

The impact of technology on modern policing

Dr Cynthia Lum, George Mason University, Washington

Monday 24th February 2014, 1-2.30pm
Room 3.10, Dugald Stewart Building, University of Edinburgh



Technological innovations have much potential for improving the efficiency and effectiveness of police. In practice, however, technology can affect an agency in a variety of intended and unintended ways that may limit technology's impact on agency effectiveness. The ways in which personnel perceive, manage, and use technology are also critical to achieving desired improvements. This presentation will present results from a multi-site, multi-method study funded by the National Institute of Justice, Washington to examine the uses and impacts of key police technologies such as information systems, license plate readers, and crime analysis. The speaker will consider the implications of these findings for understanding the interplay between police organizations and technology and for optimizing the uses of technology in policing, before inviting wider discussion.



Dr. Cynthia Lum is Director and Associate Professor of the Center for Evidence-Based Crime Policy in the Department of Criminology, Law and Society at George Mason University. She researches primarily in the area of evidence-based policing and security. Her works in this area have included evaluations of policing interventions and police technology, understanding the translation and receptivity of research in policing, examining place-based determinates of street-level police decision-making, and assessing security efforts of federal agencies. With Drs. Christopher Koper and Cody Telep she has developed the Evidence-Based Policing Matrix, a translation tool designed for police practitioners to better institutionalize and utilize research on “what works” in policing into their strategic and tactical portfolio.

Attendance is free but places are limited so please email smcvie@ed.ac.uk to confirm attendance.