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Most gangs do not survive beyond three years, and for gangs that remain, the transition of their members to adulthood is typically the final blow. Our study does not challenge these well-known findings directly. Instead, we looked for the few gangs that remain stable beyond three years (20% in this sample), and aimed to uncover the factors associated with their survival.

**DATA & METHODOLOGY**

We drew from a unique dataset of police incidents, mapping the ties between a subset of 261 known gang members, and their associates (N=6,604) for a period of nine years. We divided the data into three-year periods and proceeded to extract groups of five or more individuals found in each time period. Figure 1 provides a visual representation of one of the three networks, with each group assigned a different colour.

What were the predictors of group persistence? Our main predictor of interest was group cohesion. Yet, the direction of the prediction could not be determined a priori. We found reasons to expect that cohesion would increase persistence, since groups that had an *esprit de corps* could find ways to stick together through thick and thin.

At the same time, the social capital literature provided evidence that too much cohesion may also hinder survival, potentially preventing these groups from accessing some of the most novel, and interesting criminal opportunities required to make a group worthwhile for its members.

**FINDINGS**

Results show that group survival is indeed a function of their cohesion. Yet, the relationship is not direct, but moderated by group size.

Examine Figure 2, which shows the relationship between group size and the E-I index – a measure that tells us the extent to which group members connect mostly internally (left side of graph) or externally (low cohesion).

The risk of failure (hazard ratio) is highest for highly cohesive groups of five (in dark blue, see edges), and slowly decreases as the group opens up to outside associates. The opposite is true for the largest groups (in yellow) in the sample.

**VALUE**

In short, large groups that adopt closed structures are more likely to persist, while the survival of small groups depends on less cohesive, and more versatile structures.

**Ouellet, M., Bouchard, M., Charette, Y.** (Forthcoming in February 2019). *One gang dies, another gains? The network dynamics of criminal group persistence. Criminology.*
PURPOSE

This study was designed to examine the use of street checks by the Edmonton Police Service (EPS). The review of street checks was set against the larger societal backdrop in which persons in communities of diversity have experienced racism, prejudice, and discrimination. With respect to policing, it has been argued that, in conducting street checks, police officers engage in racial profiling and biased policing.

METHODOLOGY

The study used a multi-method approach to gather qualitative and quantitative data on the EPS use of street checks and was conducted between October 2017 and May 2018. An analysis of street checks conducted during 2017 (N=4,787) was not able to determine whether the EPS engaged in racial profiling and biased policing. A major problem was that the street check data were contaminated by mis-classification of incidents and conflicting officer assessments of persons who were stopped. Street checks were heavily concentrated in the area covered by EPS Downtown Division which has high rates of crime and disorder. The available population in this area includes Indigenous and visible minority/vulnerable/marginalized persons.

FINDINGS

Interviews and focus groups in communities of diversity revealed considerable confusion about street checks, including the types of stops that are street checks, the rights of persons who are stopped and checked, and the purpose of the activity.

Support was expressed for the police conducting stops to check on the well-being of persons and for case investigations, including missing persons. There was a widespread perception among the city’s diverse communities that EPS officers engage in racial profiling and biased policing. This view was prevalent even among those who felt that street checks were beneficial.

Persons in communities of diversity expressed strong support for officers engaging in procedural justice in encounters. There was a strong interest in establishing/strengthening collaborative relationships with EPS and a desire that the EPS increase the diversity of its membership.

VALUE

The findings suggest that it is the dynamics of the interaction between EPS officers and community residents, rather than the street check itself, that contribute to community perceptions of racial profiling and biased policing. EPS officers generally stated that they profiled situations, e.g. “wrong place, wrong time” rather than people. The results of the analysis revealed that EPS officers generally had the lawful authority to conduct a street check.

The information contained in street check records was viewed by EPS sworn and civilian members as a critical component of police work, including investigating crimes, locating missing persons, solving crimes, and crime analysis. Among the recommendations of the study were that the EPS initiate a public dialogue on street checks, increase the diversity of its membership, develop a plan to inform/educate communities on the objectives and use of street checks, improve the skill sets and competences of its officers, including training in procedural justice, and develop a comprehensive community policing strategy.


