

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

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We would like to thank all those who contributed to this Issue.

The views expressed within are those of the submission authors and do not necessarily reflect those of the Section collectively.

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WELCOME TO ALL NEW MEMBERS!

REGULAR FEATURES ...

Editor's Note

As the saying goes, whenever a door is closed, a window is opened. We are surrounded by these new opportunities, and there is no doubt that there are many worthy causes to which we are asked to contribute our valuable time. As the door closes on four years of editing *Crime Scene*, we reflect on where it began and what its future will be. As of now, no one has stepped forward to take the reins but we are confident that someone, or a team, will emerge. The last four years on the *Crime Scene* 'desk' has been rewarding and pleasurable, allowing all of us to connect with all of you, in one way or another, and to stay directly informed about what's happening in our Section and across our discipline.

This Issue contains many windows of opportunity ... readers have the opportunity to delve into subjects such as the typology of risk communication, perspectives of the Correctional Investigator, and the number of clients at risk for developing false memories of abuse. Furthermore, readers can enjoy challenging commentary on critical incident debriefing, training issues in clinical psychology, mental health act apprehensions and the police, psychology's interface with intensive rehabilitative custody and supervision sentences for youth, as well as the psychology of retaliation. Added to this are abstracts of recently defended theses and updated information on the upcoming CPA Convention as

well as the second North American Correctional and Criminal Justice Psychology (NACCJP) conference. This Issue is sure to keep you informed and provide new opportunities to learn more about a variety subjects.

Hopefully the content found within will open new windows to facilitate further engagement and collaboration in our great field of criminal justice psychology! As always, we thank all those who have contributed to this Issue, and to all those that have supported the *Crime Scene* team since its creation. It has been a pleasure.

To new opportunities in whatever form they find us!

Cheers,

Tanya (on behalf of the *Crime Scene* Team)

**DO YOU HAVE A
 RESPONSE TO AN ARTICLE,
 FEEDBACK OR COMMENTARY?
 EMAIL US.**

View from the Top: Chair's Comments

The highlight of the CPA year is always the annual Convention, and this year is, of course, no different. Plans for the convention, in Montreal, from June 11th to the 13th, are well in hand. The Convention will provide a wonderful opportunity for all of us to get together once again. Robert Hare will be one of CPA's Invited Speakers with a presentation entitled "Psychopathy, Behavioral Genetics, Neuroscience, and Culpability", which is bound to be an informative and thought-provoking session that will cover some of the recent advances in these fields. Jim Bonta will be our Section's Keynote Speaker and the recipient of our Career Contribution Award. Always an engaging speaker, his presentation, entitled "Searching for What Works: Following a Crooked Road" will no doubt entertain and enlighten us on all that he has learned over the course of his career. This year Joanna Pozzulo, Craig Bennell and Adelle Forth will share the Significant Achievement Award for their book *Forensic Psychology*, which has filled a huge gap in the training of students. Some of the awards will be presented at the not-to-be-missed Section banquet on Thursday evening, June 11th. Ticket information has already been sent out and can also be found elsewhere in this Newsletter. Please plan to attend our Section Business Meeting. It is important that you attend to have your voice heard. Also, there are several vacancies on the Executive this year so there will be opportunities for you to become involved in any of a variety of positions.

After two years as Chair, I will be stepping down at the June Convention. It has been a very interesting experience for me

and I would like to encourage others to consider taking it on. The most rewarding part of the position is getting to know and work with the other members of the Section Executive as well as the CPA Executive. One of the main duties of the position is to liaise with CPA. That involves keeping CPA informed about the membership of our executive, any initiatives that we are undertaking and responding to requests for information or consultation on criminal justice issues. At Convention time, the Chair ensures that abstracts are vetted, that the business meeting is booked and run, that a summary of the year's activities is prepared for CPA and attends the Section Chairs' meeting. The Chair is also involved, as are all Executive members of the Section, in the nomination of keynote speakers and in the selection of recipients of our awards. The workload of this position is not a heavy one because the Section has a large and very active Executive who shoulder many of the responsibilities of the Section. As Past Chair, I will remain on the Executive and will be available to provide continuity and assistance to the new Chair.

The diversity of our Section is amazing. We have people who work or teach in all aspects of criminal justice including young offenders, adult offenders, the police and the courts. They are researchers, teachers, students and clinicians. Our newsletter is widely read and our opinion sought. One big initiative that we are undertaking is hosting another criminal justice conference in conjunction with CPA's annual Convention in Toronto in 2011. Jeremy Mills will, once again, be taking the lead on this much-anticipated event.

As members of the criminal justice community we will likely be touched, as are all Canadians, by recent changes in society, including the change in the American presidency, the ongoing war in Afghanistan, and the downturn in the economy. The Mental Health Commission of Canada continues to work toward the development of a mental health strategy for Canadians. It has recently completed its online survey in order to inform us of its key issues and challenges, to outline the directions and options being proposed and to obtain our views on them. Issues of mental health in the criminal justice system are a part of this process and will be included in the mental health strategy that is eventually developed. The Criminal Justice Section, with its large and varied membership, is well-prepared to contribute to this process.

It has been an honour to Chair this Section for the past two years and I look forward to seeing all of you in Montreal in June.

