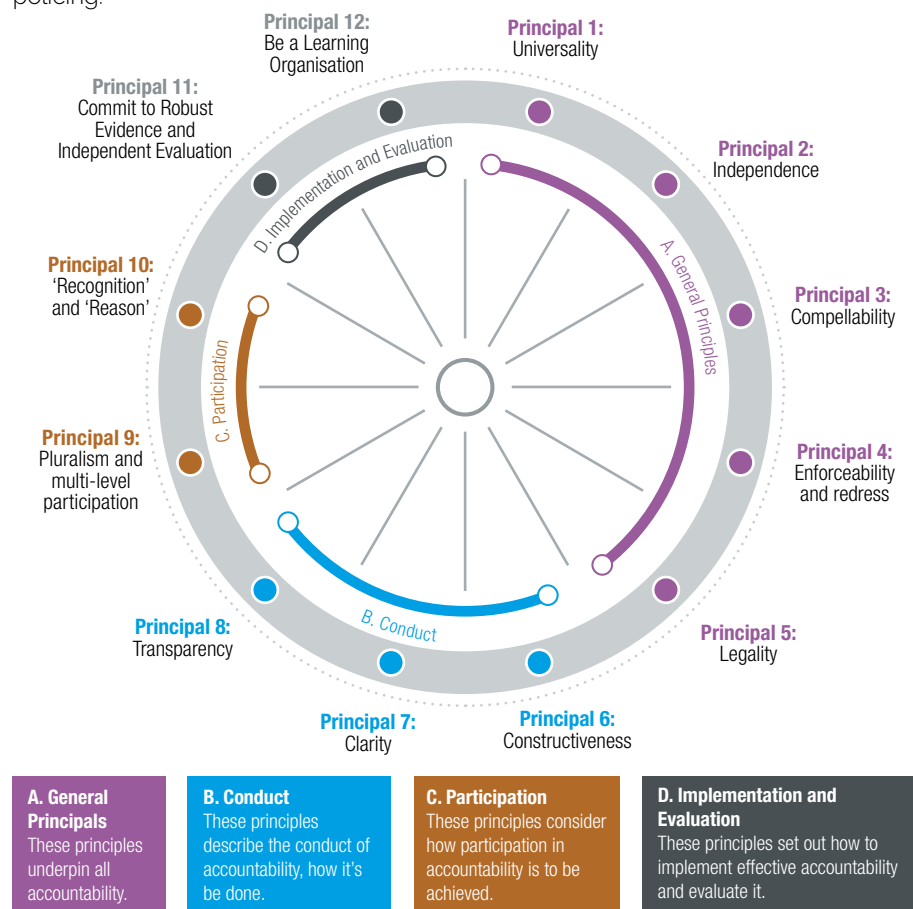
Dr Genevieve Lennon, *University of Strathclyde* | **Prof Nick Fyfe**, *Robert Gordon University* | **Prof John McNeil**, *University of Dundee* | **Prof Fraser Sampson**, *Sheffield Hallam University*

The Principles for Accountable Policing, funded by the Scottish Insight Institute with support from SIPR, was launched in association with the Police Foundation in March 2023. It outlines 12 key principles for accountable policing, relevant to the police and related oversight. It is designed to be useful, comprehensive and accessible, providing a framework for the police and police oversight bodies to assess their adherence to accountability standards.

The Principles emerged from a series of workshops, conducted under the Chatham House Rule, that brought together an expert group from across policing and policing oversight across the UK jurisdictions and Ireland, and academic police experts. The workshops aimed to take a step back from the state of seemingly perpetual change in policing and police policy and to create a space for debate for actors from across the police and police oversight bodies to probe these important issues without blame or defensiveness. For that reason they focused on the 'unusual suspects' with almost all the speakers come from fields outwith policing: charities regulation; financial services oversight; the NHS; private sector; as well as a number of speakers from policing and police oversight. This aimed to encourage the debate to move beyond the routine; underlined that challenges to accountability are certainly not unique to policing; and allowed participants to learn from other fields.

The report outlines the 12 Principles for Accountable Policing applicable to the police and police oversight bodies. The first section (opposite) explains each Principle, its relevance and how it can be applied. The second section (next page), authored by Prof Fraser Sampson, provides a more detailed and theoretical justification for each Principle. The report includes a self-assessment tool which can be used by the police and police oversight bodies.

These Principles for Accountable Policing are intended to provide a practical baseline which will inform the practice and structure of accountable policing. The Principles apply to the police and oversight bodies. The Principles have been drafted primarily with public bodies in mind but are applicable to all forms of policing.





Principle 1: Universality

While the forms of accountability may differ, all policing must be accountable. Oversight bodies must provide holistic accountability that is inter-operable and considers the entire system (ie criminal justice system and public, private and third sector bodies).

Principle 2: Independence

Those conducting accountability must be functionally independent from those whose actions are being held to account. An oversight body should not be dependent on the police for resources, whether personnel or financial, nor to initiate its investigations.

Principle 3: Compellability

Oversight bodies must be able to compel the police to provide information, both witnesses and information. The power to compel will vary depending on the oversight body and may be subject to limitations in addition to the usual criterion of relevance.

Principle 4: Enforceability and redress

Accountability bodies must have the means to enforce their recommendations and monitor police progress towards implementation. It is appropriate that different oversight bodies have different powers in this respect and that one oversight body may enforce the recommendations of another.

Principle 5: Legality

The police must be accountable to the law. Accountability must be exercised in accordance with the law. Accountability structures should be governed by formal rules with major lines of accountability defined by law.

Principle 6: Constructiveness

Accountability should be responsive, enabling and non-confrontational. It should be a dialogic process between those performing accountability functions and the police. It should form a feedback loop where lessons are learned, not just identified.

Principle 7: Clarity

Police and oversight bodies must ensure clarity of oversight, clarity of expectations, clarity of expression and clarity of data.

Principle 8: Transparency

Accountability is a means to transparency and must itself be conducted in a transparent manner. In addition the police must be transparent by providing accurate, relevant and timely information. The default position for the police must be to routinely publish data on police performance.

Principle 9: Pluralism and multi-level participation

Participation in oversight requires a pluralistic approach and should be achieved through a combination of democratic processes, epistocratic bodies and consultative forums at national and local levels.

Principle 10: 'Recognition' and 'Reason'

(Public) Recognition requires routine democratic deliberation among all those affected by its decisions about security problems. The principle of reason demands that claims made in public deliberation are questioned, scrutinized, defended and revised in ways which align with idea of security as a public good.

Principle 11: Commit to Robust Evidence and Independent Evaluation

The deliberations of oversight bodies need to be informed by robust evidence and rigorous, independent evaluation of policing. Following Sherman, police should use the results of rigorous evaluations of policing tactics and strategies to guide decision-making and generate and apply analytical knowledge derived from a police data.

Principle 12: Be a Learning Organisation

Oversight bodies and the police need to be learning organisations that are skilled in creating, acquiring and transferring knowledge, and modifying their behaviour to reflect new knowledge and insights.

How cross-service collaboration can improve community safety and wellbeing – a systematic review and case study of a community hub intervention.

Prof Nadine Dougall | Dr Inga Heyman | Dr Andrew Tatnell | Dr Andrew Wooff

Scottish Centre for Policing & Public Health, Edinburgh Napier University

Effective cross-service collaboration has been posed as a way of improving outcomes for people, enhancing community safety and well-being, reducing social and health inequalities, and improving service resource efficiencies. This SIPR-funded project was in two parts – firstly, a case study of a vanguard initiative of blue light service collaboration in a community experiencing significant disadvantage and secondly, a review of the international literature on blue light collaborations to improve community safety and wellbeing. The project had a steering group with senior service leads from Police Scotland, Scottish Fire & Rescue Service and Scottish Ambulance Service.

To address significant social and health inequalities in one of Scotland's communities experiencing significant deprivation, a vanguard initiative had been rolled-out via the local Community Planning Partnership. This initiative was designed to support and protect people and communities with vulnerability as envisaged in the Christie Report (2011)*. The community was a socially and economically disadvantaged community of around 2,000 people in 1,000 households (top 1% deprivation).

The initiative was a 'Team around the Community' model, with a public health and trauma-informed Community Hub within the local primary school. Operational officers from Police Scotland and Scottish Fire & Rescue Service worked full-time in the Community Hub and alongside other agencies. The research team conducted a rapid evaluation of this initiative, informed by qualitative interviews with nine service officers at strategic, tactical and operational level from all three g99 services.

The case study revealed that the commitment was clear from police and fire services and the buy-in from all service levels strategic to operational was the golden thread. The frontline officers were collaborating primarily through the Community Planning Partnership and had transformed traditional practice. Officers had adapted their agency to develop a 'bottom-up' connective approach to working

inter-professionally, moving beyond constraints of organisational policies and procedures. Their practice appeared to embody 'radical, new collaborative culture' suggested by Christie and they were pro-active in gaining rapport and trust with hard-to-engage individuals previously unknown to agencies. Officers said being based full-time together within a Community Hub was essential to getting things done for people in crisis, and anecdotally had diverted people away from the criminal justice and health systems.

Seventeen recommendations were made to address risks and fragility of the Community Hub model. With more robust research evidence, this new initiative could function as a model for roll-out in other highly disadvantaged communities to address health and social inequalities.

The second part of this project was the literature review which was needed to understand what evidence and frameworks existed for all three Scottish emergency service leads to reform collaborative public service responses. The review found a substantial evidence gap and uncovered only three reports published internationally which focussed on any emergency service collaboration to improve community safety and wellbeing. The scant evidence available suggested that service collaboration initiatives have potential for increased survival rates, decreased resource use, increased public confidence, faster responses, and reduced risks associated with unnecessary emergency responses from other services.

