



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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Visit Our Website at: www.cpa.ca/cjs/CJS_Welcome.html

REGULAR FEATURES ...

Editors' Note

At the 2005 CPA Section Business Meeting in Montreal, the Executive changed and expanded, which directly affected this newsletter. The previous editor of *Crime Scene*, Jeremy Mills, stepped down, only to step up to the Chair position of the Criminal Justice Psychology Section. To fill the editor vacancy, we became co-editors. Also, several new members were added to the Executive in Director-at-Large (DAL) positions, associated with professional areas in policing and courts as well as areas of professional development including conferences, continuing education and clinical training. With commitment from the DALs, we have added several regular columns related to these topic areas, as it was thought worthwhile to try to make *Crime Scene* more interactive and inclusive. We hope these columns will provide a forum for information sharing and spark worthwhile discussion among professionals who work in these areas. Another addition we have made to *Crime Scene* is the Students' Water Cooler. It is our expectation that this column will give students the opportunity to get involved with the newsletter, voice their opinions and exchange information. Finally, we thought with several years of history under *Crime Scene's* belt, the newsletter deserved some redesign, so we have given it a fresh, new look.

Like *Crime Scene*, the Criminal Justice Psychology Section website is currently undergoing a facelift. Executive members' biographies will be posted shortly and you can currently download previous issues of *Crime Scene* (Volume 12, Issues 1 & 2 will soon be accessible). This site also has a link to the CPA Annual Convention under *Events*. In the past, Jeremy has described the fall months as "conference submission season". To follow his lead, we encourage people to start thinking about possible submissions for CPA 2006 in Calgary.

Please pass along *Crime Scene* to anyone interested in reading about criminal justice issues, who may not be on our distribution list. Also, we would like to remind Section members to contact CPA when your email address changes, so that your new address makes it on our distribution list and you continue receiving issues. The newsletter has retained regular features including *Kudo Korner*, *Members on the Move* and *Employment Opportunities*. If you would like to give recognition to a Section member, have news to share about members, are aware of job postings, or even have an article for the newsletter, please let us know. The next issue of *Crime*

Scene is due out in January 2006, so we will be accepting submissions until the beginning of December 2005.

We would like to thank everyone who made a contribution to this issue, and for meeting our timelines!

Have a great fall and holiday season everyone!

We will talk to you in the New Year!

Cheers,

(..yes, it is only four months away!)

Chantal & Tanya

View from the Top

Jeremy Mills, *Chair*

Welcome back everyone from summer holidays. These are my inaugural comments as Section Chair and I am pleased to have received the support of my colleagues at this year's annual convention to lead the Section. I would first like to thank Dr. Daryl Kroner for his leadership over the past three years. During his tenure we have seen a growth in Section membership, the introduction of Section awards, and the commencement of a bi-annual Section banquet. These have all served to elevate the profile of the Section and we are grateful for his leadership.

It occurred to me that many reading this may not have met me or have knowledge of my background, so for those folks I will include a brief bio and for the rest of you bear with me. I currently work as a psychologist within the Canadian federal correctional system. In addition to those duties I am an Adjunct Research Professor at Carleton University where I supervise graduate and under-graduate students in my areas of research. I also serve as an Adjunct Professor at Loyalist College where I teach university level courses for their Bachelor of Applied Arts degree program. I also maintain a private practice in Belleville, Ontario where the focus is on adult assessment. For the past four years I have served on the Section Executive as the editor of *Crime Scene* - nuff said.

I spent six years as an elected member of my local municipal and county councils and during that time I noticed two types of people – those who liked "being there" and those who had goals and ideas they wanted to see advanced for the benefit of the community. My decision to seek the Chair's position was based on a desire to see the Section advance in a few areas: These areas include the following (a) improving the effectiveness of the Section Executive, (b) increasing membership by broadening our appeal to a wider criminal justice audience, (c) enhancing continuing educational opportunities through Section activities, and (d) elevate the importance of prescriptive privileges for psychologists.

It is difficult to advance the Section's interests when we only physically meet once each year. Any other accomplishments are via communication between the Executive throughout the year. With the advent of e-mail our communication has improved. I believe that positions on the Executive should be tied to specific jobs or responsibilities. The Directors-at-Large positions were, in years past, not associated with Section responsibilities. This has changed and each member of the current Executive has a job function and associated responsibilities. It was raised at the last Section business meeting that one hour each year was insufficient time to develop a "road map" for the Section – I agree and I will be seeking the Executive's support in securing a location at next year's CPA convention where the Executive and membership can meet to set priorities and strategies on behalf of the Section.

As part of the initiative to increase participation in our Section by engaging under-represented areas of criminal justice psychology the Executive now has Directors-at-Large for the areas of Police Psychology (Dr. Craig Bennell & Dr. Dorothy Cotton) and Court Psychology (Dr. Joanna Pozzulo). The task of these Directors is to identify individuals both within and without the Section who have an active interest in these respective areas and to identify how the Section can meet their needs and increase relevant content at the annual convention.

Dr. Andrew Harris has agreed to undertake the file on continuing education. We are hoping to increase the number of continuing education opportunities for psychologists by working to increase pre-convention workshops and by having the Section formally recognize the educational value of symposia during the convention. This has been done in some jurisdictions through the mechanism of CE credits. Andrew will work with CPA to determine a process whereby the Section can sanction symposia and workshops as meeting a pre-set standard. We hope that this will then provide CE credits to those clinicians who need credits and for those who do not need formal credits they will be able to report that as part of their continuing education (or quality assurance program) they have attended educational seminars formally recognized and approved by the Criminal Justice Section of CPA. Andrew will work with Dr. Andrew Starzomski our Director for Clinical and Training issues to improve education opportunities at the convention.

Related to this initiative is the possibility of organizing a North American Correctional and Criminal Justice Psychology Conference to run concurrent with CPA in 2007. Preliminary discussions have taken place between me and leadership in like organizations south of the border where interest is evident. I am hopeful that our Executive

will be presented with a proposal later this fall that they can consider supporting.

Of course no advances are without controversy and so among my agenda items is the advancing of prescription privileges for psychologists. Dr. David Nussbaum, our former Chair, is now the Chair of the Psychopharmacology Section of CPA. I have asked David to work with me to produce a discussion paper that will be disseminated to the Section membership. Our colleagues to the south have gone through this process. The American Psychological Association formally endorses prescription privileges and psychologists are already prescribing in certain states. The leadership of CPA is waiting for the membership to voice their desire to pursue these same privileges. You will hear more on this in the upcoming months but for now I would suggest that for more information you consult the Psychopharmacology Section's website at www.cpa.ca/Pharmpsych.

I would be pleased to hear from any of you on any of these initiatives or perhaps ideas that you may have for advancing the Section interests. I look forward to the coming months. One last thing – when you receive this newsletter the deadline for submitting a presentation to CPA next year is only a month or so away. Plan to be there and plan to make a submission.

