The Intersection of Police and Race

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How do you look at Policing?

- Maintain Social Order?
- Maintain Racial Order?
- Becoming part of the Community?
- What do you think? Are your perceptions based on your social identity, your experiences, what you have heard from others, seen on television, social media, etc.?
Night Watch
Southern Slave Patrol
Early 1900s

- Whites were in control of the criminal justice system and would routinely ignore and allow vigilantes lynching African Americans.
- For example, in 1900 there were more than 100 African Americans lynched. (Walker, 1998)
This White power and dominance continued well into the 1940’s, and there was a race riot that erupted in Detroit in 1943 which was perpetuated by Whites roaming the streets and attacking African Americans. (Walker, 1998)
Most White Americans viewed the police as protectors, while the racial minority community had a more skeptical opinion, believing that different standards apply in minority communities. (Carter, 1995)

Photo: Black Panther Party raided and members forced to strip for weapons check.
1960s Race Riots

- New York, 1964
- Philadelphia, 1964
- Watts, 1965
- San Francisco, 1966
- Atlanta, 1966
- Newark, 1967
- Detroit, 1967
Dragnet 1950s and 1960s “Joe Friday”
More Joe Friday
The Civil Rights Movement during the 1960’s and early 1970’s slowed down with the emergence of the social and economic crisis. (Giroux, 2003) This brought about a growing shift at all levels of government from an emphasis on social investments to an emphasis on public control, social containment, and the criminalization of social problems. (Giroux, 2003)
“War on drugs” – intensive street level enforcement because marijuana was the “gateway” drug to more dangerous drugs
“Lock-em-up” attitude
“Three strikes and you’re out”

Where was the enforcement?
Does poverty play a factor?
Does race play a factor?
Examples

- Gary Fanon, sentenced to life imprisonment without possibility of parole at age 18 for possessing 650 grams of cocaine
- Jerry Williams, the so-called “pizza thief.” One of the first persons convicted under the 1994 California, “three strikes and you’re out” law, he was sentenced to twenty-five years to life for stealing three slices of pizza.
Arthur McDuffie and Rodney King

- In 1979, police beat African American Arthur McDuffie to death in Florida, and then tried to make it look like a motorcycle accident. (Fyfe and Skolnick, 1993)
- In 1991, police officers used excessive force in the beating of African American Rodney King. (Fyfe and Skolnick, 1993)
Incidents like these, along with complaints from minority citizens lead to racial profiling laws requiring police officers to document who they stop and the results of the stop.

In a report by The Center for Constitutional Rights (2009) analyzing data of the New York Police Department from 2005-2008, it found significant racial disparity in whom is stopped and how they are treated.

It was found that about 80 percent of total stops made were Blacks and Latinos, who comprise 25 percent and 28 percent of the population, respectively. During this time period only about 10 percent of stops were Whites, who made up 44 percent of the population.

It also found that Blacks and Latinos were significantly more likely to be frisked and have physical force used against them than Whites.
Racial profiling and racially biased policing can be defined as police officers inappropriately using race as their criteria for the decisions they make. Dunham and Wilson (2008) argue that police officers recognize that African Americans are arrested more than Whites; and therefore this infers African Americans are more likely to be criminals; making this part of the thought process of police officers. (This may be unconscious and unintentional)
Researchers found that most citizens believed “racial profiling” occurs.

- Citizens definition - officer rudeness, discourtesy and/or unwillingness to give the reason for the stop might be seen as the result of racial bias.

- Police officers expressed skepticism that racial profiling was a major problem. However, police officers defined racial profiling more narrowly as stopping a motorist based solely on race.

- Racial minority officers perceived racial profiling differently, as many racial and ethnic minority officers would speak up and describe his or her personal experience of being pulled over by a police officer.
Since Ferguson
Key findings in the DOJ Ferguson report

