Information flows in the police organization: what is going on inside the machine?

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Every day we are confronted with the fact that information flows and the exchange of information and intelligence are critical success factors in every police organization. It is essential to be able to develop a police policy at a strategic and tactical level and to effectively manage the police. Furthermore, it is crucial to get the right information at the right time on the right place to the right person during daily police operations. So let’s talk about information flows in policing and exchange your ideas and experiences on this topic.

The transnational policing scholar Sheptycki takes the reader inside the “machine” to explore “information flows in the police organization”. In doing so he makes use of Donald Rumsfeld’s now classic distinction between “known knowns”, “known unknowns” and “unknown unknowns” to provide a trenchant analysis of the dilemmas and challenges facing 21st Century police organizations. Ultimately in facing these challenges, Sheptycki concludes, police organizations have little choice but to base their strategies on the deep learning, centred in discretion, that have always enabled and defined “good policing”.

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