

# UC Santa Barbara

## Reports / Presentations

### **Title**

Building the Case: Why Should We Care About Police-Community Relations? Current Research

### **Permalink**

<https://escholarship.org/uc/item/2bp2k7jr>

### **Author**

Anderson, Michelle Chernikoff

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Police Assessment Resource Center (PARC)  
Regional Symposium on Police-Community Relations*

# COPPPAC

**Center on Police Practices and Community • UCSB**

- *Building the Case: Why Should We Care About Police/Community Relations?*
  - *Michelle Chernikoff Anderson*
  - *1 December 2006*
  - *Pasadena, CA*

# Building the Case: Why Should We Care About Police/Community Relations?

~ Current Research ~

- Why Care?
- Who / What is COPPPAC?
- Examples of COPPPAC Research



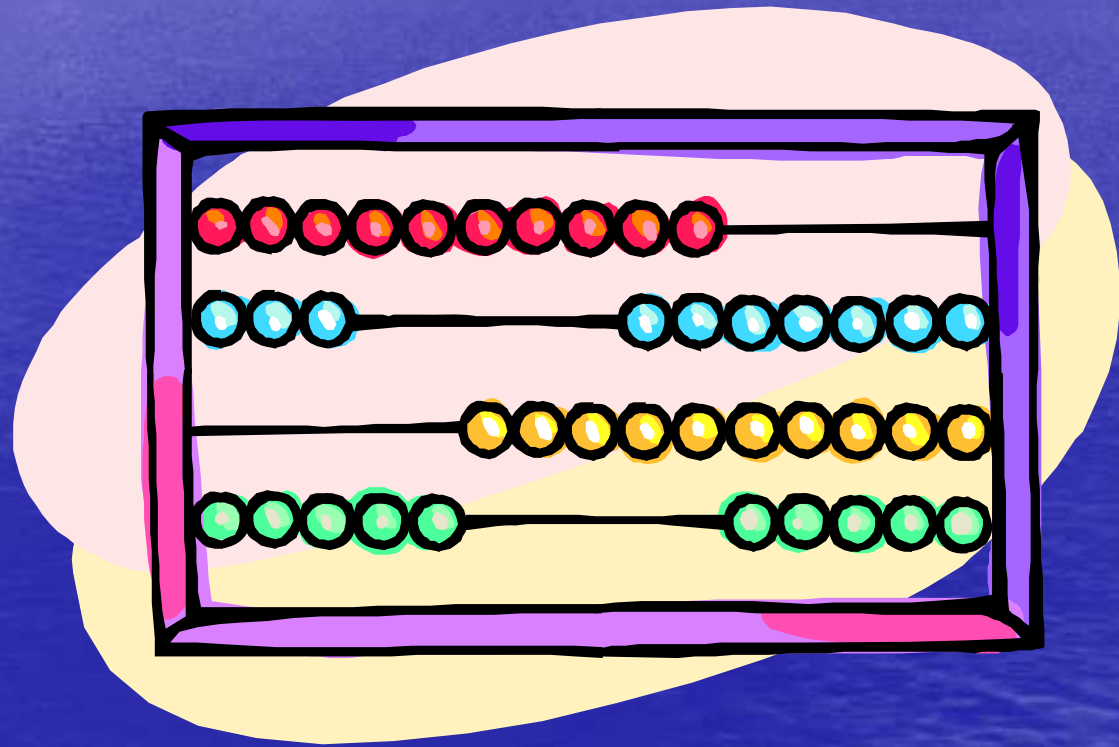
# Why Care? Law Enforcement

- More Legitimate  
More Trusted  
Law Enforcement  
(National Research Council Committee to Review Research on Police Policies and Practices)
  - More authority
  - Vote
    - More tax dollars
  - Call
    - Earlier
  - Witness
    - Clearance
  - Comply
    - Safety



# Why Care? Community

- Your employees
- Your tax dollars



# Why Care? Academia

- Methodologically sound research needed
  - ~~Politics~~
  - Hunches
-  Public Policy

