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A STUDY IN SHERLOCK:
A monograph on the integration of policing ideology on modern culture with
emphasis on the Victorian era

STACEY E. BRAUN
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Reviewed and approved* by the following:

Sean P. Griffin
Associate Professor, Administration of Justice
Thesis Supervisor

Carla Rae Chamberlin-Quinlisk
Associate Professor, Applied Linguistics and Communication Arts & Sciences
Honors Adviser

* Signatures are on file in the Schreyer Honors College.

ABSTRACT

The popular fiction of Sherlock Holmes exemplifies different ideologies that police, both past and present, exhibit in their ideology today. By looking into the ideology of Sir John Fielding, and the Sherlock Holmes series (as told by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle), one can see a progression of the original reformer's (Fielding's) philosophy as well as the progression of acceptance of this ideology as it is integrated with popular culture. By looking into the early 18th century ideas of Fielding, as well as the Victorian era consulting detective, one can see an acceptance by the general public of a more structured police organization as well as the first deemed revolutionary policing tactics now used in crime scenes today.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Abstract.....	i
Table of Contents.....	iii
Acknowledgements.....	iii
INTRODUCTION	1
LITERATURE REVIEW	3
Fielding’s Philosophies	3
The Victorian Mindset	6
Establishing Order.....	7
Sherlock Holmes: The First (Fictional) Consulting Detective	8
Popular Culture and Influence	9
RESEARCH QUESTIONS	12
METHODOLOGY	13
ANALYSIS.....	15
DISCUSSION.....	23
REFERENCES.....	27

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INTRODUCTION

Since the formation of society, there have been numerous concepts on how society should be controlled. Whether the method implemented ideas of morality, shaming, or punishment as their basis, the central focus was controlling society in order to avoid anarchical chaos. There has been an abundance of ideas that focus on this control; however there has been one idea that has persisted throughout time; that of a formal policing body. This body is charged with keeping the masses in line, and keeping the public from committing crimes that range from simple petty theft to the more disturbing act of murder. There is a general consensus from the public to obey this authority and to accept the punishments that the police enforce.

Before the creation of a formal police force there were numerous notions on just how this authority should be implemented. The reason for this analysis is to show the changing ideas of how police procedure has changed since the late 17th century, and to show that the general public has called for such change through the medium of popular culture. One prime example of this idea was in the Victorian era, with the invention of the detective novel. The Victorian culture viewed the police as a show of force, nothing more than committed to maintaining order. The major shift from the fictional character of Sherlock Holmes being just “eccentric”, to the acknowledgement that his methods worked, shows that there was a definite change in how scientific techniques soon became widely accepted. This shows the public acceptance and endorsement of different police practices which continues into the 21st century with modern television dramas.

By looking into the influential works of Sir John Fielding and the work of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, not only can one see the progression of ideas, but the average person calling for their ideas to be implemented in daily operations of the force. From the work of the scholars passing to the average person in an entertaining method (that of popular culture), one can see that there is a high influence from media in what policing ideology is in the 21st century.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Fielding's Philosophies

Before the creation of the metropolitan police force, the idea of maintaining order was created on a reward-based system. It was determined to be ineffective and a cry for containment of the lower classes became crucial for maintaining a social order. Sir John Fielding, upon writing to the Duke of Newcastle, laid out a plan which called for the need of a police presence in order to maintain civil order. He believed the purpose of the police force would be to prevent acts of violence, quash plans for further violence as well as negate any plans against the government, i.e. treason. He believed the police force that followed these three purposes would create a quiet metropolis, and a quiet metropolis would result in a happy, productive society. However the main purpose, first and foremost, was to maintain order of the masses (Fielding 1758). This letter was first printed in the *Strand Magazine* which was a popular publication that allowed the masses to learn his ideas and implement them into media (such as the Holmes novels). However, these ideas were not widely accepted at first, but there have been revivals of them (especially from the media) which extends to the modern day.

Fielding believed that crime was a social issue and thus the smaller, pettier crimes that were derived from poverty made up the criminal element of society. It was not the poor he considered to be the issue; it was the mismanagement of the poor (Swift 1998). If the lower classes were to be cleaned of prostitution and gambling, as well as aggressive panhandling, then the more serious crimes would lessen and the morals of society would be preserved (Fielding 1758). His central argument was that crime is caused by a lack of resources, that those in the lower classes would commit offenses in order to survive. He proposed that they would be given more resources in order to cope with the poverty which drove them to commit the offenses that

drove them into the Criminal Justice System. In addition, Fielding proposed that those who were swindlers and gamblers were morally of the lowest caliber and should be dealt with harshly up to and including banishment.

