1. Police should conduct and apply good research to target scarce resources on predictable concentrations of harm from crime and disorder.

2. Once police choose their high-priority targets, they should review tests, or conduct new tests of police methods to help choose what works best to reduce overall levels of harm from crime.

3. Once police agencies use research to target their tested practices, they should generate and use internal evidence to track the daily delivery and effect of those practices, including public perceptions of police legitimacy.

Each student conducts an original research project to build knowledge for the three "Ts", presented in an 18,000 word Master's thesis. Many of these theses have been published, including these recent examples:


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Programme Staff

Professor Heather Strang is Director of the Police Executive Programme and its MSt. Degree in Applied Criminology and Police Management. She is also Director of Research in the Jerry Lee Centre of Experimental Criminology at the Institute of Criminology. Internationally recognized for her British and Australian experiments in police-led restorative justice conferences, she previously served for ten years as Director of the Centre for Restorative Justice at the Australian National University, where she earned her Ph.D. in Criminology. Prior to that she was Executive Research Officer at the Australian Institute of Criminology, where she founded the Australian national reporting system for homicide after serving on the research staff of the Australian National Committee on Violence.

Professor Lawrence Sherman Lawrence W. Sherman is Director of the Institute of Criminology of the University of Cambridge, where he has served as Wolfson Professor of Criminology since 2007. He is also Director of both the Jerry Lee Centre for Experimental Criminology and Chair of the Cambridge Police Executive Programme. He earned his PhD from Yale University, and has been awarded honorary doctorates from the University of Stockholm and Denison University.

Sir Denis O’Connor Sir Denis O’Connor is a lecturer and advisor at the Institute of Criminology, Cambridge University. He is an independent Non Executive Director of the Board of the College of Policing.

Peter Neyroud C.B.E. is currently Co-Chair of the Campbell Collaboration Crime and Justice Group, former Chief Constable of one of the largest UK forces, Thames Valley (2002-7), and founding Chief Constable of the National Policing Improvement Agency (2007-2011), which he recommended in an Independent Report commissioned by the Home Secretary be converted into the current College of Policing. Since 2010 he has been Director of the Birmingham Turning Point Project, a randomised controlled trial testing the effect of deferred/dropped prosecutions on 490 first offenders randomly assigned to be offered immediate rehabilitation programs within hours of arrest, or to standard prosecution. He is about to complete his PhD at the Cambridge Institute of Criminology; he has also held academic appointments at Nuffield College, Oxford and the University Cheshire.

Dr Geoffrey Barnes was awarded his M.Phil from the University of Cambridge and his PhD from the University of Maryland. Until recently he was a Research Assistant Professor of Criminology at the University of Pennsylvania and is now a lecturer in the Police Executive Programme at the Cambridge Institute of Criminology. He works primarily on field experiments testing the effects of programmes and policies on crime and justice outcomes.

Dr Barnes is a Fellow of the Academy of Experimental Criminology and an expert on the forecasting of murder and serious crime using advanced statistical techniques for “big data,” such as random forests modelling. He has recently used these models in Durham Constabulary to develop algorithmic decision support in determining eligibility for out-of-court disposals.