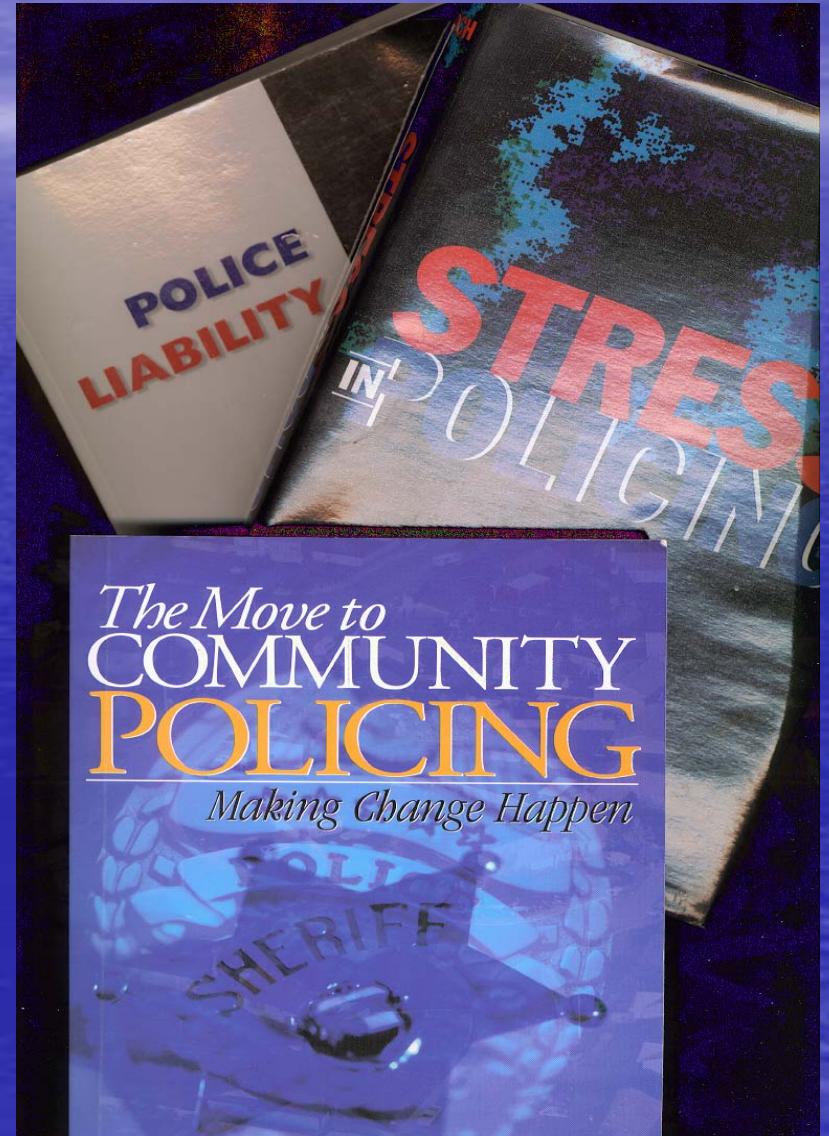


# COPPPAC



- Center on Police Practices and Community
- ~ *Researching Today for a Safer Tomorrow* ~
  - Academia + Police + Community
  - ~ Research & Teaching ~
    - =
- Knowledge + Theory + Practice

COPPAC brings members of law enforcement and the community to scholars so that academic research can be more relevant to the needs of law enforcement and the communities it serves.





