

# Police education and police science in Europe

## Editorial introduction to the conference collection volume

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In this volume, the reader will find a selected collection of papers that were presented at the Annual European Police Research and Science Conferences, organised by the European Police College (CEPOL) – since July 2016 called the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Training – during the period of the years 2006 to 2012 <sup>(1)</sup>. This publication continues the ongoing endeavours of the European Police College to foster the documentation of discussions, new ideas and issues raised in regard to the understanding of the police as an institution, and policing as an activity in a European and wider context <sup>(2)</sup>.

The CEPOL Research and Science Conferences have, over a decade, contributed significantly to achieving one of the agency's dedicated tasks: to disseminate research findings and good practice among senior police officers in Europe. Even in the digital age, live conferences appear to be still the most generative forums for sharing insights, launching new ideas, or finding intellectual inspiration.

<sup>(1)</sup> Contributions collected here originate from the conferences organised in Bramshill 2006 (United Kingdom), Münster 2007 (Germany), Traiskirchen 2008 (Austria), Amsterdam 2009 (The Netherlands), Oslo 2010 (Norway) and Lyon 2012 (France).

<sup>(2)</sup> See for example Fehérváry et al. (2006), Jaschke et al. (2009), Fehérváry (2011), Honkonen (2011), Nogala et al. (forthcoming), as well as the *European Police Science and Research Bulletin*, published by CEPOL and available from the agency's website. Short summary reports on all CEPOL R&S conferences can be found in the Science and research section of CEPOL's public website ([www.cepol.europa.eu](http://www.cepol.europa.eu)).

In the past (that is until 2011), access to the CEPOL conferences was administratively restricted and the number of participants thus limited. By the same token, a good number of the presented scientific outcomes and opinions were not more widely shared.

The editors of the volume — who were also the respective organisers of the covered conference events — hold the opinion that the collection contributions deserve a broader reception and discussion, even when they were presented some time ago and might be considered as 'dated' by some. Good justifiable reasons for a retrospective publication from the editors' perspective are:

- senior police officers, police students, students of the police and police researchers as well as the interested general public in Europe should have the chance to read these papers and to work with them: according to the Bologna Process — meanwhile implemented in national police training of most EU Member States — the permanent inclusion of insights and findings of police research and science into law enforcement training activities is considered crucial for their quality;
- the speed of development of police science in Europe is rather slow, if compared e.g. with the natural sciences: the main topics on the agenda are persistent and theoretical concepts appear occasionally reloaded from earlier stages of disciplinary evolution, still carrying currency. Several

of the insights and thoughts offered here are as relevant now as they were when first presented;

- even if some empirical results have become outdated, or in the event that the theoretical discussion has advanced, there is still good reason to document the concerns and debates of the recent past.

The editors of this volume trust that this publication will encourage further interest in the professional, scholarly and public discussion about good police and good policing in Europe, and hope that it will be a positive stimulus for enhancing exchange and cooperation between police training, police research and police practice, generating potential new interest in the agency's forthcoming research and science conferences.

### Police Science in the context of the European Police College

Around 2006, ten years ago, an international CEPOL expert group was in the middle of a deep discussion on police science matters from a European perspective and came up with a working definition of police science. According to this definition, 'police science' is a relatively young academic discipline with a growing international scientific community in Europe (see Jaschke et al. 2009). However, there are good opportunities and hope for fruitful development when we see its dynamic growth during the last two decades. Further progress is expected — and certainly necessary. In order to promote this process, scientists and researchers conducting their studies and research in the wide field of police science have to come together in their scientific community, despite their diverse, multi-disciplinary backgrounds, approaches, experience or languages. They must form an international network of research institutions (units) and scientists, since different joint activities by members of the professional and scholarly network are essential to ensure the future progress of police science. This may and will help in solving the many theoretical and practical challenges of finding wider acceptance from politicians, practitioners and scientists from other academic fields, doing research in the very wide and complex topic of police and policing. The community also can help to promote new ideas, approaches or

research questions which will contribute to establishing a better understanding about the research topics of this young academic discipline for actors in policing and, particularly, in the police.

A vital tool for strengthening the scientific police science community is gathering scientists and researchers that are active at police training institutions in conferences, symposia, workshops, meetings or editorial teams for scientific journals.

