

The future of Problem Solving and Evidence Based Policing (and why the biggest threat is police).

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- “Everything that can be invented has been invented” (1899).
- “In my opinion, all previous advances in the various lines of invention will appear totally insignificant when compared with those which the present century will witness” (1902).

- **Scanning. Analysis. Response.**
Assessment (testing is great but)
- Some methods of influence focus on the person (internal) and some on their environment (external).
- SCP and EC use external influence

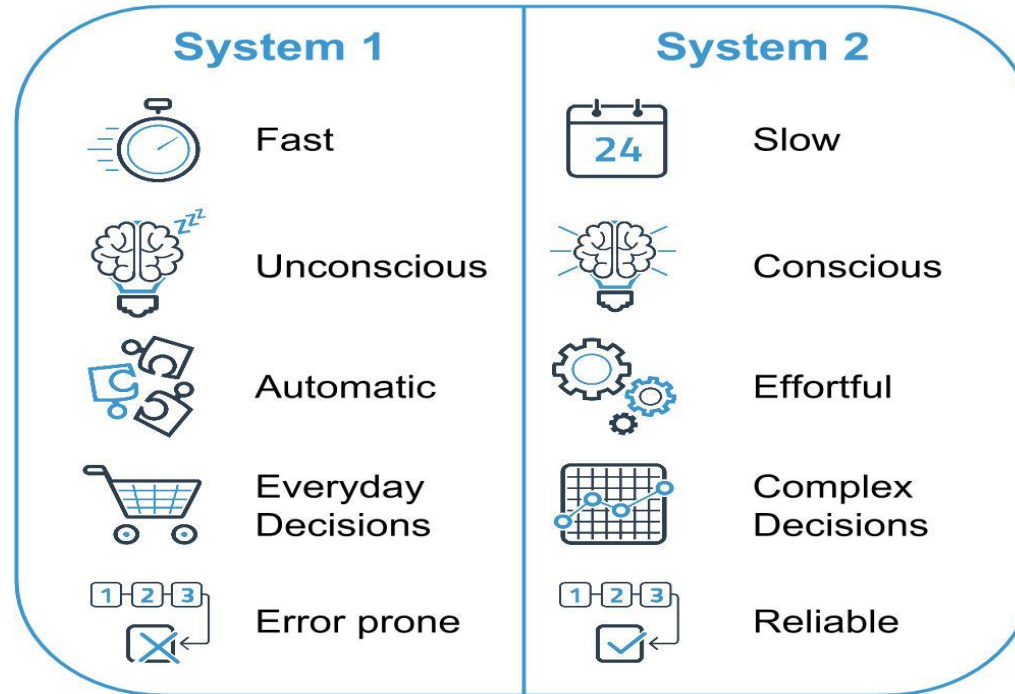


Psychology: Before ethics spoiled the party!

- **Persuasion** is a subset of influence where the would-be influencer knows or thinks that the target person is likely to be resistant to change (Roach and Pease, 2023, in press). A little more sinister?
- **Influence** is the more general term. It comprises anything that inclines you towards particular actions, beliefs, or feelings. Influences can be of internal or external origin (Roach and Pease, 2023, in press).

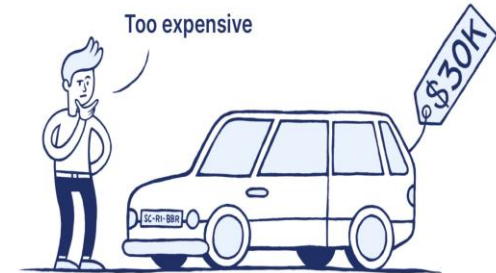


Kahneman and Tversky (1976)



