

Acting locally and globally: SIPR's developing international profile

A rapidly changing and interdependent world means 'acting locally and thinking and acting globally' are key attributes for any organisation. For SIPR this means continuing to develop its research and knowledge exchange (KE) activities both 'locally' in partnership with the Scottish police service and 'globally' with an international community of police researchers and practitioners. This is important not just because Scotland needs a strong policing research base to generate new knowledge and understanding about 'what works' in policing but also, in an era of globalisation, Scotland needs to be able to interpret knowledge about policing created elsewhere in the world and reap the benefits of comparative analysis.

In terms of acting locally, SIPR continues to make significant investment in new research projects developed in collaboration between university researchers and police practitioners. Complementing this investment in new research is the process of ensuring that new and existing knowledge is exchanged between academic, practitioners and the policy community. In addition to seminars and workshops, SIPR is working closely with the Scottish Police College on developing CPD courses and a Graduate Programme in Policing, so that the Scottish police service has access to the evidence-base needed for the effective development of policing policy.

In terms of acting globally, SIPR has been involved in a range of significant developments over the last 12 months:

- International awareness of SIPR was significantly enhanced by the 2008 Annual Conference, which was held alongside the annual meeting of the European Society of Criminology in Edinburgh and took as its theme 'Policing Scotland in a European Context' (see p.7).
- Three world-class scholars have been appointed as Visiting Professors to the research networks with the aim of creating opportunities for collaborative research and for contributing to the KE activities of SIPR. Par-Anders Granhag from Sweden spoke on investigative interviewing at a seminar in Aberdeen (see p.2) earlier this year while David Kennedy (John Jay College, New York) and an expert on gangs and youth crime will give the keynote address at the 2009 Annual Conference and speak at the Scottish Police College. Philip Stenning (Keele), an international expert on police governance, will speak at a SIPR seminar later in the year.

- In an initiative led by the Police Academy of the Netherlands, SIPR has become a founding member of 'The North Sea Collaboration for doing research on and with the police' which brings together five policing research institutes from Holland, Norway, Belgium, England & Wales, and Scotland. The aims of this collaboration are to conduct comparative research and create opportunities for the exchange of knowledge and people. The first meeting of the collaboration was held in the Hague. The next meeting will be hosted by SIPR in Edinburgh in 2010.
- Individual members of SIPR are playing leading roles within wider European networks of researchers and practitioners. Jim Fraser (Strathclyde) is chair of the European Academy of Forensic Science while Peter Wilson (Dundee) is developing a Knowledge Transfer Network among police practitioners via the European Chapter of the FBI National Academy of Associates. Alistair Henry (Edinburgh) and Nick Fyfe (Dundee) chair the newly established European Society of Criminology Working Group on policing which aims to facilitate the networking of scholars and practitioners interested in the study of police organisations and policing and to act as a hub through which researchers, practitioners and the policy community can collaborate on the development of comparative research programmes, knowledge transfer events and continuing professional development.
- Working closely with ACPOS and the Scottish Police College, SIPR is assisting those within the Scottish police service applying to the US-UK Fulbright Commission's police awards scheme.



Professor Par-Anders Granhag (r) with Professor Amina Memon.
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SIPR People

SIPR Lectureships

Dr Katy Savage and Dr Donna Marie Brown have recently joined SIPR.

Dr Katy Savage has been appointed to the University of Strathclyde. Katy received her PhD from the University of Florida in 2002 and subsequently worked at the National Forensic Science Technology Center (FL, US) and Forensic Quality Services (FL, US). Katy's teaching and research interests are in forensic toxicology, particularly in drug facilitated sexual assaults, roadside drug testing, and the application of pharmacogenetics to forensic science.

Dr Donna Marie Brown received her PhD in Human Geography from Durham University in 2008 and has been appointed to the University of Dundee. She is interested in how marginal groups are policed in the contemporary urban realm, and what this means for police-community relations. Her current project explores the relationship between youth groups and members of the extended 'policing family' (including community wardens in Scotland and PCSOs in England), to examine the effects of policing on the ability of youth groups to enact their 'right to the city'. It is a comparative study which incorporates case study sites in city centre and residential public spaces of Dundee and Newcastle-Upon Tyne. This research project will be used as a basis from which to apply for a larger research grant, which explores the policing of youth across the UK.