The working definition of police science referred to above has been the foundation for the design of all the CEPOL Research and Science Conferences with regard to the content. However, without doubt, we have seen some dynamic development in the academic discussion of police science and research since 2006 — not at least because of the progress of the Bologna Process in the area of police training in Europe <sup>(3)</sup>. However, the essential background of this development can be seen in the fact that policing becomes more and more complex, increasingly international, linked with other fields of society and diverse regarding the actors or active providers. This development, and changes in policing environments, offer the reason and opportunity for closer scientific considerations of policing and the police. Against the backdrop of these developments it has become obvious that efforts to suit the objectively increasing needs for scientific analyses of the conditions and reality of policing are a consequent response in this situation. Police research and researchers — regardless if inside or outside of police or governmental institutions — are undeniably confronted with these contemporary and emerging challenges and are seeking to provide findings and results for police training and police practices. There is a slow but steady sense among leading police management that scientific research can and will help to meet these challenges in a proper and effective way — often avoiding expensive wrong decisions.

<sup>(3)</sup> See for example the findings of Ferreira et al. (2011) and Konze et al. (2015).

## CEPOL Research and Science Conferences

Since its inception in 2001 one of CEPOL's central tasks has been the promotion of international cooperation in the field of research and science by dissemination of good practice and research findings. This remit continued after its transfer to a European agency in 2006. In implementation of this task the Swedish National Police Academy in Solna organised, under the auspices of CEPOL, a first general seminar for police research and science in 2001. The year after, the Dutch Police Education and Knowledge Centre (LSOP) organised, in cooperation with CEPOL, a pilot conference in Apeldoorn. A major topic of this conference was 'European Police Science — bridging the gap'. Based on the encouraging experience from the Solna and Apeldoorn events, CEPOL has put the CEPOL European Police Research and Science Conference on the annual working programme as an 'annual flagship event' since 2003 (see Table 1).

The major aim of these conferences is the dissemination of current research findings and information about research projects and the improvement of cooperation of the involved police colleges in the field of police research and science, as well as building up a meeting platform for senior police officers, police trainers and researchers. Behind this aim is the idea that CEPOL will be able to raise the overall profile of police science in Europe by bringing together various stakeholders from the police science community with senior officers who are open to and interested in police research and science. This opportunity for meeting and discussing research findings and projects in relation to police

practice is seen as a contribution and challenge towards bridging the gap between operational policing and academic research.

Esteemed academic researchers and senior police professionals from various European countries were invited to the conferences as keynote speakers on the specific main topics, as well as experts for panel discussions and workshops. In order to overcome national or professional bias, or ignorance of any sort, the organisers encouraged diversity in the scientific and pragmatic approaches of dealing with the main topics and accepted differences in the quality of the keynote addresses in favour of embracing as wide a European dimension as possible.

When organising the conferences, the conference managers favoured certain types of contributors and contributions, those with an emphasis on, or interest in, promoting:

- interchange between theory, practice and training of police and policing;
- a constructive exchange between different scientific approaches and the demands of police practitioners on equal and mutual terms;
- the idea of a European dimension and the idea of a European police science;
- initiation and inspiration of further (comparative or joint) research activities.

Similar if not the same criteria were applied in the collection of this volume.

**Table 1**  
CEPOL Research and Science Conferences 2003-2012

Year	Organising Country/College	Main Topic
2003	<b>Sweden</b> Swedish Police Academy in Solna	Interplay between research — education — practice
2004	<b>Czech Republic</b> Czech Republic Police Academy in Prague	Development of police sciences and transfer of knowledge into police education, training and practice — interconnections: science — training — practice
2005	<b>Portugal</b> Instituto Superior de Polícia Judiciária e Ciências Criminais in Lisbon	Scientific research and assessment of police recruiting, training, learning and evaluation methodologies and techniques
2006	<b>United Kingdom</b> CENTREX in Bramshill	Policing public order

Year	Organising Country/College	Main Topic
2007	<b>Germany</b> German Police University in Münster	A European approach to Police Science
2008	<b>Austria</b> Austrian Sicherheitsakademie in Traiskirchen (Vienna)	Comparative policing research from a European perspective: with a focus on organised crime
2009	<b>Netherlands</b> Police Academy of the Netherlands Badhoevedorp (Amsterdam)	Future policing in Europe: a shared agenda for research
2010	<b>Norway</b> Norwegian Police University College in Oslo	Practical research and research practice — Police Science into a new decade
2011	<b>Spain</b> Gabinete de Estudios de Seguridad Interior of the Spanish Ministry of the Interior in Madrid	Cybersecurity, cybercrime and social networks
2012	<b>France</b> École Nationale Supérieure de la Police in St Cyr au Mont D'Or	Police Science in Europe. Projects, progress, projections

## About this collection volume

There were, of course, more presentations and papers given during the five conference events than documented here in the volume at hand. The selection applied by the organisers is due to a mix of substance and the availability of contributions: not all of them were at publishing level, and some were not meant to be published in full paper format. In addition, English was not the native language of all presenters and the routine of writing scientific articles varies accordingly. Thus the reader will note clear differences in the level of sophistication in vocabulary, style or rigorous structure of the argument.

