



**The Scottish Institute For Policing Research**

annual report  
2020/21

# Scottish Institute for Policing Research

Annual Report and Accounts 2020/21  
for the academic year ending 31 August 2021

**Annual Report and Accounts presented to the  
SIPR Board of Governance 26 August 2021**

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# director's introduction



**Dr Liz Aston,**  
SIPR Director  
(Edinburgh Napier University)

## HIGHLIGHTS

This year has been a challenging one for policing partners and academics, on both a professional and personal level. Nonetheless, it has been an extremely successful one for SIPR and our members. SIPR has awarded over £200,000 of funding in line with our strategic priority themes, including five Futures grants and two matched funded PhD studentships.

This year we also introduced a 'responsive research fund' with three associated projects tendered, and SIPR has supported members with leveraging externally funded grants, e.g. from the ESRC and wider UKRI. We have adapted our knowledge exchange methods and delivered extremely successful webinars and online events reaching larger and wider audiences, including internationally, see events highlights. SIPR continues to support learning and innovation, through student-led support for the postgraduate community, and we have awarded five Practitioner Fellowships this year.

In this report we present some of the research, knowledge exchange, learning and innovation which has been undertaken by our members and with partners on each of our three strategic priority themes, and we highlight some of the impactful work which SIPR has supported. Our leadership team and members continue to do a huge amount, including via membership of boards, advisory and steering groups, to share evidence, support and scrutinise policing. For example, SIPR has supported the policing response to the ongoing pandemic via weekly meetings of the OptICAL group, the work of the Naloxone Delivery Steering Group, Scottish Government groups on justice, race and ethnicity, and the establishment of the Independent Advisory Group on Emerging Technologies in Policing.

<b>RESEARCH:</b>	leveraging external funds and awarding 8 SIPR grants worth over £150,000 in line with strategic research themes
<b>KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE:</b>	successful programme of online events, with international reach
<b>LEARNING AND INNOVATION:</b>	award of five Practitioner Fellowships and two SIPR (matched funded) PhD studentships
<b>PARTNERSHIPS:</b>	extensive support of partnership activity e.g. through membership of key advisory and steering groups.

## LOOKING FORWARD TO 2021/22

In 2021-22 we look forward to awarding research funding through our Public Protection call, as well as through our recurrent 'Responsive Research Grants' scheme.

We are also looking forward to seeing the progress of the grants we have awarded this year and working with partners to deliver knowledge exchange events.

We are planning an exciting 10th Scottish International Policing Conference and Postgraduate Symposium for the 15th Anniversary of SIPR and the 50th anniversary of the James Smart Memorial Lecture. The May 2022 conference will focus on our third strategic theme, policing system capability and resilience, and we will launch an associated £50,000 research fund. Next year SIPR will enhance its support to members to leverage external funding and will work proactively with policing partners to support evidence-based policing and maximise pathways to impact. We also look forward to launching the next round of Scottish Justice Fellows (delivered with our partners at the SCCJR and Scottish Government). Many thanks to all our members and partners and we look forward to working with you over the coming year.

As always, I would like to thank Monica, the four Associate Directors, Executive Committee, Board of Governance, International Advisory Committee, Single Points of Contact at each of our HEIs, our academic and practitioner members, and our wider partners for making all the work that SIPR does possible.

A special thank you to all our contributors who took the time to provide us with an update of their work. These articles are featured throughout the report as they connect to the SIPR Strategic Research Priorities. These articles represent a snapshot of the research being undertaken across our member universities and demonstrate the strength and diversity of Scottish policing research, as well as its national and international reach. We hope you enjoy reading them as much as we have.

Finally, thank you to you our readers, for taking the time to learn more about our institution. I encourage you to have a good look at this report, which highlights just some of the great work that is going on across the SIPR community. Please get in touch with us if you would like to get involved with SIPR in any way and visit our website to stay informed on our news, publications, and events, and to subscribe to our newsletter <http://www.sipr.ac.uk>

<b>RESEARCH:</b>	Enhancing support to leverage external research funding, launching a research call aligned with our third strategic research theme and making awards through 'Seldom Heard', 'Public Protection' and 'Responsive Research' funds
<b>KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE:</b>	Maximising pathways to impact, supporting evidence-based policing and hosting events including the 10th Scottish International Policing Conference.
<b>LEARNING AND INNOVATION:</b>	Developing our Practitioner Fellows scheme and hosting our Postgraduate Symposium.
<b>PARTNERSHIPS:</b>	Mapping and extending our partnership working and running the Scottish Justice Fellows Scheme with SCCJR and the Scottish Government.









# about SIPR

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

<b>theme 1:</b> Policing and health, safety and well-being		<b>theme 2:</b> Technology and digital policing		<b>theme 3:</b> Policing systems capability and resilience	
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OUR AIMS			
<b>1. RESEARCH</b> 	<b>2. KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE</b> 	<b>3. LEARNING AND INNOVATION</b> 	<b>4. PARTNERSHIPS</b> 
Facilitating internationally excellent, independent research of relevance to policing.	Engaging in a range of knowledge exchange activities to strengthen the evidence base on which policy and practice are improved & developed nationally and internationally.	Nurturing a culture of learning & innovation.	Promoting the development of national & international partnerships with researcher, practitioner and policing communities.
5 YEAR PLAN OBJECTIVES: Within these four aims we will strive to achieve the following:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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

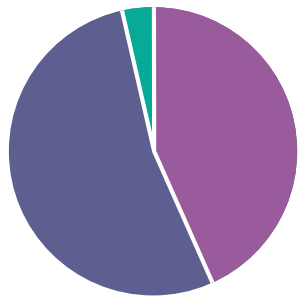
## INCOME

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 is funded by contributions from 14 Higher Education Institutes (HEIs) throughout Scotland, as well as through core funding provided from both Police Scotland and the Scottish Police Authority and sponsorship (provided by the James Smart Memorial Fund).

The institute received a total of £230,360 in funding from these members and via sponsorship in 2020/21.

## SIPR INCOME 2020/21



- Income from HEIs
- Income from SPA and PS
- James Smart Sponsorship



University of St. Andrews



UNIVERSITY OF STIRLING







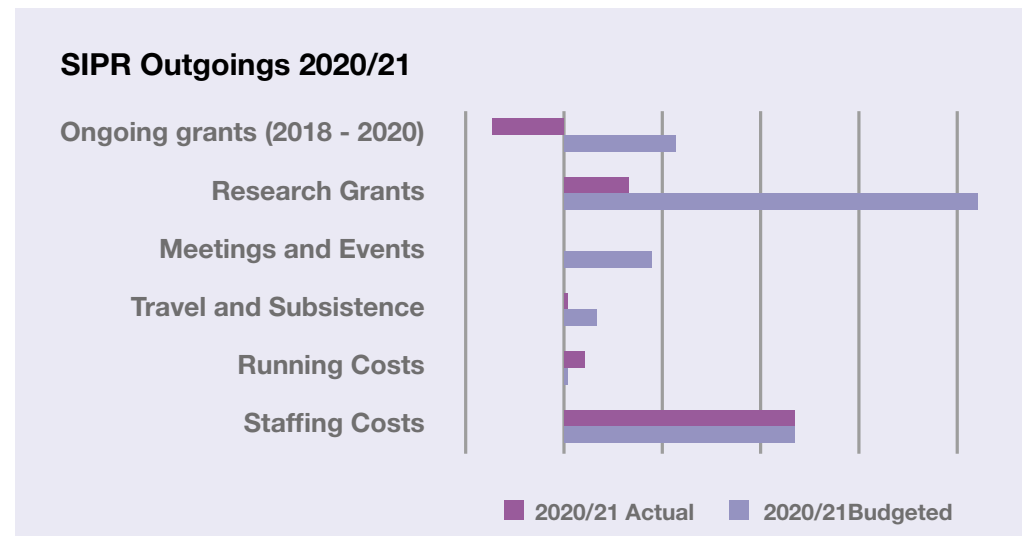
## OUTGOINGS

Despite the ongoing challenges of 2020/2021, SIPR successfully delivered a range of knowledge exchange activities moving many events to online platforms; established several new research grants while continuing to support ongoing programs; sustained valuable partnerships; and invested in the next generation of policing research.

Unfortunately, there were still unavoidable obstacles and delays, meaning that many of our planned activities have been rescheduled until next year. Additionally, new approaches created key changes to our planned knowledge exchange programme (i.e., within travel, and related to event costs) generated significant underspend of over £100,000. Much of the underspend will be rolled forward into 2021/22 and 2022/23; however, SIPR has taken the opportunity to inject funding into key research activities where possible (i.e. through the provision of additional funding support to key grants such as Seldom Heard Community grants, and responsive research grants).

### COMMITTED FUNDING 2020/21

As an institute, throughout 2020/21 we have been able to commit significant funding to support the achievement of our four aims. Many of these activities have commenced and will be delivered throughout 2021/22 and into 2022/23.



### £8,000 on knowledge exchange

Many events have been moved to online platforms, generating significant savings for catering, venue hire, travel, and accommodation. However, this year SIPR has committed £8,000 to support an event focussing on the Mobile Working project.

### £150,000 to fund research

Significant funding was committed in 2020/21 to support the generation of policing research including via the Future of Policing, responsive research, and Seldom Heard Communities grants.

### £1,500 to support partnership working

SIPR will again collaborate with the Scottish Government and the SCCJR to support the delivery of the Justice Fellowship scheme.

### £45,000 to fund learning and innovation

Two new match funded PhD projects have been selected from the 2020/21 studentship. Additionally, five new practitioner fellowships have commenced in 2020/21.

Furthermore, SIPR continues to support the existing PhD studentships funded in 2019/20.

# highlights 2020/21 : our year in review



**Monica Boyle,**  
Knowledge Exchange and  
Business Manager

2020/21 has been a year of growth for SIPR. Despite challenges and inevitable times of reduced capacity the institute has taken time to review and prioritise to ensure that we remain as effective as possible.

I like to think that despite being a relatively small research institute, we punch way above our weight. This is only possible through the hard work and determination of all our SIPR community.

## **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.

I am incredibly proud of our impacts and achievements this year. In particular, our focus on research funding has provided a small cash injection to support important research at a difficult time for all HEIs. This fills key evidence gaps for our practitioner and policy partners, while continuing to stimulate the excellent policing research being undertaken in Scotland.

As we enter the third year of the fourth phase for the institute, I'm excited for to launch our new research grants, as well as seeing a return to many of our in-person events (including our 10th International Conference and a return of our Postgraduate symposium). I hope to see many of you there and I look forward to working with many of you throughout 20221/22.

## research highlights

### GRANTS

In 2020/21 SIPR launched 3 new research grants; Future of Policing; Responsive Research, and Seldom Heard Communities. Through these three schemes SIPR has committed over £150,000 to the creation of research of direct relevance to Scottish Policing.

#### FUTURE OF POLICING GRANTS – £95,576 allocated by SIPR

Launched at our 'End of Year' event in December 2020 (more at page 51), the Future of Policing grant was established to support research which will focus on the challenges and emerging issues related to the future of policing. Projects funded include:

**1. Influence policing - mapping the links between preventive policing and new media**

£19,945 awarded to Dr Daniel Thomas (PI), University of Strathclyde

**2. A harmonised study of public expectations of police responses to cybercrime**

£19,710 awarded to Dr Shane Horgan (PI), Edinburgh Napier University

**3. Emotional Labour and Public Protection Policing: Impact on and Experiences of Officers**

£20,000 awarded to Dr Maureen Taylor (PI), Glasgow Caledonian University

**4. Trauma-aware policing in the custody suite: and in-depth case study**

£16,079 awarded to Dr Karen Goodall (PI) University of Edinburgh

**5. Developing fingerprints on circulated Scottish banknotes**

Awarded to Dr Ben Jones (PI), Abertay University

#### RESPONSIVE RESEARCH GRANTS - £24,000 awarded by SIPR

Developed in collaboration with our policing partners, this scheme enabled the commission of rapid research projects/ evidence assessments on topics of interest or immediate need. Projects funded:

**1. Evaluation of Police Scotland and Local Government Collaborative Leadership Pilots**

£10,000 awarded to Kirsty Docherty (Queen Margaret University) and Brigid Russell (Brigid Russell Coaching)

**2. Understanding the factors influencing assaults on police officers**

£10,000 awarded to Dr Garth den Heyer (Arizona State University)

**3. Tri-service collaboration (Scottish Police, Fire, and Ambulance services)**

£12,000 (£4,000 contribution each from SIPR, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service and the Scottish Ambulance Service) award decision pending

#### SELDOM HEARD GRANT - £32,000 awarded by SIPR

SIPR teamed up with Police Scotland and the Scottish Police Authority to provide funding for projects and activities which will support Police Scotland to further contact and engagement with seldom heard communities. This grant scheme is worth £50,000 with SIPR providing £32,000 of the overall funding.

Five projects have been selected for funding:

**1. Inquiring together: Collaborative Research with BAME communities and serving officers**

£10,143 awarded to John Mendel (PI) (University of Dundee)

**2. To be seen and heard: developing photovoice as a method for the police to engage with young people in underserved communities.**

£4,656 awarded to Andrew James Williams (PI) (St Andrew's University)

**3. Accounting for Complexities: an Intersectional Approach to Enhancing Police Practitioner**

Accountability, Legitimacy & Sustainable Reform  
£14,428 awarded to Julie Berg (PI) (University of Glasgow)

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

£14,428 awarded to James Moir (PI) (Abertay University)

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

£19,909 awarded to Nicole Vidal (PI) (Queen Margaret University)

# knowledge exchange highlights

## EVENTS

### SEPTEMBER .....

#### **Webinar: “All Hands On: deliberative democratic ideals, citizen participation, and the practice of public service” – Dr Nick Bland**

SIPR launched its digital webinar series with this event co-hosted with Edinburgh Napier University. This presentation considered what can be learnt from experiments in deliberative democracy; and reflected on the implications of Covid-19 for the place given to on-line engagement.

#### **Launched SIPR You Tube Channel**

The [SIPR YouTube](#) page was created to provide a publicly available library of recordings from our events.

### NOVEMBER .....

#### **Networking Event: “SIPR Postgraduate Virtual Meet and Greet”**

This event is a meet and greet for postgraduate research students looking at Policing related topics. We are delighted to invite research students to join us and get to know each other. You will be able to learn about current work going on within the Scottish Institute for Policing Research, any available support for postgraduate research students and have a say about future events and workshops to aide your development.

### DECEMBER .....

#### **End of Year Event – “Future of Policing”**

The focus of this event was on the ‘Future of Policing’ to tie in with the launch of our ‘Future of Policing’ research grant. This grant sought applications for research projects focussed on addressing and exploring the challenges and emerging issues related to the future of Policing within Scotland, but which may also have relevance internationally. A full recording of this event can be seen on the SIPR YouTube channel [here](#)

### JANUARY .....

#### **Joint SIPR/ Abertay University Webinar Series on Leadership – Panel 1 – Police Leadership: The Current Landscape**

SIPR Associate Director, and lead of the Education and Leadership Network, Professor Denise Martin was joined by ACC Gary Ritchie (Partnerships and Prevention), and Brian McNulty QPM, HMICS to discuss issues in Police Leadership - particularly at a time where the demands on police leaders are increasingly complex. This webinar offered insight into the panel of experts reflections on the current position of Police Leadership, the challenges that police leaders face, and through spirited discussion with participants on how Police Leadership could be developed and supported to meet these challenges.

#### **Joint SIPR/ GCU Webinar – “The development and role of networks in child sexual exploitation: A social network analysis approach to understanding group associated child sexual exploitation” – Dr Maureen Taylor**

This event was so popular we had to organise two additional sessions (February and April) to meet demand. This seminar presented new research findings on networks of offenders and victims involved in child sexual exploitation, providing an understanding of network structure, organisation and typologies and the nature and significance of victim networks, affording invaluable knowledge for supporting criminal investigation, disruption and prevention. A full recording of this event can be seen on the SIPR YouTube channel [here](#).

### FEBRUARY .....

#### **Session 2 of Joint SIPR/ GCU Webinar: “The development and role of networks in child sexual exploitation: A social network analysis approach to understanding group associated child sexual exploitation” – Dr Maureen Taylor**

### MARCH .....

#### **Joint GCU/ SIPR Webinar: “Why don’t sexual offence complainers have a right to anonymity in Scotland” – Dr Andrew Tickell**

Presenting the findings of ongoing comparative law research, as part of GCU Law’s Campaign for Complainer Anonymity, this session explored the how other jurisdictions around the world have recognised complainer anonymity, situating the Scottish rules (and the lack of them) in their international context. Drawing on this comparative analysis – which includes Ireland, New Zealand, Australia,

India, Bangladesh and Canada – this session considered alternative models for how a more robust right to complainer anonymity could be introduced to Scots law. A full recording of this event can be seen on the SIPR YouTube channel [here](#).

