

Guardians of Democracy or Warrior Cops?

Observations on the Making of Police Officers

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Research questions

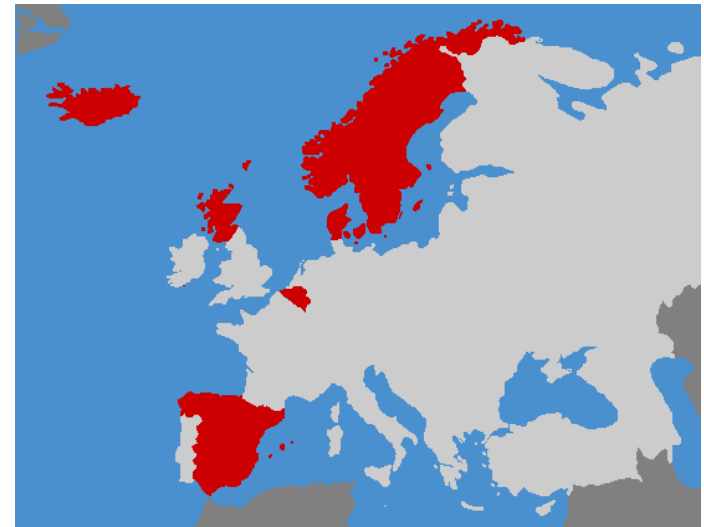


- In what way does the outlook on the professional role change from being a freshman at the academy to an established officer?
- What is the imprint of variables such as gender, age, type of service and the size of the town?
- *Policing and Society* (2018)
- *European Journal of Criminology* (2014)

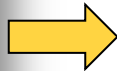
RECPOL (Recruitment, Education and Careers in the Police)

- International research project
- Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Iceland, Denmark, Belgium, Scotland and Spain

Panel data – longitudinal study of a particular cohort



- A total of 4 685 students (1 496 from Nordic countries)
- Data collection points: start, graduation, and three years as sworn officers



The outlook on Police Powers

We accept the power vested in the Police under the premises that it is:

- Based on juridical support
- Balanced (proportionate, unbiased)
- Democratic link (people elects the parliament, the parliament approves the government, the police answers to the government)



The legalist vs. Dirty Harry



1st premise - Juridical Support

Any measures
taken must be
backed by law

Principle of
legality

Efficiency,
practical
solutions

Street-justice/
moral mandate



The Legalist vs. Dirty Harry



2nd premise – Balance





The Legalist vs. Dirty Harry



3rd premise – Democratic Link

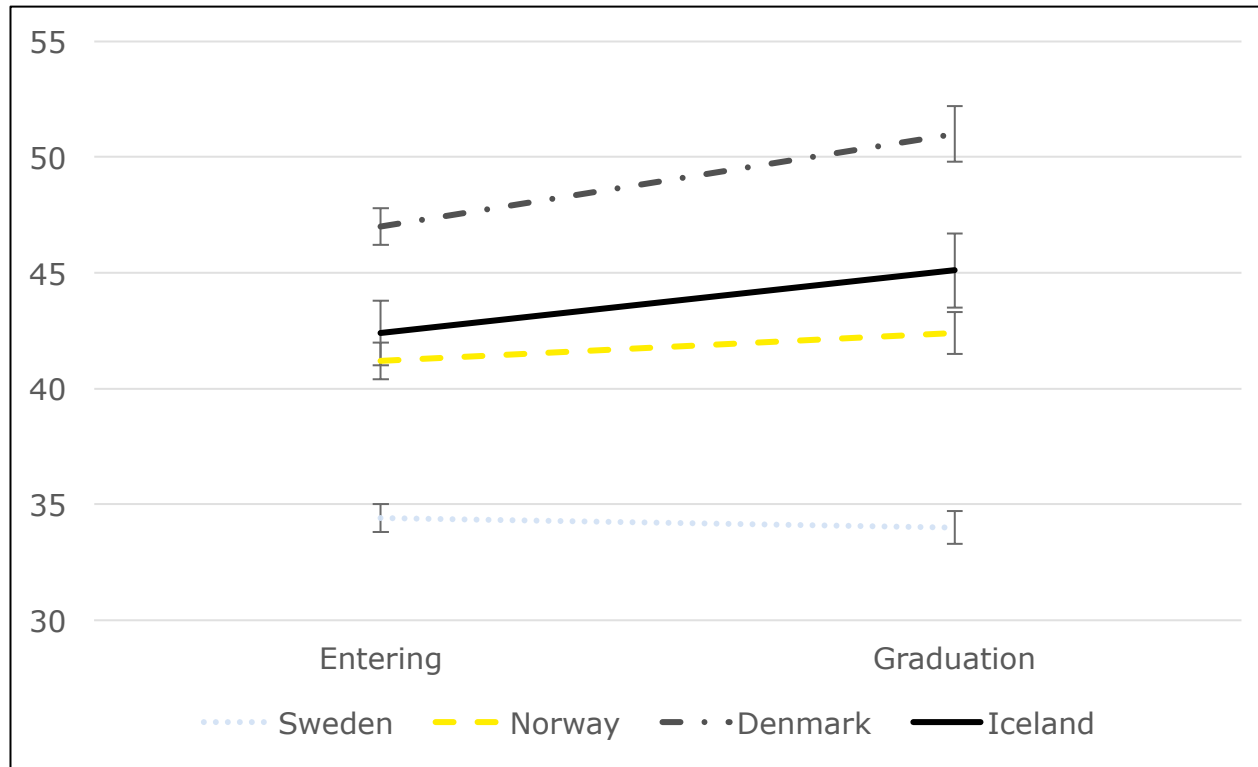
Politically
governed,
hierarchical
organization

