

Cambridge Elements

Elements in Criminology
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MAKING SENSE OF YOUTH CRIME

*A Comparison of Police Intelligence
in the United States and France*

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CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press & Assessment
978-1-009-36428-7 — Making Sense of Youth Crime
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Frontmatter
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Shaftesbury Road, Cambridge CB2 8EA, United Kingdom
One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA
477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia
314–321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre,
New Delhi – 110025, India
103 Penang Road, #05–06/07, Visioncrest Commercial, Singapore 238467

Cambridge University Press is part of Cambridge University Press & Assessment,
a department of the University of Cambridge.

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education, learning and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org
Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781009364287

DOI: 10.1017/9781009364263

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First published 2023

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library.

ISBN 978-1-009-36428-7 Paperback

ISSN 2633-3341 (online)

ISSN 2633-3333 (print)

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DOI: 10.1017/9781009364263
First published online: February 2023

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Abstract: This comparative empirical study of policing in the United States and France draws on the authors' ten years of field work to contend that the police in both countries should be thought about as an amalgam of five distinct professional cultures or "intelligence regimes" – each of which can be found in any given police department in both the United States and France. In particular, it is contended that what police do as knowledge workers and how they make sense of the social problems such as collective offending by juveniles varies with the professional subcommunities or "intelligence regimes" in which their particular knowledge work is embedded. The same problem can be looked at in fundamentally different ways even within a single police department, depending on the intelligence regime through which the problem is refracted.

Keywords: policing, intelligence, analysts, gangs, juveniles

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ISBNs: 9781009364287 (PB), 9781009364263 (OC)
ISSNs: 2633-3341 (online), 2633-3333 (print)

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