### **Joint SIPR/ Abertay University Webinar Series on Leadership – Panel 2 – Police Leadership: Learning from others**

This second in the series of SIPR webinars on Police Leadership, this webinar will focus on what we can learn from others experience of leadership and how we can work collectively to manage the complex challenges that public services now face. The panel consist of speakers with expertise in leadership who will share their reflections from their own experience and knowledge about Collective/Shared leadership models. The panel will be chaired by SIPR Associate Director Professor Denise Martin and featured Dr Victoria Herrington (Australian Institute of Police Management, Wilma Reid (Public Health Scotland), and Janet Whitley (Collective Leadership for Scotland). A full recording of this event can be seen on the SIPR YouTube channel [here](#).

### **APRIL** .....

**Session 3 of Joint SIPR/ GCU Webinar – “The development and role of networks in child sexual exploitation: A social network analysis approach to understanding group associated child sexual exploitation”** – Dr Maureen Taylor

### **First SIPR Postgraduate Coffee Morning**

This virtual event was established to bring together policing researchers within the PG community to understand what support SIRP can provide. More information on the postgraduate community can be found on page 35.

### **MAY** .....

**Joint QMU/ SIPR online networking event: “Applying Cognitive Psychology to Forensic Settings”**

The SIPR Evidence and Investigation Network followed up on the very successful networking event held at Dundee University in 2018 by hosting this virtual networking event, organised by Dr Jamal K. Mansour (QMU) and SIPR Associate Director, Dr Penny Woolnough (University of Abertay). This event brought together researchers, students, and practitioners actively working on or interested in applying cognitive psychology to forensic settings. Presenters and

attendees discussed current interests and expertise across Scotland in order to (re)establish key connections, and identify potential new collaborations and avenues for funding.

### **Joint SIPR/ Police Scotland/ SPA event: “Public confidence in policing with Seldom Heard Communities”**

The aim of the event is to stimulate diverse thinking, ideas and opportunities for research and innovation into how Police Scotland can serve communities in the most appropriate and supportive ways. Police Scotland, the SPA, and SIPR have committed to co-creating a grant to fund activities seeking to address key issues identified throughout this session. For more information see page 40.

### **JUNE** .....

**Joint SIPR/ Heriot-Watt University Online Information Event – “Understanding experiences of deaf female victims of domestic, sexual, and gender-based violence”.**

This training, facilitated by Professor Jemina Napier (Heriot-Watt University - HWU), and Det Sgt Frank Keegan (Police Scotland’s Domestic Abuse Unit) was organised as part of the JUSTISIGNS 2 project from HWU in collaboration SIPR. The goal of this event was to highlight the challenges faced by deaf female victims of DSGBV who use BSL in particular when they come into contact with the police, and to articulate the goals of the project to lay groundwork for future training opportunities for the police that will emerge from the project.

### **JULY** .....

**Policing in the 21st Century - Seminar One: ‘The impact of organisational reform: Police Scotland eight years on’**

The Police Foundation, in partnership with CGI Scotland and SIPR, delivered the first in a series of seminars on the future of policing in Scotland. This series has two aims: first to provide an input from a Scottish perspective into the on-going Strategic Review of Policing in England and Wales, hosted by the Police Foundation, and second, to provide a forum to discuss the findings of the Strategic Review and their relevance in the context of policing in Scotland.



## publications

### **Body Worn Video Cameras (BWVCs) and Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS) submission organised by the Scottish Institute for Policing Research to the Scottish Parliament's Justice Sub-Committee on Policing**

Prepared by Professor James Willis (George Mason University), Dr Penny Woolnough (Abertay University), and Dr Liz Aston (Edinburgh Napier University). A copy of the submission can be read [here](#).

### **Benefits of implementation of mobile devices with frontline officers in Police Scotland 2019-2020**

Dr William Graham (Abertay University), CI Martin Gallagher (Police Scotland) and Professor Lesley Diack (Robert Gordon University)

This project explore potential benefits from the mobile working project which replaced the traditional paper notebook system instead equipping operation officers with a digital mobile policing solution.

Sadly, Professor Diack suddenly passed away just before this paper was published. Lesley



was a wonderful ally for SIPR. She is sorely missed and we are grateful to have benefitted from her expertise and collegiality.

This report can be read [here](#).

## in the news

1. Dr Liz Aston's appointment as chair of a new independent advisory group

Featured in The Herald (11th September 2020) - "[New group to report on legal and ethical issues of hi-tech policing in Scotland](#)".

2. Reporting on the £862,000 ESRC granted to Dr Liz Aston who is Principal investigator along with SIPR Associate Director, Dr Megan O'Neill (University of Dundee), Dr Helen Wells (Keele University), and Professor Ben Bradford (University College London)

Featured in the Scotsman (11th February 2021) - "[Major new research project will explore use of new technologies in policing in Scotland](#)".

Also featured on digit.fyi (12th February 2021) - "[New Research to Explore Police-Public Engagement Through Technology](#)".

3. Dr Maureen Taylor (Glasgow Caledonian University) research on utilising anti-terrorism models of network analysis to disrupt child sexual abuse networks. More information on the seminar series Dr Taylor delivered on this subject can be read at page 39.

Featured in the Glasgow Times (25th February 2021) - "[Glasgow Caledonian University: Sex abuse rings could be stopped with anti-terror tactics](#)".

4. In recognition of her contribution to the social scientific study of gender-based violence, Professor Lesley McMillan was elected as a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh.

Featured in The Edinburgh Reporter (30th March 2021) - "[New 2021 fellows of the Royal Society of Edinburgh](#)".



5. This article covered the 'Seldom Heard Communities' event and grant jointly delivered by SIPR, Police Scotland, and the SPA. More information on this event and the related research funding provided, can be found on page 39.

Featured in The Edinburgh Reporter (12th May 2021) - "[Academics and researchers with interest in 'seldom heard groups' invited to police event](#)".







## partnership highlights

### SIPR EXTERNAL REPRESENTATION

**Dr Megan O'Neill** - Stop and Search Mainstreaming and Assurance Group

**Dr Liz Aston** and **Dr Andy McAuley** – Naloxone Delivery Steering Group

**Dr Liz Aston** – NHS Health Scotland's 'Public Health Approach to Justice' Monitoring and Evaluation Advisory Group for 'Rights Respect & Recovery

**Dr Liz Aston & Dr Megan O'Neill** – Police Scotland OpTICAL (OpTalla Information Collation Assurance and Liaison) group

**Dr Liz Aston** – Chair of Independent Advisory Group on New and Emerging Technologies in Policing, SIPR academic members include Dr Angela Daly (Strathclyde) and Prof Burkhard Schaefer (University of Edinburgh) and Prof Bill Buchanan (Edinburgh Napier University)

**Dr Megan O'Neill** - Concurrency Short-Life Working Group

**Professor Denise Martin** – Scottish Government 'Race and Workforce' group

**Dr Penny Woolnough** – NPCC Missing Persons Expert Reference Group

**Dr Megan O'Neill** – Scottish Government's Data and Evidence on Race and Ethnicity Group

**Professor Denise Martin** – Short-life working group on Implementing HMICS recommendation 17 on Collaborative Leadership

**Professor Lesley McMillan** and **Dr Liz Aston** – Scottish Violence Reduction Unit Governance Board

**Monica Boyle** – International advisory support to American University Practicum exploring nexus between health and Policing

**Dr Penny Woolnough** – Appointed to the College of Policing Investigation Guidelines Committee

**Dr Liz Aston** – Police Scotland Drug Strategy Board

**Dr Liz Aston** – Scottish Police Authority and Police Scotland Joint Research and Evidence Forum

**Dr Genevieve Lennon** - Scottish Biometrics Advisory Group

**Dr Liz Aston** - N8 Policing Research Partnership International Advisory Board

**Professor Lesley McMillan** – Chair, UCU National Task Group on Sexual Violence in Tertiary Education

### INVITATION FOR SIPR CONTRIBUTION

**Dr Liz Aston** – Plenary Session on Knowledge Exchange in Policing Research Partnerships at N8 conference

**Dr Megan O'Neill** – Superintendents Partnership Forum

**Professor Denise Martin** – Three Horizons sessions exploring the development of collective leadership across public services including Police Scotland

## learning and innovation highlights

### STUDENTSHIPS

SIPR has again funded **two new PhD Studentships** allocating under our Match-Funded Studentship Scheme. The two successful projects were:

#### 1. Understanding the health and wellbeing of female police officers and staff – Director of Studies Dr Evangelia Demou, University of Glasgow

This PhD studentship aims to provide strategic and impactful inroads into the Police Scotland ambition of protecting the safety and wellbeing of staff.

#### 2. Improving cybercrime reporting – Director of Studies Dr Daniel Thomas, University of Strathclyde

This project focuses on the emerging issue and strategic priority for Police Scotland - the increase in prominence of cybercrime as a domain of harm and justice at the national level.



SIPR funded 5 new practitioner fellowships. These provide the opportunity for police practitioners to engage in a piece of policing related research under the supervision and guidance of an academic member of staff. The successful projects were:

**1. *Understanding experiences of front line BAME Police Officers to support retention***

Practitioner: Sergeant Kat Thomson

Academic Adviser: Professor Denise Martin, Abertay University

**2. *How does Police Scotland's policing response to protests during a pandemic compare with public expectation and does this effect public confidence in Police?***

Practitioner: PC Carla McGlynn

Academic Adviser: Dr Niall Hamilton-Smith, University of Stirling

**3. *Research into the potential effect on Emergency Preparedness / Police Response to offshore energy incidents***

Practitioner: Sergeant David Cowie

Academic Adviser: Dr Megan O'Neill, University of Dundee

**4. *Police Communication before and during protest events***

Practitioner: T/Sergeant Matthew Bull

Academic Adviser: Dr Michael Rosie, University of Edinburgh

**5. *Exploration of the practice of engaging with, and policing of, 'ultra' football fans in Scotland***

Practitioner: James Crane

Academic Adviser: Dr Colin Atkinson, University of the West of Scotland





**Gary Ritchie,**  
Assistant Chief Constable,  
Partnerships, Prevention and  
Community Wellbeing

# police scotland

Police Scotland's academic research service is led by ACC Partnership, Prevention and Community Wellbeing. The purpose of this service is to commission and collaborate with academia and the international research community, to help build capacity for evidence-led policing in Scotland.

This year Strategy, Insight and Innovation has continued to develop the service to strengthen its strategic alignment and links to innovation and research within Police Scotland. By combining all these research elements, we can use academic research, in line with best practice, alongside our public and colleague engagement, commissioned research, strategic assessments and planning. This is helping to improve and optimise our evidence base and coordination of insights, better supporting decision-making and local police planning.

We have streamlined internal processes to improve organisational awareness, access and impact of academic research studies, engaging and involving more business areas across policing. This is helping to ensure there is a clear picture of research activities as well as a combined and complementary process between policing and academia, enabling mutual benefits and positive outcomes. This has enhanced research value to policing as a result of a more collaborative approach and alignment to strategic objectives.

## **THIS YEAR OUR AREAS OF FOCUS WITH ACADEMIA INCLUDED:**

- Engagement with Police Scotland's strategic research priorities, guiding research funding applications to inform police planning.
- Co-designing research and evaluation with academics to meet genuine evidence gaps and provide research insights that lead to practical implementation for policing.
- Facilitating over 100 academic research requests and engagement with the appropriate business areas, data governance, and participation of police officers and staff.
- Commissioning research to drive the strategic and operational direction of policing in Scotland and support our operational requirements.
- Supporting our colleagues to participate in and/or undertake research for their learning and development.



Most research collaborations are with Scottish Universities that are members of the SIPR consortium. Other research projects involve academic institutions in the rest of the UK and partner organisations, including the Centre for Police and Learning, the NHS, Scottish Government and the World Health Organisation.

Plans to further develop our capacity for academic research and its impacts involve:

- Building resource and skills within our research and insights service to continue to support and strengthen collaborative research with academia for evidence-led policing within Police Scotland.
- Creating an insights and knowledge hub for sharing academic research evidence, innovation case studies, insights and resources to support operational policing, strategy and change. This will be open and accessible to all.
- Supporting practitioner fellowships for colleagues to be involved or undertake research as part of their development and our capacity building.
- Providing an online submissions form to streamline and automate research requests.



#### **COMMISSIONED RESEARCH AND RAPID EVIDENCE REVIEWS**

This has included a joint funded research call with SIPR and SPA on enhancing engagement and understanding of confidence in police within seldom-heard communities. Other studies are supporting our response to supporting communities with tri-service collaboration, equipping police officers and preventing assaults, and how we design and implement the use of Body Worn Video within operational policing.

#### **INDEPENDENT ADVICE AND SCRUTINY**

Inclusion of SIPR Executive members in the Operation Talla Information Collation and Assurance Liaison Group (OpTICAL) and the Independent Advisory Group, alongside other academics, has helped us to monitor, evaluate and focus our response to policing the pandemic.

Going forward Police Scotland will continue to build on these achievements and positive future direction through continuing to refresh its approaches and positive engagement with its academic partners and associated networks. Building on the achievements of this year and enhancing where possible to enable networking, knowledge sharing and creative thinking, pathways to impact and to participate fully in larger research funding programmes.

*“Working collaboratively with SIPR has enabled new shared research priorities focused on the strategic outcomes and objectives for policing in Scotland”*

Research funding applications are now fully aligned to these. This year awarded applications include improving cybercrime reporting, public expectations of our response to cybercrime, understanding the health and wellbeing of female police officers and staff, mapping the links between preventive policing and new media, trauma-aware policing in the custody suite, and the impacts of public protection policing on the emotional wellbeing of police officers.

#### **IMPROVED GOVERNANCE AND PARTICIPATION**

Executive Board meetings have helped to strengthen collaboration, strategic alignment, engagement and involvement with spending and co-designing the Annual SIPR conference.

SCOTTISH POLICE  
AUTHORITY



**Mr Martyn Evans**, Chair of the Scottish Policing Authority

# scottish police authority

The Scottish Police Authority relies on robust and timely evidence in fulfilling its statutory functions related to both policing and forensic services. We seek the conscientious, explicit, and judicious use of current best evidence in making decisions about policing and forensic services now and in the future.

There are different sources of evidence we rely on which include, but are not limited to, academic research; police officer and forensic service officer experience; third sector reports and citizens' views. The relative contribution of each evidence source may vary considerably. Over the past year the Authority has accelerated the use of evidence and sought to improve listening and learning.

With regard to policing the Authority has three broad interests in evidence:

- 1. The use Police Scotland make of evidence in the delivery of its policing functions;**
- 2. The availability and use by Police Scotland, and the wider public, of the data collected by Police Scotland, Scottish Government, other public agencies and others;**
- 3. The use of evidence in taking a public interest 'future focus' on policing in Scotland.**

In order to pursue these interests, the Authority works collaboratively with Police Scotland to explore all aspects of evidence-based policing. We work together on the most effective approach to representing the police and public interest at internal and external forums around the issues of evidence commissioning, evidence reviewing and knowledge exchange. We have agreed a joint Strategic Research Framework, setting the objective that together we will take an active approach to formulating and assessing research proposals. We wish to encourage research/evidence gathering that has a clear focus of one or more of these 'tests':

- Social justice
- Applied to a practical policing challenge
- Co-production
- A rural and remote Scotland focus



The Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012 requires Scottish Ministers to set the Strategic Police Priorities - providing high-level direction for the Scottish Police Authority and Police Scotland. These strategic priorities were refreshed in late 2019 and now include both evidence and partnership as two of the six priorities. As a strategic priority, we and Police Scotland must “use evidence to innovate and develop services which address the current and emerging needs of individuals and local communities, and ensure that resources, capacity and skills are in the right place to deliver outcomes.”

The Authority values the research funding managed through SIPR, and the opportunities this presents to focus attention on new and emergent areas of policy development. The Future of Policing Award has generated a range of highly relevant proposals which will inform future ways of working; while the joint work on engagement with seldom heard communities brings valuable insight to current activity and focus; and the studentship proposals developed a range of opportunities for research relevant to the priorities of our joint (with Police Scotland) outcomes based Strategic Police Plan 2020. In addition, the development of responsive research grants has allowed a more tailored and targeted approach to be taken to key topics.

### **SIPR helps the Authority**

1. Understand the academic research landscape around policing within the UK and beyond;
2. Participates in the Authority and Police Scotland Evidence and Research Forum;
3. Is an important partner in improving the public interest case for academic, and other, access to the anonymised data held by Police Scotland including supporting the need for data to be published in a responsible and accessible way by Police Scotland.





