Charting the Knowledge Networks of Policing in Norway

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CUPP conference: The discreet Charm of Prediction - Critical Understanding of the Digitalization of Policing

PhD-project on evidence-based policing (EBP)

- Collaboration with CRIMKNOW: public and private knowledge production
  - My focus: the police organization
- Examine the emergence and impact of EBP
- From its origins in the US (1990's)

- Goals and objectives:
  - Trace knowledge practices influenced by EBP
  - Comparative studies with Denmark
  - Identifying epistemic communities within the "knowledge network"

RQ1: How did the emergence of EBP influence the latest Norwegian Police Reform ?

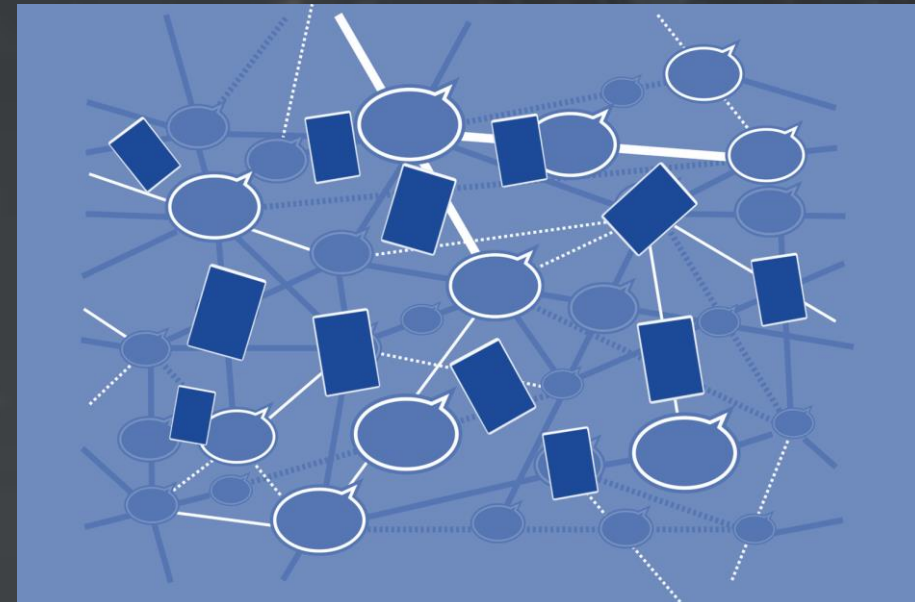- And how does this effect current practices of knowledge-based work?

RQ2: Which actors engage(d) in shaping the premises of what is considered evidence-based policing/knowledge-based policing?
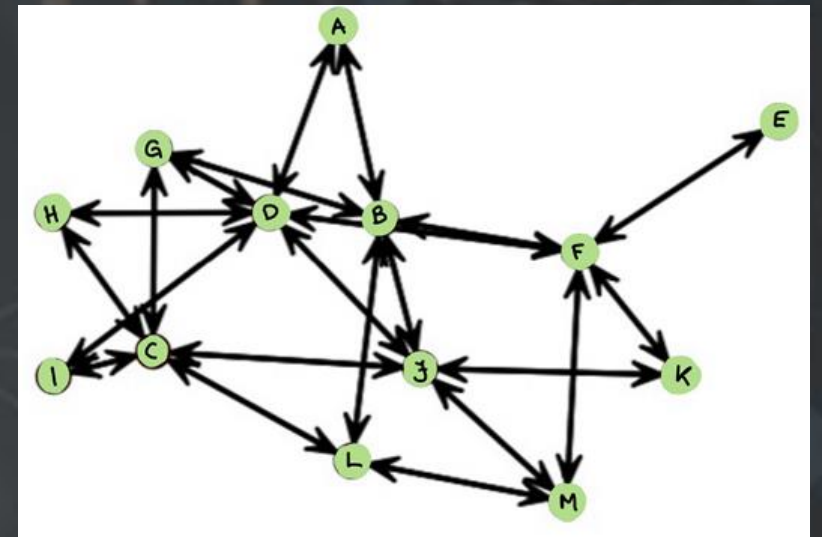
Charting the knowledge networks – how?