With regard to the children of the streets, particularly the boys, Fielding believed that these children turned to petty crime due to their impoverishment. In order to survive, the children would turn to begging as well as larceny to afford the basic accommodations of life. Fielding proposed taking the boys that commit these crimes and placing them on naval ships, where, during times of war, would assist the sailors in their duties. During times of peace, the boys would be educated in hopes that they could either work with merchants for the purpose of going into a trade, or they would become sailors themselves upon obtaining the required age. John Fielding believed that by keeping the boys engaged in a task, whether it be work or education, it would keep them from committing more acts that would be menacing to society. With regards to females, Fielding believed that they should be housed in a laundry service, to keep their virtue pure through hard work.

In 1753, a gang of street robbers committed daring offenses such as cutting and wounding those robbed (Fielding 1758). These crimes spread throughout the city, terrorizing the law abiding citizens, while the appeal of being a member of a gang drew in more offenders. In order to combat the rise in violent robberies, King George II decided to issue a reward of £100, which roughly equates to £11,550.00 today (using the lowest point of comparison, this would be \$17,453.21 in American dollars). This was given on the capture of only one robber. Instead of this being a deterrent, the criminal class decided to capitalize on the idea of a reward and swindled the government out of thousands of pounds by allowing themselves to be “captured” and then the robbers would escape. This was an ineffective way to deal with the increasing criminal class. Rewards became further avenues for the criminals to exploit for their own nefarious purposes (Fielding 1758).

Upon obtaining the office of magistrate, Fielding devised a plan to lower the street crime overall instead of just focusing on a particular aspect. His plan included several aspects such as bringing offenders to justice, removing shoplifters and petty thieves as well as gamblers off the streets, and leaving prostitutes in their brothels. He believed in what, in modern times, would be called “community policing”, which called for a presence in the community to deter crime. With the use of a policing unit instead of a bribing system, the members of the gang previously mentioned were arrested with little bloodshed and a gang of juvenile pickpockets were discovered and apprehended.

Fielding believed that an in-depth collection and distribution of criminal offenders as well as their methods was necessary in order to prevent further offenses. The advent of the newspaper helped to spread this information to the masses, or at least the educated masses (Styles, 1983). The originator of the information management system was Henry Fielding, Sir John’s half-brother; however Sir John improved the system, which resulted in the General Preventative Plan of 1772, which was the first national collection of criminological data (Styles, 1983). By having this system in place, it allowed for those working with the magistrates to have information that included the criminal’s *modus operandi*, or method of operation, as well as known associates. This enabled more efficient arrests and convictions of those who committed offenses in different cities to be brought to justice.

Fielding had three primary goals with regard to his stance on how the police should conduct their daily routines. First, there should be a systematic criminal intelligence system which allowed for fast retrieval of data. Secondly, there needed to be coherent police administration structure, namely a rank based system in order for there to be accountability for actions done. Finally, there needed to be a strategy that was preventative in regards to crime management as well as an effective strategy when crime occurred (Swift 1998). Those in the police force had to be honest men who would not use excessive force on the job, have an

established hierarchy where high performance brought a rise in position, and take detailed notes to be made into case files later on when the offender was brought to trial.

The Victorian Mindset

The period in which Queen Victoria reigned (1837-1901) was one of great affluence in terms of cultural advancement. Throughout this 64 year period, there was much prosperity, especially with industrialization of the workplace, as well as gradual moral and political conversion to bring more social reform concerning poverty and the rising crime rate. The Victorian moral sensibility was very high, with one actually taking offense over bare table legs. With this in mind, the rising crime rates were considered to be even more of an issue, as the offender broke a rigid moral code in committing such acts. The main concern was the thieving, which was mostly a crime committed by the poor with the predominate offenders being juveniles and involved taking possession from others, whether it be by pickpocketing or armed robbery. As the poor had no other resources, they committed crimes in order to obtain what they needed and this added further complications to the issue.

During this time period there was a definite distinction of classes. The class distinction depended on annual income with the lower classes (or “working classes”) having an income of under £100, the middle class making in between £100-£1000, and the upper making over £1000. In the currency of the today, with inflation taken into account, one pound roughly equates to \$100.00 (Landow, 2003). With larger salaries, came higher status with more social standing. If those in the higher class wanted a resolution of the crimes being committed, then they had the resources to push for change.

Establishing Order

Those in the upper classes wanted not only crime dealt with, but also the abundance of the poor as well. Some had a genuine concern for their fellow man, while others just wanted those less fortunate off the sidewalk and out of sight. One solution to the problem of the poor was to send them to a “workhouse”, however those that went to the workhouses rarely received education and the education they did receive was that which furthered their criminality. As with the Fielding ideology, Victorians realized that education would help this problem and founded the Ragged Schools (named for the fact that these catered to the poorest of children who would often come in rags), which taught the basics such as reading, writing, and arithmetic with a healthy dose of religion as well. By making advances in the educational field for the poor, the crime rate started to decline (Picard, 2005).