The value and use of evidence has never been clearer than over the past year of the COVID-19 public health crisis. There has been a step change in the collection and analysis of data by Police Scotland and its presentation to the Board and its committees. The role of academics who are members of the Institute in working alongside both the Authority and Police Scotland has been invaluable during these extraordinary times. Members of the Institute are, and will continue to be, key members of prominent groups for the Authority, such as the Independent Advisory Group (IAG) on Police Use of Temporary Powers, and supporting OptICAL data group, or the leadership around the IAG on Emerging Technologies in Policing. The knowledge, and access to a wider network, provided through this membership also ensures that learning is intrinsic to discussions and decision making.

Oversight of the policing role in supporting the highly restrictive public health regulations has not been the only area of SPA focus over the year. A Police Scotland Strategic Workforce Plan was also delivered in year, the result of a substantial programme of work. The complex Police Scotland data collection process, and analysis of policing demand, has continued to improve and was the focus of very positive HMICS inspection.

Public sessions of all Authority and Committee meetings have taken place virtually and been streamed live since March 2020, allowing the public and stakeholders to see and hear the Authority's continued oversight of policing. This level of continued business and transparency has stood in comparison with any other public body and is testimony to the hard work and commitment of Members and staff during such a challenging time. We continue to work with stakeholders across the policing system through the Scottish Government's Roundtable initiative to clarify the roles of all organisations involved in supporting and overseeing the policing system.

Over the course of 2020/21 our joint SPA/Police Scotland Forum has developed a focus on AI and technology in policing, holding a webinar on the governance and oversight of artificial intelligence in policing in February 2021 as a follow up to two successful roundtable events in 2019/20. These knowledge exchange events on priority areas for research and evidence development, bring a clarity and horizon scanning focus to the work of the Forum, which in turn supports the work of both Police Scotland and the Authority.



# international advisory committee



Hon Derek Penman  
QPM, Chair SIPR  
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

- **Chair, Hon. Professor Derek Penman** (University of Dundee)
- **Dr Nick Bland** (Scottish Government)
- **Professor Nick Crofts** (Global Law Enforcement and Public Health Association, Australia)
- **Professor John Firman** (American University, USA)
- **Dr Victoria Herrington** (Australian Institute of Police Management, Australia)
- **Dr Vesa Huotari** (POLAMK - The Police College of Finland)
- **Professor Sofie De Kimpe** (Free University Brussels, Belgium)
- **Dr Cynthia Lum** (George Mason University, USA)
- **Professor Monique Marks** (Durban University of Technology, South Africa)
- **Dr Vesa Muttilainen** (POLAMK - The Police College of Finland)

- **Dr Rick Muir** (Police Foundation, UK)
- **Haavard M Reksten** (Police University College, Norway)
- **Martin Smith** (Scottish Police Authority)
- **Professor Richard Southby** (The George Washington University, USA)
- **Rachel Tuffin OBE** (College of Policing, UK)
- **Amy Wilson** (Head of Justice Analytical Services, Scottish Government)
- **ACC Gary Ritchie** (Police Scotland)

## KEY ACTIVITIES/ HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2020/21

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.

Having made a positive start in 2020, with refreshed membership and a new Terms of Reference, our activities were curtailed to some extent in 2021 by the impact of the global pandemic, with members responding to the ever-changing demands on their institutions and the restrictions on international travel. Nonetheless, IAC members and international associates continued to support SIPR and policing in Scotland, and some of our key activities include:

- **Rick Muir** of the Police Foundation organised a seminar series with senior officers from Police Scotland and members of the Scottish Policing Authority, to offer a Scottish perspective into some of the key topics being considered by the Strategic Review of Policing in England and Wales.

- **Dr Victoria Herrington** from the Australian Institute of Police Management, presented at the SIPR end of Year event on 'the Future of Policing'.
- **Rachel Tuffin** from the College of Policing also supported this event by introducing her colleague Nic Pole, who agreed to be special guest speaker.
- **Monica Boyle** from SIPR supported Professor John Firman, American University as an advisor in their practicum exploring the nexus between policing and public health.
- **Professor Sofie de Kimpe** Professor Sofie de Kimpe from the Free University Brussels supported SIPR in the review of grant applications.
- **Dr Nick Bland** from the Scottish Government launched the SIPR virtual seminars in September with his presentation "All Hands On: deliberative democratic ideals, citizen participation, and the practice of public service". This was the first video to be uploaded on the new SIPR YouTube page and can be watched [here](#).
- **Martin Smith** from the Scottish Police Authority continues to serve on the Police-Community Relations network brokering team.
- **Dr Cynthia Lum** (George Mason University) introduced SIPR to her colleague Professor James Willis who supported a SIPR submission to the Scottish Parliament's Justice Sub-Committee on Policing regarding Body Work Video Cameras (BWVCs) and Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS).
- We also introduced **Dr Vesa Huotari** to Police Scotland. He recently published book (Vesa Huotari (toim.): Innovation and Innovativeness in the Police & Policing / Essays on History, Theory and Philosophy. Poliisiammattikorkeakoulun tutkimuksia 46. Which contains findings and recommendations that are of interest and will be subject to further discussion.

In last year's Annual Report, I highlighted opportunities to disseminate evidence-based research on the effectiveness and impact of policing the pandemic in Scotland. In August 2021, Professor Nick Crofts, Global Law Enforcement and Public Health Association, Dr Victoria Herrington, Australian Institute of Police Management and I participated in the "[Policing and the Pandemic – A Scottish Perspective](#)" online seminar hosted by SIPR, Scottish Police Authority, and Police Scotland.

IAC Members continue to acknowledge the energy and leadership from Dr Liz Aston, working across all SIPR stakeholders, adapting to challenges of the pandemic, and continuing to deliver against the Annual Plan and 5-year strategy. We also appreciate the engagement from Monica Boyle and her ongoing support of the IAC.

#### PLANS FOR 2021/22

The IAC held its annual virtual meeting in August 2021, where members committed to drawing on international experience to support SIPR research and inform policing practice in Scotland. We will continue to share the valuable research and innovation in policing within Scotland for the wider benefit of policing across the world. It is a great privilege to chair the IAC and work with such a wide range of distinguished and experienced colleagues from across the world. Although our efforts in 2021 were curtailed to some extent, there is tremendous enthusiasm amongst everyone to support the work of SIPR and I very much look forward to us working together during 2021-22 and growing our international reach.

# overview of sipr networks

## EVIDENCE AND INVESTIGATION

Effective investigation of crimes and incidents is central to all police organisations. An investigation will seek to find all available evidence and intelligence that enable its objectives to be met.

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

## POLICE-COMMUNITY RELATIONS

This network provides a focus for independent research concerned with the relationships between police and the communities they serve. This relationship is a major factor in determining the effectiveness of policing.

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



## EDUCATION AND LEADERSHIP

The aims of this network are to promote research in police education and leadership development; to support Police Scotland with research in education and leadership towards increased professionalism and capability; and to address issues of professional education and CPD

Education refers to initial education as well as career-long professional development, workplace learning, and organisational learning. Leadership refers to leadership practices and capabilities in all levels and aspects of policing. The Education and Leadership network focusses on the internal dynamics of the police organisation including:

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

## PUBLIC PROTECTION

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

In support of these aims, the network draws upon expertise from a range of academic disciplines including: sociology; criminology; geography; psychology; social policy; law; social work; economics; and health

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



**POLICE**



# public protection network



**Professor Lesley McMillan**, Associate Director Public Protection Network (Glasgow Caledonian University)

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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.

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## MEMBERSHIP

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

### Academic Members

- **Dr Colin Atkinson** (University of the West of Scotland)
- **Dr William Graham** (University of Abertay)
- **Dr Scott Grant** (Glasgow Caledonian University)
- **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 McCluskey** (Public Protection)
- **T/Detective Superintendent Martin MacLean** (Adult and Child Protection)
- **Detective Superintendent Fil Capaldi** (Rape and Sexual Crime; Human Trafficking and Exploitation; and Prostitution)
- **T/Detective Chief Inspector Gillian Fairlie** (Domestic Abuse; Honour-based Abuse; Forced Marriage, Stalking and Harassment)
- **Chief Superintendent Linda Jones** (Safer Communities)
- **Eleanor Gaw**, (Scottish Police Authority)

## KEY ACTIVITIES/HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2020/2021

Despite the challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic, its associated lockdowns and alterations to working practices for academic, police and practitioner members, the network has progressed well and made a number of valuable contributions including research, knowledge exchange, public engagement and the establishment of new areas of practice.

The network launched a highly successful Public Protection webinar series largely driven by the need for remote rather than in-person events during the pandemic. Four exceptionally well attended webinars covering child sexual exploitation (for further information on this event see page 39) ) and social network analysis, and the issue of complainer anonymity in sexual offence cases took place, with numbers exceeding 200 for single events, with participants from around the world.

Drawing upon the network strengths in public protection and missing people, working together with Locate International and Police Scotland, Glasgow Caledonian University launched its new Cold Case Unit. Co-directed by steering group members Dr Maureen Taylor and Professor Lesley McMillan, the aim of the project is to advance the field of unsolved missing and unidentified person investigations through academic and practitioner partnerships, and offer a talent development programme for future police investigators. Drawing upon expertise in victimology, investigation, open source intelligence, and a range of forensic techniques, the unit will collaboratively with Police Scotland to bring resource to unsolved cases that may not be available elsewhere.

The work of the group in relation to gender-based violence in tertiary education continues, and group members support a range of initiatives across Scotland. The Fearless Glasgow consortium, which includes group members and Police Scotland, were successfully awarded Scottish Government funding to roll out an online reporting tool across nine universities and colleges in the West of Scotland. The Report and Support tool allows for anonymous as well as named reporting, provides intelligence on incidents within institutions, and provides access to support for survivors. The group initiative will also allow for data analysis both within and across institutions on the prevalence, incidence, and nature of gender-based violence in tertiary education which will inform ongoing response. During

2020/2021 Professor McMillan has also chaired a UK National Task Group on Sexual Violence in Tertiary Education, which reports in September 2021, the findings of which will contribute to universities' and police response to sexual violence in educational institutions.

A range of research projects are underway within the group including work on anti-rape technologies, access to forensic medical examination and post-sexual assault care in rural areas, the domestic abuse disclosure scheme, mental health, emotional labour of public protection officers, institutional responses to domestic abuse and stalking, public attitudes to complainer anonymity in sexual offence cases, and women who kill violent partners, outputs from which are forthcoming.

A major development for the network was the development and launch of the Public Protection Research Network Grant Call in May 2021. With a funding pot of £30,000, and bids of up to £15,000 per project, the call covers research on any aspect of public protection from SIPR consortium members. The call closes on 31st August 2021 and the funded projects will advance research on public protection policing.

## PLANS FOR 2021/22

Applications under the Public Protection Research Grant Call will be reviewed and outcomes announced in early 2021/22 with projects commencing by end December 2021. These new projects will contribute to the development of a more comprehensive evidence base and help build capacity within the network.

The network will continue our successful webinar series in 2021/22 with a number of events already planned covering social network analysis as an investigative tool for live investigations and anti-rape technologies and sexual violence prevention.

The network seeks to consolidate its postgraduate research community in 2021/22, establishing a postgraduate sub-group of the overall steering committee. A mapping exercise of third and public sector partners is also planned in order to establish a wider network of those actively involved in the field of public protection.

# evidence and investigation network



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

The Evidence and Investigation network provides a focus for research in a range of specialist areas related to the role of the police in the recovery, interpretation and effective use of intelligence and evidence in the investigation of crime 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 six practitioners from Police Scotland, SPA Forensic Services and the National Crime Agency:

- **Dr 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 Hurley**, Department of Psychology, Open University
- **Dr George Weir**, Computer and Information Sciences, University of Strathclyde
- **Dr Susan Griffiths**, Psychology, Robert Gordon University
- **Mr Tom Nelson**, Director, Forensic Services, Scottish Police Authority
- **Ms Fiona Douglas**, Head of Biology, Forensic Services, Scottish Police Authority
- **Detective Chief Superintendent Gary Cunningham**, Police Scotland.
- **Superintendent John Wyllie**, Police Scotland
- **Detective Inspector Marc Lorente**, Police Scotland
- **Detective Sergeant Stephen Halls**, National Crime Agency

## KEY ACTIVITIES/ HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2020/21

This year, following the emergence of Covid-19 and potential challenges to Network resilience, Dr Penny Haddrill at the University of Strathclyde has taken on the new role of Network Deputy Associate Director. Penny has been a member of the Network Steering Group for the past four years and is an experienced forensic scientist, complementing the leadership team skills and knowledge.

Despite the ongoing challenges of Covid-19, the Network has been able to make valuable contributions over the past 12 months including:

- In January, the Network contributed to a SIPR submission to the Scottish Parliament's Justice Sub-Committee on Body Worn Video Cameras and Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems.



- In February, work commenced as part of a College of Policing Investigation Guideline Committee, comprising frontline practitioners and subject matter experts (specialist practitioners and academics), to write guidelines for effective investigations through developing and improving the application of the investigative mindset. This work is ongoing for delivery in summer 2022.
- In February, a new SIPPR funded PhD project commenced to develop a Structured Professional Judgement Tool for Missing Person Risk Assessment.
- In April, we worked with the Strategy and Planning team to participate in the SPA forensics consultation to refresh and update the current Forensics 2026 Strategy taking account of progress and developments in forensic science and the recent refresh of the Strategic Police Plan (Policing for a Safe, Protected and Resilient Scotland).
- In May, working with Professor Ben Bradford at University College London Dr Maureen Taylor at Glasgow Caledonian University, we commenced work to provide academic support to a UK Short Life Working Group (led by Police Scotland, Thames Valley Police and the Metropolitan Police) looking at diversity in surveillance roles.
- On the 25th May, a full-day networking event on Applied Cognitive Psychology in Forensic Settings was organised and hosted by Dr Jamal Mansour at Queen Margaret University. Hosting the event online allowed us to attract an international audience comprising delegates from Germany, Switzerland, the Netherlands, and the United States. A diverse range of topics were covered including; line-up decision making, super-recognisers, the impact of rapport on intelligence yield with covert human intelligence source, influence of alcohol in investigative settings, eyewitness confidence and deaf gains in visual cognition. For further information on this event, please see page 58.
- In June, a new Network PhD project commenced on using avatars in investigative interview with children.
- In June, we commenced providing academic support to a SPA Forensic Services Short-Life Working Group looking at psychological supervision for forensic services staff.

#### **PLANS FOR 2021/22**

Looking to the future, we have a few things in the pipeline for the forthcoming year including: establishing an Evidence and Investigation PhD Studentship Group; undertaking a mapping exercise across the consortium institutions to provide an accurate picture of the key strengths and critical mass of certain areas within evidence and investigation as well as some gaps in research; working with the Police Scotland Investigator Development Programme to establish a regular mechanism / routes for joint CPD delivery and working with the Scottish Police Authority Forensic Services team to support a Leadership & Development Programme (a joint activity with the SIPPR Education and Leadership Network). Please do get in touch if you have ideas for activities / collaborations you would like the Network to support.

# police-community relations network



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

This network provides a focus for independent research concerned with the relationships between police and the communities they serve.

This relationship is a major factor in determining the effectiveness of policing. 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.

## MEMBERSHIP

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

- **Dr Niall Hamilton-Smith** (deputy chair of the Network, University of Stirling)
- **Valerie Arbuckle** (Police Scotland, Partnership Development Manager)

- **Superintendent Gregg Banks** (Police Scotland, Local Policing Programme)
- **Davina Fereday** (Police Scotland; Strategy, Insight and Innovation Division)
- **Dr Liz Frondigoun** (University of the West of Scotland)
- **Superintendent Linda Jones** (Police Scotland; Partnerships, Prevention and Community Wellbeing)
- **Superintendent Jim Royan** (Police Scotland; Events, Emergency and Resilience Planning)
- **Martin Smith** (Scottish Police Authority)
- **Dr Andrew Wooff** (Edinburgh Napier University)

## KEY ACTIVITIES/ HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2020/21

The SIPR Police-Community Relations Network, Police Scotland and the Scottish Police Authority launched a joint call for proposals for research and knowledge exchange on the topic of 'Seldom-Heard Communities' on 19th May 2021. The call was launched during a live online event which was very well attended. Over 100 participants connected, representing organisations from across the public sector, third sector and private sector.

The 'Seldom Heard Communities' call had up to £50,000 available to address evidence gaps and support Police Scotland in better serving the needs of Scotland's diverse communities who are seldom heard. Up to £20,000 was available for any one project and applications were reviewed in August. 14 applications were received, and given the strength of the field, SIPR has agreed to top up available funding and we are delighted to support the five successful bids (more information at page 11). We look forward to supporting these projects in the next year and are eager to see outcomes as projects are expected to complete in September 2022.