Warm regards,
JFM

*Column: In The Trenches: The Practical Experience of
Forensic and Correctional Psychology*

By Dorothy Cotton, Ph.D.

...FASD...

It's amazing how diseases and illnesses come and go in the popular media. Sometimes, that's a good thing and sometimes it's a bad thing. Take autism, for example. For the first few decades of my career, I don't think I ever saw a person with autism. Now, it seems to be one of the more common developmental disorders. Mind you, we always knew about autism - the change has to do with our understanding, our more inclusive diagnostic criteria, and our relative awareness of the disorder.

Contrast that with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) - also known at various times as fetal alcohol syndrome (FAS) or fetal alcohol effects or alcohol related effects or partial fetal alcohol syndrome or alcohol related neurodevelopmental disorder or I am sure there are a number of others terms out there that I am not aware of. Back when I was a puppy, we simply did not know that this disorder existed. It is a relative newcomer to the mental

health world (or at least its identity is new - I suppose the problem has been around as long as Moms have been drinking).

The fact that it has not been a well known or well documented disorder until recently leaves those of us working with adults in a bit of a pickle. I often get asked to carry out assessments on people - adults - who are wondering if they have FASD. It's a tough call. If this diagnosis was not made in childhood, it is pretty difficult to make it in adulthood.

If you are in need of a handy-dandy convenient set of criteria for the diagnosis of FASD, you might be pleased to know that just such an item was recently published in the Canadian Medical Association Journal (March 1, 2005), and it's available online at www.cmaj.ca/content/vol172/5_suppl/index.shtml.

But if you think this will give you any answers, you might be dismayed. Allow me to explain...

When you are thinking about FASD there are essentially four sets of characteristics and criteria you might want to consider.

First - and perhaps most obviously - there is the issue of gestational exposure to alcohol. If you can confirm that the biological mother of the person in question consumed significant amounts of alcohol throughout the pregnancy, then you are off to a good start. But this is easier said than done. Ideally, you'd like this observation to be based on solid reliable medical records, first hand account or other objective criteria. Needless to say this is often not the case. When one is assessing adults, the mom may not be alive, obviously the child cannot give an account, and other sources of information from many years ago may not be around. We really still do not know exactly how much alcohol it takes to bring about FASD or when it had to be consumed. You'd be hard pressed to find many mothers who did not consume a single drop of alcohol during a pregnancy twenty or thirty years ago ... so meeting the criteria can be a challenge.

The second criteria relate to evidence of prenatal or postnatal growth impairment, things like low birth weight or length, or disproportionately low weight to height ratio or unusual growth rates over time. Again, we often do not have access to this information about our adult clients.

Third, the presence *in childhood* of a short palpebral fissure length (essentially a measure of the width of the eyes), a smooth or flattened philtrum (that's the little groove under your nose, above your upper lip) and a thin upper lip. Again, the hitch here is that these things change with age, and vary with different ethnic groups. We do not have

norms for adults or for non-Caucasians so we really can't say exactly what is short or long or thin.

Fourth, you look for impairments in central nervous system domains such as cognition, communication, memory, executive function and abstract reasoning, social skills...

Did I mention that you should only make a diagnosis when the findings cannot be accounted for by other disorders? In the case of the neurocognitive findings, FASD etc. looks a whole lot like ADHD, brain injury, and results of substance abuse. In the case of the physical findings there are a range of other disorders which overlap significantly - things like Aarskog syndrome, Dubowitz syndrome, some chromosome abnormalities and various other things that I can't pronounce and that psychologists probably have no business discussing.

So where does that leave those of us who might get asked about FASD and who might see people in the criminal justice system who might have FASD? It leaves me thinking that anyone who appears to have problems with intellectual function, executive function, memory function, academic achievement or a host of other aspects of cognitive function should certainly have these problems assessed and documented. It leaves me thinking that that these cognitive problems may be related to criminal behaviour, ability to participate in treatment programs, vocational and academic planning, and ability to successfully function independently in the community. It also makes me think that when we see people who have these kinds of problems, we need to ensure that we have considered all possible *treatable* reasons for such problems, and indeed treat anything that is directly treatable. For those things that are not directly treatable, we need to accommodate, provide environmental structures and supports, and focus on strengths as well as avoiding weaknesses.

Is it likely that we will be able to make a definitive diagnosis of FASD in an adult? For the most part, the answer is no - particularly for that group of individuals who have substance abuse problems of their own, or who have had head injuries or who may also have other diagnoses. The good news is that it probably does not matter. Regardless of what we call it, in the end, we need to address problems in cognitive function proactively and treat them as responsivity issues.

**KNOW SOMETHING THAT WOULD
BE OF INTEREST TO STUDENTS,
DROP US AN EMAIL!**

Column: Training in Criminal Justice Psychology

By Andrew Starzomski, Ph.D.,
Director-at-Large: Clinical and Training

Kicking Off Something New

This column marks the introduction of a new way to approach issues of clinical training within the Criminal Justice Section. Discussions at the annual meeting of the Section at CPA Montreal in June 2005 indicated that the time had arrived for a presence on the Executive explicitly regarding training matters. I was happy to step in to take an initial shot at carving out the role. Since the summer of 2001, I have been with the Nova Scotia Forensic Psychiatric Service, working mostly with NCR/MD patients, but also with sexual offenders on probation. Prior to that I had the good fortune to work for Correctional Service Canada doing assessment and treatment in various federal correctional facilities in the Pacific Region. I obtained my Ph.D. in Forensic Psychology from UBC in 1999.

In 2002 I became the Director of Training for the Nova Scotia Hospital's CPA-accredited pre-doctoral internship in clinical psychology. Shortly thereafter I helped steer our program through a site visit that led to a five-year accreditation. As the province's forensic services have historically been part of the Nova Scotia Hospital's umbrella of psychiatric services, training in forensic psychology has been a strong part of this internship for many years. The internship also offers major rotations in non-forensic domains. In addition to training two interns per year (most of whom do a six-month rotation in Forensic), we also offer training to graduate practicum students (typically from Dalhousie's clinical Ph.D. program) and are developing strong applied research streams that are attracting the involvement of Honours students from various Halifax universities.

Writing this column has been a pleasant distraction from the task of completing yet another annual report for CPA, but all in all the experience of working with CPA on accreditation-related issues, along with various other agencies that make coordinated training a reality in North America, continues to be very rewarding. For example, at the annual CPA convention this year I had a chance to get to the annual meeting of the Canadian Council of Professional Psychology Programs (CCPPP), which is the main forum for discussing clinical training in the country. There is clearly room at that table for more voices from those with a focus in the criminal justice domain!

Over the next year I hope we can make progress in several ways to map out and advance the agenda of clinical training in the criminal justice field in a national way. From my own training and work experiences in British Columbia, Ontario and Nova Scotia, across correctional and forensic

mental health streams, I know there is lots of great work being done by many skilled clinicians. I plan to use the *Crime Scene* column as a vehicle to put ideas and questions out to all of you, in hopes that we can identify some needs and solutions to help those who are training to enter the field, as well as those who are doing the training and the systems that rely on solid new professionals. My hope is that CPA 2006 in Calgary will include some interactive discussions on training issues in criminal justice psychology, as identified through this dialogue facilitated by the *Crime Scene* column.