Historically, pornographic material, featuring either women or children, was criminalized under the obscenity provisions, found in s. 163 of the Criminal Code. The Canadian court system has primarily concerned itself with prosecuting material that is defined as sexually violent pornography and degrading/dehumanizing pornography. However, an analysis of legal cases indicates there has been a shift from focusing on obscene material to focusing specifically on pornography that depicts children. Namely, there has been a shift away from responding to obscene, or adult pornographic material, to focusing a more specific social response on child sexual abuse in the 1980s as a form of moral panic.

**BACKGROUND**

Historically, pornographic material, featuring either women or children, was criminalized under the obscenity provisions, found in s. 163 of the Criminal Code. The Canadian court system has primarily concerned itself with prosecuting material that is defined as sexually violent pornography and degrading/dehumanizing pornography. However, an analysis of legal cases indicates there has been a shift from focusing on obscene material to focusing specifically on pornography that depicts children. Namely, there has been a shift away from responding to obscene, or adult pornographic material, to focusing a more specific social response on child sexual abuse in the 1980s as a form of moral panic.

**SOCIAL RESPONSE TO PORNOGRAPHY**

Stanley Cohen (1972) has argued that there was a construction of the child-sex offender as evil - a folk-devil - and the child as an innocent victim. As a result of this panic, there arose a public clamour for the government, and more specifically the criminal justice system, to intervene and deal harshly with those who sexually abused children.

Often included in this moral panic, was a focus on the perceived impact of pornography, and particularly child pornography, on exacerbating the sexual abuse of children. Similarly, extreme public concern was expressed concerning the extent to which the consumption of pornographic materials contributes to the infliction of sexual violence on both women and children: this concern was most vividly reflected in the reports of the Badgley Committee (1984) and the Fraser Committee (1985). It was this panic that led to the creation of the child pornography provisions of the Criminal Code in 1993.

**SHIFT IN PRIORITIES**


**IMPACT OF TECHNOLOGY**

This discussion includes a consideration of the impact of the advent of the internet and social media, which, undoubtedly contributed to the proliferation and increased availability of pornographic material. Canadian legal cases that have interpreted and applied the obscenity provisions, and the subsequent shift towards the emphasis on child pornography in a post-Butler era are examined through this theoretical lens.

The article concludes with an analysis of recent legal developments designed to proscribe the use of the internet and social media to distribute intimate images of both adults and young persons without the consent of the party or parties concerned (including sexting between young persons and so-called “revenge pornography”).
BACKGROUND
Since emerging as the world’s preeminent religious extremist organization in 2014, the self-proclaimed Islamic State (IS) has gained notoriety not only for their well-documented acts of brutality, but also for their capacity to entice, radicalize, and recruit new members from around the globe.

The success of IS recruitment efforts is partially attributable to the robust and sophisticated media and propaganda campaigns that the organization has built and maintained across various digital mediums.

This study aimed to explore the linguistic patterns and intricacies of IS media in order to more closely determine what the IS message is and how consistent this message is across different media platforms.

DATA AND METHODS
The textual data from three specific mediums were analyzed in this study – magazines, videos, and Twitter.

For magazines, we extracted the text from the English versions of 32 individual issues of official IS-produced magazines, including every issue of the globally disseminated magazines Dabiq and Rumiyah. For videos, the textual transcripts of 21 IS-produced videos were included. For Twitter, a previously collected dataset of Tweets composed by IS members was included.

In total this yielded well over a million words for analysis. Due to the size of this dataset, we opted to use the semi-automated method of sentiment analysis in order to identify any linguistic trends or patterns that may have existed within or between the different mediums.

RESULTS & DISCUSSION
In terms of the extremity of language, it was found that the words and language used in IS videos was, on average, markedly more negative than the language used in both magazines and on Twitter. More specifically, the average sentiment value of words used in videos was -5.47, a number considerably more negative than the language used in magazines (-0.87) and on Twitter (-0.94).

We suggest that the relatively tamer, more neutral language used in magazines and Twitter often tend to portray information in a straightforward, ‘factual’ manner, the language used in videos is often more visceral and emotional, and by extension, more extreme.

Despite the language of videos being shown as the most negative, there was a large degree of consistency between the three mediums with regard to how specific words were being used. For example, when looking at the most positively used and most negatively used words within the three mediums, we found there was much overlap.

