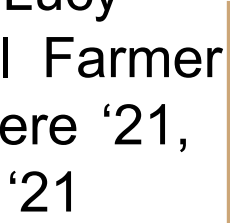




Police Disarmament Teach-In

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Outline

1. History of Policing

- a. Slavery and Slave Patrols
- b. “Ugly laws” and policing of race, class, and disability
- c. Reconstruction, policing, and convict leasing
- d. Policing in the Civil Rights / Jim Crow Era
- e. Policing in the 2000’s
 - i. Cases of police brutality
 - ii. Ethical Issues with guns

2. Policing on College Campus

- a. Issues with police being armed on campus
 - i. Police brutality on college campuses
- b. Why police should not be armed on college campus
- c. Alternative campus solutions to policing
- d. Current Actions taken on other college campuses

History of Policing: Slave Patrols and Racism

Police racism, corruption, and violence, particularly against Black and Brown people, have been commonplace since the institution's inception

- American law enforcement started out as slave patrols and union busters
 - Squadrons of white volunteers enforced laws related to slavery by **capturing and returning enslaved people** who had escaped, **crushing uprisings**, and **punishing enslaved workers** believed to have violated plantation rules.
- The first police forces were overwhelmingly white, male, and **focused on responding to “disorder” (primarily labor agitation for better working conditions) rather than actual crime.**
- Police have upheld and enforced racist laws since **slavery, the black codes**, and the **jim crow laws**

History of Policing: Ugly Laws

- So-called "Ugly Laws" were early forms of policing that targeted primarily low income and disabled people.
 - 1860s first city ordinance passed, later ordinances to come in the 1880s and 90s
- Ugly laws "prohibited people with noticeable physical disabilities from visiting public spaces."
 - Schweik, S. M. (2009). *The Ugly Laws: Disability in Public*. New York University Press: New York University Press.
- Disproportionately targeted folks at the intersection of race, income, and disability status.
 - "Protecting" white women was often cited as justification for these ordinances.

History of Policing: Reconstruction Era Prisons



Image of the Mississippi State Penitentiary
also known as Parchman Farm

- After the abolishment of slavery, some former plantations were converted into prison labor camps
- Police began arresting almost exclusively young Black men to fill these prisons
- Because Prisoners are excluded from protections by the 14th amendment they were forced to labor for free in these camps
- Under “convict leasing” imprisoned Black people were sold back to plantation owners who paid the state a small fee to have their workforce returned
- The practice of prison labor still exists today and prisons are still disproportionately populated by Black folks because of racist policing

Police Brutality

- Definition: **Police brutality is the use of excessive or unnecessary force by personnel affiliated with law enforcement duties when dealing with suspects and civilians.** The term is also applied to abuses by corrections personnel in municipal, state, and federal penal facilities, including military prisons.
- **There were 5,367 fatal police shootings from 2015-2020.** In the case of armed victims, **Native Americans were killed by police at a rate three times that of white people** (77 total killed). **Black people were killed at 2.6 times the rate of white people** (1,265 total killed); and **Hispanics were killed at nearly 1.3 times the rate of white people** (889 total killed). Among unarmed victims, **Black people were killed at three times the rate** (218 total killed), and **Hispanics at 1.45 times the rate of white people** (146 total killed).
- Factors contributing to police brutality:
 - **Insular culture of police departments (blue wall of silence)**
 - **Aggressive defense of police officers and resistance to change in police unions**
 - **Broad legal protections granted to police officers (such as qualified immunity)**
 - **Historic racism of police departments**
 - **Militarization of the police**
 - **Adoption of tactics that escalate tension (such as zero tolerance policing and [stop-and-frisk](#))**
 - **Inadequacies of police training and/or [police academies](#)**
 - **Psychology of possessing absolute power**

History of Campus Policing

New York Times (1923-Current file); Apr 30, 1968; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The New York Times
pg. 1

**1,000 POLICE ACT TO OUST STUDENTS
FROM FIVE BUILDINGS AT COLUMBIA;
MOVE IN AT UNIVERSITY'S REQUEST**



Where is the need for police on college campuses?

- The number of officers on college campuses has continued to expand despite plateauing rates of crime at universities
 - **Violent crime rate on college campus decreased 27 percent** from 2004-2010. At the same time, **more sworn officers with firearms (94 percent), chemical or pepper spray (94 percent), taser-like devices (40 percent), and in some cases military-grade equipment, were added to college campuses.**
- According to a Schmidt, the most common crimes committed on college campuses tend to be property related. For example, at Harvard **95%** of campus crimes involve property theft or damage. There is absolutely no need to be heavily armed to address these situations.
- Violent crimes against college students occur off campus 14 times more often than on campus.
- At the University of Pennsylvania, criminologist Emily Owens finds that campus police officers are supposed to be enlisting a **harm reduction model of crime control** because they are supposed to be invested in student safety. Yet, they haven't been.
- ***What are these “crimes” that police officers are actually addressing?***

Policing on College Campuses II

Recent incidents suggest that policing in higher ed continues to utilize the violent tactics used to suppress Vietnam War and civil-rights activists. They also continue to harm innocent community members.