A few ideas come to mind that will likely be themes of this column in the upcoming year:

- Reaching clinical students with forensic opportunities:
 - Where do we stand on the links between university graduate programs and forensic training opportunities?
 - How can these links be strengthened?
 - How are these links working well in various places?
 - Can the Section be involved in a national way in proactively creating or enhancing vehicles of communication between potential trainees, university programs and training sites?
 - Are there issues regarding the licensing of practitioners who have primarily or exclusively a forensic focus in different provinces and, if so, how have these issues been handled?
- Breadth and methods of training in criminal justice psychology:
 - What types of institutional and community-based practica are available across Canada, with what types of clients?
 - Beyond work with perpetrators per se (assessment and treatment), what other types of populations and skill development are people experiencing (e.g., experience with testifying, consultation with others in the criminal justice field, building links to facilitate research, etc.)
 - What types of approaches or models of therapy and case formulation are being utilized in criminal justice settings? What types of research and program evaluation is happening in this area?
 - What types of multi-disciplinary treatment team interactions exist?
 - How much of this clinical training at forensic sites is happening in settings that have undergone accreditation processes with CPA or APA? What are the advantages and disadvantages to trainees, trainers and systems of undertaking a clinical psychology accreditation process?
 - Continuing education for experienced forensic clinicians regarding ongoing developments and advanced skills?

If you have any feedback on these issues, including ideas for a training-related pre-convention workshop or convention symposium, please send comments to me by email at: andrew.starzomski@cdha.nshealth.ca.

In my next column I plan to present some training experiences and impressions identified by our current interns. They will outline how the forensic rotation of our internship offered some especially valuable and novel

training opportunities. That piece will also consider how their graduate training prepared them for forensic work, plus their future plans regarding forensic. Their comments may help other (potential) trainees appreciate some of the excitement and intricacies of training in forensic work. Likewise, their observations may offer (potential) supervisors some ideas about what students appreciate about training in the criminal justice field.

**DON'T FORGET TO LET US KNOW
WHEN YOU HEAR ABOUT:**

🗨 Employment Opportunities 🔗

👤 Members on the Move ➔

📖 Recently Published Articles 📖

Column: CCOPP's* Stories

(*Canadian Committee of Police Psychologists)

By Dorothy Cotton, Ph.D.,
Director-at-Large: Police Psychology

Police Psychology: Whither Art Thou?

In a recent Canadian survey of police utilization of psychological services (Cotton, Tivendell, Carroll & Burton, 2005),¹ police human resources managers were asked what psychological tests of aptitude or ability their organizations used for pre-employment screening, promotions and special assignments. The most frequently identified tests were the MMPI-2 and the 16PF. When police services were asked if their service actually did require a test of ability as part of the pre-employment process, 44% replied affirmatively.

What's wrong with this picture? If you are a psychologist or a psychological associate, then you know that the MMPI-2 and the 16PF are not measures of ability or aptitude. And if you are at all involved with police services, then you might also know that virtually all police services in Canada require a pre-employment test of ability - including tests such as the PATI and the Sigma.

While this utilization study went on to find that most police services are reasonably satisfied with the psychological services they receive, it also points to the many gaps and misunderstandings that police have about psychological services. All things considered, that is not actually a very surprising finding, given that the field of police psychology virtually does not exist in Canada in any organized fashion.

Till now. We hope.

At the recent annual convention of CPA, the Criminal Justice Section elected to develop a special interest group for Police Psychology, and this column is the first step in that process. We will regularly be featuring items of interest to those psychologists who work with police services. While there are very few full-time police psychologists in Canada, there are many of us who provide part-time or occasional services in one fashion or another.

Some of us are clinical psychologists who offer a variety of direct services including employment and selection screening, EAP and critical incident services, assistance with crisis negotiations, and liaison with mental health services. Some of us are industrial/organizational (I/O) psychologists who provide a variety of human resources services including employment screening and selection, organizational developmental strategies, and leadership coaching. Then there are the researchers who investigate and evaluate many aspects of police procedures, such as forensic issues, "profiling", eyewitness testimony, and use of force.

These are only examples of course. The list is long. In fact, the commonalities between police work and psychology are significant. Perhaps that is one reason why it struck many of us as strange that in Canada, there is really no such thing as "police psychology". There is no organization or group that comes together around police psychology issues, there are no training programs, there is little in the way of continuing education - and there are no standards of practice. There is also no direct way of educating the police world about what we have to offer, what constitutes good practice, what they can reasonably expect from us and how to know when they are getting good service. Indeed we are a varied lot, those of us who purport to be "police psychologists". It seems to work adequately most of the time, but there is also no doubt that many of us could use more education and consultation in this field. One does inevitably see clinical psychologists, for example, who are clearly performing I/O functions without a clear understanding of I/O issues, and consultants who are not familiar with police-specific research issues and literature.

As noted, while most police services feel reasonably satisfied with what they are getting, only 45% felt they were actually getting what they wanted from psychologists. But the aforementioned survey also found that most police services wished that psychologists were more familiar with their culture and professional issues, they felt that psychologists could use specialized training for working with police services, and they found psychologists often spoke in language they did not understand. Most thought that some kind of national standard for psychological services to police organizations would be helpful.

The good news is that all of this is really quite achievable. The first step is to find out who we are, and get us all talking. That's what the new special interest group is about.

Down the road, we'd like to talk about all the aforementioned issues... what should pre-employment assessments look like? Are they an I/O or a clinical function? What should psychologists expect from police services? How can we make research findings and outcomes more meaningful? What are the unique issues in providing counseling to police officers? How do we fit into crisis negotiations? The list is endless.

Do you provide services to police organizations or do research relevant to police services - or do you aspire to do so? If so, drop us a line... we're making a list of people like us... you can contact us c/o:

policepsychology@nintu.net.

- Dr. Dorothy Cotton (clinical and correctional psychology, *Correctional Service Canada and Queen's University*)
- Dr. Craig Bennell (forensic and operational police research, *Carleton University*)
- Dr. John Tivendell (industrial and organizational psychology, *universite de Moncton*)

¹The recent national study "Canadian Police Services Utilization of Psychologists and Psychological Services" was carried out by Dorothy Cotton of Correctional Service Canada and Queen's University, John Tivendell and Tammy Carroll of the universite de Moncton, and Constable Steve Burton of the Calgary Police (who is also a chartered psychologist). The manuscript is currently under preparation.

Column: Beyond a Reasonable Doubt

By Joanna Pozzulo, Ph.D.

Director-at-Large: Psychology in the Courts

May Eyewitness Research Rest in Peace?

