

SUPPORTING INTERNATIONALLY  
EXCELLENT, MULTI-DISCIPLINARY  
POLICING RESEARCH TO ENABLE  
EVIDENCE INFORMED POLICY  
AND PRACTICE.



POLICING  
AND HEALTH  
SAFETY AND  
WELLBEING

TECHNOLOGY  
AND DIGITAL  
POLICING

POLICING SYSTEMS  
CAPABILITY AND  
RESILIENCE

PARTNERSHIPS

RESEARCH

KNOWLEDGE  
EXCHANGE

LEARNING

INNOVATION

# Scottish Institute for Policing Research

Annual Report and Accounts 2023/24  
for the academic year ending 31 August 2024

**Annual Report and Accounts presented to the  
SIPR Board of Governance 5 September 2024**



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# director's introduction



**Professor Liz Aston**  
SIPR Director  
(Edinburgh Napier University)

## LOOKING BACK

As you will see from this report it has been another busy year for SIPR and our members in terms of research and knowledge exchange, with much achieved through working in partnership. Research highlights this year have included the allocation of Responsive Research Funds towards a review of implementing anti-racism in a policing context, the award of SIPR leverage funds and successful applications for external funding.

The Scottish International Policing Conference on 'Community wellbeing and safety: building partnerships in policing' was a success, with keynotes from Professors Aisha Gill and Stan Gilmour. In addition to the INTERACT conference and a number of seminars, we have co-created 'Academic Challenge' sessions with Police Scotland. SIPR has worked in partnership with various organisations on a number of events such as the Northern Police Research Webinars, and with SCCJR, including facilitating an academic conversation on race and racism in policing.

A real highlight has been awarding travel grants to Scottish PhD students and running the International Summer School for Policing Scholars with George Mason University at Griffith University in Brisbane. Our new Development lead has kick started an exciting programme of events and initiatives for the PhD and ECR communities.

I continue to be impressed by the growing impact of SIPR related projects. The SIPR funded project on partnerships between police and GBV service providers in rural areas was a finalist at the Herald Higher Education Awards 2024 and won the SIPR Impact Award 2023. SIPR funded research on Influence Policing won an impact prize at Edinburgh Futures Institute and was a runner up for the SIPR Impact Award. The impactful Evaluation of Police Carriage of Naloxone in Scotland project was Highly Commended in the Herald Higher Education Awards.

Much of the research by SIPR members featured in this report is applied, yet critical and innovative. For example, the training materials from the Justisigns 2 project and collaborative work with police via the Silent Harms project have resulted in changes to Domestic Abuse Questionnaires. I hope you enjoy reading about some of the research associated with our three strategic priority theme areas featured in this report.

<b>RESEARCH:</b>	Responsive Research Fund on anti-racism in policing; Think Big Leverage Funds awarded and external funds leveraged.
<b>KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE:</b>	Scottish International Policing Conference on community wellbeing and safety held; award winning impactful research projects.
<b>LEARNING AND INNOVATION:</b>	International Summer School for Policing Scholars held; PG Symposium and events for PhD and ECR communities delivered.
<b>PARTNERSHIPS:</b>	KE events organised with partners and next funding phase agreed.

### LOOKING FORWARD

Much of our efforts this year have gone into securing funding for the next phase of SIPR and we are excited about our future plans. We have a bumper year ahead of us so watch out for lots of opportunities to bid for funding and engage.

Research highlights for the coming year include: launching a 2024-25 SIPR grant call on 'Policing and contemporary social harms and challenges'. In response to gaps identified by policing partners we will be allocating Responsive Research Funds on a number of topics such as: 'policing, mental health distress, and transfer of care.' Our Think Big Leverage Fund open call will continue, and finally we are excited to launch a new Early Career Researcher grant.

I am delighted to announce that the next Scottish International Policing Conference on 'Technology and Digital Policing' will be Directed by Drs Shane Horgan and Ben Collier and held in late May 2025. Alongside a range of Knowledge Exchange sessions, the Evidence and Investigation network will be organising an event on 'Applied Cognitive Psychology in Forensic Settings'. We will also be supporting the dissemination of various SIPR funded projects which are coming to a close and working with partners to enhance pathways to impact.

We are pleased to launch a round of matched funded PhD studentships. In addition to the Postgraduate Symposium, our Development lead has a stimulating programme of events planned to support our Postgraduate and Early Career Researcher communities. The Education and Leadership network will be renamed 'Organisational Development and Learning' and will focus on re-launching the SIPR Practitioner Fellowship scheme.

Each of our Associate Directors have exciting plans to engage and re-invigorate their network membership and we hope to work with lots of new faces over the coming year!

<b>RESEARCH:</b>	SIPR 2024-25 Grant: 'Policing and contemporary social harms and challenges'; Responsive Research Funds; new Early Career Researcher grant; Leverage Fund.
<b>KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE:</b>	Scottish International Policing Conference on 'Technology and Digital Policing'; Dissemination of SIPR projects and Knowledge Exchange events; Impact Awards.
<b>LEARNING AND INNOVATION:</b>	PhD studentships (matched funded); Postgraduate Symposium and events for PhD and ECR community.
<b>PARTNERSHIPS:</b>	Knowledge Exchange events with partners, including Academic Challenge sessions.

Many thanks indeed to everyone who has contributed to this report and to the work of SIPR over the past year. I hope you will agree that there is a lot to be proud of. Thanks to our SIPR members, Leadership Team, members of the Executive Committee, our Single Points of Contact at each of our HEIs, our Board of Governance representatives and members of our International Advisory Committee for their support. We look forward to engaging with our members and wider partners to continue to deliver on SIPR's mission over the coming year.



# about SIPR

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

<p><b>theme 1:</b> Policing and health, safety and well-being</p>		<p><b>theme 2:</b> Technology and digital policing</p>		<p><b>theme 3:</b> Policing systems capability and resilience</p>	
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OUR AIMS			
<p><b>1. RESEARCH</b></p>	<p><b>2. KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE</b></p>	<p><b>3. LEARNING AND INNOVATION</b></p>	<p><b>4. PARTNERSHIPS</b></p>
<p>Facilitating internationally excellent, independent research of relevance to policing.</p>	<p>Engaging in a range of knowledge exchange activities to strengthen the evidence base on which policy and practice are improved &amp; developed nationally and internationally.</p>	<p>Nurturing a culture of learning &amp; innovation.</p>	<p>Promoting the development of national &amp; international partnerships with researcher, practitioner and policing communities.</p>
3 YEAR PLAN OBJECTIVES: Within these four aims we will strive to achieve the following:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supporting internationally excellent policing research under three strategic research themes in order to shape strategic focus and respond to external drivers.</li> <li>Enhance excellence of SIPR policing research through improvements to quality assurance processes.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Facilitate events and enhance knowledge exchange tools with international reach.</li> <li>Support evidence to practice routes and develop pathways to enable and document impact.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nurture learning and innovation in policing organisations and universities, supporting the postgraduate community and the next generation of researchers and practitioners.</li> <li>Foster links between higher education and policing organisations and partners to support training, education, leadership, and innovation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Facilitate networking and collaboration between academics, practitioners, and policy makers nationally and internationally.</li> <li>Develop strategic links with new and existing partners.</li> </ul>

# 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 our Higher Education Institutes (HEIs) members throughout Scotland.



James Smart Memorial Lecture

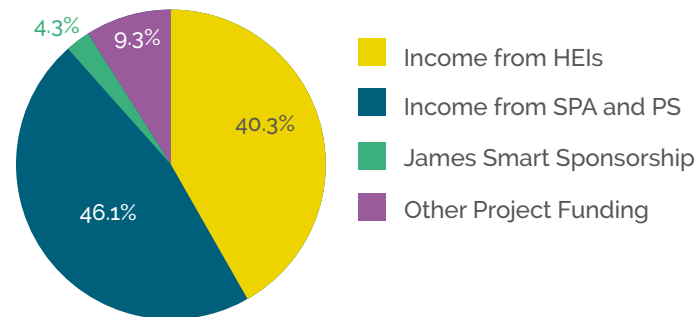
We are honoured to host the James Smart Memorial Lecture for which we receive annual sponsorship from the James Smart Memorial Fund. This year, the James Smart Memorial Lecture was delivered as part of the Scottish International Policing Conference in November 2023, and

we are grateful to Stan Gilmore for presenting his work on "The power of working together for the common good". To read more about this, please see [page 18](#).

The institute received a total of £319,219 in funding from these members and via sponsorship in 2023/24. 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 dissemination lead, SIPR will continue to receive project funding to support the delivery of this project through 2024/25 until the project completes in early 2025. For more information on 3PO, see [page 78](#).



SIPR INCOME 2023/24

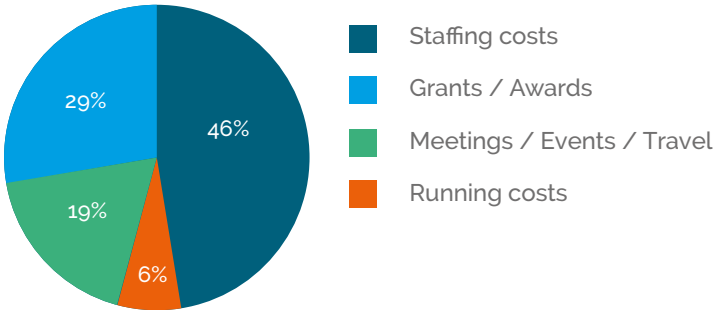




### EXPENDITURE

2023/24 was the final year of the current funding phase (phase IV) therefore, we have focussed on completing existing grants, wrapping up phase IV activities, and establishing plans for the Phase V. Nevertheless, we have still provided significant research funding, delivered a range of dissemination and engagement activities including key in-person events such as our international conference along with our continued involvement with the Northern Police Research Webinar series.

### SIPR EXPENDITURE 2023/24



### FUNDING ALLOCATIONS 2023/24

As an institute, throughout 2023/24 we have been able to commit funding to support the achievement of our four aims.

**Over £50,000 allocated to RESEARCH.**

Funding was committed to 3 new grants in 2023/24 including two £2,000 'Think Big' Leverage fund grants and £20,000 allocated to the delivery of the Responsive Research grant exploring anti-discrimination. A further allocation of £26,000 supported completion of two existing grants under the Future of Policing fund.

**Approximately £35,000 allocated to KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE activities.**

SIPR organised, delivered, and co-hosted several larger events this year including delivery of our Scottish International Policing Conference and special international guest lectures.

**Approximately £5,000 allocated to support PARTNERSHIPS.**

SIPR provided funding to support partnership working including allocations for key events, and travel to attend international meetings including with Australia and New Zealand Policing colleagues.

**Approximately £50,000 allocated to fund LEARNING AND INNOVATION.**

SIPR continued to support matched funded PhD studentships as well as providing travel grants to support the attendance of four PhD candidates supporting attendance at the International Summer School in Australia.

# highlights 2023/24: our year in review



**Monica Craig**

Knowledge Exchange and Business Manager

2023/24 is the final year of our Phase IV cycle. Looking back over these five years, I am immensely proud of all the work we have undertaken and delivered in incredibly difficult social, political and economic climates. Since the start of academic year 2019/20, SIPR has funded 22 research projects across five grant schemes (including the Future of Policing, Seldom Heard Communities, Think Big Leverage Fund, Contemporary Policing and Demand, Public Protection, and Responsive Research Fund grants). This represents a funding commitment of over £330,000.

It is inspiring to see these projects create pathways to impact within policing practice and policy and we look forward to continuing to work with all researchers in tracking, documenting and building on the impacts already made.

The leadership team in SIPR have been innovative in this phase, identifying and establishing new activities, awards, and grants to meet the constantly evolving needs of our academic and practice partners. For example, the creation of the impact awards was specifically developed to formally recognise individuals, or teams, whose research has made a significant contribution to policing, policy, and/or practice, and it has been wonderful to award these to four recipients so far. Our responsive research fund was established as a core mechanism for policing partners to identify research gaps of immediate strategic importance, and from this we have already funded four key projects including evaluations

of tri-service collaboration, police assaults, collaborative training initiatives, and most recently work into implementing anti-discrimination.

Despite lockdown, we have delivered more than 40 events, both online and in person including three in person Scottish International Policing Conferences, two Applied Cognitive Psychology in Forensic Settings events, more than 15 webinars as part of the Northern Policing Research webinar series, and international guest lectures. We cannot wait to continue providing these important opportunities for knowledge exchange in Phase V.





SUPPORTING INTERNATIONALLY EXCELLENT, MULTI-DISCIPLINARY POLICING RESEARCH TO ENABLE EVIDENCE INFORMED POLICY AND PRACTICE.

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](mailto: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](#). You can also connect with us on any of these platforms by scanning the QR Code at the back of this report.

**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

There have been two awards granted this past year.

### RESPONSIVE RESEARCH FUND – ANTI-RACISM IN POLICING

SIPR were delighted to announce that an award was made in this recent Responsive Research Fund call focusing on Anti-Racism in Policing. Our congratulations go to Professor Zoe Morrison formerly of Robert Gordon University, Professor Paul Miller, Dr Myrtle Emmanuel, and Dr Kenisha Linton of the Institute for Educational and Social Equity, will together conduct the systematic review of Implementing Anti-Racism in the Context of Policing.

This RRF supported the co-production of a research call between Police Scotland and SIPR.

For more information on this project, please see below [page 58](#).



### THINK BIG LEVERAGE FUND GRANT – EXAMINING THE IMPACT OF EMOTION ON MEMORY OR SINGLE AND REPEATED EVENTS USING VR

Dr Eva Rubinova, made a successful bid to the SIPR Think Big Leverage Fund. This project will examine the impact of emotion on memory or single and repeated events using VR in a novel methodology. For more information on this project, please see below [page 72](#).

The Scottish Institute for Policing Research (SIPR) is providing grants, to researchers based at SIPR member universities, aligned with our key strategic focus to support our member institutions and their researchers to acquire external research funding. In particular, we wish to support researchers to apply to larger, competitive research council funds (such as ESRC, EPSRC, Leverhulme, Carnegie, Horizon Europe etc.).

The purpose of this fund is to provide support (both financial and otherwise) to researchers applying for external funding. It builds on the European Research Support fund we ran previously, which provided small grants to offset non-recoverable costs involved in preparing proposals at pre-award stages (such as travel costs for bringing teams together to write applications etc). It also builds on current support mechanisms offered through SIPR such as providing letters of support, and dissemination resourcing (i.e., knowledge exchange events, briefing papers etc.)

SIPR is acutely aware that there are often considerable barriers academics face when applying for external funds and has devised this grant to ease the burden on both the applicants and their institutions. In addition to this, SIPR would like to add value to applications, ensuring they are high quality, and as competitive as possible.



# knowledge exchange highlights

**September 2023** .....

**SIPR GUEST TALK - DR. IAN MARDER**

The Scottish Institute for Policing Research was delighted to welcome Dr. Ian Marder for a guest talk on using restorative practices to build understanding and relationships between police and minority ethnic communities.

**NORTHERN POLICE RESEARCH WEBINAR SERIES**

**“Grooming: Phenomenon and Holistic Consequences.”**

Maja Feng Mikalsen, Norwegian Police University College, and Department of Sociology and Human Geography, University of Oslo, and Ossy Riviani Bradbury, Norwegian Police University College.

**TOGETHER TOWARDS RESILIENT COMMUNITIES EVENT**

Following the successful Law Enforcement and Public Health (LEPH) conference held in Sweden, May 2023, on 29 August 2023 Police Scotland held a conference at Tulliallan in order to bring the learning back to Scotland. The event delved into the ongoing collaborative work in various areas of Scotland in an effort to widen our networking, understanding, learning and collaboration both internal and external to our organisation. A diverse range of topics included inputs from lived experience experts and colleague across the country on a wide variety of collaborative projects. The presentations from the day can be found [here](#).

**October 2023** .....

**3PO MULTI-STAKEHOLDER SYMPOSIUM**

On October 3, 2023, the 3PO Project hosted its first multi-stakeholder symposium in Edinburgh. The symposium was a fantastic opportunity to showcase what the project has achieved to date. Project partners presented research findings that provide much-needed insight into how police officers and staff, as well as their families, are affected by online harms and how they cope with them. The symposium was also an opportunity to explore solutions to online harms, ranging from policy guidance to training and proposals for technological tools.

**NORTHERN POLICE RESEARCH WEBINAR SERIES**

**“Police Legitimacy in Iceland”**

Rannveig Þórisdóttir, Division manager, National Commissioner and Guðmundur Ævar Oddsson

**NORTHERN POLICE RESEARCH WEBINAR SERIES**

**“Bodies in Water”**

Lorna Dennison-Wilkins, University of Dundee and Surrey and Sussex Police & Jon Rees CEFAS - Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science.

**November 2023** .....

**SCOTTISH INTERNATIONAL POLICING CONFERENCE 2023**

The 11th annual Scottish International Policing Conference took place and focused on the theme of “Community well-being and safety: building partnerships in policing” which aligns with SIPR’s first strategic priority and covers a range of topics including gender-based violence, mental health, and public confidence. For full details, including the presentations and talks from the conference, see below [page 17](#).

**SCOTTISH INSTITUTE FOR POLICING RESEARCH POSTGRADUATE SYMPOSIUM 2023**

As always, the Postgraduate Symposium took place alongside the main SIPC with presentations and posters from detailing the excellent work being undertaken by Postgraduate, Doctoral, and Early Career Researchers. For further information, see below [page 85](#).

**NORTHERN POLICE RESEARCH WEBINAR SERIES “Conflict Management and Mental Health among Police Officers and Recruits”**

Presenter: Mikael Emsing, PhD. Police Education, Umea University and Jonas Hansson, Police Education, Umea University.



**December 2023** .....

**SCOTTISH POLICE AUTHORITY – POLICING PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE**

SIPR Director Professor Liz Aston presented to the Scottish Police Authority Policing Performance Committee.

**NORTHERN POLICE RESEARCH WEBINAR SERIES  
“Public Order Policing in Northern Ireland”**

Dr Ciara Aucoin Delloue and Dr Shane MacGiobhain

**NORTHERN POLICE RESEARCH WEBINAR SERIES  
“An Introduction to Current Policing Research in Ireland”**

Dr Ian D. Marder, Assistant Professor at Maynooth University School of Law and Criminology & Deputy Director of the Maynooth Centre for Criminology Research and Yvonne Daly, Professor at the School of Law and Government, Dublin City University.

**January 2024** .....

**RACE, RACISM AND POLICING IN SCOTLAND**

The Scottish Centre for Crime and Justice Research collaboratively held an academic conversation event with the Scottish Institute for Policing Research on issues, challenges and directions for research. This was chaired by Prof Sarah Armstrong with inputs from Prof Nasar Meer and Smina Akhtar, Dr Harshad Keval and Dr Anna Souhami.

**NORTHERN POLICE RESEARCH WEBINAR SERIES**

**“Understanding and Intervening against Sexual Harassment at Work (UIISH)”**

Brita Bjørkelo, The Norwegian Police University College, Tale Røijen Størdal PolitiHøgskolen, Finnborg Salome Steinþórsdóttir Postdoc, University of Iceland (hi.is), Gyða Margrét Pétursdóttir Professor | Háskóli Íslands, Laufey Axelsdóttir - Postdoc | University of Iceland, and Silje Lundgren, Malin Wieslander, Linköping University.

**February 2024** .....

**WELLBEING EVENT – TULLIALLAN**

3PO researchers, Professor Liz Aston, Dr Shane Horgan, Dr Yen Nee Wong, and Dr Marcel Obst presented work to the Police Scotland Specialist Crime Division wellbeing event, held at Police Scotland HQ in Tulliallan.

**RESEARCH, POLICY, AND PRACTICE EVENT – UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH**

Monica Craig, SIPR Knowledge Exchange and Business Manager, presented work on SIPR.

**NORTHERN POLICE RESEARCH WEBINAR SERIES**

**“Establishment of Police Science as a University Discipline in Iceland”**

Ólafur Örn Bragason, doctoral researcher, University of Iceland, School of Education; University of Akureyri, Institute of Police Science Research; The Centre for Police Training and Professional Development, National Police Commissioner of Iceland with Guðmundur Ævar Oddsson.

