

Page 1 – General Information

Project code	TSSP07
Partner University	Teesside University
Faculty/School/Department/Research Centres	Department of Criminology Law and Policing School of Social Sciences, Humanities and Law
First supervisor Please provide name and weblink	Dr Danny Singh
Second supervisor Please provide name and weblink	Dr. Georgios Papanicolaou https://www.tees.ac.uk/sections/research/social_sciences/staff_profile_details.cfm?staffprofileid=U0023937
Third supervisor Please provide name and weblink	
Fourth (external) supervisor	
External/industrial supervisor	
Which of the supervisors listed above is an early-career-researcher	Dr Danny Singh
Contact details for project for informal applicant queries Email address	d.singh@tees.ac.uk
DTA Programme: Please delete as necessary which DTA programme this project relates to:	DTA Social Policy
Project title	The Social construction of police corruption: a cross cultural analysis between the Afghan and European police forces



Co-funded by the Horizon 2020 programme of the European Union

This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie grant agreement No 801604.

Page 2 – Project Description

Scientific Excellence (500 words)	<p>The project will address a considerable knowledge gap involving the social construction of what police corruption entails, with reference to Western criminological literature, which will be compared with other parts of the world. There are virtually no studies, except conducted by the lead researcher, on the lower levels of the Afghan police on corruption despite them making up the majority of the estimated 169,000 force size. The reason to do this is to initially discover what corruption means to everyday street-level police officers in order to pave the way to mitigate them. In contemporary literature, police corruption predominantly entails bribery, extortion, the fabrication of evidence to attain arrests (and other forms of noble cause corruption) and debatably receiving minor gratuities. However, previous research conducted by the lead researcher of this project has discovered that police corruption in Afghanistan does cover some of these aspects, namely bribery and roadside extortion (due to low pay and payment of kickbacks up the chain of command to superiors), but minor forms of what the West would deem as corruption are part of the social contract to get things done. The main forms of corruption are deemed as patronage within the recruitment process, bribery and unprofessionalism. Interdisciplinary by nature, the project will investigate and assess the local implications of the police corruption in Afghanistan, which will be compared with Western criminological literature and the context of a chosen European police force.</p>
Aim (400 words)	<p>This project will initially cover a political economy approach to map the structural causes of corruption within police forces, and provide specific reference to Afghanistan and a European context. This is to apply the principle of 'limited access orders' where favourable groups are preferred in certain appointments, social</p>



