

Crime Scene

Psychology Behind Bars and In Front of the Bench

The Official Organ of Criminal Justice Psychology of the Canadian Psychological Association

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The Editor's Note

Mid-winter. The days are slowly growing longer and it is time for the first edition of this year's Crime Scene. There is news. Our section is looking forward to unveiling our new website - soon. Many thanks must go to Joe Camilleri our Student Rep on the Executive who has worked very hard on this project. We will send out an announcement when we 'flip the switch'. Also Paul Gendreau will be awarded this year's Career Contribution Award and will speak at the convention in St. John's. This also leads me to remind you that we will be having our second bi-annual banquet on Thursday night of the convention. More details will follow.

There are important developments within the US correctional system surrounding re-entry and I have included an excerpt from John Gannon's letter to AACP members. This is good news.

I hope you enjoy this issue - and always keep in mind what you may be able to contribute next time.

JM

View from the Top

Daryl Kroner, *President*

Must read: The top seven articles?

These articles are not the top seven cited articles in psychology. You won't find these articles on the reading list for a PhD comprehensive in a criminal justice program. They are not example articles. One could not say, "Design your project like this one." These articles also do not deal with criminal justice content; no violence, bullying, police selection, or psychopathy (One of these articles, though, has forensic examples). But some understanding of these content areas provides a foundation and is necessary for a best practice strategy. I will not be reviewing the articles; only making a few comments to spark

an interest for you to read the article. Once you have read the article, you will need to draw your own conclusions.

1. Category: **Model of Science**

Lindsay, R. M., & Ehrenberg, A. S. C. (1993). The design of replicated studies. *American Statistician*, 47, 217-228.

On the one hand, this article has a weird twist. It is written by accountants and appears in a statistical journal! Yet, it covers an area essential to advancing science: replicability. Yes, we need to address new and old problems with creative solutions. But doesn't the punch of science come from replicability?

2. Category: **Assessment**

Jackson, D. N. (1971). The dynamics of structured personality tests: 1971. *Psychological Review*, 78, 229-248.

Most of our activity in psychology, whether clinical or research, incorporates some form of assessment. Because Jackson takes a stance on some assessment issues (and not just a description of what is), meaning is given to the assessment enterprise.

3. Category: **Program Evaluation**

Alexander, H. A. (1986). Cognitive relativism in evaluation. *Evaluation Review*, 10, 259-280.

This article demonstrates how assumptions and philosophical analysis can directly impact how program (and social policy) evaluation is preformed.

4. Category: **Methodological**

Cohen, J. (1993). The earth is round ($p < .05$). *American Psychologist*, 49, 997-1003.

Some stories just need to be retold. This is one of them.

5. Category: **Clinical Practice**

Wakefield, M. A., & Underwager, R. (1993). Misuse of psychological tests in forensic settings: Some horrible examples. *American Journal of Forensic Psychology, 11*, 55-71.

The purpose in listing this article is not to prevent us from making these errors in report writing (I hope it does that!), but to point out how fallible we can be in our thinking and practice, whether treatment delivery, risk assessment, or personnel selection.

6. Category: **Causation**

Muliuk, S. A. (1993). Objectivity and multivariate statistics. *Multivariate Behavioral Research, 28*, 171-203.

Can we make the assertion (with nonexperimental data) that, "psychopathy causes violence"? The answer is in this article.

7. Category: **Explanatory Mechanisms**

Fletcher, J. M. (1942). Homeostasis as an explanatory principle in psychology. *Psychological Review, 49*, 80-87.

Ok, this article is old. It was published before any of us got going in the criminal justice field (I believe that P. Gendreau, 1961 @ Kingston Penitentiary is the earliest date I have of our members). The contribution of this article twofold: First, its short (why can't all Psychological Review articles be this short?). Second, it deals with an explanatory mechanism. I think that the mechanism is still valid, but that's not the point. Searching and well formulated reporting on why things happen better serves everyone; whether a thesis, research program, psychological report, training, or policy formation.

If you do not have a copy or access to any of these articles, send me an email and I'll forward you a copy.

Coming Soon!

Criminal Justice Psychology's New Website

We are expecting to 'flip the switch' on our new website very soon.

