

# Dirigisme and Police Innovation; reflections on the technology of security-control and social change

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# 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

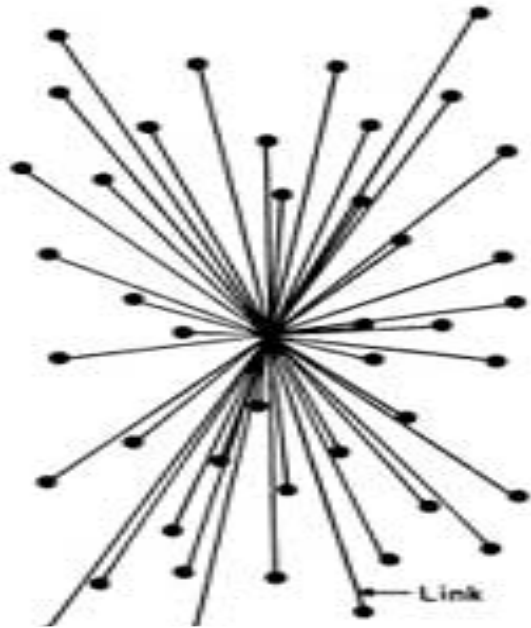


- It involves the surveillance of populations & territory in order to intervene against past wrongs & pre-empt future problems
- Democratic policing is undertaken on behalf of a citizenry which both understands and endorses the police mission (legitimacy)
- Democratic policing is not mere law enforcement, it is a social service

# Watching The New Techno-Police



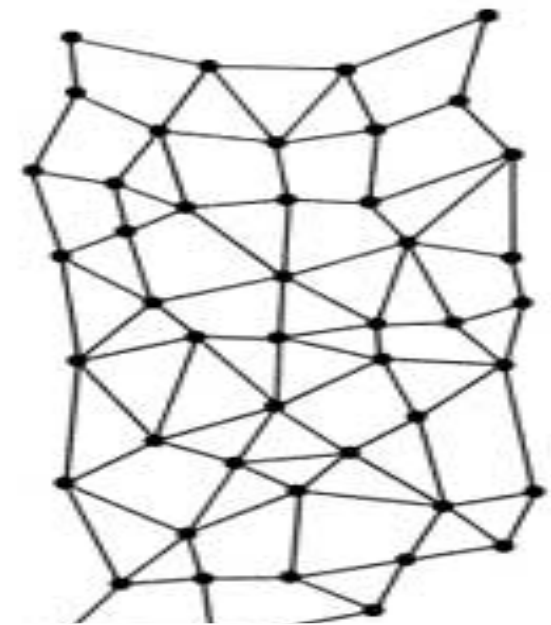




**Centralized**



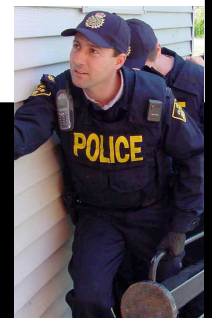
**De-centralized Sectoral**



**Networked Point-to-Point**

## **THREE IDEAL TYPES OF COMMUNICATIONS ORGANISATION**

Successive waves of technological change have transformed police organization





Putting police in cars unexpectedly changed the quality of police-public interactions in English towns





# Technopoly





Professor Richard Berk, Wharton School of Business and the Department of Criminology, Pennsylvania State University

Berk is quoted in Craig Atkinson and Laura Hartrick's award winning documentary film about the militarization of American policing titled: *Do Not Resist.*

When asked about the future of predictive policing Richard Berk said: "Oh, I think it's inevitable. I mean, it's already here in places, isn't it?"



