ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RESEARCH COUNCIL
IMPACT REPORT

For awards ending on or after 1 November 2009

This Impact Report should be completed and submitted using the grant reference as the email subject to reportsofficer@esrc.ac.uk on or before the due date.

Completion of this Impact Report is mandatory. It will not be possible to edit this Impact Report at a later date, as it is designed to provide a statement of the impacts of your project to date 12 months after your grant ends.

Please note that the Impact Report will only be accepted if all sections have been completed in full. If a section does not apply to you, please enter ‘n/a’. Grant holders will not be eligible for further ESRC funding until the Report is accepted. (Please see Section 5 of the ESRC Research Funding Guide for details.)

Please refer to the Guidance notes when completing this Impact Report. In particular, the notes explain what the ESRC means by ‘impact’.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grant Reference</th>
<th>RES-061-23-0138-A</th>
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<tr>
<td>Grant Title</td>
<td>Understanding Attrition in Rape Cases</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grant Start Date</td>
<td>1st February 2007</td>
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<td>Grant End Date</td>
<td>31st July 2010</td>
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<td>Grant holding Institution</td>
<td>Glasgow Caledonian University</td>
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<tr>
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Co-Investigators (as per project application):

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<th>Institution</th>
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1. SCIENTIFIC IMPACT

A Please summarise below the scientific impact(s) your project has had. [Max 250 words]

The research aimed to understand what factors influence rape case attrition in the criminal justice system. The research has achieved this aim through advancing empirical understanding of the factors that influence case success or failure showing case loss is still most significant at policing stage (victim withdrawal and 'no further action') and gives a more holistic understanding of attrition from methodological advancement through the use of multivariate analysis/Forest Plots. Debates are furthered by highlighting that the 'no criming' problem of concern in previous literature, has to some extent, become the 'no further action' problem in relation to case loss at policing stage. Empirical understanding has also been generated in relation to police officers’ interviews of victims, their understandings and attitudes towards rape (revealing a more complex understanding of what makes a ‘good case’ than the ‘real rape’/’stereotypical rape’ in previous research). Understandings of victim experience have also been advanced showing reporting rape (or not) is a multi-factorial decision influenced by the individual’s social circumstances beyond the assault/perceptions of the justice process.

Theoretical advancements come in the form of the ‘good case’ model and the typology of false allegations police officers use to categorise cases. Further theoretical developments include victims experiencing the justice process as a liminal space, and the emergence of procedural justice as a theoretical tool for understanding victim experience. The research has also led to the establishment of new research networks, the development of methodological tools, and increased research capacity to take the research into a new jurisdiction.

B Please outline the findings and outputs from your project which have had the scientific impact(s) outlined in 1A. [Max 250 words]

Publication of the initial project report (McMillan, 2010) generated considerable interest from academics, particularly in variables that influenced case loss at key attrition points, police officers’ attitudes/understandings, and the role of procedural justice. Scholars working in the area are using the ‘good case’ model as a theoretical tool to understand police officers’ decision making around rape. Publication of a chapter on police interviews of rape victims (McMillan & Thomas, 2009) generated enquiries from academics in forensic psychology and criminal justice social work involved in offender interviewing research. Early circulation of an article locating findings in the area of human rights (McMillan, 2011) generated significant interest in criminal justice outcomes as a human rights issue.

The research findings have produced scientific advancements in methods using Forest Plots to represent logistic regression and cluster analysis visually as well as numerically. Not ordinarily used in criminal justice/socio-legal research, its use has pushed the boundaries of quantitative analysis in criminal justice/rape attrition research.

The research has produced a quantitative data collection tool that will further future rape case attrition research. Designed to review reported rape case-files, it is already available to scholars conducting attrition research in another jurisdiction. A significant development/output from the research has been the establishment of the Comparative Analysis in Rape Research Network (CAIRRN). Research capacity has also been generated from the project as the PI was successful in securing a PhD scholarship for a student to conduct research on rape attrition in Scotland using some aspects of the project’s methodology.
C  Please outline how these impacts were achieved. [Max 250 words]