**March 2024** .....

**JOINT LUNCHTIME SEMINAR SERIES – SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT**

Dr Simon-Lewis Menzies was the first to present in this joint seminar series, in which he discussed his work relating to the communication of scientific evidence in sexual and non-sexual violent crime, and how variations in communication methodologies can influence case investigation, progression, and prosecution decision making.

**CLIMATE CHANGE AND POLICING WITH DR JARRETT BLAUSTEIN**

The University of Edinburgh, Scottish Centre for Crime and Justice Research, and the Scottish Institute for Policing Research, hosted renowned academic Dr Jarrett Blaustein who gave a fascinating talk on the intersectionality between climate change and policing.

**NORTHERN POLICE RESEARCH WEBINAR SERIES  
“Influence Policing in Scotland and the UK”**

Dr Ben Collier presenting, with Dr Simon-Lewis Menzies as Chair. For more information on Dr Collier's groundbreaking work, please see [page 70](#).

**April 2024** .....

**SIPR VISIT – UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN AND ROBERT GORDON UNIVERSITY**

As part of their work to continue to boost engagement will all new and existing SIPR HEI members, SIPR Director Professor Liz Aston and Knowledge Exchange and Business Manager visited both the University of Aberdeen and Robert Gordon University.



**POSTGRADUATE AND EARLY CAREER RESEARCH CONSULTATION EVENT**

Professor Kirsteen Grant, at Edinburgh Napier University, has recently taken on a new SIPR role of Associate Director (Development) with the portfolio of helping to support and develop SIPR's vibrant community of PG research students and early career researchers. This virtual coffee morning was a consultation event for PG and early career scholars who are engaged with policing-related research.

**NORTHERN POLICE RESEARCH WEBINAR SERIES "The Use of Forensic Data at the Police Service of Northern Ireland"**

Dr Shane Mac Giollaibhuí, Callum Craig, Professor Maurice Mulvenna, and Professor Raymond Bond.

**May 2024** .....

**JOINT LUNCHTIME SEMINAR SERIES – SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT**

The second in the joint seminar series between SIPR and the Scottish Government was delivered by doctoral researcher Andy Williams from Abertay University who presented his work on county lines and policing.

**INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON VOLUNTEERING AND POLICING**

This exciting event brought together experts, practitioners, and enthusiasts from around the world to discuss and explore the vital role of volunteering in policing. With engaging presentations, interactive workshops, and insightful panel discussions, this

symposium offered a unique opportunity to exchange ideas, share experiences, and foster collaborations.

**NORTHERN POLICE RESEARCH WEBINAR SERIES "The Politics and Practice of Drug Policing in Ireland"**

Dr Cian Ó Concubhair and Dr Ian Marder.

**NORTHERN POLICE RESEARCH WEBINAR SERIES "Community Policing for Strengthening Social Capital in Local Communities"**

Malin Eriksson and Jonas Hansson.

**ACADEMIC CHALLENGE SESSION WITH POLICE SCOTLAND**

**"Custody and Dignity"**

Chaired by Dr Andrew Wooff

This session explored the concept of dignity whilst in police custody. Academic Challenge Sessions are focused discussions led by academic experts in subject matters related of strategic interest to Police Scotland.

**June 2024** .....

**JOINT LUNCHTIME SEMINAR SERIES– SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT**

The third in the joint seminar series between SIPR and the Scottish Government was a presentation from doctoral researcher Abigail Cunningham from Edinburgh Napier University who presented her work on a dialogic exploration of Scottish Pakistanis' encounters with police and policing.

**INTERACT PROJECT CONFERENCE**

INTERACT is an ESRC funded, wide-ranging study of the use of technology in interactions between the police and public. The end of project conference for the INTERACT project showcased key findings related to shifts towards technologically-mediated police-public contact. The event included a mix of plenary sessions, including an opening keynote from Professor Tom Tyler, presentations from the INTERACT team and colleagues working on related research internationally, and an interactive World Café session exploring the implications of this work. In a post-event survey majority of attendees rated the event, programme, and delivery as 5/5 and a clear highlight was the world café.



### RHIZOMATIC HARMS OF ALGORITHMIC POLICING

The Scottish Institute for Policing Research was delighted to host Dr Rosamunde Van Brakel who gave an interesting talk on the harms of algorithmic policing. Dr. Rosamunde Van Brakel is a criminologist who works as an Assistant Professor and postdoctoral researcher at the Fundamental Rights Centre and Crime and Society Research Group at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB).

### NORTHERN POLICE RESEARCH WEBINAR SERIES

#### “Economic Crime Investigation Survey in the Finnish police in 2023”

Dr Vesa Muttilainen, Dr Terhi Kankaanranta, and Vesa Huotari.

### DEMONSTRATING IMPACT THROUGH RESEARCH

The Scottish Institute for Policing Research (SIPR) and Scottish Centre for Crime and Justice Research (SCCJR) were delighted to invite early career researchers and PGR students involved in policing and/or crime related research to a joint online event exploring how we can generate impact from research. We heard from two speakers. First, Dr Oona Brooks-Hay discussed what is meant by 'impact' and the various forms and purposes of, and pathways to impact. Professor Liz Aston discussed some examples of SIPR pathways to impact and reflected on her own impact and reflect on the lessons she has learned.

July 2024

### ACADEMIC CHALLENGE SESSION WITH POLICE SCOTLAND

#### “Remote Evidence”

Chaired by Dr Karen Goodall

This session explored the subject of remote/virtual evidence giving within police custody.

### INTERNATIONAL SUMMER SCHOOL FOR POLICING SCHOLARS 2024

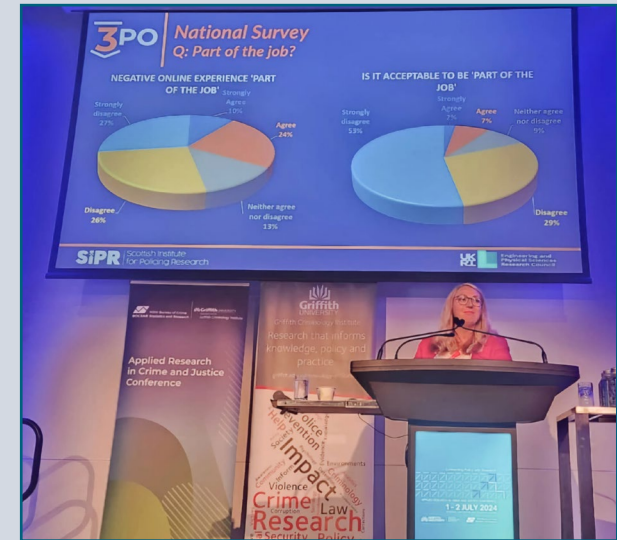
SIPR co-delivered the 2024 ISSPS with George Mason University and Griffith University in Brisbane, taking a delegation of four doctoral researchers. For more information, see below [page 80](#).

### APPLIED RESEARCH IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE CONFERENCE, BRISBANE

Monica Craig presented preliminary findings and early recommendations from the 3PO Project at the ARCJ Conference in Brisbane Australia

### INTERNATIONAL VISITS TO AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF POLICE MANAGEMENT AND THE NEW ZEALAND EVIDENCE BASED POLICING CENTRE

Professor Aston and Monica Craig presented on the work of SIPR, the Interact Project as well as the 3PO Project to international policing colleagues to foster better international Knowledge Exchange as well as explore opportunities for international collaboration.







## EVENT HIGHLIGHT – Scottish International Policing Conference 2023

### COMMUNITY WELL-BEING & SAFETY: BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS IN POLICING

The Scottish International Policing Conference took place in November 2023 at the University of Edinburgh.

This year the conference was co-chaired by Professor Lesley McMillan (SIPR Associate Director and lead of the Public Protection network) and SIPR Director, Professor Liz Aston and the theme of the conference was "Community wellbeing and safety: building partnerships in policing" which aligns with SIPR's first strategic priority and covers a range of topics including gender-based violence, mental health, and public confidence. We were delighted to welcome this year, two new keynote speakers:

**Nick Fyfe Lecture: *Professor Aisha Gill* a leading academic within the fields of health and criminal justice responses to violence against black, minority ethnic and refugee women and girls, and renowned activist for improving policing of black and minoritised groups.**

The policing of Black and minoritised communities has a chequered history in the UK: institutional racism, over-policing and under-protection are rife. While several studies have been conducted on policing and race, little research has examined how the intersections of race, gender and policing may contribute to the low rate of sexual abuse reporting by Black and minoritised women. While the literature suggests that this under-reporting can be solely attributed to some aspects of community policing that still suffer from institutional racism, this presentation argued that institutional racism was only part of the picture. Using empirical research conducted within a feminist framework, it examined these issues in relation to how four British police force areas respond to sexual abuse incidents involving female survivors from these communities. The presentation offered an intersectional



feminist analysis of what more the police and other statutory agencies can do to increase sexual abuse reporting from Black and minoritised women.

**Aisha K. Gill, Ph.D., CBE** is Professor of Criminology at University of Bristol, UK. Her main areas of interest and research are health and criminal justice responses to violence against Black, minority ethnic and refugee women in the UK, Afghanistan, Georgia, Jordan, Libya, Iraqi Kurdistan, India, Pakistan and Yemen. She has been involved in addressing the problem of violence against women and girls, 'honour' crimes and forced marriage at the grassroots level for the past 23 years. Her recent publications include articles on crimes related to the murder of women/femicide, 'honour' killings, coercion and forced marriage, child sexual exploitation and sexual abuse in Black and racially minoritised communities, female genital mutilation, sex selective abortions, intersectionality and women who kill. In 2019, she was appointed Co-Chair of End Violence Against Women Coalition.

The full recording of the lecture can be found [here](#) or on the SIPR Website and YouTube pages.

**James Smart Memorial Lecture: *Professor Stan Gilmour*, former Director of the Thames Valley Violence Reduction Unit, with expertise in counter-terrorism, organised crime, homicide, and public protection, as well as protecting vulnerable people.**

This lecture was a summary of the main issues facing policing, before returning to the operating environment facing Chief Constable James Smart in the mid 19th Century. Continuities were identified across generational cycles driving through the past 50 years of research and the evolution of public health approaches to community well-being and safety. It then settled on the importance of data collaboration as a foundation to police, other public agencies and community partners in building partnerships for the common good. The need to win both hearts and minds if the power of collaboration is to be realised was examined against a backdrop of missed opportunities and the missing data that can reduce systemic vulnerabilities. Case studies identified risk factors for criminalisation, with examples highlighting the prevalence of co-occurring conditions that straddled systems - and the paucity of information on how interventions should be structured when working with girls, women, and those coping with neuro-disability. Finally, there is a note of hope for the future of data partnerships as we work together to build the scaffolding for collaborative prevention.

Stan is a highly experienced and accomplished Strategic Consultant with 30 years of experience in law enforcement. He has a deep understanding of the complex challenges facing the criminal justice system and wider partners and is committed to finding innovative solutions to combat transnational threats, reduce violence and inequality, and increase public safety. As the lead for Risk Technology within the National Police Chiefs' Council for the UK, Stan is spearheading the development and implementation of a Common Data Platform for information sharing across sectors. Stan is a Professor at Keele University, and a Senior Research Fellow



at the University of Exeter. He is also a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts, a Senior Associate Fellow with the Police Foundation, a Fellow of the Global Law Enforcement and Public Health Association, and an Ambassador for Administrative Data Research UK. These collaborations provided an excellent basis for his passions - developing public health approaches in policing and making the best use of public data for the public good. The full recording of the lecture can be found [here](#) or on the SIPR Website and YouTube pages.







Graphic artist Jenny Capon recorded visual minutes of some of the breakout sessions from the conference including both the Partnerships and Prevention sessions.







## SIPR IMPACT AWARDS

This was the second year in which SIPR was delighted to award Early Career Researchers and established Academics to recognise their phenomenal work. At SIPR, our mission is to support internationally excellent, multi-disciplinary policing research to enable evidence-informed policy & practice. SIPR's Impact awards are part of a wider array of work currently being undertaken to maximise and document pathways to research impact.

This year we received a number of high quality nominations, however, there can only be one winner. This year, Professor Sarah Pedersen and her project team were awarded the SIPR Impact Award for their work on the Impact of COVID-19 on Partnerships Between Police and GBV Service Providers in Remote, Rural and Island Communities in Scotland. For more information on this project, please see below on [page 61](#).

The winner for the ECR Award was Sang-Hun Sean Yu who was recognised for his work relating to the use of VR technologies in the training of firefighting personnel and fire damage assessment. Scottish Police Authority, Forensic Services (SPA FS), Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS), Leverhulme Research Centre for Forensic Science (LRCFS) – with assistance from the Danish Police Special Crimes Unit - have formed a collaborative working group to deliver the Joint Scottish Fire Investigation Training and Research Facility which opened on 5th July 2023.

## DELEGATE REFLECTIONS

This year, we asked a number of the conference attendees and workshop presenters to provide us with their reflections. Dr Larissa Englemann of the ESRC Vulnerability and Policing Futures Centre said "This year's conference was another great success in my opinion. Attending for the first time as an external academic from outside of Scotland, I appreciated the opportunity to discuss current and future work with old and new colleagues from within and outside of academia. We will take a lot of learning away from this conference for our own events within the Vulnerability and Policing Futures Research Centre. In particular, the attending delegates representing policing, allied professions and policy bodies, as well as the way in which solution focussed and honest discussions were facilitated throughout."

Martin Smith of the Scottish Police Authority said "I very much welcomed the dedicated focus on community wellbeing at this year's Conference and have many takeaways for reflection. Speaking for myself, it seems as though, for at least a

decade, there has been widespread acknowledgement that community wellbeing forms a part of the policing mission in Scotland, due to the introduction of the policing principles as part of the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012, yet this is the first time I've seen a Conference organised explicitly to address the theme. "

The full reflections of the conference can be found [here](#) or on the SIPR Website under Events: Revisited, SIPC 2023.

## PANEL DISCUSSION

A core element of our SIPC conferences are panels feature senior policing, academic, and government representatives. This year we were delighted to host the new Chief Constable of Police Scotland, Jo Farrel; Chair of the SPA, Martyn Evans; Chief Inspector of HMICS, Craig Naylor; SIPR Associate Director, Professor Lesley McMillan; and the Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Home Affairs, Angela Constance. This panel discussion brought the day to a close with a lively dialogue between the panel members on the subject of community well-being as well as the vital need to form lasting partnerships across communities with policing.







# (re)searchlight

In February 2024, SIPR launched the first episode of our brand-new podcast [re]Searchlight.

[re]Searchlight is committed to bringing policing research to light. We do this by providing bite sized chunks of all the exciting and innovative research happening around Scotland and further afield.

In the podcast, we will be discussing with policy makers, researchers, police officers and the public and tackling discussions from safety in the online sphere to how to make communities safer.

The first episode featured an in-depth discussion with Dr Oliver Merry from Sheffield Hallam University. Dr Merry is a senior lecturer in Forensic Psychology and a researcher on the 3PO Project.

The 3PO Project is a UKRI funded project which has now reached its final year. The project focusses on fully understanding the unique harms public-facing professionals face online, as well as finding concrete and realistic solutions to these harms.

Dr Merry led a 'social media analysis' which looked into the real social media harms aimed at police officers, finding that these online harms tend to fall into one of four categories: reputation damage, personal attack, abusive protest and identification.

This research was especially personal to Dr Merry as his partner is a police officer who has been the victim of online harms herself. In the episode, we discuss the impact Dr Merry's personal life has had on his research.

[re]Searchlight will be releasing future episodes in the coming months so do stay tuned.

You can listen to this episode on your favoured podcast platform or on the SIPR Website under Publications and then Podcasts.



partnerships





**Tom McMahon**  
 Director of Strategy  
 and Analysis

# police scotland

Police Scotland continue to work closely with SIPR as part of our commitment to evidence-led policing. We aim to support research which improves the public experience of engaging with police, enhances public safety and wellbeing, and improves the experience of colleagues working within the Service. Our research evidence and insight gathering sits within the Professionalism, Strategy and Engagement portfolio in Police Scotland, enabling a coordinated approach that aligns with our strategic policing priorities. The academic research team is the point of contact for research requests and enabling academic-police collaboration across the service. The team are also developing the 'Pathways to Learning' programme to support officers and staff who are interested in undertaking research-based study via SIPR Practitioner Fellowships.

Through collaboration with SIPR, we have continued to develop and support a programme of research in alignment with our Chief Constable's priorities:

**Trust:** The people of Scotland trust us to keep them safe.

**Confidence:** People who contact us have confidence in our service delivery.

**Performance:** We continually improve and perform at a high level.

We work closely with senior police leaders to identify research priorities and emerging themes for academic investigation that

support our challenges and priorities for change, while staying open to ideas and new challenges emerging from academia.

We continue to engage with academics, research participants and officer colleagues to take forward recommendations from completed studies to ensure we are acting to improve policing practice in a transparent and collaborative manner. Through collaboration with SIPR we aim to create a culture of learning and continuous improvement within policing; robustly evaluating research to identify good-practice; ensuring that the research findings are disseminated across the service; and empowering colleagues to drive evidence-based change to enhance their own service delivery and outcomes for communities and stakeholders.



Police Scotland's Academic Research team aims to provide an ambitious and innovative approach to our service so that our policing colleagues are equipped with the insights and evidence to realise our strategic goals. The team maintains an internal research database, available to all police colleagues, which contains papers on policing research collaborations and evaluations, many of which were undertaken in partnership with SIPR associates. Furthermore, we continue to work with SIPR to devise and host 'Academic Challenge Sessions', which bring together senior police leaders and academic experts to discuss emerging and priority themes in the policing and public landscape, and to discuss strategic approaches which would assist Police Scotland in addressing these challenges. Additionally, the team have created a [public-facing page](#) which contains details of high-profile research projects that have been delivered with the support of SIPR and their academic associates, as well a portal which allows prospective researchers to contact Police Scotland with new proposals. Through this page we aim to increase public awareness of the impact of policing research, the insights it has provided, and the ways in which we have incorporated it into our policing service.







**Tom Halpin**  
Board Member

# scottish police authority

As we deliver on our core 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 Corporate Strategy objectives include strengthening our insights into and understanding of the public's views on policing and matters of public interest and working with others to build and promote a research and evidence base to inform oversight and decision making across the policing system.

Our relationship with SIPR is critical to delivering on these commitments, building on our approach to triangulated assurance which focuses on data, people, and evidence. Our Joint Research and Evidence Forum, co-chaired by myself and DCC Alan Spiers and supported by the Authority's Strategy & Performance team, sets our partnership strategic priorities in relation to research and evidence. 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.

In the last 12 months we have built on our strong partnership practice, drawing 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 policing areas. 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.

During 2023-24 we have maintained a specific focus on the policing of mental health demand in Scotland, building on our [Mental Health, Vulnerability and Policing conference](#) which took place in December 2022. This has involved collaborating with colleagues across the SIPR network to understand current challenges as well as explore global examples of innovative practice. We have also benefitted from SIPR and wider academic involvement in our [Community Confidence Action Research](#), which seeks to understand the drivers of confidence in areas of socio-economic deprivation.



**FORENSIC  
SERVICES**  
**SEIRBHISEAN  
FOIREANSACH**



**Fiona Douglas**  
Director of SPA  
Forensic Services

# SPA forensic services

The Director of SPA Forensic Services Fiona Douglas is a member of the SIPR Executive Committee. SIPR's work is aligned to the Forensic Services purpose: To provide excellent, innovative forensic services to support justice in Scotland and keep our communities safe and protected.

Academic research plays an important part of delivering our Forensic Strategy: Delivering excellence in forensic science for a safe and resilient Scotland. The Forensic Strategy was informed by the knowledge, experience and insights of senior leaders and stakeholders - including SIPR.

During the past year, this strategy has been taken forward with the rolling out of a new Operating Model across Forensic Services, which will help deliver the strategic objective to "drive forward the implementation of digital and new technologies to enable forensic services for the future". As part of the New Operating Model Forensic Services has now formed a Research, Development & Innovation Team to influence innovation throughout both Forensic Services and the wider academic and forensic community.

