

# Dr Matt Ashby

---

UCL Jill Dando Institute of Security and Crime Science, 35 Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9EZ  
E-mail: [matthew.ashby@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:matthew.ashby@ucl.ac.uk) Phone: +44 (0) 20 3108 3890 Web: [mattashby.com](http://mattashby.com)

---

## EMPLOYMENT

Oct 2024–present **Associate professor**, Department of Security and Crime Science, University College London  
May 2019–Sep 2024 **Lecturer in Crime Science**, Department of Security and Crime Science, University College London  
Sep 2015–Apr 2019 **Lecturer in Criminology**, School of Social Sciences, Nottingham Trent University  
Oct 2012–Jun 2015 **Post-graduate teaching assistant**, Department of Security and Crime Science, University College London  
Nov 2010–Jun 2012 **Intelligence researcher**, London North Area, British Transport Police  
Jan 2009–Nov 2010 **Police Sergeant**, London North Area, British Transport Police  
Aug 2005–Jan 2009 **Police Constable**, London Underground Area, British Transport Police

## EDUCATION

Oct 2012–Sep 2015 **PhD in Crime Science**, University College London  
Oct 2011–Sep 2012 **MRes in Security Science (distinction)**, University College London  
Oct 2009–Sep 2011 **MSc in Crime Science (distinction)**, University College London  
Oct 1999–Jun 2003 **BA (Hons) in Politics with International Studies (2:1)**, University of Warwick

## PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

2015 **Fellow of the Higher Education Academy (FHEA)**, Higher Education Academy

## PUBLICATIONS

ORCID: [0000-0003-4201-9239](https://orcid.org/0000-0003-4201-9239)

E Cockbain, **M Ashby**, K Bowers, SX Zhang (2025). *Concentrations Of Harm: Geographic And Demographic Patterning In Human Trafficking And Related Victimisation*. *Criminology & Criminal Justice* 25 (1), 147-170.  
R Solymosi, **M Ashby**, N Kennar, E Kim, K Byrom, A McMillan, P Liebelt (2025). *Understanding Changing Demand For Police During The Coronavirus Pandemic*. *Crime Science* 14 (1), 1-15.  
**M Ashby** (2024). *Make Sure The World Can Read Your Work With Open Access*. *CrimRxiv*.  
K Bullock, I Agar, **M Ashby**, I Brennan, G Hales, A Sidebottom, N Tilley (2023). *Police Practitioner Views On The Challenges Of Analysing And Responding To Knife Crime*. *Crime Science* 12 (1), 1-11.  
**M Ashby** (2023). *Forecasting Crime Trends To Support Police Strategic Decision Making*. *CrimRxiv*.  
**M Ashby** (2023). *Topic 10.5 Incorporating Time Into Studying Crime And Place*. *Understanding Crime and Place: A Methods Handbook* 314.  
L Tompson, **M Ashby** (2023). *Topic 4.1 Official Police Data*. *Understanding Crime and Place: A Methods Handbook* 57.  
**M Ashby** (2023). *Benchmarking Police Numbers In London Against Other Global Cities*. *University College London (UCL)*.  
K Bullock, A Sidebottom, R Armitage, **M Ashby**, C Clemmow, S Kirby, et al. (2022). *Police Perceptions Of Problem-Oriented Policing And Evidence-Based Policing: Evidence From England And Wales*. *Police Practice and Research* 23 (6), 775-791.  
K Bullock, A Sidebottom, R Armitage, **M Ashby**, C Clemmow, S Kirby, et al. (2022). *Problem-Oriented Policing In England And Wales: Barriers And Facilitators*. *Policing and society* 32 (9), 1087-1102.  
**M Ashby**, MG Bal, G Croci, A Fuller, N Mantl, L Youngsub (2022). *Benchmarking Crime In London Against Other Global Cities*. *University College London (UCL)*.  
K Bullock, A Sidebottom, R Armitage, **M Ashby**, C Clemmow, S Kirby, et al. (2021). *Forty Years Of Problem-Oriented Policing: A Review Of Progress In England And Wales*. *Policing: A Journal of Policy and Practice* 15 (4), 2001-2014.  
A Sidebottom, I Brennan, I Agar, **M Ashby**, K Bullock, G Hales, N Tilley (2021). *Knife Crime: A Problem Solving Guide*. *College of Policing*.  
I Brennan, A Sidebottom, I Agar, **M Ashby**, K Bullock, G Hales, N Tilley (2021). *Knife Crime: A Problem-Solving Guide*. *College of Policing*.