Professor Lesley McMillan (Glasgow Caledonian University), was one of the recipients of the 2018 Police Community Relations Sandpit Funding with her project: 'Exploring & Evaluating the Disclosure Scheme for Domestic Abuse in Scotland'. This project is ongoing and has led to some important interim work. She presented early findings from the project at the British Society of Criminology conference in July 2021, as part of a specialist panel on disclosures schemes, discussing how police officers perceive empowerment and choice for those receiving information through the scheme.

Another of the 2018 Sandpit Funding winners, Dr Karri Gillespie-Smith, has been continuing to develop the research which the funding enabled. Her project on officers' perceptions towards Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) awareness-raising programmes is available on the SIPR website. The findings suggest that while officers are supportive of the idea of being ACE-aware, there was lack of certainty on what this means for day-to-day policing. Dr Gillespie-Smith presented her findings at a meeting of the Brokering Team in December 2020. She is now leading a second SIPR-supported project from the Futures of Policing call: 'Trauma-aware policing in the custody suite'. Further details on these projects can be found on page 60.

The December 2020 Brokering Team meeting also heard from Stephanie Crisp, a PhD student from Stirling University. Her PhD project explores how Trauma Informed Practice (TIP) is understood and delivered in Scottish Community Safety settings, and how this is being impacted by the global COVID-19 pandemic. It will also consider the broader implications of this for the implementation of approaches like TIP in public service delivery.

The July 2021 Brokering Team welcomed Suzanne Fitzpatrick and Sarah Johnsen from I-Sphere (Heriot Watt University) who its relevance for policing with those in extreme disadvantage in Scotland (<https://www.i-sphere.hw.ac.uk/>). They discussed the findings of the 'Hard Edges' Scotland project, one of the key findings of which was that Criminal Justice Social Workers seemed to be regarded as the most effective in their role and joining up services for people with complex needs. This meant that being arrested was regarded as a way to get the help a person needed. They discussed how arrest has been used as a way to control street culture activities. The

coupling of enforcement with support was not regarded as effective and tends to drive the street people 'underground', which makes them more vulnerable.

In my capacity as the chair of the Police-Community Relations Network, I have been involved in the Cross-Justice Working Group on Race Data and Evidence, run by Justice Analytical Services of the Scottish Government. This work has involved attending periodic meetings with a wide range of researchers and practitioners about what is needed to gather more robust data on how people of different ethnicities are represented in the various agencies of criminal justice. Part of my role was to assist in the development of a questionnaire of Scottish researchers to assess what kinds of data would be useful in this regard and how that might be made consistent across the agencies. This work will continue in 2021.

Along with Dr Liz Aston, SIPR Director, I have been participating in weekly meetings of Police Scotland's Operation TALLA Information Collation, Assurance and Liaison (OpTICAL) Group. The purpose of the group is to assess the data being collected on the enforcement of the COVID-19 legislation and to monitor police engagement with Scotland's communities at this time. The group is attended by divisional police commanders, members of the Independent Advisory Group, the Scottish Police Authority and representatives from other oversight groups. It is a key element of maintaining transparency and accountability of Police Scotland's work during the pandemic.

#### **PLANS FOR 2021/22**

The successful applicants from the 'Seldom Heard Communities' grant have been notified of their awards and we look forward to supporting these projects during the coming year. The Police-Community Relations Network will assist in developing the events which stem from these and disseminating the outputs from the projects when they become available.

In the coming year we are also looking forward to receiving the outcomes of the remaining 2018 Sandpit Project and sharing those findings with our members and other relevant practitioners. Dissemination events from this and the other Sandpit projects will be supported through the Network.

# education and leadership network



**Professor Denise Martin**, Associate Director Education and Leadership Network, Abertay 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.

Despite challenging times, the Education and Leadership network has continued to support and be active in a range of activities. We welcomed some new members to the steering committee, which we are hoping to extend in the following year.

## MEMBERSHIP

**Professor Denise Martin** - Abertay University

**Dr William Graham** - Abertay University

**Dr Andrew Wooff** - Edinburgh Napier University

**Professor Ross Deuchar** - University of the West of Scotland

**Dr Kirsteen Grant** - Edinburgh Napier University

**Dr Maureen Taylor** - Glasgow Caledonian University

**Dr Yvonne Hail** - University of Stirling

**Larissa Engelman** - Edinburgh Napier University

**Simon Lewis Menzies** - Dundee University

**Superintendent Rob Hay** - Police Scotland

**Darren Paterson** - Scottish Police Authority

## KEY ACTIVITIES/ HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2020/21

- Leading on from the publication of the first HMICS thematic report on Training and Development that explored Leadership and Talent development the network hosted two webinars in Winter/Spring 2021. The first panel comprising of ACC Gary Ritchie, HMICS Lead Inspector Brian McNulty and Professor Denise Martin explored the current landscape of Police Leadership, this was followed by a second panel with focusing of how we can learn from other experiences and what lessons and shared experience we can use to improve leadership practice. Members of this panel include Wilma Reid, Public Health Scotland, Janet Whitley Collective Leadership Scotland and
- Professor Denise Martin and Dr Megan O'Neil supported the HMICS in framing their terms of reference for the second HMICS Phase 2 Thematic Inspection of Police Scotland Training and Development exploring retention, recruitment and promotion of underrepresented groups.
- Professor Denise Martin and PhD Student and Research Fellow Andy Tatnell delivered papers at the Nordic Police Research Conference in June 2021
- Two new student co-ordinators Larissa Engelman and Simon-Lewis Menzies joined our Steering Committee and will feed back on the activities of the postgraduate committee



- Professor Denise Martin and Dr William Graham secured Scottish Funding council funding to explore police organisational learning in the pandemic working with a UK based police service, the initial findings for the project were presented at the CEPOL Research and Science Conference May 2021- 'Pandemic Effects on Law Enforcement Training & Practice: Taking early stock from a research perspective'.
- The development of the links with the HEI community and Special Constables grew stronger, initiated by Committee member Andrew Wooff, a number of institutions are now taking the programme forward. (Abertay, GCU and UWS)
- We end the year with several new Practitioner Fellows. Each fellow is paired with an academic mentor and will explore issues including staff, equality and diversity experiences, protest policing and the energy industry.

#### **PLANS FOR 2021/22**

Over the next year the network will continue to host events connected to Education and Leadership, including a final webinar on Diversity in Police leadership. The practitioner fellowship scheme will be examined and refreshed. The network plans to work with Police Scotland to explore ways of enhancing evidence- based policing through developing CPD sessions for practitioners.

A key activity will be involvement in the organisation of the forthcoming Scottish International Policing Conference in May 2022 which will support the development of the strategic research theme of Police Systems, Capability and Resilience. This theme will also be the focus of a £50,000 research funding call in which be launched at the conference.

Finally, we are looking forward to hosting the 6th SIPR Postgraduate Symposium as part of the where PhD students are able to present their work to an audience of peers, experts and practitioners through poster and oral presentations. This has been a key date in the SIPR calendar and we are excited to bring it back.

# postgraduate community



**Larissa Engelmann**  
(Edinburgh  
Napier University)  
Postgraduate  
Coordinator

Our postgraduate research community has shown incredible resilience over the past year and has been working hard throughout the pandemic.

We have been able to grow our community by welcoming new research students and recognizing that not all SIPR research students look at the police service but that wider topics such as private security and forensics are also important topics to understand and improve 21st century policing. We are keen to develop our community further and build a truly supportive postgraduate research network with all students interested in joining us.



**Simon-Lewis Menzies**  
(University of Dundee)  
Postgraduate  
Coordinator

Over the past year, we have created **Microsoft Teams Channel** for SIPR postgraduate research students. This is a space where research students can share their experiences, ask questions, and share resources and upcoming events. It has proven very helpful so far with 17 current members and we look forward to developing this channel further in the future. Meeting in person is great for networking but this Teams Channel will offer us the opportunity to stay in touch with those who are unable to come to in-person events and to stay in touch in-between events.

In November 2020, we had a SIPR meet and greet with new and current postgraduate research students and were able to learn about their projects while getting to know our competitive site during a SIPR themed online quiz. Further, in April 2021, we had another well-attended coffee morning where we discussed some of the upcoming events, what support research students are looking for and more importantly how we are doing as we are entering the second year of the pandemic.

Some amazing news from the end of last year, one of our research students has successfully passed her VIVA, congratulations to Dr Inga Heyman! What an amazing achievement, showing us how it's done. We are looking forward to keep working with her and hopefully get her to share her secrets for successful PhD completion with us at future events.

### Some of our upcoming events for the coming year:

- SIPR Alumni Roundtable around September/October 2021 which will bring together current and previous SIPR research student to discuss tips for future careers inside and outside of academia and encourage networking.
- Regular Coffee mornings every two months.
- SIPR Postgraduate Symposium in May 2022, which will be a huge celebration of all our work both as an Anniversary of SIPR and during what has been a very difficult couple of years for most of us, if not all!

We encourage both students and supervisors to get in touch with us ([siprstudent@gmail.com](mailto:siprstudent@gmail.com)) about any new or current students who might be interested in joining the MS Teams channel, mailing list or newsletter to stay up-to-date on future events such as the next SIPR postgraduate symposium and meet us. We love welcoming new students into our midst and finding out about the projects they are working on and how they can advance our knowledge around policing in the 21st century.

# SIPR Strategic Research Priorities

Underlying the direction and achievement of SIPR's aims are SIPR's **strategic research priorities**. The following three themes have been developed in order to inform SIPR's strategic direction and investment over the five years of Phase IV of the consortium (covering 2019 - 2024). This will enable consolidation and enhancement of our activities, reach, and impact within policing research.

**theme 1:** Policing and health, safety and well-being



**theme 2:** Technology and digital policing



**theme 3:** Policing systems capability and resilience



For the remainder of this annual report, we will highlight some of the exceptional work being undertaken throughout Scotland which aligns with these strategic research priorities.

**strategic  
priority 1:**

policing and health,  
safety and well-being



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

#### RESEARCH / GRANTS

**Professor Susan McVie** (University of Edinburgh) and colleagues have received a UKRI grant 'Policing the pandemic: The role of enforcement in securing compliance with the Coronavirus Regulations'. SIPR will support the dissemination of this project.

**Dr Andrew Wooff**, Dr Shane Horgan and Andy Tatnell (Edinburgh Napier University) have received funding (£43,604) from the Scottish Funding Council for their project Pluralised responses to policing the Pandemic: Analysing the emergence informal order maintenance strategies, the changing 'policing web', and the impacts of COVID-19 in rural communities. More information on this project is available at page 44.

SIPR and SCLEPH colleagues are conducting an evaluation of the Police Carriage of Naloxone. This 2021 Drug Death Taskforce funded study is a mixed methods process evaluation of a test of change for the carriage of intra-nasal Naloxone by Police Scotland officers. This project, 'Naloxone in Police Scotland -a Pilot Evaluation' is led by **Dr Peter Hillen** (Edinburgh Napier University) and can be read about [here](#).

**Dr Aston** is a Co-I on a Drug Death Taskforce/CORRA foundation funded project led by Prof Tessa Parkes at the University of Stirling 'Researching and developing key components of a new drug checking programme for Scotland' which can be read about [here](#).

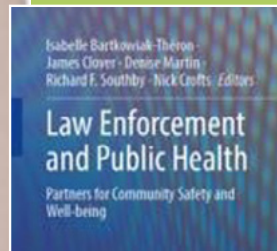
Recent publication for **Robert Skinner, Professor Jemina Napier, and Professor Nicholas Fyfe** (2021). '[The Social Construction of 101 Non-Emergency Video Relay Services for Deaf Signers](#)'. International Journal of Police Science & Management.

#### KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE / PUBLICATIONS

**Dr Robert Skinner, Professor Jemina Napier** (Heriot Watt University) and **Professor Nicholas Fyfe** (Robert Gordon University) have recently published a paper exploring the 101 Video Relay Service for deaf BSL users. This paper can be accessed [here](#). 'The Social Construction of 101 Non-Emergency Video Relay Services for Deaf Signers'.

**Dr Jen Murray** and colleagues' previous SIPR funded project has resulted in a number of recent publications including "Co-creation of five key research priorities across Law Enforcement and Public Health: A methodological example and outcomes" in the Journal of Psychiatric and Mental Health Nursing (2021) and here "Vulnerability assessment across the frontline of law enforcement and public health: a systematic review" in the Journal of Policing and Society (2021)

**Aston, L., O'Neill, M., Hail, Y., & Wooff, A.** (accepted July 2021) 'Information sharing in community policing in Europe: building public confidence' European Journal of Criminology.



SIPR and SCLEPH colleagues have contributed to a new book 'Law Enforcement and Public Health' (LEPH) edited by **Professor Denise Martin, Dr Isabelle Bartkowiak-Théron, James Clover, Professor Richard Southby, and Professor Nick Crofts**. This is the first comprehensive collection on LEPH and explores intersectionality of these themes as a core requirement in addressing public safety and well-being.

## EVENT HIGHLIGHT: The development and role of networks in child sexual exploitation: A social network analysis approach to understanding group associated CSE - delivered by Maureen Taylor (Glasgow Caledonian University)

SIPR, in conjunction with Glasgow Caledonian University (GCU) supported the delivery of a series of webinars focussed on the work of Dr Maureen Taylor, a Lecturer in Criminology at GCU, regarding social network analysis within Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE).

Dr Taylor is an active researcher in the fields of child criminal and sexual exploitation and abuse, sexual violence, domestic abuse and human trafficking. She is also an accredited trainer delivering training to professionals in child sexual exploitation, online sexual exploitation, and tackling violence in teenage relationships. Her experience comes from 16 years work as a practitioner in policing and the criminal justice system first as a Fingerprint Officer and then as a Crime Scene Investigator, Forensic Scientist, Financial Investigator and Criminal Intelligence Analyst. She has also worked with offenders both in prisons and in the community and has coordinated community-based programmes for sex offenders and young people who sexually harm.

These free events were primarily aimed at practitioners working within a criminal justice context and those who work with victims and



perpetrators of child sexual abuse and exploitation.

CSE and abuse have been recognized as issues of increasing concern by the UK and Scottish government, and are a strategic policing priority. This is in part fuelled by media reporting of large scale, high profile cases involving groups and networks of perpetrators exploiting children and young

people. In recent years there has been a welcome shift in the way CSE is conceptualized and how responses to it operationalized. However, there is a significant gap in research and understanding around the nature of group-associated child sexual exploitation.

Through these series, Dr Taylor presented new research findings based on her application of social network analysis to seven historical cases within England. The aim of these sessions was to provide an understanding of network structure, organisation, and typologies, as well as the nature and significance of victim networks, affording invaluable knowledge for supporting criminal investigation, disruption and prevention. As part of the research presented, Dr Taylor demonstrated the technique's production of a visual representation of the data in the form of social network maps which illustrated multifaceted connections ranging from 66 to 215 individuals each representing victims, enablers, and/or perpetrators. The impact of this research

has been remarkable with one case resulting in five convictions.

Dr Taylor states that *"During a live investigation this approach can help direct the attention of the police, safeguard potential victims, and disrupt networks. Looking at the bigger picture makes it easier to identify the people with resources and power in a network. By being able to visualise a network, see the connections and the potential risk, it gives the authorities potential opportunities to intervene and safeguard young people."*

The first session, delivered on 27 January 2021 sold out very quickly and due to this overwhelming demand, two additional sessions of the seminar were organised for February and April 2021. There were almost 600 registrations for these events with attendees representing police, academia, and practitioners. In addition to the majority Scottish attendance, we were delighted to also have strong national and international representation including delegates from Turkey, Malaysia, New Zealand, Nigeria, Australia, Canada, and India.

To learn more about this research please contact Dr Taylor at [maureen.taylor2@gcu.ac.uk](mailto:maureen.taylor2@gcu.ac.uk)

## EVENT HIGHLIGHT: Public Confidence in Policing: Seldom Heard Communities

Police Scotland, the Scottish Police Authority (SPA), and the Scottish Institute for Policing Research (SIPR) invited academics, researchers, and practitioners with an interest in 'Seldom Heard' groups to an information sharing event on Wednesday 19th May 2021.

The term 'seldom-heard groups' refers to under-represented people who may be less likely to engage with Police for a variety of reasons (such as race, religion, sexuality, disability, age and communities isolated through geography or deprivation). A focus on understanding seldom heard groups will place more emphasis on Police Scotland and our collaborators to connect with these communities ensuring their voices are heard; their needs are met; and their perspectives are understood.

The event was chaired by Assistant Chief Constable John Hawkins and co-hosted by Dr Megan O'Neill (SIPR Associate Director and Lead for Police-Community Relations Network). Kirsty-Louise Campbell and Davina Fereday of Police Scotland's Strategy and Innovation team presented the police's strategic direction, existing research evidence, identified research gaps and commitments to understand and enhance public confidence from seldom heard groups in Scottish policing. While Amanda Coulthard (lead of the Strategy and Performance function of the Scottish Police Authority) provided.