One area that made drastic reform was the police force. Before the establishment of the Metropolitan Police Force headed by Robert Peel, the constables were considered to be ineffective and recalcitrant with a tendency to lead to corruption. Before the 1830s, the constables did whatever they pleased, especially in the rural areas that were removed from the metropolis. They would even deny investigating a crime unless they were compensated for time, or the victim had already done the investigative work (Storch, 1999). The old system was considered to be a failure by the heads of communities as the constables were not keeping order in their districts. (Storch, 1999). As there was a call for reformation of the police force in order to maintain high standards, surrounding areas began adopting Peel’s concept of a police force, and this allowed for wide-spread reform.

The principles that are attributed to Robert Peel include such things as organizing the force in a hierarchical method (military style), distribution of vital information for a cohesive investigation, providing effective training, and presenting a strong moral character (Lentz & Chaires 2007). These principles were the very same principles of which Sir John Fielding expounded upon 80 years previously. Peel is accredited for not only creating the force, but for

creating these ideas as well. The police took on new duties which included patrolling the neighborhood at a two and a half mile rotation, checking to see if doors were locked and that there were no thieves lurking in the dark alleys (Picard, 2005). This was not only a show of force on a preventative measure, but also allowed for the police to keep higher standards of morality for which the times were praised. After this form of policing was established, crime markedly decreased, especially those that posed harm to the average citizen. The focus on the petty crimes committed by boys in their youth was abandoned for more serious offenses (Picard, 2005).

Sherlock Holmes: The First (Fictional) Consulting Detective

The chronicles of Sherlock Holmes were not the first detective stories, or even the first detective series published. That honor was given to Edgar Allen Poe's *The Murders of Rue Morgue* that featured the detective C. Auguste Dupin and was published in 1841 (Frank, 2003). Interest in detective fiction soared, partly due to the fact that newspapers would print the most heinous crimes, and the public wanted to know all the details whether it be gory or scientific. (Picard 2005) The Victorian era is known for its romanticism, and there was no void in this philosophy where literature is concerned, however the character of Sherlock Holmes and his use of cold logic appealed to the morbid fascination of crime, and became much sought after entertainment.

The character of Sherlock Holmes is one that is viewed as a complete eccentric. He is a gentleman of the Victorian era, and by all accounts appears to uphold the ideal of what that entails, such as a loyalty to country, an appearance of respectability, and an education, however eccentric that may be. Other than an addiction to cocaine (which at the time was legal) he appears to have no other vice than an obsession with his work. He was the world's first "consulting detective" which essentially means that he was an outside agent of the police (Doyle, 2010a). Doyle had no contact with the police force nor was involved in any policing theology. There is no information on whether Doyle ever heard of Fielding's work. The public adored this detective, to

the point where Conan Doyle decided to kill his creation in *The Final Problem*. He even proclaimed that if he did not kill Holmes “He’ll kill me!” (Frank, 2003). The public outcry over their hero’s death prompted the author to pen another novel which did not bring Holmes to life, however the public was still not satisfied until Holmes was revived due not only to public outcry, but the author’s own mother voicing her dismay until Doyle brought him back to life (Frank, 2003).

This character became a phenomenon, with the average person of the day believing that Sherlock Holmes truly did reside at 221B Baker Street. Even now, one can recognize the iconic deerstalker hat as belonging to the consulting detective. There have been thousands of pastiches, whether using the original duo or variations of their characters. One popular pastiche is a British television show called *Sherlock*, which places Holmes and Watson in the 21st century. This keeps to the original stories but with a modern twist. Throughout the years there have been many adaptations ranging from books to film and even Broadway musicals, which keeps the character of Sherlock Holmes prominent in popular media. It was his methods (and successes) that the people wanted implemented into their own lives, and these methods dated back to the mid-1700s.

Popular Culture and Influence

With all the different forms of media content available in this technologically-driven age, one must look into the different ways that it affects the average consumer. George Gerbner looked into the phenomena of just how the average person was affected by the inundation of different forms of media, namely television (Gerbner, 1997). He discusses how the stories portrayed within popular media help to shape culture and behavior. There are three kinds of stories: stories that say how things are, how they work, or what we are to do about them (Gerbner, 1997). Stories have the power to shape values, beliefs, and in addition, stories have the power to shape social change. While social change is important for the progression of society, Gerbner discusses a phenomenon that is occurring with the digitalization of storytelling, the phenomena of cultivation. Cultivation

theory states that these stories are powerful, not by their direct effects on behavior, but because they continuously nourish and cultivate viewers' attitudes and fears (Gerbner, 1997). This leads to those who are heavily consuming media to believe that the fictitious is reality.

The stories that media tells are considered to be symbolic representations, which, according to media scholar James Carey, are a way to simplify and explain the complex constructs of life (1992). He claims that those who produce media and the consumers both have a role in the meaning-making process, and determine what values persist in the social reality. Unlike Gerbner's theories, it is not media that completely influences the masses, but media communicating values and the masses are open to accept them (Chamberlin-Quinlisk, 2012).

