

## **Body Worn Cameras in Policing**

A special issue of *Policing: A Journal of Policy and Practice*

*Policing: A Journal of Policy and Practice* is issuing a call for papers for a Special Issue focusing on the use of Body Worn Cameras (BWCs) in Policing.

For some, BWCs have the potential to improve the overall quality of police-citizen interactions, reduce the levels of force used by officers and subjects, provide valuable evidence in support of arrest and prosecution, and enhance police transparency and legitimacy. For others, BWCs bring concerns around the rights and privacies of those caught on camera – regardless of whether they are an officer, a subject or a bystander – as well as a host of attendant logistical and practical issues. For yet others, such binary divisions do more harm than good, and there is a need to look more carefully at how we conceive of, regulate and evaluate technologies such as BWCs, in order to ensure that practitioners can learn from past experiences and from the experiences of others, and can maximise the benefits that BWCs are said to offer. As such, the debate around BWCs directly touches on a range of interesting empirical, conceptual and theoretical issues – including human rights, legitimacy, police use of force, and evidence based policing – and is of particular interest given the reported uptake of the technology in countries as varied as the UK, the USA, India and Singapore.

This Special Issue will provide an opportunity to:

- Bring together new empirical work on the introduction and use of BWCs in policing worldwide.
- Provide a forum to discuss the pros, cons and associated issues around the technology more broadly, from the perspective of academics and practitioners alike.
- Act as a reference point for a diverse range of audiences interesting in finding out the latest research on this topic.

The Special Issue will be edited by Abi Dymond and Matthew Hickman and, in keeping with the spirit of the Journal, a broad range of contributors – including authors from inside and outside of academia, policy makers and practitioners – are invited to contribute and to comment.

The Special Issue will include papers on the theoretical underpinnings and causal mechanisms that are thought to generate increased compliance by all parties in the presence of BWCs, the interaction of agency policy and camera activation by officers, and the use of BWC video footage for police training and education. Building on this backdrop, the Editors are interested in publishing a broad range of contributions on the topic, from qualitative, quantitative and / or mixed method empirical studies, to more theoretical pieces, through to practitioner's reflections on their experiences with the technology to date. Papers looking at the impact of BWCs on police accountability and human rights, as well as papers with a broad geographical, and non-Western, scope, would also be welcomed.

As the Journal has a broad and mixed audience, this special edition represents an exciting opportunity to communicate research directly to policy makers and practitioners, as well as to the academic community via this well-respected and highly influential journal.

### **Instructions for authors**

The Editors are looking for contributions of two distinct types: substantive articles (that should not exceed 6,000 words), which will be peer reviewed, and shorter commentaries (between 1,000 – 2,000 words). The Special Issue will be published in the second issue of the Journal during 2017. In line with this timescale, the Editors ask for an abstract or rough sketch of the proposed contribution to be submitted to the Editors by e-mail by the **15<sup>th</sup> May 2016**. Invited articles and

commentaries must be received no later than 30 September 2016.

Following the peer review process, decisions on the acceptance of articles will be communicated to authors by 02 December 2016, if not earlier. Final articles and commentaries must then be received no later than 13 January 2017, in order to allow them to go through the production processes of the Journal in the usual manner.

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| Manuscripts due:                   | 30 September 2016 |
| Initial decisions to authors:      | 02 December 2016  |
| Revisions due (if needed):         | 13 January 2017   |
| Decisions to authors on revisions: | 10 February 2017  |
| Online issue published:            | 20 May 2017       |

The editors would like to thank you in advance for your interest in this Special Issue, and would invite you to contact us directly should you have further queries or questions.

Best wishes,

Abi Dymond

[ad426@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:ad426@exeter.ac.uk)

Department of Sociology, Philosophy and Anthropology  
University of Exeter

And

Matthew J. Hickman, Ph.D.

[hickmanm@seattleu.edu](mailto:hickmanm@seattleu.edu)

Associate Professor  
Department of Criminal Justice  
Seattle University.