Jean Folsom
Section Chair

AFTER THOUGHTS

Welcome to our feedback centre, *After Thoughts*, which includes opinions received on *Crime Scene* in general, as well as commentary on specific articles.

ON CRIME SCENE OCTOBER 2008 ...

Really well done.

I find it much more than just a newsletter!

Thanks for another great issue of *Crime Scene*!

Steve Wormith's article on activism stuck with me for weeks and stimulated many interesting conversations with colleagues.

And as usual, the high-quality research highlighted in the Special Features section made for great reading.

As always, thank you for your feedback!

And thank you to all those who submit material and help make *Crime Scene* a success!

If you find an article particularly thought-provoking, we encourage you to write a response.

We welcome all After Thoughts, whether they pertain to the content of *Crime Scene* or general issues in criminal justice.

We hope to hear from you!

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

By Dorothy Cotton, Ph.D.

Director-at-Large: Police Psychology

Critical Incident Stress Debriefing

I was just reading a meta-analysis of the effectiveness of "multiple session early interventions following traumatic events."¹ This is the latest derivative of what was originally known as critical incident stress debriefing (CISD). I suspect many of us are familiar with the history of these interventions, as they are commonly used in correctional facilities and police services, as well as with victims of crime and people who have experienced natural disasters, and unnatural disasters such as motor vehicle accidents (MVs) and explosions. The question posed always relates to the efficacy of these interventions in aborting or minimizing post traumatic stress symptoms. In the past, CISD procedures were highly structured and formulaic single session interventions that were applied uniformly to all involved parties. Over the years,

¹ See Roberts, Kitchiner, Kenardy, & Bisson (2009), *American Journal of Psychiatry* 2009, 166(3) p. 293.

the shape of the interventions changed as did notions about who should participate, how many sessions there should be, and when they should occur. And the evidence of their effectiveness was really all over the map. Some people maintained that the procedures were highly effective; others found no effect and some even suggested that the interventions were harmful.

The recent study (Roberts et al., 2009) is worth having a look at and it does shed a little light on the subject of dealing with people who appear to be at high risk for post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), but the findings, not surprisingly, are mixed. The authors conclude that there is no evidence that providing multiple sessions of treatment to people who might not have even had any symptoms to start with is a good idea. But on the other hand, providing treatment for people who actually seem to have traumatic stress symptoms seems to be a good idea.

Sometimes, I am embarrassed to be a psychologist. Can you imagine if medical doctors did research like this? Let's suppose there is a flood in a big city and the sewers back up. The public health people decide there is a risk of infection so they give everyone antibiotics. Not just to the people who look sick, not just to the people who are vulnerable to infection, but to everybody. Then they assess the benefit from the antibiotics. Lo and behold ... the people with no symptoms did not get better. In fact, some had an adverse reaction to the antibiotics and got sick. Who knew!?!? Lesson learned: next time the sewers back up, no antibiotics.

What this proves of course is that antibiotics do not work. Huh?

This meta-analysis does portray many of the things about systematic research that drive me nuts. First of all, as is the case with many intervention studies, the authors of the meta-analysis selected only studies in which there was random assignment to treatment groups. Therefore, the results are also generalizable to those of you who randomly assign your patients to treatment conditions. Would all of you who do this raise your hands please?

Funny thing... that does not seem to be how most clinicians work. When I see a patient, I decide on the treatment based on the person's symptoms as well as on their personality and other individual differences. People with very limited verbal skills and difficulty with abstraction are not the best candidates for cognitive therapies and (in my honest opinion) might do better with a more behavioural approach. People with a lot of physiological symptoms might do better with a muscle relaxation-based strategy and people who are phobic might do better with an exposure based intervention.

And people with no abnormal symptoms just might be reassured to know that someone, like their employer, is paying attention to the fact that they had a stressful

experience, even if they were not heading down the path to PTSD.

For me, there are cases made both for and against CISD/CISM (critical incident stress management) and related interventions. No psychological intervention should be dished out willy-nilly - just as antibiotics should be administered with caution. But I'd sure like to see a study in which individual characteristics and desires of the affected individual take precedence. Maybe people who want an intervention should be assessed and if the motivation is appropriate, an approach tailored to their needs should be provided.

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**WE HOPE TO SEE YOU IN
MONTREAL IN JUNE!
BE SURE TO ATTEND THE
SECTION BUSINESS MEETING
TO GET THE LATEST NEWS
ON WHAT'S HAPPENING
IN THE SECTION!**

Column: Training in Criminal Justice Psychology

By Mark Olver, Ph.D., RD Psych (SK)
Director-at-Large: Clinical and Training

Reflections on Training Issues from a Graduate Program in Clinical Psychology

Over the past year, I served as the Acting Director of Clinical Training (DCT) for our clinical psychology program, and as the current semester comes to a close, I see this newsletter column as a useful opportunity to reflect on a few forensic training issues that I've encountered over the past year, both as DCT and as clinical faculty.

