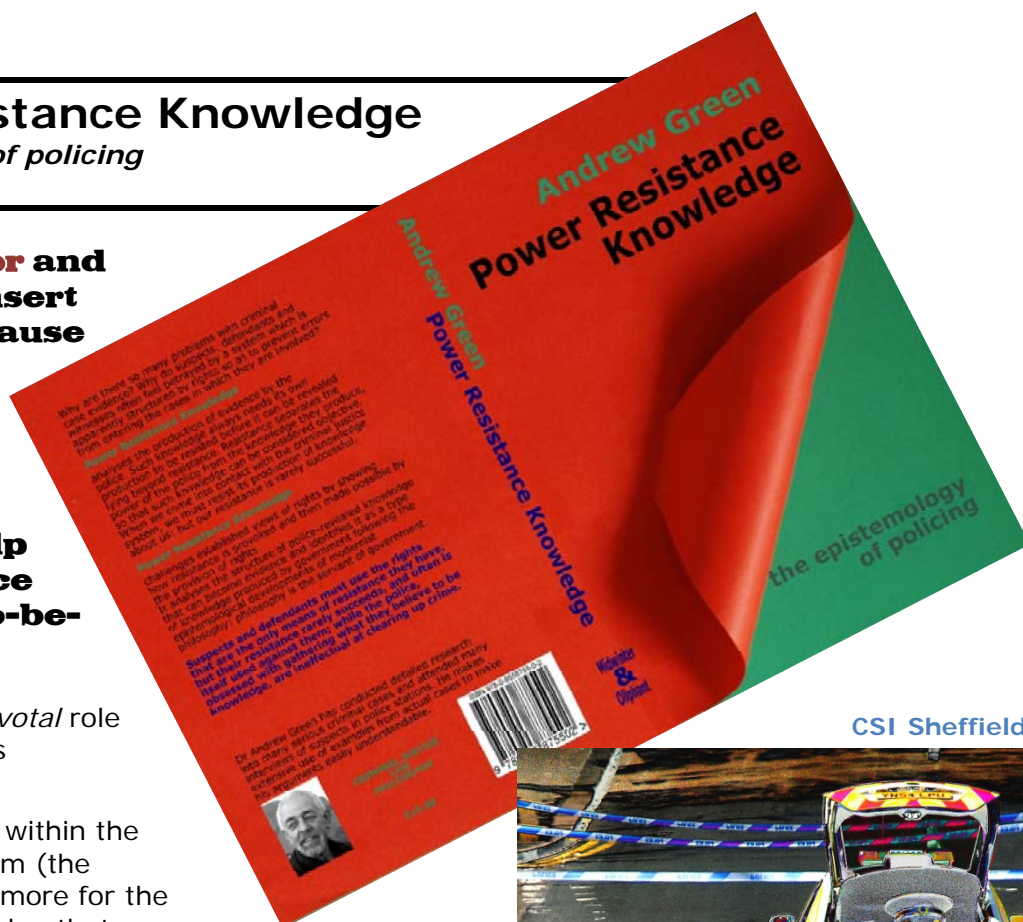


# Power Resistance Knowledge

*the epistemology of policing*

by Andrew Green

**Between power and knowledge I insert resistance because the exercise of power cannot produce knowledge without the help of the resistance of the object-to-be-known.**



CSI Sheffield



Recognition of the *pivotal* role of resistance requires *reassessment* of

- the role of rights within the criminal justice system (the provision of rights is more for the production of knowledge that can become evidence in cases than for the protection of individuals against abuses of the system);
- how knowledge is produced in police investigations and by the state in general;
- the role of resistance in the production of **objective knowledge** that can become evidence in cases;
- the **structure of official knowledge** and its **relation to reality**; and
- the **purpose and effectiveness of policing**.

The product of many years of research and close engagement with the criminal justice system,

**Power Resistance Knowledge** uses detailed examples, drawn from cases, to develop and illustrate ground breaking theory. Drawing on the work of **Barthes**, **Derrida** and above all, **Foucault**, Dr Green exposes the means by which the details of knowledge are produced in low-level interactions between police, experts and other state agents and their objects-to-be-known, whether the detritus of crime scenes, invisible traces, or arrested suspects and witnesses and their thoughts and gestures. He charts the development of this kind of knowledge as it claims an ever increasing range of ever *smaller* of more *ephemeral* objects as its own.

**Power Resistance Knowledge** provides an explanation of miscarriage of justice in terms of knowledge production methods rather than error, corruption or incompetence. The routine and casual conviction of people innocent of crimes is a consequence of how the state must produce knowledge of us.

Dr Andrew Green has assisted with miscarriage of justice cases since 1989. He is a founder of INNOCENT ([www.innocent.org.uk](http://www.innocent.org.uk)) and of United Against Injustice, the UK national federation of miscarriage of justice campaigning and support groups.