**Unit 4: Continuity and Reliability**

Welcome to Week 4.

This week’s learning addresses the quality and reliability of evidence. You will read on different methods of evidence gathering; there appears to be inconsistency of application which might lead to complications when the crime is transnational. The focus, as it has been in the past two weeks, is on evidence gathering. However, attention will shift slightly to the human-aspect of evidence gathering. You will notice that lots is said about a variety of techniques, however, we do not know much about the extent of human-cognition (in the persona of the investigator) might in fact affect evidence gathering.

**On completion of this unit you will be able to:**

* Explore the implications and limitations concerning evidence gathering.
* Assess the quality of digital evidence.
* Apply evaluation skills to a case study.
* **Seminar 2**

#### Title: Evidence collection

* Join the [**Seminar Session**](https://www.my-course.co.uk/course/view.php?id=8901&section=3) this week. Remember to bring the seminar questions and your attempted answers.
* Visit the ‘Seminar 2 preparation’ below to complete the activities prior to the seminar session. As we will discuss these concepts in the seminar session, ensure you have completed the activities before this week’s Seminar session.

**Seminar 2 Preparation**

**Part 1**

* Read Bryant and Kennedy (2014): Consider how the investigative process has changed, and what has been the connection between law and policing (focusing on evidence)?
* Drawing upon the above two readings, reflect the extent of which the above arguments are reflected in your own home country?

**Part 2**

* Read Summers (2012), Badiya at al (2020), and Holt (2015); carry out wider internet research if need to. Then answer the question:

What are some of the problems law enforcement investigators (you can focus on the country of your choosing, or several countries) face when collecting digital evidence from a crime scene?

**Part 3**

* Read Sunde and Dror (2019): and answer the following question:
* What are the issues raised in the article, and how these might affect further the validity and collection of evidence?

**Remember**to also log your answers in your e-portfolio.

**Prepare**for next week’s seminar by attempting the preparation questions, available in Unit 5

**Learning Outcomes**

* Explore the challenges and opportunities of regulating and policing cyberspace.
* Critically evaluate different types of evidence and collection and presentation techniques, underpinned by the principles of continuity of evidence and reliability of analytical tools and techniques.