

POLICE RESEARCH BULLETIN

(2009-10)

News of journal articles by members of SIPR and of interest to policing in Scotland, compiled by UWS Centre for Criminal Justice and Police Studies.

David G Barrie (University of Western Australia) 'A Typology of British Police: Locating the Scottish Municipal Police Model in Its British Context, 1800-35, *British Journal of Criminology*, 50, 2, March 2010: 259-77

This article represents the first serious attempt to compare Scottish policing with other British municipal police and improvement models between 1800 and 1835. It is concerned with assessing whether the Scottish experience was distinct from other parts of the United Kingdom and the implications of this for British police history and typology. It argues that the Scottish model was much closer to English experience than has hitherto been contended, but which, nonetheless, had distinguishing characteristics tailored to meet specific indigenous needs, customs and practices. Any attempt to construct a British police typology must move beyond the institutional confines of accountability and organization and take account of legal, cultural and intellectual structures and influences.

Adrian Beck (University of Leicester) and Annette Robertson (Glasgow Caledonian University) 'The challenges to developing democratic policing in post-Soviet societies: the Russian experience', *Police Practice and Research*, 10, 4, August 2009: 285-93.

This paper reviews the nature of policing in Russia since the collapse of the Soviet Union, focusing on the major challenges the country continues to face in transforming the police from guardians of the former Communist Party to servants of the public. It offers an evaluation of the reforms undertaken to date, the prospects for a more democratic and transparent Russian police service in the future, and the broader lessons that can be learnt about the deep-seated problems faced by countries emerging from a post-Soviet past.

Ben Bradford (LSE), Elizabeth Stanko (Metropolitan Police Service) and Jonathan Jackson (LSE) 'Using research to inform policy: The role of public attitude surveys in understanding public confidence and police contact', *Policing*, 2, 2 (2009): 139-48

This article summarizes evidence on contact and confidence from the British crime Survey and surveys conducted by the Metropolitan Police Service. First, falls in public confidence over the last 20 years have been mirrored by growing dissatisfaction with personal contact. Second, while poorly handled encounters with the police can have a significant negative impact on subsequent confidence, there is some recent evidence that well-handled contacts can have a small but positive impact. More promisingly, high visibility and feeling informed about police activities are both associated with greater confidence in policing. Finally, there is a discussion of how the Metropolitan Police service is using survey data to improve police handling of interactions with the public. Communication between officers and the public – of information, of fairness and respect, and of police presence – appears to be of central importance.

Karen Bullock (University of Surrey) and Nick Tilley (UCL) 'Born to Fail ? Policing, Reform and Neighbourhood Problem Solving', *The Police Journal*, 82, 2(2009): 117-33.

The issue of problem solving as a component of neighbourhood policing is an important and potentially highly problematic one. The UK Government claims in its 2008 Green Paper *From the Neighbourhood to the National*, to be 'absolutely committed to neighbourhood policing in the 21st Century'. Yet experience shows that implementation of problem solving is likely to be far from straightforward. This article draws attention to the many obstacles identified over 25 years of experimentation with the principles of problem solving. The article examines what is known about implementation of problem solving in the police service and the factors which influence its delivery. It draws attention to lessons learned and the implications for the delivery of neighbourhood policing.

Robert Smith (Robert Gordon University) 'A call for the integration of 'Biographical Intelligence' into the National Intelligence Model, *Policing*, 3, 2 (2009): 191-9.

Biographical intelligence is an established concept within Intelligence circles and is used to develop a wider picture of activities of heads of state and politicians likely to be harmful to the interests of the sovereign state collecting such data. However, to date, despite the pervasiveness of the National Intelligence Model in Britain in professionalizing the face of policing, the concept of biographical intelligence has yet to mature. This paper examines this overlooked issue and in particular discusses why biographical intelligence could prove to be a useful edition to the Intelligence armoury of policing. The paper demonstrates how crime entrepreneurs can gain competitive advantage across a lifetime by exploiting existing gaps in the intelligence system and how as a result they can stay 'one step' ahead of the police intelligence apparatus.

The constructed narrative shows up flaws in the system that are still relevant and open to exploitation by resourceful and intelligent criminals.

Police Practice and Research – Special Edition: New Possibilities for Policing Research and Practice, 10, 5-6 (October-December 2009).

This special edition is edited by Les Johnson and Clifford Shearing and contains a number of articles on aspects of policing research across the world. The guest editors contribute an overview article on 'From a 'dialogue of the deaf' to a 'dialogue of listening': towards a new methodology of policing research and practice'. Peter Neyroud of NPIA discusses research, evidence, policy-making and police improvement in England and Wales and a Scot, David Bradley, in tandem with the Victoria Police chief, Christine Nixon, presents an Australian case-study on 'Ending the 'dialogue of the deaf': evidence and policing policies and practices'. There are also descriptions of the links between policing research and practice in Latin America, Africa and China.

Police Practice and Research – Special Edition: The Evolving Relationship between Police Research and Police Practice, 11, 2 (April 2010).

A second special edition of this international journal resumes the theme of police research and practice, this time with a greater emphasis on the American perspective. Thus there are articles reflecting on the research-practice nexus in Wisconsin, Cincinnati, Buffalo, Seattle, Dallas and Florida. The focus is not entirely Stateside, however, and there is an interesting piece by Johannes Knutsson from Norway on 'Nordic reflections on the dialogue of the deaf'. In addition, there are a number of broader discussions on 'Policing and research: two cultures separated by a common language' by Michael Buerger, on the merging of policy and action research traditions by Dennis Rosenbaum, and by Darrel Stephens on enhancing the impact of research on police practice. The eminent police scholar, Maurice Punch, draws on his experience in the Netherlands and the UK to discuss 'Policing and police research in the age of the smart cop'.

These two special editions contain much that is of interest to those of us in Scotland, and especially in SIPR, who are engaging regularly with the interactions between policing research and policing policies and practices. In particular, there is much to encourage us in continuing to transform, to use the phraseology here, the 'dialogue of the deaf' into the 'dialogue of listening'.