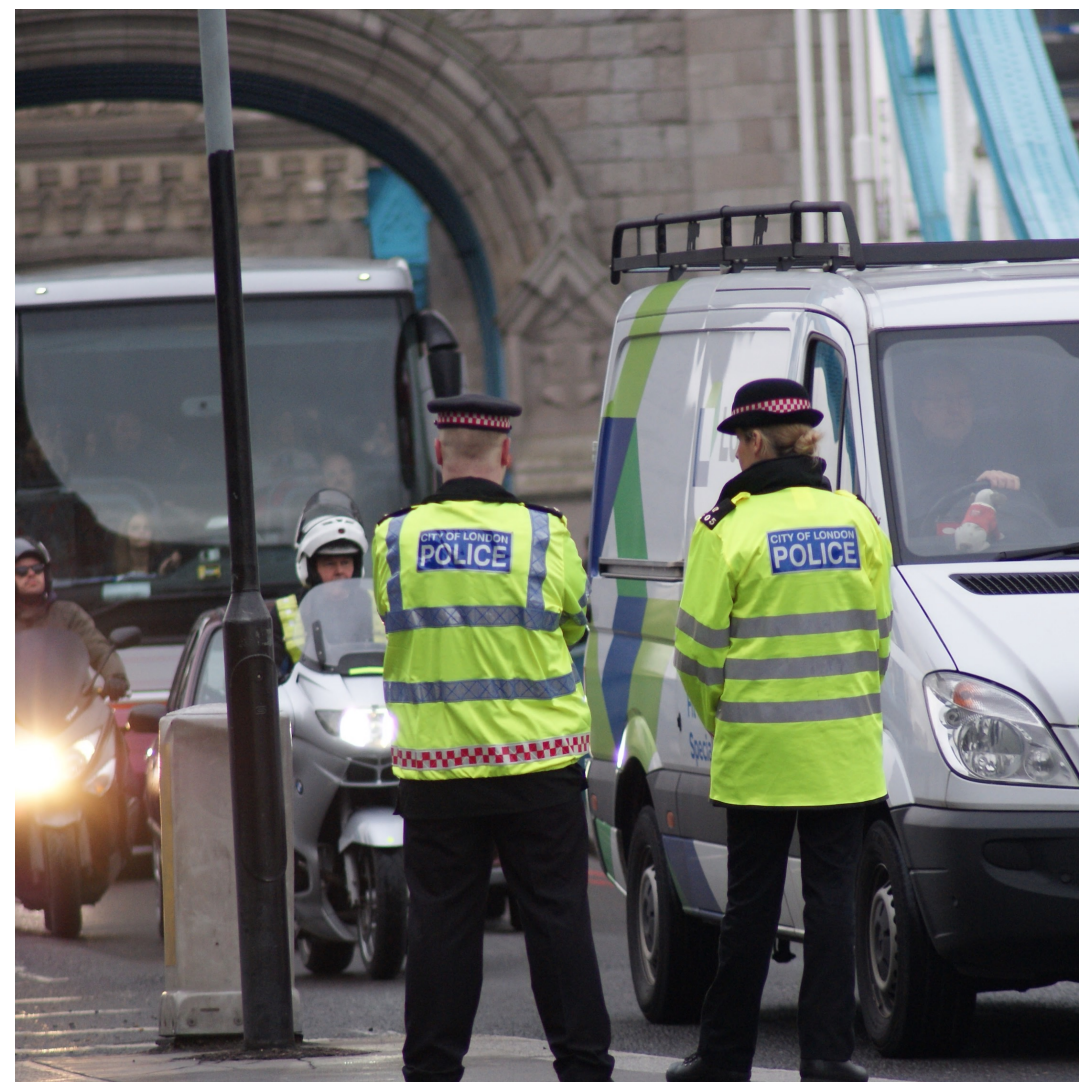


Gathering Full and Faithful Human Intelligence

Jordan Nunan

Abstract

My research will aim to enhance memory recall by creating proactive techniques that can be used prior to attending an event. This research will be of interest to agencies who operate a range of covert sources.



Background

In recent years there has been a renewed focus on intelligence led policing, which is a proactive measure to counter criminal activity. This approach to policing in England and Wales takes form in a variety of methods that agencies can use to collect intelligence. Human Intelligence (HUMINT), one of the methods, comprises of legitimate covert practices, such as the use of Covert Human Intelligence Sources (CHIS). This research is situated within HUMINT and pays particular attention to the use of CHIS. CHIS report to their handlers about past and future events, which can potentially disrupt, dismantle or prevent serious crime. Therefore, a CHIS's memory is vital to subsequent intelligence collection. This research investigates tools and techniques to enhance memory that can be used pre-deployment, specifically focusing on covert sources and memory.

