

# Dealing with Uncertainties in Policing Serious Crime

Edited by Gabriele Bammer

Grappling with uncertainties is at the heart of investigating serious crime. At a time when such crime is becoming more complex and resources are increasingly stretched, this book draws together research and practice perspectives to review fruitful approaches to uncertainties and to chart the way forward. Scene setting chapters describe the consequences of globalisation and the spread of sophisticated information technologies, as well as advances in understanding and managing uncertainty. Ways of enhancing responses from statistics, risk analysis and the psychology of decision making follow. These are complemented by insights from law, politics and business, which all have significant intersections with policing. Synthesis is provided by the four final chapters which present the outlooks of the investigator, the provider of policing higher education, the capacity-building consultant, and the leader of a law enforcement agency.

*Police have always known that they work in highly uncertain environments. But only recently have they begun to appreciate that understanding the nature and extent of that uncertainty can be used to improve their risk management and decision making. This landmark series of papers begins the task of formalising this field of study and setting out an agenda for improving how we think about tackling serious crime. With a good balance of scholarly and down-to-earth thinking, this book is highly recommended to academics and police practitioners alike.*

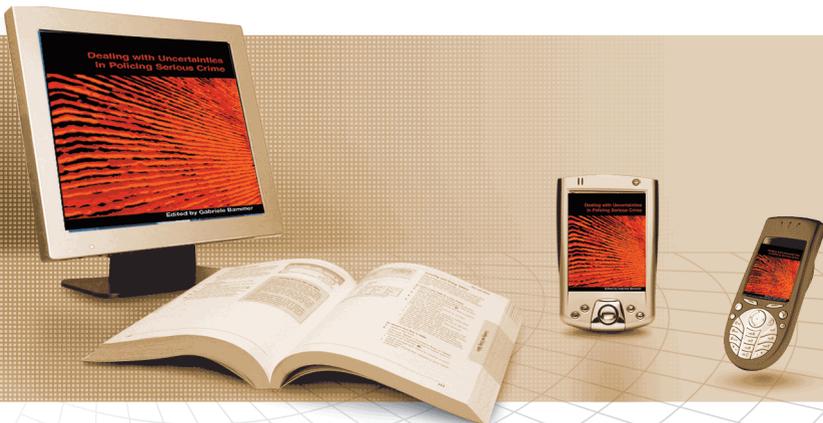
**Dr Grant Wardlaw**, law enforcement consultant and former National Manager Intelligence, Australian Federal Police and Executive Director, Australian Bureau of Criminal Intelligence



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*Uncertainty is an increasing concern in policing. Although it is probably no greater now than it ever was, we are certainly more aware of our lack of knowledge, our poor interpretation and handling of intelligence and the complexity of the world in which we live. These factors combine to make this a timely publication. In keeping with the current trend it takes a multidisciplinary approach to dealing with uncertainties and offers a stimulating mix of contributions from practice and theory.*

**Professor Gloria Laycock**, Director, UCL Jill Dando Institute of Security and Crime Science, University College London

*Due to the complex and rapidly changing nature of the contemporary law enforcement environment, policing organisations are continuously challenged by uncertainty. Collaboration, such as that undertaken in development of this book, is increasingly necessary for policing organisations seeking to harness diverse views on uncertainty in policing. In bringing together both academics and practitioners, this publication makes an important contribution to understanding this significant law enforcement challenge.*

**Mr Tim Morris**, National Manager Intelligence, Australian Federal Police

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