THE ‘SECURITY LANDSCAPE’ IS CHANGING RAPIDLY
CAN POLICE (EDUCATION) KEEP UP?

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INTRODUCTION

My research domain: public perceptions of security

Recent research

• Security perceptions in Rotterdam (Eysink Smeets, 2016)
• International trends in security perceptions (Eysink Smeets & Volocard, 2015, Eysink Smeets & Foekens, in progress)
• Public worries about the influx of migrants (Eysink Smeets & Boot, in progress)
• Societal Impact of terrorism (Eysink Smeets & Boot, in progress)

Essayistic presentation, not a classical research paper......
1. the changing security landscape?
2. four trends
3. implications for police (education)
THE CHANGING ‘SECURITY LANDSCAPE’?

The combination of threats, challenges, expectations and the context in which they take place

Different viewpoints/dimensions possible, looking at influence of cf.

* informatisation
* internationalisation
* immigration
* inequality
* horizontalisation
* ‘experience’ economy
* or, much debated…..
TREND 1: THE CRIME DROP

But we still don’t know how it can be explained….


And what are prudent lessons for crime control policy…
1. Crime drop

2. Fear drop

Popular narrative: population remains fearful
A VERY STUBBORN BELIEF . . . .

Crime is steadily going down, but...

...people don’t seem to notice

‘Fear?’
LET'S TAKE A CLOSER LOOK

Percentage of Dutch population that feels not safe often

Dutch national crime surveys 1990-2015

Feel often insecure (%)

Perceptions: PMB, VMR, IVM/VM, Victimization: Vollers et al. (2009), IVM/VM.
LET’S TAKE A CLOSER LOOK

% OF DUTCH POPULATION THAT FEELS UNSAFE OFTEN VS. VICTIMISATION

Eysink Smeets & Vollaard, 2015. Based on perceptions: PMB, VMR, IVM. Victimization: Vollaard et al. (2009), IVM./YM.
All improve in the long run. Around oct. 2008 quite often larger change than usual, but it can be both ways (up and down)

Ulf: Eysink Smeets (2015), The Feardrop
FEAR OF CRIME - ICVS

ICVS 1992-2004/5
% of population (per country, so total adds up to more than 100) feeling (very) unsafe after dark on the street
Only based on countries that were present in all 4 ICVS sweeps

Data from Van Dijk, Van Kesteren & Smit, 2007
1. Crime drop

2. Fear drop

3. Crime change

And recent new threats

Popular narrative: population remains fearful

cf. cybercrime
1. Crime drop

2. Fear drop

But....that is based on our traditional ways of recording and measuring...
Crime as traditionally measured
Registered crime, Victim surveys

Terrorism?  Organized crime?
Cyber crime?  Crime against public order/unrest?

Lewis, 2013
“the current measures are inadequate to cope with a changing trend in criminal activity”
cf. cybercrime

Crimechange
And recent new threats

Feardrop

Popular narrative:
population remains fearfull

Fearchange

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Recent and ongoing qualitative research:

Marked Shifts in public ‘security’ worries & fears

Eysink Smeets (2016, Eysink Smeets & Boot, in progress), Eysink Smeets & Boot, in progress, MARGIN-project (in progress)

But some survey data point in the same direction
Crime, immigration and terrorism as one of two most important problems facing the country - EU 2003-2016
Crime, terrorism and immigration as one of two most important problems facing the country - ‘EU-30’
Implications for police (education)
IN ALL HUMBLENES... 

New challenges

that the traditional ways of measuring or recording are unable to show ask for:

- Other ways of timely identifying those challenges and their implications for the police

- **Adaptiveness**, to find answers,

- Led by a clear view of what the function of police in (your) society is
Consequences depending on the police – model and your view on the function of the police(?)

- Policing by consent – policing by control

Police legitimacy central?

Core function of the police is to be there and intervene when something happens that ‘… ought not to be happening and about which someone had better do something about now’ Bittner (1970)

That asks for enlarging professional and institutional empathy as well
Thank You!