# COPPAC Opened Its Doors September 24<sup>th</sup> 2002



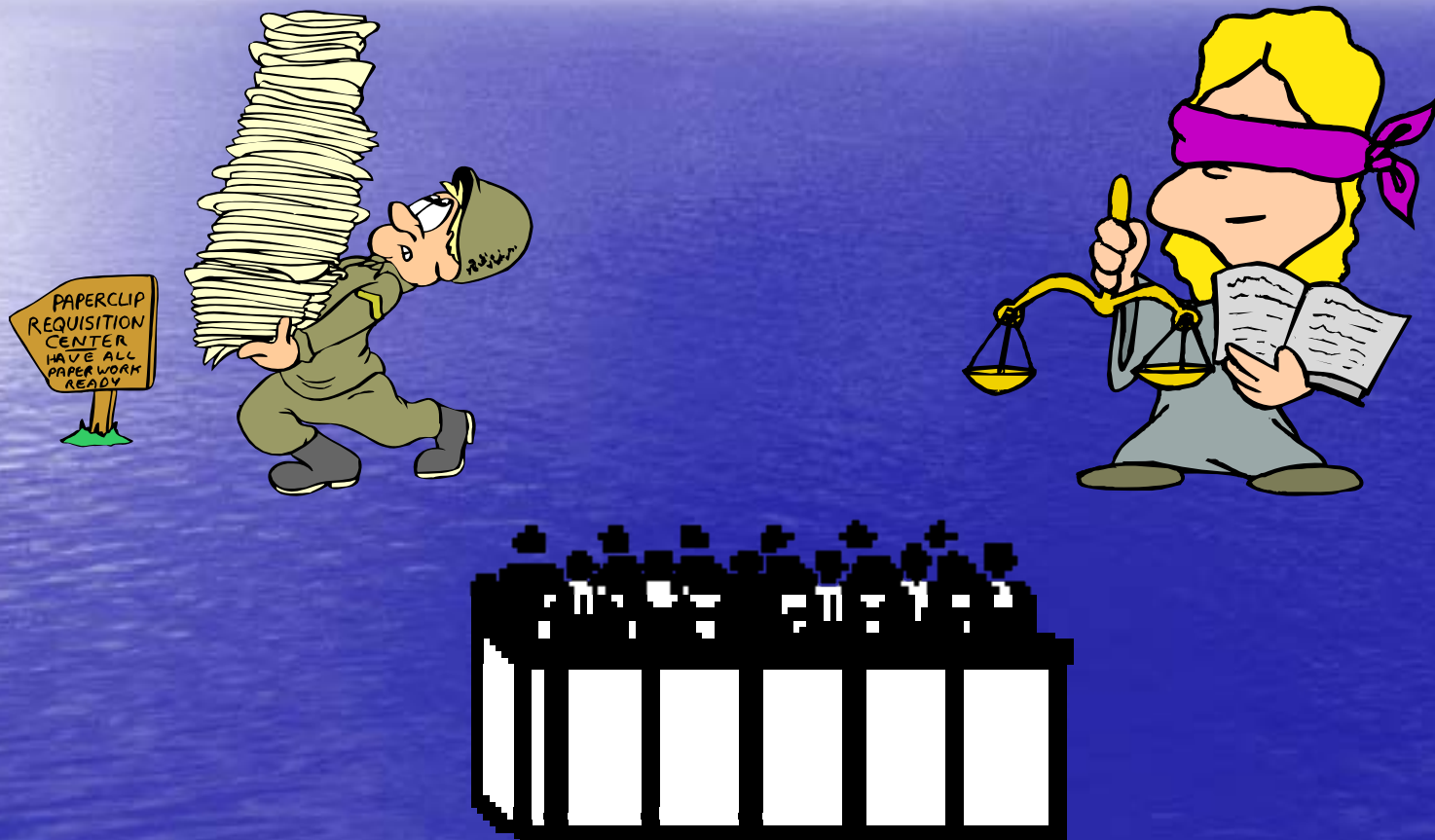
# COPPAC's Directors

Howie Giles, PhD, DSc & Michelle Chernikoff Anderson, JD

~ see also: Affiliate List ~

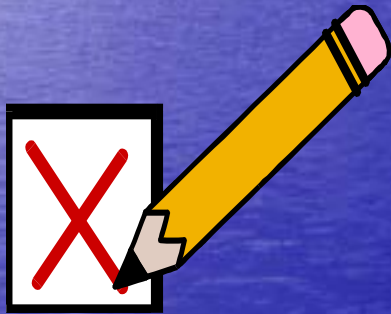


# We Distill the Information Stakeholders Decide What to Do with It



# ATP Surveys

. . . around the globe . . .



# ATP Studies

- Demographics
  - Race / Ethnicity (age, sex)
- Neighborhood conditions
- Procedural Justice
- Communication
- Control for Demographics
- → Trust & Communication Accommodation have far stronger influence

# Survey Questions

- *Police Officer Accommodation*

- In general, how accommodating are police officers? (i.e., how well do you think they listen to people, take their views into account, and want to understand their needs and unique situations?)
- In general, how respectful of students are police officers?
- How polite are police officers?
- How well do police officers explain things to people (i.e., talk to people in ways that “sit right” with them, and that they understand)?

- *Trust*

- How much respect do you have for the police?
- To what degree do you think police officers are honest?
- To what degree do you feel you should support the police?
- To what degree do you feel that police decisions are fair?
- To what degree do you feel the police protect citizen rights?
- I have confidence that the police department can do its job well
- I trust the police to make decisions that are good for everyone in the community

- *Tendency to Obey*

- People should obey the police even if what the police officers say or do goes against what they think is right
- I would always try to follow what a police officer says I should do, even if I thought it was wrong
- Disobeying a police officer is seldom justified

- *Safety*

- I feel safe walking alone at night when it is dark

Figure 1: Structural Equation Model of City-Wide Responses to Local Police: English