The full project report can be viewed on the SIPR website: <https://www.sipr.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/Project-Report-Final-version-26012023.pdf>

Christie Commission on the future delivery of public services. (n.d.). Retrieved 3 March 2023, from <http://www.gov.scot/publications/commission-future-delivery-public-services/>



Policing under pressure: Ethnic disproportionality in enforcement during the pandemic



Professor Susan McVie
Professor of Quantitative Criminology, University of Edinburgh

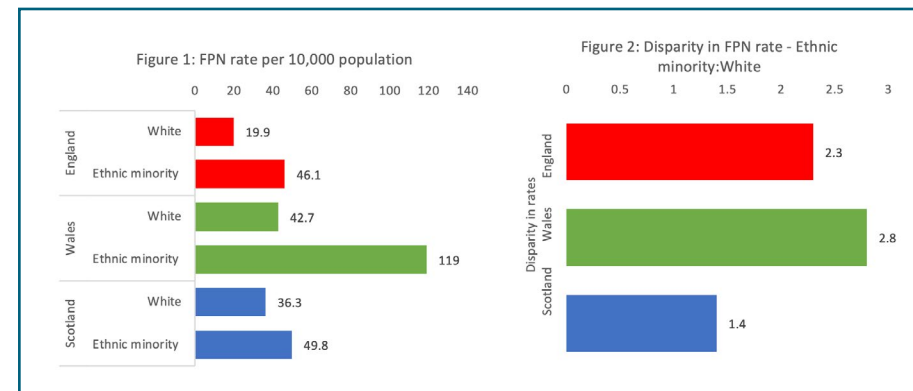
The issue of racial bias in policing has been a topic of significant concern for many years in the UK, and the acknowledgement by many Chief Constables that their forces are institutionally racist has raised important questions about the extent and nature of the problem.

Typically, stop and search or arrest data are used to examine differences in the rate of policing for those from black and minority ethnic backgrounds compared to white people. However, data collected on use of enforcement under the public health regulations provided a novel opportunity to explore the issue of ethnic disparity in policing and consider whether how it changed during the pandemic.

Research conducted by the Policing the Pandemic in Scotland team¹ found that the number of Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) issued to white people by far exceeded the number issued to those from other ethnic minority backgrounds in Scotland, England

and Wales. However, compared to their share of the population, people from black and other minority backgrounds had an increased likelihood of being issued with an FPN for breaching the regulations. Figure 1 shows that the rate of people from an ethnic minority background issued with an FPN was higher in Wales (119 per 10,000 people) than in England (46) or Scotland (50); however, the ethnic disparity rate (i.e. the difference in rates for ethnic minorities compared to white people) was lower in Scotland (1.4) compared to England (2.3) and Wales (2.8).

for the lowest force area in England and Wales, Warwickshire Police, and suggests that (whatever the reason for ethnic disproportionality) the level in Scotland was of least concern. However, other police force areas had far higher levels than would normally be expected (based on stop and search rates), such as Cumbria Constabulary which had an ethnic disparity rate of 8.4. However, ethnic disparities were significantly reduced when non-residents were excluded, suggesting that fining of ethnic minorities as a result of illegal travel may have been a partial factor in such disparities.



Over the course of the pandemic, the level of ethnic disparity declined in Wales but increased in England, while there was little or no change in Scotland. There was, however, significant variation across police force areas, with some showing substantially higher rates of ethnic disparity than others. The overall ethnic disparity rate in Scotland (1.4) was equivalent to that

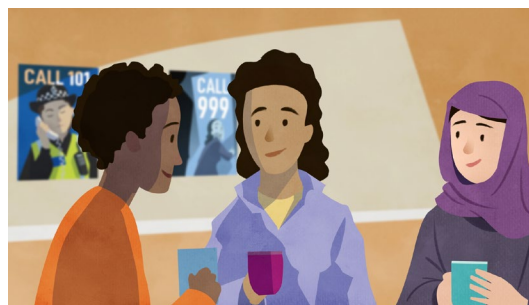
alongside any underlying police bias in the use of enforcement practices. Nevertheless, while we should never be complacent about the problem of racism, it is a positive sign that ethnic disproportionality across the police forces of Great Britain was lowest in Scotland.

¹ This project was funded by the UKRI (Grant Reference ES/W001845/1) and involved Professor Susan McVie, Dr Vicky Gorton and Dr Kath Murray from the University of Edinburgh, and Dr Ben Matthews from the University of Stirling.

Animation on female abuse victims

Dr Elaine McLaughlin, Hemat Gryffe Women's Aid | **Dr Rhonda Wheate**, University of Strathclyde | **Mhairi McGowan**, Honours Abuse Research

Police Scotland supported the creation of a multi lingual animation for victims of gender-based abuse after considering the findings of SIPR funded research "A confident approach in responding to the needs of domestically abused South Asian women – Laying the foundations for Police Scotland 2026 Strategy" (McLaughlin, Wheate and McGowan, 2018). The project was a collaboration between the research team and police officers at the Domestic Abuse Coordination Unit, Glasgow.



With the assistance of victim-survivors of gender-based violence a one-minute video/animation was created which is available at the organisation you tube channel Hemat Gryffe Women's Aid - YouTube. The animation is in English and 9 community languages (Arabic, Bengali, Chinese, Hindi, Polish, Punjabi, Russian, Ukrainian, Urdu) including a British Sign Language version. It is significant that there are versions in Ukrainian and Russian given the number of migrant women who have fled to Scotland since the start of the war in Ukraine.

The message informs female migrants that they are protected from abuse and exploitation by Scots law as soon as they arrive in Scotland. Immigrant women from Asian, Black, and Minority Ethnic communities have told support services that their abusers control them with threats of deportation and that their children

will be taken from them, if they report their abuse to the police. Women from minority ethnic and seldom heard communities, including women who may be refugees, or recently migrated to Scotland, are especially vulnerable to exploitation and abuse. They are isolated by their abuser(s), they may not speak English and they may be reliant on their abuser as their intermediary. We know abusers use threats to exert control.

The animation provides reassurance to victims of domestic abuse and sexual exploitation that they are protected by law and have the right to help and support from the police. This resource encourages women and girls who experience violence, abuse, and exploitation, and those who think they may be at risk, to tell police officers who will be able to help.

The significance of this unique and original animation, which is multi-lingual, reflects a determination on the part of Police Scotland to never forget women who encounter abuse in all its devious and insidious fashions. It illustrates their determination to challenge the cancer of abuse

within Scottish society. It conveys the message that in pursuit of that determination they shall refine and adapt constantly their efforts to take account of and respect entirely cultural considerations employed by perpetrators as weapons of control in furtherance of their abuse. Women are informed they are not alone. Women are informed of their rights.

The animation was launched by the Chief Constable Sir Ian Livingstone on 25 November 2023 at the commencement of the 16 days of activism international campaign raising awareness of gender-based violence. The animation was funded by University of Strathclyde, Funding Knowledge Exchange Programme and Hemat Gryffe Women's Aid. On the day of the launch there was interest from a range of media outlets and Dr McLaughlin was interviewed by BBC Radio Scotland.



The campaign for complainer anonymity

Dr Andrew Tickell, Glasgow Caledonian University | **Seonaid Stevenson-McCabe**, Glasgow Caledonian University

The Campaign for Complainer Anonymity (CCA) is a law reform campaign established in September 2020 by legal academics and law students at Glasgow Caledonian University.

In media and press reports, it is often claimed that *"victims of sexual offences have an automatic right to lifelong anonymity under UK law."* However, this is not the case. In contrast with the rest of the United Kingdom, sexual offence complainers in Scotland currently have no right to reporting restrictions in their cases and it is not an offence to identify them unless a special order has been made under the Contempt of Court Act 1981. Court statistics show that contempt orders are made extremely rarely – mostly in civil rather than criminal cases.

Led by Dr Andrew Tickell and Seonaid Stevenson-McCabe, the CCA argues that Scots law should be reformed to introduce comprehensive rules on anonymity for complainers in sexual offence cases, accruing early in the criminal justice process, and framed in a way which allows complainers to set aside these restrictions unilaterally if they choose to do so.

This campaign is underpinned by comparative research within the UK – and with almost twenty other common law jurisdictions, drawing on the experiences of these jurisdictions to ensure that a new Scottish framework learns the best lessons from this international experience and avoids the pitfalls and unforeseen consequences

encountered by comparator systems in recasting reporting restrictions for the social media age.

In addition to sharing these findings with the Scottish Government at the policy development stage, our key conclusions and recommendations were published in the Edinburgh Law Review in September 2022, exploring *"How should complainer anonymity for sexual offences be introduced in Scotland? Learning the international lessons of #LetHerSpeak."*

In January 2023, we were able to share further findings, again in the Edinburgh Law Review, on public attitudes to complainer anonymity drawing on a national opinion poll. Commissioned from the Diffley Partnership with support from Glasgow Caledonian University's Social, Criminal and Legal Justice Research Group (SCaLe), the poll demonstrated a high level of public support for the principle of complainer anonymity, but a degree of confusion about how different verdicts in sexual offence prosecutions should be understood. These findings speak to ongoing debates about whether Scotland's third verdict – not proven – should be retained or discarded.

This research significantly informed the Scottish Government's approach to reform of this area of law. The Victims, Witnesses, and Justice Reform (Scotland) Bill has now been introduced to the Scottish Parliament, incorporating complainer anonymity and a simple legal framework for individuals benefited from the protection to waive their anonymity if they choose to do so.

