Emerging Issues in Police Education

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Abstract

Police education and training systems across the globe are in a process of transition. In Europe, police institutions are working alongside academic institutions to educate their police officers in police studies/police science at undergraduate, postgraduate and doctoral level. This process is supported by a European police college (CEPOL) which promotes common curricula on subjects as varied as counter-terrorism, urban disorder, and the role of social media. Similarly, at an international level, Interpol now publishes its own training journal and acts as a facilitator of global practice. Collectively, these patterns are indicative of global shift towards a more consistent and professional approach to the complex task of policing society in a manner which respects both individual and collective rights. Ultimately, these changes promote a transition from training police officers who enforce the law to educating police officers who are able to use problem-solving skills within increasingly complex social contexts. This presentation looks at four prominent themes emerging out of the new police education and training landscape, namely; policing objectives and organisational values, democratization, ethics and human rights, police performance and effectiveness, and the role of universities in developing police education. The presentation will review the international literature on these four themes to identify potential policy implications for wider society.