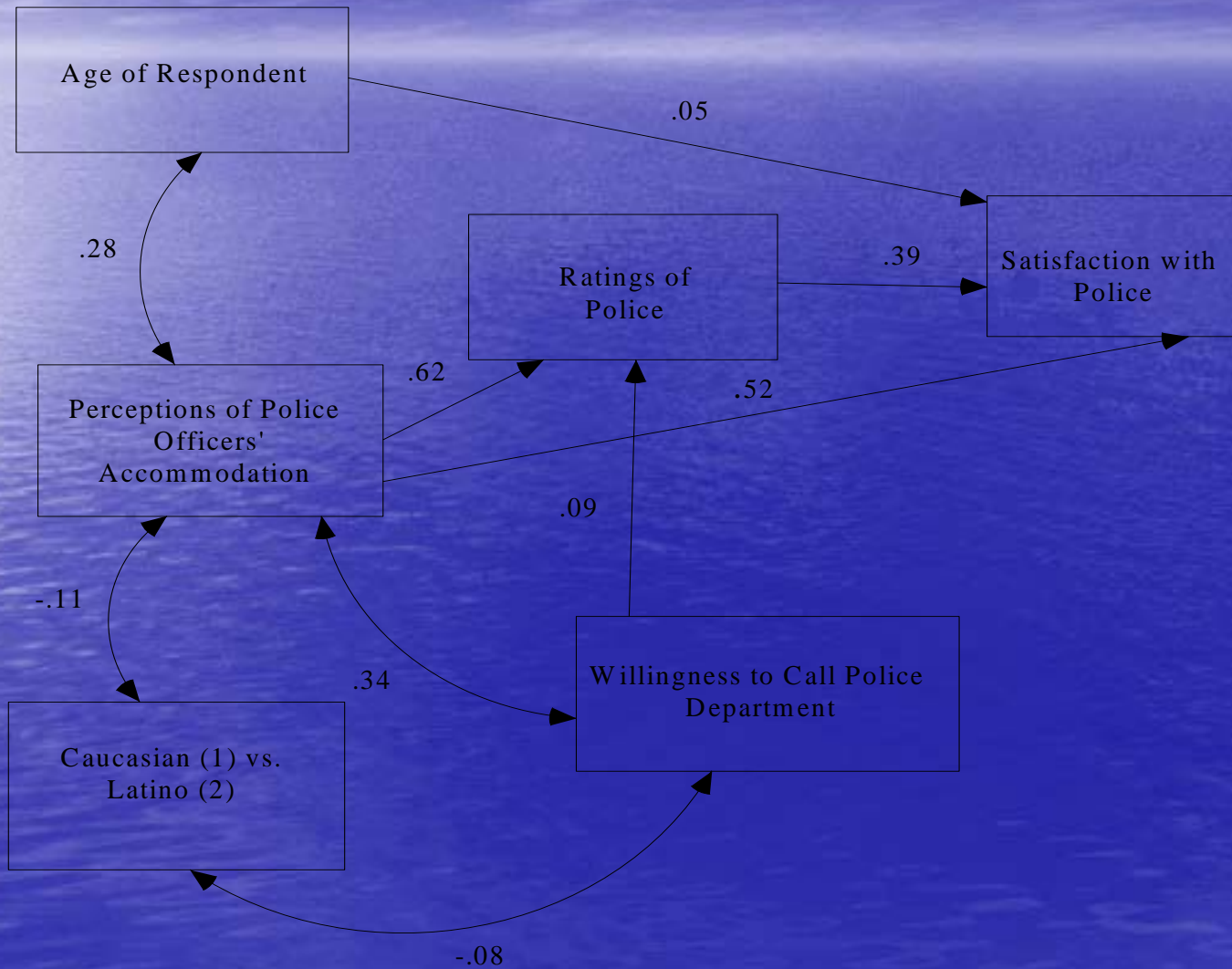


Figure 2: Structural Equation Model of City-Wide Responses to Local Police: Spanish