- I. 2011: [UC Davis police officers](#) were caught on film **pepper-spraying a row of passive, seated students** participating in an Occupy Wall Street Protest.
- II. 2014: George Washington University campus police department accused of **unlawfully detaining students**
- III. 2015: University of Cincinnati police officer **indicted for murder for shooting an unarmed man, Samuel DuBose**, in an off-campus traffic stop.
- IV. 2017: In 2017, Scout Schultz, a student of Georgia Tech and President of the Pride Alliance, was **killed by campus police during a period of distress** due to mental illness.
- V. 2019: A Yale University campus police officer was one of two officers who **shot Stephanie Washington, an unarmed Black woman**, in New Haven in 2019. They said they shot her because “she got out of the car too abruptly.” They fired 16 shots.



Black student says police barged into her dorm after White classmates allegedly made false report

BY PETER MARTINEZ

SEPTEMBER 29, 2020 / 5:12 PM / CBS NEWS



A Black Yale Student Was Napping, and a White Student Called the Police



Smith College student who was racially profiled while eating says the incident left her so shaken she can't sleep



By [Nicole Chavez](#) and Sophia Lipp, CNN

🕒 Updated 2:33 PM ET, Fri August 3, 2018

‘I wasn’t surprised. I was just hurt’: A Black professor says campus police demanded proof she lives in her own house

Testimonials

Prior to 2005, the SUNY Cortland campus, as well as two other SUNY campuses, did not permit their University Police to carry lethal weapons. Here's what students and faculty had to say:

“The campus now functions in peace; I see absolutely no reason for disturbing this. We do not go to school in an area that would require an armed police force, nor do we have a history of violence at the school or among the students. I read the judicial report every month and clearly the type of issues that UPD now contends do NOT call for . . . guns” (Student)

“. . . carrying guns creates a very strong aura of power and domination. I am concerned that arming police will change their real and apparent function on the campus. In the past, we called them public safety officers, and they wore brown uniforms instead of blue. That name and uniform connoted helpers, protectors, and problem-solvers. Guns and blue uniforms connote something very different — intimidation, dominance, authoritarianism, power” (Faculty).

Testimonials, continued

“No guns. Ever. Not for any reason. Guns serve a singular purpose, and that is: kill. You cannot protect people with instruments of violence . . .” (Student).

”. . . arming the university police is unnecessary, politically unwise, and morally suspect. I shudder to think of one of our students being shot and perhaps killed by the university police. There are many ways to respond nonviolently to situations on campus that some think call for arming the police” (Faculty).

“As a combat Veteran of the Vietnam War there were numerous occasions when myself and my comrades had to confront and police unarmed civilians. However the potential that someone might pose a threat always had us on the ready, with our finger on the trigger so to speak. Sometimes this feeling of implied danger would have undesirable results, as I know carrying a weapon can often open the opportunity for mistakes that would otherwise not have occurred. . . . I would hate to see an incident like Kent State happen at Cortland” (Faculty)

Source: SUNY Cortland Report of the University Police Arming Task Force

Police Armament and the Professional Literature I

- Comparison of Norwegian unarmed patrol to Swedish armed patrol. Finds that "Swedish police **shoot more often** than Norwegian police and, in addition, **more police and citizens are injured** in Sweden."
 - Knutsson, Johannes, and Jon Strype. "Police Use Of Firearms In Norway And Sweden: The Significance Of Gun Availability." *Policing and Society* 13, no. 4 (December 2003): 429–39. <https://doi.org/10.1080/1043946032000105381>.
- The research findings, especially that of the Swedish police officer relying on his firearm for his personal safety, are consistent with the literature in that the mere presence of a firearm on an officer enhances his or her 'sense' of safety, **but not necessarily his or her actual safety.**
 - Hendy, Ross. "Routinely Armed and Unarmed Police: What Can the Scandinavian Experience Teach Us?" *Policing: A Journal of Policy and Practice* 8 (June 1, 2014): 183–92. <https://doi.org/10.1093/police/pau012>.