In parallel, Holyrood is also scrutinising the Children (Care and Justice) (Scotland) Bill which creates new reporting restrictions in cases involving children accused of committing, being victims of, or witnessing crime. Drawing on our research, we have submitted evidence to the Education, Children and Young People Committee with six recommendations for improving the Bill. While the proposals modernise the law in some useful ways, we argue that the first draft shows insufficient regard for the autonomy of children and young people and the likelihood that they may choose to share their involvement in criminal cases on social media. At time of writing, the Scottish Government has agreed to reflect on these potential improvements.

Scottish Cold Case Unit

Dr Maureen Taylor, *Glasgow Caledonian University* | **Professor Lesley McMillan**, *Glasgow Caledonian University*

The Scottish Cold Case Unit at Glasgow Caledonian University was formed in May 2021 in collaboration with Locate International, a registered charity, working to review and investigate unsolved missing and unidentified people cases. The Unit is led by Dr Maureen Taylor and Professor Lesley McMillan and has grown to 25 criminology students and alumni working on a voluntary, extra-curricular basis as cold case investigators.

A further 8 students have worked within the unit. The Unit serves not only to advance or provide a resolution to cases, but as a talent development programme for investigators, analysts and researchers of the future. Our graduates have gone on to work in the field of missing people and one is a serving police officer.

Students undertake a minimum 45 hours training provided by Locate International and GCU to equip them with knowledge and skills in understanding 'missing' and investigation and investigation management. There is a further 100 hours of training open to students on open source research, genealogy, conversation management, human trafficking and awareness of a range of forensic disciplines. Students also take on leadership and mentoring roles within the unit providing peer support and support to the Directors. Most recently they are partnering with a college in Washington to support the establishment of a cold case unit at the college, whose focus will be on missing and murdered indigenous women. They are also involved in further collaborations with UK universities.

The team are currently working on 13 UK cases, three of which have received extensive media attention including news, TV and radio and features on Crimewatch UK, Scotland Tonight, The Scottish Sun and The Nine. These have generated a number of new lines of enquiry in each case. Students have taken a lead role in

these appeals and have been working at the locus of one of these cases, engaging members of the public in raising awareness of the case. In the two years since its inception, students completed 400 separate actions. The work of the unit has been presented at conferences internationally and in May this year the Unit was a finalist in the Herald Higher Education Awards in the partnership category, recognizing the ongoing collaboration with Police Scotland's National Missing Person's Unit.



In the past year, 11 students have participated in the International Cold Case Analysis Project, under the umbrella of the Police Expert Network on Missing Persons, AMBER Alert Europe, the Police Academy of Lower Saxony, Germany and Locate International. This brings together, over a 4-month period, students from the UK, Europe, the US and Australia and police officers from France and Germany. In the past year, they have presented their findings on a missing young woman, a homicide and a series of 7 missing young women in Germany to the Public Prosecutor, relevant State Attorneys and police officers from countries across Europe.

Staff from the Unit are also involved in research involving neonaticide, homicide solvability, the use of self-administered interviews with families of the missing, the use of 3D imagery in public appeals, the use of photogrammetry in recording

skin features and personal effects, the connections between forms of violence and going missing, and missing Vietnamese adults in the UK.



Professor Lesley McMillan being interviewed on Scotland Tonight with John Mackay about the Scottish Cold Case Unit and the case of Balmore Man.



Findings from the Scottish Drug Checking Project

Danilo Falzon, *University of Stirling* | **Professor Liz Aston**, *Edinburgh Napier University* | **Dr Hannah Carver**, *University of Stirling* | **Wendy Masterton**, *University of Stirling* | **Viki Craik**, *PHS* | **Prof Tessa Parkes**, *University of Stirling*

The Scottish drug checking project (2021-2023) explored key issues relating to the implementation of community-based drug checking services in Aberdeen, Dundee and Glasgow (where implementation is currently being planned). Drug checking services (DCS) enable people to hand in a small amount of a substance for analytical testing, providing information about the analysed substance as part of a tailored harm reduction consultation. DCS can provide individuals with reliable information, potentially enabling the adoption of harm reduction practices and safer drug use. Given the current levels of drug-related harms in Scotland, DCS can form an important part of a wider harm reduction strategy.

As part of the research project, 43 participants were interviewed across the three cities. They were drawn from: people who use drugs; family members of people who use drugs; and professionals (including third sector and NHS staff and police officers). Participants were asked about a range of topics relating to service design and implementation. You can find briefings and short videos outlining the findings at our [online hub](#). Additionally, we conducted a [realist literature review](#) of the international evidence relating to implementation of DCS.

The project has worked closely with local implementation groups and key national stakeholders to inform planning and implementation. In March 2023, we held an

event bringing together a wide range of stakeholders to discuss implementation challenges relating to DCS. Additionally, DRNS hosted a webinar in June 2023 outlining the findings of the research to a wider audience.

We have [published a paper](#) based on the perceptions of 10 police participants relating to legal and policing challenges facing DCS. In Scotland these would operate with a Home Office Licence, enabling the handling, storage and analysis of substances within well-defined protocols. However, challenges remain regarding protections for individuals when entering, leaving or travelling to the service, meaning people may be vulnerable to stop and search and being charged in the vicinity of the service. There is substantial evidence to show that this deters engagement with harm reduction services.

We found that the police participants in our research were broadly supportive of the implementation of DCS, viewing it as a means of improving individual and community safety in line with the purpose of policing as enshrined in the Police and Fire Reform Act (2012). However, participants described uncertainty around the approach local divisions and officers adopt would towards DCS and individuals accessing the service. It was felt that local police should be provided with some strategic guidance (from Police Scotland or COPFs) outlining a national approach to DCS. Such guidance could frame drug checking as part of a national, multi-agency response to the current level of drug-related harms, enabling local divisions to support the operation of such services and helping to build trust and engagement amongst the community.

The paper's findings have been presented at Police Scotland's Drug Strategy Board and Police Scotland have been actively involved in the planning and implementation process. Findings have informed discussions around the development of the approach to policing DCS.

Cross justice working group on race data and evidence

Susan Robinson, Senior Research Officer, Justice Analytical Services, the Scottish Government



The Cross Justice Working Group (CJWG) on Race Data and Evidence was set up in October 2020, within the wider context of concerns raised by the Black Lives Matter movement, and the differential impacts of COVID-19 on people from minority ethnic backgrounds.

Its membership includes representatives from the Scottish Government, justice organisations, community groups and academia (SIPR and SCCJR), who work collaboratively towards the aims of the group to:

- identify what we currently know about the experience of different ethnic groups within Scotland's justice system,
- help improve both the collection and reporting of evidence on race and
- in particular, increase the value of statistics on hate crime reported to the police, by including information on the ethnic backgrounds of those targeted.

To date, the group have met ten times, and has made good progress against these aims.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS INCLUDE:

In order to better understand and improve the data held by Justice Organisations:

- A "Data Audit" of datasets held across justice organisations on the extent to which they hold ethnicity information, and identify any gaps to address, followed by meetings with individual organisations to better understand their current position and any barriers to improvement.
- Agreement to adopt 2022 Scottish Census Ethnicity Classifications as the standard for data collection purposes across the justice system, and to do this as soon as practicably possible.

In order to better understand the research landscape

- A "Research Audit" to identify relevant Scottish research on justice and race and ethnicity from the past 10 years, and highlight gaps.
- A survey of academics/researchers in Scotland about their research and future priorities
- Compiling a list of relevant research around ethnicity and justice by justice organisations and by academics/researchers

In addition, the following Scottish Government publications which enhance the evidence base, have originated from the work of the CJWG, and will inform its future activities.

- "Ethnicity in the justice system: evidence review" (April 2023): a review of quantitative evidence relating to ethnicity in the justice system in Scotland. It collated existing evidence into one place. It also included new analysis from the Scottish Crime and Justice Survey (SCJS), by ethnicity for the first time, using a pooled sample, which combined data from nine surveys
- "Hearings in Scottish courts - ethnicity of individuals: analysis" (April 2023): new experimental analysis based on the Scottish Courts and Tribunals Service's (SCTS) management information, on the ethnicity of individuals who were proceeded against and sentenced from April 2016 to February 2023.
- Two studies into the characteristics of police recorded hate crime, based on a random sample of police recorded crimes. "Characteristics of police recorded hate crime in Scotland: study" (February 2021) and Police recorded hate crime - characteristics: updated study" (January 2023).

Going forward, there is still more for the CJWG to do, building on the solid foundations of its work to date. Future priorities are likely to include: continuing to improve ethnicity data collection across the justice system; research to understand people's experiences of the justice system; and exploring intersections between race and other characteristics.



Inaccessible Care: An International Forum on Sexual Assault Services in Rural Canada and Scotland

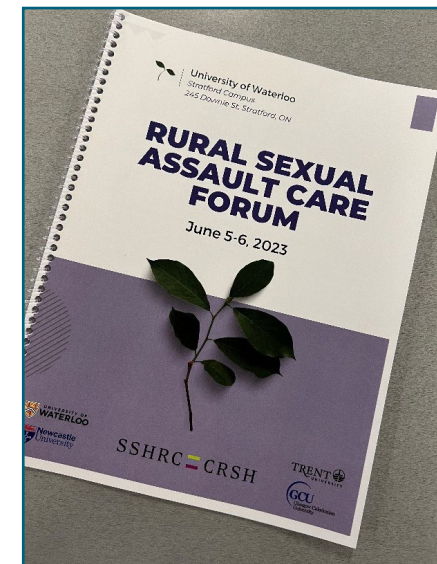
Professor Lesley McMillan, *Glasgow Caledonian University* | **Dr Gethin Rees**, *Newcastle University* |
Dr Andrew Quinlan, *University of Waterloo, Ontario* | **Professor Deborah White**, *Trent University, Ontario*

The project, funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC), focuses on access to post-sexual assault forensic medical services and care in rural areas of Canada and Scotland. Recognising the challenges caused by both remoteness and rurality, for those providing services and those accessing them, the project seeks to more fully understand barriers to access, provision, and the unique conditions facing those in rural areas in each country.