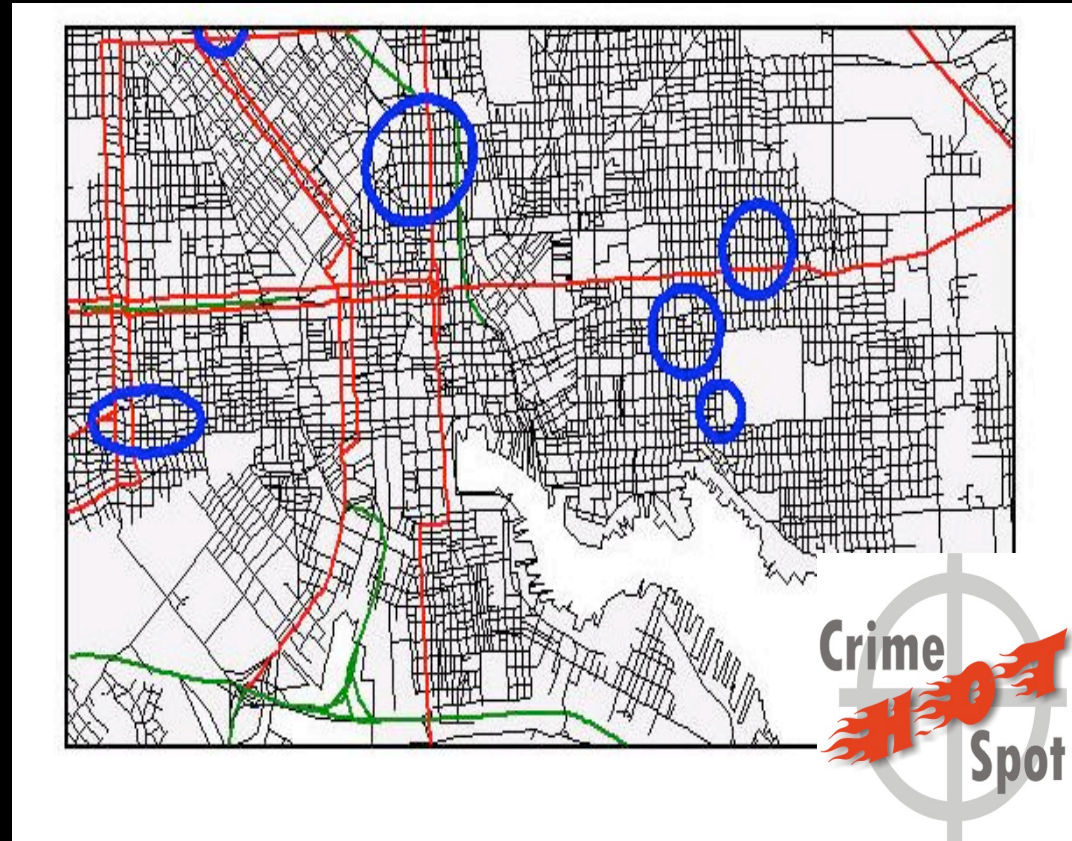


The Future is Technopolicing

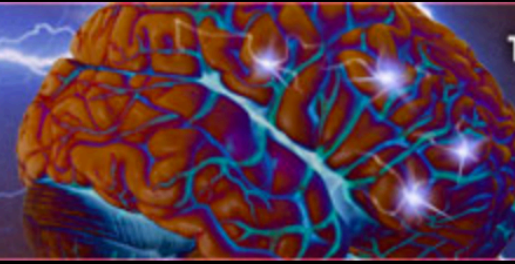


# Police Science and Technology

Echoing Isaiah Berlin in *Four Essays on Liberty*, purveyors of Police Science believe that “... reality is wholly knowable, and that knowledge liberates, and absolute knowledge liberates absolutely.” (p. 42)



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“Shockknife’s mission is to be the world leader in non-projectile, realistic training products that are capable of inducing acute stress during survival training.”

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# Last Thought



... and remain vigilant concerning unintended consequences because, as we all know, the Road to Hell is paved with supposedly good intentions

*“ Officers need to understand and sense the noble purpose and meaning of police work; a vocation of selfless service, compassion, and doing good for others. ”*