With this influx of media, there are several ideas the one can see that have been implemented into the police force. With the invention of AFIS (Automated Fingerprint Identification System) and cataloging of footprints, one can see that policing has advanced with the times. The same idea is shown in the Holmes' novels, for example when he is analyzing the footprint of a murderer (Doyle, 2010a). The idea of cataloging something that seemed trivial is now the crux of many a modern case. The acceptance of the methods employed in the Holmes' stories has become so vast that, in the Victorian era, people would write letters to the fictional detective hoping he could solve their personal problems. (Blankeney, 1993). With the advent of television shows such as *CSI: Crime Scene Investigation* and *Law and Order*, the average person expects that the crime be analyzed using a rational approach, not unlike how Sherlock Holmes analyzed his cases. With this in mind, there is the advent of the "CSI effect", where people believe that they need the definite proof of guilt, such as a smoking gun (Harrington, 2007). There are some that believe that to every case, forensics can solve it quickly (under an hour) and with that definite single piece of evidence which ties everything together.

Yet if one were to take James Carey's theory into view, the ideas presented in media are a way to simplify the problem of crime, therefore the masses will believe what is placed before them. With this in mind, one can see where the appeal of detective media explains the problem of

crimes. Even with the difference of time periods, there are parallels between *CSI* and Sherlock Holmes that show the CSI effect having merit. Both are seen for entertainment purposes but illustrate a cold rational logic to the Criminal Justice System. They both showcase detectives striving to reveal the truth of the matter in a thorough manner, as well as both highlighting elements of the scientific method (Harrington, 2007). *CSI* focuses on the police force themselves, showing the same methods that Holmes employed as a civilian many years previously. Most importantly they show that the cultivation theory is taking effect by cultivating the fear of crime and the response is to have a more scientific approach to investigation, which has been shown in literature or media as being effective therefore this is how it should be done in real life.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

R1: The methods employed by the fictional character Sherlock Holmes show that there was an unconscious incorporation of the policing ideals of Sir John Fielding.

R2: The fictional character Sherlock Holmes shows that the Victorian community embraced these methods, and implemented them into real life police practices.

R3: Through the medium of popular culture (literature, television, etc.), there is a positive attitude towards integration of new ideals that continues through the 21st century.

METHODOLOGY

The first step into this process is to look at the two novels that will be analyzed for this particular thesis. The first novel to be analyzed, *A Study in Scarlet*, is the first novel in the Sherlock Holmes series, first published in 1887. This is the first introduction of Sherlock Holmes and his methods. The other novel analyzed is *The Valley of Fear*, which is the last novel in the series, published in 1915. While this is not the last story that featured Holmes, nor was it the last in the story's timeline, it is better for analyzing the change in policing ideology, as it was the last full length novel that Doyle had written. The method of analyzing the content and language of the Holmes novels will be to show how individual characters change their views of police theory. The analysis of the novels in relation to police ideology will consist of three parts.

1. Exploring from the viewpoint of the character Sherlock Holmes actions/ways of describing his methods (the shift to the innovative).

Holmes was considered to be eccentric, and borderline insane to those in the professional world. While the police stood around looked for the obvious, Holmes was on his hands and knees looking for the minute. He did not take anything at face value. He applied logic and a little research into his cases, showing that pure strength and luck was not what was effective in trying to actually solve crimes. It is this logical approach that is used in the modern day.

2. Describing the police actions and reactions (what the Victorian procedure was).

Amidst the jabs at the blundering of the general force, Holmes proves a valid point. The technical aspects were certainly lacking with regard to how a crime scene was analyzed by the paid professionals. Holmes's biggest lament was that there was never any sort of regulations with regard to footprints, the force stepping wherever they wished. This shows the

slow, older ways of the police force. By putting them in a negative light, one can see how there is a need for the change in tactics.

The police inspectors are the main authorities in the stories. From *A Study in Scarlet*, the two focused investigators, Gregson and Lestrade, are very stubborn. They are concerned with the quick, tidy answer, and not so much focused on discovering other possible scenarios to the situation. The one (Gregson) is only interested in promotion. By the last novel in the series, *The Valley of Fear*, one of the inspectors called to the case, MacDonald, is more intellectually open to Holmes' way of explanation and considers Holmes to be a valid ally. Again, this shows the shift from the old viewpoint into the new.

3. Dr. John Watson's reaction (the educated civilian viewpoint)

As the "author" of the series, Dr. Watson represents the educated public. He is not a member of the criminal justice system; he is a medical doctor. He is constantly dumbfounded by Holmes' observations and deductions (leading some in the Sherlockian community to believe that he was an imbecile). He represents the public at large. The stories would not have been nearly so effective if it had been the main character narrating the case, using his cold logical way, other than a thrilling narrative. It took Watson to put the marvel into the stories. He does this, glorifying this new method and expounding on what Holmes believes to be rather elementary cases. Watson shows what the public at large believes to be the shift, and shows the public ideology of what a police force should be instead of what it was believed to be. Throughout the series, Watson learns to employ some of Holmes' methods; however he remains constant in his astonishment of Holmes' solutions.

