

Crowd psychology and policing football

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#KeeleImpact



Keele

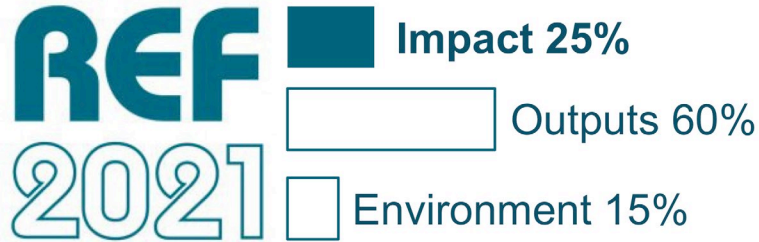
U N I V E R S I T Y



Crowd psychology
and policing
football.

Constructing pathways to
Impact

What is impact?



Do REF Impact Case Studies (ICSs) measure 'impact' or is 'impact' what ICSs measure?

In 2006, the UK Home Office Public Order Unit incorporated Stott's findings in its strategy for managing fans travelling to international football matches.

Proposals based upon Dr Stott's research were accepted as amendments to the 2005 and 2010 editions of the European Union handbook on preventing and controlling violence at international football matches.

His research underpinned the €1.1 million 'Pan European Football Police Training Project', delivering customised training to 250 police officers from 21 countries.



A history of individual impact is irrelevant outside of the submitting UoA



Establishing a Body of Work @Keele



Enabling an Evidence Based Approach to the Policing of football in Sweden (ENABLE)



The value of Supporter Liaison Officers (SLOs) in fan dialogue, conflict, governance and football crowd management in Sweden

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ABSTRACT

Evidence of the value of increased supporter involvement in football governance is limited and existing work focuses primarily on the boardroom, rather than on managing problems associated with fan behaviour. This paper addresses these limitations by documenting and analysing the role of the Supporter Liaison Officers (SLOs) in Sweden, a country that has salient concerns and difficulties associated with football fan behaviour and policing. We argue that the SLO role in Sweden serves as a model for empowering supporter engagement because the SLOs maintain a position as prototypical members of the active fans' in-group. This in turn increases their ability to reduce conflict by navigating the complex objective tensions and dimensions of intergroup power and legitimacy that exist between the different stakeholders. The paper explores the implications of our analysis for understandings of the value of fan involvement in governance, dialogue and crowd management strategies more generally.



Policing football crowds in Sweden

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ABSTRACT

The policing of football crowds in Sweden is underpinned by a national coordination approach based upon a set of conflict reducing principles and supported by crowd theory. The approach is referred to as the Special Police Tactic (SPT). While focused on police capacity to exercise force, the SPT also gives primacy to tactics based upon communication, in the form of Dialogue Police. Existing research on the SPT focuses exclusively on the policing of protest crowds. This paper extends the existing literature by reporting on a large scale three-year observational research project examining the SPT as it is applied to football fixtures involving several of Sweden's major football clubs. On the basis of our analysis we draw out how policing operations in line with facilitation and communication were associated with effective outcomes. However, we also highlight deficiencies in national coordination and coherence as well as highlighting important innovations with regard to approaches to dialogue with football fans. We explore the implications of our analysis for theoretical understanding of effective football crowd management and engagement with fan culture.

ARTICLE HISTORY

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KEYWORDS

Dialogue; conflict; football;
hooliganism; crowd
management; policing

Crossing the 2* Threshold



ENABLE UK: Securing change and crossing the Evidence Threshold.

A research framework with a different agenda.

- The project adopts a non-linear approach to the research process that challenges the conventional constructions of the boundaries and nature of what is traditionally considered as 'research'.
- Instead ENABLE adopts a knowledge co-production framework that rejects the traditional emphasis on the precise specification of research questions.
- The methods and epistemology necessary to produce 'evidence' are less of a central focus. Most important are the qualities of the partnership and leadership that are enabled through the research process, accompanied by the incorporation of reflective learning and commitment to the development that is possible through collective participation from relevant stakeholders.
- ENABLE is a project that has been created specifically to provide a platform for multiple stakeholders to engage in knowledge co-production and to do so in the face of complex challenges and environments that are dynamic and often unpredictable



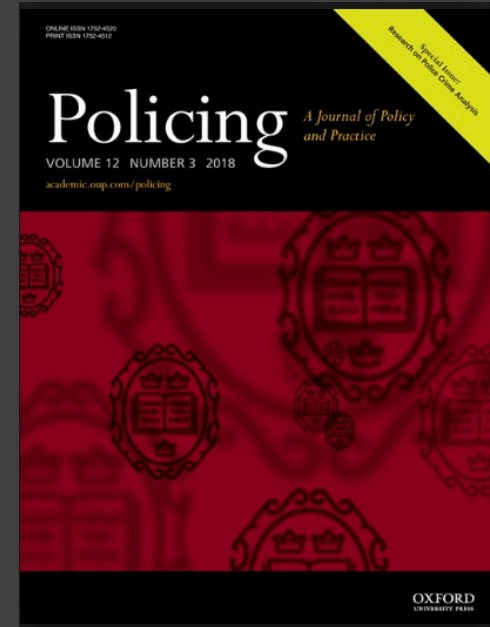


Article

Enabling an Evidence-Based Approach to Policing Football in the UK

Clifford Stott^{*}, Geoff Pearson^{**} and Owen West^{*,***}

Abstract Across the last 10 years, the policing of demonstrations in the UK has witnessed substantive change in terms of both statutory guidance and operational practices. With this study, we highlight how the policing of football crowds in the UK has, to date, yet to undergo similar change, despite being covered by the same statutory guidance. On the basis of largely qualitative data and analysis generated through a quasi-ethnographic approach, we explore the dynamics of police football crowd interactions. We identify how current approaches can fail to adequately understand the nature of risk and lead to a disproportionate deployment of resources both of which have the potential to increase rather than reduce the risk of disorder. We propose that forces develop and test innovative approaches to football policing that are engrained in existing public order guidance, but which move away from a reliance upon fixed categories of risk, focus more on the positive human rights of supporters, and prioritize the tactical deployment of bespoke resources to improve dialogue with fans.



Embedding links between BoW & evidence of change



Beyond contagion &
ENABLE Switzerland:
Broadening reach and scope



ENABLE UK Phase 2

Football policing & pathways to Impact

- Can be constructed relatively quickly with the right approach.
- Should form a central component of the research strategy of the UoA and build from platforms of knowledge co-production.
- Have to recognize that in some cases the BoW is not about the 4* 'quality' of the academic outputs.
- Important to tailor the strategy toward the key components of the REF agenda but that should not be the end in itself.