- The city’s practices are shaped by revenue rather than by public safety needs.
- African Americans in Ferguson account for 85% of vehicle stops, 90% of citations, and 93% of arrests made by FPD officers despite comprising only 67% of Ferguson’s population.
- The disproportionate number of arrests, tickets, and use of force stemmed from “unlawful bias,” rather than African Americans committing more crime.
- Overtly racist emails sent by Ferguson Officers.
- The investigation found that the Ferguson Police department “routinely” stopped African American drivers without reasonable suspicion, arrested them without probable cause, and used unreasonable force against them.
Most cops showed amazing self-control.
Now leaders within the police practice are listening
Are officers at the patrol levels listening?
What is the role of the media?
Police worried about the “Ferguson Effect.” What impact will this have on officers, officer safety, and proactive policing.
Does this enhance the “us against them mentality?”
Has created police reform initiatives at national and state levels
"A lot of officers are being too cautious because of what's going on in the media," said the officer, who asked to remain anonymous for the safety of his family. "I hesitated because I didn't want to be in the media like I am right now."
Even lawful use of force is scrutinized

- Graham v. Connor
- Tennessee v. Garner
Graham’s Three Part Test for Use of Force

*Graham v. Connor (1989)*

- Seriousness of the Offense
- Physical Threat
  - Subject/Offender Size/Ability
  - Availability of Weapons
  - Persons Present
  - Subject Action
- Active Resistance or Attempt to Evade Arrest by Flight
Use of Force

- Objectively reasonable (officer)
- Totality of Circumstances (3-part test) – must be in your report!
- NOT “hind sight 20/20”
- Officer’s perception at that moment – must be in your report!
- The Courts Realize stuff happens fast!
Where the officer has probable cause to believe that the suspect poses an immediate threat of serious physical harm, either to the officer or to others, it is not constitutionally unreasonable to use deadly force.
National Survey: Did the grand jury make the right decision not to charge the police officer in the death of Eric Garner?

- Right Decision – 22%
- Wrong Decision – 57%
- Don’t know – 20%
Confidence in Police by Race, Sept. 2014 (Pew)
Still Two Americas

I'm goin' out, Mom!

Put on your jacket.

I'm goin' out, Mom!

Put on your jacket, keep your hands in sight at all times. Don't make any sudden moves, keep your mouth shut around police. Don't run, don't wear a hoodie, don't give them an excuse to hurt you. Don't.
So, the question is, does race play a role in the decision making process of police officers? And, if so, does that mean that police (or some officers) believe that race is a factor in criminal behavior? Could this be in the form of conscious or unconscious racism? Implicit Bias? Explicit Bias?
Who is a police officer? People just like you.

- Husband, wife, son, daughter, mother, father, etc.
- Involved in community, church, family, etc.
- Want to help people that can’t help themselves
- Want to stand up for people who can’t stand up for themselves
- Want to help victims
- Want to arrest the criminals that are victimizing others
- Wherever they are dispatched, they have to go, regardless of the danger
Police Culture

- Community Policing
- Problem-oriented Policing
- Special Olympics – Cop on Top, Polar Bear Plunge
- Citizen Police Academy
- Senior Police Academy
- Working with the Youth
- National Night Out
- Coffee with a Cop
- Mentoring
- Neighborhood Crime Watch
Police Culture

- Promoting a Warrior Mindset “police warrior”
- Blue Code of Silence
- Us against them mentality
- Policies – “get tough on crime,” “Three strikes and you are out”
- Many times become jaded and cynical . . . Why?
- Militarization of Police
Policing in a Multiracial Society
Three 3-hour modules beyond the normal curriculum

- **Awareness** – Recruit awareness of their own social identities, racial beliefs, assumptions, stereotypes, biases, values, etc.

- **Knowledge** – Knowledge about theory and research related to police misconduct and the sociohistorical experiences of racial minority communities, especially with the police and criminal justice system

- **Skills** – Efficacy to apply de-escalation skills and basic policing skills in a culturally informed way and promote critical thinking skills
Policing in a Multiracial Society

- Racism
- Institutional Racism
- Colorblind Racial Ideology
- Implicit Bias
- Micro aggressions
- Community Panel Discussion
- De-escalation techniques
- Critical Thinking Skills
- Positive examples of policing
Since the Civil Rights Era, new approaches were needed to understand the more subtle varieties of racism, a realization that racism is normal, not aberrant in our society. (Delgado and Stefancic, 2000)
Our country has developed its systems (governmental, educational, economical, etc.) based on White privilege and dominant White male middle-class ideology.

This ideology works to keep Whites on top and minorities at the bottom.