Visiting Professor

Professor Par-Anders Granhag, from Goteburg University, Sweden, was the lead speaker at a half-day event in February on 'Detecting deception and managing suspect interviews' organised by Professor Amina Memon at the University of Aberdeen. Professor Granhag is one of three Visiting International Professors appointed by SIPR. He spoke on 'Deception detection via strategic disclosure of evidence'.

He gave a brief review of theoretical notions relevant for liars' and truth-tellers' strategies; a review of empirical research on suspects' counter-interrogation strategies; and showed that knowledge about liars' and truth-tellers' strategies can be used to increase deception detection accuracy.

Professor Granhag highlighted the psychology of guilt and the psychology of innocence, looking at the differences in the reactions of those who are innocent and those who are guilty during interrogation. Guilty suspects' decision control is assumed to be influenced by aversion, which will result in avoidant strategies. In contrast, innocent suspects' decision control is assumed to be influenced by the belief in a just world and/or the illusion of transparency, which will result in much less avoidant strategies.

Finally, he discussed the Strategic Use of Evidence technique, being developed with the Swedish Police, demonstrating that trained officers who use strategies to decide when to disclose evidence to suspects are far more successful in detecting deception, and obtaining confessions.

For more details, please see:

www.sipr.ac.uk/events/deception180209.php

SIPR Executive Committee

Our warmest congratulations to Tom Nelson who was awarded an OBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours for his outstanding contribution over the past 29 years to forensic sciences and his long-standing involvement in youth work in North Berwick.

We also warmly welcome ACC Iain Livingstone (Lothian & Borders) who will join the Evidence and Investigation Steering Group and the SIPR Executive Committee in September 2009.

Research

Police Complaints Handling in Scotland

Contact: Dr Robert Smith
(r.smith-a@rgu.ac.uk), Robert Gordon University.

The key aims of the research by Professor Paul Spicker, Dr Robert Smith, Laura Sharpe and Linda Strangward at RGU are to: review alternative approaches to complaints handling, which will include comparisons with other (international) regimes and other public services in Scotland; consider mechanisms for alternative dispute resolution; conduct a programme of consultation and stakeholder engagement; consider the

implications of potential changes in the administrative structure and policy relating to complaints; and consider options for effective practice by the PCCS.

The consultation exercise is considered particularly important, and will add value to the enquiry by drawing out shared understanding, common experiences and will identify the stakeholders' issues of concern.

The research is being funded by the Police Complaints Commission for Scotland.

Resilience and Wellbeing in a Scottish Police Force

Contact: Professor David Alexander (d.a.alexander@rgu.ac.uk), Robert Gordon University.

This research project aims to identify factors which are associated with the wellbeing and resilience of police officers and with their ability to cope with the demands of contemporary policing, and is being conducted within Grampian Police and Fife Constabulary.

The UK police service has been the subject of much research, particularly that with a focus on stress and its impact on health, absences and early retirement. This project pursues an alternative approach that accommodates both positive and negative outcomes by better understanding the impact that operational policing has on police officers.

All sworn police officers in Grampian Police and Fife Constabulary will be invited to share their experiences of operational policing through a confidential online questionnaire, which will be administered at baseline and at 12 month follow-up. A selected sample of officers, who have been exposed to trauma in the 12 months prior to the assessment, will be asked if they are willing to participate in follow up interviews to enable a more in-depth exploration of potential trauma-related factors associated with resilience and wellbeing. Midj Falconer (a SIPR supported PhD student) will be primarily responsible for the data collection and analysis.



This large study will provide high quality data to develop organisational practices which augment resilience, wellbeing and job satisfaction of police officers in the Scottish Police Service, in an effort to reduce levels of sickness absence and ill-health retirement in accordance with the targets set by ACPOS. The findings will also be made available to forces throughout the UK by virtue of their implementation potential.

Currently the pilot study is being conducted and the online questionnaire will presently be made available to police officers. The project has been significantly promoted in conjunction with the participating forces and the Police Federation prior to the questionnaire being available online, to encourage officers to contribute their experiences.