The project aims to:

- Provide a forum for rural sexual assault service providers and related professionals to collectively assess common barriers to sexual assault forensic services and care in rural communities in Canada and Scotland, and develop a series of recommendations to address these.
- Provide a forum for an intersectoral and international knowledge creation, exchange, and dissemination on sexual assault services between providers and scholars using participatory and co-production approaches
- Establish an international research team for a long-term research project on rural sexual assault services in Canada and Scotland.

To date we have facilitated two, two-day events in both Scotland and Canada. Attended by forensic medical practitioners, sexual violence support service staff, and policy makers, and facilitated by the World Café Method, these have provided a unique inter-professional space to explore the challenges faced in each country, delineating commonalities, differences and potential interventions. The project team are currently working on a range of project outputs including maintaining an international community of practice.







strategic priority 2:

technology and digital policing



This theme explores issues such as frontline policing and technology; Digital contact, online visibility & accessibility; Big Data and predictive policing; Surveillance; Cyber enabled/ dependent crime; Cyber security; Public protection; Maximising intelligence; Digital Forensic investigation; and Social, ethical and legal considerations.

HIGHLIGHTS FOR STRATEGIC PRIORITY 2:

Attending training is essential, but “Just by being here, you aren’t halfway there”, Drs Ben Jones and Keith Sturrock from Abertay University show a structured active learning approach, where participation in scaffolded online or in-person activities is required to progress, significantly improves engagement and attainment of course learning outcomes. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.scijus.2022.05.005>

Abertay University’s Generation Science event, with sponsorship from Charles River Labs and Dundee’s Bonnetmakers incorporated trade, included presentation of forensic science projects including using chemometrics to distinguish origins of questioned documents, and counterfeit goods, the persistence and transfer of perfume, and the classification and persistence of pollen on fabrics.

Now in its second year, the ESRC funded INTERACT project published this open access article: Wells, H., Aston, E., Bradford, B., O’Neill, M., Clayton, E. and Andrews, W. (2022) ‘*Channel shift: Technologically mediated policing and procedural justice*’. IJPSM 25 (1).

The final report of the IAG, chaired by Prof Liz Aston, was [published Independent Advisory Group on New and Emerging Technologies - Final Report \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/published-independent-advisory-group-on-new-and-emerging-technologies-final-report)

Helen McMorris from Abertay University successfully defended her PhD thesis on identifying human involvement in raptor persecution. Part of a priority for UK wildlife crime detection, Helen’s work shows that fingerprints, and touchmarks for DNA, can be detected on birds of prey, even after exposure to Scottish weather. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.scijus.2018.09.004>

SIPR supported the ‘Examining the pathways into cybercrime’ event with University of Strathclyde Cybersecurity Group featuring Dr Rutger Leukfeldt of the Netherlands Institute for the Study of Crime and Law Enforcement. This event presented findings of interviews with Dutch hackers about their online and offline pathways into cybercrime, co-offending and desistance.

SIPR supported researchers from four UK universities studied Police Scotland’s strategic communications team, and its use of targeted digital communications for crime prevention – while also analysing of the use of these ‘influence’ approaches across the UK, using a new dataset from the Meta Ad Library. Full report here: www.sipr.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/Ben-Collier-Influence-Policing-Full-Report.pdf

Prof Aston was invited to deliver a plenary presentation ‘A Just Future for Digital Policing’ at the closing session of Future Scot’s ‘*Digital Justice & Policing*’ Conference, 13th October 2022, Glasgow.

SIPR supported the International Perspectives on Cybercrime Symposium with Dr George Weir at the University of Strathclyde. This event brings public sector, policing, and academic colleagues together.



Public Experience and Confidence of Body Worn Video in a Policing Context

Professor William Webster, *University of Stirling* | **Dr Diana Miranda**, *University of Stirling* | **Charles Leleux**, *University of Stirling*

This research provides findings from a rapid research project reviewing the use of Body-Worn Video (BWV) cameras in a policing context, with specific reference to police-citizen interactions and scrutiny mechanisms. It is evident, from the research reviewed, that BWV is being deployed internationally by law enforcement agencies and other public service providers.

Typically, BWV is recognised to provide evidence of incidents, provide a level of personal protection and increased transparency in policing. The rationale for the use of BWV in policing is well established and is afforded a good level of public support. It is also evident, that across UK police forces there is differentiated use of the technology and associated governance mechanisms. In this respect, Police Scotland is in an advantageous position in that it can learn from what is perceived to be 'best practice' elsewhere in the UK and beyond. It is apparent that across the UK there are novel emergent mechanisms used to govern BWV in relation to scrutiny and accountability. These include dedicated Scrutiny Panels and practices referred to as random 'dip sampling', as well as dedicated codes of practice and use protocols. Here, it is suggested that Police Scotland review what other police forces are doing in this area and design processes that are compatible with Police

Scotland's institutional arrangements. The research presented here also suggests that BWV use protocols and data management procedures are established prior to the widespread deployment of the technology. One aspect in which published literature was lacking was in relation to the impacts of BWV on minority groups and ethnic minorities. Here, the evidence is mixed with some authors claiming BWV strained community relations, whilst others claimed BWV made police interactions more transparent. This points to both, a need for further research, plus the use of caution in the use of BWV in certain situations. It is also noted, that whilst there is a general level of public support for BWV, this relates primarily to basic BWV camera units and that this level of support cannot be assumed from more sophisticated data processes, such as those associated with face recognition and live streaming technologies. Here, it is recommended that Police Scotland implement mechanisms that ensure a degree of oversight and accountability in how BWV cameras are used. This can ensure legitimacy of use and facilitate public confidence in the use of the technology. This research was recently presented at a joint event between the Centre for Research into Information and Surveillance & Privacy (CRISP) and the Scottish Privacy Forum. This event brought together fellow academic researchers and police practitioners for the purpose of knowledge exchange and discussions around the provision and governance body-worn video in policing in Scotland.

To view the full research report as well as the recommendations from that report, please visit: <https://www.sipr.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/UoS-BWV-Final-June-22.pdf>

Handling of banknotes affects optimum fingerprint development technique

Dr Ben J. Jones, *Division of Psychology & Forensic Sciences, Abertay University*

Polymer banknotes entered circulation in the UK from 2015 to 2021. These are designed to last two-and-a-half times longer than their paper or cotton predecessors, and some are now reaching their end-of-life. The type of substrate material affects the fingerprint development technique or sequence that will reveal the most and best quality marks, therefore as banks switch to polymer notes, there has been a focus of forensic research on assessing the optimum visualisation technique.

Most of this work has necessarily been done on mint notes, supplied by the issuing bank. However, the surface of a banknote changes as it is handled, and this affects the way fingerprints and development processes behave at the surface (Jones et al. 2022).

A total of 1856 fingerprints on mint and handled banknotes from four different issuing banks (Bank of England, Bank of Scotland, Royal Bank of Scotland, and Clydesdale Bank) were visualised with Vacuum Metal Deposition (VMD), Cyanoacrylate Fuming (CAF) and, on Clydesdale Bank notes, fluorescent powder.

VMD was significantly more effective in developing fingerprints on handled banknotes, across all the banks studied, although effectiveness varied with issuer. For example, on handled Bank of England notes 45% of marks showed ridge detail with VMD development and 28% with CAF; for Bank of Scotland success rates were 17% with VMD and 1% with CAF. For Clydesdale Bank, VMD visualised ridge detail on 65% of marks, powder 5%.

The surface structure of mint and handled polymer banknotes was studied to examine the texture at a micro level. The degraded banknotes showed the loss of the raised intaglio printing and the formation of a micro-cracked surface structure in the handled notes. These features can lead to the trapping of powder, or contaminants, increasing quantity of development agent in fingerprint background between the ridges, decreasing contrast and decreasing performance of powder-based fingerprint development techniques. These same features can restrict the migration of components of the fingerprint (Popov et al. 2017), lessening fingerprints degrading through spread of material and thus reducing potential formation of empty prints, so that VMD development is not adversely affected in the same way.

The separate areas of the banknote surface, such as opaque, transparent and pearlescent regions, as well as the raised text, complicate aging of the note and fingerprint development. Some fingerprints were partially visualised due to crossing different regions of the banknote, suggesting a sequence of techniques may be beneficial. Different designs and manufacture leading to different aging behaviour and distribution of material and textures across the banknote, suggest that studies on one issuer such as Bank of England are not necessarily directly applicable to notes issued by Scottish banks. The condition of the banknote needs to be considered when deciding on the optimum technique(s) to use, this work suggests aged banknotes are better developed with VMD.

Jones, B. J., et al. (2022). *Science and Justice*, **62**, 644-656. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.scijus.2022.08.007>

Popov, K. T., et al. (2017). *Forensic Science International*, **275**, 44-56. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.forsciint.2017.02.015>



Body-worn video: Arbitrating truth or depicting perspective?

Jean-Pierre Roux, *PhD candidate and Teaching Assistant at the University of Glasgow, Scotland*

The presentation began with a video advertisement which revealed to the audience the human tendency to miss crucial information. The introduction detailed that the overall argument of the presentation stems from the author's current doctoral research which is an examination of the ways in which police and body-worn video (BWV) technology shape one another. The research involved interviews with police officers, vendors, and third sector, asking about the roles, usages, and technical elements of the technology.