ANALYSIS

A Study in Scarlet – The Beginning

“You have been to Afghanistan, I perceive.” This is the first phrase uttered by the most iconic detective in literary history (Doyle, 2010 a). In the basement of St. Bartholomew’s, this is the first display of deductive reasoning that the character of Sherlock Holmes presents to his soon-to-be biographer, Dr. John H. Watson. Watson of course is baffled by this display, but after a brief explanation, one can see that in reality, it was a series of clues that when put together, posts a complete picture. Throughout the fifty-six short stories and the four novels, this is how the world’s “first consulting detective” solves all of his cases; by deductive reasoning as well as innovative thinking, that allows him to be more effective than the average police inspector.

The first novel written by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle shows the detective being called to the case of Enoch Drebber. The dead man had no wounds on his body, yet the word “RACHE” was scrawled in blood above him. Holmes’ methods of observing the data in the crime scene allow for a basic description of the killer based on footprint size, the realization that the blood was not the victim’s as there were no open wounds, and that the drunken man that was at the scene of the crime (that the police released) was in fact the murderer. Through various analytical methods, Holmes discovers who the murderer was, and apprehends him, using methods the police investigators treated with disdain.

The character of Sherlock Holmes differs in the ideology of Sir John Fielding with regard to the foundations of crime. The fictional detective does not follow all of the Fielding theorized ideas completely. Since he is not a part of the police force, he does not have to follow all of their guidelines. He believes himself to be above the law, even claiming himself to be “judge, jury and executioner” (Doyle, 2010 a). He will allow those that have committed acts against society to flee, has bended the law in order to conform to his needs and even blatantly broken laws in order

to gain the information he believed to be true. Fielding built the police structure as to first and foremost uphold social order, and the fictional consulting detective did not do so.

While Fielding believed that children of the poor, particularly boys, should be kept on naval ships in order to teach discipline and give them skills to transfer to the adult world, Holmes employed an underground network that he termed “the Baker Street Irregulars” (Doyle, 2010 a). He believed that these boys were his eyes and ears of the streets, and his best information came from those children. Holmes made them more productive than just your average beggar, paying for their services.

In order to look at how effective the fictional detective’s methods were, one must look at how ineffective the police in the story were. The two inspectors, Gregson and Lestrade, with a simple note, admitted that they need his detective services. They claimed to leave everything untouched at the crime scene; however the ground had been heavily trod upon by the police officers, ruining chances for proper footprint analysis. Another major oversight includes allowing the offender to leave the premises believing that he was only a noisy, drunk vagrant. The police were so concerned with keeping the peace so that the murderer was able to escape unharmed. Along with making improper assumptions about the gender of the murderer, and overlooking the most pivotal point of the case, they claimed to have done all they could in order to examine the scene (Doyle, 2010a).

The overall attitude towards Sherlock Holmes by the police in the first novel is negative. They put up with his methods so long as it does not interfere with their primary objection, which is to keep order and to adhere to the procedures with which they are so familiar. This procedure allows them to advance based upon high performance level. This falls in line with Fielding’s belief that their needed to be an established hierarchy within the police unit. This lead to the two detectives, (namely Gregson) wishing the case would be completed so that he may gather the fame and possible promotion for himself. Holmes even discusses the issue with his biographer,

claiming that the police only wanted a testimonial, and when the newspaper account is published, sure enough the two members of the police force are credited with solving the murder, and not Holmes. This is an unforeseen consequence of a merit based promotion system, and it only serves to make the police appear uncaring about the crime that they are tasked with investigating. Even the regular patrol is shone in a negative light, needing a bribe in order to relay the events to Holmes when asked (Doyle 2010 a). This goes against the idea of having honest police officers and shows that not only are the police in the novel inept, but they are also corruptible. The novel was written by a Arthur Conan Doyle, a doctor, someone unconnected to the police force. Therefore his view of the Victorian era police force was one of ineptitude.

There is one area that the inspectors seem to thrive in, according to the Fielding philosophy, and this is taking meticulous notes. Within the novel, they are even seen taking shorthand in order to make the note taking process faster. They take note of what witnesses say, evidence they observe (not necessarily collect), as well as remarks said by Holmes. These notes pale when compared to Holmes' vast knowledge/library of crime. He stores information that may prove useful in scrapbook style files, until such time as he may need them. Even so, the inspectors take meticulous notes that seem to stay in their notebooks, whereas Holmes puts his collection to use. He even expresses his opinion that the inspectors should shut themselves away for a few months in order to read about past criminal enterprises. He believes that this is one of the ways he is so successful in understanding the mind of the offenders (Doyle, 2010a).