Selecting new clinical-forensic psychology trainees

One matter concerns the selection of new students into our program. Like many professional psychology programs, we receive a large number of applications from some very strong students across the country, the vast majority of whom boast high grades, strong GRE's, relevant research experience (including honours thesis), and sometimes presentations, publications, and clinical or quasi clinical experiences working with offenders or other clinical populations... all before even entering graduate school! Sadly, as those of us faced with admission decisions know, the demand far exceeds the supply, and only a few of the most promising

students can be selected while other exceptional applicants may have to apply again in subsequent years.

It's not an easy decision, but it's an important one that becomes more apparent when one reflects on the implications of selecting an applicant. As a clinical psychologist, I see myself first and foremost as being in the business of training new psychologists and helping prepare them for the world of work and sound ethical practice, during and after graduate school, in research and in clinical practice (with these two professional activities mutually informing each other). Those of us in graduate psychology programs are recruiting a group of promising candidates, on to whom we impart our knowledge, experience, and past training all in an effort to train them to do our job (... and hopefully even better!). I am heartened at the student talent we continue to recruit into the forensic concentration of our clinical psychology program, especially with the need increasing for recruitment and retention of qualified psychologists in Canadian correctional settings.

Providing forensic training to non-forensic students

Another area relates to providing clinical-forensic psychology training to clinical psychology students who do not have a background in forensics. Each year I supervise a practicum working with young offenders, and the training experience primarily involves conducting psychological assessments for Youth Court. Some of the students I train may have prior forensic clinical or research training, while others may have a more generalist background or come from other areas and have simply voiced a keen interest in obtaining some forensic experience. In addition to some common clinical training issues that tend to pop up in forensic settings (e.g., engaging challenging clients), students with non-forensic backgrounds are faced with a steep learning curve as they build a knowledge base and develop core competencies specific to the assessment, treatment, and management of young offenders.

In my practicum supervision, I have been impressed with talented clinical psychology students who may have little prior forensic experience, but have effectively inhaled several books and journal articles from leaders in our field, developed a command of the empirical assessment and treatment literature, and demonstrated an ability to apply this research and knowledge to clinical practice. To me, these recent training experiences have underscored the importance and viability of providing such training to student clinicians who sport the broad clinical skills but, temporarily, lack the domain specific knowledge of the field. Perhaps increasing practicum opportunities may entice more clinical students to practice in forensic settings, even if they did not necessarily begin their graduate clinical training with forensic work in mind.

To specialize or not to specialize

A frequent concern expressed by some forensic students applying for their predoctoral internships is "what if I don't get any further clinical-forensic training or have the opportunity to complete additional forensic rotations?" The concern reflects the fear that one may not qualify to meet the registration criteria for specialization in their declared area of expertise or perhaps even somehow experience an atrophy of acquired skills after a year out of the field. The clinical-forensic training experiences accrued via coursework, research, and clinical practica has created a solid foundation for professional practice, especially when combined with generalist clinical training. The internship is often one final opportunity to sample from a variety of training experiences at an intern/resident's disposal with intensive supervision and guidance from a psychologist who does specialize in that area, before entering the field of post-doctoral work. Although the process of specializing may certainly begin during one's internship (e.g., via forensic rotations or even a focused clinical-forensic internship), there is also ample opportunity to specialize following the completion of one's graduate training.

Clinical-forensic training abroad

I have also had the good fortune to have some professional experiences in Ireland and the UK, conducting training in risk assessment and attending a forensic mental health colloquium. While these experiences were enriching in their own right, one of the biggest rewards has been the opportunity to meet our international colleagues, which included discussing training and registration issues in their home jurisdictions. While expectedly there is heterogeneity in the training models and registration criteria in Ireland and the UK, one common model was that clinical psychology training programs generally entailed a three-year doctoral degree and the completion of relevant coursework, clinical practica, and an original research project, generally smaller in scope than most dissertations, but nevertheless, a high quality scholarly undertaking. These doctoral programs seemed akin to the Psy D in North America, and the degrees also assume a different name (e.g., the University College of Dublin awards a D Psy Sc), reflecting the emphasis on clinical training. By contrast, the Ph.D. (the doctoral degree most frequently awarded in Canadian graduate psychology programs) is primarily a research degree and seldom involves clinical training. Some programs also offer specialties in forensic psychology, such as a one-year M.Sc. in forensic psychology.

On a related note, it was interesting to go for dinner and chat with clinicians and trainees in different parts of the world, where it seemed there was some overlap in training issues encountered there, as well as important differences. For instance, in a conversation with one group of trainees in the UK, it was noted that roughly a dozen assistant therapists

were competing for a single therapist job! While it is my understanding that this level of competition for a particular forensic psychology position is not typical for Canada at the present time, these experiences over the last year have confirmed to me that interest in clinical-forensic psychology continues to be strong, and there remains a desire and demand for such training experiences.

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

Mental Health Act Apprehensions and Police Record Checks

Most of us who work in the criminal justice field are well acquainted with the concept of a CPIC check or other "police records check" which may be required by an employer or an agency for which we might like to work. There are several versions of such checks. Some are limited to fairly significant criminal records and others are much broader. On the surface, the idea of checking a criminal record seems both appropriate and logical. We have all heard too many stories of people who have a history of abusing children getting hired by school boards or coaching an amateur youth athletic team. These kinds of examples are probably why the "vulnerable persons reports" were invented. You really want to find out about these kinds of things BEFORE something dreadful happens.