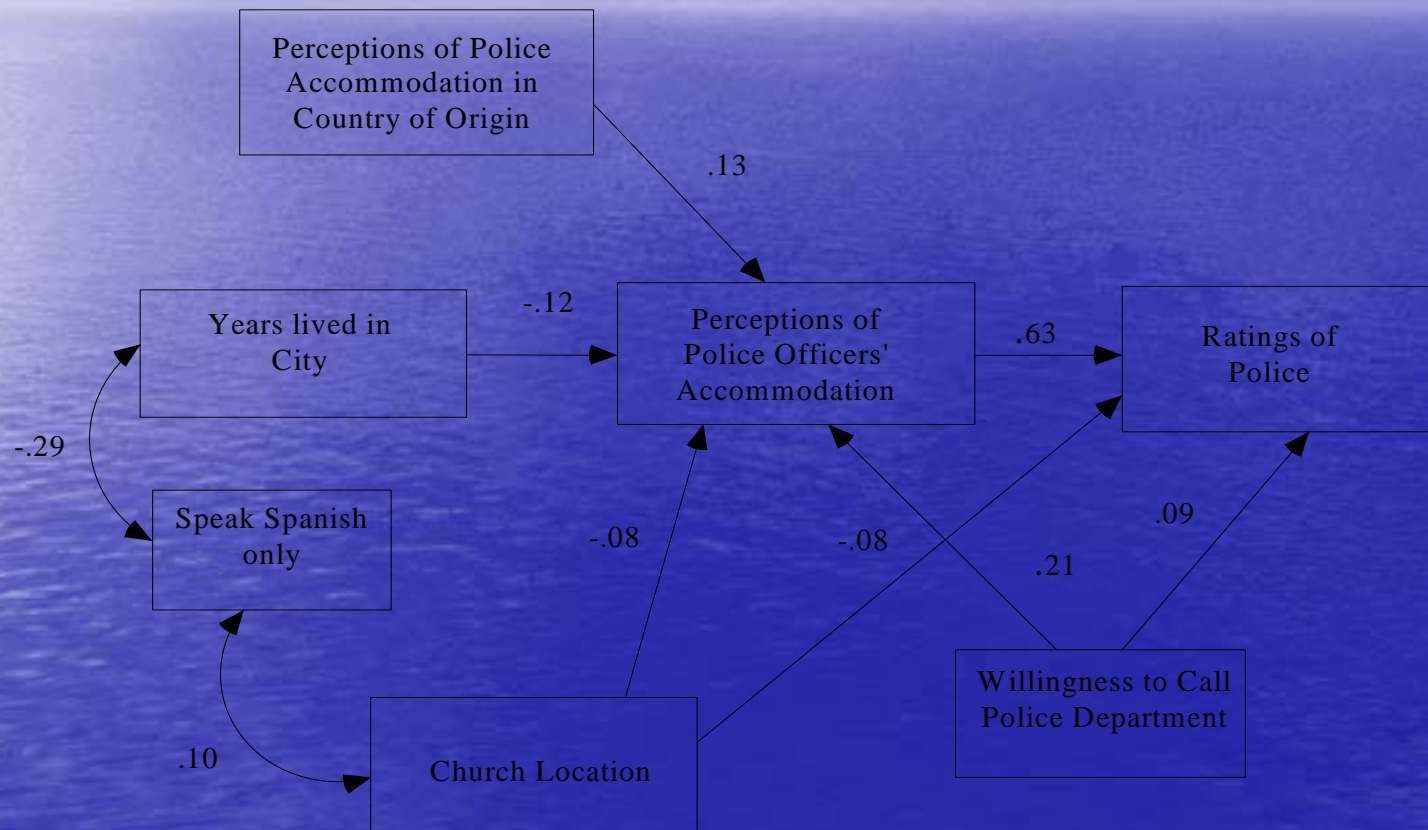




Figure 1.