Although racism has changed in what it looks like since the Civil Rights Era, it still exists. Today racism is more covert, sometimes unconscious, and is exacerbated by the “color blind” race ideology.
“The majoritarian story tells us that darker skin and poverty correlate with bad neighborhoods and bad schools. It informs us that limited or Spanish-accented English and Spanish surnames equals bad schools and poor academic performance. It also reminds us that people who may not have the legal documents to “belong” in the United States may be identified by their skin color, hair texture, eye shape, accent, and/or surname. Standard majoritarian methodology relies on stock stereotypes that covertly and overtly link people of color, women of color, and poverty with “bad,” while emphasizing that White, middle- to upper-class people embody all that is “good.” (Solorzano & Yosso, 2002, p. 29)
White Privilege

- There are concrete, as well as psychological benefits in American society for simply being White. On the reverse, there are greater difficulties and fewer benefits for people of color.
- America has a history of empowering Whites through the laws and customs. Whites have also predominately held powerful decision making positions in government, the work force, the police force, and education.
- The expected “norms” of our American society have been decided by Whites.
We define the counter-story as a method of telling stories of those people whose experiences are not often told (i.e., those on the margins of society). The counter-story is also a tool for exposing, analyzing, and challenging the majoritarian stories of racial privilege (Solorzano & Yosso, 2002).

Interaction with Deputy Chief of a large city . . .
Counter-storytelling

- Police officers base their stops of vehicles and pedestrians on reasonable suspicion, their arrests on probable cause, and their force based on “reasonableness” and “totality of the circumstances.” Of course there is discretion on who to stop and when to arrest. There is also discretion on how much force to use because this is based on the officer’s “perceptions” of reasonableness and the circumstances.

- The officer then writes his report and tells his story in a very factual legal manner. This report (officer’s story) is what is accepted as the “status-quo;” it is what goes to the State’s Attorney’s Office, and what is used in court. However, there is another story - that of the person stopped, the arrestee, the citizen who had force used on them by the officer.
Since the civil rights era there is intolerance of overt racism.
Laws forbid overt racism
Colorblindness is the new racism
This discourse acknowledges that police do not look at race, they are simply doing their jobs and treating everyone the same.
This color blind ideology is a way of overlooking racism and allowing or justifying current discriminatory practices of the dominant culture to continue.

- Colorblind talk proffers a particular definition of race and racism, a particular reading of the American historical trajectory, and a normative ideal. It rests on an essentialist view of race as a morally arbitrary physical property; defines racism as overt, individual acts of prejudice that can be countered through education and antidiscrimination law; and suggests that America is moving inexorably toward the promised land of race-blindness. (Kim, 2000, p. 18)
Glover (2009) asserts that mainstream criminology’s treatment of racial profiling does not fully acknowledge in depth this social fact of racism and handles the issue discursively with color-blind racism.

When mainstream criminology does discuss racism, it is generally framed as a historical artifact with waning influence in contemporary times. Mainstream criminology perpetuates racial inequality in the United States by continuing to establish, reinforce, and perpetuate the association of criminality and minority racial status. (p. 15)
In pairs answer the following question:
• Where did you develop your ideas about race and specific racial groups?
“The basic social process through which an individual becomes integrated into a social group by learning the group’s culture and his or her role in the group”

1. Lifelong process, but childhood is crucial for development
2. Inherited- norms, values, customs, and ideologies
3. Disseminated- norms, values, customs, and ideologies

Racial Socialization

- The developmental process through which children acquire perceptions, attitudes, values, norms, and behaviors of their racial/ethnic group. They come to differentiate themselves between their groups and others.

Racism: what is it and does it still matter?

• “Racism is the dogma that one ethnic group is condemned by nature to hereditary inferiority and another group is destined to hereditary superiority”

• “The prediction of decisions and policies in considerations of race for the purposes of *subordinating* a racial group and maintaining control over that group”

• “It imposes *domination, discrimination, and degradation* of people of color; grants *power, privilege, and prestige* to people deemed white”
The structuring of rules, regulations, policies, and laws to discriminate against members of the subordinate racial group and to give preference to members of the dominant group.

