Police Science and the Constabulary Ethic

- what is policing?
- what is science?
- what is police science?
- what is the Constabulary Ethic
Origins of the police idea

- Social contract & the sovereign
- Polizeiwissenschaft - governing territory & population
- Dei Polizei / Dei Politik
- Negative / Positive
- Particular Interest / General Interest
- High Policing / Low Policing

M. Foucault: “Since the population is nothing more that what the State takes care of for its own sake, of course, the State is entitled to slaughter it, if necessary.”
What is policing?

- Part of a family of words which includes: politics, policy, & polity

- Pertains to authoritative intervention into situational exigencies which cannot be predicated in advance

- Policing is the practical policy of social ordering

- Its core feature is the capacity to muster coercive force in the maintenance of a particular or general social order
  - It involves the surveillance of populations & territory in order to intervene against past wrongs & pre-empt future problems
  - Democratic policing is undertaken on behalf of a citizenry which both understands and endorses the police mission (legitimacy)
Postmodern policing & the transnational condition

- The global networked society
- Social fragmentation
- Multi-culturalism
- Neo-liberalism
- Hollowing out of the State
- Anxiety & fear
### Typology of the policing field

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Private Forms</th>
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<td><strong>HIGH POLICING</strong></td>
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<td>Private Security Guards</td>
<td>Uniformed Patrol Officers</td>
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What is science?

- Science is empirical, methodical, observational, testable theory building
- Karl Popper - criteria of falsifiability & ‘piecemeal social engineering’
- The ‘science of society’ & inter-disciplinarity
- Social science & reflexivity
Police Science?

- crime science
- techno-science
- experimental criminology
- the panoptic promise

“... reality is wholly knowable, and that knowledge liberates, and absolute knowledge liberates absolutely.”
Isaiah Berlin, *Four Essays on Liberty*
Police Science or Police Studies?

Centralized communication  Sectoral & functional
de-centralized communication  Networked Point-to-Point
communication

Policing Organization & Communications
The Subculture of Policing

*Culture* is the set of shared attitudes, meanings, values, goals, and practices that characterize a society; especially ‘core values’ surrounding sexuality, death, livelihood, family and ethnic ties.

**Subculture**: refers to the collective ‘problem solutions’ of social actors in common

eg. emergency ward doctors and nurses frequent encounters with disease, pain, dying & death: Balancing ‘dark humour’ – making light of death’ & the need for compassion.

... *subculture* does not refer to ‘subterranean’ institutions, organizations or groups!
The subculture of policing
Occupational subculture of police, originally defined in

Some ‘focal concerns’ of the police ‘law enforcement’ subculture:

Clannishness; rule enforcement; discretionary power to use force; duty to intervene in situations that ought not to be happening and about which something has to be done now; social isolation; loyalty to the group; suspicion; and secrecy

“Fuck the Police” - policing, an occupational subculture in set up in opposition to the 'dangerous class', 'suitable enemies', or 'folk devils'
Iatrogenic effects

Iatrogenesis: when the ‘cure’ from a problem brings unwanted and negative effects of its own

The systemic crime associated with illicit drugs markets is an iatrogenic effect of criminal law prohibition
The paradox of the security-control society is that the increase in security-control practices over recent years has been accompanied by an increasing sense of insecurity.
Some points on a Constabulary Ethic

- ‘citizen in uniform’ - police as human beings first
- Constable as ‘pivot’ of social ordering
- holistic thinking - ‘philosopher, guide and friend’
- JAPAN
- The first question: ‘how can I help?’
Civilization is the process in which one gradually increases the number of people included in the term "we" or "us" and at the same time decreases those labeled "you" or "them" until that category has no one left in it.