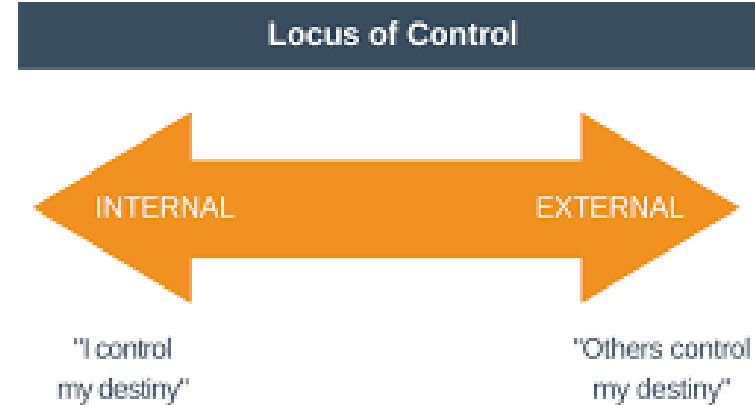
Tip of the iceberg - Bias and Heuristics

- **Loss aversion**
- Confirmation (verification) bias
- Availability bias
- Representativeness
- Poor calibration of confidence and accuracy
- Satisficing heuristic
- **Anchoring heuristic**



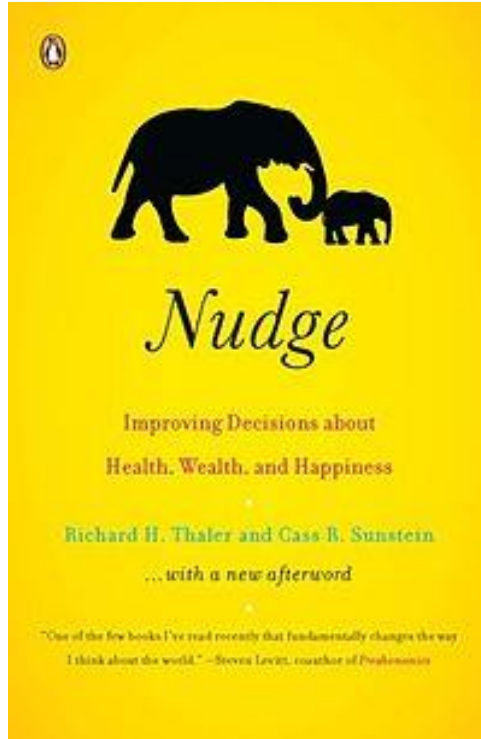
1. Locus of Control (Rotter 1966)

- **Locus of control** is the extent to which an individual feels in control of what happens to them and the extent to which they can affect their own life.
- Strong **external locus of control** is when someone believes what happens to them is luck or fate (i.e. they are not in control of their life) all due to external forces in their environment (e.g 'We live in a high crime neighbourhood. Crime is something we just have to put up with').
- Strong **internal locus of control** is when someone believes they are in control of what happens to them (e.g. with better security I can reduce my chances of being a victim).



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2. 'Nudge' (Thaler and Sunstein (2008))




Nudged and you didn't feel a thing



Are we just talking SCP?



Nudging down TfMV in



More than a 1/3 of thefts from vehicles in your area involve unlocked cars. **WHY? Because it's...**

EASY to forget to lock your car and close the windows at night.

EASY to assume that because it's parked on your driveway or outside your house that it's somehow 'safer'.

EASY to leave your valuable possessions highly visible.

EASY to forget to register or securely mark the mobile phones, laptops, tablets and kid's games that you leave on the back seat.

EASY to forget to take your sat nav out of your car and remove the holder from the windscreen.

EASY for insurance companies to refuse to pay out when the car was unlocked, leaving you to foot the bill.

EASY for the thieves, as stealing from an unlocked car means that they are less likely to be seen and so more likely get away with it.

Thieves don't mind if it's your things they take so why make it EASY for them? KEEP YOUR THINGS!