Research rationale

- As research funded by the High Value-Detainee Interrogation Group (HIG) demonstrates, there are gains to be made from utilising evidence-based practices in this area.
- Memory research has predominantly focused on recall, whereby the event has taken place and a reactive technique is tested for its impact on recall. My research will also include memory priming techniques.

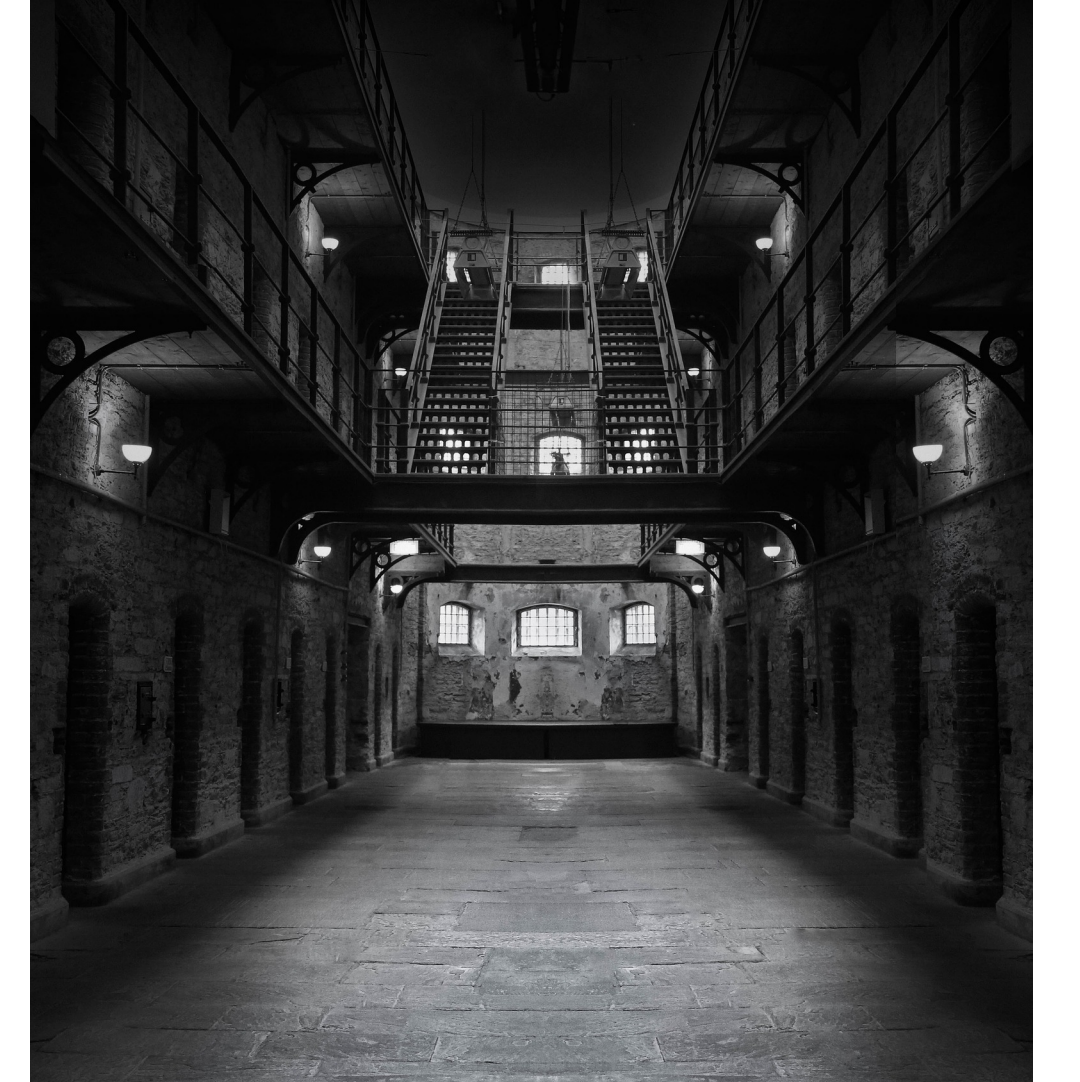


Phase 1: Interviews with HUMINT officers

Phase 1 consists of semi-structured interviews with current and retired HUMINT officers. This provides an empirical exploration of the current successes and challenges in gathering intelligence, covering key topics such as training, rapport, intelligence gathering approaches, memory, and communication. This phase will form the base from which the empirical research will stem, aiming to develop evidence-based intelligence gathering tools. The content of the finalised interview questions and which elements of the interview can be published are still under consideration.

Research Aim:

- To critically investigate HUMINT officers' experiences and perceptions of gathering intelligence from covert human intelligence sources.



Phase 2: Proactive encoding: Does cued contextual encoding improve recall?