There were almost 300 people registered to attend the event representing a diverse cross section of society including a large representation from the third sector organisations with focusses including religion, LGBT+, drug and alcohol services, domestic violence support, youth justice, mental health support services, refugee services, and disabilities to name a few. We were grateful that Helen Dunipace and Niamh Cochrane were able to join us as live BSL interpreters for the event. A full recording of the event can be found on the SIPR YouTube channel [here](#).



The aim of the event was to stimulate diverse thinking, ideas and opportunities for research and innovation into how Police Scotland can serve communities in the most appropriate and supportive ways. Police Scotland, the SPA, and SIPR committed to co-creating a grant which will fund activities seeking to address key issues identified throughout this session. As such, all interested parties (academics, researchers, practitioners, service users, third sector and support workers etc) were invited to explore public confidence in Police Scotland for these communities via our funding scheme 'Seldom Heard Communities'. This grant was co-funded by SIPR, Police Scotland, and the Scottish Police Authority, and is worth £50,000 (with each application worth a maximum of £20,000). We are delighted to have received a large response to this call with 14 applications submitted, and are looking forward to working with the 5 projects selected for funding covering a diverse range of topics such as engagement with BAME communities; engaging with young people and underserved communities; policing LGBT communities; building confidence with refugee and asylum seeker communities; and building tool kits to improve engagement and accountability.

# Changing Stop and Search Policy and Practice in Police Scotland by Dr Megan O'Neill (University of Dundee)

**Dr Megan O'Neill**, University of Dundee / **Dr Liz Aston**, Edinburgh Napier University

The police method of stop and search in Scotland has been subject to dramatic change in its governing legislation, policy and practice which has improved its public accountability and enhanced social justice in policing.

*"In response to research by Drs O'Neill and Aston, Police Scotland has redesigned its database to improve recording and transparency, now publishes its records publicly, has retrained every police officer on their use of stop and search, and has ended potentially harmful and unjust practices."*

From a peak of over 642,000 recorded searches per year in 2013/14, stop and search in Scotland has reduced to just over 41,600 searches in 2019/20 and non-statutory (consensual) searches had reduced to 0 (from May 2017). In contrast to England and Wales (where stop and search has been subject to academic, political and public scrutiny for three decades) there had been very little attention paid to stop and search policy and practice in Scotland. There was also a lack of published data, weak accountability, and little oversight of the practice resulting in Police Scotland coming under intense political and media scrutiny to change its practice.

Police Scotland selected 'P' Division, (Fife) as the site for a pilot which was launched in July 2014 and aimed to test new techniques in stop and search, an enhanced database, enhanced crime analysis and more complex community engagement practices. The purpose was to improve the data on which stop



and search is based, improve accountability, and increase confidence in the police. Dr O'Neill and Dr Aston were commissioned to conduct an independent academic evaluation to review the effectiveness of the pilot, which was co-funded by SIPR and Police Scotland. **There were five main findings from this evaluation:**

- 1. End the practice of non-statutory ('consensual') searches.** Members of the public found searches embarrassing and detrimental to police-community relations, and it was ineffective as an investigative tool due to the low success rate in any items being found.
- 2. Data analytics** could be improved by including contextual information, tracking changes over a longer period (up to five years rather than year-on-year) as well as tracking multiple searches of individuals. This would better account for the effects of seasonal variation, non-regular events and indicate where searches are concentrated on a few individuals.



**3. More robust training** and communication based on face-to-face teaching techniques was needed, rather than the online method used in Fife, as there had been little to no impact on the daily practice of officers involved in the pilot. Finally, two initiatives introduced for the pilot were unhelpful and potentially harmful and should be stopped:

**4. The letter to parents** of children who had been stopped and searched was identified as a potential risk to children in households where interaction with the police is not looked upon favourably.

**5. The telephone survey** of people who had been stopped and searched presented methodological and ethical problems, and was a potential risk to the welfare of people discussing searches over the phone, especially during working hours when the calls were conducted. Also, there was a significant amount of staff time spent making calls with no result (not answered or refused).

The resulting report made **19 recommendations for change**, all of which have been addressed, generating impact on policy and practice for policing in Scotland and improving policing in Scotland by making it fairer and more accountable. In line with the project's ambition to share learning and shape improvements to the governance and practice of police stops across Europe, two working groups organised the workshop **'Improving the Governance and Practice of Police Stops'** which took place in November 2020. This event brought together a variety of resources to capture experiences of bringing about change, and to share this learning across the network which includes over 80 members, 29 countries and over 40 organisations.





# Transforming Attitudes and Responses to Gender Based Violence by Professor Lesley McMillan (Glasgow Caledonian University)

**Professor Lesley McMillan**, Glasgow Caledonian University / **Dr Karen Lorimer**, Glasgow Caledonian University / **Professor Deborah White**, Trent University, Canada

Professor McMillan and Colleagues at GCU have curated a significant and highly impactful body of work within the area of Gender Based Violence (GBV) specifically focussing on how GBV is understood and responded to.

Cumulatively, their research on GBV has transformed the policy and practice of a number of institutions and organisations across the UK.

## IMPACT ON GBV POLICY & RESPONSE IN HIGHER EDUCATION

In 2017 their research was used to establish the first fully approved institutional policy in a Scottish university that addresses the full range of forms of GBV, creating a safer and more equitable campus, and indicative of institutional cultural change, to the benefit of 17,000 students, 1600 staff, and visitors. The policy has since been replicated by both Fife College and South Lanarkshire College. The research findings on disclosure and the importance of having specially trained personnel led directly to the introduction of a team of 33 specially trained First Responders at GCU where training on receiving disclosures and supporting survivors was based upon the team's research findings.



## IMPACT ON ATTITUDES IN HIGHER EDUCATION & BEYOND

The research findings were used to co-design a GBV primary prevention campaign, **#erasethegrey**. The findings from our work determined the messaging and approach. The campaign comprised 14 key prevention messages with assets including posters, pole-banners and motion graphics. The campaign has changed attitudes towards GBV with one survey showing that of those who were not aware of GBV before, 78% had increased awareness, and 62% had greater awareness of the range of forms GBV may take.

To support organisational ability to instil practice and cultural change, as well as commit to GBV prevention, the campaign was made available under

free licence; to date 10 universities, colleges, public sector and third sector organisations have used it, including Police Scotland Furthermore, members of a newly formed GBV consortium of colleges and universities Fearless Glasgow (GCU, Strathclyde University, Glasgow Kelvin College, Glasgow School of Art, Glasgow Clyde College, Ayrshire College) used the campaign across their campuses during the annual global event 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence in November 2019.

## IMPACT ON FORENSIC MEDICAL SERVICES FOR SURVIVORS OF GBV

Drawing directly on SIPP and ESRC funded research, Professors McMillan and White's research findings on forensic medical intervention and provision of services for survivors were used in the Scottish Government's consultation to inform The Forensic Medical Services (Victims of Sexual Offences) (Scotland) Bill. Findings submitted to the consultation - Equally Safe: A consultation on legislation to improve forensic medical services for victims of rape and sexual assault - included the limitation of physician-led models of forensic intervention in sexual assault and the potential for the greater use of nurses; how technical competencies and roles of physicians and nurses are (mis)understood; and how police officers in Scotland understand forensic medical evidence produced from examinations, and their empathy and understanding of survivors.

# Pluralised responses to policing the Pandemic: Analysing the emergence informal order maintenance strategies, the changing 'policing web', and the impacts of COVID-19 in rural communities by Andy Tatnell (Edinburgh Napier University)

**Dr Andrew Wooff**, Edinburgh Napier University / **Dr Shane Horgan**, Edinburgh Napier University / **Andy Tatnell**, Research Assistant, Edinburgh Napier University

This project examined how the policing of rural communities has been impacted by the COVID-19 epidemic. By exploring the likely long-term implications on trust and confidence in the police and plural policing in these communities, we assessed the changing demand and the role of other organisations, agencies, and groups in supporting order maintenance.

The project builds on previous SIPR funded work by Wooff (2018) which explored trust and legitimacy in the police and SIPR has supported the dissemination of the project. It also compliments work being done on a SIPR funded PhD studentship.

This project employed a qualitative, case study approach, comprising an analysis of social media, 23 semi-structured interviews and 3 focus groups with strategic and operational staff from the community, police and local authority. The pseudonymised case-study areas encapsulate different 'rurals': the remote-rural 'Craignorth' in the north of Scotland and the accessibly rural 'Glen Roy' in the central belt.

We found that COVID-19 has exacerbated existing pre-pandemic problems. The pre-pandemic move towards 'abstract' service provision, particularly policing and mental health has been keenly felt. The centralisation of resources to 'hub' towns and cities has left some rural communities feeling symbolically and geographically isolated and peripheral during the pandemic. As a result, these communities filled gaps left by services that were either withdrawn or moved online. Together with other formal agencies and the third sector, they utilised and developed extant structures, local knowledge, and networks

of collective efficacy to organise support helping to support the needs of vulnerable community members.

As the pandemic has progressed, the value placed on outdoor and rural areas has increased. People want to consume them more which has affected the social and economic fabric of these areas and communities. The impacts of this are only just emerging but it highlights the tensions between national and local decision making, and how to resource and support (re)imagined rural areas facing larger influxes of tourists. Furthermore, national decisions predicated on public health concerns and risks posed by COVID-19 are having profound impact on local rural communities. While this might be accepted as we continue to progress through the pandemic and recovery, consideration must be given in national policy making to how to re-engage and empower communities in a post pandemic context.

Communities were broadly supportive of the careful balance the police are taking between the enforcement and discretionary policing of emergency legislation. Interestingly, there is evidence in Craignorth of a disconnect between trust and confidence in the police in general and trust and confidence in policing throughout the pandemic. This highlights the continued importance of addressing historical community relations in the context of trust and confidence throughout the pandemic. It also raises further future-oriented questions about the longer-term impacts of the pandemic on those relationships.

As the project concludes, we hope the findings will inform practitioners in responding to the unfolding pandemic and recovery. Furthermore, in the longer-term, the project will inform the wider policy-agendas of several key areas such as service provision models in remote-rural Scottish communities, particularly with regards policing and mental health, and public access to the countryside.

The project was funded by the Scottish Funding Council (£43,604).



## Summary of reducing criminalising of looked after children by Kristina Moodie (Children and Young People's Centre for Justice) and Colin Convery (Chief Inspector, Children and Young People Partnerships, Prevention & Community Wellbeing Division)

Children and young people in care are often unnecessarily criminalised. In recognition that the police play a pivotal role in ensuring that children and young people do not pick up unnecessary formal police charges for behaviours that would rarely be criminalised in other settings, such as the family home, in 2019, the Children and Young People Team within Police Scotland developed a six-month pilot project based within Dumfries and Galloway.

This was part of police Scotland's ongoing efforts to focus on their Corporate Parenting duties and work to reduce the unnecessary criminalisation of children in care.

The rationale for this pilot was that it would link into the Youth Justice Strategy in Scotland, Preventing Offending: Getting it Right for Children and Young people (2015) by providing Police Officers with knowledge and insight into key factors associated with offending behaviour. The training was provided by the local authority, the Children and Young

Persons Team in Police Scotland, Care Visions, Scottish Fire and Rescue (SFR), the Children and Young People's Centre for Justice (CYCJ), Social Work and representatives from the Missing People Pilot study. The training was aimed at social work services, residential childcare workers and divisional and frontline Police Scotland staff and CYCJ was invited to evaluate the pilot project with an aim to measure the effectiveness of the pilot in both the immediate and medium term.

The training was carried out in Dumfries and Galloway over seven sessions throughout September and October 2019 and included a total of 247 attendees from Police Scotland, residential childcare, social work, third sector and Strathclyde Fire and Rescue (SFR). Using pre and post survey data and analysis of police call-outs to children's houses, the pilot was shown to have broadly achieved its aims. A matched sample of training attendees showed significant increases in self-reported knowledge and confidence across all items in the survey after the training than prior to it.

Across many of the items this increase was a highly significant one. With respect to impact on practice, despite the number of calls made by children's houses to Police Scotland remaining similar to the previous year, the number of those calls that resulted in a crime reduced by 62%. It is likely that various factors played a role in this reduction, not



least of which is the introduction of a change to the SCRS protocol enabling officers to use discretion in the recording of incidents as crimes in certain cases, however what should not be underestimated is the impact of this on the life chances of those young people, who as a result of this pilot will have had less contact with the justice system.

Since this pilot was completed Police Scotland have made the decision to roll-out the test of change to Greater Glasgow with a view to further assessing the benefits of the approach. The long term aim is to roll the approach out across Scotland. The work supports The Promise and is an integral part of Police Scotland's Corporate Parenting Plan.



# Police Accountability - Towards International Standards by Dr Genevieve Lennon (University of Strathclyde)

In January 2021 four researchers linked to SIPR, Dr. Anja Johansen (University of Dundee), Prof. Nick Fyfe (Roger Gordon University), Dr. Genevieve Lennon (University of Strathclyde) and Ms Amy Humphrey (University of Dundee), began a major international and interdisciplinary collaboration to assess police complaints mechanisms across the UK, Germany, France, Canada and Japan.

The 'Police Accountability – Towards International Standards' project, funded through the Open Research Area scheme and the ESRC, will run until the end of 2023.

The researchers bring a wealth of interdisciplinary experience, including Prof Fyfe's and Dr Lennon's SIPR supported work, 'Principles for Accountable Policing'. The project also reinforces international networks built upon completed and on-going research in which SIPR members have been involved, such as the EU-COST action POL-STOPS.

The project responds to the parallel trends over the past two decades of increasing police powers, often in response to terrorism and public safety

issues, and transnational police networks as well as the deployment of new technologies in policing. Police accountability has often failed to keep pace with these developments, with reforms, when they occur, often slow or ineffective. Indeed, police malpractice and misuse of powers have become a mainstream political issue, with many claims being supported by recordings of the incidents and their mass dissemination via the internet. Such evidence has highlighted the multiple obstacles facing citizens who complain about police actions.

The aims of the project are threefold. First, to develop international standards for independent procedures, resourcing, and good practice in the handling of complaints against law enforcement agencies. This will encourage better sharing of best practices, allowing the relevant stakeholders to identify what works where and why. It will also facilitate complaints systems that are more effective.

Second, to improve the empirical, methodological and theoretical frameworks to facilitate comparison and contextualisation of police complaints schemes and accountability mechanisms. This addresses the fact that those involved in reforming police complaints schemes currently face great difficulties in contextualising police complaints schemes in different states and regions. In particular, at the moment, the type of data and qualitative information provided by current and past Independent Police Complaints Bodies varies considerably and are often not comparable between jurisdictions. Third, to investigate the current state of accountability in transnational policing conducted within networks

such as Interpol, Europol, or the European Union's Area of Freedom, Security and Justice. This responds to the growth of transnational policing and to the unique challenges it presents in relation to accountability in general and complaints systems specifically.

*Only by bringing together existing data, experiences and insights from practitioners and academics from a range of countries will it be possible to develop a framework that allows contextualisation about performance.*

The 'Police Accountability – Towards International Standards' project will provide the necessary basis for improving both scholarship and practice in the handling of complaints against law enforcement and thereby strengthening police legitimacy and public trust.



## Operation Corner by Dr William Graham (Abertay University)

**Dr William Graham, (PI)** Abertay University / **Dr Niall Hamilton-Smith, (Co PI)** Stirling University / **Richard Kjellgren, Stirling University**

In late 2018, Police Scotland and NHS Grampian formed a multi-agency operation with the objective of tackling Organised Crime Groups (OCGs) operating in North Aberdeenshire. This was focused in the area known as the 'Buchan Corner', including the towns of Peterhead and Fraserburgh.

For a number of years, OCGs from the North West of England have been infiltrating North Aberdeenshire, in particular the towns of Fraserburgh and Peterhead, in order to supply Class 'A' controlled drugs, namely Diamorphine and 'Crack' Cocaine. These groups generally use the 'County Lines' method of drug dealing, which refers to their activity conducted through a single telephone number, often operated from out-with the area where drugs are being sold. The groups use local drug users to assist their activities at a 'street' level, often specifically targeting some of the most vulnerable persons in the community. 'Cuckooing' is one of the tactics used by OCGs who run a 'County Line', where the address of a vulnerable person is taken over by the group as a base to facilitate the supply of controlled drugs. In many cases, the vulnerable occupant is coerced into assisting the group and their involvement in this can exacerbate any pre-existing substance misuse issues. Those most at risk of 'Cuckooing' tend to be vulnerable,

by virtue of drug or alcohol addiction, age, mental health, disability or any other vulnerability. OCGs often use physical violence, intimidation, mental abuse and exploitation to maintain control of the vulnerable person.