- **Wealth as an example:**

  Median household wealth

  - $91,405
  - $6,446
Institutional racism (Cont’d)

Median household income as an example:

Median household income

$35,416  
Black

$59,754  
White

$100K

#JUNE 2014 DATA, SOURCE: SENTIER RESEARCH
Institutional racism (Cont’d)

- **Unemployment rate as an example:**

  ![Unemployment rate chart]

  **July, 2014**

  - **White:** 5.3%
  - **Black:** 11.4%

  **SOURCE:** BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS
Institutional racism (Cont’d)

- Poverty rate as an example:

- White: 9.7%
- Black: 27.2%
Institutional racism (Cont’d)

- Home ownership:

![Bar Chart]

- White: 72.9%
- Black: 43.5%
FIGURE 21
Marijuana Use by Race: Used Marijuana in Past 12 Months (2001-2010)

Source: National Household Survey on Drug Abuse and Health, 2001-2010
FIGURE 10
Arrest Rates for Marijuana Possession by Race (2001-2010)

- White Arrest Rate
- Black Arrest Rate
BY RACE/ETHNICITY, 2010

(Number of people incarcerated per 100,000 people in that group)

Source: Calculated by the Prison Policy Initiative from U.S. Census 2010 Summary File 1. Incarcerated populations
WHITES ARE UNDERREPRESENTED IN ILLINOIS PRISONS AND JAILS

Source: Calculated by the Prison Policy Initiative from U.S. Census 2010 Summary File 1, Incarcerated populations are all types of correctional facilities in a state, including federal and state prisons, local jails, halfway houses, etc. Statistics for Whites are for Non-Hispanic Whites.
BLACKS ARE OVERREPRESENTED IN ILLINOIS PRISONS AND JAILS

Source: Calculated by the Prison Policy Initiative from U.S. Census 2010 Summary File 3, Incarcerated populations.
Individual/Personally mediated Racism

- Everyday racism – “Comprehension of racist events”
- Microaggressions - unconscious “everyday slights, insults, indignities, and denigrating messages”
Implicit Bias

- Attitudes or stereotypes that affect our understanding, actions, and decisions in an unconscious manner
- Implicit associations don’t have to align with declared beliefs
- Not accessible through introspection
Implicit Racial bias matters

• Racial Empathy Gap
  ▪ People of color viewed as experiencing less pain than White individuals; results in disparities in the distribution of pain medication
  ▪ Has implications on the doctor-patient relationship (less perceived client-centeredness and poor ratings of care)

Examined 44 cases involving Black male defendants convicted of murdering White Victims.

Had students rate the Black “stereotypicality” of each defendant’s appearance (black & white photo).

Found that controlling for aggravating and mitigating circumstances, Black “stereotypicality” of the defendants predicted death sentence penalties: 24.4% of low Black stereotypicality compared to 57.5% of high Black stereotypicality defendants received death sentences.

No differences were found when the victim was Black.

Panel Discussion

- Describe your experiences with police officers (diverse racial and ethnic minority communities).
- How would you describe current police-community relations?
- How would you describe the ideal police-community relationship?
- What would you like police to know about your perspective on this relationship? OR What would you like the community to know about this relationship and the police in general.
- What can we do collectively to promote positive police-community relations.
De-escalation Skills and Scenario Based Training

- Investigative Stops
- Stop and Frisk
- Domestic Calls
- Disturbance Calls
- Vehicle Stops
- Burglary & Theft Calls
The overall goal is to create leaders who will work hard at gaining the trust of all citizens.
This study investigates the social and physiological characteristics of police recruits during stressful scenarios and examines the impacts of “mindfulness” techniques to reduce stress during these events.

Mindfulness includes using breathing techniques and visualization, giving the recruit officers the ability to remain in the here and now during a critical incident, helping officers maintain self-control, self-regulation, and increasing situational awareness.
The Other 68%: Understanding Factors that Contribute to Low Sexual Assault Reporting Rates & Strategies for Intervention

Jaya Kolisetty
Public Educator

Stephanie Ames
Advocate
Along with much of the Ally Training provided on campus a special focus includes:

- Current reality of police interactions with LGBT individuals
- Impact of negative v. positive interactions
- Role of the police and respectful interaction
- Promoting “Becoming an Ally”
Increase police cadet awareness of the causes of wrongful convictions (false identification, false confessions, etc.)

Exoneree as guest speaker
Guest speaker from Phoenix Daytime Drop-in Center to talk about their experiences.
Questions???