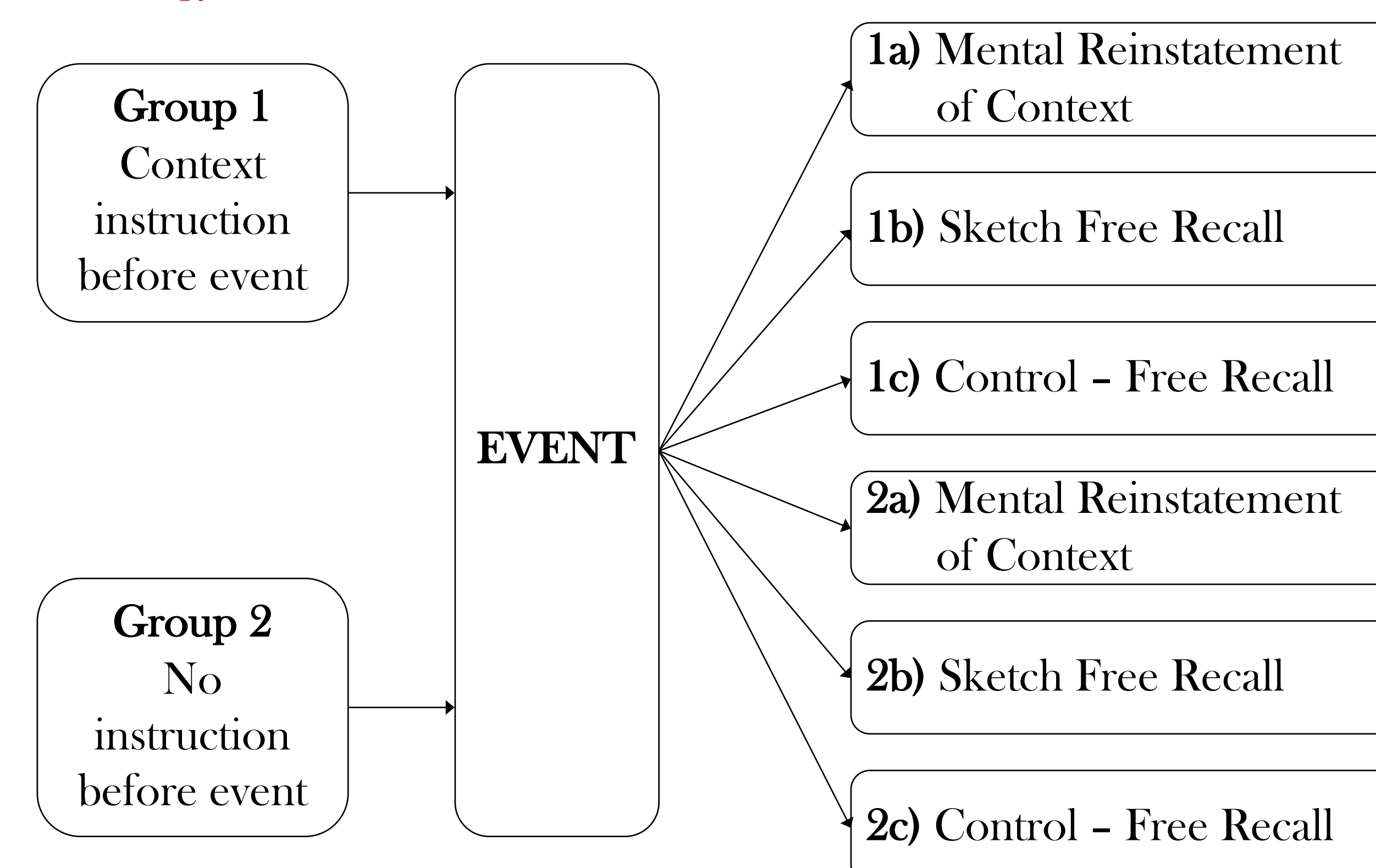
A covert source may be tasked hours, if not days before an event takes place. This creates an opportunity to provide techniques prior to witnessing the event which may later enhance recall – a priming effect.

Research aim:

- To create an encoding context instruction and investigate which retrieval interview technique enhances recall (e.g., Mental Reinstatement of Context, Sketch free recall, or free recall).

This phase will test if the use of a context instruction (e.g., sounds, layout of room, people present etc.) given prior to attending a to-be-remembered event increases reliable recall. The goal is to reinforce the contextual dependence of memory, by priming an individual to focus on the context while encoding the to-be-remembered event, and matching this at retrieval, enhancing memory recall.

Methodology:



Phase 3: Targeting intelligence

The task asked of a covert source is to gather a specific item of information that their handler is lacking.

However, little is known regarding how tasking a CHIS to encode a specific item of intelligence may positively or negatively impact upon what is later recalled.

This raises the question of whether tasking a source to encode a specific piece of intelligence positively or negatively impacts upon what is later recalled.

With that in mind, phase three of my research examines this very question, with a focus on whether additional key intelligence is recalled when an individual is tasked to collect a specific item.

Research aim:

- To investigate how tasking an individual to gather a specific item of intelligence impacts upon later recall.

Methodology:

