

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910455865203321
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Titolo	Reproducing order : a study of police patrol work // Richard V. Ericson
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Toronto, [Ontario] ; ; Buffalo, [New York] ; ; London, [England] : , : University of Toronto Press, , 1991 ©1982
ISBN	1-282-05608-5 9786612056086 1-4426-7924-7
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (256 p.)
Collana	Canadian Studies in Criminology ; ; 5
Disciplina	363.2/32/0971
Soggetti	Police patrol - Canada Electronic books.
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Frontmatter -- Contents -- Tables -- Acknowledgments -- 1. The Police as Reproducers of Order -- 2. Research Strategy -- 3. The Occupational Environment -- 4. Mobilization -- 5. Dealing with Victim-Complainants -- 6. Dealing with Suspects and Accused Persons -- 7. Conclusions and Implications: Some Comments on Constructive policing -- Notes -- Bibliography -- Index
Sommario/riassunto	Professor Ericson and his colleagues followed the work of patrol officers in a large Canadian regional police force. From their direct observations comes a wealth of information, quantitatively assembled and qualitatively discussed, with insights into the nature of policing. This book reveals that the police are not mere 'referees' of our legal lives, blowing the whistle on our infractions. They are censors of certain types of possibly wrong actions. They are selective in their invocation of criminal law and use the law artfully to restore settings to orderliness. Ericson emphasizes the routine manner in which the patrol officer intervenes and gains compliance from the citizenry. He demonstrates that when the criminal process is invoked, the police maintain fundamental control over the court outcome. Using these findings, he addresses basic questions about the role of police in

relation to crime and how it is produced, literally, by the patrol officer. Crime is also seen as the primary basis of police legitimacy, which in turn enables the police to engage in broad surveillance and information-gathering. The author's conclusions about the nature of policing and his discussion of the implications of proposals for reform of police, will generate better-informed deliberation in political and public decision-making and in the general study of sociological theory.

2. Record Nr.	UNINA9910981685603321
Titolo	Hong Kong Journal of ophthalmology : the official publication of the College of Ophthalmologists of Hong Kong = Xianggang yan ke xue kan : Xianggang yan ke yi xue yuan
Pubbl/distr/stampa	[Hong Kong], : Scientific Communications
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource
Soggetti	Eye Diseases Ophthalmologic Surgical Procedures Periodical
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Periodico