Methodological framework:

- Qualitative approach
  - Document analysis and interviews with national and international stakeholders
- Quantitative approach
  - **Discourse network analysis**
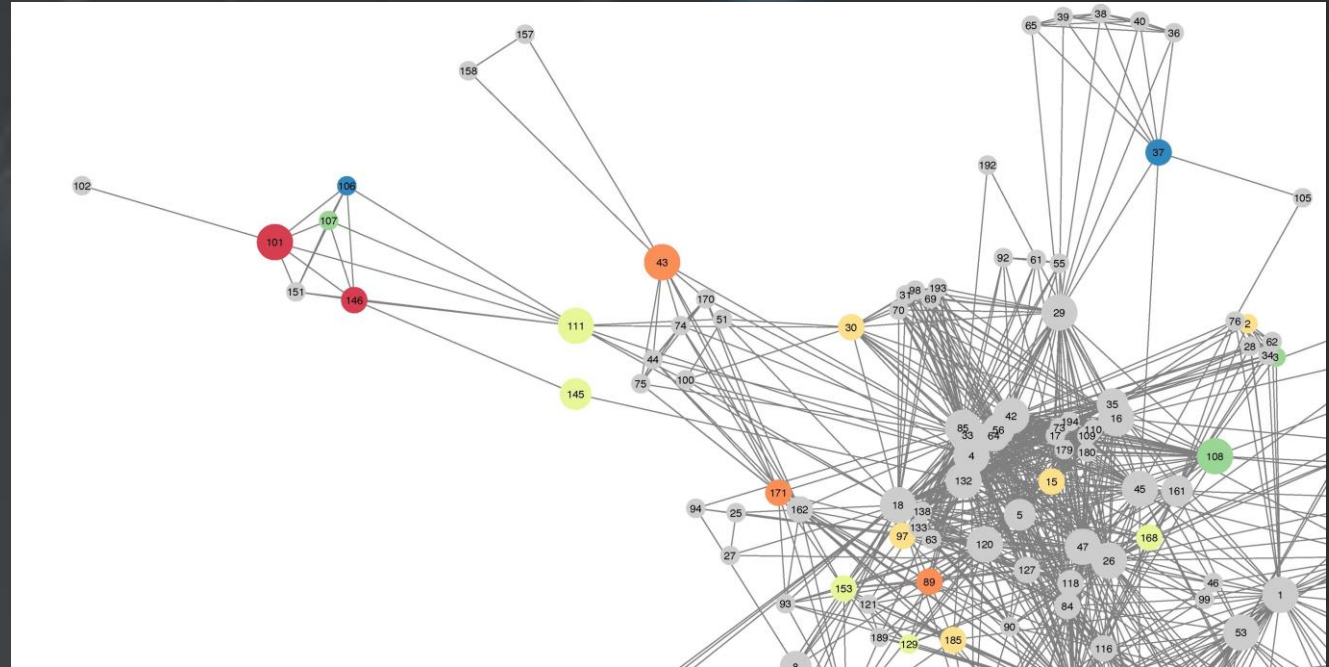   - **To map the participation of public and private actors**

An intro to network analysis:

- Knowledge networks of policing: here studied as a system of nodes connected by ties
  - To track entities and their interactions

- Mathematical techniques and quantification:
  - Number of direct connections
  - Its importance based on the connection
  - The quickness of information flow
  - The overall density

- = identify patterns

Discourse network analysis:

- Trace evolution of ideas and decision-making

- Pinpoint why, how and if EBP stands out

- Insight into specific drivers behind implementations

- The capabilities extend beyond mapping individual contributors or isolated opinions;
  - Traces overlaps and divergences

Discourse network analysis:

- Precise investigation: beyond only identifying the nodes (key actors, documents, ideas), to a more profound exploration of the ties (citations, statements) that illustrate how ideas spread and change

Three basic steps:

1. Highlight important points from the data

2. Arrange them in an organized network (employing mathematical methods)

3. Deploy network analysis toolbox to reveal complicated patterns

For what cause?

- Analysis of the development:
  - EBP as starting point
  - Delineate the connections between actors and the circulation of discourses

- Obtaining this knowledge can:
  - Highlight collaboration on knowledge-based practices today

Thank you!

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