

Dr Natasha Mulvihill |

Associate Professor in Criminology | University of Bristol, UK

[Natasha Mulvihill — University of Bristol](#)

[Powerful Perpetrators – ERC/UKRI project](#)

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Call for abstracts on police perpetrators for 2025 special issue of [International Journal of Police Science & Management](#) (IJPSM).

Abstracts sought for papers on physical, sexual or ‘honour-based’ violence and abuse perpetrated by serving police officers and police staff within the home and intimate sphere, public and community spaces, online, while working, or in the workplace.

Topics may include, for example, perpetration, victimisation, vetting and misconduct processes, institutional culture or research methods.

Abstracts are welcomed globally from academics, early career researchers, policy makers, practitioners, and NGOs, including co-authored with individuals with lived experience of police perpetrated abuse.

Abstracts should be maximum 300 words plus a brief reference list and a brief biography of the authors. Written abstracts, and queries about abstract proposals, should be sent directly to the special issue editors natasha.mulvihill@bristol.ac.uk and fsweeting@bournemouth.ac.uk by **Friday 7 June 2024**.

Special issue call: Police perpetrators of sexual and violent abuse

Editors: [Fay Sweeting](#) (Bournemouth University) and [Natasha Mulvihill](#) (University of Bristol)

Journal: [International Journal of Police Science & Management](#) (IJPSM)

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Introduction

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Police abuses of position and power have made headlines across the world in recent years.

In the UK in 2021, the rape and murder of Sarah Everard by London police officer Wayne Couzens, closely followed by the rapes and partner violence committed by PC David Carrick, caused widespread public outrage and shock.

Last year in the US, Officer Seth Perrault was sentenced to life in prison for the murder of his wife, Amanda, which he had initially tried to mask as suicide. Cases such as these highlight ongoing concerns about police conduct towards members of the public, colleagues, intimate partners and within the wider community.

Abuse of position for a sexual purpose, police perpetrated domestic abuse and internal sexual misconduct is still under-researched. Historically, gaining access to sensitive police data and/or access to victims of misconduct has proven difficult, and although there are signs this is improving, there is still much to understand. Institutional and governmental responses to this type of misconduct often highlight the need for the police to work with academics in the drive to ensure justice to victims, restore public trust and for the early identification of the perpetrators.

Call: This IJPSM special issue focuses on physical, sexual or ‘honour-based’ violence and abuse perpetrated by serving police officers and police staff. We are interested in perpetration that occurs in two areas specifically:

Intimate and community:

- the home or intimate sphere (e.g. between partners; within the family; in dating relationships; commercial sex); and/or
- within public and community spaces (e.g. while undertaking community roles; sports coaching; mentorship; or working within voluntary organisations); and/or
- online, e.g. through adult sites, meet-up sites or other online spaces which facilitate intimate/proximate contact.

Workplace:

- the workplace or adjacent spaces, including work socialising, and
- against colleagues and/or against victims or witnesses or perpetrators of crime.

Victims may be adults or children, of any gender.

We welcome all methods but would particularly like to see qualitative or mixed method studies which illuminate how police perpetrators operate; how they conceal their offending; the impact on victims; and routes and barriers to justice and accountability.

We are interested also in papers which explore the implications for internal misconduct processes, police recruitment and vetting. This might include analysis of police and institutional understandings of sexual misconduct and abuse of position.

We would consider too proposals for method papers which explore how to research police perpetrators, given issues around secrecy, power, risk and access to data.

Submission of abstracts

Abstracts are welcomed globally from academics, early career researchers, policy makers, practitioners, and NGOs, including co-authored with individuals with lived experience of police perpetrated abuse.

Abstracts should be maximum 300 words plus a brief reference list and a brief biography of the authors. Written abstracts, and queries about abstract proposals, should be sent directly to the special issue editors natasha.mulvihill@bristol.ac.uk and fsweeting@bournemouth.ac.uk by Friday 7 June 2024.

Indicative timetable

Mon 29 April 2024	Call for papers goes live
Fri 7 June 2024	Deadline for abstracts
Fri 5 July 2024	Editors to confirm papers accepted for special issue
Fri 6 December 2024	Deadline for full papers
Mon 9 December 2024 to Fri 17 May 2025	Peer review and final corrections
June 2025	Special issue published