Forensic Services need a sharp, strategic focus on Research and Innovation to bring real benefits to the service and wider justice sector. Collaboration is vital for Forensic Services to work more effectively with forensic science and academic networks both in the UK and internationally.

We 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.

SIPR also continues to support a working group on Demonstrating the Value of Forensic Services, which is an academic project to seek a suitable methodology to assess the value of the work carried out by Forensic Services SPA brings to the public sector.





**Craig Naylor**

Director of HM Inspectorate of Constabulary in Scotland

# HMICS

HM Inspectorate of Constabulary in Scotland (HMICS) has wide ranging powers to look into the "state, effectiveness and efficiency" of Police Scotland and the Scottish Police Authority. This duty is carried out through inspections which cover a range of policing issues including mental health, custody, organisational culture, vetting, wellbeing of police officers and staff.

In carrying out its duty to independently scrutinise Police Scotland and the SPA, HMICS continuously takes advantage of valuable policing research to engage with current thinking and identify best practice. This benchmarking allows reports to refer to the best available evidence that exists in the fast-changing policing sphere and strengthens the evidence base of recommendations made to Police Scotland and the SPA. In the last year, professionals with a research background have been recruited into lead inspector, support inspector and associate inspector roles within the inspection team. HMICS utilises this knowledge, expertise, and experience in academia to gather sources of evidence, conduct reviews of existing policies and procedures and conduct fieldwork to establish the current state of policing. HMICS' fieldwork consists of interviews of officers and staff, the use of independent advisory panels and other research.

- 'Frontline Focus – Wellbeing' presented the views of those at the frontline of Scottish policing based on significant engagement with those staff and officers.
- 'Thematic Inspection of Organisational Culture in Police Scotland' had a significant academic research focus which

included the question 'What is Culture?' which provided a benchmark from which to analyse the current culture of Police Scotland.

- 'Thematic review of policing mental health in Scotland' utilised an independent advisory panel which included representation from SIPR and provided an opportunity for extensive benchmarking at all stages of the inspection.

As a partner of SIPR, knowledge exchange activities are a vital component to making recommendations which focus exactly on those policies and practices that can be improved within Scottish policing. SIPR also facilitates the development of links between HMICS and other bodies nationally and internationally. HM Chief Inspector of Constabulary, Craig Naylor, represents HMICS on SIPR's board of governance and participated in the panel session at the 11th Annual SIPR Conference in November 2023. Representation on the panel of SIPR allows a valuable partnership between HMICS and SIPR and contributes to HMICS' aim of 'Improving Policing Across Scotland'. HMICS looks forward to the contribution of SIPR as the consultation on the 2025-28 HMICS Scrutiny Plan begins.

# creating pathways to impact

A core objective for SIPR has been to support knowledge exchange and mechanisms that enable research to have an impact on policing policies, procedures and practices which create tangible differences for a range of stakeholders. We are grateful to Dr Rhonda Wheate who supported SIPR with some of this work in 2022-2023.

Impact is a particular focus for SIPR and we are working with all our partners to determine:

- What impact means in relation to developing evidence informed policing and how it can be maximised;
- How to document impact, and create systems that provide updates and feedback loops to track impact with policing partners (and other key stakeholders).

We currently seek to facilitate impactful research through a variety of mechanisms focussing on strong collaborative principles and sustained routine interactions with our key partners. This can involve the co-development or co-production of research calls (for example the Responsive Research Fund). SIPR are proud to be members of the Joint Research and Evidence Forum (JREF), which is led by the SPA and Police Scotland and aims to discuss and agree priorities for research and commission a range of activities to take forward with a wider group of stakeholders. SIPR are leading on work with partners, through JREF, to maximise and document pathways to impact.

SIPR has developed an infrastructure which supports interactions with policing partners and beyond. This includes, for example, linkages via our thematic networks and regular engagements through communication activities and events etc. This facilitates a two-way flow of information whereby existing research is shared in order to create opportunities to influence and shape evidence-based policies and practices, while simultaneously ensuring practitioner experiences and expertise are captured to inform further research.

SIPR aims to disseminate and communicate findings in audience-specific and user-friendly ways, brokering and facilitating communication between academia and

practitioners. This is achieved, in part, through several tools and activities such as a suite of publications, numerous events conferences and symposia, developing networks and communities of expertise, and participating in reference and advisory groups.

We are delighted that several SIPR funded or supported projects continue to demonstrate key impacts and over the last year, we have celebrated the work of Professor Sarah Pedersen and colleagues who explored how the pandemic affected partnerships between police and third sector gender-based violence service providers in remote parts of the country. This project produced a film and report which highlighted the research to a wide range of groups (read [here](#)).

Additionally, the work of Dr Ben Collier and Dr Shane Horgan explored the emerging phenomenon of 'Influence Policing' which explored how the novel mode of police practice is developing through an in-depth study of Police Scotland's strategic communications unit and a wider systematic overview of these campaigns across the UK. This project found that outside of Scotland, government agencies and police forces are using hyper-targeted social media adverts to push messages about migration, jobs and crime to minority groups and has valuable recommendations for the ethics and consequences for the continued use of these campaigns on police legitimacy and trust (read full report [here](#)).

Finally, SIPR supported research from Professor Peter Hillen and colleagues which concluded that Police carriage of naloxone is an acceptable and potentially valuable harm reduction tool to help tackle the drug related death crisis in Scotland. The immense impact of this work supported the former Chief Constable Ian Livingston to roll out naloxone carriage across all police officers in Scotland and secured a 'highly commended' award at the Herald Higher Education Awards 2024 (read full report [here](#)).

Over the next phase of SIPR, we will continue to build our ability to refine, create, and document impact. We are particularly looking forward to the next SIPR conference, the continuation of the podcast series, and continuing to build partnership with key research users and beneficiaries.



# Spotlight on External Partnerships

## EDINBURGH FUTURES INSTITUTE - PREVENTION HUB



The recently launched Scottish Prevention Hub, based at the Edinburgh Futures Institute at the University of Edinburgh, is a collaboration with Police Scotland and Public Health Scotland.

In practical terms there is a physical presence of key staff from across all three partners co-located within Edinburgh Futures Institute, 'the hub,' combined with a focus on data, evidence and expertise, underpinned with an emphasis on education and learning.

The key Prevention Hub goals include:

- Establish a 'Prevention Hub' to formalise the structure of the partnership, agree principles for working, and focus efforts on reducing inequalities through actions to improve health and wellbeing. The Hub will be located at the Edinburgh Futures Institute.
- Develop a sustainable and innovative 'prevention' ecosystem prioritising a whole system approach, combined with utilising evidence informed action around key prevention challenges.
- Build capacity and capability for complex collaborative work, with a focus on the collaborative group process and 'how' to work more effectively across boundaries, disciplines, and organisations.

### PREVENTION HUB LEAD AT POLICE SCOTLAND

**Clair Thomson**

Head of Strategic Public Health Collaboration Unit and Collaboration Transformation Manager

[clair.thomson@scotland.pnn.police.uk](mailto:clair.thomson@scotland.pnn.police.uk)

### PREVENTION HUB LEAD AT PUBLIC HEALTH SCOTLAND

**Dr Diane Stockton**

Consultant in Public Health, Head of Clinical, Public Health Intelligence and Research Division, Strategic lead for Health and Justice

[diane.stockton2@phs.scot](mailto:diane.stockton2@phs.scot)

For more details about the Prevention Hub [email Kristy Docherty](#) or head over to the [website here](#) or by searching the Scottish Prevention Hub online to meet the rest of the team.



**SIPR** | Scottish Institute for Policing Research



## SIPR Joins the Scottish Community Safety Network

The Scottish Community Safety Network were delighted to welcome the Scottish Institute for Policing Research this year, to our wide network of organisations making Scotland a safer place.

The work of the SIPR is critical towards crime prevention and being and feeling safe and we have been able to work together to highlight this work amongst our wide network of professional, agencies and partnerships.

Sharing information and practice makes the world go around and our enhanced partnership this year has made that all the easier!

## Developing International Links: Australia and New Zealand

**Monica Craig | Professor Liz Aston**

In July 2024, Professor Liz Aston, Professor Megan O'Neill, Associate Professor Andrew Wooff, and Monica Craig were part of the core faculty supporting the delivery of the International Summer School for Policing Scholars (ISSPS) in Brisbane, Australia. You can read more about the student experiences on pages 81 to 84.

The International Summer School for Policing Scholarship (ISSPS) is an international collaboration between George Mason University's Centre for Evidence-Based Crime Policy (CEBCP), SIPR, and Arizona State University and this year it took place at Griffith University. It was co-founded by Professor Cynthia Lum (CEBCP) and former SIPR Director, Professor Nick Fyfe with the aim of bringing top doctoral students, policing scholars, and progressive policing leaders from around the world together to help students build diverse skills and develop international networks to advance policing research. The summer school features a week of presentations, discussions, and activities designed to expose students to new perspectives on policing theory, methods, research, and practice in policing, and culminates in a symposium.



All SIPR delegates were delighted to present as part of a wide-ranging curriculum covering:

- Theories, perspectives, and approaches in policing research
- Professor Aston participated in a panel discussing "the state of policing research"
- Professor O'Neill presented on "Theories for Understanding Police Occupational Cultures"







- Research design
- Dr Wooff presented on "Qualitative methods and ethics, mitigating risks of field research"
- Professor O'Neill presented on "Ethnographic approaches in policing research"
- Researching in partnership with the police
- Professor Aston moderated a session featuring Dr Wooff on "Challenges and failures of working with agencies"
- Translation, dissemination, and institutionalisation
- Professor Aston and Monica Craig presented on "Knowledge exchange: academic/ policing partnerships and creating pathways to impact"
- Symposium presentations, including from Professors Aston and O'Neill, to ISSPS faculty, and a broader practitioner and academic audience

We are immensely proud of the four doctoral candidates who were selected to receive travel grants and represented SIPR – Esme O'Donnell and Belinda Onyeashie (Edinburgh Napier University), Sam Conway (Abertay University) and Mahnoz Illias (University of Glasgow). We hope they are had an amazing experience as part of the summer school and we are sure that their careers will continue to go from strength to strength.

In addition to travelling to Australia for the summer school, Professor Aston and Monica Craig also appreciated the opportunity to present the work of SIPR to an international audience and take the opportunity to develop some international relationships. Monica Craig presented some early findings from the 3PO project at the Applied Research in crime and Justice Conference in Brisbane, and Professor Aston presented at Deakin University in Melbourne on the Interact project. Monica was also hosted by Professor Jason Payne, Director of the Griffith Criminology Institute with colleagues from Canada and New Zealand to discuss international perspectives and experiences of criminology.

Both Liz and Monica visited and presented to the Australian Institute of Police Management (AIPM) in Sydney where we were hosted by AIPM director, Assistant Commissioner Grant Nicholls and Deputy Director Neil Sweeny. They travelled to Wellington, New Zealand where they met with Mark Evans, the Executive Lead of Future Policing with the New Zealand Police and Kate Mora, Manager of Performance and Research Insights and presented to the New Zealand Evidence Based Policing Centre. The purpose of these meetings and presentations was to explore opportunities for international collaboration with the intention of establishing an international concordat which would support internal knowledge exchange, visiting fellowships, and applications for international funding opportunities. We look forward to taking this work forward with our Australian and New Zealand colleagues!

## Northern Police Research Webinar Series

Now nearing the end of its second year, the Northern Police Research Webinar series, is a collaboration between SIPR, the Police University College of Finland, Umea University in Sweden, the Norwegian Police University College, the Universities of Akureyri and Iceland, and Ulster University in Northern Ireland.

The purpose of this series is to present recent and topical research across the field of policing and provide researchers, practitioners, and other interested parties across the European North to collaboratively engage with one another to maximise any potential pathways to impact.

This past year, the collaboration has had presentations that have gathered audiences of over 300 attendees from across all of the countries in the collaboration.

This past year, we have had the following presentations:

***“Grooming: Phenomenon and Holistic Consequences.”***

***“Police Legitimacy in Iceland”***

***“Bodies in Water”***

***“Conflict Management and Mental Health among Police Officers and Recruits”***

***“Public Order Policing in Northern Ireland”***

***“An Introduction to Current Policing Research in Ireland”***

***“Understanding and Intervening against Sexual Harassment at Work (UISH)”***

***“Establishment of Police Science as a University Discipline in Iceland”***

***“Influence Policing in Scotland and the UK”***

***“The Use of Forensic Data at the Police Service of Northern Ireland”***

***“The Politics and Practice of Drug Policing in Ireland”***

***“Community Policing for Strengthening Social Capital in Local Communities”***

***“Economic Crime Investigation Survey in the Finnish police in 2023”***



The collaboration is delighted to confirm that it will continue once more in the coming academic year with a record number of presentations.

We are in the process of confirming the presenters, their respective talks, and the dates and will be publishing the calendar of events for the series for the next academic year shortly.





# international advisory committee



**Hon Dr Gill Imery**  
Chair of the International  
Advisory Committee

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 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 and Dr Vesa Muttillainen** (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 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)
- **Dr Nick Bland and Amy Wilson** (Scottish Government)
- **Monica Craig and Professor Liz Aston** (SIPR)

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 2023/24

- During 2023/2024, there has been more engagement with members of the International Advisory Committee, and efforts to diversify and enhance the membership continue.
- The plan to introduce shorter sessions dedicated to one topic has been progressed.
- A virtual roundtable on anti-discrimination was held in February 2024 where members of the IAC were joined by other academics with an interest in anti-discrimination in policing. The session heard about relevant research underway in England, the United States, Finland, and the Global South. It was agreed to carry out a further session to include academic colleagues who expressed an interest in sharing and learning about anti-discrimination in police from other areas of the world.
- SIPR members have worked with IAC members on a number of projects, including delivering the International Summer School for Policing Scholars in collaboration with George Mason University Washington, Arizona State University, Griffith University, and the University of Cincinnati.

## PLANS FOR 2024/25

New members of the IAC will be announced and the committee will continue to support SIPR to development of international partnerships and deliver on its key aims.





# overview of SIPR networks

## EVIDENCE AND INVESTIGATION

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.

## POLICE-COMMUNITY RELATIONS

This network provides a focus for discussing and generating independent research concerned with the relationships between police and the communities they serve. 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. It is led by a Brokering Team, which facilitates and builds connections between relevant practitioners and researchers to further these aims.

## 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.



### **EDUCATION AND LEADERSHIP**

The purpose of the Education and Leadership Network is to promote research in police education, learning, and leadership, and support this through several activities, including actively engaging with policy makers within Police Scotland and the SPA not only through the regular Network Steering Group meetings, but also with regular meetings with senior managers from Police Scotland with responsibility for policy and practice in these areas.

### **DEVELOPMENT**

In January 2024, Professor Kirsteen Grant took up a newly created role within SIPR as Associate Director (Development) with the remit of helping to support and develop SIPR's PG research student and early career researcher (ECR) communities. This initiative is primarily concerned with building researcher capacity and resilience. It provides an opportunity to bring together and strengthen our ECR networks as well as generate and facilitate more collaborative and developmental opportunities such as writing and paper development workshops, training, mentoring, impact events, and social activities.



# public protection network



**Professor Lesley  
McMillan**

Associate Director Public  
Protection Network  
(Glasgow Caledonian  
University)

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** (Abertay University)
- **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)

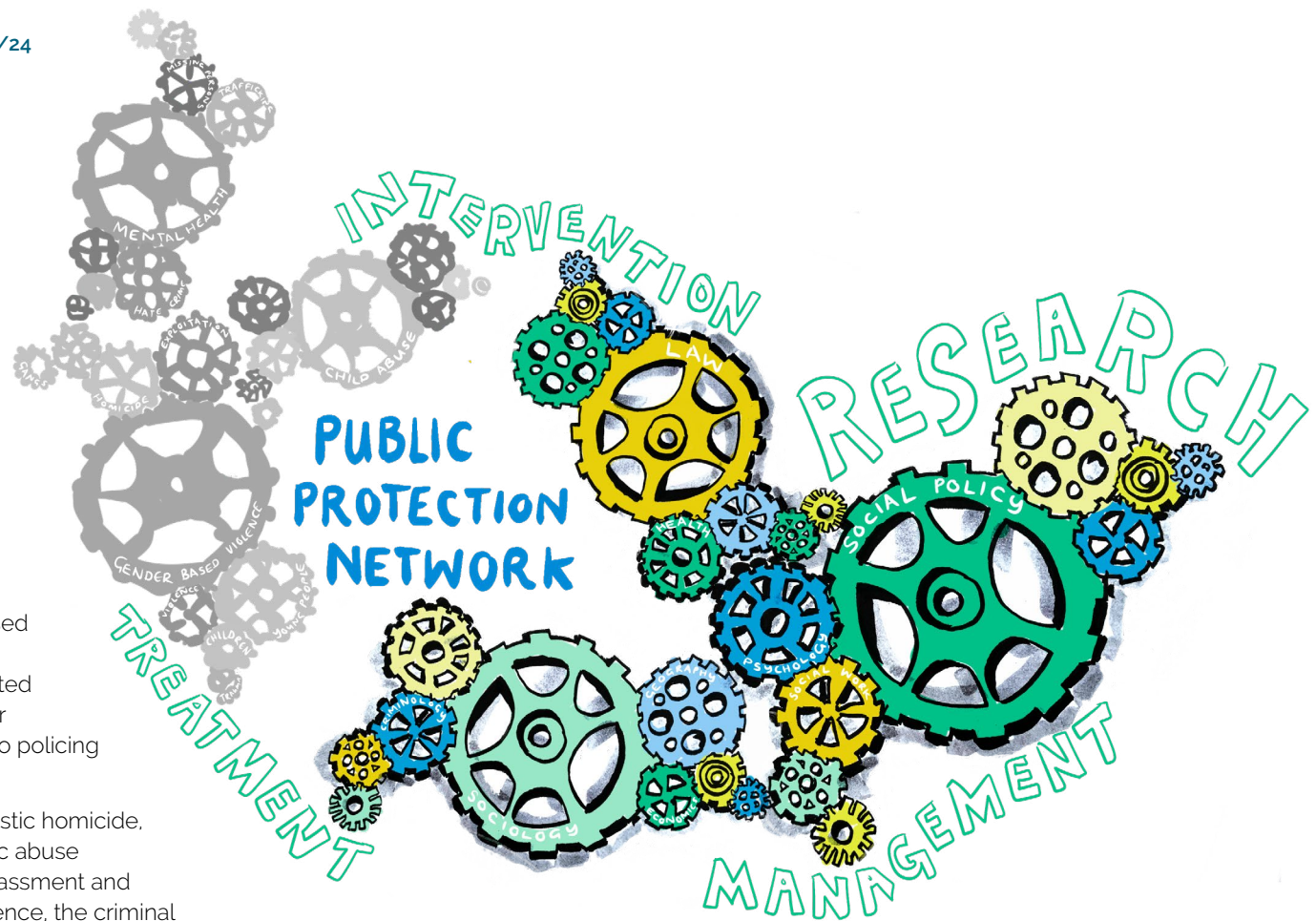
## POLICE SCOTLAND & SCOTTISH POLICE AUTHORITY MEMBERS

- **Detective Chief Superintendent Sam Faulds & T/Detective Chief Superintendent Martin McLean**
- Lead for Adult Protection – **T/Detective Superintendent Gillian Faulds**
- Lead for Child Protection – **T/Detective Superintendent Carron McKellar**
- Lead for Rape and Sexual Crime, Human Trafficking and Exploitation and Prostitution – **T/Detective Superintendent Steven Bertram**
- Lead for Domestic Abuse; Honour-based Abuse; Forced Marriage, Stalking and Harassment – **T/Detective Superintendent Gillian Faulds**
- Lead for Sex Offender Policing – **Detective Superintendent Louise Harvie**
- **Eleanor Gaw** (Scottish Police Authority)

## KEY ACTIVITIES/ HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2023/24

The network has made valuable contributions including research, knowledge exchange, public engagement and the establishment of new areas of practice. A significant part of the network's activity in 2023/24 was the SIPR International Policing Conference in November 2023 around the theme of 'Community wellbeing and safety: building partnerships in policing'. This highly successful conference included key notes from Professor Aisha Gill, University of Bristol, and Professor Stan Gilmour, former Director of the Thames Valley Violence Reduction Unit. It brought together a wide range of academics and practitioners from across the UK and internationally, to focus on key areas directly related to public protection research including gender-based violence, missing people, mental health, vulnerability and policing of minoritized groups. The conference demonstrated the importance of collaboration and research to further our understanding, and the centrality of wellbeing and safety to policing more broadly, both within and beyond public protection.