Over the past couple of years, a colleague, Craig Bennell, and I have debated the merits of continuing to research issues in the eyewitness area. Although the topic was not particularly relevant to Craig, I had a lot at stake, after all, this was my area of research and I was not going to take his hand waving and dismissal lightly. Could there really be nothing left to discover? Nothing having any value that is. Sure we can keep looking at different variables under one condition or another but would science be making significant advances? Moreover, would we be making any practical advances?

I believed Craig's boredom of the area was not reflective of the greater psychological community. Set on proving Craig wrong, I completed a set of eyewitness studies and decided to submit a manuscript to a high profile journal. The *Journal of Applied Psychology* is published by the American Psychological Association, has a high rejection

rate, and is recognizable as a "top tier journal". Having published there before, I was confident that I could publish there again, and that Craig would have to admit to being short-sighted in his position. Within a few days of sending the manuscript out, I received an e-mail from the Editor. I was excited that feedback was coming so soon. Obviously, I had addressed an important research question that required his immediate attention. Quite proud of myself, I read the email and became increasingly deflated as it went on. The *Journal of Applied Psychology* was no longer accepting papers in the eyewitness area! Could Craig be right? Have we hit the end of the road? Is there nothing left for us to learn when it comes to eyewitness issues? Would I and my fellow "eyewitness" colleagues need to find new topics to research?

Ironically, I recently read of some new work being done by Elizabeth Loftus, a pioneer in the eyewitness area. She is looking at how memory for food preferences can be altered. Broccoli anyone? The implication for this research may be seen on obesity rates, however, further research is needed, of course. Although, I don't think it is all that surprising or uncommon that after 30+ years of conducting research within a particular domain, that one would move to a new domain. I would describe Loftus as a memory researcher; her research has dealt with memory and continues to deal with memory. Nonetheless, I could not help but feel it added some validity to Craig's position.

Debates about the usefulness and the need for eyewitness research can be found in the literature dating back to when the first eyewitness studies were being conducted, at least since the early 1900's. Although the frequency and quality of eyewitness research has waxed and waned, from about the 1970's to present, a great deal of 'good' science has accumulated on the topic. In the area of psychology and law, eyewitness research is some of the most published. At this point, we have a greater understanding of how eyewitness memory works, factors that can influence it, and procedures that police can use to make it more (or less) reliable. Perhaps it is a good time to question where we go from here.

In 1977, Gary Wells made a distinction between two types of variables. System variables are under the control of the criminal justice system, such as the identification procedures police use. Estimator variables are not controllable, such as the age of the eyewitness or race of the culprit. Arguably, much of the research that has been conducted over the past 30 years has focused on system variables. We have seen the development and implementation of the Cognitive Interview and the Sequential Lineup in the "real world", to provide just a couple of examples. There is also considerable work on estimator variables such as how stress and arousal impacts recall and recognition accuracy. The work on estimator variables, however, has led to answers that are less clear and many variables seem to interact, reducing the

researcher's ability to provide a "simple" answer to how these variables work.

So what remains... Well, I think the fun is just beginning. I believe it is time to start examining the interactions between system and estimator variables and to add some of the complexity in our research designs that we see in a "real" eyewitness context. It will not be easy to investigate these complexities and to tease apart effects but I think we have reached the next level where these issues need our attention.

I also think many of us have faced criticism concerning "our lack of theory". Do we need theory? I suspect there may be differing opinions on this issue. Regardless of the side you fall on, I believe it is time that we address theoretical criticisms.

The Criminal Justice Psychology Section of CPA recognizes the contribution and need for further research in the areas of eyewitness issues, jury issues, and court issues. At the business meeting for the Section during this year's CPA conference, it was agreed that a special interest group for these issues be established. As the Director-at-Large for this special interest group, I invite all of my colleagues working in these areas to contact me and to become part of this group. *Crime Scene* will feature a regular column with musings of interest, I hope. Please let me know what issues you perceive as pertinent and that you would like to see discussed either in this column or as part of a newsgroup (Joanna_pozzulo@carleton.ca).



RECENTLY DEFENDED DISSERTATIONS



Implicitly Measured Cognitions of Child Molesters

Kevin L. Nunes, Ph.D.
University of Ottawa

Although many theoreticians have posited that cognitions concerning self, children, and other adults play a central role in the etiology and maintenance of child sexual abuse, knowledge in the area remains incomplete due, in part, to reliance on self-report measures, which are generally restricted to consciously accessible thoughts and susceptible to presentation bias. In the current study, the primary goal was to test for the existence of differences between the cognitions of child molesters and non-molesters using an implicit measure called the Implicit Association Test (IAT). To that end, 6 IATs were designed to measure the domains of evaluation, social power, and sexual attractiveness in self and in children (relative to adults). Participants were incarcerated men who had either been convicted of sexual offences against extrafamilial

children under 14 years of age ($N = 30$) or who had not admitted to, been charged with, or been convicted of any sexual offences ($N = 31$). As expected, child molesters viewed children (relative to adults) as significantly more sexually attractive than did the non-sex offenders, as measured by the sexy child IAT. Among the child molesters, a greater number of sexual offences was significantly associated with a view of self as less powerful and less sexually attractive, as measured, respectively, by the powerful self IAT and the sexy self IAT. These results remained even after a number of potential confounding variables were statistically or otherwise controlled. Although only partial support for the hypotheses was found, this study demonstrated that the IAT has much promise as a tool with which to study cognitions associated with child sexual abuse.

If you would like more information, please contact Dr. Nunes at: nuneske@csc-scc.gc.ca.

Second-Generation Evaluation of a Correctional Substance Abuse Program

Chantal M. Langevin, Ph.D.
Carleton University

First-generation evaluations of correctional substance abuse programs focus on the ultimate outcomes of recidivism and relapse. Second-generation evaluations have moved to include more aspects of program theory and as a result, assess the attainment of short- and long-term outcomes. The framework for this evaluation integrated the entire program theory of a correctional community-based substance abuse treatment program for male offenders. The main purpose of the evaluation was to expand second-generation work by studying the impact of specific program activities as well as the overall program. Two other objectives of the evaluation were to examine differences between program completers and noncompleters with respect to personal gain and consider program implementation by assessing the program's adherence to the principles of effective correctional treatment.

The current evaluation used a quasi-experimental pretest-posttest design. Data were collected from offenders and program staff with several instruments including offender self-reports and staff assessments. The short- and long-term outcomes of interest were knowledge of substance abuse issues, knowledge and ability with prosocial and relapse prevention skills, motivation, and confidence.

Results indicated that the counselling activity produced increases in motivation to participate in treatment and motivation to change substance-abusing behaviour. As hypothesized, the drug and alcohol education activity increased knowledge of substance abuse issues. The

cognitive-behavioural program component increased knowledge and ability with prosocial and relapse prevention skills. Findings showed that program completers had a greater increase in knowledge and ability with prosocial and relapse prevention skills than noncompleters. Following program completion, offenders also had a greater increase in confidence that they would not use substances. Results demonstrated that this community substance abuse program is an appropriate intervention

that adheres to most of the principles of effective correctional treatment. Additional analyses suggested that the best individual predictors of program completion were being low risk, using alcohol rather than drugs, and being 35 years old or older. Recommendations for the program, funding agencies, and program evaluators are derived from these results.