One character that is essential in highlighting Sherlock Holmes' method of investigating a scene is Dr. John H. Watson. He is the voice of the series, and provides the reactions needed to make Holmes appear to be mystical in the deductions that he gives. He is completely astonished upon Holmes' very first deduction, that of the doctor being newly from Afghanistan. Not only was the fact that he was abroad, but Holmes also deduced that he was a military doctor who was wounded and discharged due to his injury. Watson had not thought that the tan that ended at his

sleeves, the limp, or the stethoscope in his hat betrayed all that Holmes had deduced (Doyle, 2010a). He marvels at this, and thus the adoration begins.

Watson rooms with Holmes, and is further fascinated with the detective's idiosyncrasies. Watson even creates a list where he compares the knowledge base of Holmes, noting that while he has an extensive knowledge of chemistry and criminal history, when it came to astronomy Holmes claimed to have no use for it and that he would promptly forget that “the earth orbited the sun” (Doyle, 2010a). Watson is even more intrigued as this is basic elementary school knowledge, and he pays even closer attention to what Holmes seems to know.

This all changes when Watson reads a monograph titled the “Book of Life” written by Holmes himself (Doyle, 2010a). This monograph says that if one was more observant, then one can deduce what a man is thinking or what the man’s profession is. Watson cannot believe that this is a legitimate science and completely disregards this. That is until he sees this in action at the crime scene of Enoch Drebber. The impossible becomes probable when Watson can see firsthand what Holmes was exposing in the monograph. He cannot believe that something as simple as a newspaper advertisement could be essential to solving the case. Once the case is completed, Watson expresses his outrage over the fact that the police inspectors were taking the credit for solving the case, even though the inspectors had nothing to do with the solution. He feels everyone must know about Holmes’ work, therefore the doctor becomes the detective’s biographer, believing that Holmes not only deserves credit for using the method of deduction to solve criminal cases, but Watson believes that those methods are revolutionary and should be shared with the masses.

The Valley of Fear– The Last

The Valley of Fear is the last novel written in the series; however in the timeline of the original stories, this novel is not in fact the last story (*The Last Bow* is actually the last in the timeline). The case starts by Holmes receiving a note in the post which is in a numeric code. After deducing the numerical cipher, he determines that the note warned of a man's murder. An inspector from Scotland Yard comes to tell Holmes that the man (the subject of the note) was indeed dead. One simple thing that most would overlook proves to be the crux of the case, that of a missing dumbbell. The man believed to have been murdered was actually alive, and an intruder had died in his place. Through this seemingly trivial bit of evidence, a sinister plot is unraveled. With this being the last novel written, it is projected that one can see just how Holmes's methods become more accepted by the inspectors of the force, and in turn more accepted by the public that read these novels. By the interactions with the inspectors, the readers can see that there is an acceptance of Holmes' idiosyncrasies and the readers in turn accept that his methods work.

The Sherlock Holmes series as an entirety takes on one facet of Fielding's beliefs in that Holmes is an extremely visible character. His actions, the crimes, and even his failures are laid before the public, making them more aware. While he is part of the culture of the time, the way the stories are written shows that the public in the stories even know of his adventures. This is made possible by his biographer, Watson. Even within the story, Holmes gathers fame and notoriety which translates into a change from scorn to esteem by the police. The last novel written shows this change in the investigators to a successful completion of the case, with the police inspector willingly asking for assistance, bowing to Holmes' expertise in the area of evidence detection and deduction. The main crux of the case is Holmes picking up a trivial detail in the room; that there was only one dumbbell where normally there are two.

In this novel we see that Holmes both keeps with the traditional Fielding beliefs, but that he also separates from them as well. While the vast criminal knowledge he has is there, you see

him playing the role of all aspects of the Criminal Justice System. He does not tell the police investigators that they were looking for the wrong man, choosing to break into the house and seeing the answers for himself. Not only is he blatantly breaking the law, but he acts as the police searching for the evidence he requires (Doyle, 2010b). He then further disregards the force by not telling the inspector that the victim was actually alive thus sending the force on a task that was little more than a waste of time. He acts above the law, whether it be breaking and entering or blatantly withholding information, which is a complete contradiction to the idea of being of a higher moral standard than the average citizen. However, it does lead to the answers that were sought, and the authorities were brought in during the pivotal moment, which allowed for them to control the situation and bring balance to the social order.

The inspector who is assigned to the case does not hold Holmes as an annoyance, but rather welcomes his advice. Inspector MacDonald voluntarily (and politely) goes to Holmes for aid in what seems to be a conundrum, a perfect “locked room mystery” (Doyle, 2010 b). Watson even says that MacDonald’s gesture of coming to Holmes was talent and no shame in asking for assistance when needed (Doyle, 2010). Instead of being focused on the glory of solving the case solo, he consulted someone who had more experience in the mysterious aspect of crime. While the investigators at Scotland Yard still believe his ways to be mad, there is an acceptance that the scientific methods used are effective. Not only does Holmes agree to help, but even refers to the inspector as “friend MacDonald” or “Mr. Mac” as a term of endearment. This shows that even the civilian is maintaining better relationships with the authorities and the results are still a successful conclusion.

