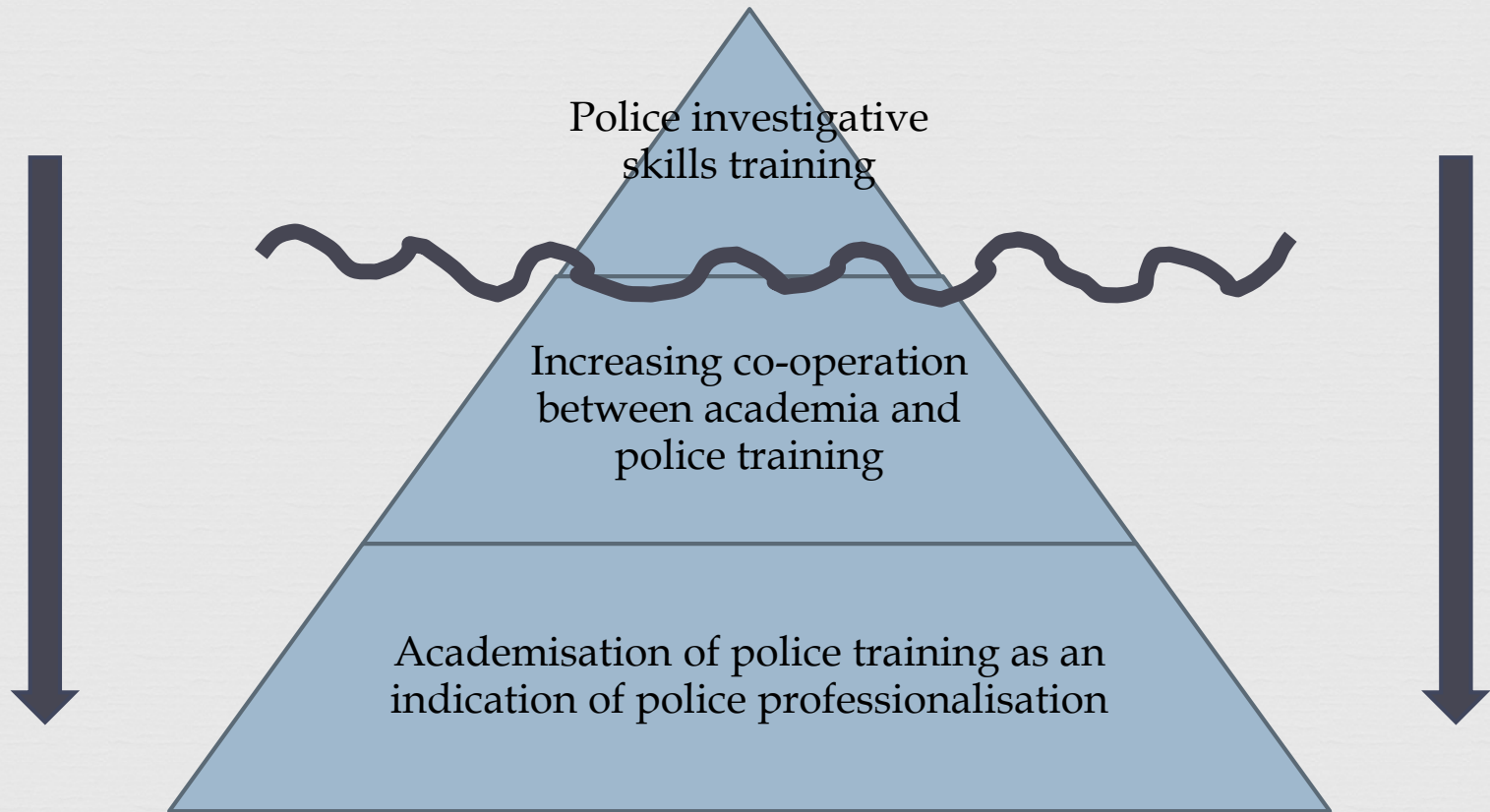


# Theorising Police Professionalisation and Academic Education



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# Police as a Profession?