Following the dissemination strategy in the grant application, the attention of the academic community was engaged through articles in leading publications (see McMillan & Thomas, 2009; McMillan, 2011) with two further articles on the role of the specialty trained officer (Policing & Society) and alcohol in rape cases (Sociology) currently under review. The chapter on police interviewing (McMillan & Thomas 2009) is published in an important collection in the field of sexual violence, Rape: Challenging Contemporary Thinking (Routledge) and has generated more than 10 individual enquiries from scholars interested in police interview techniques with victims of violence. A key element of the dissemination strategy is to engage international audiences through presentations at leading conferences; 8 academic presentations have been given to date. For example, findings have been showcased at two conferences (2009 & 10) of the American Society of Criminology (police perceptions of ‘real rapes’ or ‘good cases’; predicting rape case attrition through multivariate analysis), and three conferences (2008, 9 & 10) of the European Society of Criminology (initial attrition findings; the role of the Specially Trained Officer; police perceptions of false allegations). Dissemination to academic audiences has also been achieved via university seminar series (Napier; Glasgow Caledonian University; Illinois State University) and ‘research to practice’ workshops (Scottish Centre for Crime and Justice Research and the Division of Forensic Psychology, Scotland). Findings have been disseminated to individuals making enquiries, and formally through existing, and newly established, research networks such as the Sexual Offences Research Initiative (SORI) and CAIRRN.

D  Please outline who the findings and outputs outlined above had an impact upon. This can include specific academics/researchers through to broader academic groups. [Max 250 words]

Scientific impacts have been primarily on the research community involved in the study of gender-based violence, in particular rape and sexual assault, across a variety of disciplines including sociology, criminology, socio-legal studies, police studies, forensic psychology and law, and more broadly those involved in criminal justice and violence research. The interdisciplinary impact of the research findings has been one of the projects main strengths. Additionally, the research has impacted both nationally and internationally – the latter aspect has been considerable, and testament to the national and international dissemination strategy that was adopted from the outset.

Academics involved in SORI and CAIRRN have benefitted from the research findings, as well as those involved in the Scottish Institute for Policing Research (SIPR), the Division of Forensic Psychology (Scotland) and the Scottish Centre for Crime and Justice Research (SCCJR). A number of national and international scholars have solicited findings and/or taken onboard the insights from the research, including:

- Dr Gethin Rees (University of Edinburgh);
- Prof. Sameena Mulla (Marquette University, USA);
- Prof. Rose Corrigan (Drexel University);
- Prof. Deborah White (Trent University, Canada);
- Brenda Velazquez (University of California, Irvine);
- and a number of scholars at Illinois State University.

Findings from the research were also disseminated to 60 international students and 12 academics at an Erasmus Intensive Programme in Sociology in Spain, 2011. The PI has also received a number of enquiries from undergraduate, masters, and doctoral-level students, indicating the research has generated impact at all levels of the academic community, from students to established researchers.
2. ECONOMIC AND SOCIETAL IMPACT

A Please summarise below the economic and societal impact(s) your project has had. [Max 250 words]

The main economic and societal impact was to identify aspects of good practice, areas for improvement, and provide robust empirical evidence of the attrition problem, victim experience, and potential improvements. In these respects the research has had considerable impact on individuals and organisations, especially on the policing of rape.

The research was included in Sussex Police’s Strategic Assessment of Rape and Sexual Offences and has influenced the investigation of rape in Sussex. The findings are being incorporated into officer training around rape, in particular Sexual Offence Liaison Officers (SOLOs). Findings about deployment, management and support for SOLOs have been taken on board by Sussex Police and Scottish police forces to ensure officers are adequately supported. Findings about victim withdrawal are being taken on board by Sussex Police to provide greater support to earlier reporters. Findings around procedural justice, victim experience and police practices were incorporated into An Independent Review Into How Rape Complaints are Handled by Public Authorities in England and Wales (2010) by Baroness Stern. Therefore the research has contributed to increasing the effectiveness of public services and policy.

The findings of the research about victim experience as a liminal space, and victim’s experiences of the interview process, have been taken on board by police forces, Rape Crisis and Victim Support to inform the support given to victims of rape who report to the police. As a result the research has potentially impacted upon the experience, and therefore quality of life and health, of victims subsequently reporting rape.

B Please outline the findings and outputs from your project which have had the economic and societal impact(s) outlined in 2A. [Max 250 words]

The principal findings that have had societal impact to date are around police and criminal justice practices, victim experiences of the criminal justice process and the experiences of SOLOs. For example, the finding that witnesses to circumstances before/after the assault were interviewed in only 62% of cases, but that these cases are statistically significantly more likely to result in CPS referral, (Steering Group, 2011) has implications for police investigative practices.