What is a little less clear is how these reports morphed from their original intent to something much broader - something that might include information such as an apprehension under the *Mental Health Act* (MHA). Is it in fact reasonable that a person who once made a suicidal gesture and was taken to hospital by police would end up denied the opportunity to get a job, do volunteer work or enter a particular field of study based on this single event? In an ideal world, this would not happen. In an ideal world, employers would only get information about mental health issues if there were a bona fide reason to have this information (and frankly it is hard for me to think of a position for which a mental health problem would be an automatic

exclusionary criteria). In an ideal world, even if employers could make a case for having such information, the information would come from a mental health professional, not from the police. After all, if a job requires that you be able to lift heavy boxes, we do not ask the police whether you have ever been in a car accident that might have affected your back and thus your ability to lift. We ask a doctor.

But in many (but not all) jurisdictions, police routinely provide MHA information as part of their "vulnerable persons reports." And many (but not all) employers jump to conclusions when they see anything turn up on a police record. But does this really make sense? In my honest opinion: No.

Many people who have apprehensions under the MHA on their record also have many other incidents on their record - arrests, charges, convictions. If the person really does have a history of run-in's with the law, it will show up somewhere else.

Many people with unstable or untreated mental health problems will have sketchy employment records, trouble finding references, etc. These are factors that might influence an employer's hiring decision - but they are factors that may affect all candidates, not just people with mental illnesses. If an employer wants to know about this kind of thing, then they pursue normal hiring practices - checking employment records, references, etc.

But for the people who might have no other alleged red flags than a MHA apprehension? Never did anything to merit a charge, has managed to hold down jobs and get references? Maybe was not even admitted to hospital since the apprehension was likely done at the behest of the police and might not have been supported by the hospital or physician who did the assessment? Is there a legitimate reason to deny this person a position or an opportunity? I vote no.

The good news is that at least some parts of the police world have started to think about this as well. I note in the February 12, 2009 minutes of the Toronto Police Services Board (available online) that the Board has directed the police to come up with a new policy in this regard, one that would reflect a clear change in direction from what many police services are doing. The direction indicates:

- The default position will be that MHA apprehensions are NOT reported - unless the requesting agency specifically asks for this information and provides a rationale for obtaining the information.
- Any agency requesting this information needs to verify that they have been trained by the Ontario Human Rights Commission or an equivalent before the information is released - presumably to help ensure appropriate use of the information.

- The information will be released only to the person in question and not to the agency or employer.

The issue of apprehensions under the MHA and police record checks is a complex one. It requires us to think about our assumptions around mental illness and dangerousness, stereotypes of people with mental illnesses, assumptions about the likelihood (or lack of) of recovery from mental illness. In other words, it has a lot to do with stigma.

If you work with or for a police service, you might want to ask about their police record checks policy. You might want to have a look at the Toronto proposals:

<http://www.tpsb.ca/FS/Docs/Minutes/2009/>

**INTERESTED IN SUBMITTING
AN ARTICLE FOR THE
OCTOBER ISSUE OF CRIME SCENE?**

Deadline is September 1st, 2009

Column: *Beyond a Reasonable Doubt*

By Garry Fisher, Ph.D., C.Psych.

Co-Director-at-Large: Psychology in the Courts

**Youth Criminal Justice: Psychology and
Interface with IRCS Sentences**

With the implementation of the *Youth Criminal Justice Act* (YCJA) six years ago, the Intensive Rehabilitative Custody and Supervision (IRCS) sentence option became available to the Courts. It allows for mental health status to be considered when a youth commits a serious violent offence, and permits eligibility for additional and specific federal funding to provide support and intervention, and enhanced supervision. When the YCJA was enacted, initial predictors overestimated how frequently this sentence would be imposed. This article considers factors that may be contributing to what seems to be underutilization of this sentence given the potential support it can provide for treatment programming.

Often, psychologists are asked to provide assessments to help determine a youth's eligibility for IRCS consideration. The criteria for an IRCS sentence are a combination of the commission of a "serious violent offence" by the youth, as well as the presence of quite loosely defined mental health problems (e.g., mental illness or disorder, a psychological disorder, or an emotional disturbance).

In reviewing how IRCS sentences have been imposed across Canada, the types of difficulties found in youth that have qualified for the sentence probably extend beyond what psychologists usually consider a "mental illness or psychological disorder" and can include behavioural

problems such as Conduct Disorder, Oppositional Defiant Disorder, as well as Post-traumatic Stress Disorder, learning disabilities and Attention Deficit [Hyperactivity] Disorder (all of which are contained in the DSM-IV). With such a range of possible criteria, why are so few sentences imposed? Perhaps there is a "mismatch" between these types of common difficulties, found in a very high percentage of criminal justice system involved youth, and our sense of what a "mental illness" is from a more traditional psychological perspective. A survey of IRCS sentences across the country has found that the Court, as sufficient for the sentence, considers straightforward behavioural problems, such as oppositional defiance, more vague concerns such as parent-child relational conflict, or problems not always thought of as a mental illness, such as Foetal Alcohol Syndrome.

