

“Virtual Reality or Virtually Rubbish” – the use of Virtual Reality in Forensic Science and Policing for Teaching and Training

Lorna Markillie *

Staffordshire University, Stoke on Trent, UK

Abstract

Virtual Reality (VR) - a term “used to describe a three-dimensional, computer generated environment which explores and interacts with by a person or group.” That person(s) is immersed within the environment and whilst there, manipulates objects or perform a series of activities, actions, or tasks. VR is potentially an ideal tool for teaching basic and complex concepts and skills in forensic and policing science. The UK forensic community is currently undergoing [ISO 17020] accreditation, to achieve better consistency, where there are reported inconsistencies throughout the training of crime scene investigators nationally; the policing environment is in a similar situation. Virtual Reality, appropriately developed in these disciplines, may assist in addressing these issues. Using Oculus 2 technology with mixed method and grounded theory the product is being compared to traditional methods. This research project will assist the forensic community and indeed wider stakeholders within the Criminal Justice System to understand what, where and how Virtual Reality can aid or indeed hinder training specifically for crime scene investigators and policing stakeholders. There is a paucity of research within this area Mayne and Green (2020) and currently, some UK Police Services are using Virtual Reality to deliver training without the underpinning research to advise them to elicit the maximum potential from existing VR technology and staff members, as well as supporting the police in buying this product.

Biography

Lorna Markillie has a MSc in Forensic Science and is currently working towards her PhD in Forensic Science. She is currently working for a university in England, helping students to understand forensic science and to deliver best practices. She

also works for a current police force within the UK. Having over 6 years’ experience working with or support police forces, in many different matters. She also has over 4 years’ experience in the training and education sector.