Within the crime scene, the ideology that Fielding created is still being used. The officers are taking detailed notes, and reporting to those considered their superiors, thus keeping the hierarchical chain of command in place. The investigators take more cautious approaches to the scene, making sure not to disturb any evidence as well as examining the evidence closely. There

is a progression of methods even as to how the scene was handled, even though the most crucial piece of evidence was overlooked. Anyone could have overlooked a missing piece of exercise equipment. Only a fictional character would be able to deduce that the missing dumbbell was used as a weight to hide evidence as quickly as he had.

The relationships have changed not only with the police, but Watson has changed in how he views Holmes. Over the years that they have been rooming together, the mysticism that comes from Holmes' deductions have dimmed, and the eccentric nature is more commonplace. Holmes still manages to dumbfound the doctor with his feats of deduction. One such example appears in the very beginning of the novel. As Holmes has a mysterious bit of code that he must decipher, he discusses it with Watson, showing that Watson has come a long way in learning the art of deduction. However, it takes Holmes to tie all the pieces together to make it a coherent message (Doyle, 2010 b). This shows that with the continuation of the series, there is a gradual learning process that Watson goes through; however he still has more to learn in order to analyze a scene like the famous detective.

Watson, the Perfect Foil

The character of Dr. Watson provides several different roles that are crucial when trying to provide a good tale, but in addition he aids in providing the message of the stories. This is the one character that is consistent throughout the entire series, not only in his role as biographer but in the fact that he remains astonished in the scientific approach of Holmes' work. He exemplifies all that the Victorian era stood for. He was an army veteran, who even after service felt it was his duty to serve the Crown by assisting Holmes on his cases. He is a middle class man who has a high education level and for all intents and purposes is the average man that one would see in Victorian London. What makes the Holmes novels so captivating is that the storyteller, Watson, is relatable. Even someone from the lower classes can relate to the fact that he is of a limited

income at the beginning of the first novel, living on the salary of 11 shillings a day. Even by the standards of the Victorian era, that was barely middle class.

By having Watson as the storyteller, the mystical becomes obvious, even at the good doctor's expense. If the stories had been told through Holmes's point of view, then it would be a dry scientific reading (to the point of sounding arrogant), which the masses would not have found entertaining, therefore they would not have read the rest. If a police officer would have been the storyteller, the police would have been shown in a better light, therefore not prompting any new ideas on how the force should conduct themselves.

Throughout the 60 tales, Watson plays the foil to Holmes's brilliance. This helps ease the reader to the eccentricity of Holmes by having the average person see the methods working, even if Watson appeared foolish for not having grasped the facts for himself. By allowing for readers to be at ease, they can be open to new ideas, especially regarding police procedures. Watson shows that these new ideas are positive, therefore the public sees the new ideas as positive.

During *A Study in Scarlet*, Watson is a strong believer that the police force would be able to shed light on the puzzling crime that occurred. However he is completely amazed that it is the man with whom he is lodging that actually solves this case. He could see that not only were the police ineffective, but that there was discontentment within the force from having an outsider solve the crimes that, to them, seemed like an enigma. As the timeline progresses, Watson attempts to rival Holmes in his methods, but (most commonly) fails to do match wits with the iconic detective. Even though he fails, Watson is able to further reveal the detectives methods and give further explanation. The character of Watson is invaluable in this, and helped to progress what Holmes used for his methods.

DISCUSSION

Media allows for widespread distribution of ideas. In the case of the Holmes' stories, this allows for an entertaining delivery of policing ideology from the perspective of a doctor. Doyle was not involved in policing philosophy or even involved with the police before publication. However, taking his own observance with the world around him, he created a character who appealed to the masses. The Holmes' novels came at a time where reformation was called for, which appealed to the masses. With this mass appeal, the ideology spread throughout the country, and eventually internationally. By having the masses learn of a different way for policing, there was a call for policy change, and the eccentric became the norm, whether it be evidence handling or information databases. The progress of policing started with the ideas of one man (Fielding) who held a position of power. Then these ideas were expanded upon by another (Peel), who established the police force as well as started to make the force more centralized. From there, these ideas were presented to the masses and this allowed for the next generation of scholars and police officers to practice the things that Holmes had done in his stories.

Looking at the media of the 19th century through the 21st century, there is a correlation in the ideology of what the average person believed policing should be. For the Victorians, this character of Sherlock Holmes proposes an ideal, and this ideal was what a police investigation should be. The television shows of today propose their own ideal, once the components placed in them for dramatization purposes are removed. While the character of Holmes is a story, the story does help to shape values, as proposed by Gerbner's cultivation theory. Holmes proposes a different standard for the police force. With this different standard shown, the people decided that they wanted this and even within the stories there is a progression of the reactions of the police force. This is a cycle that repeats itself. The theology of Fielding is placed into the popular culture both of the Victorian era as well as the modern era. With the influence of culture, the

masses come to believe these ideologies, thereby showing the influence that even Sherlock Holmes had in the progression of what a police force was to become.