Simply put, the specific words that were being used the most positively (praise, blessing, etc.) and the most negatively (war, kufr, etc.) tended to be the same across the three different mediums. This indicates that the IS has indeed maintained a consistent message and ‘brand’ image across their propaganda campaign.

Many researchers, policymakers, and practitioners assume that psychopathy is defined by stable traits that manifest in a distinctive pattern of interpersonal, affective, and behavioral deficits that persist across the life course, even despite treatment and intervention efforts.

Some researchers have gone so far as to argue that adolescents with strong symptoms of psychopathic personality disturbance (PPD) should receive life sentences for their involvement in serious offenses.

However, these assertions have received relatively little attention, especially with respect to whether those scoring highest on measures of PPD continue to do so at follow-up periods.

There were two main aims of this study: (1) examine the extent to which serious adolescent offenders’ symptoms of psychopathy change over time and (2) examine whether this change had implications for an individual’s level of offending.

**DATA & METHODS**

The aims of this study were addressed using data on adolescent male and female offenders from the Pathways to Desistance Study \((N=1,354)\). The Pathways to Desistance Study followed individuals for approximately seven years and allowed for an investigation of short-, moderate-, and long-term change in symptoms of PPD measured via the Youth Psychopathic Traits Inventory (YPI).

The reliable change index (RCI) analytic strategy was used to interpret the proportion of the sample that experienced reliable change in test scores. These changes were included in a series of negative binomial analyses to assess whether individuals experiencing a reliable decrease in symptoms of PPD were associated with lower than average levels of offending.

**RESULTS**

Regarding the first aim of the study, according to the RCI, across the nine comparison periods, between 35.1% and 49.9% of participants experienced a reliable change in their features of PPD. Importantly, youth showing the strongest symptoms of PPD were most likely to experience a reliable decrease in PPD symptoms at the next measurement period. Reliable decreases in symptoms of PPD were even more common when examined over the long term.

Regarding the second aim of the study, negative binomial analyses showed that individuals that experienced a reliable decrease in their symptoms of PPD averaged significantly lower levels of offending versatility at the next measurement periods. In other words, experiencing a decrease in symptoms of psychopathy led to lower levels of offending.

**DISCUSSION**

In sum, findings contrasted the adolescent “fledgling” psychopathy perspective and indicated that individuals scoring high on the YPI are the group most likely to experience reliable decreases in test scores, especially over a longer follow-up period.

Moreover, the study findings have important and positive implications for treatment practices, as the data indicated that youth (a) will experience decreases in symptoms of psychopathy and (b) such decreases will decrease their risk for future offending.
Faculty in the School of Criminology have coordinated tours of correctional facilities as an experiential learning activity in their undergraduate classes for decades. While it is believed participation in these tours is beneficial for students, faculty have yet to systematically evaluate student access to, and perceptions of, this optional curricular activity.

Our project identifies barriers to, and motivations for, student participation in prison tours, how student participation in prison tours contributes to their learning and understanding of course materials, and recommendations to improve future prison tours.

We used a mixed-methods approach, administering questionnaires (N=102; response rate 70.3%), conducting interviews (N=13), and engaging in secondary data analysis of course written assignments (N=25) to examine the barriers to and educational value of student participation in optional prison tours.

THE VALUE OF PRISON TOURS

Questionnaire and interview data reveal students had four primary motivations for attending the optional prison tours. A key motivation is students view the experience as an opportunity to gain knowledge of the correctional environment directly.

One student described the value of the experiential learning activity on a personal and educational level by explaining how it “would allow [them] to see a new aspect of life and hopefully gain new insights and compassion. It’s both educational and a lesson for the soul and humanity.”

Another student described how their position in society creates distance from prisoners and the experience of touring the prisons served to decrease that social distance:

“It’s totally different to learn about that sort of thing in a book or even in a classroom versus in actuality. I think it’s easy to get detached from what prison is when I’m just sitting in a classroom as a middle-class, noncriminal university student. So I think it’s a super important part and I feel lucky to have the opportunity; I don’t think I would have thought of corrections and prisons in the same way if I hadn’t gone.”

Students also described and provided examples to illustrate how their participation in the tours contributed to their comprehension of course materials. For example, one student described how being able to interact with staff gave them a more nuanced understanding of course content:

“I don’t think I fully grasped and understood that concept [of the dangerous circumstances involved in prison staff work] from readings until I became engaged in conversation with the staff at the institution… All of these major points were part of the course readings, but being inside an institution and getting the feel of it just gave me a different understanding of how hard those conditions are.”

ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT

Students provided five key recommendations to improve the prison tour experience in future semesters, including conducting an optional debrief session on the day of the tour and promoting inclusivity by addressing the barriers to participation.

Given the value to students of this experiential learning activity, it is important to remove barriers to their participation. Specifically, scheduling more tours and on multiple days of the week and improving transportation (e.g., arranging group transportation).

Project funded by a Teaching and Learning Development Grant from SFU’s Institute for the Study of Teaching and Learning in the Disciplines. The final report can be accessed here: https://www.sfu.ca/istld/tldg/grants/current-projects/fass/G0208.html.
Researchers have an obligation to protect the confidentiality of their research participants, while the institutions in which they work are supposed to provide the research infrastructure that allows them to do their work and ensure that protection.

Seven Canadian cases have occurred to date in which academic researchers have been asked to disclose confidential data to authorities. Although researchers have resisted disclosure in every instance, institutional support has been inconsistent. Of the four cases that went to hearing, SFU, the University of Ottawa and the Université de Québec à Montréal each initially abandoned their researcher; only Western University delivered the support to their researcher Canada’s federal ethics policy (the TCPS2) envisions.

The policy now makes clear that university administrations “must” provide independent legal representation to researchers when legal challenges to confidentiality arise and “encourages” them to develop policies that outline how they will do so. Our study set out to discover how many institutions had actually developed such policies.

**METHODS**

We first compiled a sampling frame of Canadian research institutions that had a memorandum of understanding with one or more of the granting agencies; this required them to adhere to the principles in the TCPS.

Research Ethics Board (REB) Chairs and administrators at those institutions were invited to participate in a national online survey. Basic participation was easy – the categorical items could be finished in 10 minutes – while respondents also could add more open-ended responses and/or volunteer to be interviewed at a later date.

We received completed surveys from 73 participants in 63 different institutions — 35% of prospective participants representing 39% of prospective research institutions — and conducted a further 20 interviews.

**AN ABSENCE OF INSTITUTIONAL POLICIES**

The most striking finding was that McGill is the only institution in the country with a policy that meets all of the Secretariat’s criteria. The vast majority of respondents (N=64 or 87.7% of the sample) indicated their institution had not even considered developing a policy, had tried but abandoned it, or were just beginning to think about how to proceed. Impediments include administrative inertia, ambiguous lines of responsibility, and resource issues. The difficulties seem particularly pronounced at smaller institutions that often lack institutional expertise and infrastructure.

The US literature shows that a quick legal response is an important first step in defending against threats to research confidentiality. The optimal strategy is to have a plan in place: hope for the best, but plan for the worst.

Researchers have done an excellent job of standing up for their participants when confidentiality is challenged. Now research institutions — including SFU — need to demonstrate that they acknowledge and accept their responsibility to provide legal support to researchers and participants by creating policies that outline how they will provide representation to resist legal threats to research confidentiality.
Purpose

This research project involved conducting interviews with civilian oversight of law enforcement directors from throughout the United States with the purpose of obtaining their perspectives on what it takes to create and sustain successful civilian oversight of law enforcement (COLE) programs.

Methodology

Semi-structured interviews were conducted with directors who have led more than one oversight program and directors who have run a program for more than six years. The vast majority of directors falling into this population (92.3%) agreed to participate in the project. Although the total number of participants was small (N=24), there was still substantial diversity in the sample (Figure 1). The interviews were transcribed and coded using N-Vivo and a paper was published presenting these perspectives according to patterns identified during analysis.

Findings

The research identified themes and patterns in the opinions of the oversight directors which included the following conditions necessary for success of an oversight agency: independence of the agency from the police, job security for the agency director, the need for professional qualified staff, unfettered access to information, transparency through the ability to publicly report on their work, an objective and professional work product, a willingness on the part of government officials to tolerate criticism of the police, and a willingness of the agency director to work collaboratively with the police even while suffering personal and professional attacks from unhappy stakeholders.

Value

This is the first study to identify the challenges and impediments to sustainable COLE mechanisms from the point-of-view of experienced agency directors. The findings can be used by future practitioners to learn from past experiences.

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Perspectives of Directors of Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement Agencies