Duty to report
offences

Questions statistical
measures,
Disdain for the Brass

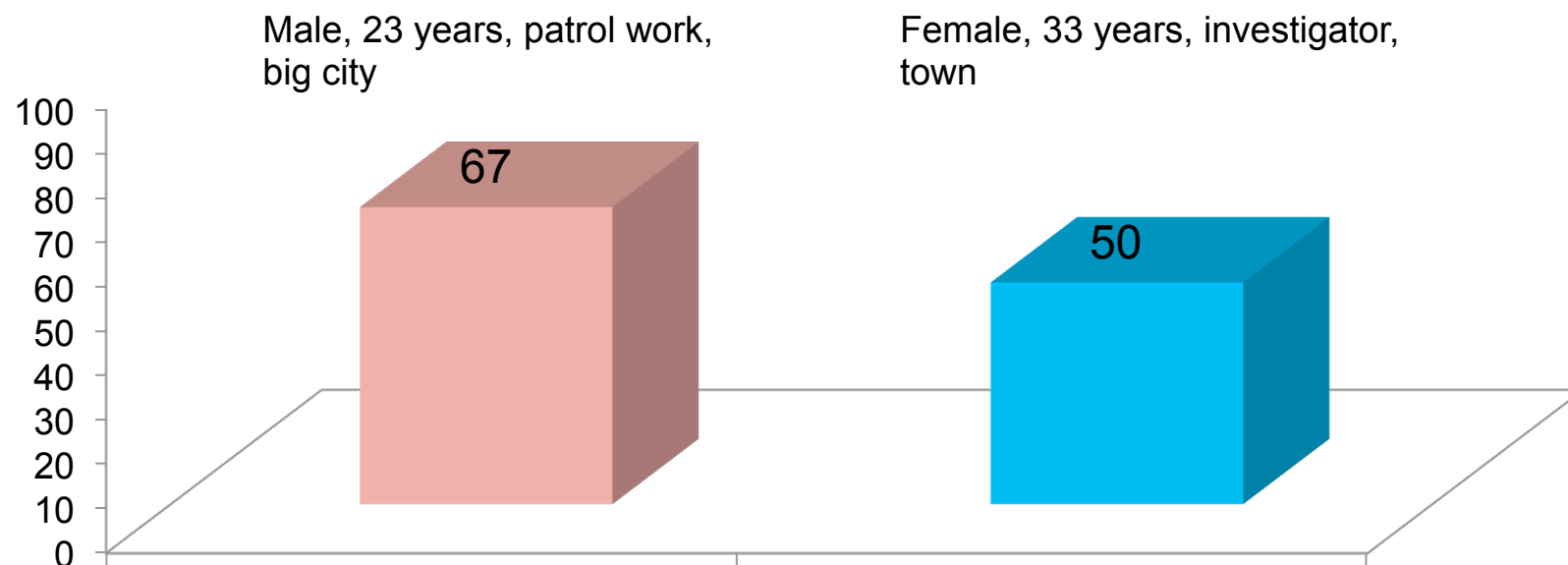
Code of Silence

Nordic police students' attitudes on non-legalistic police measures.



The effect of independent variables on an autonomous outlook on the Police Role

Predicted value based on regression analysis



The most autonomous officers:

- Works in a big city
 - Patrolling officers
 - Male
 - Young
- Variables such as *Parents education* and *Place of origin* are of minor importance.



Why is this important?

- One of the core pillars of the Police assignment is to protect the democracy.
- Currency of the Police?
- The legitimacy of the state (epitomized in Police practice) stands and falls with public trust.