Local Policing

Contact: Dr Elizabeth Aston, SIPR Research Fellow, (elizabeth.aston@uws.ac.uk) University of the West of Scotland, Hamilton Campus.

This project involves the investigation of local policing activities, policing priorities and public expectations of policing in three communities in Scotland. Banton's (1964) research on police work in Edinburgh remains one of the only examples of research on local policing in a Scottish context. This study aims to address that gap.

The research will be conducted in three police forces: Dumfries and Galloway, Strathclyde, and Grampian. Methods will involve: a review of the literature; documentary analysis of force documents; and analysis of existing data on case study areas (sub-division or basic command unit locality) for each police force. In each case study area, questionnaires and interviews with police officers, interviews with police managers, and focus groups with community representatives will be conducted.

Findings will be analysed in relation to current and potential models of community policing. It is hoped that this research will lead to the identification of processes and models that contribute to effective policing in local communities.

Collective alienation and community support for authorities

Contact: Leda Blackwood (lmb11@st-andrews.ac.uk) SIPR Research Fellow, University of St Andrews

This project addresses the role of everyday encounters between authorities and members of communities under pressure (Muslims and working-class youth), in processes leading to alienation and withdrawal of support for the police and other societal authorities.

Both actual community-authority encounters and the social transmission of these encounters will be examined through interviews, group work, and ethnography. The data collected will inform interventions which we will assess using both qualitative and quantitative methods, for their impact on group relations. For instance, we are currently pursuing opportunities with local Muslim and youth organizations, to use story-telling as a means for groups to reflect alone and together, on their own and on each other's understanding of encounters. This will be extended to involve police in discussion and reflection.

We also hope to observe potentially conflictual interactions between authority and community members. Such interactions might be observed in everyday encounters over the use of public space, immigration checks at UK airports, or tensions around community building initiatives.

Scottish based anti-money laundering operations: police inter-agency co-operation across jurisdiction

Contact: Mo Egan (M.Egan@abertay.ac.uk), SIPR PhD Student, Abertay University

A critical analysis of the legislation and policy regulating money laundering is being undertaken. Secondly, in-depth interviews will be conducted with Tayside, Lothian & Borders and Strathclyde forces, looking at their roles locally and nationally in tackling money laundering. Connected national and European agencies will also be interviewed. The project is very much police practice focused. The aim is to establish any gaps in legislation and policy that need attention and to provide valuable insight into how these inter-force & agency relationships work in practice.

Next generation data sharing and intelligence-sharing framework

Contact: Omair Uthmani (o.uthmani@napier.ac.uk) SIPR PhD Student, Edinburgh Napier University

The National Intelligence Model (NIM) lays the groundwork for raw data collected by the police service in one area to be processed by analysts and used as 'actionable intelligence' in another. For this to happen, a robust communications framework needs to be in place. This project will focus on identifying specific mechanisms for the main components of the intelligence-sharing framework: authentication, access-control, and auditing.

Policing, Race and ethnic minorities in Glasgow: a local case study

Contact: Mwenda Kailemia, (mkaile10@gcal.ac.uk) SIPR PhD Student, Glasgow Caledonian University

This project will examine the policing needs of young BME people in Govanhill in comparison with similar areas, especially in England and Wales. Local preferences among young people for engagement with local police and the local community safety partnership will be identified, and the impact of the Positive Action Campaign will be explored. It is hoped that by using comparative accounts of good practice, suggestions can be made for strengthening the local community safety partnership.

A comparative study of Scottish Police Boards

Contact: Phil Etherson (p.etherson@strath.ac.uk), University of Strathclyde

This PhD project, co-funded by the Scottish Government and the Economic and Social Research Council, examines the relationship between police boards, the communities they represent, police forces and government. By adopting a comparative, case-study approach, the research will provide new insights into the roles and relationships of police boards in Scotland with a view to developing a performance management framework.

