APA Grant Report: Policing, Policy, and Philosophy Initiative (3PI)

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Since receiving an APA Grant in late 2022 to launch the Policing, Policy, and Philosophy Initiative (3PI), we have made significant progress on the goals outlined in the grant proposal. In the proposal, we identified four principal goals for the project:

1. Create an international network of philosophers and ethicists with expertise in policing through building 3PI’s membership and listing members on its website, as well as strengthen the connections among them through online events like a planned symposium.

2. Encourage and celebrate innovative philosophical research on policing with policy relevance through awarding a 3PI best paper prize.

3. Highlight normative research on policing by creating an online bibliography on 3PI’s website of published books and journal articles on policing by philosophers and ethicists.

4. Establish a foundation for building connections to policymakers, police practitioners, and community leaders through a 3PI community panel featuring these individuals in conversation with philosophers and ethicists about the future of policing.

Let us go through our progress on each of these goals.

1. **Create an international network of philosophers and ethicists with expertise in policing.**

Throughout spring 2023, we worked to launch 3PI’s website, which is now online at the following link: https://3pi.la.psu.edu/. After the website was created, we made an initial push during summer 2023 to share information about 3PI with philosophers interested in policing and invite them to join 3PI as a member. The response to these invitations has been largely positive, resulting in an international group of members representing five different countries and three continents.

3PI has been working to get the word out about the initiative. In April 2023, 3PI partnered with the APA and Public Philosophy Network to co-sponsor a webinar on policing. 3PI project coordinator Raff Donelson moderated this panel, which is available at the following link: https://www.apaonline.org/mpage/policepolicy. 3PI also is scheduled to be featured in media this fall (see discussion of APA Blog in the section on goal 3). Our aim is for this media to further help publicize the project and attract more members.
2. Encourage and celebrate innovative philosophical research on policing.

Over summer 2023, we drafted and posted a call for proposals for 3PI’s inaugural virtual symposium, which includes a best paper prize of $1,000 for the most outstanding paper presented at the symposium. This paper also will be considered for publication in the *Journal of Public Policy*. The CFP for this event is on PhilEvents at the following link: https://philevents.org/event/show/112610. We will be accepting papers for the symposium until November 30, 2023, and the symposium will take place on March 1, 2024.

3. Highlight normative research on policing through the 3PI database.

So far, the most time-intensive aspect of launching 3PI has been building its database of philosophical research on policing. The project used part of its funding to hire a grad assistant in spring and summer 2023, Daniel Calzadillas-Rodriguez, a PhD candidate in philosophy at Penn State. He worked closely with one of the project coordinators, Ben Jones, to identify academic articles and books for inclusion in the database going back to 1996. Calzadillas-Rodriguez and Jones wrote a post for the APA Blog detailing the findings from their research for the database. The post is scheduled to be published on September 26, 2023.

There has been positive feedback to the 3PI database, which is available at the following link: https://3pi.la.psu.edu/database/. We provide here one response received from a philosopher (shared with permission): “I saw the Philosophical Research on Policing database on your ‘News’ page. WHAT!!!!!! This is an incredible resource! My only regret is that I don't have a time machine to go back and design much better Ethics of Policing syllabi for the past two times I've taught the course. We have students who write seminar papers after the semester is over; I'm going to send the database to my Ethics of Policing seminar paper writers right now!”

4. Establish a foundation for building connections to policymakers and practitioners.

In this area, project coordinator Raff Donelson has taken the lead in organizing 3PI’s community event scheduled for April 4, 2024. His home institution, Chicago-Kent College of Law, has agreed to host the event and provide support for it. We are in the process of identifying a mix of philosophers, policymakers, and organizers to invite for two panels on policing and public safety. We plan to offer CLE credit as part of the event to encourage attendance. There also will be a virtual option for attending this event.

We will engage in further evaluation of 3PI in the coming months through surveys that project coordinator Désirée Lim will design to share with 3PI members and symposium attendees.
We are grateful to the APA for its generous support of 3PI. We would not have been able to launch 3PI without APA’s support. In particular, we have been encouraged by 3PI’s role in building community and connections among philosophers with interests in policing. We are excited to see where these new connections and collaborations lead.