Lawyers and Court officials, rather than clinicians, often seem to be the IRCS sentence driving forces. At times, their goal is reaching a plea bargain (e.g., impose a long IRCS youth sentence instead of an adult sentence), rather than starting with more clinical decision-making processes. As well, the small number of IRCS-sentenced youth has failed to create a sense of programming momentum – if a higher number of youth are identified there is greater potential for specific IRCS-dedicated clinicians and program staff to be hired to allow for stronger development of a comprehensive intervention model.

In my home province, Manitoba, a snapshot of mental health problems, using the Massachusetts Youth Screening Instrument (MAYSI), in incarcerated youth found that 90% were identified with some type of difficulty, when a history of trauma, substance abuse, and anxiety/depression was considered. Yet only three youth across six years have been identified by the Court as IRCS candidates. In our jurisdiction, there is an underlying and unspoken assumption that "run of the mill" problems such as behavioural difficulties, and attention regulatory problems do not really count as "mental illnesses".

Perhaps we should reconsider. There have been several youth charged with offences that clearly fall under a serious violent category. With national rates approximating 80 youth per year charged with murder (not even considering other violent offences such as assaults), we may be missing opportunities to enhance resources if we do not broaden our definitions of "mental illness" to consider a wider scope of psychological difficulties. Potentially, making an IRCS sentence consideration a routine part of a Court-ordered assessment process may be a venue for making greater use of this component of the YCJA.

**HAVE A COMMENT?
SEND US AN AFTER THOUGHT !**

Column: Knowledge Development and Transfer

By Joseph A. Camilleri, Ph.D.,
Director-at-Large: Web Coordinator

Psychology of Retaliation

The psychology of retaliation and vengeance was given considerable attention in a recent issue of the *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*. Although retaliation is well-known as a precursor to aggressive behavior, psychologists are now investigating characteristics of people who are more likely to retaliate and under what conditions retaliation is likely to occur. I briefly review two studies that looked at these conditions.

Retaliation as a response to procedural unfairness (Brebels, De Cremer, & Sedikides, 2008)

Research on workplace violence and conflict has been gaining attention (e.g., see Raver & Barling, 2008). From their review of the literature on workplace retaliation, Brebels et al. found that perceived unfairness, a well-studied variable in industrial and organizational (I/O) psychology literature, predicts workplace violence only some of the time. To account for these inconsistent findings, they tested whether a variable called regulatory focus (i.e., how people pursue workplace goals) moderates the relationship between perceived unfairness and retaliation. They hypothesized that retaliation in response to perceived unfairness occurs among people whose regulatory function is promotion-based (i.e., people who achieve workplace goals through their accomplishments and aspirations), but not among people whose regulatory focus is prevention-based (i.e., people who achieve workplace goals by addressing their duties and obligations). In two studies, they found that promotion-focused participants retaliated more than prevention-focused participants, lending support for their hypothesis.

What exactly does regulatory focus, particularly those who are promotion focused, indicate about people's psychology? Brebels et al. studied one possible psychological characteristic, called "high individual-self accessibility", knowing which characteristics make oneself unique. If you can overcome this kind of social psychology jargon, then you may be interested in reading this article in more detail. Otherwise, my take-home message is that understanding characteristics of people who retaliate may be informative to forensic psychologists - particularly those who manage behavioural problems in correctional settings where perceived fairness and retaliation are relevant concerns.

The paradoxical consequences of revenge (Carlsmith, Wilson, & Gilbert, 2008)

In this study, Carlsmith et al. tested the long held assumption that revenge functions to alleviate negative affect from being wronged, thereby reducing the likelihood of further retaliation. Interestingly, the authors proposed an alternative hypothesis, that revenge actually *prolongs* one's negative feelings, possibly leading to increased aggression. Using a "free-rider" paradigm², they found that people who were allowed to punish free-riders continued to think about them, whereas participants who could not exact revenge ruminated to a lesser degree.

Not only does this study highlight the importance of a third-party intervening on behalf of someone who was wronged, it raises an interesting question about the long-term influence retaliation has on violent recidivism risk.

Other Developments

The most recent issue of *Psychology, Crime, and Law* focused on offender cognition and emotion (Gannon & Ward, 2009). I hope to review some of these papers in the next issue of *Crime Scene*.

Final Note

As a final note, I would like to encourage readers of *Crime Scene* to comment on this column. If you have anything to add to the discussion, such as linking these ideas with clinical assessment or treatment or other areas of criminal justice psychology, I would be happy to include or address your comments. You can contact me at jcamilleri@wsc.ma.edu.

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*denotes reviewed article

² A "free-rider" game, more commonly known as "public goods games", is an interactive game where earning money is achieved through cooperation. In this version of the game, some participants were allowed to punish those who did not cooperate (called free-riders) by taking some of their money.