Research throughout the year has included work on domestic homicide, image-based sexual abuse, emotional labour, the domestic abuse disclosure scheme, rurality and sexual violence, public harassment and misogyny, online misogyny, young people and sexual violence, the criminal justice response to sexual violence, and risk assessment and sex offending. Colleagues within the group are currently building a large bid to UKRI to continue collaborative work on domestic homicide, including policing and third sector partners. The Scottish Cold Case Unit continues to collaborate with the National Missing Persons Unit and Locate International to provide successful and mutually beneficial collaboration on unsolved missing person and unidentified body cases.



## PLANS FOR 2024/25

The network will be refreshed and expanded during 2024/25 to address themes across public protection, safety and wellbeing, and public health. We will seek new expressions of interest for academic members of the steering group and the network more broadly and consult on the potential for a new name for the network to reflect the expanding areas of interest. The network will strive to build new networks and links among the academic community through a range of in-person and online networking events and host research activities that promote collaboration and dissemination.





# evidence and investigation network



**Dr Penny Woolnoug,**  
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, Glasgow Caledonian University
- **Dr George Weir**, Computer and Information Sciences, University of Strathclyde
- **Dr Susan Griffiths**, Psychology, Robert Gordon University
- **Dr Julie Gawrylowicz**, Division of Psychology and Forensic Science, Abertay 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 2023/24

- We continued 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 collaboration with Police Scotland and the charity Missing People a fully funded ESRC-Scottish Graduate School for the Social Sciences PhD studentship has been secured for a 3-year project exploring what happens when adults with learning disability go missing, to inform strategies for prevention and response.
- Focusing on translating research into practice, a one-week training schedule for the Cognitive Interviewing Skills Course at the Scottish Police College has been developed and several CPD workshops on memory and suggestibility in children have been delivered to the Joint Investigative Interviewing Team comprising police and social workers.
- Considerable progress has been made in relation to the development of the first structured professional judgement tool for missing persons (SIPR funded PhD), with the completion of a survey of professionals to assess their views on missing person risk and the current risk assessment process and the final stage of data collection with Police Scotland completed.
- We have continued to expand the reach of research in the Network by working with the Norwegian Police University College to deliver training to Norwegian Senior Investigating Officers on major crime investigation and decision making.
- With a focus on supporting technology and policing in the investigative domain, a 3-year PhD project has been ongoing, testing the suitability of 'avatars' as forensic interviewers for children and young people by comparing the effects of virtual avatars with human interviewers over MS Teams
- Supporting the development of the next generation of forensic investigation researchers, Network members have been working with a summer student from Wyoming University to secure a prestigious grant for a visit to Scotland where she will work with academics in Psychology and Forensic Sciences to collect data on the wording used by Forensic Medical Examiners in their reports and how these are perceived/understood by jury members.
- We rounded off our hugely popular programme of seminars on the movement of bodies in water with a fourth and final seminar as part of the Northern Research Seminar series which includes representatives from Sweden, Finland, Norway, Iceland, Denmark, and Northern Ireland.



## PLANS FOR 2024/25

Over the next academic year, we will:

- Continue to support the SPA-Forensic Services Value of Forensic Science Working Group and look forward to working closely with newly appointed SPA-FS staff who will be driving forward SPA-FS research and development work.
- Begin planning the fourth biannual Network event on Applied Cognitive Psychology in Forensic Settings which will be hosted by Aberdeen University in early summer 2025.
- Continue to pro-actively engage with key stakeholders, identify key people and secure their commitment to be actively involved with the network.
- Identify opportunities for knowledge exchange, research and pathways to impact, ensuring there is flexibility within the network to respond to new and emerging priorities (e.g., engaging with the Police Scotland Cyber Investigations and Digital Forensic team).
- Continue to work with the SIPR executive committee, SIPR Leadership Team and other partners to ensure the evidence and investigation network is supporting the broader SIPR strategic objectives.
- In collaboration with Police Scotland and the charity Missing People we will commence a 3-year mixed-methods ESRC funded project on adults with Learning Disability who go Missing.
- We will continue to support the delivery of research impact via the translation of research into policy and practice with national and international law enforcement partners.
- Support the inclusion and development of new SIPR members and ECR academics aligned with the Network (e.g., Dr Eva Rubinova at Aberdeen University conducting research on memory and interviewing; Dr Julianne Kloss at Edinburgh University working on the development of decision-support for the prioritisation of individuals who are suspected of engaging in child sexual abuse).

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.





# police-community relations network



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

This past November, the Police-Community Relations Network facilitated a visit from Supt Jari Taponen from the Finnish Police to Scotland who specialises in preventative policing methods, particularly with young people. During his visit, Supt Taponen met with police colleagues in Local Policing and Policing Together at Police Scotland, as well as with colleagues at the Scottish Police Authority, also presenting his work at the SIPC 2023.

Professor O'Neill was closely involved in the development of the SIPR Responsive Research Fund to commission research on Anti-Racism policy and practice in policing. She collaborated on the draft of the grant call and was a part of the selection committee. In the coming months, Professor O'Neill is a member of the Project Advisory Board for the successful project.

The SIPR RRF grant on Anti-Racism was presented at a meeting of the Cross-Justice Working Group on Race Data and Evidence, run by Justice Analytical Services of the Scottish Government. Professor O'Neill is an ongoing member of this group, which includes a wide range of researchers and practitioners in criminal justice organisations. The group considers what is needed to gather more robust data on how people of different ethnicities are represented in the various agencies of criminal justice and what steps can be taken to ensure fair and anti-discriminatory practice across the sector.







Along with other colleagues from SIPR, Professor O'Neill has been involved in discussions with the new Scottish Prevention Hub – a multi-agency collaboration between Police Scotland, Public Health Scotland and the University of Edinburgh, as part of the Edinburgh Futures Institute. The Prevention Hub has several aims, primary among these is to connect data and research to prevent harms and to embed a public health approach to prevention and wellbeing across Scotland. These aims align well with those of the Police-Community relations Network, and so we will be working to help connect the Prevention Hub with researchers and ongoing work across Scotland that supports prevention and inter-agency collaboration in Scotland.

In May 2024, Professor O'Neill facilitated a visit from police colleagues from Denmark to Scotland. Officers from the Danish National Police are interested in learning more about the practice of stop and search in Scotland and the process of reform. These officers met with some of the academic researchers and officers involved in the reform process (2014-2017), as well as current colleagues from HMICS, SPA and the National Stop Search Unit of Police Scotland in Dalmarnock.

### PLANS FOR 2024/25

- To expand the membership of HEIs on the Brokering Team early in the year. This will then enable the appointment of a Deputy Director of the Network.
- To explore possible support that could be given from the Network to the ongoing Community Policing Review underway in Police Scotland. The Network has a large degree of research expertise here, from both the EU and the UK, including a variety of models. Members of the Network are keen to add their support to the review.
- To explore other areas of priority work with the Brokering Team members and decide plans to take this forward.
- Hold a 'speed dating' event to bring police practitioners and academic researchers with overlapping areas of interest together. This may be best as a cross-Network activity.
- Discuss with Professor Kirsteen Grant, Development Lead, the possibility of holding a bi-monthly seminar series.
- Discuss with Professor Kirsteen Grant, Development Lead, possible PGRs and ECRs who may want to deliver guest presentations to Brokering Team meetings.
- Professor O'Neill is working with colleagues from JAS and SCCJR to plan a knowledge exchange event on institutional/systemic racism in the Justice System. The event is anticipated to take place at the end of October 2024.





# education and leadership network

**Associate Professor  
Dr Andrew Wooff**

Head of Social  
Science, Edinburgh  
Napier University



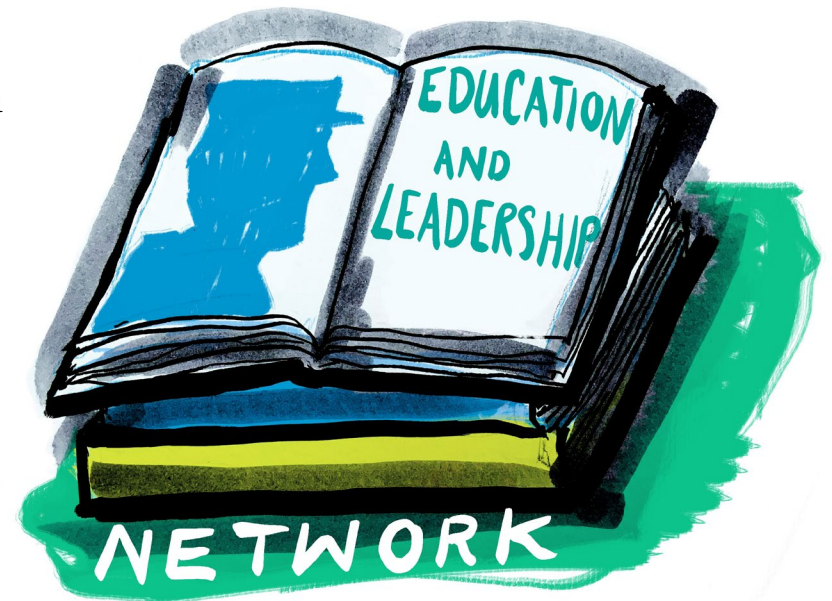
**Dr Andrew Tatnell**

Honorary Senior  
Research Fellow  
(Policing), Edinburgh  
Napier University



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.

- **Andrew Broadbent**, Leadership & Talent Manager, Police Scotland.
- **Katie Davidson**, Teaching Fellow, University of Strathclyde.
- **Chief Superintendent Alan Gibson**, Head of Learning, Training and Development, Police Scotland (to be conformed).
- **Dr Annette Robertson**, Interim Head of Social Sciences Dept, University of Glasgow.
- **Prof Rob Smith**, University of East London
- **Professor Joanna Drugan**, School of Social Sciences, Heriot Watt University.
- **Neil Leslie**, Lecturer, Abertay University
- **Darren Paterson**, Head of Workforce Governance, Scottish Police Authority.
- **Joanne Tierney**, Head of Change and Development, Scottish Police Authority Forensic Sciences.
- **Dr Aileen Ireland**, University of Stirling







- **Professor Kirsteen Grant**, Edinburgh Napier University
- **Dr Bill Graham**, Abertay University

The membership is being reviewed, so if you wish to join the network, please get in touch with the SIPR team.

## CO-CHAIRING OF THE NETWORK

Drs Andrew Wooff and Andy Tatnell were appointed to co-chair the education and leadership network in September 2023. Between them they have years of experience researching and working within the police education and leadership environment. Co-chairing allows their joint expertise and experience to be utilised to expand and develop the network further. As newly appointed Associate Directors of SIPR, we would like to acknowledge the work of Dr Martin during her 7 years as network lead and offer our very best wishes for the future.

## KEY ACTIVITIES/ HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2023/24

Our key achievements since Sept 2023 have been:

- To pro-actively engage with key stakeholders, identify key people, and secure their commitment to be actively involved with the network.
- Contribute to several Police Scotland working groups in Learning, Training and Development.
- Facilitate the development of an Evaluation Strategy for the proposed CARES training programme.
- Increased and broaden our membership to include other institutions.
- With key stakeholders, began to develop an exciting vision for the future of the network, formulating guiding principles for the network.
- Began to review practitioner fellowships, with input from the broader network.
- Support the organisation and arrangements for the ISSPS summer school, including selecting the students and developing the programme.
- Co-organised and ran the International Volunteering Symposium in Policing, hosted at Edinburgh Napier University in May 2024.
- Undertaken a mixed-methods evaluation of the existing Tutor Constable model.

Since taking over as co-chairs of the Network in September 2023, our initial focus has been on developing a vision for the future and developing a clear supporting strategy and implementation plan. Our main activity has been to pro-actively engage with key stakeholders, particularly Police Scotland, the Scottish Police Authority, HMICS, and the HEIs with a view to exploring what they think the vision, aims and objectives of the network should be. We held our first network meeting in February 2024, with a second scheduled for the summer. This has provided the network with clarity regarding how we can meet the needs of stakeholders and thereby have a positive impact on learning and development. As part of this activity, we have successfully secured in-principle agreement for the establishment of an academic and practitioner reference group to support Police Scotland's Learning and Development Strategy Board and its oversight and governance of the proposed new Learning and Development strategy. If established, the reference group could provide a focus of activity of the Network and provide the best opportunity to contribute to evidence informed policy and practice at a strategic level as Police Scotland moves towards its strategic aim of becoming a learning organisation.

We have also pro-actively engaged with key stakeholders, sought to identify key people from each member organisation, and secure their commitment to be actively involved with the network. Whilst we have increased and broadened our membership, it would be helpful to have additional HEI input from those not represented in the membership list – please get in touch to join our mailing list. Alongside working towards the realisation of our more strategic ambitions, we have also been actively involved in providing practical support to police practitioners, principally within the Learning, Training, and Development (LTD) business area of Police Scotland. For example, we have contributed research evidence to Police Scotland-led short-life working groups on recruit learning at the Scottish Police College and on de-escalation and communication training. In the case of the latter, the network took the lead on developing an Evaluation Strategy. At the invitation of senior leaders within LTD, the Network, supported by Dr Larissa Engelmann from the University of Leeds and Inspector Jamie Webster of Police Scotland who is undertaking a SIPR Practitioner Fellowship, has also been undertaking a comprehensive evaluation of Police Scotland's Tutor Constable model.



A paper on practitioner fellowships has been shared with the group membership and will be discussed with Police Scotland colleagues at the next network meeting with a view to making some changes to the scope and availability of fellowships in the next academic year. The network also co-sponsored the International Volunteering in Policing Conference, held at Edinburgh Napier University and bringing together scholars, policing practitioners and policy makers from across the world to shape improved policing strategy in this space. The Network has also been invited to provide advice and guidance to a proposed Training Needs Analysis of recruit training. We are considering the establishment of a small sub-group of this Network be established to help support PSOS. Finally, the Network has been supporting delivery of the International Summer School for Policing Scholars (ISSPS) which is taking place this summer in Brisbane with 4 PhD policing students from Scotland having secured places through a competitive process to attend. Students and staff from SIPR member universities, along with Griffith University, Arizona State University and George Mason University will be based in Brisbane for a five- day summer school, with different themed panels, discussions, and workshops.

### PLANS FOR 2024/25

- Subject to approval of the SIPR Board, a key priority will be delivering the Network's refreshed vision and implementation strategy.
- Continue to develop a larger membership of the network from HEIs not currently represented.
- Confirm the next iteration of SIPR Practitioner Fellowship Scheme.
- Developing positive working relationships within Police Scotland's Leadership and Talent Business area.
- Work with the SIPR Executive and other partners to ensure the education and leadership network is supporting the broader SIPR strategic objectives.
- Build on the relationships forged through ISSPS.
- Support SIPR exec on getting new funding arrangements in place.
- Ensure there is flexibility within the network to respond to new and emerging priorities, including research and events.





# development



**Professor  
Kirsteen Grant**  
Edinburgh Napier  
University

In January 2024, Professor Kirsteen Grant took up a newly created role within SIPR as Associate Director (Development) with the remit of helping to support and develop SIPR's PG research student and early career researcher (ECR) communities.

This initiative is primarily concerned with building researcher capacity and resilience.

It provides an opportunity to bring together and strengthen our ECR networks as well as generate and facilitate collaborative and developmental opportunities such as writing and paper development workshops, training, mentoring, impact events, and social activities.

## KEY ACTIVITIES/HIGHLIGHTS TO DATE

As a new initiative, the early focus was on meeting with SIPR's single point of contacts (SPOCs) in each university. This has been beneficial in building relationships and better understanding the nature and scope of our ECR communities and how we might work together to enable enhanced collaboration and partnership working for our PGs and ECRs.

In March 2024, we launched an Impact Seminar Series in partnership with Scottish Government's Justice Analytical Services (JAS) Department. The series consists of bi-monthly virtual (lunchtime) events, initially developed for PG researchers to engage with and share their research findings with policymaker audiences. The plan is to widen out these sessions in the future to also enable ECRs and established researchers to participate.

In April 2024, we held a consultation and virtual coffee morning with the aim of consulting with a range of stakeholders, including our PG and ECR communities on their current research challenges as well as opportunities for SIPR to assist in building PG and ECR capacity and resilience.

A Writing for The Conversation workshop took place in May 2024 with the aim of showcasing how impact can be achieved through writing for the media and different audiences. The event was facilitated by The Conversation and was an excellent interactive session with individual feedback given to each attendee.

A Demonstrating Impact through Research webinar then took place in June 2024. This was a collaborative and interactive webinar co-organised and facilitated jointly by SIPR and the Scottish Centre for Crime and Justice Research (SCCJR).

Dr Grant has also been liaising with key national and international networks to explore the potential for new collaborative opportunities such as the rollout of a mentoring programme and scoping of more collaborative initiatives and events.



## PLANS FOR 2024-2025

Using the feedback obtained from the consultation event in April 2024, we have gradually been developing a medium-longer term plan of both virtual and in-person capacity and resilience-building initiatives and activities. The plan spans four broad areas:

1. General and regular (monthly) events to build and maintain momentum.
2. More substantial initiatives, e.g., seminar series, mentoring programme, paper development workshops, PG symposium, etc.
3. Collaborative initiatives with national and international partners
4. ECR small grant scheme





# strategic priority 1:

**policing and  
health, safety and  
well-being**





## strategic priority one

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.

### RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS:

The Police Carriage of Naloxone Pilot evaluation team, led by Dr Hillen at ENU, received Highly Commended in the Research Project of the Year category at the Herald Higher Education Awards on the 28th of May.

The SIPR funded Impact Of COVID-19 On Partnerships Between Police and GBV Service Providers in Remote, Rural and Island Communities in Scotland project led by Prof Pedersen at RGU were also finalists at the Herald Higher Education Awards.

Prof Kat Smith and colleagues have secured funding for a new project on the 'Health Justice Nexus' (£1Million from the Chief Scientist's Office). Col's include Aston, Fraser, Weaver, Morrison, Stewart and Meer and the project looks at crime and criminal justice as social determinants of health and considers public health approaches to policing as well as innovations in prison and community health.

Clayton, E. (2024) Mechanisms of the Social Control of Children and Young People in Scotland: From 'Stop and Search' to 'Stop and Engage' in Police Scotland, *Criminology & Criminal Justice*, [online](#)

Prof Liz Aston and Dr Gen Lennon participated in the Brussels launch of *Governing Police Stops Across Europe* book, which they co-edited through work on the PolStops COST Action.

Carver, H., Falzon, D., Aston, E., Craik, V., Masterson, W., & Parkes, T. (2024). *Scottish Drug Checking Project summary*. Corra Foundation

Dougall, N., Heyman, I., Wooff, A., MaGillivray, S. and Tatnell, A. (2023) 'Systematic review of blue light service collaboration for community health and wellbeing', *Journal of Community Safety and Wellbeing*, 8(2).

Skinns, L., Wooff, A. and Rice, L. (2023) "Come on mate, let's make you a cup of tea': Theorising materiality and its impacts on detainee dignity inside police detention', *Theoretical Criminology*, 28(2), 175-194

Wooff, A. (2024) 'Police custody in rural Scotland: Negotiating boundaries, risk and organisational change', *Policing: An international Journal*. Advance Access [online](#)

Dr Anna Souhami of the University of Edinburgh was awarded the prize of Best Article by the European Society of Criminology Policing Working Group, and the prize of Best Article by the British Society of Criminology Policing Network for her paper "*Weather, Light and Darkness in Remote Island Policing: Expanding the Horizons of the Criminological Imagination*" which was published in the *British Journal of Criminology* in 2023. Dr Souhami's paper was also shortlisted for the British Journal of Criminology Radzinowicz prize.





## KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE HIGHLIGHTS:

SIPR continues to work with and support the ESRC Vulnerability and Policing Futures Research Centre and has assembled a distinguished panel for the Reshaping the Relationship between Vulnerability and Policing event at the inaugural annual conference. Prof Jemina Napier and Dr Robert Skinner (both from Heriot-Watt University) and Dr Estelle Clayton (ENU) will be on the "Burden for Achieving Access: Serving Deaf and Autistic Communities" panel session.

Dr Jonathan Mendel and Dr Kiril Sharapov attended a conference in Vienna to present his work on Re-politicising Anti-Trafficking: Migration, labour, and the war in Ukraine. The full article can be viewed [here](#) or by searching Mendel, J., & Sharapov, K. (2024). Re-politicising Anti-Trafficking: Migration, labour, and the war in Ukraine. *Anti-Trafficking Review*, (22), 52–73.

Seldom Heard Communities continue to have impact, please see the next page.

Multiple outputs from the impactful Silent Harms and Just Signs 2 projects, please see [page 59](#).

The Royal Society of Edinburgh hosted an event titled 'Criminal Justice in Crisis' in June. It featured four panels covering anti-social behaviour and knife-crime, institutional racism in policing, gender-based violence, and overcrowding in prisons. The event aimed to raise the profile of these issues to inform the incoming UK government.

Working in partnership within the Scottish Prevention Hub at the Edinburgh Futures Institute, Police Scotland Public Health Scotland are working to develop collaborative activities focused on harm prevention. To support this work, Susan McVie and Allison Kurpiel are developing a data linkage project on policing mental health distress.

Evidence from the Policing the Pandemic in Scotland project, led by Susan McVie, fed into the UK Covid Inquiry and the Independent Commission on UK Public Health Emergency Powers. Research findings suggest that patterns of police enforcement may reflect underlying inequalities in the impact of Covid.

# Seldom Heard Communities Grant - To Be Seen and Heard: Developing Photovoice as a Method for The Police to Engage with Young People in Under-Served Communities - Impact Update



**Dr Andrew James Williams**  
*Senior Lecturer and  
Co-Director for SCPHRP,  
University of Edinburgh*



**Professor Katrina Wyatt**  
*University of Exeter*



THE UNIVERSITY  
of EDINBURGH



The 'To be seen and heard' project was funded as part of the Seldom Heard Communities grants. Within the project we found that it was feasible and acceptable for police officers to deliver a photovoice project with young people in Wallacetown, Ayr.

The photographs and interviews gave stark insights into life in the community that we might not gain otherwise. These insights and the creativity of the approach led to interest from the Police in developing the technique further following the April 2023 collaborative event.

The work in Wallacetown has continued, and during the week 15th-20th April 2024 they held the first Wallacetown Community Arts Festival. This was made possible thanks to the South Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership, Ayr United Football Academy and local arts social enterprise, The Iris. The festival was described as 'a celebration of the rich history of Wallacetown, embracing the wonderful talent of the present and laying the foundations for a bright and creative future.' Photos from the photovoice project were exhibited as part of the festival, to recognise the work of the participants and reflect on the continuing changes in Wallacetown.

Within the project we had used disposable cameras for a number of practical and ethical reasons. Firstly, this meant that anyone could participate, you did not need

to have your own camera/smart phone. Next, there was no possibility that people could delete or edit a photo once it had been taken, and as each camera had a unique ID, participants did not need to share contact details with us if they did not want too. However, using disposable cameras created a number of challenges, most notably the time it takes to send them away and get the photos developed. Subsequently, we are now looking at developing a digital tool through which members of the public could anonymously submit photos and dictated or typed commentary to the police or other public service. We are continuing to work with Police Scotland and the Scottish Violence Reduction Unit to develop and test the tool, which we hope could become an additional route of communication between people living in an area and those working in an area as well as a data generation tool for projects on specific topics. The tool will work with apps that many of us already use, and be free for the public to use.

The demonstration of the impact of photographs within the 'To be seen and heard' project has led us to continue to include photovoice as part of our ongoing research. There is increasing recognition of the health benefits that arise when we are empowered and take control over our circumstances, known as health creation. Subsequently, continuing to work with adolescents we are exploring photography and other methods to help them crowdsource and lobby for change. Within the project we were able to better see and hear the community as the community members experience it, demonstrating that there was plenty being said in the community if you know how to listen.



# Emotional Labour and Public Protection Policing: Impact on and Experiences of Officers

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



It is widely acknowledged that policing is a profession that is inherently stressful and in the course of 'routine work', police officers often work in situations which are emotionally demanding. The connection between the emotional demands of operational policing and poor mental and physical health among police officers and police staff is well documented. However, while it is recognised that some specific roles or types of police work are more emotionally demanding than others, such as those typically dealt with by Public Protection Units, there is a paucity of research on how those demands are managed (or not) by the officers involved.

The emotional demands of policing on officers can be understood through the concept of emotional labour (Hochschild, 2013). Emotional labour refers to the way employees regulate their own personal emotions in order to display organizationally desired ones. This can be achieved by suppressing emotions that are personally felt but not 'desirable' within the context of a particular role, and expressing emotions that may not be personally felt, but are expected within that role. Work exploring emotional labour in policing is limited, but the small body of work that does exist suggests that the complex nature of policing may give rise to contradictions that result in high degrees of emotional labour. Similarly, what is less well understood is how officers engage in emotional labour and emotion management.

Emotional labour, in and of itself is not harmful, but research suggests that poor emotion management in policing leads to poor performance, isolation, cynicism, exhaustion, burnout, impaired personal relationships and PTSD. Effective police work relies on the ability of officers to express and manage their emotions appropriately and authentically. This research explores the emotional labour of public protection officers in Police Scotland, the impact on, and emotion management strategies of officers, how emotions and emotion management are mediated by organisational, departmental and role values and demands and the role of organisational culture in emotion management.

A purposive sample was drawn of 22 police officers from the ranks of Detective Constable to Detective Superintendent working in all remit areas of public protection, both divisional and national. Officers had service ranging from 11-32 years and experience within public protection ranging from 2-18 years. Each officer took part in an individual, online semi-structured interview. Interviews were thematically analysed guided by the aims, objectives and research questions, while taking cognisance of new and emergent themes.

Officers in the study describe a range of emotions experienced in their work, including joy, achievement, satisfaction, pride in their work, camaraderie, anger, disbelief, sadness, frustration and empathy, some of which can be expressed, while others are suppressed in order to maintain what they feel is a professional image, and that they perceive is expected of them by the organisation and by the public they serve. Officers use a range of strategies to manage emotions and the labour required to address the conflict between organisational display rules and the emotions their work elicits. Some of these strategies are adaptive, while others may be problematic longer term. It is clear from the findings that many officers engage in strategies that involve an element of avoidance, deferral and distancing. While some officers were able to identify a range of resources to draw on, including effective supervision and management, and peer support, officers were also critical





of some organisational responses they felt lacked nuance and were perceived to be disingenuous. Some officers identified a positive shift in culture and attitudes towards emotional display and emotion management, often led by good supervision, supportive colleagues and a positive team environment. However, some officers articulated a continued culture of fear around discussing emotions or support seeking and the consequences for this such as lack of promotion, or being viewed as 'weak', rooted in enduring patterns of police culture.

Given that public protection policing is emotionally demanding, it needs resilient individuals at every rank. Having reflected on the findings and experience of the officers involved in the study, we identified 12 factors that officers identified as promoting good emotional wellbeing in this context. We have conceptualised these as the 12 Rs: Resilience; Resistance; Resources; Response; Rest; Relief; Repair; Recovery; Recognition; Respect; Reward; and Reflection. Some of these Rs are individual, in that they represent characteristics or strategies of individual officers, and some are structural, as they reflect either culture or practice of the organisation, and some are mediated by each other. This conceptualisation may have utility and application to other areas of policing and emotionally demanding roles in other professions.

For more information, please see the final project report of this SIPR funded research:

Taylor, M. & McMillan, L. (2024) Emotional labour and public protection policing: The experience and impact of emotional labour on Police Scotland public protection police officers, Scottish Institute for Policing Research





# Exploring and Evaluating the Disclosure Scheme for Domestic Abuse in Scotland (DSDAS)

**Professor Lesley McMillan | Dr Andrew Tickell, Glasgow Caledonian University**



The Domestic Abuse Disclosure Scheme for Scotland (DSDAS) gives individuals a "right to ask" about their partner's abusive past and affords the police the "power to tell" individuals information about a partner if they consider they are at risk from domestic abuse. Domestic abuse disclosure schemes have been established in a number of common law jurisdictions, in the UK and internationally, and their appropriateness and efficacy in these jurisdictions have been examined by a number of scholars. This SIPR-funded project is the first to critically examine the scheme in Scotland.

The project addresses a number of important areas: who makes applications to the scheme and what prompts their concern; how do individuals react to the information they receive, or do not receive; how do those who apply for, or receive, information through the scheme experience the process; how do professionals engaging with or administering the scheme experience the process; and how are national level policies and procedures enacted at the local level.

This SIPR funded research uses a mixed method approach, including: analysis of Police Scotland policy and public-facing documentation for the scheme; interviews with police officers administering the scheme; interviews with those who have applied for information or received it through the scheme; and interviews with support services professionals supporting those who have applied for or received information. Analysis of policy documentation is complete, and analysis of all other data in its final stages.

Findings from the analysis of DSDAS policy and public-facing documentation offer a critique of four key elements of the Scottish scheme including (a) its accessibility and transparency, (b) Police Scotland's understanding of the legal basis for making disclosures under it, and the Scottish scheme's approach to defining (c) what constitutes "domestic abuse" and (d) qualifying relationships where information may be requested and shared. The findings show lack of accessibility

and transparency in the operation of the Scottish disclosure scheme and identify a degree of ambiguity in the guidance documentation about the legal basis for Police Scotland's powers to disclose information about individuals who may pose a risk to their current or former partners. Both of these findings raise important questions about the lawfulness of the disclosure scheme as currently realised in Scotland. Our analysis of the scheme also suggests a degree of under-regulation – not only of what counts as a relationship qualifying for disclosure under DSDAS – but also about what kinds of behaviour Police Scotland regards as susceptible to disclosure under it.

We offer three practical suggestions for how Police Scotland can address these issues, increasing the transparency and accessibility of the DSDAS scheme, reducing risks the lawfulness of this policy will be challenged in court, and better aligning DSDAS with prevailing understandings of domestic abuse articulated in Scots law and policy and the diversity of modern relationships.

See: McMillan, L., & Tickell, A. (2024). *Lawful, Proportionate and Necessary? A Critical Examination of the Domestic Abuse Disclosure Scheme for Scotland*. *Feminists@law*, 13(1). <https://doi.org/10.22024/UniKent/03/fal.1261>

# Responsive Research Fund – Anti-Discrimination in the Context of Policing



**Professor Zoe Morrison**  
*Institute for Educational and Social Equity*



**Professor Paul Miller**  
*Institute for Educational and Social Equity*



**Dr Myrtle Emmanuel**  
*Institute for Educational and Social Equity*



**Dr Kenisha Linton**  
*Institute for Educational and Social Equity*



Professor Zoe Morrison of the Institute for Educational and Social Equity submitted a successful application to the SIPR Responsive Research. This fund is a dedicated allocation for SIPR's policing partners to identify and support research in areas of strategic priority, in this case, the topic of anti-discrimination in policing.

While crucial initiatives addressing racism within the UK policing context emerged in the 1990s, prompted by landmark events and public inquiries, persistent racism and discrimination persist, as acknowledged in

Police Race Action Plan (2022) and Lady Casey's report (2023) into institutional racism in the Metropolitan Police. Addressing racism and discrimination in policing presents challenges and opportunities to improve practice. The terms "institutional racism" and "institutional discrimination" evoke strong reactions, prompting their dismissal as irrelevant to workplace dynamics (Smith et al., 2020). Recognising the urgency to combat racism, anti-racism as an individual and organisational practice has gained increased acceptance in the UK (Miller, 2021; Ogbonna, 2023). Organisational leaders are becoming more comfortable addressing institutional and structural racism through various anti-racist strategies and tools (Miller 2023).

## AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The project team will conduct a systematic review of peer-reviewed articles and grey literature considering

the conceptualisation and implementation of anti-racism within policing to inform understanding of related policies and how they might be prioritised, implemented, and evaluated. We will:

1. Examine the operationalisation of organisational anti-racism;
2. Characterise means of assessment of organisational anti-racism;
3. Identify the concepts and constructs relevant to assessing the development and embedding of anti-racist policies and practice in policing;
4. Discuss the findings in relation to Police Scotland's strategic themes.

This project is currently underway with results expected by the start of the next academic year.





# SILENT HARM: Empowering deaf women surviving domestic violence post-Covid: An inclusive approach to resilience & recovery in rural areas



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*Heriot-Watt University*



**Lucy Clark**  
*Heriot-Watt University*



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*Trinity College Dublin*



**Lianne Quigley**  
*Trinity College Dublin*



**Trinity College Dublin**  
Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath  
The University of Dublin

## BACKGROUND

This project was funded through a Royal Society of Edinburgh-Royal Irish Academy Scotland-Ireland Bilateral Network Grant and sought to empower deaf women who have experienced domestic violence by delivering training to police officers and sign language interpreters in rural areas in Scotland and Ireland in collaboration with Police Scotland, An Garda Síochána, and deaf community organisations Deaf Links (Dundee, Scotland) and the Irish Deaf Society. The training drew on evidence and resources developed as part of a previous collaborative project (*Justisigns 2*) – and focused on best practices for working together.

## OBJECTIVES OF THE PROJECT

- continue the collaboration between the European Commission funded Justisigns 2 project Scottish and Irish partners to produce academic journal outputs
- deliver the training materials developed as part of the Justisigns 2 project to police officers and interpreters in two rural areas in Scotland and two rural areas in Ireland.
- provide 'Train the Trainer' workshops in Scotland and Ireland in order to skill up a group of police and interpreter educators to use the training materials on an on-going basis to ensure the sustainability of the training and ensure capacity and capability building for future trainers.





## OUTPUTS

- 2 in person network meetings (one in Dublin & one in Edinburgh)
- 4 masterclass training workshops in rural locations (2 Ireland, 2 Scotland)
- 2 'train the trainer' workshops – one online in the UK and one in Dublin
- Collaborative workshop with Police Scotland and other stakeholders to revise the Domestic Abuse Questionnaire (DAQ) into plain English, making them more straight forward to translate into any language, including BSL. This has now been approved and is used by officers conducting risk assessments throughout Scotland
- A hybrid event on to launch a [documentary](#) on deaf women's experiences of accessing support when reporting domestic violence that was created as part of the Justisigns 2 project and to promote the new RSE-RIA funded project.
- A [BSL version](#) of a [poster](#) of '10 tips' for police in communicating with deaf women through sign language interpreters that was created as part of the Justisigns 2 project

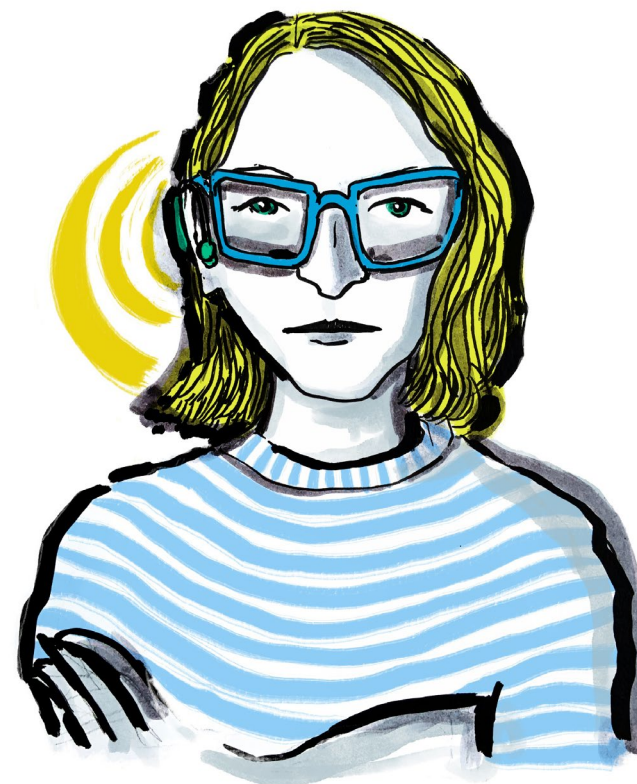
- [18 videos of terms/ short phrases in BSL](#) that would be useful for police to use if encountering a deaf person to complement a glossary of domestic violence related terms already created as part of the Justisigns 2 project.
- A meeting between the project team and Police Scotland and the An Garda Síochána in Dublin discuss how to further embed the training materials and resources into training for police officers in Scotland and Ireland, and how there could be greater collaboration between the two forces going forward to support further research. This meeting was facilitated through this project and success of the training.
- Completion of 1 [research report](#) based on survey of police officers and interpreters conducted as part of the Justisigns 2 project.
- Submission of 1 journal article: Napier, J., Clark, L., Leeson, L. & Quigley, L. (in press/ 2024). "I faced so many barriers": Access to support for deaf female survivors of domestic violence in the UK. *Just. Journal of Language Rights & Minorities*, Revista de Drepturi Lingvistice și Minorități 3(1), 97-141. <https://doi.org/10.7203/Just.3.27933>. (Due for publication 22 April 2024)

More information about the project available here: <https://lifeinlincs.org/?p=3173>

Drawing on internal Heriot-Watt University Impact Acceleration Funding we were also able to create further pathways to impact:

- Translation of all DAQ questions into BSL for the Police Scotland internal sharepoint which could be used as a resource to support deaf survivors and interpreters in interviews

- Translation of domestic abuse information on the Police Scotland website into BSL for accessibility of information
- Hosting of hybrid 'Deaf Women's Safety' community information event on 12 March 2024, co-delivered with officers from Police Scotland and Contact Scotland BSL ggg service, Deaf Links & Cats Protection. The event provided information from the Justisigns 2 and SILENT HARM projects on how deaf people can report domestic abuse, access support & also make sure their pets are protected if they want to leave an abusive relationship. More information about the event available here: [LinkedIn](#)





# The Impact of COVID-19 on Partnerships Between Police and GBV Service Providers in Remote, Rural and Island Communities in Scotland



**Professor Sarah Pedersen**  
Robert Gordon University



**Dr Natascha Mueller-Hirt**  
Robert Gordon University



**Dr Leia Miller**  
Robert Gordon University

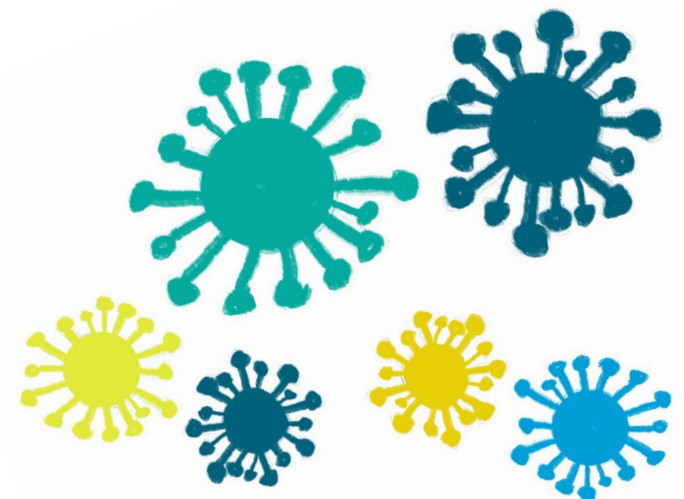


Even though one-fifth of the Scottish population lives in remote, rural and island communities, there has been limited research into the impact of gender-based violence (GBV) in these areas. Studies of rural policing of this kind of violence remain particularly rare, despite the fact that such communities offer particular challenges for the policing of GBV.

The challenges faced by victims of GBV were further heightened by the COVID-19 pandemic and its associated lockdowns, which typically led to abusers spending more time with their victims and also using lockdown conditions to intensify or conceal their violence.