- M Ashby** (2020). *Initial Evidence On The Relationship Between The Coronavirus Pandemic And Crime In The United States*. *Crime Science* 9 (1), 6.
- M Ashby** (2020). *Changes In Police Calls For Service During The Early Months Of The 2020 Coronavirus Pandemic*. *Policing: A Journal of Policy and Practice* 14 (4), 1054-1072.
- M Ashby** (2020). *The Open-Access Availability Of Criminological Research To Practitioners And Policy Makers*. *Journal of Criminal Justice Education* 32 (1), 1-21.
- A Sidebottom, K Bullock, R Armitage, **M Ashby**, C Clemmow, S Kirby, et al. (2020). *Problem-Oriented Policing In England And Wales 2019*. *South Yorkshire Police* .
- A Sidebottom, K Bullock, **M Ashby**, S Kirby, R Armitage, G Laycock, et al. (2020). *Successful Police Problem-Solving: A Practice Guide*. *UCL Jill Dando Institute of Security and Crime Science* .
- A Sidebottom, S Kirby, N Tilley, R Armitage, **M Ashby**, K Bullock, et al. (2020). *Implementing And Sustaining Problem-Oriented Policing: A Guide*. *UCL Jill Dando Institute of Security and Crime Science* .
- M Ashby** (2019). *Studying Crime And Place With The Crime Open Database: Social And Behavioural Sciences*. *Research Data Journal for the Humanities and Social Sciences* 4 (1), 65-80.
- M Ashby** (2019). *Is There More Violence Around Schools? Four Tests Across Nine Cities*. OSF .
- M Ashby** (2018). *Comparing Methods For Measuring Crime Harm/Severity*. *Policing: A Journal of Policy and Practice* 12 (4), 439-454.
- M Ashby** (2018). *Studying Crime And Place With The Crime Open Database*. *SocArXiv pre-print*. doi 10.
- M Ashby**, L Tompson (2018). *Does A Good Cop Really Never Get Wet? The Impact Of Weather On Stop And Frisk*. *SocArXiv* .
- M Ashby** (2017). *The Value Of Cctv Surveillance Cameras As An Investigative Tool: An Empirical Analysis*. *European Journal on Criminal Policy and Research* 23 (3), 441-459.
- E Cockbain, **M Ashby**, H Brayley (2017). *Immaterial Boys? A Large-Scale Exploration Of Gender-Based Differences In Child Sexual Exploitation Service Users*. *Sexual Abuse* 29 (7), 658-684.
- M Ashby**, L Tompson (2017). *Routine Activities And Proactive Police Activity: A Macro-Scale Analysis Of Police Searches In London And New York City*. *Justice Quarterly* 34 (1), 109-135.
- M Ashby**, KJ Bowers, H Borrión, T Fujiyama (2017). *The When And Where Of An Emerging Crime Type: The Example Of Metal Theft From The Railway Network Of Great Britain*. *Security Journal* 30 (1), 1-23.
- M Ashby**, A Thorpe (2017). *Self-Guardianship At Automated Teller Machines*. *Crime Prevention and Community Safety* 19 (1), 1-16.
- R Solymosi, **M Ashby**, T Cohen, A Sidebottom (2017). *Alternative Denominators In Transport Crime Rates*. *SocArXiv* .
- EP Cockbain, **M Ashby**, H Brayley-Morris (2017). *Children, Gender And Sexual Exploitation: A Quantitative Analysis Of Administrative Data*. *SAGE Research Methods Cases* .
- M Ashby** (2016). *Is Metal Theft Committed By Organized Crime Groups, And Why Does It Matter?*. *Criminology & Criminal Justice* 16 (2), 141-157.
- M Ashby** (2016). *Using Crime Science For Understanding And Preventing Theft Of Metal From The British Railway Network*. *UCL (University College London)* .
- L Tompson, S Johnson, **M Ashby**, C Perkins, P Edwards (2015). *Uk Open Source Crime Data: Accuracy And Possibilities For Research*. *Cartography and Geographic Information Science* 42 (2), 97-111.
- M Ashby**, KJ Bowers (2015). *Concentrations Of Railway Metal Theft And The Locations Of Scrap-Metal Dealers*. *Applied Geography* 63, 283-291.
- A Sidebottom, **M Ashby**, SD Johnson (2014). *Copper Cable Theft Revisiting The Price-Theft Hypothesis*. *Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency* 51 (5), 684-700.
- C McNaughton Nicholls, E Cockbain, H Brayley, S Harvey, C Fox, et al. (2014). *Research On The Sexual Exploitation Of Boys And Young Men: A Uk Scoping Study, A Summary Of The Findings*. *Barnardo's: Barkingside* .
- E Cockbain, H Brayley, **M Ashby** (2014). *Not Just A Girl Thing: A Large-Scale Comparison Of Male And Female Users Of Child Sexual Exploitation Services In The Uk*. *Barnardo's, London* .
- M Ashby**, KJ Bowers (2013). *A Comparison Of Methods For Temporal Analysis Of Aoristic Crime*. *Crime Science* 2 (1), 1.
- M Ashby**, S Chainey (2012). *Problem Solving For Neighbourhood Policing*. *UCL Jill Dando Institute of Security and Crime Science* .

