

CONFERENCE REPORT:

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The third Nordic Police Research Seminar in Umeå, Sweden, brought together about eighty police researchers, mainly from the Nordic countries. The key objectives were the same as in the first two seminars which were held in Växjö, Sweden (2007; see http://lnu.se/polopoly_fs/1.22998!20085.pdf), and in Oslo, Norway (2009): to meet colleagues, both old and new, to discuss police research and practice, and, exchanging experiences, to learn from the work of others.

The key note speakers were Dilip Das, Gunno Gunnmo, Rick Sarre, Katarina Weinehall, Juha Kääriäinen and Gregory Anderson. Their insightful analyses of police leaders as thinkers, the changing role of the police over time, the future of policing and of the private providers of security, relations in-between victims, other citizens and police officers, trust on the police, and of the critical incident stress of police officers, respectively, caught the attention of the participants and provided for further analyses and debates.

There were three panel discussions on the following themes: police students, management information support, and trust on the police. In parallel sessions researchers and research groups introduced their current research projects and talked about their results. A selection of the conference papers are planned to be published in a special issue of the international journal *Police Practice and Research*, while a fair part of the other papers will be made available by publishing the seminar conference proceedings later on in 2011.

It was the first time for the police researchers from the Police College of Finland to participate in the seminar. The national systems and societal contexts of policing are very similar across the Nordic countries. This is why the findings from the other Nordic countries were interesting, and highly relevant, from the point of view of the Finnish participants. Closer future collaboration among the Nordic police researchers is bound to contribute significantly to the accumulation of knowledge and understanding within the field. This, for its part, is significant in view of the discussion of the Nordic model of policing and its possible role as an exemplar in the integrating Europe.

The Police College of Finland was given the opportunity to organise the next Nordic Police Research Seminar in 2012. We accepted the challenge and, quite obviously, our goal cannot be any other than that of beating our Nordic neighbours in organising the best event so far.