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	<p>provision and other benefits. Clientelism can be linked to this concept which is dominant in neopatrimonial political systems so elites can survive. These aspects will likely be more prominent in the context of Afghanistan but comparisons with a European context are paramount to compare state conditions that impact on the rule of law and security, namely the police sector, within both Afghanistan and European police forces. The project will investigate the extent and implications of the state structures in both suggested contexts which integrates politics, international relations with criminological approaches to corruption.</p> <p>The main part of the project will reflect on state conditions that intensify corruption. This may be less evident in the context of European police forces. Drawing on this, an investigation on the typologies of police corruption will be applied to both European police forces and Afghanistan prior to an investigation of what corruption means and entails according to low ranked street police officers. There are a variety of reviewed cases on police corruption, and some have compared how different countries deal with police corruption once discovered. The work of Pyman et al. (2012) have engaged in cross-comparative literature based research to provide a basic typology of police corruption and the forms it undertakes in various countries. Anti-corruption strategies vary from commissions of inquiry to bring public scandals under investigation, the creation or reform of internal investigative departments, the establishment of independent anti-corruption commissions and the role of active civil society groups to promote anonymous whistleblowing. Other strategies include pay reform because low pay can intensify bribery and extortion for economic survival (Rose-Ackerman, 1999: 71-73). If there is low-risk and high-reward for low-paid individuals engaging in</p>
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	<p>corruption (Quah, 2011: 14), then low level officers have a higher probability of engaging in forms of corruption. Therefore, better accountability and pay reform are some additional strategies to curb police corruption.</p> <p>It should be noted that this call for PhD application provides international scope to investigate police corruption in both Afghanistan and a European context. The comparative scope aims to tease out the main causes, practices and consequences of corruption which can only be articulated when police corruption, and what it is defined as, in accordance to police officer's perceptions.</p> <p>This project is more open to qualitative methods. In criminology, the methodological standard in the study of policing is qualitative interviewing, which may include the ethnographic dimension of non-participant observation. The project will commence with some interviews with elites, namely high ranked police positions within the Afghan police and a chosen European police sector, and then the majority will be conducted with low level police officers. The rationale for adopting this approach is to cover the social construction of corruption and examine the causes and consequences of corruption according to police officer's perceptions. Due to insecurity in the Afghan context, shorter surveys or structured interviews are likely to be prescribed with low ranked police officer when permission is granted by their superiors/commanders within their jurisdiction. One permission is obtained, a street intercept strategy will commence to filter out higher ranked officers from the questionnaires. The questions will be based on demographics, stationing, pay and rank reform, perceptions of what corruption can be defined as (open-ended), the causes and practices of police corruption, the</p>
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	<p>recruitment process, accountability and anti-corruption strategy. This strategy and the sets of questions will be similar for both Afghan and a European context. The lead researcher has established good contacts in Afghanistan and with local researchers who have good contacts with the Afghan police and Interior Ministry. Previous findings have been published in several papers that can be seen in the staff link under First Supervisor details.</p> <p>References</p> <p>Pyman, M., Cohen, J., Boardman, M., Webster, B. and Seymour, N. (2012) <i>Arresting Corruption in the Police: The Global Experience of Police Corruption Reform Efforts</i>. London: Transparency International UK.</p> <p>Quah, J.S.T. (2011) <i>Curbing Corruption in Asian Countries: An Impossible Dream?</i> Research in Public Policy Analysis and Management – Volume 20. Bingley: Emerald Group Publishing Limited.</p> <p>Rose-Ackerman, S. (1999) <i>Corruption and Government: Causes, Consequences, and Reform</i>. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.</p>
<p>Strategic Relevance (300 words)</p>	<p>The project aims to examine the structural conditions of corruption that then impact on main parts of the state, namely the police sector via a political economy approach. This will enable an understanding of corruption and the forms it takes and the comparison of the severity of this will be illustrated with Afghan and European contexts. The strategic aspect of this is to inform governments on state relations that impact on the rule of law and security. The main part is to cover perceptions on police corruption from low ranked police officers in both Afghanistan and a European context. This is to compare and contrast a war-torn and highly corrupt state with a developed and stable Western context. The differences (and some similarities) will be compared and contrasted to inform policy within governments and police internal corruption units.</p>



Interdisciplinarity and fit with DTA3	<p>The project is by nature interdisciplinary to politics, international relations and criminology and suitable candidates will have to demonstrate and develop further an excellent grasp of police studies, international relations and criminology.</p>
Industrial Relevance (300 words)	<p>An opportunity may exist for the successful applicant to collaborate with Cleveland Police via the Teesside Policing Clinic or with other United Kingdom Police Forces. Cleveland Police was inaugurated in summer 2017 and is based at the School of Social Sciences, Humanities and Law. The Policing Clinic is a joint project between Cleveland Police and Teesside University. It serves as central source of evidence, knowledge and advice for Cleveland Police. The Clinic has academic staff who strive for knowledge transfer and good policing practices, and in the advancement of evidence-based practices. The Clinic provides research and work placement posts for graduate and undergraduates from Teesside University.</p>
Economic and Societal Impact (300 words)	<p>This project will investigate the political structures of corruption within the Afghan police and a chosen European police force. This informs the state conditions of corruption which will be linked with economic determinants of police corruption, namely low pay that may intensify petty bribery and extortion. The impacts of police corruption on public perceptions on the legitimacy of the police force and the government are then examined. The consequences of this will be addressed to try to mitigate a prevention strategy of police corruption by analysing problems with the state level that impact on the rule of law and security. Hence, the political and economic determinants of corruption are linked with the societal impacts. Subsequently, the social construction of what corruption involves in police forces, within a European context and Afghanistan, will be investigated with a survey and structured interviews to be conducted with the lower ranks of both forces. The closing stages of</p>



	<p>the thesis will provide an analysis of the literature and the findings that will then provide comparisons on political and economic dimensions of police corruption and understandings of what corruption means, the causes of it and forms it undertakes in European and Afghan police forces. This can inform policy making strategy and internal anti-corruption strategy within the police sector.</p>
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Page 3 – Admission Requirements

Specific Admission Requirements	First degree 2:1 or higher, Master's Degree or higher in Criminology/Criminal Justice/Sociology or Political Science/International Relations.
Minimum IELTS score	