Our project, funded by SIPR, investigated the impact of the pandemic on partnerships between the police and third-sector GBV service providers in rural, remote and island communities in Scotland. We undertook a series of interviews with representatives of third-sector organisations and police officers of various experience and ranks, from community and response officers to members of specialist task forces. The interviews were undertaken during 2022. Until this point, organisations had been forced to focus on reacting quickly to continuously changing circumstances, and the project offered an opportunity to assess how, and how well, they had responded to challenges afforded by COVID-19.

Our findings suggest that – despite its obvious challenges – the pandemic offered a moment when those working in rural and remote policing in Scotland were able to take a more flexible approach to working with GBV victims and third-sector organisations, and that many of these innovations are continuing into a post-pandemic world. However, it is also clear that the pandemic exacerbated existing problems for the policing of GBV in remote and rural communities in Scotland, particularly in relation to already strained resources and court delays. Our findings have led to recommendations relating to the use of digital-communication tools, the need for more specialist training for police officers in rural areas, and for more female police officers in these areas, given victim-survivors' clear preference to speak to women.



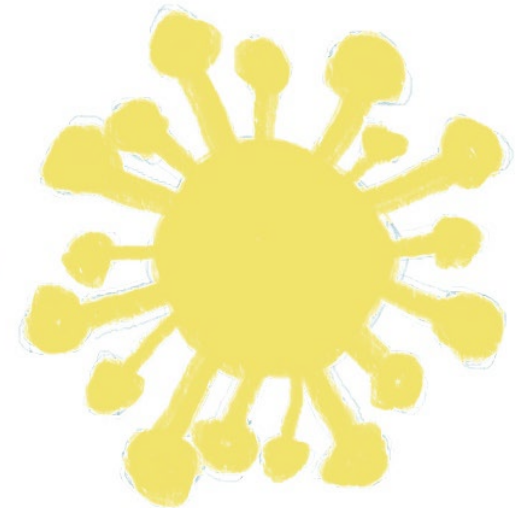
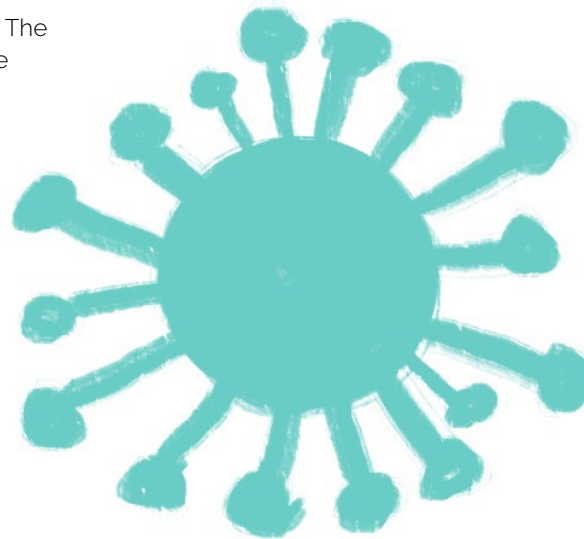
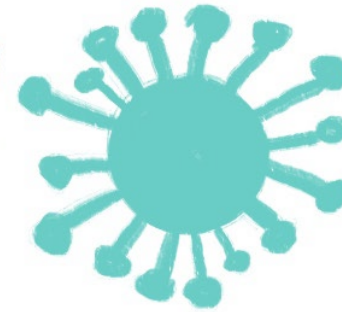


While the project has led to academic publications, a report and webinars, a key pathway to impact was the production of a short film, which has engaged viewers and offered a more accessible way of disseminating our findings and recommendations.

The film and report were launched at a webinar in September 2023. Participants included MSPs, councillors, police officers, and representatives of third-sector organisations. In addition to the webinar the team has used a number of engagement strategies to widen the impact of the project. These have included a submission to the 2023 UK Government Women and Equalities Committee Enquiry on the escalation of violence toward women and girls, and contributions to Scottish Parliament Roundtables and a Justice Directorate event on the subject of GBV. A motion praising our research was submitted to the Scottish Parliament in February 2024.

The team has undertaken two additional webinars, for the National Rural Mental Health Forum and as part of the School of Applied Social Studies' Community Webinar series at RGU. Outputs from the project are now used in the training of social workers at RGU.

In November 2023 the team was awarded the SIPR Impact Award. The project was also short-listed for Research Project of the Year at the Herald Higher Education Awards.





# Research-informed education resources to divert young sports' people in Scotland from becoming involved in serious organised crime



**Professor David Lavallee**  
Abertay University



**Andrea Cameron**  
Abertay University



Police Scotland's Specialist Crime Division had identified sports competition manipulation as an emerging priority to focus on as part of the implementation of the Serious Organised Crime Strategy and collaborated with Abertay University and the Serious Organised Crime Task Force on the development of a programme to divert young people in Scotland from becoming involved in serious organised crime through sport.

The research conducted by Abertay was used to underpin the content for a film<sup>1</sup> and associated education pack<sup>2</sup> produced by Police Scotland, entitled "The Fix". This documents a fictional story depicting a young person's involvement in match fixing and is designed to educate young people about making informed choices regarding serious organised crime in sport. SIPR networks helped promote the launch of the project.

Police Scotland independently evaluated the impact through a survey completed by 144 young people in Scotland who had watched the film as part of organised

sessions in sports clubs (Participants: aged 12-19; 45% female, 53% male, 2% did not answer).

The following impact outcomes were demonstrated based on the survey results:

- I now understand how criminals involved in serious organised crime engage in match fixing (97% either strongly agree or agree);
- I now understand the positive and negative effects of an open social media account (93% either strongly agree or agree);
- I now understand the legal and personal risks and consequences of match fixing and gambling in sport (87% either strongly agree or agree);
- I can now identify trigger points when a young person makes a wrong decision (93% either strongly agree or agree);
- The extent to which I agree or disagree that the information provided in the session will be useful in the future (94% either strongly agree or agree);
- The extent to which, following the session, I'd ask for advice from others if someone I didn't know approached me offering advice or representation (94% either strongly agree or agree).

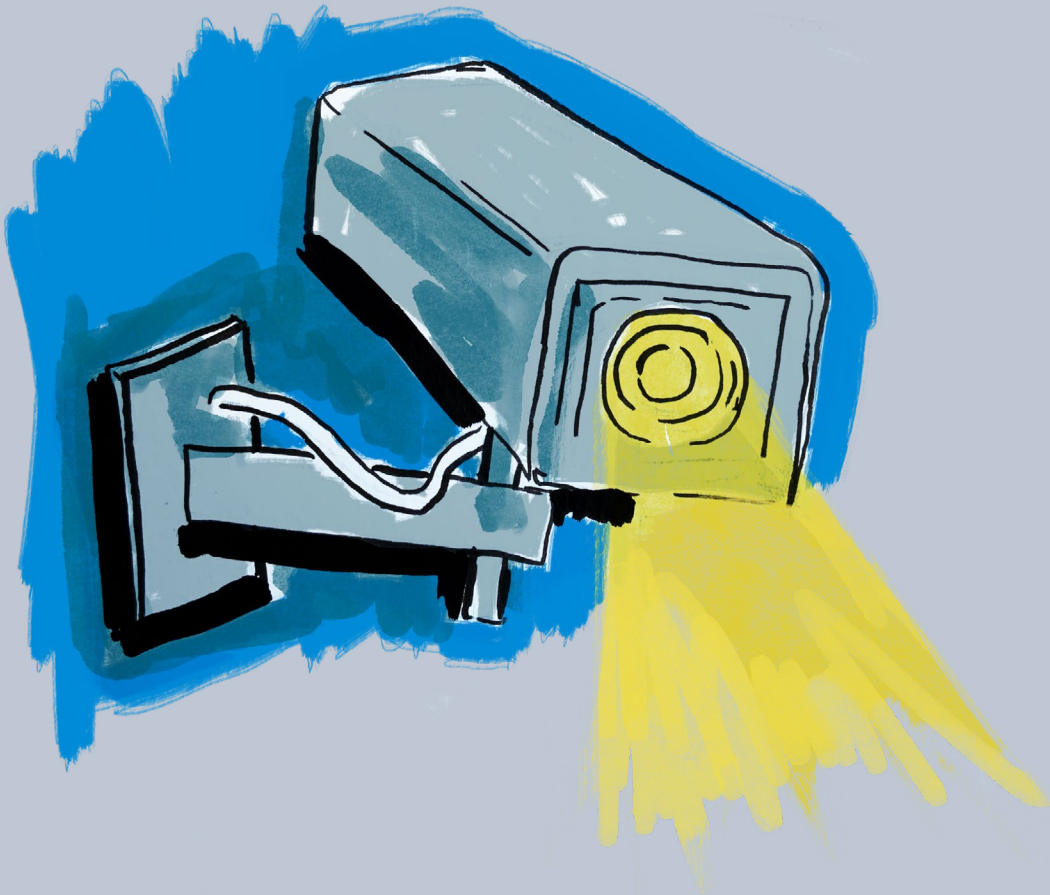
The following is a testimonial from Police Scotland:

*"We approached Abertay after identifying match fixing in sport as a strategic area to focus on to divert young people away from serious organised crime in Scotland, as Scotland's Serious Organised Crime Strategy highlighted the need for an evidence-based understanding to inform new initiatives. Following the research, they produced a report and were actively involved in sharing their findings with us with a focus on achieving the impact. This greatly helped in our decision-making and improved the messages in the film we created, called The Fix. They contributed to the successful funding application for the creation of the film, and collaborated with us in developing a teaching pack. Once launched, they continued to promote the project by publishing a journal article about the research<sup>3</sup>. We were very pleased with the outcomes from our survey and the reach and effect of change."*

1. <https://vimeo.com/407629867/5371466416>
2. <https://www.abertay.ac.uk/media/itumwhkh/the-fix-teaching-pack.pdf>
3. <https://doi.org/10.1080/21520704.2022.2121795>







strategic  
priority 2:  
**technology and  
digital policing**

## strategic priority two

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.

### RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS:

Drs Ben Collier, Shane Horgan and colleagues on The Influence Policing Project have been awarded the Best Impact Award in the Data-Led Project category for the Centre for Data, Culture and Society Digital Research Prizes 2024 at the Edinburgh Futures Institute. Dr Ben Collier has also recently published a book "Tor: From the Dark Web to the Future of Privacy"

Professor Aston and Dr Clayton co-edited a Special Issue of the European Journal of Police Studies on Policing in a Digitalized World.

Easton, M., de Paepe, J., Aston, E., & Clayton, E. (2024). The Tip of the Iceberg: Exploring the Landscape of Policing in a Digitalized World. *European Journal of Policing Studies*, 7(1-2), 3- 13. <https://doi.org/10.5553/ejps.000018>.

Wells, H., Andrews, W., Clayton, E., Bradford, B., Aston, E., O'Neill, M. (2024) "Free Text Is Essentially the Enemy of What We're Trying to Achieve": The Framing of a National Vision for Delivering Digital Police Contact', *European Journal of Policing Studies*, 14-35

Collier, B. (2023) The UK uses targeted Facebook ads to deter migrants. Now Meta is releasing the data. [New Lines Magazine](#).

### IMPROVING THE EVIDENTIAL VALUE OF INTERVIEW REPORTS WITH CONFIDENCE STATEMENTS

Investigators may need to prioritise leads from informants or witnesses, e.g. when predicting future steps of offenders. Research from our lab, led by a PhD candidate Didem Nur Yurdakul, shows that confidence statements collected at the end of interviews predict accuracy and therefore can help indicate reliable leads.

Collier, B. (2024) Targeted social media ads are influencing our behaviour – and the government uses them too. [Conversation UK](#).

SIPR has published the final report on Dr Ben Jones's study of fingerprint recovery from polymer banknotes. One-step cyanoacrylate techniques can be most useful on recently issued notes, but effectiveness falls off with degradation of the notes due to circulation; vacuum metal deposition is more effective on more degraded notes. <https://www.sipr.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/Jones-Developing-Fingermarks-on-Circulated-Scottish-Banknotes-Final-Report-v1.02-Release.pdf>

As part of a larger project exploring how public interactions and encounters with the police and wider forms of 'policing' are changing, and increasingly becoming mediated and distributed through digital and predictive technologies, Alistair Henry of Edinburgh Law School published [Digital Ritual](#), examining potential and risks associated with attempts at 'authentic' engagement using social media.



## KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE HIGHLIGHTS:

Professor Liz Aston chaired the Digital Justice and Policing Conference 2023 at the Technology and Innovation Centre at the University of Strathclyde. Professor Aston also chaired the Digital Policing Conference 2024 online. High-level keynotes provided updates on the national progress in digital transformation, followed by best practice case studies in enhancing workforce digital skills, strengthening data competencies, and applying new technologies to improve outcomes.

Prof Aston delivered a presentation on Investigating New Types of Engagement, Response and Contact Technologies in Policing to the Crime and Society Research Group at Vrije Universiteit Brussel in April and Dr Clayton and Dr Skinner presented at EdSignsin May 2024, communicating emerging findings from the INTERACT project's focus groups with deaf BSL users in England and Scotland regarding their experiences of digitally-mediated police contact and the implications of this for experiences of procedural justice.

The Final Report of the IAG on Emerging Technologies in Policing is having impacts, with a SLWG established to drive and oversee changes. Impacts include the introduction of a 'Rights Based Pathway' and a 'Data Ethics Triage' process to support decision making for the introduction of technology, bringing improvements to governance and public consultation processes.

Members of the Scottish Centre for Administrative Data Research presented on 'The Secret World of Data' as part of the Royal Society of Edinburgh's 'Curious' Festival. Susan McVie showed how data linkage was being used to understand the relationship between health vulnerabilities and police enforcement during the pandemic.

Susan McVie has been appointed by Ministers to the Scottish Government's new Scotstat Board of Official Statistics. The Board, co-chaired by Professor Sir John Curtice and Professor Anahid Basiri, will provide recommendations, advice and critical challenge to the Chief Statistician on the production and dissemination of Scottish devolved statistics.

Posters on studies of: Powder suspension formulations for fingermark development; rapid screening analysis of explosive residues; alternative light sources for trace evidence detection, and AI analysis of alcohol elimination were among the research displayed by project students at Abertay University's Generation Science degree day 8th May 2024.



# Investigating New Types of Engagement, Response, and Contact Technologies in Policing (INTERACT)



**Professor Liz Aston**  
*(PI), Edinburgh Napier University*



**Dr Helen Wells**  
*(Co-I), Keele University*



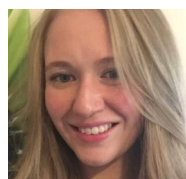
**Dr Megan O'Neill**  
*(Co-I), University of Dundee*



**Professor Ben Bradford**  
*(Co-I), University College London*



**Dr Will Andrews**  
*Post-Doctoral Research Fellow, Keele University*



**Dr Estelle Clayton**  
*Post-Doctoral Research Fellow, Edinburgh Napier University*



**Dr Robert Skinner**  
*Heriot-Watt University*



**Dr Arabella Kyprianides**  
*University College London*



INTERACT (Investigating New Types of Engagement, Response and Contact Technologies in Policing) is a large three-year ESRC funded study of the use of technology in interactions between the police and public.

INTERACT commenced in 2021 and explores recent shifts towards technologically mediated contact, to explore whether, and how, police organisations can pursue their aims of providing a procedurally just experience for users, and build legitimacy with various publics, whilst fundamentally changing the nature and form of police contact from in-person contact to forms of contact, that are entirely, or partially, mediated by technology. These include online and digital reporting, social media,

Body Worn Video, police Mobile Data Terminals and drones. The project also seeks to advance current theorisation of procedural justice to take account of technologically mediated interaction and its compatibility with police legitimacy.

We work closely with three UK police forces to explore the following research questions.

1. How do the police and public experience and perceive technologically mediated contact across the UK in a diverse range of contexts?
2. What is the potential impact of different types of technologically mediated contact on police legitimacy for various publics?
3. What does 'visible' and 'accessible' policing mean in the digital age, to both the police and various publics?



4. What is the role of technologically mediated contact in building police legitimacy, and how can police organisations best work towards this end?
5. How can theories of legitimacy and procedural justice be developed such that they are applicable in times of rapid technological development?

This project has employed an innovative mix of qualitative and quantitative methodologies to pursue a broad understanding of technologically mediated police contact as both a police and a public experience. This has included interviews with police officers and police staff involved with technology provision in contact scenarios and strategic decision-making at national and force-levels. We have also undertaken two large-scale ethnographies across urban and rural sites in England and Scotland, as well as observations of service centres and digital-design workshops. In addition, we have undertaken focus groups with the general public in our case study sites, as well as interviews and focus groups with two identified communities of interest: the BSL-using D/deaf community and autistic individuals. Our quantitative component has deployed a series of online experiments probing responses to technologically mediated police-public interactions, both physical and online, exploring key procedural justice concepts.

We have been disseminating emerging findings to key stakeholders and at academic conferences and at our end of project conference on the 4th of June 2024 we welcomed representatives from police forces, the public, and key stakeholders to a discussion of the policy and practice implications of our research.

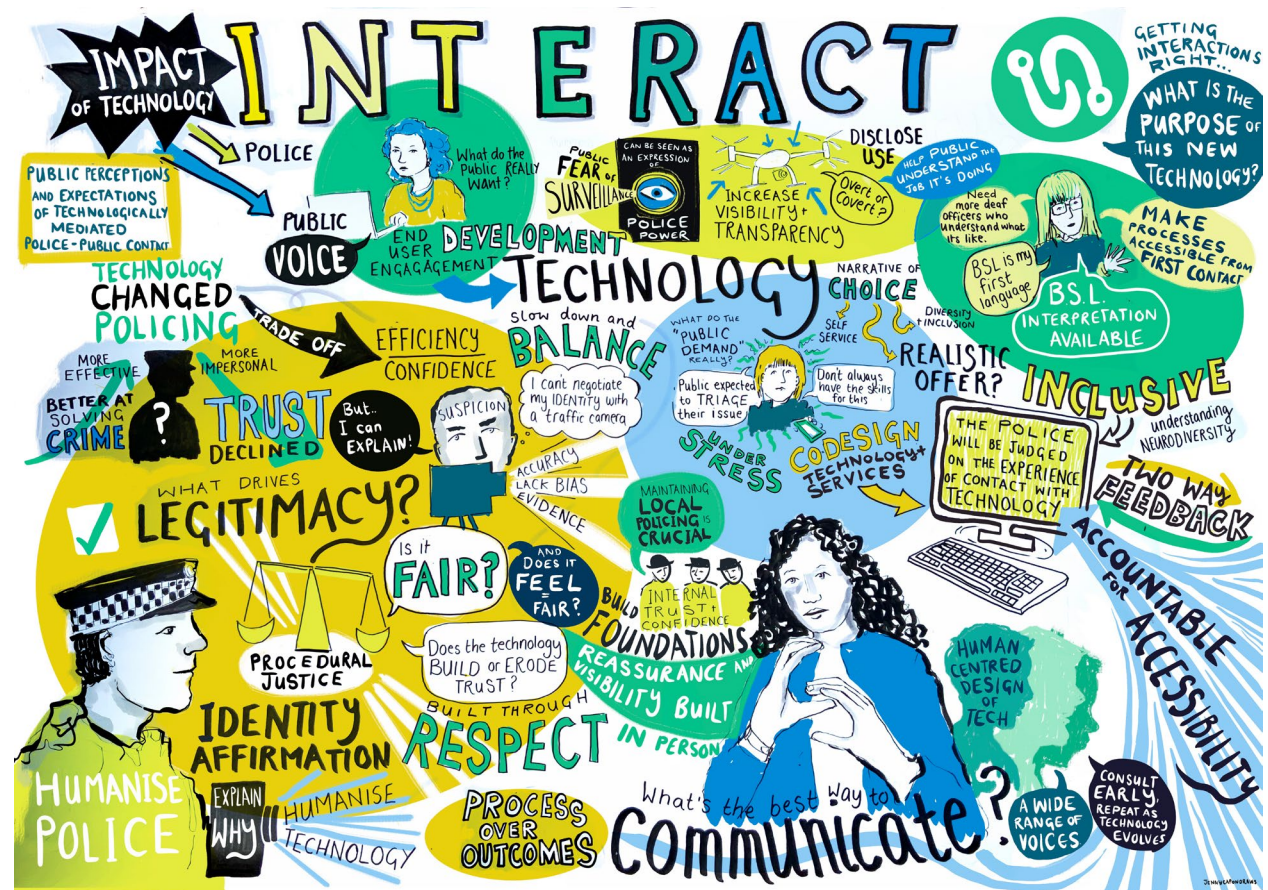
**RELATED OUTPUTS:**

Bradford B, Aston E, O'Neill M, Wells H. (2022) Virtual policing', trust and legitimacy In *The Abstract Police: Critical reflections on contemporary change in police organisations*. Eleven International Publishing

Aston E, Wells H, Bradford B, O'Neill M. (2022) Technology and Police Legitimacy In *Policing in Smart Societies*. pp43-68. Springer

Wells, H.M., Aston, E.V., Bradford, B., O'Neill, M., Clayton, E. and Andrews, W., 2023. 'Channel shift': Technologically mediated policing and procedural justice. *International Journal of Police Science & Management*, 25(1), pp.42-52.