Attitudes to Police: Peoples' Republic of China and US

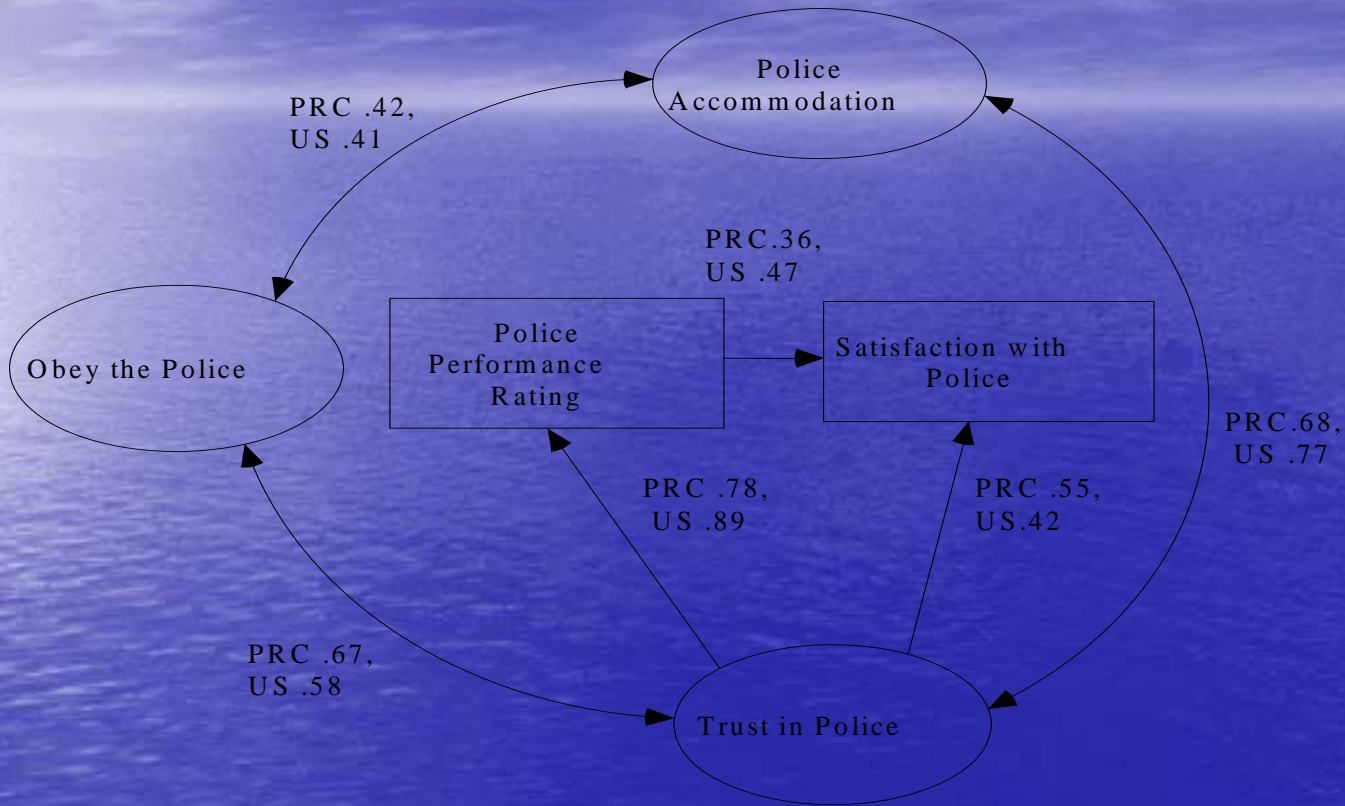
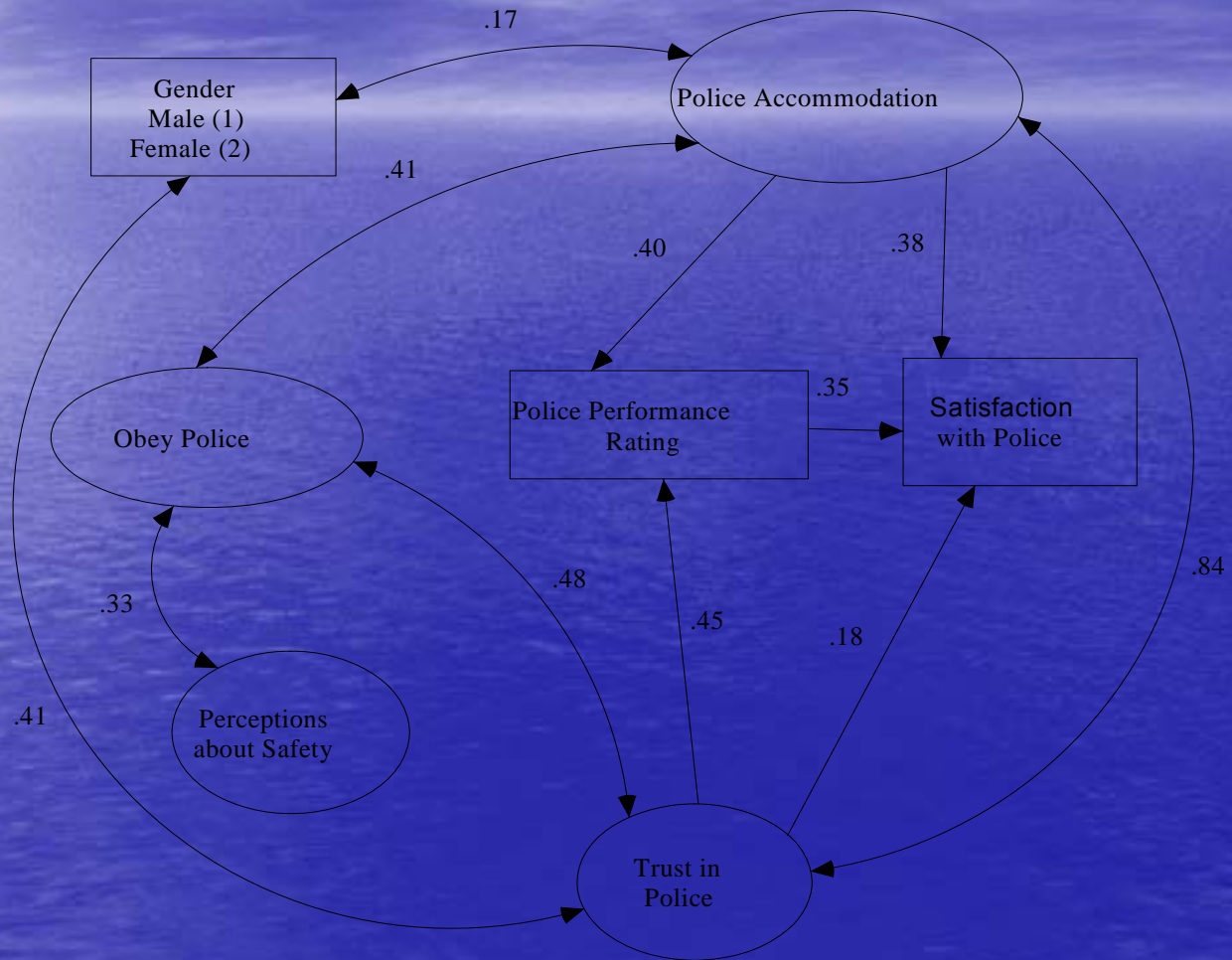


Figure 2.

Attitudes to Taiwanese Police



# Open Ended Q Responses Reflect Importance of Communication

- “unnecessarily bossy”
- “more politeness—it’s a university campus, not a prison”
- “the officers I have encountered have been very polite and professional”
- “an officer smiled at me and said ‘hello’ to me when I said ‘good morning’”

# And on the other hand . . .

- Study effects of communicating with community members about task of law enforcement

