

Criminology Honours, Masters and PhD Masterclass

Theorising Evidence-Based Policing: A Discourse Analysis

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11.00am Friday 27 July 2018

Linkway

Level Four John Medley

Evidence-based policing has seen a remarkable growth as an approach to improve policing in the last decade. The movement is particularly strong in the UK, US, Canada, Australia and New Zealand, which have all seen evidence-based policing incorporated into operational and political leadership and policy making. Evidence-based policing is a concept adapted from evidence-based medicine, and rests on the notion that the application of academic research knowledge can ‘improve policing’. The project has seen an attendant explosion in funding, police-academic partnerships, conferences and degree level courses being developed.

Paul Betts is a long-serving senior British police officer, with academic expertise in political and social theory. Paul’s PhD research takes a fresh look at the evidence-based policing phenomena using discourse analysis methods, developed from the philosophical insights of Michel Foucault. Foucault was interested in the relationship between power and knowledge, and how they operate together to create social control through techniques of discipline. Paul’s work takes evidence-based policing as a case study and suggests evidence-based policing may not be the neutral science-based activity it claims to be, but may be alternatively narrated as a constituent part of the wider neoliberal political project.