If you would like more information on this evaluation, please contact Dr. Langevin at: Chantal_Langevin@hc-sc.gc.ca.

SPECIAL FEATURES ...

Special Feature: Talking to Canadians

By Robert Morgan, Ph.D., Robert Ax, Ph.D.,
& Jarrod Steffan, M.A.

We greatly appreciate the opportunity Tanya and Chantal have provided us to comment on our experiences at the 2005 Canadian Psychological Association (CPA) convention. The perspectives we're sharing here are those of an academician conducting correctional mental health research (Morgan), a retired psychologist with 22 years of correctional psychology experience (Ax), and a doctoral candidate beginning his predoctoral internship (Steffan).

The convention was a pleasure to attend, with plenty of learning, networking, and fun had by all. Its scale was much smaller than that of the American Psychological Association's annual convention, and this provided an intimate yet stimulating environment. We saw many friends and colleagues, formed new relationships, and were energized by the high quality of the presentations. Given our mutual interest in criminal justice, it was gratifying to see how much CPA values its correctional psychologists. The number of criminal justice presentations was quite impressive, as were the talks by prominent Canadian criminal justice psychologists whose reputations are well established in the United States. We were particularly excited to see two correctional psychologists, Dr. David Nussbaum and Dr. Yvette Theriault, recognized as newly elected CPA fellows.

Our networking was not limited to professional colleagues, as the student group from Carleton University cordially invited me (Steffan) to attend their dinner. I enjoyed the excellent food and company of the many students and faculty from Carleton University. Thank you for including a fellow graduate student from the South!

The convention offered plenty of variety. Although our professional lives are primarily in criminal justice, we maintain diverse interests. We found several mainstream

(non-criminal justice) sessions enjoyable and enlightening. It was fascinating to hear the comments of the Honorary President, Mr. Roy Romanow, former Chair of the *Commission on the Future of Health Care in Canada*, at the opening session. "Medicare", he said, "is a symbol of what it means to be Canadian". Ironically, even as he spoke, the Supreme Court was handing down the decision overturning the Quebec law prohibiting private health insurance. I (Ax) felt that I was present as history was being made. When Mr. Romanow commented that the Canadian health care system "is the convergence point where so many of our values come together", it struck me that no American politician could credibly make a similar statement about our own society. We have repeatedly been unable to marshal and maintain the political cohesiveness and unity of purpose necessary to defeat the special interests that constitute an impediment to a national health care system. Your system is imperfect. Ours is in pieces.

I (Ax) was also privileged to attend a meeting of Internship Training Directors and to learn about the issues that concerned my Canadian counterparts, having once been a DOT myself. Drs. Beth Rom-Rymer and Brian Bigelow gave insightful and informative presentations on prescriptive authority for psychologists, an issue which I believe is increasingly central to the practice of psychology in the public sector, and particularly in the field of corrections. Unfortunately, due to schedule conflicts I missed some other presentations I had been looking forward to, particularly a series on the history of psychology.

We were very excited to see such a large number of psychology students (graduate and undergraduate) actively participating in criminal justice research. In particular, students were well represented in paper and poster sessions. More important was the high quality of research being done on such a large scale. Clearly, students in Canadian academic programs are being well trained by the leading criminal justice researchers.

One of the more exciting topics that I (Morgan) left the conference with was a preliminary plan with Jeremy Mills and Daryl Kroner to develop an ongoing series of

correctional psychology conferences connected with CPA and APA annual conferences. Initial discussions are underway and we remain hopeful of realizing this possibility.

Overall, the convention was informative and energizing. We thoroughly enjoyed the talks and the convivial, intimate atmosphere of the convention. We left Montreal with an enhanced appreciation of, and admiration for, the research and practice that characterize Canadian correctional psychology, as well as an eagerness to attend future CPA conventions.

INTERESTED IN SUBMITTING AN ARTICLE FOR THE NEXT EDITION?

Deadline is December 1, 2005

Special Feature: Keeping Up? The Case For and Against Continuing Education Credits (Part 1)

By Andrew Harris, Ph.D.

Director-at-Large: Continuing Education

Keeping up? I've never met anyone with a real job who could tell me with a straight face that they felt they were totally on top of the literature and developments in their field. We all struggle to keep up. As the profession of forensic and criminal justice psychology evolves and individuates the issue of Continuing Education (CE) and CE Credits becomes more important. As a new Director-at-Large, my assigned task is to facilitate forward motion on the CE credits file.

First, I am going to look at what other professions are doing in this area. Secondly, in preparation for developing guidelines for CE credits I will be asking the readers of this newsletter for feedback on what would suit the members best to make this issue as painless as possible. Thirdly, I will commence negotiating with the Americans such that CE credits in forensic and criminal justice psychology earned in the United States at American-based conferences and courses would be recognized as contributing to professional development within Canada and visa-versa.

The first question, as always in Psychology is, "What are other people doing?" A review of comparable professions is tabularized below. This table is a selective summary and for those who would like further information I have included web-addresses. While the results from the American Psychological Association (APA) are the most directly

relevant they are somewhat problematic as CE requirements are set by each state licensing board. As a result the numbers presented here are mostly modal values with ranges following in brackets. Eight states do not have any requirements for continuing education. Hence, APA results in the table below are based upon 42 reporting states.

Results from the Canadian Psychiatric Association (CPA) are also interesting in that their CE plan is the most detailed in showing different methods by which it is possible to accumulate CE "credit".

The first and most obvious observation is that professions with similar profiles and levels of responsibility are *documenting* a lot more professional development than we are. This is not to say that they are doing more professional development than we are – just that if asked, they have a system that documents what they are doing.

Data from the APA is quite interesting and applicable to the Canadian context. As noted above, 41 of 42 states allow "home study" to count for CE credit. Fifty-nine percent of the reporting states (24) allow all CE credit to be gained through "home study" and an additional 29% (12) allow half of the CE hours to be gained from home study. Given the prohibitive travel distances and costs in Canada it is not unusual to have individual practitioners who have difficulty attending sufficient professional meetings to fulfill any reasonable number of CE hours. Part of our discussion must address how individual practitioners can not only "stay in the loop" but also complete their hours from a distance.

In addition, 22 states have specific requirements that the content of the continued learning include a certain number of hours dedicated to professional ethics. Eleven of these 22 states require three hours per year of ethics with the other 11 states ranging from six hours to one-and-a-half hours per year.

These data obviously lead to some interesting questions that I ask each member of the section to consider. For example, do we want to be bothered at all with CE credits? Should the section keep its greasy little fingers out of your business, treat you as a mature self-regulating professional who will see to your own professional development and competence? After all, it's your license on the line. So whether to bother with this issue at all is the first question.