**HOPE TO SEE YOU AT THE
CELEBRATION
OF
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**The Experience of Going Through The Forensic
Psychiatric System For Mentally Disordered Offenders:
A Patients' View On What Helps and What Hinders**

*Devon Harabalja, M.A.
University of British Columbia*

This study used a qualitative approach to elicit helping and hindering factors that influence the experiences of forensic psychiatric patients in the forensic system. Ten participants were interviewed using Critical Incident Technique to elicit their experiences since coming to a Forensic Psychiatric Inpatient Hospital. Data were analyzed and results indicated that the factors that were helpful were: talking with staff, programming and services, and taking prescribed medications. Hindering factors included: exposure to illicit drugs and violence, stigmatism, living on a maximum security ward, lack of respect from the staff, and concerns involving prescribed medication. The results of this research are discussed in light of how this present research supports the extant research and theories. Implications for practice and recommendations at both a clinician and system level within forensic psychiatric services are discussed.

For further information, please contact Devon Harabalja at Dharabalja@forensic.bc.ca.

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Deadline is September 1st, 2009

**Factors that Influence the Accuracy of
Behavioural Linkage Analysis in Cases of
Serial Sexual Assault, Homicide, and Burglary**

*Tamara Melnyk, M.A.
Carleton University*

In the absence of physical evidence, investigators must rely on offence behaviours when determining whether several crimes are linked to a common offender. This is known as behavioural linkage analysis (BLA). A variety of factors may influence the degree to which it is possible to link serial crime, including the crime type under consideration, the similarity coefficient used to assess across-crime similarity, and the frequencies of the behaviours used to conduct the analysis. The current thesis consists of two studies designed to examine these factors. Study 1 compares the linking accuracy of two similarity coefficients – Jaccard's coefficient (J) and the taxonomic similarity index (Δ_s) – across three crime types – serial sexual assault ($n = 126$), serial homicide ($n = 237$), and serial burglary ($n = 210$). Study 2 compares the linking accuracy that can be achieved across the three crime types when using various subsets of behaviours defined by their frequency of occurrence. The degree to which these factors influence linking accuracy is determined through the use of receiver operating characteristic (ROC) analysis. The results of Study 1 indicate that no significant differences exist between the linking ability of J and Δ_s across a variety of conditions, although J slightly outperforms Δ_s when relying on larger sample sizes. Both coefficients lead to much higher levels of linking accuracy in cases of serial homicide and sexual assault compared to serial burglary. The results of Study 2 indicate that no significant differences emerge when four behavioural frequency recommendations are compared to one another, indicating that it might be most productive to base linkage analyses on all crime scene behaviours included in a crime sample. These various findings are discussed, along with their implications. The thesis ends with a presentation of some limitations with the research and some suggestions for how these limitations can be overcome in the future.

For further information, please contact Tamara Melnyk at tmelnyk@connect.carleton.ca.

**CONGRATULATIONS
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SPECIAL FEATURES ...

**Special Feature:
A Preventable Death: Report by
the Office of the Correctional Investigator
into the Death of Ashley Smith**

By Ivan Zinger, LL.B., Ph.D.
Executive Director and General Counsel, OCI

On March 3, 2009, the Office of the Correctional Investigator (OCI) released its report of the death of Ms. Ashley Smith on October 19, 2007, at the Grand Valley Institution for Women, in Kitchener, Ontario (see www.oci-bec.gc.ca). The public release of this report was delayed in part due to pending criminal charges against four Correctional Service of Canada (CSC) employees. All criminal charges were withdrawn in December 2008.

Ashley Smith, who had a history of self-harm, spent some five years in the youth justice system in New Brunswick before being transferred to the care and custody of the CSC in October 2006, at age 18.

The CSC's treatment of Ashley Smith over the eleven and a half months she was in the care and custody of the federal system set the stage for the tragic circumstances that resulted in her death. Despite Ms. Smith's well-documented troubled history in the provincial juvenile corrections and mental health systems, Ashley Smith was never provided with a comprehensive mental health assessment or treatment plan while under federal jurisdiction. The attempts that were made to obtain a full psychological assessment were thwarted in part by the Correctional Service's decisions to constantly transfer Ms. Smith from one institution to another.

Immediately upon entry to the federal system, Ms. Smith was placed on segregation status and maintained on that status for her entire time under federal jurisdiction. She did not always receive the benefit of the legislative safeguards requiring thorough and timely independent reviews of her segregation status.

The conditions of confinement in the various segregation areas were at times oppressive and inhumane. She was often given no clothing other than a smock – no shoes, no mattress and no blanket. During the last weeks of her life she slept on the floor of her segregation cell.

Her grievances concerning these conditions were inadequately addressed by senior management and the few responses received were non-compliant with existing policy and regulations governing administrative segregation.

Ashley Smith was the subject of over 150 security incidents, many involving the deployment of gas. A number of these interventions resulted in the application of four-point restraints and forced injection of medication, contrary to existing CSC policy.

In less than a year, Ashley Smith was moved 17 times between three federal penitentiaries, two treatment facilities, two external hospitals and one provincial correctional facility. Nine of the 17 transfers of Ms. Smith, across four of the five CSC regions, had nothing to do with addressing her needs. Rather, these institutional transfers were implemented as a result of administrative issues such as cell availability and staff fatigue.

Most of these institutional transfers were done contrary to existing law and policy with little or no regard for Ms. Smith's mental health needs. On one occasion, while in restraints, Ms. Smith was duct-taped to the seat of an airplane.

Ashley Smith was assaulted by a staff member at a federal psychiatric institution resulting in her transfer out of that facility for her own safety. A staff member has been charged.

