



# Institute of Criminal Justice Research Seminar

## ‘Making and Breaking Barriers: Assessing the value of mounted police units in the UK’

**Chris Giacomantonio, RAND Europe, Ben  
Bradford, Matthew Davies & Richard Martin,  
University of Oxford**

26 November 2014 - 4:00pm

Building 85, Room 2209

While the use of mounted police (i.e. police horses and riders) can be traced back to before the advent of the modern police service in 1829, very little is known about the actual work of mounted police from either academic or practitioner standpoints. Police horses are thought to have unique operational and symbolic value, particularly in public order policing (making barriers) and community engagement (breaking barriers) deployments. They may represent a calming presence or, and potentially at the same time, an imposing threat of force. Yet, the relationship between the use of police horses and broader notions of policing by consent in the UK is presently unknown, and all evidence for these claims is anecdotal at best.

The project has been undertaken through the Centre for Criminology, University of Oxford in partnership with RAND Europe.

<http://www.southampton.ac.uk/icjr/index.page?>

### Speaker Information:



**Chris Giacomantonio** is an Analyst at RAND Europe working primarily with the Communities, Safety and Justice Programme.

**Ben Bradford** is a Department Lecturer in Criminology at the University of Oxford. Ben's research focuses primarily on issues of trust and legitimacy as these apply to the police and the wider criminal justice system.

**Matthew Davies** is a DPhil candidate at the Centre for Criminology, University of Oxford. His major research interests are policing and crime prevention.

**Richard Martin** is a graduate of the Centre for Criminology, University of Oxford. His research interests are political science and social psychology.



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