At this time I am operating under the assumption that this would be an optional program, you can participate or not, depending upon your needs. Those who do not need formal CE credits might choose to report them as part of their CE (or quality assurance program) for their College. We, as a discipline, could, theoretically, say no to this issue. However, a strong possibility exists that at some point someone else is going to impose something – such as the Provincial Colleges

"Who"	Credits	How Earned	"Days/Year"
Royal College of Dental Surgeons of Ontario	90 points over a three-year period "Basically" one point gained for every instructional hour www.rcdso.org/quality_3.html	Full-day program = 6 points Half-day program = 3 points Evening meeting = 2 points Reading journals = 10 points (maximum per year) Authorship - Dental journals = 10 points per article	5 Days/Year (Based on a 6-point "day")
College of Family Physicians of Canada	250 points over a five-year period "Basically" one point gained for every instructional hour www.cfpc.ca/English/cfpc/membership/classifications/default.asp?s=1	Over the five-year period at least half (125 points) must come from accredited courses. The other 125 points can be claimed for "unaccredited activities"	8.3 Days/Year (Based on a 6-point "day")
Canadian Psychiatric Association	400 points over a five-year period 80 points per year on average Minimum of 40 points per year "Basically" one point gained for every instructional hour – as noted, some activities count as double www.cpa-apc.org	1) <i>Group Learning</i> - conferences and accredited courses/Grand Rounds - 1 point per hour 2) <i>Non-accredited</i> courses/audio-tapes/journal clubs/computer/Internet - 1 point per hour (maximum 100 points this mode over 5 years) 3) <i>Accredited Self-assessment</i> (practice deficit evaluation exercise) by accredited providers - 2 points per hour 4) <i>Structured Learning Projects</i> - mini-literature search/learning portfolio - 1 point per hour 5) <i>Practice Review and Appraisal</i> - peer review/practice audits/incident reports - 2 points per hour 6) <i>Educational Development/Research/Teaching</i> - presentation preparation/reviewing manuscripts/setting practice standards - 1 point per hour (maximum 100 points this mode over 5 years)	10 Days/Year (Based on an 8-point "day")
American Psychological Association	Median of 20 hours per year (Ranging from 30 to 9 hours per year) www.apa.org/ce/mcesurvey03.html	Multiple methods including conferences and courses. Individual states differ as to whether they accept "professional meetings" as CE. 41 of 42 states allow "home study" to count as CE	3.3 Days/Year (Based on a 6-point "day")

or the Provincial Governments themselves through Registered Health Professional legislation. Given the examples of other comparable professions I believe that, politically, the imposition of some form of mandatory competence maintenance would be a fairly easy sell.

For the moment, let us assume that we wish to take control of our destiny and develop some form of system for ourselves. What do you think would be a reasonable number of days or hours per year? Should you be able to "hold points over" to the next year if you go to a major multi-day function? How should these "credits" be documented? Should we allow "home study" – such as reading a professional book/article and if so, what percentage of total credits should you be able to earn by yourself without having to interact with other professionals? Should a specific number of hours be allotted to ethical or legal issues? Should attending Grand Rounds if you work in an institutional setting or presentations at a non-psychology conference be allowed for CE credit? How

many points (if any) should you be able to earn for a conference presentation and how many points for attending a conference presentation?

Should we consider an "honour" system where you just send in a single sheet each year saying that you have done the required amount of CE and that you have this documented in your professional files? Or should we develop some way of monitoring the CE efforts centrally? Would two geographically isolated psychologists having an hour-long telephone conversation about a new article or book count as CE credit? I think it should. Could we try a "journal club" by teleconference or "blog"? - and what weight should something like that carry in terms of "points"? And, are there any other methods that we can think of that would make getting these CE credits not only as painless as possible but possibly map on to what you are already doing to "keep up". I think for Canadians, due to our small numbers and large distances technology may provide some of the answers.

Continuing Education Credits is obviously a large subject, one that is not going to be covered in a single newsletter article. Therefore, I am going to draft some of the above questions into a Word document suitable for e-mailing out to you. I ask that you review this document when it arrives and respond with your suggestions and comments. I ask

that you think about how you would like this issue to unfold and provide your opinions. I will tabulate these opinions and provide feedback in the next issue of *Crime Scene*. Please forward all thoughts and comments on this issue to: Andrew.Harris@psepc.gc.ca.

STAYING CONNECTED ...

SECTION BUSINESS

Report on the National Associations Active in Criminal Justice (NAACJ) 2004-2005

By J. Stephen Wormith, Ph.D.

Director-at-Large & CPA Representative to NAACJ

During the 2004-2005 year, I continued to represent the Canadian Psychological Association on the National Associations Active in Criminal Justice (NAACJ), which is an "umbrella" organization for various voluntary sector and professional organizations that are national in scope and have a particular interest in Canada's justice system. NAACJ is funded by an operating grant from the federal ministry of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Canada (PSEPC) and currently consists of 24 organizations. Over the past year, I attended a number of NAACJ-sponsored events. These included two sets of consultation meetings with Correctional Service Canada (CSC) and an annual policy forum with PSEPC and the Department of Justice (DOJ). This year's Joint Policy Forum, held in May, 2005, was entitled "Balancing Human Rights and National Security: Implications for the Criminal Justice System" and featured speakers from the DOJ and legal scholars, Kent Roach (University of Toronto) and Craig Forcese (University of Ottawa). The government's position is that national security and human rights are not a "zero sum game". Some scepticism and evidence to the contrary was apparent.

Much of the consultation with CSC over the past year has focused on the reactions by various communities to incidents involving federal offenders and the political and popular pressure brought to bear on CSC that has ensued. Typically, these incidents have commanded a great deal of attention in the media, which in the eyes of CSC has complicated their attempts to address public concerns. Specifically, tragic incidents in Vernon, BC, Hamilton, ON, and Trois Rivières, QB, have spawned a great deal of concern about CSC's community corrections program and has led to the closing of at least one half-way house, while ongoing pressure is being exerted to relocate another

half-way house and the CSC parole office in Ottawa. These different incidents present three interesting case studies relating to CSC's and the voluntary sector's means of negotiating an acceptable solution to municipal politicians and public interest groups.

Other issues of concern to NAACJ member organizations continue to include the use of 'ion scan' technology to screen visitors for illicit drugs because of the potential for false positive detections and the potential repercussions to visitors and correctional volunteers so identified. Ongoing sustaining support for NAACJ and some of its member organizations through grants from PSEPC remains an ongoing concern.

Minutes of the Section Business Meeting

June 10, 2005, Montreal, QB

By R. Karl Hanson, Ph.D., *Secretary/Treasurer*

The major development at the business meeting was an expanded Executive, with new Director-at-Large positions responsible for Police Psychology, Psychology in the Courts, and Clinical/Training. These new positions aim to fulfill the long-standing aspiration of providing a professional home for all psychologists involved with the law, court, police and corrections. Historically, the Section has primarily attracted correctional psychologists; we will hopefully see a broader mix of interests in the coming years.