SIPR Research Summaries

A series of Research Summaries, written by our current Research Students and Fellows, are available on the website. The first three can be found at: <http://www.sipr.ac.uk/publications/researchpapers.php>

- Obtaining best evidence from young eyewitnesses: investigating changes in practice following the Vulnerable Witness (Scotland) Bill. Dr Catriona Havard, University of Aberdeen
- People with a mild learning disability and the construction of facial composites. Julie Gawrylowicz, University of Abertay
- Policing the night-time economy in Scottish towns and cities. Neil Davidson, University of Dundee

Grampian introduces a new User Satisfaction Assessment process

To fulfil the requirements of the Scottish Policing Performance Framework 'Level of Service User Satisfaction' Performance Indicator, Scottish Forces are required to carry out User Satisfaction Surveys to ensure feedback is received from 'customers' in order to gauge performance, focus resources and achieve continuous improvement. This process is not intended as a comprehensive Quality Assurance exercise to address individual instances of dissatisfaction, but is rather a health check of the overall level of service that the Force provides.

Previously, monthly Quality of Service postal surveys were conducted. However, the overall reliability and usefulness of the findings was questionable for a variety of methodological reasons. On carrying out an analysis of 20 months' data, it was found that there were no significant differences of interest, suggesting that continued quarterly analysis using that format would be relatively uninformative and an inefficient use of current resources.

In January 2008 the Force piloted a new User Satisfaction methodology, whereby the Force Service Centre carry out a structured interview with 200 members of the public who have recently been in contact with the Police as a victim, witness or seeking/ providing information. The telephone survey addresses user satisfaction issues, providing data regarding the public interaction from point of contact to resolution. The new methodology has increased response rates from around 40% to 93%.

It is hoped that the new process, that is focused less on what the satisfaction levels are and more about the causes of satisfaction/ dissatisfaction, can help the organisation to identify priorities for improvement. The fundamental issue in service quality measurement is not how good or poor is the service, but how it could be better.

For further details, contact Hayley Kelly, Research Officer; hayley.kelly@grampian.pnn.police.uk

Workforce modernisation in central Scotland: an evaluation

Existing working practices in policing are coming under increased examination in the light of changing demands and new challenges for the police. Central Scotland Police has developed an approach to this that is new in Scotland, a mixed economy policing model involving both police officers and police staff. This takes the form of a Priority Crime Unit within its Falkirk Area Command. An independent evaluation of this project, undertaken by Kenneth Scott, SIPR Associate Director, and Peter Sproat, SIPR lecturer, of University of the West of Scotland, has just been completed.

The Priority Crime Unit is designed to assist Central Scotland Police in enhancing policing capabilities and productivity in the investigation of volume crime through a blend of police officers and police staff. It was anticipated that this would allow for utilising additional front-line police officer time for high profile and intelligence-led policing activity to tackle antisocial behaviour and crime reduction in local communities. In addition, the project is about providing a better quality of service to the public, especially to victims of Groups 3 and 4 crimes.

The Priority Crime Unit consists of four teams staffed by a combination of detective and police constables and civilian investigative assistants. The investigative assistants have been

specially trained for a range of tasks that do not require the exercise of police powers, such as interviewing victims and witnesses and carrying out door-to-door enquiries. The Unit is supported by two team co-ordinators, whose major tasks include ensuring rapid two-way feedback between victims and the investigative teams.

The evaluation was based on a 'balanced scorecard' approach which focused on four main issues – improved investigation, better quality of service, increased frontline policing capacity and best value. In all of these areas, the report found that the Priority Crime Unit had made a significant contribution. Especially in relation to providing the public with a better quality of service, the PCU was judged to be very successful and a considerable amount of time was being released for frontline police officers to direct their work to tackling problems that require a police presence and police powers.

The report concludes that overall the Priority Crime Unit has been a successful innovation by Central Scotland Police during its first year of operation and makes a number of recommendations for its possible future development.

Creating opportunities for students to engage in policing research

Dr. Liz Frondigoun, who runs the Community Links Research Module (CLRM) on the BA Social Science and Criminology Degree Programmes at Glasgow Caledonian University, reports on how this novel course is enhancing the student experience and increasing policing research capacity.