Police Scotland initiated a period of enforcement between 19 October and 2 November 2018 and apprehended 53 persons. 'Operation Corner' was supported by partners from Aberdeenshire Council and NHS Grampian, who, in a break away from normal law enforcement, sought to provide support to individuals encountered during the enforcement phase, with the aim of addressing the underlying factors behind drug supply and seek to break the cycle of the associated issues of misuse.

Those arrested was asked whether they currently received any support, or if they did not, whether they wished to be referred for support and it was also ascertained if they had been a victim of 'Cuckooing' and those were referred to the North Aberdeenshire Cuckooing initiative, where Police, Substance Misuse Service, Housing and other relevant partners provide additional support to reduce the risk of them being 'cuckooed'.

### EVALUATION

In an effort to identify any distinctive profiles and evaluate the trajectories and transitions of the individuals involved and to evaluate the overall impact of Operation Corner, the authors were commissioned to provide an interim report at the end of Year 1 and a final report at the end of Year 2, due in December 2020. The aim of the evaluation

was to establish whether a multi-agency approach, as opposed to a conventional Police only approach with investigative tactics, does in fact break the cycle of drug misuse or whether said individuals continue to be involved in serious and organised crime as a lifestyle choice.

A mixed methods approach was employed including both qualitative and quantitative analysis. Semi-structured interviews were carried out with key stakeholders and in addition, quantitative data was provided by police on all 53 persons involved in the operation, which was analysed to provide a picture of levels of engagement. The analysis provided a statistical summary and evidence of the levels of engagement from each profile group, which was further broken down into various categories, including, but not limited to, age groups, gender, drugs used/supplied and services previously provided or utilised.

Overall, it was found that Operation Corner had a significant impact on those engaging and that it was most successful at engaging vulnerable individuals at an early stage of being 'caught up' in organised crime. Similarly, it also suggested that it is effective at establishing trust and affecting change over time, despite working with individuals with highly complex support needs.

# Submitting evidence into the 'Inquiry Into Respect for the Constitutional Rights to Free Expression and Free Assembly' by Dr Andy Aydin-Aitchison (University of Edinburgh)

Following his submission of written evidence (Link 1), Andy Aydin-Aitchison appeared on an expert panel before a hearing of the new All Party Parliamentary Group for Democracy and Constitution on 22 April.

The group, Chaired by Geraint Davies MP, is made up of members of the Houses of Commons and Lords representing the Conservative, Labour, Liberal Democrat and Scottish National Parties. As part of their 'Inquiry into Respect for the Constitutional Rights to Free Expression and Free Assembly' the group questioned Dr Aydin-Aitchison, Pippa Woodrow of Doughty Street Chambers, and Lord Brian Paddick, former Metropolitan Police Deputy Assistant Commissioner on recent policing of events and protests at Clapham Common and Bristol, and on proposed changes to the law on police powers in relation to public gatherings under the Police, Crime and Sentencing Bill. Further panels were held to take evidence from participants in the events and from the police.

Drawing on his previous work with Jarrett Blaustein and Ceren Mermutluo-lu on democratic policing and human rights (links 2 and 3, below), Dr Aydin-Aitchison identified confusion in how the respective provisions of human rights law and pandemic regulations interact in decisions governing public protest, and that the necessary degree of tolerance for non-violent demonstrations has not been evident. Further, he identified significant concerns about extensions to police powers and possible penalties in relation to public assembly, both in terms of the mechanisms to scrutinise police decision making, and in terms of possible 'chilling effects' on participation in public demonstrations which are a vital part of democratic politics.

The full inquiry report was released in early June 2021 along with all written, oral and other evidence, and is available at <https://www.icdr.co.uk/bristol-clapham-inquiry-home>.

## **Among important points of consensus among experts, the following is noted:**

- The lack of clarity in Coronavirus regulations in relation to a right to protest (no mention in non-exhaustive 'reasonable excuse' list)
- The failure to read those regulations through Articles 10 and 11 of the ECHR, brought in to domestic legislation through the Human Rights Act 1998 (in the case of England and Wales, Scotland wasn't the main focus, but this would also potentially extend to the Scotland Act 1998)
- That police in a democracy have a positive duty to facilitate and protect the right to protest, not simply a negative duty not to interfere.

## **The report recommends putting the right to protest on a statutory basis to clarify rights and duties.**

- It proposes scrapping extensions to police powers proposed under the current Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill
- It proposes exploring options for a commission on the model of the NI Parades Commission for decision making or advice on facilitating protest\* and
- It calls for further investigation into mechanisms of redress for complaints against police arising in the context of policing of protests.

The Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill entered the Reports Stage in Parliamentary Procedure on 5 July 2021.

*Link 1, evidence, open access:*

[https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract\\_id=3827743](https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=3827743)

*Link 2a, with Blaustein on democratic policing, original:*

<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.1177/1477370812470780>

*Link 3, with Mermutluo-lu on democratic policing and human rights:*

[https://brill.com/downloadpdf/journals/shrs/30/1-4/article-p72\\_72.xml](https://brill.com/downloadpdf/journals/shrs/30/1-4/article-p72_72.xml)

**strategic  
priority 2:**

technology and  
digital policing



This theme explores issues such as frontline policing and technology; Digital contact, online visibility & accessibility; Big Data and predictive policing; Surveillance; Cyber enabled/ dependent crime; Cyber security; Public protection; Maximising intelligence; Digital Forensic investigation; and Social, ethical and legal considerations. Some relevant activities from the Scottish Policing Research Community includes:

### RESEARCH / GRANTS

SIPR will match fund a PhD Studentship with **Dr Daniel Thomas** (University of Strathclyde) which will focus on ***“Improving cybercrime reporting”***. The proposed project constitutes an independent study of approaches to reporting cybercrime in Scotland, with the aim to develop robust evidence of best practice to inform ongoing development of this crucial capacity.

SIPR has committed research funding under the ‘Future of Policing’ grant scheme exploring key areas such as ***‘Influence policing – mapping the links between preventive policing and new media’*** **Dr Daniel Thomas** (PI - University of Strathclyde) and ***‘A harmonised study of public expectations of police responses to cybercrime’*** **Dr Shane Horgan** (Edinburgh Napier University).

**Dr Liz Aston** will lead a team along with SIPR Associate Director, **Dr Megan O’Neill** (University of Dundee), **Dr Helen Wells** (Keele University), and **Professor Ben Bradford** (University College London) on ***“Investigating New Types of Engagement, Response and Contact Technology in Policing” (INTERACT)***. This received £862,000 from the ESRC. To read more about this project click [here](#)

### KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE / PUBLICATIONS

SIPR submitted written evidence to the Justice Sub-Committee on Policing as part of its ***scrutiny of the use of remote piloted aircraft systems and body worn video cameras by Police Scotland***. The submission can be read [here](#)

In 2018 Abertay and Droman Security were commissioned by SIPR to deliver a report on ***Policing responses to cybercrime: an international evidence review and workshop***. Some of the results of the research were published in 2020 in Policing: A Journal of Policy and Practice, in the article: ***A Qualitative Exploratory Study of the Knowledge, Forensic, and Legal Challenges from the Perspective of Police Cybercrime Specialists*** authored by **Dr Stefano De Paoli** et al, this article can be read [here](#)

### LEARNING AND INNOVATION

Robert Gordon University has become one of only three institutions in Scotland (along with Edinburgh Napier University and Abertay University) to receive ***certification from the National Cyber Security Centre for their Master’s degree in Cyber Security***. This significant recognition which meets the need for graduates to cyber security expertise and assures prospective employers that graduates are well-taught and have valued industry skills.

Following recognition as UK Centre of Excellence for Cyber Security, Abertay University is investing £18m in a new cybersecurity research and development centre. This initiative will bring together students, academics, and organisations to help solve global cyber security challenges.

### PARTNERSHIPS

**Dr Liz Aston** accepted an invitation from the Cabinet Secretary for Justice, to Chair a new ***Independent Advisory Group (IAG) on New and Emerging Technologies in Policing***, tasked with scoping the legal and ethical issues arising. This group considers not only to the potential impact of new devices, but also new data handling or processing techniques. For more information on this group, including the complete list of member click [here](#)



## EVENT HIGHLIGHT: SIPR's end of year event - 'The Future of Policing'

The SIPR Scottish International Policing Conference has become a key event in the SIPR calendar, and we were disappointed that we were unable to host a physical event this year. However, SIPR is keen to continue to provide a space where academics, practitioners, and policy makers can come together to share learning and exchange ideas on key policing issues and research priorities. Therefore, in lieu of our annual conference, this year SIPR organised an online event which focussed on the 'Future of Policing'.

This event was organised to tie in with the launch of SIPR's 'Future of Policing' research grants which were launched at the event. The purpose of these grants was to support research projects focussed on addressing and exploring the challenges and emerging issues related to the Future of Policing within Scotland, but which may also have relevance internationally.

On our introductory panel, we were delighted to be joined by including David Crichton (previous Interim Chair of the SPA), Kirsty-Louise Campbell (Police Scotland's Head of Strategy, Insight and Innovation), and Gill Imery QPM (Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Constabulary in Scotland). Our three panellists were kind enough to provide their insights.

We were also delighted to host Nic Pole, Principal Analyst (Futures) from the College of Policing. Nic is one of the authors of the College of Policing's recent futures report 'Policing in England and Wales: Future Operating Environment (FOE) 2040'. FOE 2040 explores how policing's operating environment might change over the next 20 years and considers what that change might mean for policing today. As the College's lead on futures work, Nic and his team use 'futures' concepts, theories and methods to map possible future developments in order to inform present-day decision-making. His presentation discussed the need for strategic foresight to tackle the challenges which will face our police



force in the future such as social fragmentation; technological changes and convergence; harnessing artificial intelligence; workforce automation; larger, older more diverse populations; and climate change.

The event also included three breakout sessions with each chaired by a SIPR Associate Director (Professor Lesley McMillan, Dr Megan O'Neill, and Professor Denise Martin). Each session focussed on each of the three SIPR Strategic Research Themes: Policing and health, safety and well-being; Technology and digital policing; and Policing systems capability and resilience. These breakout sessions provided a valuable opportunity to enable academics, practitioners, and policy makers to come together to discuss the research priorities and gaps in knowledge in each of these areas.

In addition to the majority Scottish representation, representing 14 countries including Australian, the USA, the Netherlands, Ireland, France, China, Catalonia, Hungary, and France.

Following this event, SIPR ran a highly competitive and successful grant scheme which has seen more than £95,000 awarded to support research exploring a diverse and important range of topics including preventative policing and new media; cybercrime; emotional labour; trauma aware policing; and fingerprints on banknotes (see page 11).

# COVID-19 and the future of cyber-crime by Dr Lynsay Shepherd (Abertay University)

**Dr Lynsay Shepherd** (Abertay University) / **Dr Ben Collier** (Cambridge Cybercrime Centre and University of Edinburgh) / **Dr Shane Horgan** (Edinburgh Napier University) / **Dr Richard Jones** (University of Edinburgh)

The onset of the COVID-19 pandemic caused a fundamental shift in societal norms. Billions of people were driven online, relying on technology to enable them to work from home and maintain social ties.

In the same period, there was also a surge in cyber-attacks and cyber-crime, with a particular increase in phishing attempts.

These cyber-attacks have implications for individuals, businesses, law enforcement, and governments. It is also essential to consider the future and how cyber-crime may evolve in a post-COVID world.

Over the last year, my research has focussed on the human aspects of cyber-attacks and cyber-crime during the COVID-19 pandemic. As part of this work, Dr Liz Aston (SIPR Director) put me in contact with Dr Ben Collier (Cambridge Cybercrime Centre and University of Edinburgh), Dr Shane Horgan (Edinburgh Napier University), and Dr Richard Jones (University of Edinburgh) to author the first issue of a new SIPR briefing series “Research Evidence in Policing: Pandemics”. Collaboratively, we produced a report titled “The implications of the COVID-19 pandemic for cybercrime policing in Scotland: A rapid review of the evidence and future considerations” (Collier et al., 2020a)

The briefing noted that conventional forms of cyber-crime took advantage of the heightened fear exhibited by the public and that criminals adapted existing cyber-crime attack vectors with a “COVID-19” flavour, e.g. COVID-19 themed phishing and smishing (SMS phishing) attempts. Several key recommendations were made in the briefing, including enhancing the localised policing of cyber-crime and advising territorial police forces to consider expanding their capacity for dealing with cyber-crime.

Following publication, the Scottish press covered the briefing, including The Courier, and The Herald. Furthermore, the research initiated by SIPR was disseminated further and was included in the University of Edinburgh’s “COVID-19 Perspectives” blog (Collier et al., 2020b). An extended version of the



briefing was invited for publication in Emerald’s “Journal of Criminal Psychology” (Horgan et al., 2021).

Additionally, I collaborated with researchers at the University of Strathclyde, the University of Warwick, the University of Kent, and the University of Oxford to construct a timeline of cyber-attacks that emerged following the pandemic’s onset, and the work was published in Elsevier’s “Computers & Security” journal (Lallie et al., 2021). A total of 43 unique COVID-19 related attacks were reported in the global media, covering the period from December 2019 to May 2020. It was found that the majority of these attacks (86%) involved phishing, and many of these involved a malware component.

After analysing the timeline of events in the United Kingdom, there appeared to be a loose correlation between governmental announcements and associated cyber-crime campaigns. To provide an example, in March 2020, the UK government announced free school meals for children. Several days later, smishing messages were circulated, asking parents to provide bank details so they could receive school meal payments. Criminals are targeting some of the most vulnerable members of society.

The pandemic has heightened the pace at which society has adopted digital technologies. The increased reliance on digital communications means that more people are likely to encounter cyber-attacks and fall victim to cyber-crime. Thus, future work is required by governments and law enforcement to protect citizens and businesses.





## Update on the Mobile Working Project by Dr William Graham (Abertay University)

The Police Scotland Mobile Working Project is now entering its third year of operation, with a roll out underway to detectives and remaining operational specialists which will see around 14,000 officers equipped.

SIPR assisted Police Scotland in the drafting of a tender to undertake an academic evaluation of the benefits of the project. The contract was won by the late Professor Lesley Diack and Dr. Midj Falconer of Robert Gordon University and Dr. William Graham of Abertay University.

The main objectives were to identify long-term potential benefits and efficiencies to the officers, senior staff, and the public. A selection of officers from across Police Scotland were interviewed remotely from five divisions and the research identified five key areas with sub-themes as highlighted below:

### **Productivity**

The feedback from frontline officers, sergeants and CID was that an efficiency was created because there were fewer delays with control room checks, leading to increased capacity, time savings and the ability to manage their time in a better way including using any 'downtime' to complete other tasks.

### **Information**

Access to information and the facility to hold details on the device was improved and the availability of more detailed information e.g., markers and warrants, leading to an immediacy of information and accuracy. They also noted the ability to access photographs across a range of incidents gave the frontline officer an added advantage.

### **Connectivity and Communication**

There was a sense of connectivity that was created when officers were away from police premises, with better external communications with the public and other agencies with the email and phone function on the mobile device.

### **Officer wellbeing and safety**

One of the main issues identified was benefits to both officer wellbeing and safety, including being less office-based made the job easier, gave them fewer delays at the end of shift and importantly, anonymous access to welfare information. Officer safety was also mentioned by officers as they felt that being able to access background information gave them better awareness of what they may face when attending incidents.

### **Technology and Culture Change**

The devices were seen to have a defining role in current policing and a transformational change on standard practice. Police officers' attitudes to technology were important to the successful uptake of the devices and previous experience with technology was a factor. There was a very positive attitude towards the adoption of the technology and there was a perception of a culture change with more flexible working arrangements.

Overall, the introduction of the mobile devices has been very successful with police officers at all levels realising multiple benefits in process, job satisfaction, safety and access to information.

The findings have been presented to Police Scotland Executive staff, the Resources Committee of the Scottish Police Authority and other user groups in the UK and Europe. It attracted positive media coverage and an article was published by Policing Insight authored by Dr Graham and Chief Inspector Martin Gallagher from the Mobile Working Project team along with a SIPR Briefing paper published earlier this year.