However, in respect of the editors' ambition to collect — in their view — outstanding and noteworthy contributions, as well as presenting a variety of different perspectives, approaches and research methods from different European countries, regions and institutions, this publication demonstrates the potentiality of police science with a European dimension, fed and supported by professional experience and reflection, as well as by intellectual rigour and scholarship.

Instead of arranging the 31 contributions in chronological order, in line with the year of original presentation at the conferences, the editors opted to group the articles in topical clusters<sup>(\*)</sup>. Within the individual chapters, the papers are sorted from more theoretical approaches or generalist positions to more

applied viewpoints, where possible. The introductions by the editors to the specific chapters provide a summary of what the respective chapter is about and what the reader can expect.

The first chapter ***Police research and science***, addresses the cardinal issues of the development and applicability of police science vis-a-vis the demands and challenges of the routines of daily police business as well as police training and education. The papers by Pieter W. Tops, Monica den Boer, Bernhard Welten & Auke van Dijk (all Netherlands) and Christian Mouhanna (France) shed some light on the space created by the partially rivalling logics of management, institutional governance and scientific search for facts and truth, where one can find tension, as well as innovation and mutual inspiration. Peter Neyroud (UK) argues for a pragmatic way forward in order to avoid the shortcomings and dilemmas of the past from a British perspective.

The second chapter features contributions centring on ***Comparative approaches*** to progressing police studies, if not police science. The articles by Sebastian Roché (France), Cyrille Fijnaut (Netherlands) and Gabriele Jacobs, Kate Horton and P. Saskia Bayerl (all Netherlands) highlight the importance and usefulness of international comparison as an instrument of police research for acquiring facts as well as practical and theoretical knowledge about contemporary police and policing.

***Strategies and perspectives*** are the focus of the contributions to Chapter 3 written by (once again)

(\*) The year of original presentation will be indicated by the conference venue and year on the starting page of the respective articles.

Cyrille Fijnaut (Netherlands), Jean-Paul Brodeur (Canada), Didier Bigo (France), Sirpa Virta (Finland) and Michiel Holtackers (Netherlands). Those papers deal with police and policing strategies seen from scientific perspectives, and their implementation by politics and in police practice.

The contributions by Sophie Body-Gendrot (France), Rob Mawby (United Kingdom) and three co-authored papers — Wouter Stol, Helene I. Gundhus, Siv Rundhove and Karianne Rønning (Netherlands and Norway); Matthew L. Long, Laurence Allison and Michael McManus (all United Kingdom); Thierry Delpeuch and Thomas Scheffer (France, Germany) focus on practical police challenges as central topics for research projects in Chapter 4 **Practical police problems and applied science**.

**Organised crime meets research** is the subject of the papers in Chapter 5. Hans-Jörg Albrecht (Germany), László Salgó (Europol/Hungary), Michael Levi (United Kingdom), Tamara Schotte (Europol) and Didier Bigo, Hager Ben Jaffel (France) and James Sheptycki (Canada) look carefully at various aspects of organised crime and the respective challenges for police research regarding strategic, political and practical handling of this international crime complex.

The sixth chapter **Contemporary and emerging challenges of policing** collects papers highlighting familiar and novel problem areas of policing in Europe, as well as some innovative perspectives with which to tackle them (Sabine Vogt, Germany). Those challenges may be caused by institutional and organisational changes (Peter Neyroud, United Kingdom; Tore Bjørgo, Norway; Graham Hooper, United Kingdom) or triggered by seismic shifts towards digital societies (Tatjana Tropina, Germany and another joint paper by P. Saskia Bayerl, Gabriele Jacobs and Kate Horton, Netherlands).

The **concluding final contribution** is a paper by Nick Fyfe (United Kingdom) based on his concluding keynote address at the conference in Lyon 2012, which in the view of the editors conceptually sums up almost perfectly the most relevant issues raised and the underlying discursive currents that were shaping the discussions and disputes between practicing police officers, police educators and police scientists or scholars during all CEPOL European Police Research and Science Conferences. At the same time, he formulates an outlook on the direction that police science and police research could take in Europe in the future.

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