Another decision was to delay our biennial banquet to 2007 (Ottawa) to coincide with CPA conventions in central Canada. We don't have the resources (time nor money) to hold the banquets every year, and the conventions in central Canada typically have higher attendance than conferences on either coast.

The membership also expressed an interest in being more responsive to media requests. The details of how that would be arranged is a task for the new Section Chair.

Accolades and such:

- ★ Career Contribution Award: Vernon Quinsey
- ★ Significant Achievement Award: Dorothy Cotton
- ★ New Fellows of CPA: David Nussbaum, Yvette Thériault
- ★ 2005 Student Award Winner: Shevaun Corey

Other noteworthy contributions by Section members: David Nussbaum made an excellent presentation to the Standing Committee on C-10 concerning the acceptance of testimony by psychologists (supported by Karen Cohen from CPA). Marnie Rice and Karl Hanson testified to the Standing Committee on C-2 (child pornography). Dorothy Cotton testified on behalf of the police to the Kirby Commission. Robert Hoge prepared a well received position paper on youth in the criminal justice system.

In 2004-2005, there was 245 members (180 regular; 65 student), with income from membership of \$936.00. As of June 10th, there was \$3314.07 in the bank.

Thanks to Daryl Kroner for his role as President from 2002-2005. He is being replaced by Jeremy Mills, who deserves much credit for keeping *Crime Scene* timely and interesting during the past few years. Also thanks to those leaving the Executive: David Nussbaum for his many years of service to the Criminal Justice Psychology Section and to Denise Preston and Robert Hoge for their contributions as Directors-at-Large.

The new executive:

Chair: Jeremy Mills
 Past-Chair: Daryl Kroner
 Secretary/Treasurer: Karl Hanson
 Co-editor Crime Scene: Tanya Ruge
 Co-editor Crime Scene: Chantal Langevin
 Student Representative: Joseph Camilleri
 Director-at-Large (Police): Dorothy Cotton
 Director-at-Large (Police): Craig Bennell
 Director-at-Large (Courts): Joanna Pozzulo
 Director-at-Large (Training): Andrew Starzomski
 Director-at-Large: Andrew Harris
 Director-at-Large: Guy Bourgon
 Director-at-Large: Steve Wormith

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Do you have a recent publication? List it here.



Criminal Justice Listserv

The Div18CrimJustice listserv is a forum for the dissemination of information and discussion relevant to professionals with interests in criminal justice and correctional psychology.

Membership in the Listserv: Although, this listserv is comprised of many members of Division 18 of the American Psychological Association, membership in this

division or APA is not required. In fact, it is assumed that this listserv will serve to facilitate discussion between all those involved in the general area of criminal justice including, for example, attorneys, practitioners, and academicians.

Becoming a Member of the Listserv: If you would like to be involved/included in this forum please send your name and email address to robert.morgan@ttu.edu. Once your information has been included on the listserv you will receive a "welcome to the listserv" email and directions about its purpose and guidelines for use.

Criminal Justice Directory: The Criminal Justice Directory is a database of psychologists, attorneys, physicians, public service professions, and students interested in the broad area of criminal justice. The directory is designed to facilitate the discussion of topics relevant to the areas of criminal justice and correctional/forensic psychology. Information included in the directory includes: Name, Position, Contact Information, and Professional/Research Interests. If you would like to be included in the Criminal Justice Directory, please contact Jon Mandracchia (jon.t.mandracchia@ttu.edu) or Robert Morgan (robert.morgan@ttu.edu).

KUDO KORNER

Want to give kudos to a Section Member?
 Contact us.



We would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Shevaun Corey, winner of the Student Poster Prize at this year's annual CPA convention.

CONGRATULATIONS SHEVAUN!
 Well done!!!



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Know of any employment opportunities?
 Let us know.

UPCOMING CONFERENCES

30th Canadian Congress on Criminal Justice

Viewpoint 2005: Is the future ours to see?

October 20-22, 2005 Calgary, Alberta

www.ccja-acjp.ca

2005 Joint Canadian Evaluation Society (CES) / American Evaluation Association (AEA) Conference

Crossing Borders, Crossing Boundaries

October 26-29, 2005 Toronto, Ontario

www.evaluationcanada.ca

Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers (ATSA) 24th Annual Research & Treatment Conference

Battling Sexual Abuse with Prevention and Treatment

November 2-5, 2005 New Orleans, Louisiana

www.atsa.com

Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse National Conference 2005

Innovation and Action

November 13-16, 2005 Markham, Ontario

www.ccsa.ca

The American Society of Criminology (ASC) Annual Meeting

November 16-19, 2005 Toronto, Ontario

www.asc41.com

American Correctional Association's Winter Conference

January 28-February 1, 2006 Nashville, Tennessee

www.aca.org

MEMBERS ON THE MOVE

Shelley Brown has left CSC and gone to the NPB!

Jennifer van de Ven is now housed at Warkworth Institution!

Andrew Harris has escaped from Warkworth and is now
back in the National Capital Region.

Chantal Langevin has a little evaluator on the way!

Any more news? Contact us.

THE CPA OCTOBER SUBMISSION DEADLINE IS APPROACHING....

Don't forget to get your submission in by
October 21, 2005 for next year's conference!

CPA 67th Annual Convention
June 8-10, 2006 Calgary, Alberta

STUDENTS' WATER COOLER

The Students' Water Cooler is a new feature of *Crime Scene*, designed to give students a voice. If you have any information, advice, or would like to communicate with other students through a submission, please contact us! In this edition, we are showcasing the work of Shevaun Corey, winner of the Student Poster Prize at this year's Annual CPA Convention.

The Effect of Task Complexity on Predictive Accuracy in a Geographic Profiling Task

Shevaun Corey¹, Craig Bennell¹, Paul Taylor², & Brent Snook³
Carleton University, Ottawa¹; University of Liverpool, Liverpool, UK²;
Memorial University of Newfoundland, St. John's³

Introduction

Geographic profiling is defined as "...an information management strategy for serious violent crime investigations that analyses crime site information to determine the most probable area of offender residence" (Rossmo, 2000). Predictions of offender residence are typically obtained through computerized geographic profiling systems, which utilize distance decay functions (representing the fact that offenders are more likely to commit crimes close to home) to produce probability surfaces that indicate the area most likely to contain the offender's home (Rossmo, 2000). Despite the popularity of these systems, researchers have recently examined alternative approaches to making such predictions. One approach examines the feasibility of non-actuarial approaches to geographic profiling, by teaching people how to use simple heuristics, or rules of thumb, to predict where offenders live (e.g., Snook, Taylor, & Bennell, 2004). The two heuristics that have been studied most thoroughly are the Circle heuristic, which states that the majority of serial offenders live within a circle that encompasses their entire crime series, or the Decay heuristic, which states that the majority of serial offenders live close to the majority of their crimes.

