

Call for Papers: Special Issue of the Journal of Organisational Ethnography

'Police Encounters'

This Special Issue arises from the growing interest in the practices of police officers in their interactions with citizens. In particular, we are interested in developing a rich understanding of those encounters initiated by police officers, requiring a citizen produce an identity card or comply with a search.

Police stops

Police Stops have been the centre of numerous 'agitated' discussions within political and academic settings, not only in the USA but also in Europe (Miller et al., 2001; Gelman et al., 2007). Although legal frameworks around Police Stops do exist in most European countries, they are often characterized by vagueness and imprecision and therefore generate a broad discretionary power for police officers as to when and how they can stop citizens (Bowling & Phillips, 2007; Sollund, 2006; Quinton, 2011). Furthermore, Police Stops are a practice with little direct supervision or control, as line-managers have no clear view of the daily activities performed by the street-level officers (Delsol & Shiner, 2006). Moreover, important differences in the various national regulations can be observed. For example, an official registration of Police Stops is not mandatory in all countries (Sollund, 2006; Weber & Bowling, 2013). The media in various European countries regularly report Police Stops and often highlight police officers' misuse of power (Parmar, 2011). Researchers have also pointed out that police officers sometimes abuse their discretionary power in that they tend to target minority groups (Miller, 2010; Bowling & Phillips, 2007). In this era of fear of terrorism, the police often prioritise their powers to stop citizens, as the practice is considered a means of combatting terrorism and other risks (Moeckli, 2007; Weber & Bowling, 2013). However, previous studies have shown that it is not an effective way of fighting crime (Bowling & Phillips, 2007).

The Special Issue

While in some countries substantial research on the subject can be found (such as in England and Wales, the Netherlands and Norway) there is a lack of research of Police Stops in others. The EU COST Action on Police Stops (CA17102) reflects this lack but also the growing interest in the practices and experiences of the use of these police powers (see: <https://polstops.eu/>). In particular, this Action is interested in understanding the practices of police officers. What factors inform their decisions to use powers to stop citizens? What training do they have in their use and in the conduct of their interactions with citizens? What evidence is there for the effectiveness of these powers?

The aim of the volume will be to develop a discussion about the practice of police stops and about interactions with citizens in a sometimes confrontational moment. This call invites papers that consider:

- the influence of legislation on police practices;
- forms of oversight and scrutiny as they impinge upon those interactions;
- the training of officers in the handling of those interactions;
- the meaning of the practice for those officers;
- police culture as a factor in the use of the powers;
- evidence of the discriminatory use of the powers; and/or

- evidence of the effectiveness of the powers;

Important deadlines:

We invite authors to submit their manuscripts by the **28th August, 2020**. This is an open call to all potential authors. The guest editors will be happy to discuss proposals in advance of this deadline.

The maximum length of papers is 8,000 words. Authors are advised to familiarise themselves with the journal author guidelines available in the “write for this journal” section on the homepage (<http://www.emeraldgrouppublishing.com/products/journals/journals.htm?id=joe>).

Prospective authors will be invited to review 2 manuscripts to enhance the cohesion and consistency of the Special Issue. Guest editors will moderate the reviews, integrate and add any further feedback and liaise with journal editors.

Initial accept/reject decisions (after reviews) will be made by the end of November 2020. Authors with accepted manuscripts will receive feedback for revisions due by the end of March 2021. Final acceptance decisions will be made by the end of June 2021. Papers will then be available online through Earlycite and formally published in 2022.

For further information or informal discussion, please contact the Guest editors:

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