There are three questions that this thesis has answered:

R.1 : The methods employed by the fictional character Sherlock Holmes shows that there was an unconscious incorporation of the policing ideals of Sir John Fielding.

With the fictional character of Sherlock Holmes, he uses methods such as extensive note taking, cataloging of information and employing the poor children of the area in order to effectively investigate a crime using all possible scenarios. All of these, as well as the hierarchical component of the police force, reflect the ideology Fielding expounded in the mid-1700s. The author had no association with the police force or their ideology prior to the invention of this character, and there is no documentation disproving that . Therefore it was an unconscious incorporation of Fielding's ideas to the fictitious character.

R2: The fictional character Sherlock Holmes shows that the Victorian community embraced these methods, and implemented them into real life police practices.

The Holmes stories became incredibly popular. Even with the death of the detective, letters requesting his services poured into 221b Baker Street in hopes that Holmes could solve any case in real life. The public demand was so great that the author had to write more, especially for his mother. Seeing the transition from *A Study in Scarlet* to *A Valley of Fear*, one can see the police in the novels are more accepting of Holmes and his eccentricity. These methods, such as extensive note taking and cataloging, can be seen in the 21st century with a variety of sources, from fingerprinting to fiber analysis.

R3: Through the medium of popular culture (literature, television, etc.), there is a positive attitude towards integration of new ideals that continues through the 21st century.

Through cultivation theory (Gerbner), the media that is presented to the public helps to cultivate (or develop) the ideas that are already present in the minds of the people; not by directly effecting behavior but by showing the viewer their fears and attitudes. This is powerful. When a story is providing a message, people will respond to quell the fears that are being cultivated in front of them. By providing this solution, people will respond positively, making these revolutionary ideas an everyday routine.

Through the theory that Carey presents, Watson provides a comfort to the reader. This comfort helps the reader to accept the new ideas as Watson is a constant which give readers a comfort while they read the new theories presented in front of them. Watson's reactions show how the average educated person would react in that situation. Even though there are times he appears to be mentally slow, this allows for a simplification of the processes being brought before the reader thereby making it a simple matter as to what the solution for crime is, Holmes's methods.

Since the mid-18th century, the idea that there needs to be a formal body in place to control social order has been molded into a modern police force. When one looks throughout time, one can see a gradual progression in how this body operated. The ideas of Fielding were put into place by Peel, and then in turn made their way into popular fiction. When the Holmes novels stated the same theories to the public, and they were shown to be effective, then the public called for these ideas to be implemented in the daily routine of the police force. Even with this incorporation being done subconsciously, it shows that the power of media influenced the masses enough to change policy. This progress was gradual and continues to strive forward to better the policing force as a unit that not only controls social behavior but can effectively problem solve in a timely manner.

If one were to analyze the entire Holmes series, one would see recurring themes of scientific method being applied to a crime scene. He treats them as an amusement; however the police start to notice that it is effective. Even with his constant criticism of the force, not only do they accept his methods, but he provides the solution to the crimes that seem to be completely puzzling. He even offers advice which is not heeded until the later portions of the novels. By looking into the rest of the canon, the progression of police ideology is shown even though it is approximately a thirty year span. Looking at these stories as well as other media (radio, television) is reserved for a later project as it is too large an area to cover with one academic work.

For one that studies the Sherlock Holmes series, it is interesting to see that there are elements of real policing philosophy in them. There is no evidence suggesting that the author ever heard of Sir John Fielding. Conan Doyle was a doctor turned author, basing his creation off of a professor of his during his university days. This shows that the public was aware and helped guide policing ideology. This trend continues today with television shows, movies, novels, and even music. The media is reflecting what the general public wishes to see in regards to police standards, and can help shape where the force will be in generations to come.

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ACADEMIC VITA

Stacey E. Braun
7702 Summerdale Ave.
Philadelphia, PA 19111
seb5400@psu.edu

Education

B.A. Administration of Justice, Summer 2013 The Pennsylvania State University,
Abington, Pennsylvania

Honors and Awards

Outstanding Administration of Justice award – Fall 12

Abington Study Abroad Award – Fall 12

Research Grant from the Schreyer Honor College – Fall 12

Association Memberships/Activities

Phi Kappa Phi – Fall 12 – Spring 13

Lion Ambassadors - Fall 10 – Spring 13

Justice Association - Fall 12 – Spring 13

First Year Engagement – Fall 11 – Fall 12

Study Abroad – Salisbury, England – Spring 2011

Study Abroad – High Wycombe, England – Spring 2013

Research Interests

I am interested in the aspect of Criminology. Several areas that I wish to explore the evolution of law both to the United States as well as the United Kingdom. In addition, I am interested in the popular culture of the Criminal Justice System and would continue to research how Sherlock Holmes has affected both the criminological profession as well as the average citizen.