The new CPA Criminal Justice Section website is designed to bring the latest news in research, practice, and events to both professionals and students in criminal justice psychology. Information, such as job postings, workshops, graduate programs, and conferences will be made available for all members, and others interested in the field, in one convenient location. Issues of Crime Scene, the official publication of the Criminal Justice Section, will be archived on this new site. It is hoped that all members will contribute to the development and success of this resource by contacting the webmaster (joseph.camilleri@usask.ca) for any updates, comments, or suggestions. At this point, please send any information you would like to have posted on the website in the following areas...

- Job postings
- Upcoming conferences/workshops
- Links to related websites
- Important announcements
- News for students
- Graduate programs

Thanks very much for your help. We look forward to building this website with the support of our members.

Joseph Camilleri,
Student Representative

Re-entry Focus Gaining Ground in U.S.

The President - yes that is President George W. Bush included in his State of the Union Address a reference to increasing resources to offenders who are being released and re-entering society. He acknowledged that without adequate support and resources there was a greater likelihood that offenders will re-offend.

This is a signal from the very top of the U.S. government that the 'lock-em-up' approach to corrections may be waning - and this signal was sent by a republican President.

Re-entry is also the focus on many psychologists within the correctional system in the U.S.. Below is an excerpt from a recent letter American Association for Correctional Psychology President John Gannon sent to members.

"The reentry issue is getting widespread traction among criminologists, correctional administrators and upper echelon government officials around the Country and is positioned to be the cardinal national crime and corrections issue for years to come. For us, focusing on reentry will help us to avoid getting bogged down in parochial or situational arguments related to wages, disdain from correctional administrators, and arguments with psychiatrists, and allow us instead to take our proper place at the table of the national discussion on crime and correctional policies.

In addition, focusing on effective reentry strategies by experts of all related disciplines will necessitate focusing, in turn, on effective assessments, report writing, and prison programming before the inmates are released, whether those programs are in the form of direct services to the mentally ill, sex offenders, people with anger control problems, or in other related

cognitive programs for general population prisoners. Who better than correctional psychologists to take the lead in designing, implementing, and monitoring these programs?

Keep in mind also that budgets are short and prisons are overcrowded. If correctional psychologists emphasize the crux of the reentry issue - which will eventually turn on the importance of community protection through better programming with the population of inmates already in the prisons - it will be increasingly easier to recruit the officials at headquarters to allow for increased funding and more effective allocations of existing programming funds.

Improvements in all of these areas of practice would be to the benefit of more than just AACP members, though, and reentry can become the high-road, pivotal issue around which forensic and correctional psychologists can rally in support of their community, their patients, and their profession. Of course, members must become broadly knowledgeable about the array of reentry issues if they wish to take a legitimate place at the table."

To read the complete letter visit the AACP's website at www.eacp.org

Recently Defended Doctoral Dissertations

The Relative Contribution of Psychopathy and Traditional Risk Factors in Predicting Young Offender Recidivism

Mary Ann Campbell
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(supervised by Stephen Porter, Ph.D.)

Defended November 27, 2003

Abstract

Psychopathic traits have been identified in children and adolescents (e.g., Forth, Hart & Hare, 1990; Frick, O'Brien, Wooton, & McBurnett, 1994), but their relevance to adolescent offenders and their risk of recidivism is less clear. In this investigation, the self-report data and correctional files of 226 male and female adolescent offenders were reviewed to evaluate the construct and predictive validity of psychopathy in adolescents and to develop a comprehensive risk-need scale for adolescent offenders. In this sample, only 9.4% were identified as having a high level of psychopathic traits (≥ 25 on a modified version of the Psychopathy Checklist-Youth Version, PCL-YV; Forth, Kosson & Hare, 2003). A unidimensional model best accounted for the variance in PCL-YV scores. Consistent with past research, higher PCL-YV scores were positively associated with most self-report measures of behaviour problems (attention difficulties, delinquency, aggression) and not with measures of anxiety or depression. PCL-YV scores were positively associated with a higher number of past technical violations of community releases, but not with the number of past non-violent offences. PCL-YV scores also were moderately predictive of future technical violations of community releases during a 4-year post-release follow-up period, but were not predictive of violent or non-violent recidivism. Based on the risk-need scale developed with the current sample, factors representing family dynamics, negative treatment indicators, and antisocial behavior were relevant to the prediction of re-offending during the follow-up period. Collectively, these results contribute to the understanding and measurement of psychopathy in its earlier stages and provide meaningful information about the assessment of risk and criminogenic needs in adolescent offenders.