Altogether Better Policing



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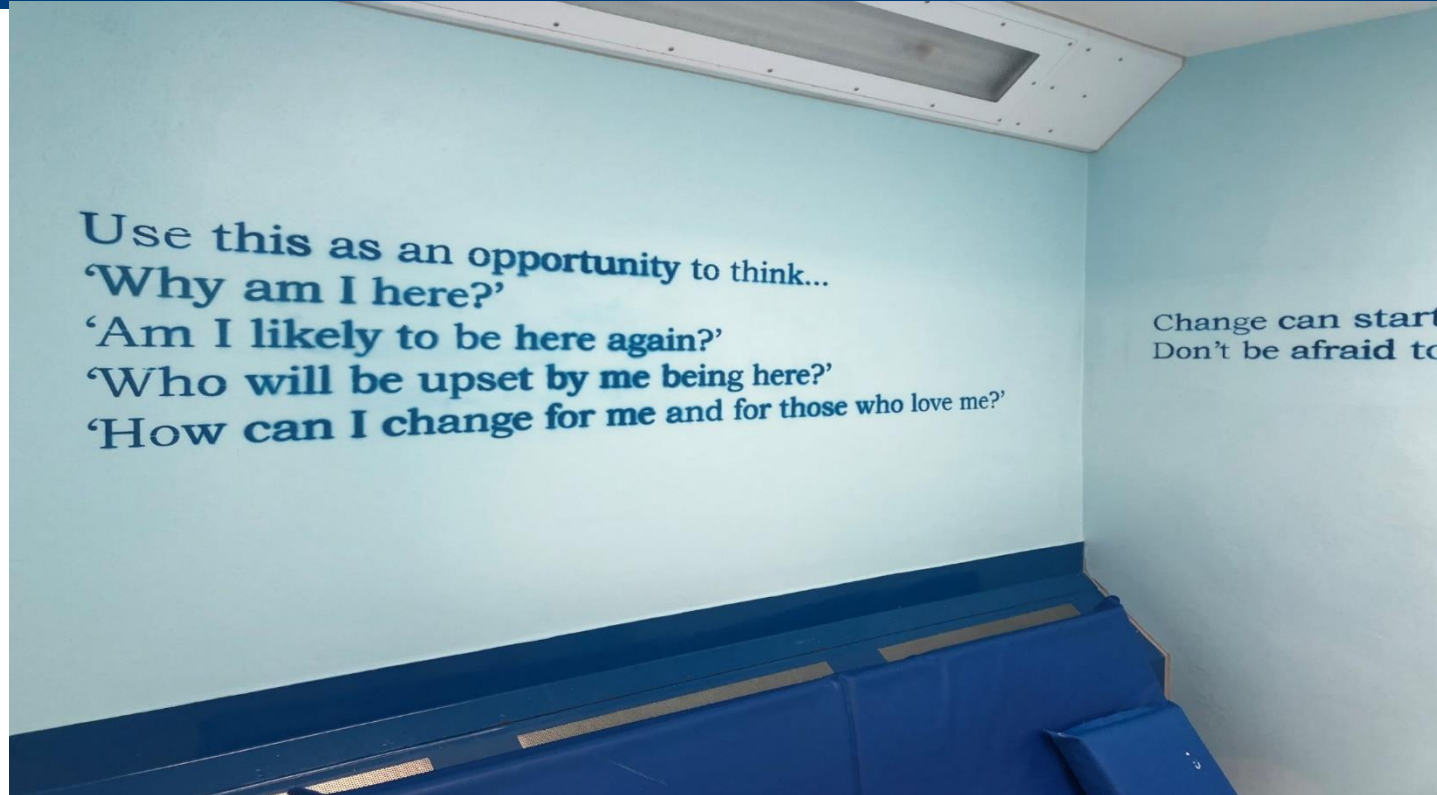


Altogether Better Policing



Thefts from all motor vehicles and the percentage from insecure motor vehicles for the pilot period 01/10/2015 to

LSOA NAME	All TFMV	Thefts from Insecure MV	Insecure Index	% Tot TFMV
Durham TREATMENT	3	1	36	33.0%
Chester-le-Street CONTROL	19	8	286	42.0%
Wear Valley TREATMENT	16	4	143	25.0%
Wear Valley CONTROL	13	9	321	69.0%



Incremental influence (nudge snooker)



NUDGE_IT for crime prevention

(Roach, 2023. Practical Psychology for Policing)

1. **Nuanced** – Nudges must be subtle and with testable hypotheses
2. **Unconscious** –Nudges tap into existing bias and default decision making
3. **Discerning** – Nudges should target those on the cusp of choosing the prosocial option
4. **Give people a choice** – Nudges provide choice but encourage uptake of one in particular.
5. **Easy** – Nudges must be easy to explain and implement.
6. **Inexpensive** – Nudges should be cheap to develop, implement and modify.
7. **Testable** –Nudges require a robust evaluation framework to test their effectiveness.