SOLO officers report (ACPOS, 2010; Steering Group 2011; McMillan & Thomas (under review)) tensions and ambiguities around the role, with a lack of supervisory support and difficulties around deployment and management. Publication of a chapter on police interviews of rape victims (McMillan & Thomas, 2009) generated enquiries from police officers responsible for specialist interview training, and has subsequently been incorporated into SOLO training by the Life Centre (Sussex). Additionally, NGOs have shown significant interest in the conceptualisation of rape outcomes as a human rights issues (McMillan, 2011).

Forensic psychologists have incorporated the findings on victim interviews and eliciting good evidence into their work with offenders (SCCJR/DFPS, 2009) and findings around procedural justice and victim experience fed into the Stern Review, and also into police practices (Steering Group 2011).

The findings around the use of special measures for victims in rape cases has generated significant debate (ACPOS 2010; Steering Group 2011) with police and judicial perceptions of their effectiveness running contrary to one another, with the latter believing they detract from evidence presentation in court.
C Please outline how these impacts were achieved. [Max 250 words]

Dissemination to non-academic groups has primarily taken the form of presentations, workshops and training events. Additionally, all written outputs (McMillan & Thomas, 2009; McMillan, 2011) have been circulated to non-academic audiences once publicly available. Draft written documents have also been circulated to some practitioners for comment prior to submission for review (SOLO paper and alcohol papers currently under review).

Findings on evidence collection from victims of sexual violence were presented to practising Forensic Psychologists at a ‘research to practice’ seminar hosted by SCCJR and the Division of Forensic Psychology (Scotland); a particularly useful medium for bridging the gap between academic research and practitioners. The findings of the research were presented to the Sussex Rape Steering Group, a multi-agency practitioner group hosted by Sussex Police. Two presentations were delivered in July 2011, and will be followed up by a one-day conference with associated workshops in September 2011. The findings were also presented to the ACPOS Sexual Crime Working Group ‘Futures’ Conference in April 2010, including representatives from statutory and non-statutory bodies, thus directly disseminating to practitioners.

Findings were presented to the ‘Stern Review’ in person, in the form of an ‘expert witness’ interview. Available written documentation including a research summary and book chapter (McMillan & Thomas, 2009) was also provided to Baroness Stern.

A significant mailing/contact list has also been maintained throughout the research including all attendees at events and all those making enquiries about the research. Any written outputs are circulated to the mailing list when available publicly.

D Please outline who the findings and outputs outlined above had an impact upon. This can be at a broad societal level through to specific individuals or groups. [Max 250 words]

Economic and societal impacts are primarily on bodies in the area of criminal justice:

- police forces in England and Scotland;
- the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS);
- the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscals Office;
- National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA);
- Association of Chief Police Officers in Scotland (ACPOS);
- Victim Support;
- Rape Crisis (Scotland);
- West Sussex County Council;
- Scottish Government including Frank Mulholland, Solicitor General for Scotland.

Sussex Police and CPS have been greatly influenced by the work, in particular:

- Detective Superintendent Jane Rhodes, Head of Specialist Crime;
- Detective Inspector Ali Eaton;
- Detective Chief Inspector Nick May, Major Crime Branch;
- Inspector Nathan Evans, Training;
- Jayne Cioffi, Rape Co-ordinator, CPS.

The findings have been disseminated to twenty practising Forensic Psychologists and a further sixty police officers with a specialist rape portfolio from all Scottish police forces, and Assistant Chief Constable Iain Livingstone and Detective Chief Superintendent Malcolm Graham of...
Lothian and Borders Police, where we are now conducting similar work as a result.

The findings of the research were taken on board by Baroness Vivien Stern in her Review, which in turn has been disseminated to a very wide audience. Following publication of the research in *Society Now* enquiries were received from Victim Support and Rape Crisis Centres. The findings have been discussed with Katie Inman at BBC Sussex, with media dissemination planned for September 2011 to accompany the one-day conference to be held in conjunction with Sussex Police.

### 3. UNEXPECTED AND POTENTIAL FUTURE IMPACTS

#### A Unexpected Impacts

Please note which, if any, of the impacts that your research has had were unexpected at the outset of the research, explaining where possible why you think this was the case. [Max 250 words]

Whilst it was not unexpected that the findings were eagerly awaited by the police, particularly Sussex Police, what has been somewhat unexpected has been the positive way in which Sussex Police and Sussex CPS have welcomed the findings. Areas of good practice were identified, but even where some are potentially ‘negative’ in that they show there is room for improvement in practice (especially interviewing of witnesses to circumstances before and after assaults, victim interviews, attitudes of some police officers, management of SOLOs etc.) the findings have been embraced by the force. This shows a clear commitment to improvement, and that specialist police officers have a strong commitment to improving practices and criminal justice outcomes. To some extent, the PI anticipated having to make very strong arguments for the findings of the research, but this was not the case, and in fact the police were welcome and open to them, and are in the process of exploring their implementation.