The introduction ends by emphasizing the overarching problems with BWV footage. Specifically, the footage itself is problematic (technology limitation) and the viewing of footage is problematic (human limitation), and how the compounding factor is the unawareness of these limitations. To reveal these limitations during the presentation, two public-facing roles of BWV footage were selected, and their assumptions were evidenced through interview data. Each was problematized using literature from cognitive science and the potential implications then discussed.

The first role, 'arbitrating truth', whereby footage is used as real (substantive) evidence during judicial proceedings is premised on the assumption that BWV footage is objective and can therefore, arbitrate the truth of what happened during a recorded incident. Research by Lassiter and colleagues has refuted this for decades and this was brought into BWV research by Boivin and colleagues, concluding that BWV footage does contain camera perspective bias and showing that it impacts the assessment of the footage. Evidentially, this has implications for admissibility in UK and Scots law given that it can be prejudicial to the defendant. The presenter then argued that the best design choice for the BWV device to fit

this role is to capture the most amount of information about the incident in the best possible quality.

The second role, 'depicting perspective', whereby footage is used as real evidence during scrutiny (community) panels is premised on the assumption that BWV footage accurately depicts the visual information which the officer gathered during the incident. Realistically, humans only have high-acuity sight (foveal view) of what their gaze is fixated on and 5 degrees around it (approx. 6.2 degrees horizontal in total). The remainder is low-definition peripheral vision, much of which is largely unprocessed. In comparison, the current common BWV devices have lenses which capture around 110-120 degree horizontal in high definition. The implications of this are that there is an inherent dissonance between what is being represented in the footage and what information the officer could possibly have seen and interpreted. This dissonance is potentially even greater under certain environments, where the devices far outperform the human eye in terms of light sensitivity and adjusting to varied lighting.

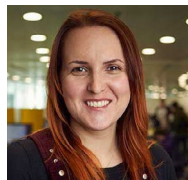
Secondly, to best fit this role or address this dissonance, the design choice of the BWV device is to reduce its functionality to produce footage which is more reflective of the human eye and visual processing. This directly conflicts with the design choice to capture the best possible evidence, revealing a conflict in design considerations between two of the central roles of BWV footage.

The human limitation of selective attention and interpretation was then introduced. Research finds that humans pay attention to certain information, potentially miss crucial information (repeatedly), and interpret the information they do receive. Interpretation of footage was shown to be affected by cultural, ideological, and individual differences. Accordingly, even if the BWV footage were objective, the viewing process is not. The presentation concluded by highlighting that there are important potential implications (which need to be considered by decisionmakers) regarding public perceptions of police as footage is increasingly released/shown to the public.

Broken hearts, empty accounts: preventing romance fraud



Mr Marc Kydd
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Dr Lynsay Shepherd
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Dr Andrea Szymkowiak
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Romance scams are a form of social engineering whereby fraudsters create a fake profile on dating platforms and feign interest in a relationship with a potential victim to extract money.

The resulting damage can be devastating for the victims, who face a "double hit", suffering financial losses in addition to the loss of a perceived relationship.

Romance scams are not a new problem; instances of this crime have continued to grow with the rise of online dating platforms. The COVID-19 pandemic has further exacerbated this type of fraud, alongside other cybercrimes (Lallie et al., 2021), presenting challenges for law enforcement who have limited capacity to deal with this volume of cybercrime (Horgan et al., 2021). Although previous research has been conducted into detecting fake profiles (Suarez-Tangil et al., 2019) and dating platforms and law enforcement run awareness campaigns, few practical solutions exist for reducing potential victimisation.

Broken Hearts, Empty Accounts is an innovative Ph.D. research project led by researchers at Abertay University that seeks to tackle online romance scams, one of the costliest yet underreported forms of cybercrime today. The project centres around developing and evaluating a machine-learning model capable of detecting subtle cues in conversations between potential victims and scammers (Figure 1). Aspects of psychology and persuasive design research will be used to create an accompanying interface providing timely interventions on messaging platforms to protect users from becoming another romance scam statistic.

The work is funded by Abertay University's R-LINCS2 strategy and brings together researchers in our Human Interaction and User Experience pooled area of

excellence. The initiative seeks to address national and international priorities in a changing world, and initial conversations have been held with Police Scotland and the Online Dating Association. Thus, the research is in line with the UK Government's (2022) Pillar 2 aim of Building a resilient and prosperous digital UK, along with the Scottish Government's (2021) strategic framework for a cyber-resilient Scotland whereby "People recognise the cyber risks and are well prepared to manage them". Ultimately, the research will help users of dating platforms, support law enforcement, and prevent romance scams.

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Broken Hearts, Empty Accounts: Preventing Romance Fraud

Abertay University

My last relationship ended almost 2 years ago. And since then I have not met anyone.

Category: **general_conversation**

My partner was very sick.

Category: **medical_trope**

I hope our acquaintance will continue, and we will get to know each other better. I'm very glad that in the vast expanses of the Internet, I found you. And it will be a great joy for me to know you better.

Category: **general_conversation**

I hope you like me? Tell me about yourself.

Category: **general_conversation**

I'll send you my picture. I, too, with impatience will wait for your answer, and a photograph.

Category: **media_send**

Can not wait for your reply.

Category: **sign_off**

introduction general_conversation bio
money_trope looking_for location
travel_trope medical_trope media_send
sign_off



Additional Analysis



'Influence Policing' in Scotland and the UK

Dr Ben Collier, *University of Edinburgh* | **Dr Daniel Thomas**, *University of Strathclyde* |
Dr Shane Horgan, *Edinburgh Napier University* | **Dr Lydia Wilson**, *University of Cambridge*

This SIPR funded research explored the emerging phenomenon of influence policing: the use of digital targeted 'nudge' communications campaigns by police forces and law enforcement agencies to directly achieve strategic policing outcomes. Some key findings from this research are presented below and the full report will be available on the SIPR website.

KEY FINDINGS: POLICE SCOTLAND

- Since 2018, Police Scotland has had a dedicated team devoted to strategic communications marketing campaigns - developing methods for crime prevention through communications. These adapt classic forms of 'strategic communications' and 'social marketing' to incorporate novel techniques and tools, tailoring them to crime prevention - particularly the use of behaviour change theory and digital targeting and segmentation infrastructures
- These influence (including 'nudge') communications go beyond 'information' campaigns or those which simply tell or ask the public to do something, and instead incorporate psychological design elements which attempt to alter the decision environment in which members of the public make choices about their behaviour - often linking up with other interventions such as the redesign of public services.
- In a wider policing context, these innovations can be understood as a development of problem-oriented and intelligence-led policing models in a digital context
- The campaigns - focusing on areas with a perceived 'online' component, such as violence

against women and girls, online grooming, and hate crime - are conceived as part of a public health prevention approach, often using perpetrator-focused adverts to deliver messages to those profiled as 'at risk' of offending. This is part of a move away from campaigns which simply rely on telling the public what to do, or which focus on putting the responsibility for crime prevention on victims.

- There are two main elements to campaigns - the first are attempts to directly change people's behaviour through 'nudge' communications, and the second are wider attempts to shape the cultural narratives that are perceived to contribute to crime.
- In Scotland, digital targeting is mostly used at the broad demographic level (i.e. age and gender), although some use of fine-detail location and interest-based targeting is evident.
- Online targeted paid advertising is used in conjunction with conventional media buying, and organic and 'earned' communication with stakeholders and civil society partners.
- Campaigns are largely developed in house, but the media buying and some campaign development is done with commercial advertising and marketing partners. Civil Society stakeholders play a key role in consultation and development of campaigns, and in the 'organic' promotion.
- The digital platforms themselves play a major role in shaping what is possible, sometimes redirecting the intervention through algorithmic processes or promoting organic sharing.
- Evaluation of the campaigns is able to use some outcome measures but also still relies heavily on



'vanity' metrics (such as apparent views and click-throughs) provided by the platforms - and effects are difficult to measure.

- The use of influencers (usually well-known public figures) in some campaigns to amplify messages is a clear innovation - though raises some concerns. These influencers have legitimacy with and knowledge of targeted communities, and generally retain their audiences across multiple platforms (even when these platforms change or fail).
- We suggest the term Influence officers to describe the professional police communications specialists who design and develop these campaigns, who represent a growing new role in 'frontline' policing.
- The centralised unit and single national force structure in Scotland has had some positive effects when compared to English forces, providing mechanisms for accountability (and saying 'no' to unsuitable or harmful campaigns) where more formal structures don't yet exist. However, this is reliant on the tacit knowledge and expertise of a small group of practitioners - and some aspects of this approach would benefit from being on a more formal institutional footing.
- Despite its proliferation across the UK, this is a distinctively Scottish mode of 'influence policing' and the 'influence officer' as a possible emerging role within policing.



Cyber Security for Police Scotland's Youth Volunteers (PSYV)

Detective Inspector Norman Stevenson, *Police Scotland*

Robert Gordon University (RGU) in Aberdeen has collaborated with OSP Cyber Academy and Police Scotland to develop an innovative online training programme in Cyber Security for Police Scotland's Youth Volunteers (PSYV). This initiative, made possible by a generous £20,000 funding from the Scottish Government, aims to equip the 800 PSYV members and the 200 supporting Adult Volunteers with valuable practical guidance and tools for safeguarding their personal data online.

With the rising prevalence of online threats and cybercrime targeting young individuals, this training package plays a crucial role in raising awareness among our young people and empowering them to defend themselves against such threats.