3. Affordance and crime



 **AutoTrader**

4. Priming

- Whereby exposure to one stimulus influences a response to a subsequent stimulus, without conscious guidance or intention.
- IE. we are partially prepared at least for what is to follow and so it becomes less of a shock and more acceptable

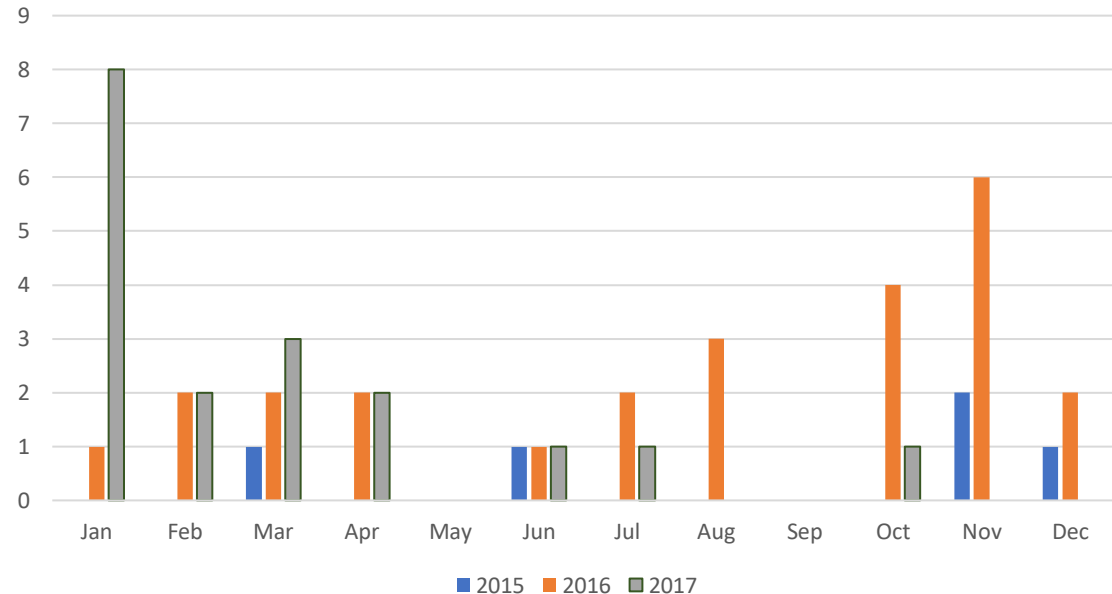


Priming down crime



- **A 25% reduction when compared with the July-October period in 2015.**
- **An 83% reduction compared with the same period in 2016.**

Figure 1. Recorded burglaries per calendar month for 2015-2018



This is a high-rate burglary area
So FLEX IT, BEFORE YOU EXIT



**Don't be the one to
makes it easy for them**

- **Do not assume your housemates are in - check before you leave.**
- **Make sure that all windows and doors are locked.**

Spot the difference.

Dear

Case against
Unique Reference Number 13
Offence and Date of Offence

Thank you for making a statement to the Police regarding the above incident.

I am writing to you to let you know that I am the Witness Care Officer assigned to this case. This means if there is anything you wish to know about the case you should get in touch with me.

The defendant may make various appearances at court before a plea is entered or a trial date is fixed. I will keep you informed of any important developments in the case.

The defendant will appear at **Name of Court** on the **Date** for the first hearing.

Dear

Please permit me to introduce myself. I am _____ the Witness Care Officer assigned to this case.

This means that I am here to help you if there is anything you wish to know about this case. If so, please do get in touch with me.

Thank you for making a statement to West Yorkshire Police regarding the above incident. I appreciate that this might have been difficult, and I am here to help you through the process.

The first thing that you need to be aware of is that the defendant may have to make numerous appearances at court, before a plea is entered or a trial date is fixed. But there is no need for you to be concerned, as I will keep you informed of any important developments in this case.