The CLRM is offered to third year students in place of a normal taught module to provide students with research experience by working on a research project for an agency external to the University. Getting the students "out into the workplace" gives them an opportunity to understand the relevance of theoretical studies to practical social issues. The projects offered are within the broad field of social issues and policing and involve research, analysis and the production of a piece of written work, for example: short research papers, agency reports on a specified problem, briefing papers, information booklets or pamphlets.

With the support of Strathclyde Police, several students have worked on projects identified by the police including, for example: mapping knife crime, examining drug programmes, issues for prostitution, evaluating campus officers and youth diversionary projects, exploring known crime hot spots, and evaluating the efficacy of Secure by Design projects in the public sector.

Strathclyde Police have found the reports to be informative, and influential in policy and planning. They have used the evidence presented in some of the student report in submissions to various public bodies including the Scottish Government. For example, the Campus Officer report was used to support a bid to increase the number of Campus Officers in the Strathclyde area. Similarly, evidence from the Mapping Knife Crime report was included in a submission to the Lord Advocate on the nature and extent of knife crime within the Strathclyde Area. Most recently, the Secure by Design report has been useful in informing future policy developments in this area.

The students also derived strong benefits. The research process enhances their student experience, increases their confidence in using the skill learned in the academy and increases knowledge and understanding of the substantive issues they are researching as well as enhancing their understanding of policing. Some of the past Community Links students are now working within the Criminal Justice System, at least two of whom are now with Strathclyde Police.

SIPR Small Research Grant Scheme

In 2008-09, SIPR launched a new small research grant scheme providing funding of up to £3000 for new projects which contribute to one or more of the following objectives: Research that is relevant for policing in Scotland; Knowledge exchange involving academic, practitioner and policy communities; Enhancing the UK and/or international visibility of SIPR; Development of SIPR's research capacity and capability.

Five awards were made on the following topics: The policing of street drug markets; young people and road traffic accidents (see p. 8); hostage and crisis incidents; police leadership; and the development of an international police practitioner research network. Further details of these projects can be found at www.sipr.ac.uk/research/index.php. The intention is to run a similar competition in 2009-10.

Management of occupational exposure to blood and body fluids among police and prison officers

Police and prison service staff are at risk of exposure to blood and/or body fluids and therefore to possible transmission of blood borne viruses such as hepatitis B, hepatitis C and HIV. The Scottish Government commissioned an evaluation of the post-incident management of occupational exposure incidents, which was carried out by the University of the West of Scotland and Health Protection Scotland between March 2007 and December 2008. Its aim was to describe and evaluate the services for preventing psychological and physical harm in police and prison staff potentially exposed to blood borne viruses in the work context.

The evaluation included a review of current policies and procedures, an expert panel evaluation of the clinical management and a survey of exposed persons' views of

the care received. The findings indicated a need for a clear protocol to be used by medical services, and for guidelines for the management of exposure incidents to be developed for police and prison services.

The findings provided no grounds for recommending mandatory source blood testing. However, when there is an assessed risk of BBV infection, a request for a voluntary source blood sample should be made where it is feasible to do so.

The final report can be found at:

www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2009/04/03/120316/0.

Further information about this study can be obtained from Professor Avril Taylor (avril.taylor@uws.ac.uk)

Now you see it, now you don't: the science of CCTV surveillance

Ken Scott-Brown (k.scott-brown@abertay.ac.uk) and Pat Cronin (p.cronin@abertay.ac.uk), Abertay University, discuss how events occur that highlight how difficult the surveillance task can be. Recent work in psychology on 'change blindness' has shown that lapses in perception are much more prevalent than people imagine.

Change blindness is a phenomenon that demonstrates the surprising inability of observers to spot large-scale changes in a visual scene. For example large sections of an image can be photo-shopped away without people noticing. Alternatively, conversation partners can be 'swapped' mid flow, again without the change being spotted. The keys to understanding the likelihood of a change being missed is the level of distraction evident in the task, coupled with the nature of the change.

Practitioners themselves often report anecdotally that they spotted something 'out of the corner of their eye' or that a particular individual 'just looked out of place'. It is as if experienced surveillance personnel have a 'sixth sense'. To what extent though, is this faith in 'an instinct for detection' justified? Changes that are more attuned to our natural heritage are easier to spot (sudden movements from people for example), changes to inanimate objects are much harder (hence the difficulty of spotting unattended bags for example).

