

**LAURIER**

*Inspiring Lives.*



Beth Gurney, Associate Director  
Communications & Public Affairs  
519-756-8228 ext. 5753 or [bgurney@wlu.ca](mailto:bgurney@wlu.ca)

SEPT. 25, 2017 | 140-17

## LAURIER EXPERT ALERT: Const. James Forcillo appeal

BRANTFORD – On July 27, 2013, Sammy Yatim was shot and killed by Toronto Police Services' Constable James Forcillo after Forcillo and other officers responded to a call that Yatim had brandished a switchblade knife on a streetcar and threatened passengers. In January 2016, Forcillo was found not guilty of second-degree murder, but was found guilty of attempted murder. On Oct. 2, Forcillo will appear before the courts again, this time to appeal his attempted murder conviction.

The following Laurier experts are available to comment on various dimensions of this case, including use of video evidence, the nexus between mental illness and community safety, and police training.

[Patrick Watson](#), a professor in Laurier's Criminology Department studies the handling of evidence – particularly video evidence – in official circumstances such as courts of law and military proceedings. He has specifically researched the use of video evidence in police-involved shootings, including the Yatim case.

Contact: [pwatson@wlu.ca](mailto:pwatson@wlu.ca)

[Jennifer Lavoie](#), professor and chair of Laurier's Department of Criminology, specializes in criminological issues that involve people living with mental illness. She researches the nexus between mental illness and community safety. She is lead investigator on an initiative that examines police service encounters with people living with mental illness. Contact: [jlavoie@wlu.ca](mailto:jlavoie@wlu.ca)

[Scott Blandford](#), assistant professor and program coordinator for Laurier's Bachelor of Arts in Policing program and graduate coordinator for the Master of Public Safety program, is a retired police officer with 30 years of service including tactical experience. He is an expert in police training and organizational development issues. Contact: [sblandford@wlu.ca](mailto:sblandford@wlu.ca)

- 30 -