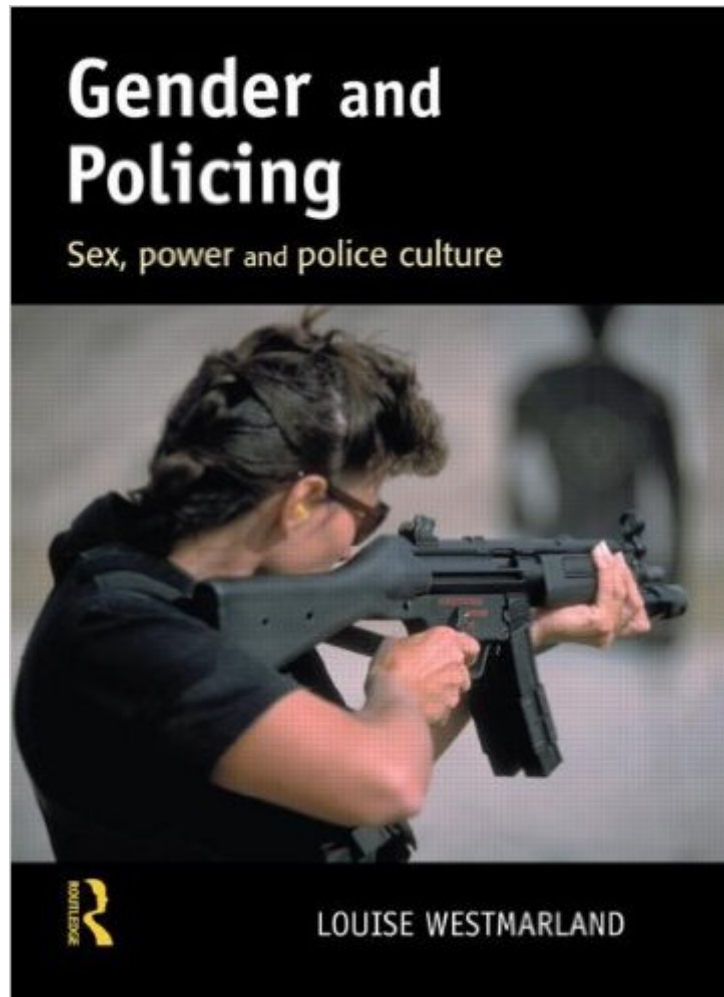


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# Gender And Policing: Sex, Power And Police Culture



## Synopsis

Gender and Policing is an innovative study of the real world of street policing and the gender issues which are a central part of this. Derived from extensive ethnographic research (involving police responses to gangland shootings, high speed car chases as well as more routine police activities), this book examines the way police attitudes and beliefs combine to perpetuate a working culture which is dependent upon traditional conceptions of "male" and "female". In doing so it challenges previously held assumptions about the way women are harassed, manipulated and constrained, focusing rather on the more subtle impact of structures and norms within police culture. This book will be of interest to all those concerned with questions of policing and gender, and occupational culture more generally, while the theoretical framework developed will provide an important foundation for strategies of reform. At the same time the book provides a vivid and richly textured picture of the realities of operational policing in contemporary Britain.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I cannot recommend this book - or, rather, I recommend that you avoid reading it (and that you certainly don't buy it). It's not that the subject matter isn't interesting, for it is. Both the broad field of criminology, and the ever-developing 'new' discipline of police studies, are equally fascinating. The fact is, 'crime' is an important facet of contemporary society. Similarly, the role of the Police is important too - for, as an institution, the Police increasingly intervenes in our 'everyday' lives, and its presence is nowhere negligible. As a sub-area of police studies, interest in gender relations is - of course - a legitimate enterprise. Yet, notwithstanding the potential a book on this subject has,

Louise Westmarland's effort falls far short of being either an enjoyable read or an engaging study on its declared object. The fundamental flaw of the work is the authors' inability to offer anything of genuine substance regarding explanation of gender relations within policing. This flaw is compounded by various secondary limitations. Foremost of these concerns the fact that the book is a (bad) re-working of Westmarland's PhD thesis. As such, it tends to follow a rather unimaginative (and down-right boring) structure - starting out with a literature review, then moving on to a discussion on methods, and finally offering some 'data'. What was required, if it had been judged that such data was of actual interest, was a shift away from this student-style presentation to a more scholarly approach.

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