

## Combining journalism with academia: how to read a riot

*Thorough academic research and deadline-focused journalism don't seem the best of bedfellows yet [Tim Newburn](#) combined the two to produce a joint investigative project with *The Guardian* newspaper. Here he explains to the LSE BPP Managing Editor Mark Carrigan and LSE PPG Managing Digital Editor Cheryl Brumley how he did it. This is the first of a three part multimedia project reflecting on the riots which will feature on the site.*

Tim Newburn, head of the LSE's Department of Social Policy, discusses [Reading the Riots](#), a collaborative project he undertook with *The Guardian* newspaper, which aimed to understand the roots and responses to the 2011 riots. He speaks about the relatively novel experience of combining rigorous academic research with fast-paced journalism and about how the academic community should broaden its understanding of impact and academic output in order to enable related initiatives.

*Reading the Riots* has recently won the Innovation of the Year award at the *Press Gazette's* British Journalism Awards and has been shortlisted for a *Times Higher Education* 'Research Projects of the Year' award for 2012.

### About the interviewee

**Tim Newburn** is Professor of Criminology and Social Policy and Head of the Social Policy Department, London School of Economics. He is the author or editor of over 30 books, including: [Handbook of Policing](#) (Willan, 2008); [Policy Transfer and Criminal Justice](#) (with Jones, Open University Press, 2007); and, [Criminology](#) (Willan, 2008). He is currently writing an official history of post-war criminal justice, and was the LSE's lead on its joint project with *Guardian: Reading the Riots*. He tweets at [@TimNewburn](#).

No related posts.