An unexpected impact was the extent to which the research was embraced by international scholars, particularly in the USA. As legal and criminal justice research often refers to one jurisdiction only, with the specificities of that particular system playing a part in the findings, international scholars often only make limited reference. However, this attrition research is leading the way, as very little of this type of research has been conducted in the USA. Therefore scholars are looking to other jurisdictions for research knowledge and this opens the door for future comparative research.

#### B Potential Future Impacts

If you have a clear idea of the impact your research is likely to have in the future please detail these below. [Max 250 words]

Future scientific impact is anticipated with the publication of articles in preparation and conference presentations:

- the ‘good case’ model (*Crime and Delinquency*),
- false allegations (*Violence Against Women*),
- judicial perceptions of rape (*Social & Legal Studies*),
- attrition data/multivariate models (*Criminology*),

Professor Deborah White (Trent University, Canada), renowned for work on forensic medical examination in rape cases, is coming to Glasgow Caledonian University (GCU) (October 2011)
as Visiting Professor to write a comparative article on forensic evidence in England and Canada with the PI for submission to *Social Science and Medicine*.

The PI will host a meeting of CAIRRN, and an international symposium for practitioners and academics, on practitioner perceptions of victim credibility including the project’s findings (October 2011). The PI is editing a volume on *Violence Against Women* (2012) for Jessica Kingsley as part of the Research Highlights in Social Work Series aimed at academics and practitioners, including a chapter on the research.

Further economic and societal impact will be achieved by further integration of findings into police and CPS practice/policy. A one-day conference for practitioners with Sussex Police in September 2011 will be accompanied by a press launch and publication of a findings report. The PI is delivering CPD training at the Scottish Police College (September 2011) on dealing with victims of sexual violence to officers in Scottish forces.

4. IMPACT LIMITATIONS

A Limited scientific impact

Please state below any major scientific difficulties that have limited the scientific impact of your research. The statement should refer to an effect on impact rather than simply detail research difficulties. [Max 250 words]

Some HR issues and the early departure of the research assistant from the project meant additional workload had to be taken on by the sole PI. This has to some extent delayed the publication of written outputs from the project as immediate face-to-face dissemination of findings was initially prioritised, however the written output strategy is now back on track with two articles under review, two further articles nearing completion, and a book proposal has now been drafted to produce a monograph from the research. Whilst scientific impact is demonstrable to date, it is anticipated with the publication of more written outputs impact in the academic community will increase considerably.

B Limited economic and societal impact

ESRC recognises that some of the research it funds will not have an economic or societal impact in the short term. Please explain briefly below if this is the case for your project, and refer to your grant application where relevant. [Max 250 words]

n/a
C No impact to date

This project has had no impact to date

Please note that ESRC projects are evaluated on the basis of their scientific and/or economic and societal impact. Grant holders are expected to report any future impacts as they occur using the Impact Record, downloadable from the ESRC website.

If you have no impacts at this stage, please give reasons below. [Max 250 words]

n/a
5. DECLARATIONS

Please read the statements below. Submitting this Impact Report to reportsofficer@esrc.ac.uk confirms your agreement.

i) This Impact Report is an accurate statement of the impacts of the research project to date. All co-investigators named in the proposal to ESRC or appointed subsequently have seen and approved the Report.

ii) Details of any subsequent impacts will be submitted via an Impact Record as they occur.

Thank you for completing this Impact Report. Your Impact Report will be considered along with your End of Award Report in the evaluation of your research.

You are now invited to complete the confidential Nominations form, which will assist with the evaluation of your project.
Please nominate a maximum of two outputs from your research which you would like to be considered as part of the evaluation.

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<th>Output type</th>
<th>Publication details</th>
<th>Uploaded to ESRC website?</th>
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<tr>
<td>Journal Article</td>
<td>McMillan, L. &amp; Thomas, M. (under review) Rape, Risk and Responsibility: Police Perceptions of the Role of Alcohol in Rape and Sexual Assault</td>
<td>No (currently under review)</td>
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Please email your completed Impact Report with electronic copies of your nominated outputs to reportsofficer@esrc.ac.uk, using your grant reference number as the email subject.

To cite this output:
McMillan, LEJ, (2011) Understanding Attrition in Rape Cases
ESRC Impact Report, RES-061-23-0138-A. Swindon: ESRC