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SPECIAL ISSUE - CALL FOR PAPERS: Rethinking the Future Police Department: Examining the Role of Testing and Assessment

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SPECIAL ISSUE: CALL FOR PAPERS

Rethinking the Future Police Department: Examining the Role of Testing and Assessment

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AIM AND SCOPE

Although the Black Lives Matter movement has been around since 2013, the death of Freddie Gray in April of 2015 marked the advent of international prominence for this movement. The recent death of George Floyd at the hands of the police, has brought this movement to the national forefront once again and reignited debate surrounding the current state of policing. Calls for reform have taken many forms. For example, there have been calls to defund the police and reallocate these funds to other social services. Others have sought to replace police officers with community-based responders for non-violent calls. Recently, Ohio Governor Mike DeWine announced that he was proposing mandatory psychological exams and increased training for police applicants.

As we consider the future of police psychology, we are confronted by a number of questions. Namely, what should the psychological assessment for police look like and will it address these problems? If the current policing structure is fundamentally changed, how should the nature of assessment change? Should we reconsider minimum qualifications? Is there a need to reframe how we look at merit testing? Should we change how we train police?

The psychological assessment of police has a long tradition. Currently, psychologists can be involved at multiple steps in the process including pre-employment merit testing, pre-employment individual assessment, clinical assessment, fitness-for-work, and annual testing.

The goal of this special issue is to feature research that examines a wide range of personnel and assessment decisions relating to policing. The focus of the issue is broad, welcoming conceptual/theoretical papers, quantitative or qualitative reviews, simulations, empirical papers with primary laboratory and/or field data, or provocation papers. Experimental, non-experimental, and meta-analytic methodologies are welcome. Exploratory and/or inductive investigations are also encouraged.

Topics that might be addressed by papers in this special issue may include, but are not limited to:
Traditional merit assessments and alternatives to traditional assessments

- Recruitment of a Diverse Police Force
- Predicting excessive use of force or other maladaptive behaviors
- Alternatives to current policing structure (e.g., community-based officers, peace officers)
- Minimum Qualifications
- Pre- and Post-Offer Personality Assessments
- Fitness for Duty, Return to Work, and Annual Assessments
- Physical Ability Tests
- Interviews
- Polygraphs and Background Checks
- Training Programs and Police Academies (e.g., de-escalation training, use-of-force training, and implicit bias training)

Prospective authors are asked to submit a letter of intent by **September 15th, 2020**. The letter of intent should include manuscript title, author names and affiliations, and a 250-word (maximum) abstract of the proposed submission. Abstracts should clearly explain how the proposed paper will address the goals of the special issue. Please direct all letters of intent and questions to the special issue editor, Dennis Doverspike (dennisdoverspike@gmail.com).

Letter of intents will be reviewed for overall quality, relevance, and fit with the purpose of this special issue. A subset will be invited to submit full manuscripts by **October 15th, 2020**. Potential contributors whose letter of intent has been approved will be invited to submit a full manuscript. Full manuscript submissions for invited letters of intent are due **January 15th, 2021**. Please note that all subsequently submitted manuscripts will be peer reviewed; there is no guarantee of acceptance even after the invitation to submit a full manuscript. Manuscripts should be prepared according to the current [manuscript submission instructions](#) to authors for *Personnel Assessment and Decisions* and submitted electronically through the [manuscript submission portal](#). Please indicate that your submission is intended for the special issue in a cover letter accompanying the manuscript.

Please indicate in your cover letter that you are submitting your manuscript for the special issue.