Ms. Smith had been identified by a psychologist at the Grand Valley Institution for Women as highly suicidal; however, staff monitoring Ms. Smith in the 48 hours preceding her death were not formally provided with this information.

In the hours just prior to her death, Ms. Smith spoke to a Primary Worker of her strong desire to end her life. Ms. Smith died while under direct 24 hr observation by correctional staff.

In its report, the OCI issued 16 recommendations – ten of which dealt directly with the delivery of mental health care to federal offenders, including:

- The Correctional Service issue an immediate direction to all staff regarding the Correctional Service's legislated requirement to take into consideration each offender's state of health and health care needs (including mental health) in all decisions affecting offenders, including decisions relating to institutional placements, transfers, administrative segregation, and disciplinary matters. CSC decision-related documentation must provide evidence that the particular offender's physical and mental health care needs were considered by the decision-maker. (rec. 4)
- All Correctional Service National Boards of Investigation into incidents of suicide and self-injury be chaired by an independent mental health professional. (rec. 7)

- The Correctional Service amend its segregation policy to require that a psychological review of the inmate's current mental health status, with a special emphasis on the evaluation of the risk for self-harm, be completed within 24 hours of the inmate's placement in segregation. (rec. 9)
- The Correctional Service immediately implement independent adjudication of segregation placements of inmates with mental health concerns. This review should be completed within 30 days of the placement and the Adjudicator's decision should be forwarded to the Regional Deputy Commissioner. In the case of a female inmate, the Adjudicator's decision should be forwarded to the Deputy Commissioner for Women. (rec. 10)
- The Minister of Public Safety, together with the Minister of Health, initiate discussions with their provincial/territorial counterparts and non-governmental stakeholders regarding how to best engage the Mental Health Commission of Canada on the development of a National Strategy for Corrections that would ensure a better coordination among federal/provincial/territorial correctional and mental health systems. The development of the National Strategy should focus on information sharing between jurisdictions, and promote a seamless delivery of mental health services to offenders. (rec. 15)

The death of Ashley Smith adds to a disturbing and well-documented pattern of deaths in federal custody, and is the latest in a series of investigations undertaken by the OCI.

In February 2007, the OCI released its *Deaths in Custody Study*, which examined the deaths of 82 inmates while in federal custody between 2001 and 2005 (see www.oci-bec.gc.ca). Significantly, the *Study* found that some deaths in custody could have been averted through improved risk assessments, more vigorous preventive measures, and more competent and timely responses by institutional staff.

In May 2008, the OCI publicly released *A Failure to Respond*, a report on the death of another federal offender (see www.oci-bec.gc.ca). This report concluded that "the concerns related to the failures by staff to respond to a medical emergency in this case are strikingly consistent with the concerns that have been raised in the past with the Correctional Service by its own National Board of Investigations, Provincial Coroners and the OCI, including the *Deaths in Custody Study*."

It is the position of the OCI that the system-wide failures that contributed to the death of Ms. Smith require a thorough examination to ensure better coordination among correctional and mental health systems nation-wide. All levels of

government need to take immediate actions to ensure essential mental health care is available to all persons suffering from mental illness inside the criminal justice system.

**HAVE A PUBLICATION THAT'S JUST
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**Special Feature:
Improving Our Talk: Moving Beyond
the "Low", "Moderate", and "High" Typology
of Risk Communication**

By Kelly M. Babchishin and R. Karl Hanson
Public Safety Canada

An important consideration in offender risk assessment is the language with which risk is communicated. Risk communications can involve various formats, such as nominal category (e.g., "low", "moderate", or "high") and numerical formats (e.g., risk ratios). Importantly, different formats of risk communication influence interpretations of risk. This article will briefly review the strengths and limitations of the available formats of risk communication, and suggest possible ways to improve current risk communication practices.

Currently, the language of "low", "moderate", and "high" is dominant in offender risk communication. Most forensic evaluators use such nominal categories and prefer them over numerical statements of risk. Grann and Pallvik (2002) found that most (86%) forensic psychiatric evaluations ($N = 142$) communicate risk using only nominal categories. Evaluators and decision-makers also like action-oriented risk assessments (i.e., interpretation of risk factors and treatment targets; Heilbrun, O'Neil, Stronhman, Bowman, & Philipson; 2000; Heilbrun et al., 2004). This preference for qualitative approaches to risk communication is not limited to forensic psychology (see Edwards & Gwyn, 1999).

Despite a clear preference for and use of nominal risk categories, this format has several limitations. The greatest problem is that clinicians disagree with what "low", "moderate", and "high" risk actually represents (e.g., Hilton, Carter, Harris, & Sharpe, 2008). Inconsistent interpretations of nominal probabilities have also been found among judges (Monahan & Silver, 2003), medical professionals (Edwards, Elwyn, & Mulley, 2002; Shaw & Dear, 1990), and the general population (Clarke, Ruffin, Hill, & Beamen, 1992). Conflicting interpretations of such nominal categories is found irrespective of experience with risk assessments (Slovic, Monahan, & MacGregor, 2000).

