Congressional “Ask a Criminologist” Series

New Policing Technologies: What Are the Impacts to Public Safety and Civil Liberties?

#AskaCriminologist
@CJRAlliance  @COSSADC
Dr. Cynthia Lum
George Mason University
We actually know very little about technology’s impacts on policing
What we do know:
Technologies can have both intended and unintended consequences.
The importance of research:
To identify outcomes—including unintended ones—and determine impacts
Dr. Eric Piza
John Jay College
“Technological Determinism”

• An unquestioning belief in the power of technology, whether benign or malevolent.”
  • Clive Norris & Gary Armstrong (1999, p. 9) *The Maximum Surveillance Society. The Rise of CCTV.*
Predictive Policing

• Predictive Policing “methods involve pattern recognition applied to historical data and then extrapolated into the future. For anyone familiar with crime analysis, that is not new. And it’s particularly not new when the default intervention strategy involves putting cops on dots.”

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