An Investigation of Factors that Influence Treatment Responsivity in Incarcerated Higher-risk Rapists

Ida Dickie

Department of Psychology

Carleton University

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(supervised by Adelle Forth, Ph.D. & Ralph Serin, Ph.D.)

Abstract

This study examined the responsivity principle in a sample of 108 higher-risk rapists; specifically, offender characteristics considered to influence the likelihood that a higher-risk rapist will begin, continue, and complete a high-intensity sex offender treatment program. A range of offender characteristics were investigated including: age, psychopathy, hostility, interpersonal style, treatment readiness, motivation level to complete correctional treatment, stage of behavioural change, denial and deviant sexual arousal. Treatment outcome was defined as attrition from treatment, institutional adjustment, treatment gain and recidivism. Key findings suggest that age, psychopathy, treatment readiness, motivation level and stage of behavioural change influence attrition and institutional adjustment in higher-risk rapists. Contrary to expectation, denial, hostility and deviant arousal did not emerge as responsivity factors. Results also suggest that the relationship between attrition, institutional adjustment, treatment gain, and recidivism may not be linear. Therefore, it may be necessary to re-conceptualize the relationship between program completion, treatment gain, recidivism and risk reduction. Further, the study's findings imply that pre-treatment groups designed to increase treatment readiness and motivation may enhance treatment responsiveness in higher-risk rapists.

Recent Publications

Mills, J. F., & Kroner, D. G. (in press). A New Instrument to Screen for Depression, Hopelessness and Suicide in Offenders. *Psychological Services*.

Responding to depressed offenders and taking steps to prevent suicide are two important clinical functions of psychologists who work with offenders. This paper reviews the development, factor structure, and validity of a new instrument, the Depression, Hopelessness and Suicide Screening Form (DHS), within an offender population. The DHS was developed using a classical test development strategy. The

DHS contains scales that measure depression and hopelessness as well as a critical item checklist for suicide risk factors. The study examined the responses of 272 offenders of a medium security institution. The Depression and Hopelessness scales demonstrate good internal consistency and factor structure. Construct validity is demonstrated in the scales' relationships with the Basic Personality Inventory. The DHS is able to identify offenders who have a history of suicide relevant behaviors. The discussion centers on the potential of the DHS as a screening form for use in offender populations.

Kroner, D. G., & Mills, J. F. (in press). The Criminal Attribution Inventory: A Measure of offender perceptions. *Journal of Offender Rehabilitation*.

The Criminal Attribution Inventory (CRAI), drawing upon attribution theory and criminally-related domains, measures criminal responsibility and blame. The CRAI's six scales measure criminal responsibility (Psychopathology, Personality), external criminal blame (Victim, Alcohol, Society) and the attribution of crime to random factors (Random). The items and instructions were designed to measure changes resulting from treatment intervention. With incarcerated and community samples, adequate reliabilities (alpha, test-retest) and pre- post-treatment changes (five treatment programs) were demonstrated. These results provide some evidence of the CRAI's utility in measuring criminal treatment change.

Key Words: offender treatment, treatment change, criminal attributions, responsibility, blame.

Hanson, R. K., & Wallace-Capretta, S. (in press). Predictors of criminal recidivism among male batterers. *Psychology, Crime, & Law*.

The present study examined recidivism risk factors in a sample of 320 male batterers attending community treatment. Recidivism was assessed by new charges for violence or for any offence during a 5-year follow-up period. The variables associated with recidivism among male batterers were similar to those found for other criminal populations (e.g., young, unstable lifestyle, substance abuse, criminal history). There was no evidence that potential offenders were deterred by expectations of negative consequences, either social (e.g., friends would disapprove) or official (e.g., arrested, lose job). Maintaining positive relationships with

treatment providers was associated with reduced recidivism.

Hanson, R. K. (2003). Empathy deficits of sexual offenders: A conceptual model. *Journal of Sexual Aggression*, 9, 13-23.

Most treatment programs for sexual offenders include some form of victim empathy training. Although the concept of empathy has acquired diverse meanings, those interested in sexual offenders' empathy deficits are primarily concerned about the offenders' lack of compassion or sympathy for their victims. A model of empathy is presented in which uncompassionate responses are the product of three initial conditions: a) an adversarial or indifferent relationship, b) perspective-taking deficits, and c) inappropriate methods for coping with the perceived distress of others. The model suggests that empathy training should target specific deficits, and that misdirected interventions would be expected to have no effects, or even detrimental effects, on the offenders' ability to generate sympathetic, compassionate responses to victims.