#### FUNDING

Funding awarded, typically jointly with colleagues.

- 2023–2024 Research project: **National homicide and near-miss homicide problem profile**. Principal investigator, £63,000 funding from the College of Policing.
- 2022 Research project: **Benchmarking crime in London against other global cities**. Principal investigator, £10,000 funding from the Metropolitan Police Service.
- 2021–2022 Knowledge transfer: **Implementing problem-oriented and evidence-based responses for reducing violent crime in London**. Co-investigator, £264,000 funding from the Metropolitan Police Service.
- 2020–2021 Research project: **Building blocks for knife crime**. Co-investigator, £122,000 funding from the College of Policing.
- 2019–2020 Research project: **Problem-Oriented Policing in England and Wales**. Co-investigator, £246,000 funding from the Police Transformation Fund.
- 2018–2021 Vice Chancellor’s PhD studentship: **Building evidence to support police initial response to incidents**. Supervisor, £60,000 funding from the Nottingham Trent University.
- 2018–2023 Research project: **Deciphering and disrupting the social, spatial and temporal systems behind transnational human trafficking: a data-science approach**. Co-investigator, £365,000 funding from the Economic and Social Research Council.
- 2017–2020 Vice Chancellor’s PhD studentship: **Crime reduction and public reassurance in a diverse society**. Supervisor, £60,000 funding from the Nottingham Trent University.
- 2012–2013 Knowledge transfer partnership: **Problem Solving for Neighbourhood Policing**. Co-investigator, £16,000 funding from the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council.

#### SOFTWARE

I maintain the following packages for the R statistical language:

- `sfhotspot`: a package for analysing geographic hotspots of events such as crimes.
- `crimmappingdata`: a package providing open-source datasets from around the world that are suitable for teaching crime mapping.

#### PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- 2024–present **Editorial board of the journal *Criminology***.
- 2023–present **Sift judge for the Tilley Awards**. I am a judge for the initial round of the Tilley Awards for problem solving run by UK police forces.
- 2019–2024 **Associate editor of the journal *Crime Science***.
- 2019–2021 **Judge at the London Problem Solving Awards**. I was a judge for the joint problem-solving awards run by the three main police forces in London.
- 2018–present **Crime Open Database**. I maintain the Crime Open Database, a dataset of harmonised open crime data for 18 large cities in the United States, as well as the associated `crimedata` R package.
- 2017–present **CrimPapers journal alert service**. I maintain the CrimPapers alert service for new articles in 100+ criminology and criminal justice journals.