It is envisaged that the training programme will extend benefits beyond the PSYV, to encompass their families, friends, and school peers in everyday environments, thereby fostering community-wide understanding of the associated dangers.

As part of the project, OSP Cyber Academy have led the way and created the education content for the courses that includes downloadable datasheets for wider and inclusive use. To support this mission, students from RGU's School of Computing are actively involved in the project, developing a gamification app and crafting content as part of their educational journey, equipping them with valuable skills for future employability.

The comprehensive programme is a significant investment by OSP Cyber Academy and RGU and will be conveniently accessible through an online portal, ensuring that the significance of Cyber Security is duly acknowledged and understood by young individuals committed to serving communities across Scotland.

Christopher McDermott, Lecturer and research lead for Human-Centred Security at RGU, said,

"This project gives our students a fantastic opportunity to collaborate with industry experts and make a real difference in our local community. We are delighted to contribute to the educational journey of the Police Scotland Youth Volunteers as they develop their understanding of how to stay safe online. Our development of a gamified app builds upon the online package crafted by OSP Cyber Academy to test and solidify knowledge in a fun and engaging way".

Irene Coyle from OSP Cyber Academy, said,

"I am delighted that the OSP Cyber Academy has been able to support this project. It is critical that young people in Scotland understand the risks and opportunities that come with growing up in a digital world. The OSP Cyber Academy is proud to contribute its expertise alongside RGU and Police Scotland to develop this great resource."

Detective Inspector Norman Stevenson, Senior Investigating Officer for Cybercrime sees this collaborative project:

"as a major step towards increasing Cyber Security awareness among our young people that derives from public sector coming together with private organisations and academia in the North of Scotland to provide public services with knowledge and expertise that will influence the Police Scotland Youth Volunteers and beyond as knowledge is shared."

The role of RNPAs in improving cybercrime reporting in Scotland

Juraj Sikra, *University of Strathclyde* | Taras Shevchenko *Kyiv National University*

The Scottish neoliberal government's enlisting of community and private sector organisations in economic cybercrime reporting is a form of responsibilisation. These organisations collect, evaluate and forward victims' cybercrime reports as state intelligence. I pioneer the term Responsibilised non-policing agencies (RNPAs) to unmask the genealogy of their acquired role.

Methods & Analysis: I interviewed and compared Scottish (N=11) versus Italian (N=4) RNPAs to understand responsibilisation internationally and improve cybercrime reporting nationally. Scottish RNPAs are state-sponsored charities, banks, regulators of commerce and private institutions. Italian RNPAs are private law firms. All were represented by their relevant functions.

Results: In Scotland, RNPAs form a responsibilisation buffer zone between the state and victims (see: Figure 1). The Scots state exports selective funding and universal responsibility to RNPAs and imports cybercrime intelligence. The Italian state is comparatively disengaged. Victims risk criminal responsibilisation, which is why they turn to RNPAs.

Discussion: Scottish RNPAs supply an opportunity cost dilemma. The state can keep using RNPAs to narrate an improving cybercrime reporting strategy, which is cheaper. Alternatively, the state can restructure the funding of select RNPAs and increase funding for specialised cybercrime policing, which is more expensive.

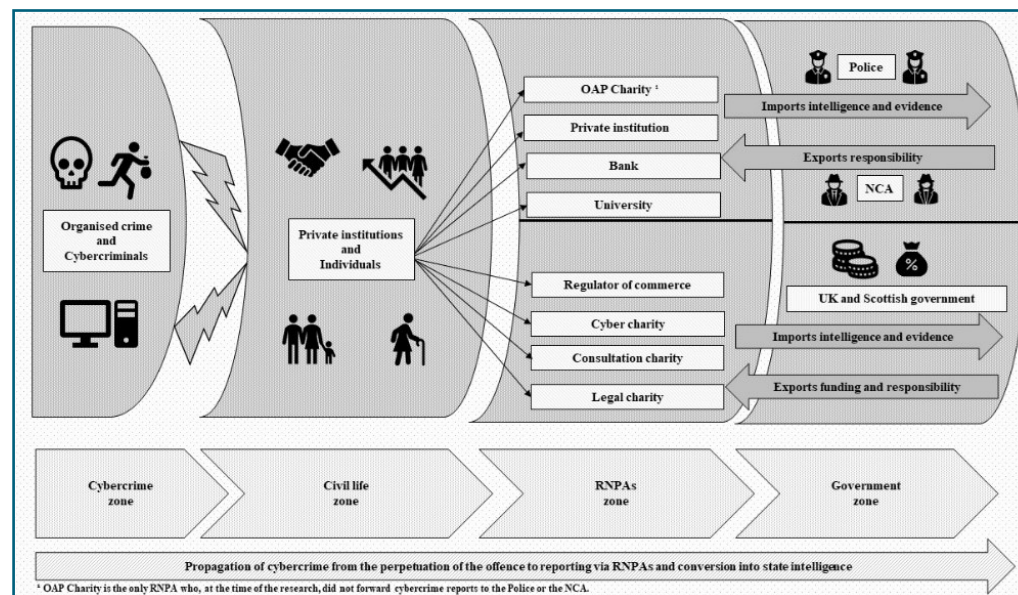


Figure 1.

Conclusion: Both options are viable with specialisation bearing the opportunity cost.

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An automated methodology for digital investigations of exploitation in the sex market

Dr Richard Kjellgren, *Research Fellow, University of Stirling*

I recently published a short briefing paper through SIPR on my PhD work relating to the policing of exploitation within the sex market. This is an exceptionally complex issue, and my PhD – which I recently submitted – focused on the role that technology plays in facilitating exploitation and sex trafficking in the UK.

In addition, I also sought to examine the extent to which we can generate open-source intelligence (OSINT) on adult services websites (ASWs) to identify patterns of vulnerability and exploitation in this context. The SIPR briefing paper is focused on the latter; it provides a concise summary of the methodology I developed to automatically identify networks operating in the sex market.

Contemporary investigations of exploitation in the sex market are likely to involve the gathering of intelligence and evidence from ASWs, since such platforms are crucial to generate revenue for criminal networks. However, generating intelligence and conducting digital investigations is a resource-intensive process. Whilst previous work has been done to apply artificial intelligence to identify potential criminal networks, or the use of risk matrices to evaluate the content of online escort adverts on ASWs, such approaches are highly likely to generate false-positives (conflating independent sex workers – particularly migrant sex workers – with criminal networks).

The methodology that I have developed for this purpose is largely rooted in what I have learnt from experienced human trafficking investigators in Scotland and England. Based on the challenges they described in relation to working with OSINT, and more broadly, investigating sex trafficking and exploitation, I attempted to create an automated methodology to address some of their needs. I was keen to move away from more simplistic or pre-existing methods, which largely are concerned with the content within adverts, to instead identify and map the networks and spatio-temporal dimensions of the networks operating in the UK's off-street sex market. Perhaps the most important lesson I learned from the investigators I interviewed was that the connections between adverts are significantly more informative than the actual content of the adverts themselves; this formed the cornerstone of all computational work I did for my PhD, and what is described in the SIPR briefing paper.

However, even though the methodology addresses a current gap in the policing of exploitation, in that it can provide investigations with a digital overlay, much work needs to be done to assess its value in practical contexts. Most importantly, and as discussed in more detail in my PhD thesis, there are important ethical issues to consider and there is a strong need to involve sex workers and groups representing their interests in improving responses to exploitation. With the thesis submitted, I am looking forward to opportunities to continue my work by involving such groups and police practitioners to contribute to more evidence-based approaches to the digital policing of exploitation.

Kjellgren briefing paper here: https://www.sipr.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/15122022_SIPR_Briefing_Kjellgren_v2.0-revised.pdf



Conclusion of the work of the Independent Advisory Group on Emerging Technologies in Policing

Professor Liz Aston, Edinburgh Napier University

In late 2020 I was invited by Humza Yousaf, then the Justice Secretary, to Chair the Independent Advisory Group on Emerging Technologies in Policing. Following two years of work by all involved, the *final report* was published in February 2023.

The group brought together members from across academia, civil society, regulators and policing to explore, discuss and make recommendations which will support the enhancement of policy and practice in this space. The IAG met ten times over the course of two years. Four workstreams were established to progress the work, drawing in additional members. The workstreams each produced reports which were published alongside the final report.

These covered: Legal Framework and Ethical Standards (Daly et al., 2023); Evidence and Scientific Standards (Buchanan et al., 2023); Consultation and Public Engagement (Campbell et al., 2023); and Oversight Scrutiny and Review (Ross et al., 2023). In addition, we commissioned an independent research report from a team at the University of Stirling who reviewed legal frameworks, impacts on rights and good practice* (Connon et al., 2023).

I am very grateful to all involved and was delighted to be able to involve academics from various SIPR member HEIs in the work of the IAG (Prof Angela Daly, Prof Burkhard Schafer, Prof Bill Buchanan), the workstreams (Dr Megan O'Neill, Basil Manoussos, Dr Andrew Wooff and Dr Genevieve Lennon) and the research commission (Drs Hamilton-Smith, Connon, Egan, Mackay, Miranda and Webster).

The report explores a rights based, transparent, evidence-based, legal, ethical and socially responsible approach to adopting emerging technologies in policing, in a manner that upholds public confidence and safety. Alongside the importance

of legal frameworks centred on human rights, equalities and data protection, it highlights the consideration of ethical and social implications, the key role of research evidence, consultation and public engagement and scientific standards in technological innovation and the centrality of robust mechanisms to ensure oversight and scrutiny.