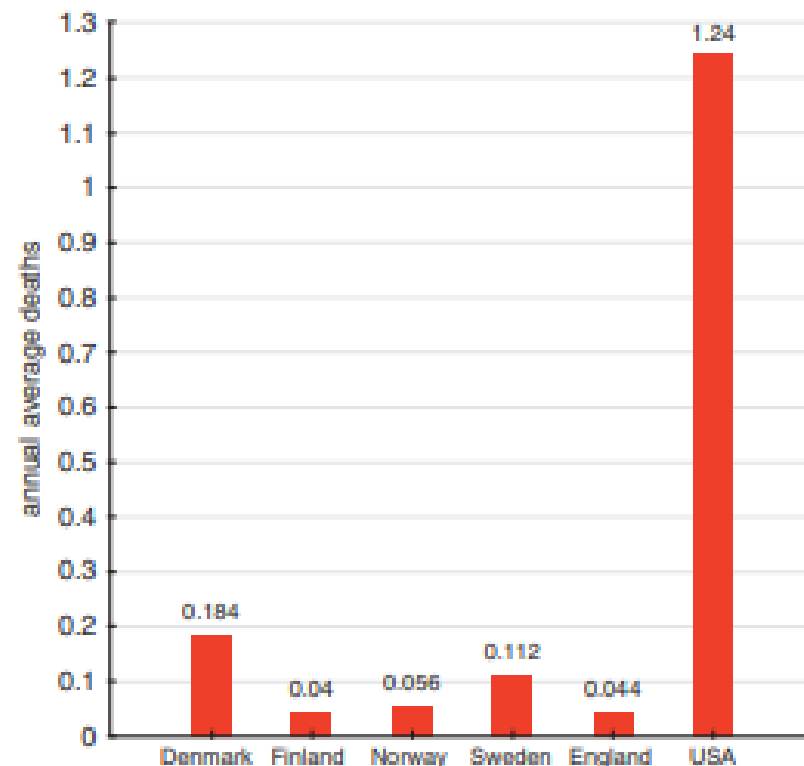


Figure 2: Annual average number of deaths by police shooting per million inhabitants (1996–2006) (Knutsson and Norée, 2010).

Police Armament and the Professional Literature II

- Unarmed police officers are **similarly effective** as armed police officers in deterring crime through patrol. (This study was conducted by the American Society of Criminology's Director of the Division of Experimental Criminology)
 - Source: Ariel, Barak, Cristobal Weinborn, and Lawrence W. Sherman. "'Soft' Policing at Hot Spots—Do Police Community Support Officers Work? A Randomized Controlled Trial." *Journal of Experimental Criminology* 12, no. 3 (September 1, 2016): 277–317. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11292-016-9260-4>.
- Unarmed uniformed private security guards **have a crime deterrent effect** through patrol. (Study by ASA DEC)
 - Ariel, Barak, Matthew Bland, and Alex Sutherland. "'Lowering the Threshold of Effective Deterrence'—Testing the Effect of Private Security Agents in Public Spaces on Crime: A Randomized Controlled Trial in a Mass Transit System." *PLOS ONE* 12, no. 12 (December 6, 2017): e0187392. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0187392>.

Police Armament and the Professional Literature III

- Introduction of a new weapon system to law enforcement – in this case the TASER to UK police - increased police willingness **to deploy that weapon system and to use force.** (Study by ASA DEC)
 - Ariel, Barak, David Lawes, Cristobal Weinborn, Ron Henry, Kevin Chen, and Hagit Brants Sabo. “The ‘Less-Than-Lethal Weapons Effect’—Introducing TASERs to Routine Police Operations in England and Wales: A Randomized Controlled Trial.” *Criminal Justice and Behavior*, December 19, 2018. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0093854818812918>.
- Comparative study of UK, AUS, NZ, Canadian police. "The findings indicate that **the number of fatal civilian shootings by police is higher where police are routinely armed.**"
 - Farmer, Clare, and Richard Evans. “Primed and Ready: Does Arming Police Increase Safety? Preliminary Findings.” *Violence and Gender* 7, no. 2 (June 1, 2020): 47–56. <https://doi.org/10.1089/vio.2019.0020>.
- Comparative study of UK, AUS, NZ, Canadian police. "Overall, our analysis has found **insufficient empirical evidence** to support the expectation that routinely arming police officers increases community safety"
 - Farmer, Clare, and Richard Evans. “Do Police Need Guns? The Nexus between Routinely Armed Police and Safety.” *The International Journal of Human Rights*, September 2, 2020, 1–19. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13642987.2020.1811694>.

Recap / Overview

1. History of Policing
2. Police on Campus
 - a. Increasing militarization of campus police - those funds could go elsewhere
 - b. Police brutality and bias on campus against Black students and community members
3. No evidence having police on campus makes schools safer
 - a. SUNY Cortland is an example of this