Previous research that has examined this non-actuarial approach to profiling is limited in a number of ways. First, student samples have been focused on. Second, only serial homicide has been examined. And, third, the actual task presented to participants has been unrealistic in its simplicity. The current study addresses these limitations. More specifically, we examine the ability of police officers to make accurate geographic profiling predictions in cases of serial burglary under conditions that more closely approximate the complex environment of real world police investigations. To achieve this enhanced level of complexity/realism we manipulated two factors that have been deemed important to consider when making geographic profiling predictions: the number of crimes upon which the profile is based (three, five, or seven) and the degree of topographical detail that must be considered when constructing the profile (topography or no topography).

Method

Participants

Participants included 91 police officers of varying ranks that were recruited from a large police service in the United Kingdom. The participants were randomly assigned to a Control ($n = 30$), Circle ($n = 28$), or Decay ($n = 33$) group. Of the 91 participants who responded when asked their age and gender, there were no significant differences between the three groups on either variable.

Procedure

The police officers were informed they would be making predictions about the likely home location of 36 serial burglars. Maps for these 36 offenders (consisting of crime site locations and a hidden home base) were randomly selected from a larger database of solved serial burglaries committed in St. John's, Newfoundland, Canada. One third of the maps depicted three burglary locations, another third depicted five burglary locations, and the last third depicted seven burglary locations. Half of the maps included topographical information while the other half did not.

Each officer made geographic profiling predictions on 18 maps (counterbalanced for number of crimes and topography) by marking an X where they thought the offender lived. Officers in the Circle or Decay group were then informed of their group specific heuristic (participants in the Control group completed a filler task). All of the officers then made predictions on the other 18 maps (counterbalanced for number of crimes and topography). Predictive accuracy was measured by hand as the straight-line distance (in mm) between the predicted and actual home location of the offender.

The same 36 maps were analyzed by the computerized geographic profiling system *CrimeStat* and predictive

accuracy was measured by calculating the difference in distance between the highest point of probability (the predicted home location) and the actual home location of the offender.

Design

A 3 (Group: Control x Circle x Decay) by 3 (Crimes: 3 crimes x 5 crimes x 7 crimes) by 2 (Topography: Topography x No Topography) by 2 (Phase: Baseline x Re-test) mixed design ANOVA (with counterbalancing of the within subjects variables) was used to examine predictive accuracy. One-sample t-tests were also conducted to compare the performance of the participants to *CrimeStat*.

Results

A significant main effect for phase, $F(1,88)=21.03$, $p<.001$, was found, with predictive accuracy improving from baseline to re-test for all three groups. A significant two-way interaction was also found between phase and group, $F(2,88)=4.43$, $p<.05$, with a significant increase in predictive accuracy being found for the Circle ($t=7.34$, $df=27$, $p<.001$) and Decay ($t=7.55$, $df=32$, $p<.001$) from baseline to retest, but not the Control group. A significant main effect was found for crimes, $F(2,176)=221.5$, $p<.01$, with officers exhibiting significantly higher predictive accuracy on maps containing five crimes, compared to either three or seven crimes. This occurred because a higher proportion of offender residences were located near the centre of the crime series on maps consisting of five crimes, compared to maps consisting of three or seven crimes. A significant two-way interaction was also found between phase and crimes, $F(2,176)=3.47$, $p<.05$, indicating that the change in predictive accuracy across phases varied depending on whether the maps consisted of three, five, or seven crimes. The increase in predictive accuracy from baseline to re-test was smallest for maps consisting of three crimes, $t=2.54$, $df=90$, $p<.05$, slightly larger for maps consisting of five crimes, $t=3.57$, $df=90$, $p<.01$, and largest for maps consisting of seven crimes, $t=4.02$, $df=90$, $p<.001$. There were no significant main or interaction effects for topography.

When the post-training performance of the three groups was compared to the performance of *CrimeStat*, participants in the Control group performed significantly worse than *CrimeStat*, $t=2.53$, $df=36$, $p<0.05$, but participants in the Circle and Decay groups performed slightly, although not significantly, better, $t=1.16$, $df=36$, $p>0.05$ and $t=1.90$, $df=37$, $p>0.05$, respectively.

Discussion

The current findings are encouraging because they show that a short training session can enable police officers to achieve high levels of predictive accuracy when faced with the geographic profiling task in serial burglary cases. The fact that the levels of predictive accuracy achieved by the trained

groups were comparable to the performance of an actuarial system supports earlier geographic profiling experiments that suggest police agencies may be able to suffice with a fast and frugal training exercise that teaches their officers simple decision rules. This may be especially true for police agencies with limited technological or financial resources. The results also extend previous findings by showing that police officers may not need to take the number of crimes and topographical details into consideration when trying to predict the home location of serial offenders, since the

training provided was shown to be effective across conditions of varying complexity.

References

- Rossmo, D. K. (2000). *Geographic profiling*. Boca Raton, FL: CRC Press.
- Snook, B., Taylor, P. J., & Bennell, C. (2004). Geographic profiling: The fast, frugal, and accurate way. *Applied Cognitive Psychology, 18*, 105-121.

COMING SOON ...

In an effort to make *Crime Scene* more enticing to all readers and to facilitate communication across the country, we will be starting a new series in the next issue. To encourage participation from all regions, we will be posing questions and seeking responses from various audiences across the country (our international colleagues are welcome to respond as well). Over the next year, *Crime Scene* will feature perspectives from corrections (institution, community), community (government, non-government, volunteer, private), universities (faculty, students), police, and judicial system professionals, just to name a few.

HEADS UP!

We could be looking to *you* for the new
REGIONAL PERSPECTIVES SERIES

Do you work with offenders? Got any tips?

Email us.

In the next issue, the first feature will examine regional perspectives, from both institution and community, on what is working well and what is not in terms of offender treatment. Specifically, the questions posed are:

What is your most useful practice when it comes to offender treatment? Are there any "tips" that you can share with your colleagues?

What practice do you find least useful? Any "tips" on what to avoid? Is there something you have given up doing?

We are looking for the following individuals to answer the questions above:

- (1) institutional parole officers and psychologists who work within the institutions or correctional centres (e.g., federal, provincial, territorial, state)
- (2) forensic community practitioners, community parole officers, private practice psychologists – anyone who is working with offenders in the community

If you are one of the above individuals and would like to contribute, please write 2-3 lines (50 word maximum) on each set of questions above. Please indicate if your tip is profession-specific or location/region-specific, as well as your profession (area) and the region you are representing:

- ~ Canada's Pacific Region ~ Canada's Quebec Region ~
- ~ Canada's Prairie Region ~ Canada's Eastern Region ~
- ~ Canada's Central Region ~ Canada's Great North ~
- ~ Our Neighbours to the South ~
- ~ International Friends and Colleagues ~

Entries can be kept confidential (if requested) and listed only with profession and region.

All the Best for a Great "Submission" Season!