The evolutionary psychology perspective views our skills as having evolved in the so-called 'hunter gatherer society' of small social groups, engaged in communal tasks. As we move towards a more complex and technological society our environment is less and less suited to our evolutionary adaptations: interactions are dehumanised and denaturalised. The digital environment becomes less predictable than the natural environment. The prism of the evolutionary approach not only helps explain perceptual phenomena, more importantly it presents an opportunity for developing solutions. Rather than expecting the human operator to adapt to the new technology, technological solutions should be designed and optimised around the human.

Only by understanding the cognitive processes in these tasks better, particularly by understanding them in the real contexts of surveillance tasks, can law enforcement agencies hope to keep pace and overtake the developments of threats to security.

For further reading, see: Scott-Brown, K. C., and Cronin, P. D. J. (2008) 'Detect the unexpected: a science for surveillance', *Policing: An International Journal of Police Strategies and Management*, 31 (3): 395-414.

SIPR Knowledge Exchange

Over the past 12 months the Institute has organised a range of seminars involving the academic, practitioner and policy communities. These have included:

The Second SIPR Conference, “Policing Scotland in a European Context”

held at the Murrayfield Stadium alongside the European Society of Criminology Annual Conference in September 2008. The SIPR conference was opened by Fergus Ewing MSP (Minister for Community Safety) and Paddy Tomkins (Her Majesty’s Chief Inspector of Constabulary for Scotland). The morning plenary session included presentations from a senior Dutch officer and professors from the Dutch Police Academy and the University of Bochum’s police science programme. Themed afternoon sessions organised by the networks focused on issues of radicalization, technology, and local/global perspectives. Following the conference, Jurgen Storbeck, former Director of EUROPOL and currently Director General for Homeland Security in the State of Brandenburg, delivered the second SIPR Annual Lecture which also served as the opening event of the European Society of Criminology conference.



SIPR Annual Lecture 2008: (l to r). Nick Fyfe, Director, SIPR; Jurgen Storbeck; Peter Wilson, Chair, SIPR Advisory Board; John Graham, Director, Police Foundation.

ESRC Public Policy Series: What is policing for? Examining the Impacts of Contemporary Policing Interventions

SIPR, the Police Foundation, and Universities’ Police Science Institute, Cardiff University, collaborated with the Economic and Social Research Council to organise a series of high-level seminars to examine the future of policing in the UK. These seminars explored three pivotal questions that collectively help to clarify what policing is for in contemporary times:

The first held at the House of Lords, London, considered how responsive should policing be to community priorities and concerns. The second, held in Cardiff, considered whether the

police should solve more crime. The third, in Edinburgh, focused on the role policing can play in securing economic and social well-being, and included presentations from Chief Constable David Strang (Lothian and Borders) and representatives from the Scottish Government.

A publication is in preparation, and will be available shortly through the ESRC and SIPR websites.

Local, Scottish and European Issues for Policing

This one day Conference, organised by Liz Frondigoun and Jan Nicholson and hosted at Glasgow Caledonian University to re-launch the Scottish Branch of the British Society of Criminology, was a joint event in partnership with SIPR and Strathclyde Police.

The morning session focused on Policing in Scotland and Europe, and the afternoon concentrated on Community Safety and the Strathclyde Police Enhanced Policing Plan, an evaluation of which was carried out by a team of researchers from Glasgow Caledonian University.

Obtaining evidence from vulnerable witnesses

Organised by Amina Memon (University of Aberdeen), Derek Carson (University of Abertay) and Penny Woolnough (Grampian Police) on behalf of the Evidence & Investigation Network, the meeting focused on Child Witnesses and Witnesses with Learning Difficulties.

Managing resources and engaging users: comparing experiences and approaches in policing and health care

This event, organised and jointly sponsored by SIPR and the Social Dimensions of Health Institute, focused on community engagement, from user satisfaction to involvement in service design and prioritisation, in the morning, and on managing resources in the afternoon.