- ∞ Professionalisation as a process
- ∞ Expert services: market monopoly and service orientation
- ∞ Legitimation and regulation of power: accountability, responsibility and ethics
- ∞ Professional-client relationship: structured situations, entrenched positions of power and dependence, maintenance of social order
- ∞ Governance and independent socio-cultural authority

# HE as the ‘Missing Ingredient’?



- ⌘ Expert knowledge
- ⌘ Systematic body of theory
- ⌘ Instructional abstraction

*“Abstraction enables survival  
in the competitive system of professions.”*

(Abbott, 1988: 9)

# Symbolic and Practical Benefits of Instructional Abstraction



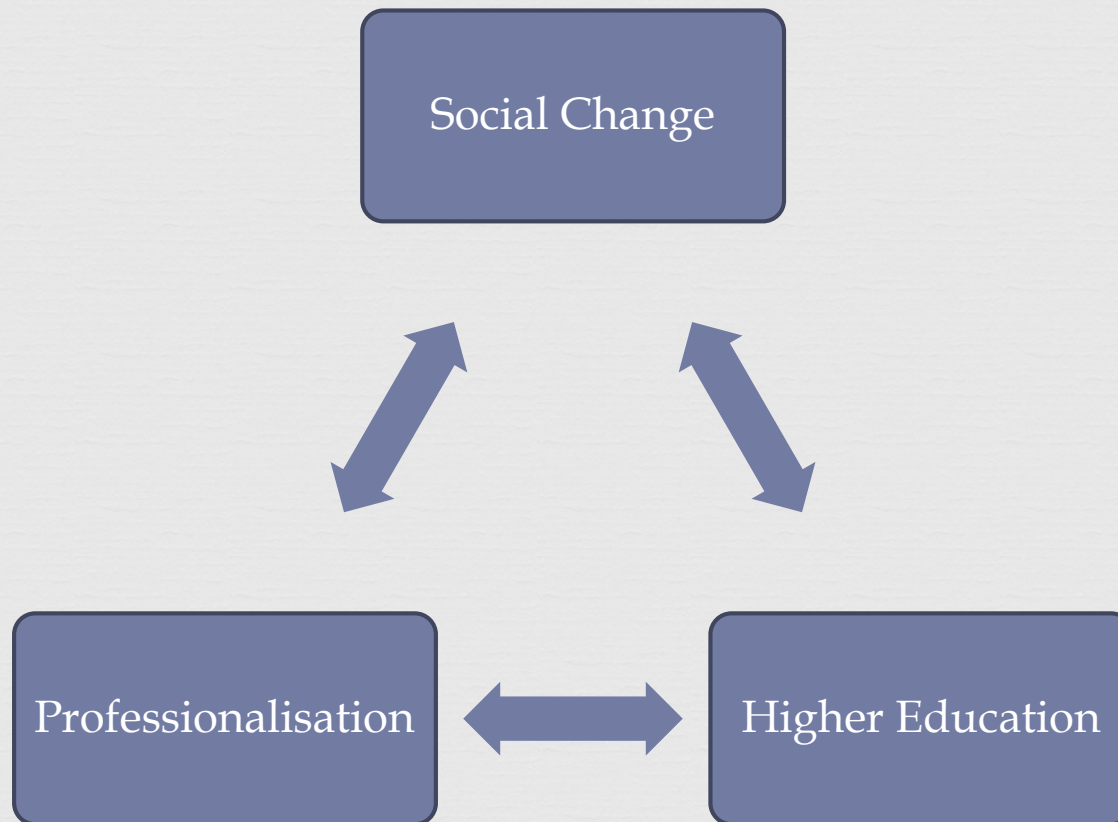
- ⌘ A ritualistic exercise? (Collins, 1979 & 1988)
- ⌘ Meeting expectations (Jaschke and Neidhardt, 2007)
- ⌘ Social status (Elliott, 1972; Schwirian, 1998)
- ⌘ Preparing for duties, anticipating and justifying decisions and actions, accounting for outcomes, presenting findings and methods (Sciulli, 2009)
- ⌘ Maintaining institutional jurisdiction and cognitive hegemony, redefinition and defence of problems and tasks, securing of new tasks (Ericson & Haggerty, 1997)

# Redefining and Relegitimising Policing?



- ❧ Deliberate occupational upgrading?
- ❧ Regaining identity, market monopoly, status, privileges
- ❧ Body of professionals defined in terms of their monopoly of tools, control over production, training and licensing → social and cultural capital (Bourdieu, 1987)
- ❧ → edge in 'conflicts over competence' and 'permanent symbolic struggle of the discipline' (Bourdieu, 1987)
- ❧ Relegitimising (expanding?) exercise of power (Ericson, 1993)
- ❧ Legitimising the police knowledge claim (from experience to expertise)
- ❧ External recognition: public, other professions, state

# Social Change



(after Jarausch, 1983)

# Final Word



- ∞ Ontological shift? Changing cultural truisms and new structured situations (Sciulli, 2009)
- ∞ Interaction of structure and agency
- ∞ A shift in the police organisational discourse to that of professionalism and a building of a new narrative of the police profession, both at organisational and individual level