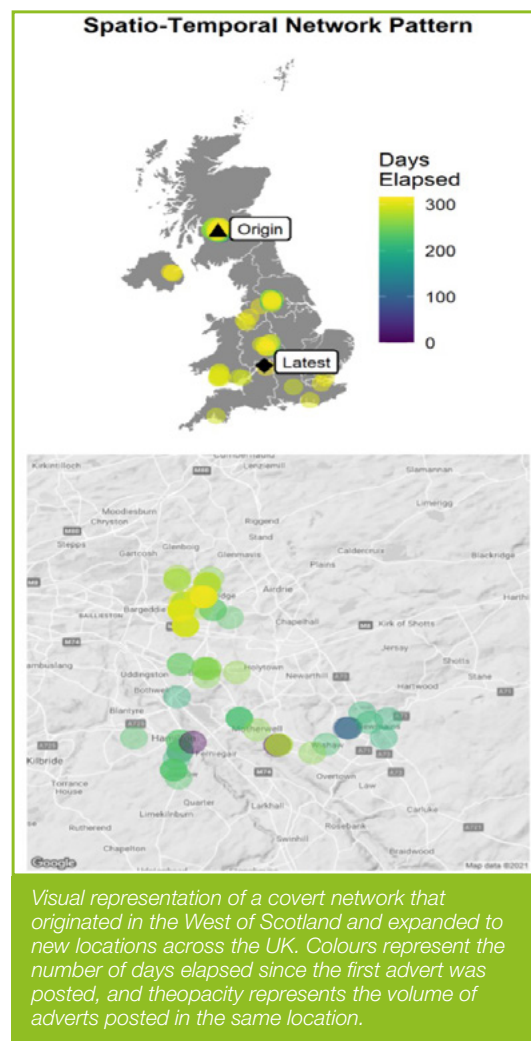
## Connecting the dots in online sex trafficking investigations: Preliminary findings from fieldwork and quantitative methodological developments by Richard Kjellgren (University of Stirling)

I am a second-year PhD student at the University of Stirling. My work is situated at the intersection of public protection and digital policing.

With the widespread emergence of the internet and communication technologies, many behaviours are augmented with an online dimension. A significant portion of the advertising of sexual services is now occurring online. Criminal networks and organised crime groups are also advertising victims of exploitation on adult services websites. However, due to definitional complexities and other factors, distinguishing between voluntary sex workers and trafficking victims is no easy task, and particularly so when examining online escort adverts:

*It's very, very difficult to identify somebody that's potentially trafficked from that, just from that advert itself. You know, if you've got a number of adverts that are linked then you could potentially look at that as being larger scale, and maybe linked.*

(Detective Inspector, Police Scotland)



Identification matrices have previously been proposed, allowing investigators to manually screen adverts for risk<sup>1</sup>. Others have suggested using artificial intelligence to predict instances of trafficking from online adverts<sup>2</sup>. I would argue that these approaches are extremely vulnerable to generate false positives, and that the true value of open-source data and innovative methods lie in the construction of empirical networks. Drawing on a combination of web scraping, data mining, and social network analysis, I am currently developing a scalable methodology to understand the organisation of covert networks within the sex market, and examining the extent to which such an approach would be useful for Police Scotland and partner organisations. Preliminary findings from my fieldwork suggest that this approach can be useful in better understanding the online dimension of sex trafficking.

**strategic  
priority 3:**

Policing systems  
capability and  
resilience

This theme explores issues such as Workforce; Support for operational policing; Retention/ recruitment; Business change/ change management; Culture, diversity, and inclusion; Staff well-being; Leadership; Training, learning and education; Demand; Data and Investigation. . Some relevant activities from the Scottish Policing Research Community includes:

### RESEARCH / GRANTS

Professor Denise Martin and Dr William Graham secured Scottish Funding council funding to explore police organisational learning in the pandemic working with a UK based police service, the initial findings for the project were presented at the CEPOL Research and Science Conference May 2021- 'Pandemic Effects on Law Enforcement Training & Practice: Taking early stock from a research perspective'.

SIPR has committed research funding under the 'Future of Policing' grant scheme exploring key areas such as **'Emotional Labour and Public Protection Policing: Impact on and Experiences of Officers'** Dr Maureen Taylor and Professor Lesley McMillan (Glasgow Caledonian University) and **'Trauma-aware policing in the custody suite: and in-depth case study'** Dr Karen Goodall (University of Edinburgh)

### LEARNING AND INNOVATION



SIPR will match fund a PhD Studentship with **Dr Evangelia Demou** based at the University of Glasgow on **"Understanding the health and wellbeing of female police officers and staff"**. This PhD studentship will develop understanding of how police work impacts on female police officers and identify opportunities

to support the health of female police officers and staff across the UK.

### KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE / PUBLICATIONS

In ***Police and Community in Twentieth-Century Scotland*** (Edinburgh University Press), **Jackson, Davidson, Fleming, Smale, and Sparks** examine the relationships between police officers and the diverse Scottish communities in which they have worked across the twentieth century. This book explains factors leading to not only co-operation, consensus and building of trust, but also tensions and conflicts across a century of social, political, and technological change.

**Joannidis, CA., Haddrill, PR. and Laing, K.,** 2020. Determination of the most effective enhancement process for latent fingermarks on Clydesdale Bank and Royal Bank of Scotland £5 and £10 polymer banknotes. *Forensic Science International*, 312

### PARTNERSHIPS

SIPR members have supported and contributed to the refresh of the SPA Forensic Services Strategy to ensure its alignment with the evolving needs of the service and to the recently agreed joint strategy for policing (2020).

Associate Directors **Professor Denise Martin** and **Dr Megan O'Neill** represented SIPR on Scottish Government Race and Ethnicity Groups. These groups examined 'Race and Workforce' as well as 'Data and Evidence on Race and Ethnicity'.



## Improving police practice in the investigation and search for missing people by Dr Penny Woolnough (Abertay University)



Police in the UK receive approximately 300,000 reports of missing children and adults per year. While most are found alive, some have fatal outcomes from accidental death, suicide, abduction and homicide.

The immense challenge of responding to every reported missing person consumes approximately 13% of all police time, and costs quickly escalate to thousands/millions of pounds for cases involving specialist officers and equipment. More widely, an average of 12 people are affected by every incident - for families especially, this is a period of ambiguity and intense pain. Consequently, resourcing the demands of and maximising the chances of safely locating missing children and adults is one of the biggest challenges facing the police service.

SIPR Associate Director, Dr Woolnough has undertaken ground-breaking research across three studies to develop and implement the first normative behavioural profiling guidance for police-led missing person investigations along with accompanying training/materials and bespoke data-informed case support for complex/suspicious cases.

*Collectively, the research programme has impacted on all UK police forces as well as law enforcement in Australia, Canada and Sweden, reducing harm and saving lives by dramatically changing operational practice and procedures through the use of evidence-based guidance and associated training.*

Conducting the first, large scale content analysis of police-recorded missing person cases in the UK, Woolnough and colleagues identified an age-graded / developmentally informed basis for missing children's behaviour whereby age is a critical discriminating factor in determining: whether a child is intentionally missing, how far they travel, the nature of the place(s) they visit and the timescales in which they will be located. Essentially, as age increases, distances travelled and timescales to locate increase. In a similar manner, for missing adults the central importance of mental health diagnosis / cognitive function (i.e., dementia) has been identified as a predictor for outcome characteristics.

A second study extended this work to specific analysis of suicides in recognition of the challenges associated with preventing and responding to suicide, and the fact that missing persons at risk of suicide are a high-risk group. Content analysis of suicides/undetermined deaths enabled the identification of predictive variables (e.g., suicide attempts, previous missing episodes) to 'predict' outcome characteristics (e.g., likelihood of suicide; distance travelled, where they will be located, and timescales in which they will be traced/found). Collectively, the results of these two studies formed the basis for the first normative behavioural profiling guidance for police-led missing children and adult cases, including suicide-specific profiles and a suicide profiling checklist.

Working with colleagues at Liverpool University, an analysis of case-closure interviews completed by the police with located individuals allowed the proposition of a typological approach for investigations. A significant association was found between: age, occupational status, whether the adult had any mental health issues, the risk level assigned to the missing person; and their dominant behavioural theme (escape, dysfunctional; unintentional). The findings are the first step in the development of a standardised checklist for a missing person investigation and have been incorporated into key training materials for investigators. New work to build on and advance this work includes the SIPR funded PhD on development of a Structured Professional Judgement Tool for missing person risk assessment which commenced with Police Scotland in February 2021.

Throughout this work SIPR has been a key partner in facilitating knowledge exchange via travel including a Knowledge Exchange visit to Swedish Polisen (May 2019); and events including a Knowledge Exchange meeting with Police Scotland, Ottawa Police Service and Swedish Polisen (October 2019).



# EVENT HIGHLIGHTS: Applied Cognitive Psychology in Forensic Settings 2021 Virtual Edition - A Joint QMU-SIPR Event



On May 25th, SIPR and Queen Margaret University hosted a second Applied Cognitive Psychology in Forensic Settings event, following on from a very successful first event with Dundee University in June 2018.

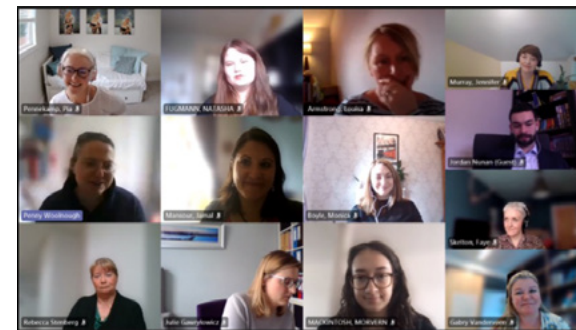
This year's event was organized by Dr Jamal K. Mansour (Queen Margaret University) and Dr Penny Woolnough (SIPR Associate Director and Leader of the Evidence and Investigation Network, University of Abertay). The event brought together researchers, students, and practitioners actively working on or interested in applying cognitive psychology to forensic settings, with the overall goal of discussing current interests and expertise across Scotland, (re)establishing key connections, and identifying potential new collaborations and avenues for funding.

Because of COVID19-related restrictions, the event was virtual this year. Although perhaps making networking more challenging, the virtual setting significantly expanded the reach of the event. We were thrilled to welcome presenters from the United States, The Netherlands, Switzerland, and Germany—as well as Scotland and England. The virtual nature of the event also led to a significant increase in delegates: we opened registration up to 70 delegates and still had a waiting list of over 30 people. The delegates who attended came from Austria, Netherlands, Canada, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, USA, Germany, Nigeria, Australia, Iceland, Ireland, and throughout the UK.

The event included a morning and an afternoon session, with each featuring 4-5 presentations followed by break-out discussions for each presentation. Broadly, presentations discussed witness-relevant factors or investigator challenges. In terms of witness-relevant factors, topics covered included developing rapport (Jordan Nunan, University of Portsmouth), alcohol and eyewitness memory (Julie Gawrylowicz, Abertay University), bias in lineup decisions (Faye Skelton, Edinburgh Napier University; Lee Curley, Open University), eyewitness confidence (Jamal K. Mansour, Queen Margaret University), and deaf people as expert witnesses (Michael Craig, Northumbria University; Graham Turner, Heriot Watt University). In terms of investigator challenges, topics included police shootings (Richard Hough, University of West Florida), the use camera images (Gabry Vanderveen,

Erasmus University Rotterdam), bias in digital forensic investigations (Karen Renaud, University of Strathclyde and Alistair Irons, University of Sunderland), and the identification of super-recognizers (Meike Ramon, University of Fife; Simon Rjosk, Berlin Police).

The event was highly successful, thanks to great presenters and delegates, as well as Monica Boyle (SIPR Knowledge Exchange and Business Manager), Calum Grant (Media Services, Queen Margaret University), and the dedicated student volunteers (Connor, Karol, Maria, Morvern, Natasha, and Sofia) who facilitated the break-out room discussions and helped troubleshoot technical difficulties.





## Using Eyewitness Confidence by Dr Jamal K. Mansour & Pia Pennekamp (Queen Margaret University)

Eyewitness confidence plays a key role in criminal justice. Prosecutors decide whether to try cases based on an eyewitness' confidence in their identification while judges and jurors use eyewitness confidence to determine the weight to give their testimony.

But how useful is eyewitness confidence? Research shows that the higher the eyewitness' confidence is in their lineup identification, the more likely they are to be accurate (Wixted & Wells, 2017). But there is a catch: until recently, researchers almost exclusively measured confidence using numeric scales (e.g., 0-100%). In practice, confidence judgements are usually verbal. Indeed, we have found that people would prefer to report confidence, if they were an eyewitness, verbally (56%) rather than numerically (21%), using both (21%), or another way (2%; Mansour, Batstone, & Pennekamp, in preparation). We found the same pattern for receiving confidence as a juror.

Encouragingly, recent research suggests verbal and numeric confidence are similarly predictive of identification accuracy (Mansour, 2020). However, verbal confidence is often interpreted somewhat differently from how the eyewitness translates it numerically (Mansour, 2020; Mansour, Batstone, & Pennekamp, in preparation). And this variability may influence trials. We asked mock-jurors

to read a mock trial transcript which included eyewitness testimony (Mansour, Vallano, et al., ongoing). Participants considered the eyewitness significantly less confident and the accused significantly less likely to be guilty when the eyewitness expressed confidence in her identification verbally compared to numerically—in short, they believed eyewitness less.

How can we accommodate people's preferences to report and hear confidence verbally but ensure confidence is interpreted as the eyewitness intended? Eyewitnesses and fact finders (police, prosecutors, judges, jurors) need common ground. To that end, we are producing a confidence lexicon—an empirically-developed tool that pairs common phrases with common (numeric) understanding of those phrases (Pennekamp & Mansour, in preparation). Consider Figure 1. Eyewitnesses could report one of the phrases, a number, a range, or simply draw a line or circle on the lexicon to represent their confidence. And the tool with the eyewitness' response could be provided to the police, prosecutors, judges, and/or jurors. We are currently validating this tool, so stay tuned.

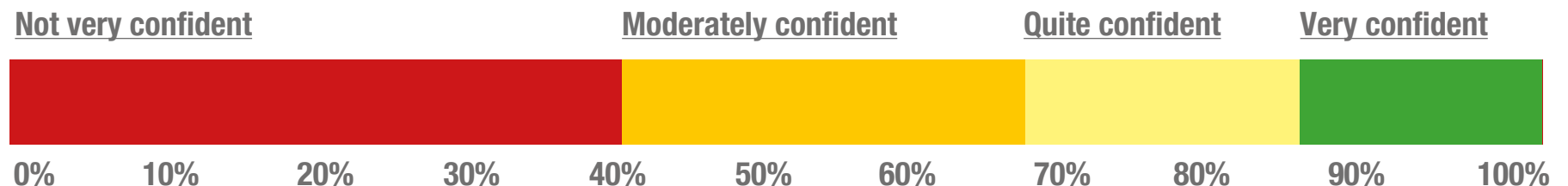


Figure 1: A preliminary version of our tool, an empirically-derived confidence lexicon for eyewitness identification.

# Trauma Informed Policing in Scotland - Beyond ACEs

## by Dr Karri Gillespie-Smith

**Dr Karen Goodall** (University of Edinburgh) / **Dr Zara Brodie** (University of the West of Scotland) / **Dr Karri Gillespie-Smith** (University of Edinburgh)

People who have experienced Adverse Childhood Experiences - ACEs such as childhood abuse, neglect etc are more likely to have negative outcomes in later life.

The higher the number of ACEs a person has experienced is associated with a higher chance of coming into contact with the criminal justice system, either as a victim or perpetrator of crime (Bellis et al., 2014; Bellis et al., 2015). The increasing awareness of ACEs has led to a drive towards police forces becoming more trauma-informed, however there is a paucity of research examining police officers' view on trauma-informed policing.

Training in ACEs and/or trauma is difficult since there is not one single agreed definition of what trauma-informed care is, nor what defines a trauma-informed service. With ACEs included within the Scottish Government's programme for government in 2018/19 and discussions around Scotland becoming an "ACE aware nation" it is important to consider the impact of any ACEs awareness raising on police officers, and staff as well as considering how these new approaches may be impacting those who have had adverse childhood experiences.

In 2018, Dr Karri Gillespie-Smith received SIPR funding for their project 'Moving towards Trauma-Informed policing: An exploration of police officers' attitudes and perceptions towards Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs). This project was funded to research the Ayrshire Division of Police Scotland's aim to become a trauma informed division and aimed to explore shared understandings and perceptions of police in a Scottish division moving towards becoming trauma-informed, with a view to identifying barriers and facilitators.

Within this study focus groups were utilised to elicit shared understanding of officers' perceptions and understandings of trauma-informed policing (TI-P). Initially, participants expressed uncertainty about the practical implementation of TI-P, particularly when there was a tension policy or public safety considerations.



Additionally, concerns were raised about the level of support available to police workers in dealing with trauma. Awareness-raising may be of limited value without practical guidance that considers the potential tension between current policing policy, public safety and TI-P. This is particularly salient with regards to dealing with individuals who are suspects or perpetrators of crime as opposed to witnesses, bystanders or person of concern.

SIPR is delighted to continue to support this important work and has this year funded Dr Goodall to lead an investigative team exploring 'Trauma-aware policing in the custody suite'. This will undertake an in-depth evaluation of the impact of the NHS Education Scotland National Trauma Training Framework using a custody suite where the majority of staff have undertaken trauma-awareness training. This important work will be beneficial to numerous professionals outside of academia give its implications for vulnerable custody suite detainees and the police officers and staff working with them.