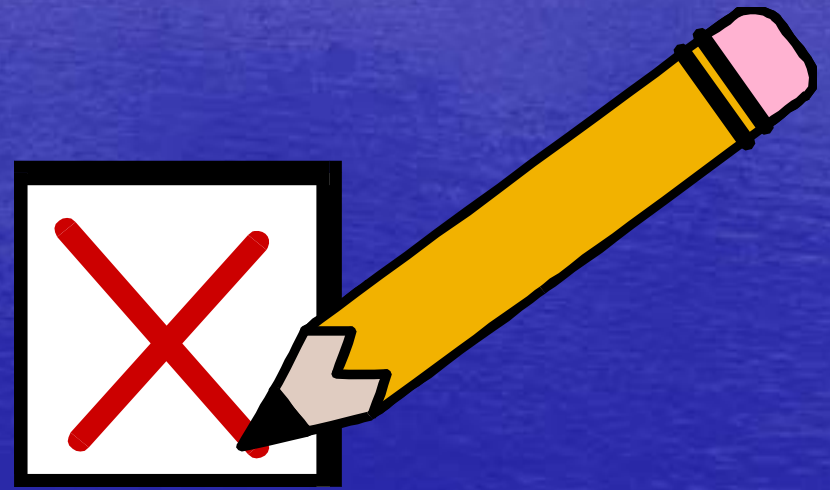


# Citizens' Forum



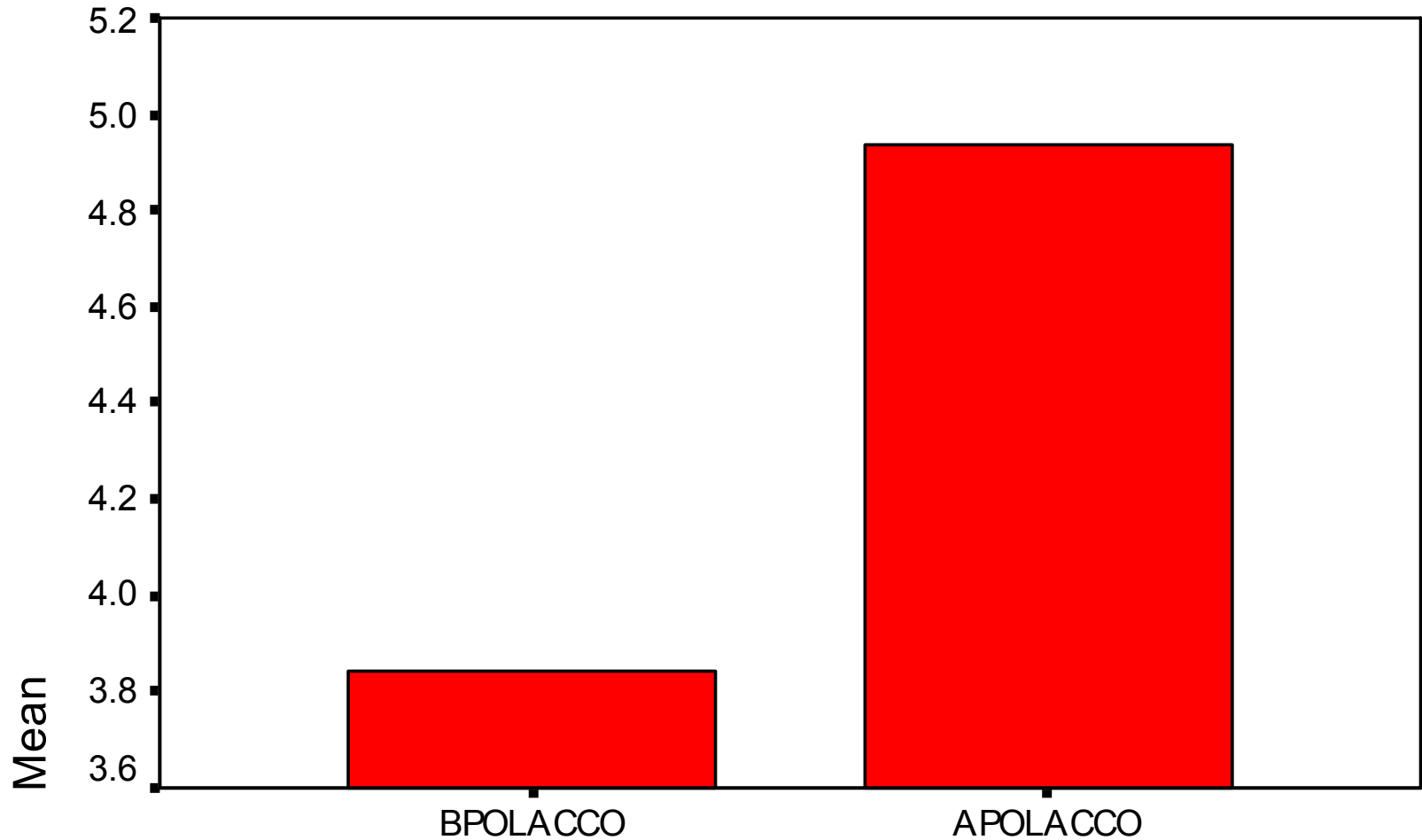
- Before and After Surveys

# Survey . . . Jail Tour . . . Survey



# ACCOMMODATION: Before v. After

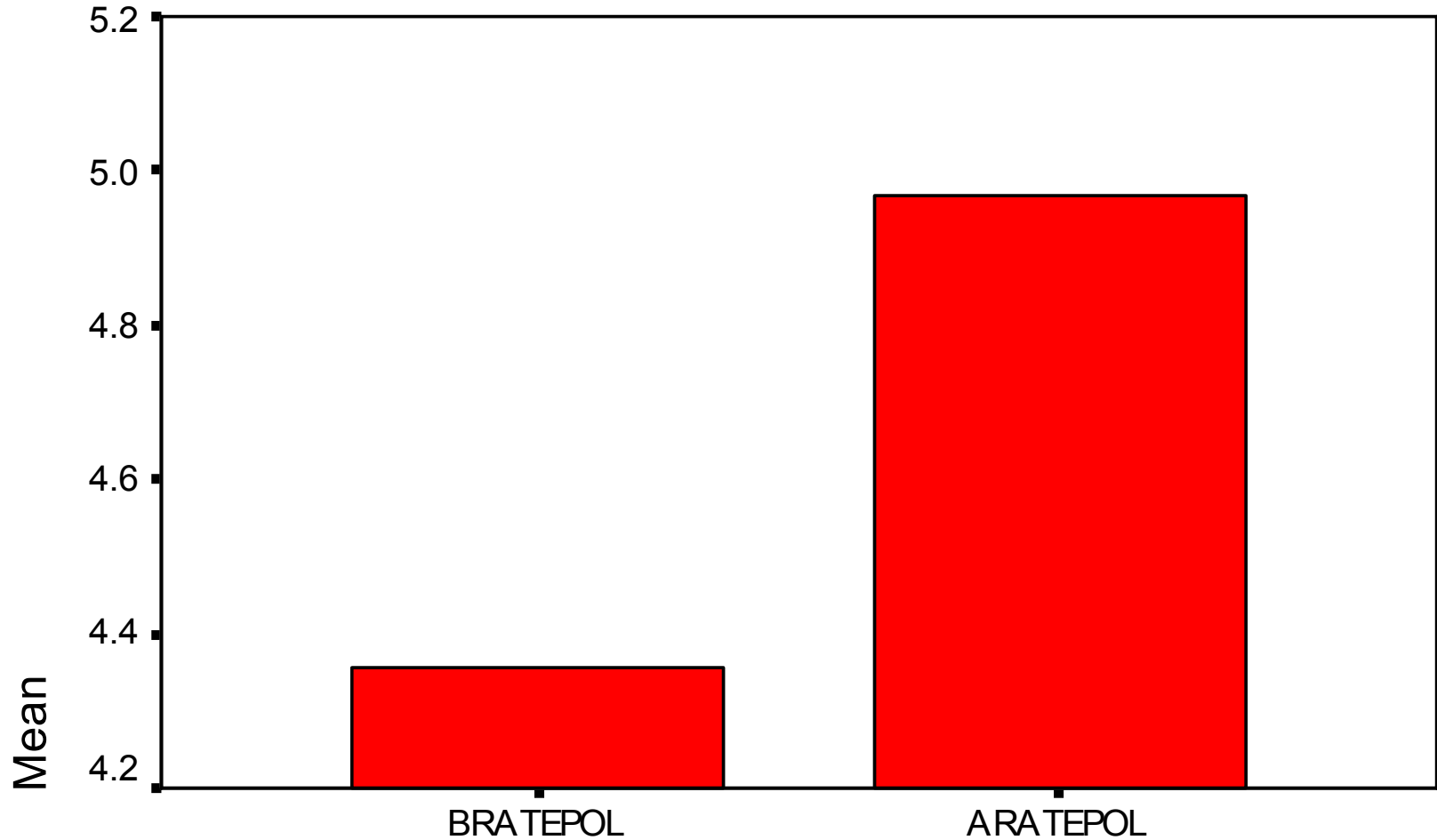
## How ACCOMMODATING are LE Officials?



1 = very UNaccommodating . . . 7 = very accommodating

# RATE: Before v. After

## How RATE law enforcement?



1 = Very Poor . . . 7 = Excellent



# Policy Implications of Findings

- Suggests LE can affect change in relations with Community
- Procedural Justice / Communication
  - Respectful communication
  - Accommodative communication



**POLICE LINE: DO NOT CROSS**

# Next Steps

- COPPAC Surveys demonstrate significant predictors of Attitudes Toward Police (ATP)
- Analyze use/non-use of such factors in Real Life Police – Civilian Interactions
- Independence requires FUND\$



# More information . . .

- *Brochures*
- *Contact ~*
- MICHELLE CHERNIKOFF ANDERSON  
Director of Research and Education  
Center on Police Practices and Community [COPPAC]  
ISBER, 2201 North Hall  
University of California  
Santa Barbara, CA 93106-2150  
  
t: (805) 893-7879  
f: (805) 893-7995  
e: [mca@coppac.ucsb.edu](mailto:mca@coppac.ucsb.edu)  
[www.coppac.ucsb.edu](http://www.coppac.ucsb.edu)