For the first hearing, the defendant will appear at **Name of Court** on the **Date**

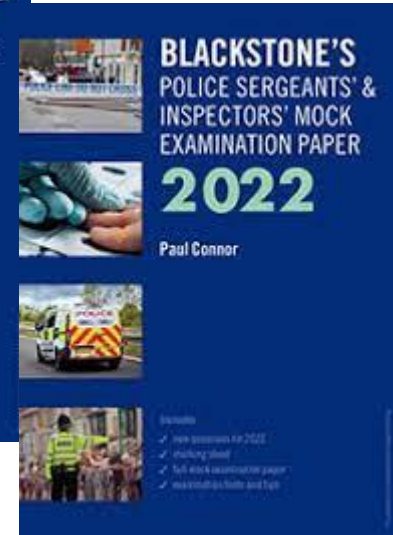
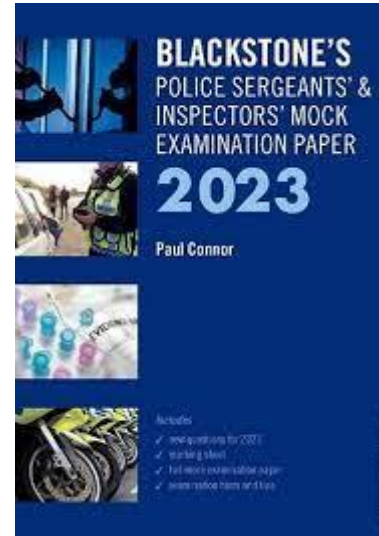
Is there anything we should know about?

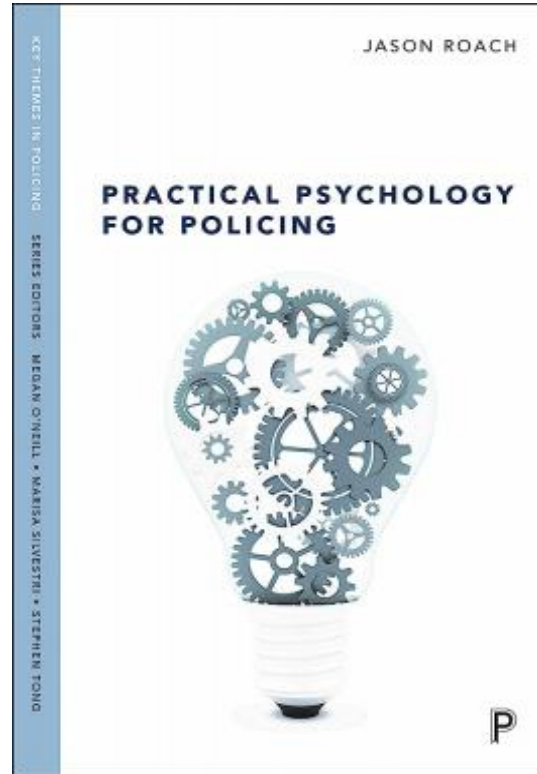


- Baseline figure (1) info given (2) veracity of info.
- Moving the positioning of the question (traditionally the end).
- Different phrasing of the question.
- Environmental cues to community (e.g. map of local area).
- Different ways of giving info (e.g., pen and paper/ whiteboard available).

- **Reassurance:** tell the potential victims that they are not being personally ‘singled-out’ but that it is because they are part of a wider demographic or social grouping (e.g., they live in a ‘hot-spot area’ or they live alone).
- **Empower:** frame the proposed crime prevention initiative as a way of empowering people to better protect themselves, their families and their possessions by improving their security behaviour.
- **Ask:** a sample of the potential victims whether the crime prevention initiative makes sense to them, before deciding to go ahead with it.
- **Carefully explain:** if/when asked by the potential victims, why this kind of intervention is being used (e.g., there has been a lot of cars stolen that were left unlocked overnight in this area)
- **Tell:** the potential victims the results of the crime prevention initiative (i.e. whether it worked or not and why).

The most negative influence on PS projects?





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