## The Role of Higher Education in Initial Police Learning: A Comparative Analysis of Scotland, Sweden and Finland by Andrew Tatnell, 4th year PhD Student, University of the West of Scotland

Whilst many other north-western European countries have moved, towards lengthy, pre-entry, undergraduate-degree accredited initial police learning programmes, Scottish policing has not.

The aim of this study was to understand why not by undertaking a comparative analysis of how the initial police learning programmes in Scotland, Sweden and Finland had evolved in recent years, how effective each approach was perceived to be and perceptions concerning what role higher education should or shouldn't have.

I conducted fifty individual, semi-structured interviews, six focus groups and several informant interviews in 2019 with police officers (new recruits/policing students to Chief Officers), police staff including (trainers to Executive officers), academics and those with police governance and oversight roles. The findings showed that policy had been based largely on professional judgement rather than empirical research. They also showed that within Scottish policing 'craft' knowledge developed through experiential learning was foregrounded over theoretical knowledge as a privileged form of knowledge and source of cultural capital. The initial police learning programme (the 11-weeks Initial Training Course and 21-months experiential learning) was generally perceived by police officers to be providing the requisite knowledge and skills for the comparatively 'routine' tasks undertaken by early career, response officers, a view not shared by academics.

In Sweden and Finland, senior officers, police unions and academics were of the view that undergraduate-level, theoretical learning was required to provide 21st Century police officers with a broader understanding of the increasingly complex, rapidly changing policing environment. It was also perceived to be aiding the development of critical, reflective practitioners, supporting the



development of a unique corpus of knowledge and providing lifelong learning skills. Degree accreditation was perceived as supporting the recruitment of previously under-represented groups, particularly women, supporting workforce mobility, raising the status of policing and to have facilitated the improvement of pay and conditions. That said, in Sweden where delivery of the first 2-years of the programme had been contracted out to mainstream universities, there was a widely held perception amongst police officers that the needs of academia were being foregrounded over those of policing. This was not found to be the case in Finland, where ownership and control of the programme was largely retained by the police, who had ceded some authority to academia so that the Police College might be awarded the status of a University of Applied Science authorised to award academic accreditation for its learning programmes, including a Bachelor's degree for the initial learning programme.

Focusing on the Scottish initial learning programme, I argue that the focus of professional development for new recruits should be practical wisdom (phronesis). This would require closer working with academia to facilitate the inclusion of vocationally relevant science-based, academic theoretical knowledge such as psychology, sociology, and criminology, with skills development and experiential, 'on-the job' learning taking place under the guidance of suitably qualified police trainers and tutor constables. I also argue that Police Scotland should seek academic accreditation of the programme, whilst ensuring that the needs of policing remain foregrounded over those of academia.



# Determination of the most effective enhancement process for latent fingermarks on Clydesdale Bank and Royal Bank of Scotland £5 and £10 polymer banknotes by Carina Anna Joannidis (SPA Forensic Services)

**Carina Anna Joannidis** (SPA Forensic Services) / **Dr Penny Haddrill** (Centre for Forensic Science, University of Strathclyde) / **Kenny Laing** (SPA, Forensic Services)

This article reports the outcomes of an MSc project carried out in 2018 as part of a collaboration between the University of Strathclyde's Centre for Forensic Science and SPA Forensic Services Mark Enhancement Laboratory. The results were also published in *Forensic Science International* in 2020.

This project focused on the recovery of latent (invisible) fingerprints from Clydesdale Bank and Royal Bank of Scotland £10 and £5 polymer banknotes. These banknotes were released in Scotland in 2016 and 2017 following the release of similar polymer banknotes in other countries including Australia, Canada and England. This change in material from the old cotton notes was implemented predominantly to increase counterfeit resilience and durability. Every year, SPA Forensic Services examine millions of pounds worth of bank notes linked to criminal activity, the majority being Clydesdale Bank notes as the most common notes in circulation in Scotland.

Enhancement techniques used to recover latent fingerprints on cotton notes were favourable to materials with a porous surface, giving excellent results on these paper-like bank notes. However, the new polymer material is non-porous, rendering this old enhancement technique insufficient.

Five enhancement sequences, including different techniques and light sources, were tested to determine the most efficient method for recovering latent fingerprints on these bank notes. Techniques included superglue fuming, powder suspension, infrared and magnetic powders, with light sources including ultraviolet, infrared and white light. The study concluded that superglue fuming using PolyCyanoUV (an ultraviolet fluorescent glue substance)

followed by black magnetic powder was the most effective at enhancing latent fingerprints on the notes tested. Black iron oxide powder suspension was the second most effective technique. Visualisation of fingerprints was significantly increased when bank notes were photographed under infrared light (figure 1).

Following this initial study a mock case was set up to determine whether the two best enhancement sequences would be effective when applied to bank notes mimicking those seized in an investigation, and this second study corroborated the results of the first study. As a result of these invaluable findings, SPA Forensic Services have been able to implement these processes for use on money seized in criminal investigations.

*Joannidis, CA., Haddrill, PR. and Laing, K., 2020. Determination of the most effective enhancement process for latent fingermarks on Clydesdale Bank and Royal Bank of Scotland £5 and £10 polymer banknotes. Forensic Science International, 312, p.110334*



Figure 1. Fingerprint enhanced using black powder suspension, visualised under white light (left) and Infrared light (right).



## Reforming the Law and Practice of Eyewitness Identification Evidence in Criminal Cases by Professor Pamela Ferguson (University of Dundee)



Readers of the SIPR Newsletters will recall that a decade ago, Lord Carlway recommended the abolition of the corroboration requirement in Scottish criminal trials. This proved to be highly controversial and in 2014 the

Scottish Government asked Lord Bonomy, a retired High Court judge, to convene a Committee to consider the impact of this reform. Lord Bonomy established a small 'Academic Expert Group' (AEG) to write a preliminary report on features of the criminal process that would be adversely affected by the proposed corroboration abolition.

Professor Pamela Ferguson, who holds the Chair in Scots Law at the University of Dundee, was invited by Lord Bonomy to serve on this AEG. The Post-corroboration Safeguards Review: Report of the Academic Expert Group (2014) was the fruit of the group's work.

The chapter of the report relating to eyewitness identification evidence was authored by Professor Ferguson, and she was then invited by Lord Bonomy to serve on the Post-corroboration Safeguards Review Committee itself.

Professor Ferguson's work for the Bonomy Committee drew attention to the problematic nature of current eye-witness identification procedures in Scotland and made recommendations for reform. The Bonomy Committee's final report reflects several of these recommendations, including that the current informal guidelines used by the police to conduct identification procedures be revised, and that they be replaced with a statutory code of practice. The Scottish Parliament enacted the Criminal Justice Act 2016, section 57 of which required the Lord Advocate to devise a new Code of Practice for ID procedures, and a

new Code for interviews with suspects, and for such Codes to be put on a statutory footing. While the proposed abolition of corroboration seems to have been shelved for the meantime, the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service has now circulated these Draft Codes. A public consultation is currently underway: the closing date for readers to respond is 9 July 2021. The Codes are accessible here: <https://www.copfs.gov.uk/media-site-news-from-copfs/1950-public-consultation-on-lord-advocate-s-codes-of-practice-on-interview-and-identification>



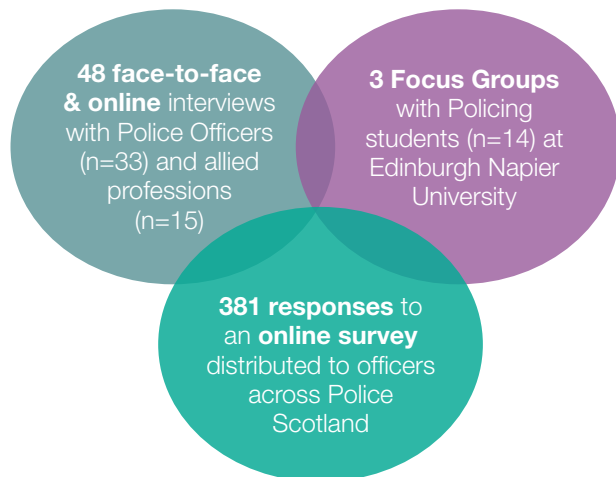
*This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under CC BY-ND*

# Police Scotland a learning organization? - Assessing the role and value of learning in Police Scotland: A mixed-methods study by Larissa Engelmann (Edinburgh Napier University)

## INTRODUCTION

The 21st century police officer and police organisation should be able to adapt to new and emerging challenges. This premise has taken centre stage over the past year when police officers had to navigate the law enforcement and public health landscape during the pandemic (Menichelli, 2021). However, the pandemic only exacerbated the complexities of the policing role that have developed over the past 30 years (Bayley, 2016). This study uses Senge (1990) concept of the learning organisation to explore to what degree Police Scotland has embedded processes that promote the kind of learning needed to adapt to these complexities.

## METHODOLOGY



A mixed-methods approach was adopted to develop a more in-depth understanding of the intricacies of learning within Police Scotland through interviews and surveys. This further allowed comparisons with a) partner agencies' approaches to learning, and b) expectations of learning and development available in Police Scotland from a new generation of officers currently studying policing at Edinburgh Napier University.

## KEY FINDINGS

Findings indicate that there is a lack of long-term investment in learning and development beyond technical skills in Police Scotland, leading to gaps in both confidence and competence of police officers at all levels.

*If I'm being honest there's a lot of assumed understanding and assumed learning but assumption in this job is a real dangerous thing to do*

(Constable 3)

These gaps are deeply engrained and sustained through a culture that focuses predominantly on experiential learning which is unstructured and informal.

Paradoxically both officers and the organisation are interested in developing and engaging with further learning opportunities to improve their practice. However, interviews illustrate that the support to do so is often dependent on priorities and line management, having the right person at the right time in the right role being willing to support them. To address this gap officers often feel pressured to engage with learning outside of the organisation in their own time.

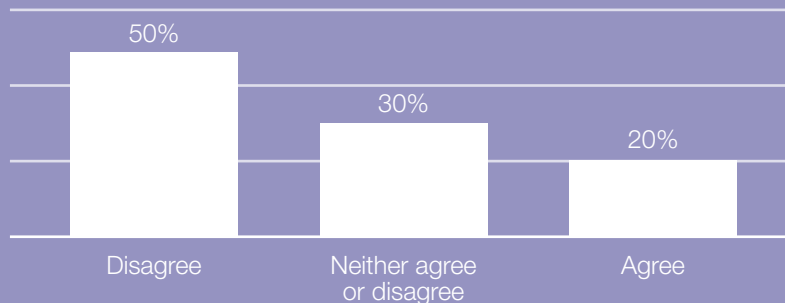
*a lot of police officers [...] get through their shift despite the organization not because of it*

(Senior level officer 2)

Integrating “experience-based knowledge with analytical and research-based knowledge” (Wathne, 2011, p. 708) is a key ingredient of the learning organisation and supports continuous improvement of practice. However, survey data and interviews indicate that Police Scotland does not value external and research-based knowledge as much as it possibly should to improve practice and talent management in the organisation.



Survey answers to question 8.5 To what degree do you agree with the following statement 'Police Scotland values academic knowledge and uses it in practice' (n=381)



If you would like a more detailed account of the emerging findings or have any questions about this study, please contact Larissa Engelmann, [Larissa.engelmann@napier.ac.uk](mailto:Larissa.engelmann@napier.ac.uk)

Twitter: @larissa\_engelm

## PRELIMINARY CONCLUSIONS

The recent introduction of the first Police Scotland Strategic Workforce Plan and People Strategy are welcome developments. However, findings suggest that without addressing the underlying cultural barriers to engagement with learning and development, some of the proposed changes will likely not be available to all officers equally.

Partner agency interviews confirm that public agencies are facing similar barriers to the engagement and provision of learning, such as budget constraints. Nevertheless, an underlying learning culture and continuous supervision and support enables these professionals to feel empowered and improve themselves despite administrative limitations.

A new and more demanding generation of police officers is joining, having higher expectations of development opportunities and support for learning than is currently available in Police Scotland. Experience although important is not enough to develop a 21st police force that can adapt to and anticipate future challenges while empowering and retaining staff.



# How Trauma Informed Practice (TIP) is understood and delivered in Scottish Community Safety settings, and how this is being impacted by the global COVID-19 pandemic by Stephanie Crisp (University of Stirling)

Stephanie Crisp's PhD project explores how Trauma Informed Practice (TIP) is understood and delivered in Scottish Community Safety settings, and how this is being impacted by the global COVID-19 pandemic. It will also consider the broader implications of this for the implementation of approaches like TIP in public service delivery.

In May 2017, 'Transforming Psychological Trauma: A Skills and Knowledge Framework for The Scottish Workforce' was launched by the Scottish government. Its stated goal is to "support the strategic planning and delivery of training for those who have contact with survivors of trauma across all parts of the Scottish Workforce". This project therefore comes at a crucial 'moment' in Scottish policy and practice, as training is being rolled out across the country. The Scottish Community Safety Network, meanwhile, recently published a paper entitled 'Developing a Community Safety Narrative for Scotland' which sought to create a definition of Community Safety that better reflected its 'increasing complexity' (Spacey 2020), and to help other organisations and practitioners to better understand what it encompasses:

💬 *A safe community is a liveable community, where people can go about their daily activities in an environment without fear, risk, harm or injury. Community safety is about building strong cohesive, vibrant, participatory communities, where homes, the roads, public spaces and the workplace are safe, and feel safe for everyone to enjoy.* 💬

(ibid. p.6)

Creating and maintaining safety is a key principle of TIP (Harris and Fallot-2001), suggesting that those working in the field of community safety, may have an important role developing and implementing successful trauma informed practices. However, whilst many scholars have advocated for TIP that engages with the broader, underlying, systemic causes of trauma, the implementation of TIP has largely tended to focus on individuals, through screening for Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), specialist medicalised models of intervention, on seeking to change individuals' behaviours, and the training of frontline staff.

There is as yet little research, particularly in the UK, that examines how principles of TIP have been or might be implemented in settings which have more explicitly community-oriented remits, as opposed to person-centric services which are the current focus of most TIP training programmes and initiatives. Investigating the practices of CSPs in Scotland therefore presents opportunities to explore how TIP may translate in settings where the stated intention and purpose is to focus on issues of broader environmental and social conditions.

This project will take place during a time of immense change and challenges to the ways that many public services are delivered; to their priorities, resources and capabilities as they respond to the global COVID-19 Pandemic, which in itself will be a source of traumatic stress for many people. It will therefore also seek to understand how all of the above is impacted upon by the COVID-19 pandemic, and what this can tell us about public service delivery, TIP and community safety.



## Maximizing the Effectiveness of Police Scotland Investigations when People Living with Dementia Go Missing by Alistair Shields (Queen Margaret University)

My experiences, as a Police Search Adviser, have led me to believe the challenges posed when people living with dementia are reported missing differ from other people who go missing. I am studying these challenges for my PhD research at Queen Margaret University, supervised by Professor Jan Dewing, Dr Jamal Mansour, and Dr Fiona Kelly.

People living with dementia annually constitute some 4% of over 8,000 adult missing persons in Scotland, with 538 investigations between April 2017 and March 2018. A person with a dementia diagnosis is seen as being at greater than average risk of significant harm, particularly if they are missing for more than 24 hours. Understandably, a person going missing is traumatic for carers and families, even if the person is found quickly and unharmed.

A missing person's travel intentions can be learned in a variety of ways and information about circumstances or the person's behaviour from witnesses is particularly useful. Understanding a missing person's intentions can help police know

where NOT to search. However, the common belief is that people living with dementia travel without intentionality. The police respond by urgently sending many resources to where the person was last seen, because that is often a successful strategy. However, if the person is not located swiftly, the search area expands outwards, rather than searchers prioritizing places the person is likely to have gone.

I suggest, based on my own observations and the research of others, that many people living with dementia travel with a purpose that comes from their lived experience. My research seeks to improve search effectiveness by better defining where police should search. I am using a mixed methods approach to determine a relevant search area and identify places of importance for someone who is living with dementia, which they may intend to go to when reported missing.

Using Police Scotland missing person records, I am examining the extent and nature of missing persons' travel intentions, the timescales in which they are found, and the nature of where they were found using post code geographic classifications. Knowing this information will allow me to identify patterns that will be informative for planning missing person searches.

The next step will be interviewing people living with dementia to identify places of significance and how these places influence their movements. I will also interview carers and police about what they

believe are significant places and travel activities for people living with dementia. Bringing together these narratives will highlight the kind of information carers could discuss with a person with a dementia diagnosis, ideally shortly after diagnosis. If the person later goes missing, the information gleaned from that conversation would enable the lived experiences of the person to be communicated to the investigator as a valid information source when planning their search.

### The anticipated outcomes of this project are:

1. Improved police investigation processes for people living with dementia who go missing
2. Reduced mortality when people living with dementia become lost
3. Enhanced community education resources

