

A Qualitative Exploration of Rape and Serious Sexual Offences (RASSO) Investigators: Their experiences, socialisation, and culture.

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Supervisors

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Introduction

- Recent convictions of Wayne Couzens for rape and murder & David Carrick for multiple rape offences (BBC, 2023; The Guardian, 2023)
- Baroness Casey Review - “institutional racism, misogyny & homophobia” (HMIC, 2023; pp.17)
- Attitudes can produce negative consequences for RASSO investigations

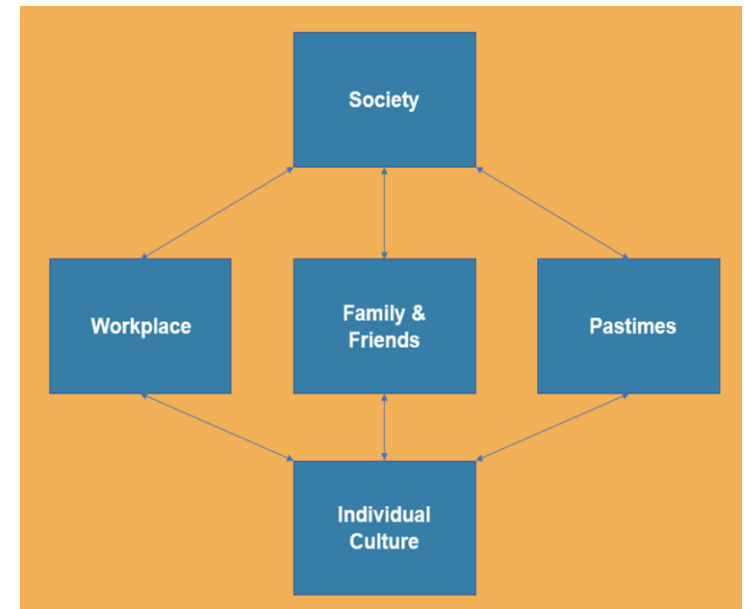


Eg. Officer Cynicism -> Victim Feels Disbelieved -> Re-Traumatized by Reporting Experience

Introduction

**Previous experience + Collective Cultures = Individual Culture
(Bendassolli, 2019)**

- Previous research on police culture focuses on organisational factors
- Overarching subscription to police culture
- Narrow approach = RASSO investigators



Adapted from Valsiner (2014)

Study 1



Aims:

1. Explore investigators' expectations compared to their experience within a RASSO investigation team
2. Understand how individual culture interacts with police culture

Semi-structured interviews
10 RASSO investigators
Reflexive Thematic Analysis

Why they joined the police in the first place, and their specific team

The socialisation process into the police and the department

Whether specific individuals within their team or wider force have had a positive impact on their socialisation

Whether themselves or people around them feel as if they've changed since joining the force, or specific team

Whether the recent news of officers being convicted of RASSO has impacted them, others or their work

Results

Keeping it in the family

“Living with someone who was in the police and hearing snippets of what he was dealing with” (JFLD1)

“Watched him, looked up to him, saw the amazing things he did, and wanted a piece of it.” (NFMA0)

“I sorta knew the workings of the police because my dad had been in for so long” (JMJL0)

“It is very convenient for our home life... that was a big draw for us staying on this team” (AFRM0)

Transitions from “similar” cultures

“I’m somebody that very like, will ask why?... Whereas in the forces, it’s very no.” (DFOF3)

“There’s still a populous of people on the ground who think that bosses don’t have a grasp on what’s actually, reality” (MMEK0)

“I’ll always be military through and through. But this is a career I would look to pursue” (AMJC0)

Positive Difference

“So what your interpretation of helping somebody is. For me, was being a response officer... being that first little port of call” (AFRM0)

“I don't feel on response, you help people... Whereas here you have that ongoing time to work with somebody” (DFOF3)

“I can see the changes that have now come in... changing how our thought processes are and myth busting and becoming more victim centred and suspect focussed” (OFJJ1)

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Conclusion

- Family role models provided aspirations, understanding and connections within policing
- Family logistics also influence joining teams
- Reasons for joining policing could be due to differences as well as similarities
- Many interpretations for making a positive difference are present within officers
- Changes in attitudes and practice are facilitating officers positive difference motivations



Future Work

- National Survey
- 10-15 minutes to complete
- Attitudes towards:
 - Your role in policing
 - Rape and Serious Sexual Offences (RASSO)
- Officers, civilians, specials, volunteers - any rank, any role, no matter how long you have served.



Survey QR
Code

Email me for link:
zcallon@bournemouth.ac.uk

Thank you for your attention



Any Questions?



Survey QR
Code

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