The final report makes 18 recommendations in order to support the embedding of technology in policing in a manner that upholds public confidence and supports efficient and effective policing that is rights based, transparent, ethical and socially responsible and delivers, rather than erodes, social justice.

It was covered by the media in 18 pieces which had 981k online views and included print in the Scotsman, Times, Evening News.

The then Justice Secretary Keith Brown said:

"It is important that in adopting new technology, Police Scotland must do so in a way that secures public confidence. That is why a robust rights-based, ethical approach to using new technology is so vital. This valued report makes important suggestions in this significant and interesting sphere which will be given careful consideration."

As a result of this report the Scottish Police Authority and Police Scotland have established a *Short Life Working Group* to action the recommendations.

I am hopeful that the work we undertook through the IAG will bring improvements in the area of emerging technologies in policing in Scotland and that it will be useful to other areas of policing here and around the world.



strategic priority 3:

policing systems capability and resilience



This theme explores issues such as Workforce; Support for operational policing; Retention/ recruitment; Business change/ change management; Culture, diversity, and inclusion; Staff well-being; Leadership; Training, learning and education; Demand; and Data; and investigations.

HIGHLIGHTS FOR RESEARCH PRIORITY 3:

SIPR has awarded over £60,000 in funding for three excellent projects following the Developing Policing Systems, Capability, and Resilience grant call launched at last year's Scottish International Policing Conference.

SIPR will continue to support match a funded PhD Studentship undertaken by Mahnoz Illias (supervised by Dr Evangelia Demou - University of Glasgow) on "Understanding the health and wellbeing of female police officers and staff".

As part of the newly launched Strathclyde Centre for Doctoral Training in Human Rights-based Decision Making, an interdisciplinary PhD project on "Datafied Policing Technologies, Racial Justice and Human Rights Compliance" has been created. The project will be supervised by Dr. Esperanza Miyake (Chancellor's Fellow in Humanities) and Dr Birgit Schippers (Lecturer in Law). More details here.

SIPR supported research into Trauma informed policing. This project describes a qualitative case study of the perceptions of impact of trauma-informed training on a single police custody suite, where all custody staff had completed an evidenced-based training package devised by NHS Education Scotland (NES). Full report here: www.sipr.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/Research-Report-Goodall-et-al-2023-trauma-informed-custody.docx.pdf

Professor Denise Martin published article on "[*Policing the pandemic: Frontline officers' perspectives on organisational justice*](#)" an International Journal of Police Science and Management.

Attending training is essential, but "Just by being here, you aren't halfway there", Drs Ben Jones and Keith Sturrock from Abertay University show a structured active learning approach, where participation in scaffolded online or in-person activities is required to progress, significantly improves engagement and attainment of course learning outcomes. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.scijus.2022.05.005>

SIPR has published a report from Dr Goodall (University of Edinburgh) as part of the Future of Policing Research Grants on "Trauma informed training in police custody. <https://www.sipr.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/Research-Report-Goodall-et-al-2023-trauma-informed-custody.docx.pdf>

Carina Anna Joannidis, *Mark Enhancement Recovery Officer, Scottish Police Authority- Forensic Services*

Miss Carina Anna Joannidis - carina.joannidis@spa.police.uk - SPA Forensic Services

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Mr Kenny Laing - kenny.laing@spa.police.uk - SPA Forensic Services

The results from a pseudo-operational trial were recently published in Forensic Science International confirming that the results from a study conducted by Joannidis et al. looking at fingerprint enhancement on Clydesdale bank and Royal bank of Scotland polymer banknotes were successful when applied to banknotes in a mock criminal case.



Horizon Europe funding success for Clarus: Building clarity and preventing bias in digital forensic examination, interorganisational communication and interaction

Dr Megan O'Neill, University of Dundee

In November 2022, Dr Megan O'Neill (University of Dundee) successfully led the Clarus consortium in an application for funding under the *Horizon Europe* scheme *HORIZON-CL3-2022-FCT-01-02: Better understanding the influence of organisational cultures and human interactions in the forensic context as well as a common lexicon*. The focus of this call is to examine the process by which forensic experts (in policing, in forensic institutes or other relevant agencies) evaluate and interpret evidence, as well as communicate those findings to others.

This brings consideration of occupational cultures, inter-agency communication as well as terminology and language. As this is a Horizon project, these elements must also be considered on an international scale, and how these processes of communication and interaction work between countries as well as between agencies. A primary outcome of the project is a lexicon of forensic terminology.

To meet this challenge, a consortium of 12 partners from six countries was brought together. This multidisciplinary group includes law enforcement agencies, forensic institutes, police colleges and universities. Areas of expertise represented, besides policing and forensic examination, include social science, computer science and

linguistics. The six countries in our consortium are the UK, Norway, Finland, The Czech Republic, Greece and Portugal. We decided to focus our work on digital forensic evidence, as it is a growing aspect of criminal investigation but is still new enough to not yet have a consistent and internationally agreed terminology.

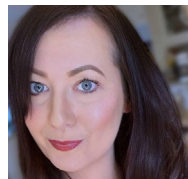
Clarus will study how communication, taken-for-granted ways of doing things, organisational cultures, disciplinary backgrounds or even gender and specific languages can contribute significantly to a context for biased judgements and erroneous decisions at an organisational (rather than individual) level. Clarus will produce new knowledge related to issues of communication, language and vocabulary, both within and across borders in the field of forensic digital evidence in Europe and will highlight areas of risk for the execution of unbiased forensic procedures. Our work is likely to start in October 2023. The overall value of the grant is just under 3.5 million Euro.

Bringing together not only an application as significant as this but also a successful consortium was not an easy task. It required over a year's worth of work, innumerable online calls as well as four key in-person meetings which were held in Dundee (x2), Edinburgh and Helsinki. Three small grants were required to fund the application development itself, and these came from The British Academy; The School of Humanities, Languages and Social Sciences at the University of Dundee; and from the Scottish Institute for Policing Research (SIPR) through the 'Think Big Leverage Fund'. Throughout the process of the application development, we sought out the voices of practitioners in this field to ensure that the outputs of the project, an online lexicon for digital examination and a bias-checking tool, will be useful in practice. We would not have had a successful application without their valuable contributions.

Trauma-Informed training in police custody: a qualitative case study



Dr Karen Goodall
University of Edinburgh



Dr Zara Brodie
University of Edinburgh



Dr Karri Gillespie-Smith
University of Edinburgh

This project describes a qualitative case study of the perceptions of impact of trauma-informed training on a single police custody suite, where all custody staff had completed an evidenced-based training.

The lifelong negative impacts of childhood adversity and trauma have been robustly demonstrated by research. Given that people in contact with the criminal justice system tend to have higher than average experiences of early adversity and trauma, the police are ideally positioned to be a trauma-informed service. For many services working towards a trauma-informed culture, staff training is a common starting point (SAMHSA, 2014).

However, there have been few evaluations of the efficacy of staff training, particularly in services like the police, where there is a strong cultural identity that is distinct from other public-facing services.

In this study, we focused on a custody suite in Glasgow where 100% of the staff had completed the NHS Education Scotland (NES) trauma training. We used a qualitative case study approach based on three sources of data: focus groups with custody police and civilian staff, interviews with senior staff with responsibility for custody staff and a focus group with keyworkers in a support service aligned to the custody suite. Through multiple perspectives, we were able to build an in-depth understanding of how the trauma training had exerted an impact on attitudes, practice or interactions. The NES trauma training promoted a nuanced understanding of trauma and its impacts and there was some evidence of changing practice. Custody and support service staff agreed that police custody is an

opportunity for positive intervention and highlighted referral opportunities. Support service staff believed that more could be done to promote inter-agency working between police custody and support services. Barriers to trauma-informed working included officer concerns about flexibly interpreting police, police culture and a perception by officers that their own trauma was under-recognised. Our full report concludes with a number of recommendations:

1. Working towards a multi-agency approach is crucial to facilitate the best possible custody experience and referral pathways
2. Trauma-informed training needs to be ongoing as one-off training limits reflection on, and development of, practical skills.
3. Where staff can use their discretion regarding certain custody procedures (e.g., strip search, use of restraint), this should be communicated to them with clear guidance and support for justifying deviations from standard protocol.
4. Services should pay greater attention to the application of trauma-informed approaches in police staff support.

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The full report can be found [here](#).



Police history and its contribution to police practice made rapid strides during 2022/23. Using police history in current practice increases the occupation's professional status.

Dr Mary Fraser, Associate SCCJR

DEVELOPMENTS WERE:

1. The College of Policing Strategic Demand Course, attended by around 50 participants on 8th December 2022 entitled 'Police History: A Resource for Police Leaders' focussed on:

- Improving professional identity and occupational culture
- Augmenting operational research
- Refining change management
- Understanding and promoting legitimacy/inclusion

and included a case study 'The police and the homeless in history.'

The seminar was very well received. Presenters were: Ruth Halkon (Police Foundation); David Churchill (University of Leeds); Mary Fraser (SCCJR); Paul Lawrence (Open University):



2. Dr Mary Fraser initiated a seminar with The Police Foundation on the work of the police in history. Attendance of over 50 contributed to Condemned to Repeat it? How policing can learn from the mistakes of the past, Chaired by Director Dr Rick Muir on 13th May 2022.

3. The formation of a Police History Society Academic Group on 23rd May 2023 intended:

- Networking and connections – building possible collaborations, connecting police historians with police professional organisations, police museums, etc.
- Sharing information about the state of the field and new directions in academic research on policing.
- Practical assistance with police history research – how to write police history, writing for academic journals, locating source materials, issues with access to police records, issues of accessing relevant networks of (former) police officers.
- Elevating the status of police history in academia and in professional policing (e.g. police training and policy). Mary is a founder member with 29 participants.