Hanson, R. K., Pfäfflin, F., & Lütz, M. (Eds.). (in press). *Sexual Abuse in the Catholic Church: Scientific and Legal Perspectives*. Vatican: Libreria Editrice Vaticana.

This volume records the proceedings of a conference held in April, 2003, at the Vatican on the theme of "Abuse of children and young people by Catholic Priests and Religious". Contributors included international experts on child sexual abuse (all non-Catholics) Jörg Fegert, Friedemann Pfäfflin, Karl Hanson, Hans-Ludwig Kröber, Ron Langevin, Martin Kafka, Bill Marshall, and Christian Reimer, as well as Church experts Lydia Marie Allen, Charles Scicluna and Marysia Weber. The volume should be available in January, 2004.

Members on the Move

Dr. Jim Muirhead has returned from 2 1/2 years contract with the Department of Corrections of New Zealand and has accepted a position as Regional Psychologist with the Forensic Psychiatric Service Commission of BC in their Kamloops clinic. He can be reached at #5 1315 Summit Dr. Kamloops BC V2C 5R9 tel# (250) 828 4661 fax # (250) 371 3894.

Career Opportunity In Forensic Psychology

Opportunities for a qualified Psychologists to join the Algoma Treatment and Remand Centre, a forensic treatment and remand center providing services to adult male and female provincial offenders:

Location: 800 Great Northern Road, Sault Ste Marie, Ontario, P6A 5K7

Duties: You would work in a multi-disciplinary team under the direction of the Chief of Psychology to; assess and treat offenders; conduct and evaluate individual and group psychotherapy programs; consult with other institutional staff and criminal justice partners such as the Ontario Board of Earned Release and Parole to ensure safe and effective management of offenders' risks and needs; contribute to ongoing program development and research; and other duties. Nature and extent of duties, and autonomy of practice will be commensurate with your qualifications and experience.

Qualifications:

- Registration or eligibility for registration with the College of Psychologists of Ontario.
- A doctoral degree in psychology.

- Working knowledge of offenders with behavioural problems.
- Ability to establish effective working relations with offenders, staff, and peers.
- Working knowledge of psychological assessments, risk assessments, individual and group cognitive-behavioural therapy techniques, research design/multivariate statistical analysis techniques.
- Knowledge of ethical issues and practices in an institutional setting, working with offenders, and working with aboriginal offenders.
- Excellent communication/interpersonal skills.

For more information, those persons interested in a position can contact either:

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Or
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Kudo Korner

Criminal Justice Section Career Contribution Award 2004

The Criminal Justice Executive is pleased to announce that Dr. Paul Gendreau is being recognized for his contribution to the field of Criminal Justice psychology as this year's recipient of the Career Contribution Award.

In addition to the award that will be presented to Dr. Gendreau in St. John's at the annual convention, Dr. Gendreau is the invited speaker for our section.

Dr. Gendreau received his Ph.D. from Queen's University in 1968. His career has included both academic and professional appointments. Dr. Gendreau taught at Trent University from 1968 to 1972 and at The University of New Brunswick from 1990 to the present. He has also held numerous part-time and adjunct positions at various universities. His professional appointments include 2 years at Kingston Penitentiary, and 15 years with the Ontario Ministry of Correctional Services.

Dr. Gendreau has been very prolific in publishing well over 100 papers in various journals and books. He has consulted on or received grants in excess of \$1 million for various research projects.

Offering pre-conference workshops on MMPI-2 for Correctional Psychologists, Officer and Offender Personalities: Training for High Security Staff, and Suicide Risk Management.

There are many concurrent sessions, plus a poster session.

For more information call (417) 823-3477 or visit the website at www.forest.edu and select the MHCC icon.

Upcoming Conferences

Mental Health in Corrections Consortium Symposium

April 19 - 21, 2004
Marriott Country Club Plaza Hotel
Kansas City, Missouri

This year's theme is "Mental Health Training for the Correctional Environment: Research, Results"

Violence and Aggression Symposium 2004

June 20 - 23, 2004
Delta Bessborough Hotel
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

Offering: 5 plenaries and 12 concurrent sessions, poster session, networking

For more information call (306) 966-5575 or email va.symposium@usask.ca or visit the website at www.extension.usask.ca/go/va

Criminal Justice Psychology will be hosting its Bi-Annual Banquet at this year's convention. Plan to attend Thursday night during the convention.

More details to follow.