Wells, H., Andrews, W., Clayton, E., Bradford, B., Aston, E.V. and O'Neill, M., 2024. "Free Text Is Essentially the Enemy of What We're Trying to Achieve": The Framing of a National Vision for Delivering Digital Police Contact. *European Journal of Policing Studies*, 7(1-2).



# Influence Policing in Scotland and the UK



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*University of Edinburgh*



**Dr Shane Horgan**  
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**Dr Lydia Wilson**  
*University of Cambridge*



**Dr Daniel R. Thomas**  
*University of Strathclyde*



THE UNIVERSITY  
of EDINBURGH



Influence policing is an emerging phenomenon: the use of digital targeted 'nudge' communications campaigns by police forces and law enforcement agencies to directly achieve strategic policing outcomes.

While scholarship, civil society, and journalism have focused on political influence and targeting (often by malicious actors), there has been next to no research on the use of these influence techniques and technologies by governments for preventative law enforcement. With grant funding from SIPR and support from The Scottish Centre for Crime and Justice Research (SCCJR), we have studied how this novel mode of police practice is developing through an in-depth study of Police Scotland's strategic communications unit and a wider systematic overview of these campaigns across the UK.

The spread of this approach shows the clear (if still embryonic) emergence of a novel mode of operational policing (influence policing) - and a new kind of 'frontline' police sub-profession (the influence officer). Police communications officers are

attempting to shape the culture and the behaviour of the public directly through behavioural marketing campaigns in order to achieve core strategic priorities around crime prevention. The digital tools provided by social media platforms allow them to find specific groups that are harder to reach - to project power and stake ownership of crime problems and online harms in digital spaces in which the police presence has struggled to establish itself.

We begin with an overview of the current landscape of digital communications, setting out the history and context of Police Scotland's use of strategic communications approaches. We then discuss our study design and methods. This empirical section of this study is split into three sub-reports. The first of these is a study of Police Scotland's strategic communications team, involving interviews and document-based research. The second is a review of four case studies of campaigns run by law enforcement in Scotland, based on analysis of key campaign documents. The third report extends the scope to all law enforcement digital campaigns run in the UK on Meta platforms, and is accompanied by a dataset of 12,000 campaign segments, how they were targeted, and audience data. We then discuss our key findings across the research project. In our final chapter, we give a set of key conclusions and recommendations.





Based on our research, we make a number of recommendations within the following five key areas. Our detailed recommendations can be found in Chapter 7 of the report.

This report covers an initial overview of the use of strategic communications in the UK, with a particular focus on Scotland. However, several key questions remain unanswered or only partly-understood; substantial additional research is needed into this important emerging phenomenon. Further research is needed into how law enforcement practitioners across the UK (and across a range of policy areas) are adapting these communications techniques for preventative law enforcement. The role of private sector consultancies across this landscape is a crucial aspect of this developing set of practices; we also have little understanding of how the platforms and social media sites - Facebook, Twitter, Google, and others - are adapting to these new use cases. Complementing this research, there is a need for a better appraisal of how these campaigns are being experienced by the public (especially communities that are heavily targeted).

For the full project report with key findings and all recommendations, please head over to the SIPR [website](#) and search under Publications.

## Basil's Cyber Marathon



### **Basil Manoussos**

*School of Computing, Engineering & Built Environment (SCEBE), Edinburgh Napier University*



Basil is The Cyber Academy Manager, at the School of Computing, Engineering & Built Environment (SCEBE) at Edinburgh Napier University. He is also a forensic scientist, with more than 14 years of experience as an Expert Witness in digital forensics and digital evidence.

The Cyber Marathon was the culmination of years of public engagement aiming to inform the public, businesses, charities and governments on all issues related to online threats, crime and risks.

This engagement was developed to include other aspects of cyber, including industry trends, predictions and information on how different sectors deal and cope (or do not cope, for that matter) with Cyber challenges.

Most people perceive everything that has to do with online threats as a "technical" issue, for "those who understand computers", whereas the truth is that it is more about people, behaviours and states of mind.

This goes for all sectors of our society, from teenagers and pensioners to businesses and charities.

The Cyber Marathon has a plethora of special guests, all experts and specialists in their domains, providing a more comprehensive approach to Cyber Scotland Week, than ever before.

For full information on the marathon, please head over to the dedicated [website](#) or by searching Basil's Cyber Marathon online.

# Examining the Impact of Emotion on Memory of Single and Repeated Events Using VR



**Dr Eva Rubinova**  
*University of Aberdeen*



## BACKGROUND

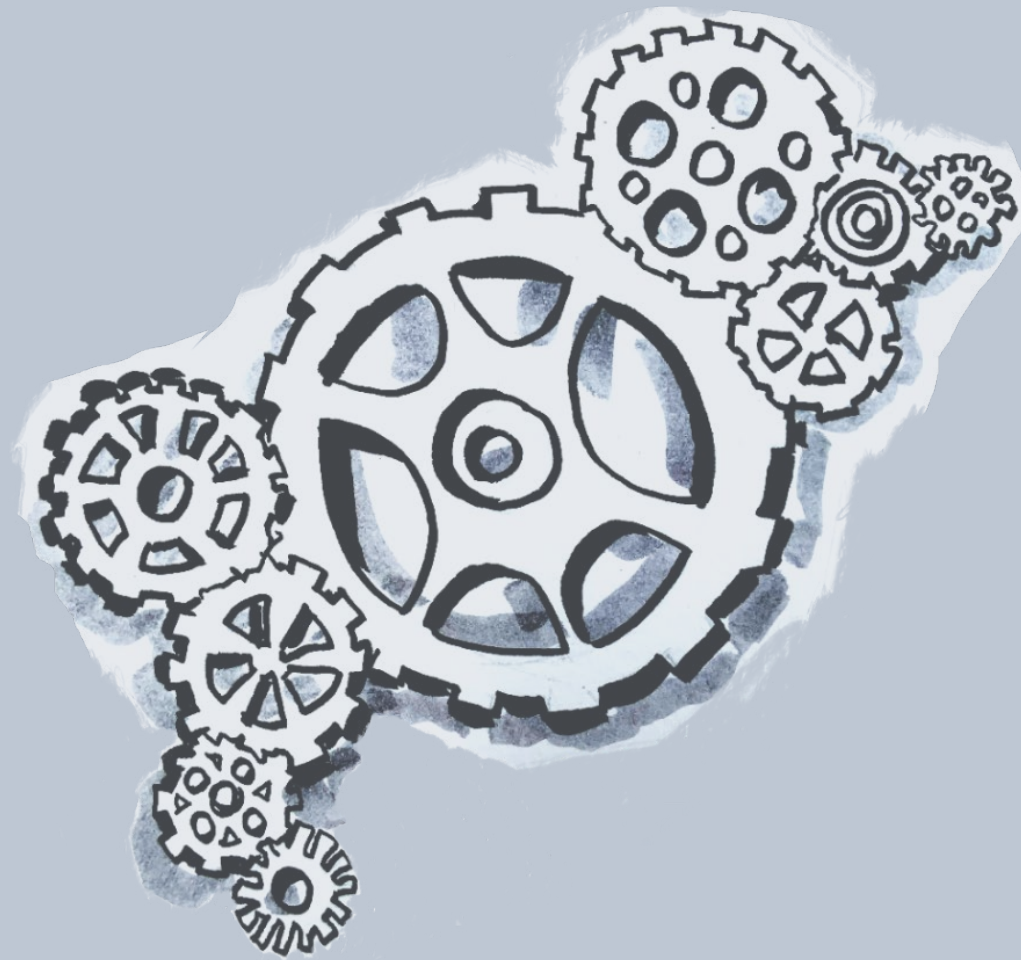
In eyewitness memory research, participants typically view videos (models of real-life events) and later report what they remember from them. Although videos may capture complex events, researchers in the applied memory field increasingly recognize the need for more ecologically valid methods. For example, when trying to understand what witnesses may remember from emotionally stressful experiences, researchers have assessed the impact of various methods of emotion induction while few studies have focused directly on memory for experiences that are emotionally negative. Technological advancements such as virtual reality (VR) may offer a solution in the form of highly immersive experiences simulating complex scenarios that may compare to real-world experiences when it comes to memory.

## PROJECT AIMS

The proposed project builds on an ongoing collaboration between Rubinova, van Veen, director of the Saxion Extended Reality lab Saxion University of Applied Sciences, NL, and Zibrek, Researcher at Inria institute, University of Rennes, FR. The team are currently co-supervising a team of developers at Saxion Extended Reality lab creating scenarios portraying interpersonal conflict consistent with early stages of domestic abuse and matched neutral/positive scenarios. In experiments using these stimuli, participants will take the role of witnesses who will later be interviewed about these experiences in a mock case of domestic abuse. The main aims of the proof-of-concept research is to: (1) develop the VR stimuli, (2) validate the stimuli for the manipulation of emotion, and (3) collect pilot data to inform power analyses for further grant development.

## SIGNIFICANCE

Outcomes of this proof-of-concept project together with a partnership with SIPR will provide a base for an ESRC New Investigator Grant (targeting early-career researchers such as Rubinova) focused on the effectiveness of interviewing interventions aimed to facilitate accurate reporting of single and repeated emotionally stressful events. This program of research has the potential to inform investigative practices in cases of repeated offending and addresses the first SIPR strategic theme: Policing and health, safety and well-being, in its focus on gender-based violence.



strategic  
priority 3:  
**policing systems  
capability and  
resilience**



## strategic priority three

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.

### RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS:

#### Francesca Soliman – Think Big grant for “Raptor Persecution in Scotland”

Drs Francesca Soliman and Andrew Wooff were awarded £2,000 from SIPR’s Think Big Leverage Fund to develop a pilot for the project “Raptor Persecution in Scotland”. The project explores current barriers to the detection, investigation, and prosecution of the illegal killing of bird of prey.

Professor Deborah Fry’s SIPR funded project on Children Count: Using Policing Data to Inform Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse Protection and Prevention has now received ethical approval to proceed, and a literature review of the relevant academic and grey literature has begun.

Professor Louise Jackson, Professor of Modern Social History at the University of Edinburgh, recently published outputs (both chapters in edited collections):

Jackson, Louise A. and Sutton, Rian (2023) ‘Policing women in urban Scotland c. 1890–1950’. In: Turner, Jo, Johnston, Helen, and Pluskota, Marion (eds.) Policing Women: Histories in the Western World, 1800–1950. London: Routledge, pp. 23–38.

Jackson, Louise A. (2023) ‘Crime and policing’. In: Strachan, Hew (ed.) The British Home Front and the First World War. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, pp. 543–563.

Wong, Y. N., Horgan, S., & Aston, E. (2024). Managerial Officers 3PO Briefing.

A new article by Professor Nancy Lombard and Dr Katy Proctor of Glasgow Caledonian University outlines findings from research exploring lived experiences of victim/survivors of coercive control in the Scottish Criminal Justice System (SCJS), commissioned by the Scottish Government. Findings show that women’s involvement as victim-survivors in the SCJS insists they perform hidden and visible work when seeking justice - conceptualized as ‘Justice Work’.

To read the full article, search: Lombard, N. and Proctor, K., 2024. Justice Work: Sisters (Having to) Do It for Themselves: Women’s Experiences of the Criminal Justice System When Reporting Domestic Abuse and Stalking. The British Journal of Criminology, page,041.

Hugo Gorringer and Michael Rosie from the University of Edinburgh, together with Stephen Reicher from St Andrews and other colleagues have been writing up some of their research on the policing of the COP26 Climate Summit in Glasgow. Three papers with a focus on police-protestor interactions have come out in recent months. All are Open Access and available here: First they came for the Young Communists: police facilitation and control at COP26, Glasgow

How many cops to arrest climate chaos? Mass policing of protests at COP26

‘Don’t talk to them!’ on the promise and the pitfalls of liaison policing at COP26.

### KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE HIGHLIGHTS:

On 25th May, Edinburgh Napier hosted the International Symposium for Police Volunteering (co-organised by Associate Prof Andrew Wooff), with 70 guests and colleagues from Malaysia, America, Germany, France, Estonia, Dubai and forces across England and Wales all there.

Edinburgh Napier University Lecturer Dr Shane Horgan presented the 3PO project, Protecting Public Facing Professionals and their Dependents Online at the European Society of Criminology 2024 Annual Conference. 3PO aims to better understand the challenges, risks and harms police officers and their families face online and to develop solutions to protect this group from online harms.

The Scottish Government’s Age of Criminal Responsibility Advisory Group continues to examine the impact of the new Age of Criminal Responsibility (Scotland) Act 2019. Susan McVie and Lesley McAra presented to Natalie Don MSP on the ethical and empirical case for raising the age of criminal responsibility beyond 12.



# Great Expectations! Work and workplace expectations and realities of police officers in Scotland

**Professor Kirsteen Grant | Dr Britta Heidl | Professor Christof Backhaus | Diane Vincent, *Edinburgh Napier University***



This project, funded by SIPR, compares the 'work' and 'workplace' expectations of early career officers (with up to two years of experience) with the lived experiences of established police officers (with three or more years of experience). It examines the extent to which the expectations of early career officers are realistic and understood and are being fulfilled for established officers. The wellbeing and retention of police officers are of key concern to Police Scotland. Providing an in-depth examination of the reasons behind turnover intention (desire to leave) and, importantly, the retention factors that might encourage officers to remain within Police Scotland is a driving force behind this research.

Stage 1 of the research involved 32 interviews (15 with recently recruited probationers and 17 with established officers). Analysis of the interview data was used to develop a framework which was then validated via an online survey of 1,297 police officers in stage 2. The research is broadly structured around four themes: police culture and work environment; management and leadership; training and career progression; and wellbeing and work-life balance.

The shifting work and workplace expectations of younger workers is well-documented, although the longer-term implications for job satisfaction and

retention are only emerging. At the heart of this debate is the idea that the traditional 'job for life' is less well understood by the younger workforce, who tend to perceive their career as being more transient throughout the course of their working life. This perspective fundamentally shifts the emphasis of a traditional career built on the principles of long-term commitment, trust, and loyalty to one employer (as has been the case in policing) towards a more transactional employment relationship that is concerned with a mutual exchange that works for both employer and employee in the shorter-term.

Most probationers were open to the idea of a long-term career within Police Scotland, but only for as long as the job continues to fit around their life and has no adverse impact on their health and wellbeing. The inference here is that officers may place higher demands on managers and leaders to meet their needs and expectations. Yet, there were notable differences between early career officers' expectations and the lived experiences of established officers across all four themes. For example, probationers' hopes for the job were geared around having a challenging, rewarding, and varied role in which they can make a difference, are treated fairly, inclusively and with respect, and have opportunities to develop, grow and progress. Yet, several established officers reflected that their job has not fully measured up to the job they envisaged. Where the eventual job does not match up to high initial expectations, current probationers and early career officers may be at greater risk of voluntary turnover.

Police Scotland should take account of the (changing) needs and work and workplace expectations of a new generation of police officers when developing the next iteration of its People Strategy, including its approach to strategic organisational and culture development.

The report makes seven specific recommendations to Police Scotland.

# Policing after Lockdown: re-building relationships with the Covid Generation



**Dr Ian Fyfe**  
*University of Edinburgh*



**Professor Gillean McCluskey**  
*University of Edinburgh*



**Dr Alan Mackie**  
*University of Dundee*



Much of the current media and political debate about the role of the police focuses on public confidence, consent, trust and legitimacy. In this project we want to focus attention on young people, the so-called 'Covid Generation'; and explore the early actions needed to enhance relationships and promote confidence and trust between the police and young people as we emerge from the pandemic. A key driver is building police capabilities in this changing context.

There is an urgent need to understand the impact of the extension of police powers during the pandemic for all young people but especially for individuals and communities where relationships with police and authority have been most fragile in the past. Our recent research suggests that young people in such communities have seen pre-existing inequalities exacerbated and magnified by the pandemic (McCluskey et al. 2022). Young people's experiences of the resultant restrictions were distinctive in terms of their ability and willingness to comply, particularly in relation to their use of public space and the respective police responses. Scotland's Children and Young People's Commissioner reported that Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) issued during lockdown 'created a large number of first-time offenders, many, or most of whom, are younger people' (2021, p 11). Evidence indicates that proactive partnership working between police (for example campus officers), youth work and schools offers an effective approach to increasing trust and a

sense of legitimacy in authority overall (Nivette et al. 2021, Black et al. 2010). This proposed project sets out to examine the experiences of young people and police officers alike, with the overall objective of shaping the future direction of policing and building partnerships between police officers, teachers and community practitioners, such as youth workers.

The Covid 19 pandemic brought new responsibilities for Police Scotland as they were tasked with ensuring the ongoing safety and well-being of people in local neighbourhoods and wider communities of interest during lockdown. This context also presented fresh challenges. The commitment of Police Scotland to ensuring the continued relevance of their services to the changing needs and resilience of communities is embedded in their current strategic goals. Among the long-term strategic priorities is the desire to build public confidence and trust through meaningful engagement with local people, groups and community organisations (Scottish Government 2019). The 10-year strategy for policing in Scotland showcased plans to develop approaches in the areas of protection, prevention, communities, knowledge and innovation (Police Scotland 2017). The project we outline above responds directly to this vision but also aligns with more recent performance reports, in particular the commitment to improving public confidence and experience of policing in local communities (Police Scotland 2022). The impact of Covid 19 on the lives and lifestyles of young Scots has been profound. Our planned approach to collective dialogue, analysis and learning through a programmed seminar series will bring new understanding to the distinctive challenges ahead in relation to re-building relationships between local police officers and young people, taking full account of issues of equality, diversity and inclusion throughout.





# Evaluation of Police Scotland's Tutor Constable Model



**Dr Andrew Tatnell**  
Co-Associate Director,  
Education and Leadership  
Network, SIPR



**Dr Larissa Engelmann**  
Research Fellow, ESRC Vulnerability  
and Policing Research Centre,  
University of Leeds



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

The "tutor phase of police probationer training remains perhaps the most significant but least well-evaluated aspect of police training" (Charman, 2017, p.73), including within the Scottish context.

This reflects findings from recent studies by Engelmann (2022), Tatnell (2022) and in the wider UK context by Cockcroft et al., (2022).

Within the context of Police Scotland's commitment to being a learning organisation and empowering and enabling their staff, senior managers within the Learning, Training and Development team recognised an opportunity to evaluate current tutoring practice to address current and future challenges and continue to develop an evidence-informed supportive tutoring model. They invited Dr Andy Tatnell, co-lead of the Scottish Institute for Policing Research's (SIPR) Education & Leadership Network to lead on a study which aims to provide an empirically based evaluation of the current tutoring model together seeking to provide recommendations to enhance

Police Scotland's approach to tutoring police recruits during the 21-month 'on-the-job' phase of their 2-year probationer Training Programme. The other members of the research team are Dr Larissa Engelmann, a Post-Doctoral Researcher at University of Leeds and SIPR Practitioner Fellow Inspector Jamie Webster of Police Scotland.

With the agreement of the Open University and the principal investigator Professor Tom Cockcroft, our study closely mirrors that *recently undertaken in England and Wales*. The purpose of this, from a research perspective, is to provide a comparative cross-national set of data and analysis which is rare within the policing research field. It also provides tried and tested research methods and may inform the basis of a larger, international study.

## WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE STUDY?

The project's objectives include:

- To assess the existing tutor constable model and its operationalisation within Police Scotland, with a focus on the ways in which tutoring can be used to drive improvements in officer retention, particularly in respect of developing a more diverse workforce.
- To identify indicators of a good tutor constable.

- To identify how good tutor constables might be selected, trained, recognised/acknowledged/rewarded, assessed, and continually developed in the role.
- To identify what structures should be in place to support effective oversight and governance of a revised tutoring model.

To achieve these objectives data has been gathered by way of:

- A questionnaire from each of the operational Divisions which provided an overview from senior managers as to how the tutoring of probationers is undertaken in their areas.
- Two deep dive case studies within two operational policing Divisions which have captured data from 20 individual interviews and 4 focus groups with police officers including probationers, tutors, shift sergeants and inspectors, Area Commanders, and Divisional Commanders.
- Individual interviews with Executive Officers from Staff Associations.
- A co-production workshop with senior staff from the Learning and Development team within Police Scotland and Professor Tom Cockcroft (lead on tutoring research in England and Wales) to discuss emerging findings and recommendations.

## 3PO – Project Update

The second year of 3PO has built on the successes of the previous 12 months.

The 3PO project has continued to develop and mature over the past year and has been working closely with police partners to bring to fruition training materials, software tools and guidance to support the protection of police officers, staff and their families. We also continue to accrue knowledge about the extent of online harms and their impacts.



Throughout the year, our academic and police partners have met to discuss results and their impacts, including at 3PO consortiums and during the first multi-stakeholder symposium in Edinburgh. Each project event has sparked thoughtful discussions and provided valuable feedback on the project and its direction.

We also managed to increase public awareness by engaging in public discourse on online harms and public-facing professionals and their dependants. Additionally, project members have championed 3PO at various academic and practitioner-focused events.

As 3PO moves into the final year, the project will consolidate the knowledge collected by seeking to operationalise the research into purposeful solutions. This will include, a fully developed self-assessment tool to be used by members of the police and their dependants; finalising and completing the delivery and testing of training that supports improved officer, staff and dependents skills, attitudes and behaviours towards prevention, identification and mitigation of online risks and harms; and the delivery of policy recommendations to senior leaders and stakeholders that will address key themes which have been identified during 3PO's tenure. The project will also

seek to produce operational material that can be used to help support navigating online harms within public-facing professions.

Finally, we look forward to a number of events planned over the next months to turn our findings into concrete, practical approaches, in the form of world-cafes, policy roundtables and the final 3PO Symposium in March 2025.









# postgraduate community

## EARLY CAREER RESEARCHER IMPACT AWARD WINNER

Sang-hun Sean Yu, was the winner of the 2023 Early Career Researcher Impact Award and had the following to say:

*"I am deeply grateful for the 2023-24 ECR Impact Award, which has honoured our collaborative research efforts with the SPA, ENFSI, and other international partners. This recognition highlights the collaboration that culminated in the establishment of a pioneering joint fire investigation training facility in Scotland, which has markedly enhanced the application of 3D reconstruction and Virtual Reality technologies in forensic training and judicial processes."*



## INTERNATIONAL SUMMER SCHOOL FOR POLICING SCHOLARS

The ISSPS is led and supported by a collaboration between the Centre for Evidence Based Crime Policy (CEBCP) at George Mason University, the Scottish Institute for Policing Research (SIPR), and involves Australian academic and practitioner partners at Griffith University, the Queensland Police Service, and the Australian and New Zealand Society of Evidence-Based Policing (ANZSEBP), among others.

The ISSPS aims to encourage, develop, and advance the skills of doctoral students specifically intending to become policing scholars. The summer school provides doctoral students focused on studying policing and police organisations the opportunity to engage in a highly focused setting to advance their policing scholarship.

The curriculum included students from each of the organisations above and will cover a wide range of topics, approaches, methodologies, and perspectives on policing research and emphasises field and practice-oriented research (and translation).

This included:

- Research design in policing (quantitative and qualitative approaches)
- Researching with, for, and by practitioners
- Theories used in policing research
- Programme evaluation frameworks
- Research translation and knowledge transfer





## Dr Mahnoz Ilias



As a researcher with a health background, I often find it challenging to connect with the world of policing scholars. However, the Scottish Institute of Policing Research (SIIPR) has once again provided me with an opportunity to bridge this gap and integrate into this unique cohort of researchers dedicated to policing studies from around the globe. I was fortunate to embark on this journey as part of an incredible team composed of distinguished academics and fellow scholars from the UK.

Participating in the International Summer School for Policing Scholarship (ISSPS-AUS 2024) has broadened my understanding of policing research and its relevance to my own work. The program's blend of theoretical knowledge, practical experiences, and international perspectives offered a unique platform for learning and collaboration.

The exposure to diverse theories and methodologies broadened my perspective through introducing me to new theoretical approaches that I had not previously considered and inspired me to revisit my research with fresh perspectives. Engaging with both academics and practitioners, particularly through discussions on field research challenges, highlighted the importance of applying research findings to real-world policing. This experience has motivated me to focus not only on the academic rigour of my work but also on its practical implications on policing policies and practices.

Moreover, the professional development sessions were instrumental in preparing me for the next steps in my academic career. The discussions on academic publishing, the job market, and career paths provided practical advice and insights that will be crucial as I navigate the challenges of establishing myself as a scholar. The candid conversations with faculty members about their own experiences were particularly reassuring and offered guidance on how to balance the demands of research, teaching, and service.

Beyond the academic knowledge exchange and networking with peers from diverse countries and backgrounds, this summer school not only gave me the opportunity to expand my understanding but also honoured me with the chance to connect with fellow PhD students and academics who share my vision of a better world through the advancement of improved police practices, both nationally and internationally. Along with providing a platform for the exchange of ideas, it also created the possibility of future collaborations. This global perspective is something I intend to integrate more into my research, ensuring that my work contributes to the broader international discourse on policing in the future.

If it was not for this summer school, my childhood dream of seeing kangaroos and koalas might never have come true. Without a doubt, this has been one of the most valuable experiences I have had as an early career researcher.

## Belinda Onyeashie



The International Summer School for Policing Scholars (ISSPS) was a week-long intensive program organised by CEBCP (Center for Evidence-Based Crime Policy), SIPR (Scottish Institute for Policing Research), and Australian partners-Griffith University, Queensland Police Service, and ANZSEBP (The Australia & New Zealand Society of Evidence Based Policing). The program covered essential topics in policing research and practice.

The program covered key areas in policing research and practice:

- 1. Research design:** We explored quantitative and qualitative methodologies for policing research to improve our ability to conduct useful studies in the field.
- 2. Practitioner collaboration:** The active involvement of practitioners throughout the week ensured that academic discussions were grounded in real-world contexts, emphasising the importance of linking theory with practice.
- 3. Policing theories:** We examined foundational concepts which challenged our assumptions and stimulate new ideas for research.
- 4. Programme evaluation:** These sessions introduced structured methods to assess the effectiveness of policing initiatives needed to inform evidence-based policymaking.
- 5. Research translation:** We concentrated on ways to make policing research applicable in real-world settings to bridge the gap between academic findings and practical implementation.

The program was fast-paced and information-rich. One participant aptly described it as "catching butterflies" all week, reflecting the constant flow of ideas and insights.

Faculty members provided guidance and fostered a learning environment that extended beyond formal sessions.

Networking with fellow scholars was a highlight. The diverse research interests within our group of nineteen 2024 ISSPS-AUS policing scholars led to engaging discussions and potential future collaborations.

Looking ahead, I plan to apply the knowledge gained from ISSPS to my research, particularly in developing multi-criterion decision support frameworks for digital evidence systems. The interdisciplinary approach promoted during the program broadened my perspective on addressing complex issues in policing research.

Overall, the International Summer School for Policing Scholars was an exceptional experience - my best one yet. It broadened my knowledge, challenged my perspectives, and allowed me to connect with colleagues and experts in the field. The insights I gained will undoubtedly shape my ongoing and future work in law enforcement research and practice.





## Sam Conway



The ISSPS was undoubtedly one of the best experiences of my PhD. I was captivated by the diverse research being conducted by the research faculty, but also the projects of other PhD students who attended. I felt privileged to have spent the connecting with such a remarkable group of individuals.

The ISSPS offered plenty of opportunities to socialise, often during our daily walks where we explored the beautiful city of Brisbane. During these walks I developed an appreciation for the complexities of the PhD journey, recognising both the shared experiences and unique differences among students from various parts of the world. It was comforting to know that students share many of the same challenges, including the pressures to publish, meet deadlines, find jobs, and staying motivated despite having encountered some form of setback. However, I was equally struck by the uniqueness of some students' circumstances, whether that be having to sit comprehensive exams on top of writing a thesis, or not having to sit a VIVA!

The content presented at the ISSPS was intellectually invigorating. Coming from a psychology background, I was less familiar with the broader criminological theories and research methodologies. However, attending this event allowed me to draw connections between my expertise and that of the researchers presenting their work. I gained a newfound appreciation for multi-disciplinary approaches.

The ISSPS sessions encouraged me to reflect on my practices as a policing scholar. Previously, I had thought I was utilising best

practices for fostering academic and police partnerships. However, the ISSPS made me realize that while my approaches were not flawed or bad practice, there were significant areas where I could enhance my skills moving forward. Collaborating with police practitioners is central to my PhD research, this insight has therefore provided me with much to consider as I prepare to defend my thesis in the coming months.

Also, listening to the lived experiences of other policing scholars allowed me to reflect on my own research experiences, particularly the inherent risks associated with fieldwork. It was humbling to discover that even seasoned researchers cannot anticipate every challenge. For me, this underscored the importance of safeguarding not just the integrity of the research, but my own wellbeing. I recognise that balancing objective assessments of risk (legal and ethical compliance) with subjective risk (how this activity might make me or my research partners feel afterward) is crucial moving forward.

Overall, being involved with the ISSPS was a fun, insightful experience where I was able to build connections with others and learn to think about my research practices in new, meaningful ways.

And, of course, the Koper Curve (for those in the know!)"

## Esme O'Donnell



Attending the International Summer School for Policing Scholars was a transformative experience and I fostered connections that will extend well beyond its duration. Initially, however, I was hesitant to apply. I doubted whether my knowledge and experiences would be sufficient to engage meaningfully in discussions – classic – but soon found out that several students shared my reservations.

This was one of the lovely things about the ISSPS – it gave students the time to get to know each other on a personal as well as professional level. I was also unsure if my research interests would align with that of other 'policing scholars' but went on to have many enriching conversations with those whose work drew on insights from various fields. On this point, it has been a lesson in identity and belonging – not knowing exactly who you are or where you fit as an academic, and reaching the oddly-reassuring conclusion that few do.

Day one commenced with a discussion about the state of the field. The panel began by identifying the current challenge: namely, driving the discipline forward will require posing new questions and developing new theories. But this is a polarising project. What potential future motivates the questions we ask – reform or abolition? And, how does that affect our relationships with police agencies? The tension between realism and utopianism weaved its way into numerous conversations throughout the week, but so too did the necessity of fellowship. To expand the criminological imagination and produce impactful research we must carve out a critical, interdisciplinary middle-ground. Personally, this reinforced the importance of refining the value I bring to the field while networking with those who boast the expertise I lack.

Over the next 3 days, faculty presented on a range of topics – some familiar, some far from it, but all insightful. I reinforced my understanding of police culture and ethnography, while broadening my perspective on topics I hadn't previously encountered (SSOs, Programme Evaluations, etc.). Particularly impactful was Megan Parry's lecture on conducting procedurally just research, which called for greater attentiveness to rooting out the biases entangled in questions posed to survey respondents. This is significant because, in my view, research participates in materialising – not simply representing – the world, and thus always contains the risk of contributing to marginalisation. Faculty also shared helpful advice about how to conduct effective and impactful research. One of my key takeaways was to consider the social, political, and economic context that police agencies are situated in as this will shape how my findings are received and translated.

Ultimately, this has been the most inspiring experience I have had during my PhD and I am incredibly grateful to SIPR for the opportunity to attend!



## Postgraduate Symposium 2023

In November 2023, we marked the return of the SIPR Postgraduate Symposium at the University of Edinburgh. This symposium offers a completely free and supportive environment for postgraduate students working on any policing-related project. This event continues to enable post-graduate students to showcase their research and make connections with like-minded scholars. This event also draws international recognition, with some of our student attendees and presenters being based out with the UK.



This was the second in-person symposium following the COVID-19 pandemic. Now in its 7th year of operation since in 2015, the SIPR Postgraduate Symposium remains a staple of the SIPR postgraduate network.

This year 12 students presented their work to an audience of fellow students, academics, and police practitioners. The presentations were also judged by a distinguished panel of experts from policing practice and research.

This year's panel consisted of Professor Stan Gilmour, SIPR Associate Director Dr Andrew Woof, Dr Catriona Stewart and Amanda Coulthard of the Scottish Police Authority, and Lorraine Gillies, Chief Executive Officer of the Scottish Community Safety Network.

All the presenters set an impeccable standard of subject knowledge and engagement. However, the judging panel was tasked with awarding the winning prize of Best Presentation to only one student. In the end, the winner was Julia Zauner. Julia is a PhD student at Glasgow Caledonian University. She is researching image-based sexual abuse in Scotland. Both the panel and audience were amazed by Julia's enthusiasm for her work.

Another vital aspect of the Symposium is the student poster competition. This year, the symposium featured submissions from 7 students. Unlike the oral presentations, the winner of the poster competition was decided by attendees through an anonymous vote. The number of votes cast was a testament to the quality of the poster submissions for this year. However, the standout poster competition winner was Belinda Onyeashie who is a PhD student from Edinburgh Napier University. Belinda's poster focused on decentralised and blockchain technologies within digital evidence and evidence management systems.

The rest of the event was then followed by networking and an informal evening dinner gathering amongst attendees. It was at this event that SIPR also launched applications to attend the International Summer School for Policing Scholars (ISSPS) in Brisbane, Australia. Based on the strength of these applications, five students would be funded to attend this exciting opportunity in July 2024.

The SIPR Postgraduate Symposium continues to showcase the inspiring work being carried out by our postgraduate community across the UK and beyond.



## Joint SIPR/Scottish Government Lunchtime Seminar Series



This year, following significant interest from Justice Analytical Services in the Scottish Government in respect of the presentations at the Postgraduate Symposium, SIPR were invited to collaborate on a dissemination activity.

This is a momentous opportunity for postgraduate and doctoral researchers to present their work to a distinguished group of decision and policy makers working within Justice Analytical Services in the Scottish Government. This gives the next generation of policing researchers the opportunity to engage with industry stakeholders to discuss their work, highlight key findings, and make significant recommendations for policy and practice. The first two of these seminars have already taken place with a further two planned after summer.

The first of these seminars was delivered by Dr Simon-Lewis Menzies, who spoke about the challenges around communicating scientific evidence to a non-expert audience who potentially make case progression decisions in criminal justice in Scotland, specifically in relation to sexual and non-sexual violent crime.

The second seminar was delivered by Abertay University doctoral research Andy Williams who presented his work around county lines and policing. Andy's doctoral work provides a comparative analysis of county lines policing and responses in both urban England and Rural Scotland.

The third seminar will be presented by Edinburgh Napier University and Carnegie Trust doctoral researcher, Abigail Cunningham. Abigail's work poses some very topical questions on what contemporary policing means and whether or not Scotland has an issue with policing minoritised communities such as those in the Scottish Pakistani community.

The fourth and final presentation in this series will be delivered by Glasgow Caledonian University doctoral researcher, Julia Zauner, who also won the Best Presentation Award at the SIPR Postgraduate Symposium this year. Julia's work explores the concepts of justice and image-based sexual abuse in Scotland by examining victim-survivor experiences with the criminal justice system and their understandings of justice in Scotland.

This fantastic seminar series is a true collaboration between researchers, policy makers, and practitioners in Scotland and it is SIPR's firm hope that this initiative will continue in future years.



# Policing Everyday Cybercrime



Researcher:  
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Project Supervisors:  
**Professor Megan O'Neill** | **Dr Jonathan Mendel**, (University of Dundee) |  
**DSI Alexander Dowall** (Police Scotland)



This research highlight provides a summary of the key findings from the PhD project, supported by Police Scotland and SIPR, that aimed to understand how officers within Police Scotland make sense of the ever-changing nature of cybercrimes, adjustments to their working environment and expectations involved in the policing of cybercrime in Scotland.

Sensemaking at its simplest, is the process of making sense of information. These processes are often triggered by unexpected changes in an individual's environment but may also arise where information is lacking and there is situational ambiguity. Using a sensemaking framework has provided insight on how officers are challenged in making sense of changes in their working environments, depend on their limited cultural knowledge and experience to influence future action in cybercrime investigations and rely on the formation of strong relationships with likeminded colleagues to determine the most appropriate course of action.

Setting out to understand policing cybercrime, the sensemaking processes of officers in cybercrime investigations emerged as a guiding force. This research employed Q-Methodology and follow-up interviews to gather the views and experiences of 40 officers within Police Scotland.

Four factors, or opinion groupings emerged from the analysis, backed by contextual evidence from the interview transcripts. Each factor revealed a unique position on cybercrime policing in Scotland. Factor 1 ("Innovation Required") represented

concerns that Police Scotland are being left behind in the cyber world. Officers highlighted low levels of confidence in dealing with cybercrime cases, citing poor training as a primary cause and revealed cybercrimes would rank low in an officer's priorities. Factor 2 ("The Importance of the Frontline") promoted the important role of frontline officers in the success of cybercrime investigations. This factor emphasised the importance of strong relationships with the public in increasing knowledge of emerging cybercrime threats. Factor 3 ("Apprehensive") revealed an anxiety in conducting cybercrime investigations due to a lack of clear definitions and differences between traditional crimes and cybercrimes. Finally, Factor 4 ("Acceptance") represented the belief that whilst some changes are required, officers accept the current position and are making the best of currently available knowledge and resources, highlighting strong communication structures as vital to the success of cybercrime investigations.

The outcomes of this research and emergence of the four factors signifies four distinct interpretations of cybercrime policing in Scotland. Not all four interpretations can provide a wholly accurate account of cybercrime policing, but each account is one that is perfectly logical and plausible, representing the views and beliefs of the officers involved. Each of the four factors represent the different knowledge and experiences of cybercrimes held by officers however these positions can be adapted as new information becomes available, training is completed, and experiences are shared among officers. Officers are constantly making sense of their everchanging working environment by drawing on various sources of information, past-experiences and obtained knowledge. Therefore, it could be said that Police Scotland are still making sense of cybercrime policing with varying levels of knowledge and experience informing different interpretations of how cybercrimes are policed in Scotland.

## Postgraduate and Early Career Research Consultation Event

In April 2024, SIPR Associate Director and Development Lead, Professor Kirsteen Grant, led a consultation event for postgraduate, doctoral, and early career researchers in Scotland. The purpose of this event was to engage with the next generation of policing researchers in Scotland and discuss ways in which SIPR can help foster a sense of community amongst those researchers.

At this event, SIPR was able to gather feedback and input on a series of potential ideas in the pipeline. For example, around Scoping potential for rollout of mentoring programme with Scottish Centre for Crime & Justice Research (SCCJR). Also scoping potential for cross-university PhD opportunities & supervisions, and planning a workshop on funding opportunities.

Attendees were also asked about the current challenges they faced as a postgraduate, doctoral, or early career researcher. These challenges, as well as ideas for ways in which SIPR can help with addressing them, were discussed at length.



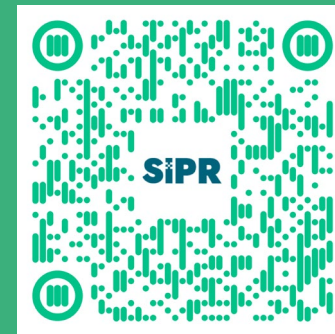
SIPR now has a range of activities and plans being developed for the postgraduate, doctoral, and early career researcher community which we look forward to announcing after the summer break.







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