

Slide 1: Title Slide

Punitive Populism and Prison Expansion: Contemporary Challenges for Critical Criminology.

Dealing with People as We See Fit: Police Decisions During COVID-19

Exploring police discretion, culture, and decision-making in the pandemic

Slide 2: Introduction

- The impact of COVID-19 on policing in England and Wales
 - Transition from routine practices to pandemic emergency enforcement
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Slide 3: Police Legitimacy & Police-by-Consent

- Policing based on legitimacy and public trust
 - The importance of transparency, integrity, and accountability
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Slide 4: Challenges Introduced by COVID-19

- Uncertainty around laws and guidelines
 - Increased discretion and decision-making complexity
 - Organizational strain and delayed responses
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Slide 5: Police Discretion & Culture

- Discretion as a core aspect of policing
 - Influences: individual bias, occupational culture, organizational norms
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Slide 6: Existing Research on Police Decision-Making

- Past studies on arrest, stop, search, and detention
 - Impact of police culture and occupational norms
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Slide 7: COVID-19 Context & Unique Challenges

- Disruption of routine police practices
- Changes in arrest patterns and enforcement strategies

- Limited resources and evolving legal landscape
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Slide 8: Theoretical Framework: Hawkins' Surround, Field, & Frame

- Overview of the model:
 - **Surround:** Political and social environment
 - **Field:** Organizational structure and resources
 - **Frame:** How officers interpret incidents
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Slide 9: Surround

- Political, social, and legal context
 - Impact of emergency legislation and public scrutiny
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Slide 10: Field

- Organizational policies, safety measures, and resource allocation
 - Variations between police forces and their operational responses
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Slide 11: Frames

- Officer perceptions and interpretations
 - Cultural norms: crime-fighting, action, and risk assessment
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Slide 12: Data Collection & Method

- Interviews with police officers during 2020-2022
 - Thematic analysis of their experiences
 - Limitations: small sample, self-selection, social media recruitment
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Slide 13: Key Findings: Disruption of Routine Decision-Making

- COVID-19 regulations limited traditional arrest responses
 - Reframing of situations from arrestable to non-arrestable
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Slide 14: Decision-Making in Practice

- Examples of officers' narratives:
 - Shift from arrest to warnings or non-intervention
 - Health and safety guidance overriding usual police objectives
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Slide 15: Cultural Resistance

- Police culture's emphasis on action and crime-fighting
 - Resistance to reframing core functions during the pandemic
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Slide 16: Variations & Inconsistencies

- Differences between forces and individual officers
 - Frustration over perceived inaction or overreach
 - Decision-making based on subjective risk assessments
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Slide 17: Intersection of Organisational & Cultural Frames

- How organizational guidance was adapted
 - Officers' efforts to balance safety and enforcement
 - Examples of officers creatively "working around" rules
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Slide 18: Broader Implications

- Impact on police legitimacy and public trust
 - Challenges of policing during uncertain times
 - Effects of resource disparities and inconsistent guidance
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Slide 19: Conclusions & Future Directions

- Importance of understanding discretion in crises
 - Need for further research on police decision-making under stress
 - Lessons for future emergency response planning
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Slide 20: Thank You & Questions

- Invite questions and discussion
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Would you like me to prepare detailed speaker notes for each slide?

Yes please



Certainly! Here are detailed speaker notes for each of the 20 slides:

Slide 1: Title Slide

Dealing with People as We See Fit: Police Decisions During COVID-19

Exploring police discretion, culture, and decision-making in the pandemic

Presenter's Name / Date

Slide 2: Introduction

- The COVID-19 pandemic dramatically changed policing practices in England and Wales.
 - Officers shifted focus from routine duties to enforcing emergency laws.
 - This required quick adaptation to new legal, organizational, and social realities.
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Slide 3: Police Legitimacy & Police-by-Consent

- UK policing relies on the idea that power is based on consent, not force.
 - This legitimacy depends on transparency, integrity, and accountability.
 - Maintaining public trust was crucial, yet challenging during the pandemic.
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Slide 4: Challenges Introduced by COVID-19

- Uncertainty about laws, guidance, and enforcement priorities.
- Increased discretionary power with little precedent or clear guidelines.

- Organizational resources and responses were strained, causing delays.
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Slide 5: Police Discretion & Culture

- Discretion is core to frontline policing—officers decide how to respond case-by-case.
 - Decisions are influenced by individual biases, occupational culture, and organizational norms.
 - Culture reinforces attitudes like a “crime-fighter” identity, which affects decision-making.
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Slide 6: Existing Research on Police Decision-Making

- Extensive studies have examined how police decide to arrest, stop, search, or detain.
 - These decisions are shaped by command, police subcultures, and police culture.
 - The pandemic added a new layer of complexity to these decisions.
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Slide 7: COVID-19 Context & Unique Challenges

- Routine processes, like arrests, had to be reframed or delayed.
 - Enforcement shifted from traditional crime to health and safety concerns.
 - Resources were limited; procedures changed rapidly, creating confusion.
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Slide 8: Theoretical Framework: Hawkins’ Surround, Field, & Frame

- This framework explains how external context (surround), organizational structure (field), and individual interpretation (frame) influence decisions.
 - It helps analyze how officers navigated the pandemic’s complexities.
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Slide 9: Surround

- The “surround” includes societal, political, and legal factors—like emergency legislation and public scrutiny.
 - These factors shape what options police believe are available and appropriate.
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Slide 10: Field

- The “field” involves police organizations, safety policies, and available resources.

- Organizational responses varied, affecting how officers could perform their roles.
 - For example, some police stations had dedicated COVID suites or PPE shortages.
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Slide 11: Frames

- The “frames” are how officers interpret incidents—what they see as important or warranting action.
 - Cultural norms like “crime-fighting” or “action-oriented” policing heavily influence these frames.
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Slide 12: Data Collection & Method

- Data consisted of interviews with 31 police officers from 2020-2022.
 - Used thematic analysis to identify common themes in their experiences.
 - Limitations: small sample size, self-selected participants, social media recruitment bias.
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Slide 13: Key Findings: Disruption of Routine Decision-Making

- COVID-19 restrictions limited traditional policing responses—like arresting violators.
 - Officers often had to reframe situations as non-arrestable based on health guidance rather than law.
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Slide 14: Decision-Making in Practice

- Examples: officers chose warnings over arrests, or chose not to intervene in minor COVID breaches.
 - Focus shifted from enforcement to safety, health, and organizational guidelines.
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Slide 15: Cultural Resistance

- Police culture’s emphasis on action and crime-fighting resisted the new reframing.
 - Some officers felt their core identity as “crime fighters” was undermined by health and safety priorities.
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Slide 16: Variations & Inconsistencies

- Differences in enforcement between forces and officers.
 - Some officers felt frustrated by perceived inaction, others by perceived overreach.
 - Decision-making often turned on subjective assessments of risk and severity.
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Slide 17: Intersection of Organizational & Cultural Frames

- Organizational policies adapted but often conflicted with cultural norms.
 - Officers found ways to “work around” rules to pursue their core goals, like arresting serious offenders despite restrictions.
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Slide 18: Broader Implications

- These decisions affected public trust and police legitimacy.
 - Variations highlighted the importance of clear guidance and resources during crises.
 - Inconsistencies could undermine confidence in law enforcement.
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Slide 19: Conclusions & Future Directions

- The pandemic revealed tensions between cultural norms, organizational policies, and legal mandates.
- Understanding these dynamics is critical for future emergency responses.
- Further