4. Mary presented a seminar in the Institute of Historical Research, London on 31st May 2023 on the release of policemen into agriculture during the First World War, helping to prevent population starvation by increasing home food production <https://www.history.ac.uk/events/police-ploughmen-191718-how-britains-policemenhelped-local-populations-temporary-release>.

Policemen were first responders in this national crisis. Mary drew links with modern policing showing how some Forces released policemen as ambulance drivers in the first months of the pandemic, also acting as first responders in this national crisis

'A degree is not necessarily the answer': A comparative analysis of police professionalisation through the lens of initial police learning in Scotland, Sweden, and Finland

Dr Andrew Tatnell, *University of West of Scotland/ SIPR*

My PhD was completed in late 2022 and supervised by Dr Colin Atkinson, Professor Denise Martin, Professor Rowena Murray, and Associate Professor Andrew Wooff.

I explored why the traditional 'craft' based Initial Police Learning Programme in Scotland (known as the Probationer Training Programme) had not followed the contemporary trend towards the academisation of initial police learning, which is being seen in many other north-western European countries as part of their wider professionalisation strategies. For comparative purposes, and thanks to support from SIPR, I was able to undertake a cross-national comparative study during which I explored Sweden which had moved some way towards academisation, and Finland which had introduced a pre-entry, 3-year Bachelor's degree programme.

Analysis of data gathered in 2019 through forty-nine one-to-one, semi-structured interviews with police officers of all ranks, police unions, academics, and those in oversight and governance roles, together with six focus groups involving police recruits and policing students, provided the following original contributions to knowledge:

- Police professionalisation has different meanings in different social, cultural, and political contexts. This helps to understand why there is no consensus about how policing should be professionalised, and that doing so through the academisation of initial police learning is not necessarily the answer. It demonstrates that different approaches are appropriate, and those that are deployed should be attuned to local contexts.
- When refracted through Noordegraaf's (2015) analytical framework, policing is not a 'pure' profession as shown in trait-based definitions but is at best 'hybrid',

combining "professional and managerial principles such as autonomy and control, or quality and efficiency" (Noordegraaf, 2015, pp.187-188). This study also demonstrates that different levels of hybridity might exist within different social, cultural, and political contexts.

- Through a synthesis of the different elements of Kingdon's (1995) multiple streams approach, and through the development of Hallenberg's (2012) concept of 'two-worlds thinking' into one of 'three-worlds thinking', variables of social, cultural, and political context are important within policy formulation processes. This builds on the work of other scholars by demonstrating: that the extent to which there are cultural alignments and schisms within and between the 'three-worlds thinking' of politics, academia, and policing are important in the dynamics of change; that the political context and relational power within the policy formulation process are of particular significance; that decision making during the policy formulation process is not entirely rational nor linear; and finally, that 'policy' streams need to coalesce to provide 'windows of opportunity' for change. As this and other studies have shown these factors collectively create path dependencies which can preclude, hinder, or facilitate professionalisation strategies.
- The extent to which academic theoretical knowledge, 'craft' knowledge, and experiential knowledge are foregrounded as privileged forms of knowledge and sources of cultural capital within policing vary within different social, cultural, and political contexts.

Whilst acknowledging that policy and practice are context-specific, making direct importation from one to another challenging, it is hoped that countries can learn from one another and include the knowledge generated by this study in discussion, decisions, and practice reviews.



Developing Effective Policing Systems: Capability and Resilience grants

We are delighted to announce that the award decisions have been made with regards to our recent call titled "Developing Effective Policing Systems: Capability & Resilience. The purpose of these grants is to provide funding to researchers based at SIPR member universities to support projects which focus on challenges and emerging issues related to DEPSCR - particularly within Scotland, but also internationally.

DEPSCR explores issues such as Workforce; Support for operational policing; Retention/recruitment; Business change/change management; Culture, diversity, and inclusion; Staff well-being; Leadership; Training, learning and education; Demand; and Data; and investigations.

The first of three successful applications is titled "Great Expectations! An examination of the rhetoric and reality of police officers' psychological contracts," with Dr Kirsteen Grant as Principal Investigator. The aim of the project is to identify the work and workplace expectations of new and established police officers and examine the extent to which these are being fulfilled, alongside the associated implications, e.g., for job satisfaction, resilience and wellbeing, and turnover intention.

The second successful application is titled "Policing after Lockdown: re-building relationships with the Covid Generation" with Dr Ian Fyfe as Principal Investigator. The aim of the project is to establish an inter-disciplinary, cross-sector seminar group comprising leaders from police, youth work, schools, public health, and young people.

The third and final successful application is titled "Children Count: Using Policing Data to Inform Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (CSEA) Protection and Prevention" with Prof Deborah Fry as Principal Investigator. The aim of this project is to enhance organisational capability to use protocols and data, in collaboration with academic, national, and international policing stakeholders, which is essential for building resilience in both investigation/response and in prevention work in a fast-changing digital world. In addition, we will collaboratively generate a series of analyses to better understand the current scale of CSEA in Scotland



3PO Project **Professor Saskia Bayerl, CENTRIC**



The 3PO Project or 'Protecting Public-Facing Professionals and their Dependents Online' is a collaborative project funded by UKRI as part of the REPHRAIN Network. 3PO is led by Professor Saskia Bayerl at CENTRIC based at Sheffield Hallam and involves partnerships from six U.K. police forces, the Home Office and 5 U.K. based academic institutions.

The 3PO Project aims to better understand the challenges, risks and harms police officers and their families face when they are online and to develop direct, sustainable solutions to protect this group from online harms, to safeguard their physical and mental wellbeing and ultimately to empower their full participation in the online domain.

SIPR were delighted to join the project to lead the dissemination work package and in November 2022 hired a new communication and dissemination officer to aid with the dissemination aims (Dr Olivia Coombes). Over the past year, project members have been busy

conducting interviews with police officers, staff and their families and SIPR have helped produce the first 3PO Report. This report includes highlights and findings from all work packages within the 3PO Project. Some notable early findings suggest:

- Interviews identified that training on online safety issues is generally lacking and over-reliant on 'common sense'. Furthermore, participants requested that training and guidance be developed, delivered primarily 'in-person' and regularly refreshed.
- Three potential tools have been identified as solutions including for self-assessment, harm reporting, and situational awareness. Further consultations will be conducted to flesh out their key features, functions and benefits to expand on the benefits and values each tool could achieve.

As SIPR are leading the dissemination work package, the main thrust of the work being done includes supporting academics and stakeholders to create reports, briefing papers and presentations. Predominantly, SIPR are leading the organization of the first 3PO Symposium which will happen in the Edinburgh in October of this year. This event will ensure representation from academia, policing, industry, government, 3rd sector and will showcase results, recommendations and next steps from the 3PO Project.

In addition, SIPR are also supporting the creation and production of the first 3PO Podcast. The Podcast will showcase findings, recommendations and the real-life impact of the project's results.

The 3PO Project has achieved a great deal over the first year and SIPR are excited to continue to support the project to reach its overall aims.





Understanding Domestic Homicide in Scotland: Exploring Patterns, Promoting Safeguarding

Professor Lesley McMillan, *Glasgow Caledonian University* | **Dr Rachel McPherson**, *University of Glasgow* | **Dr Maureen Taylor**, *Glasgow Caledonian University*

In the UK, over the past ten years, on average a woman is killed by her male partner or former partner every 4 days, many being premeditated and following a pattern of abuse and control (Femicide Census, 2021).

Globally, domestic abuse is endemic, and while our knowledge of domestic abuse has increased considerably in recent years, patterns of domestic homicide are poorly understood and predictive risk factors for lethality have been difficult to identify. Most notably the features of offenders and the contextual factors that underpin these offences are not well delineated, and yet it is these factors which may provide the best opportunities for the development of effective multi-agency prevention strategies. It is this gap that this collaborative project between academic researchers, Police Scotland and third sector violence against women organisations seeks to address.

Funded by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) through a bespoke scheme designed to promote collaboration between violence against women and girls (VAWG) researchers and police constabularies, the project aims to build a collaborative community of practice in Scotland to more fully understand, and prevent, domestic homicide of women by their male partners or former partner. The project builds upon existing relationships between researchers at Glasgow Caledonian University and the University of Glasgow, Police Scotland, the Scottish Institute for Policing Research, and VAWG stakeholders including Scottish Women's Aid, ASSIST, Safelives and EmilyTest, and the NHS.

The project has five aims and objectives, to:

- Utilise co-production to establish and build a meaningful collaborative community of practice among academic researchers, Police Scotland, the Scottish Institute for Policing Research (SIPR) and VAWG third sector

stakeholders around domestic homicide of women in Scotland

- Undertake an in-depth qualitative pilot case study of a sample of domestic homicides of women in Scotland over a period of 10 years
- Ascertain the feasibility of case file analysis for understanding domestic homicide and establish rigorous practices for the sharing of sensitive data between police and researchers
- Develop a robust methodology for case file analysis to undertake a future larger project examining case file data of all domestic homicides of women in Scotland, including 'hidden homicides' through suicide
- Disseminate the findings and outputs of the project to a wide audience of relevant academics, practitioners and policy makers in Scotland and internationally

The project involves a focussed qualitative pilot study using Police Scotland case file data for a sample of domestic homicides of women along with a focussed programme of workshops using the World Café Method with key stakeholders to inform the design of the pilot research, contextualisation of the findings, exploration of suicide and 'hidden homicide', and to collectively develop a project design and methodology for a future large funding bid.