Organised crime impacts on local business

This joint SCCJR / SIPR event was hosted at the University of Glasgow. Professor Nick Tilley (Jill Dando Institute of Crime Science, UCL) reported on a Home Office-funded study looking at the impact of organised crime on local businesses in three carefully chosen case-study areas.

Scottish policing in a European and international context

organised by Peter Wilson, former Chief Constable of Fife, and Chair of SIPR’s Advisory Board, and run in collaboration with the Scottish Police College, the conference examined the range of European and international policing structures which exist, what is being done to improve operational police cooperation in Europe, the impact on Scottish Policing, the steps being taken to ensure Scotland contributes to policy development and learning, and the opportunities emerging for the Scottish Police Service.

Forensic Science

Associate Director, Professor Jim Fraser, University of Strathclyde, organised two events on behalf of the Evidence & Investigation Network. The first, 'The Effective use of Forensic Science' brought together representatives from ACPOS, NPIA, Crown Office and academia.



The second meeting, 'Forensic Science Research and Practice' was to reflect on the significance of a landmark report 'Strengthening forensic science in the United States', published by the National Research Committees (NRC) of the National Academy of Sciences, for forensic science research and practice in the UK. Barry Fisher, former Head of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Crime Laboratory, and lead author of the Report gave the Keynote Presentation.

In Brief

Police Research Abstracts

The Centre for Criminal Justice and Police Studies at UWS has compiled a list of abstracts of recent publications. These include the value of fingerprint evidence; Gender differences in risk and treatment uptake in drug using offenders; 'Biographical Intelligence' into the National Intelligence Model; and UK's anti-money laundering and asset recovery regime.

See www.sipr.ac.uk/downloads/Police_Research_Abstracts_August_09.pdf

How good are my interviews?

Dr David La Rooy, SIPR-funded lecturer at the University of Abertay Dundee, where he teaches the Honours class in Investigative Interviewing and is the Programme Tutor for the Forensic Psychobiology Degree, is leading a CPD course on 'How good are my interviews? Assuring quality for child interviewers.' This course will provide a practical system for maintaining and improving interview skills based on best-practice guidelines and scientific research. It is suitable for J I IT Trained interviewers from Police and Social Work backgrounds, and is also relevant for lawyers interested in furthering their knowledge about the dimensions of best practice that should be adhered to. For further details contact David La Rooy (D.LaRooy@abertay.ac.uk)

New directions in policing: policing, entrepreneurial leadership and change

Entrepreneurial policing is one of the emerging new concepts in police leadership but what does it mean? This event, organised by Dr Robert Smith at the Aberdeen Business School, The Robert Gordon University, brought academics and police officers together to discuss the nature and significance of 'entrepreneurial policing'.

Research Tools

Following an event held in May 2008, this was the second meeting aimed at developing the relationship between University-based researchers and police analysts. Four analysts spoke about their different types of role, and this was followed by a demonstration by ESRI of their mapping software, and further presentations on the use of GIS for crime analysis.

For outputs from all these events, and details of future events, please see: www.sipr.ac.uk/events/index.php

Young Drivers Study

With the help of a Small Grant Award from SIPR, the Grampian Police Research Unit is developing a targeted Education and/or Enforcement scheme aimed at reducing the number of 16-25 year olds involved in Road Traffic Collisions. So far, an international research / best practice review has been undertaken and a highlight report, detailing key learning points, is currently being considered by the Roads Policing Unit. The next stage of work involves a comprehensive evaluation of one of the pre-driver education inputs in order to measure the effectiveness of the message delivery and attitude change across the long and short term. For further details contact Hayley Kelly, Research Officer (hayley.kelly@grampian.pnn.police.uk)

Lean approaches to Business Management

Nick Parker, who leads a consultancy specialising in the Police and Criminal Justice Sector is working in collaboration with Dr Rob Smith of SIPR to research the applicability of 'Lean' methodologies to the Scottish Police Service. The concept offers an effective way to improve efficiency whilst maintaining an unrelenting focus on service delivery to the customer. For a full article on 'Lean' see: www.sipr.ac.uk/downloads/Lean_August_09.pdf

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