Context has also been found to influence the interpretation of risk. Namely, people perceive the same nominal risk categories as representing a higher risk in the context of an influenza epidemic than in a neutral context (Brun & Teigen, 1988). Consequently, nominal categories used to communicate sexual or violent risk may be perceived as higher risk than nominal categories communicating risk for general criminality.

So what are the options? If evaluators are to continue to use nominal risk categories, then it is imperative that these terms are clearly defined. One form of definition involves explicitly linking risk terms to implied recommendations (e.g., when I say "high risk" I mean that the offender should go to such-and-such treatment program). Another option is to link risk to non-arbitrary numerical definitions (e.g., when I say "high risk" I mean that the offender is 3 times more likely to violently reoffend compared to the typical offender). Numerical risk communication, such as percentiles and risk ratios, leads to fewer errors than does the use of nominal risk categories (e.g., Karelitz & Budescu, 2004). As well, numeric communication can take advantage of the information now provided by modern actuarial risk tools.

Numerical Formats for Risk Communication

Frequencies (e.g., the chance of reoffending is 10 out of 100) and percentages (e.g., 10% chance of reoffending) are both basic methods used to describe absolute risk and are usually qualified by a time period (e.g., after 5 years). Several relative risk estimates are also available. For example, percentile ranks compare an individual's risk to other offenders in the reference population (e.g., the offender is in the top 95% of offenders in terms of risk to violently reoffend). Relative risk ratios are another option (e.g., 2.5 times more likely to violently reoffend compared to the typical offender).

Limitations of Numerical Risk Communication

Although numerical estimates offer more information, they are not without their limitations. For example, the format of numerical risk estimates have been found to influence the interpretation of risk. In frequencies, larger denominators (e.g., 10 out of 1,000 versus 1 out of 100) result in higher perceived risk. This effect is found even when the smaller denominator actually represents a higher risk (e.g., 1286 out of 10,000 versus 24.14 out of 100; Yamagishi, 1997). In short, perceived "riskiness" seems to increase as the denominator increases. As such, risk communications using frequencies should attempt to keep the denominator consistent across the report (Visschers, Meetens, Passchier, & de Vries, 2009). In general, errors in interpretations can be reduced when calculations associated with the numerical estimates (e.g., frequencies) are described in detail (Gigerenzer & Hoffrage, 1995).

Base rate information is routinely ignored when interpreting risk estimates. Specifically, people tend to overestimate improbable risk and underestimate common risk (Evans, Handley, Perham, Over, & Thompson, 2000; Moore, Derry, McQuay, & Paling, 2008). Although base rate neglect affects interpretation of nominal risk estimates, it is most clearly evident in numerical risk estimates. For example, an offender that is in the 99th percentile may actually be only at a 40% of reoffending; however, some may interpret this communication as representing a 99% chance of reoffending (i.e., effectively ignoring the base rate information). As such, relative risk has been found to result in an overestimation of risk, largely due to base rate neglect (Elmore & Gigerenzer, 2005). Techniques are available, however, to increase the correct interpretation of base rate information and decrease its neglect. Namely, more accurate interpretation and lower neglect of base rates are found when presenting base rates as frequencies rather than probabilities, as well as when offering detailed instruction on how to interpret base rates (Evans et al, 2000). Similarly, the use of statistical heuristics (i.e., general rules to guide calculations, akin to statistical intuition) often results in more accurate interpretation of numerical risk communications (Kahneman, 2003). Clear instructions, information on what numbers are relevant, and training are all effective methods to increase the availability of statistical heuristics and, consequently, increase the correct interpretation of numerical risk estimates (Kahneman, 2003; Nisbett, Krantz, Jepson, & Kunda, 1983).

Limitations Affecting both Nominal and Numerical Risk Communication

Some issues have been found to impact the interpretation of risk, irrespective of risk communication format, whether it be conveyed numerically or nominally. For example, different methods of framing risk have been found to result in different interpretation of risk. A "10% chance of reoffending" and a "90% chance of not reoffending" conveys the same information, however, the latter phrase is interpreted as less risky. This phenomenon is referred to as framing effect and has been found in students, physicians, and patients, (see Kahneman, 2003 for a review). Interestingly, Hilton et al. (2008) found that clinicians' nominal interpretation (i.e., low, moderate, or high) of an individual risk (based on percentages or percentile ranks) are influenced by the risk level of a second individual's risk profile. Specifically, clinicians are more likely to judge an individual as higher risk when the risk of the second individual is low (i.e., 10% chance of reoffending) and were more likely to judge the individual lower risk when the second individual is high (i.e., 82% chance of reoffending). Lastly, research has also found that presenting more risk factors (whether or not they have any validity) results in less accurate interpretation of risk; usually in the direction of overestimation (Ægisdóttir et al., 2006; Hilton, Harris, Rawson, & Beach, 2005).

Actions and Recommendations

More than a decade ago, Monahan and Steadman (1996) suggested that numerical risk communication would become increasingly used due to advances in risk assessment methods. Nevertheless, most clinicians continue to report nominal risk categories, without taking advantage of the numerical information available. These approaches are not mutually exclusive. Nominal risk categories, coupled with numerical risk estimates, can result in more accurate and informative risk communications than when either type is used alone. As well, graphical displays can also be useful in clarifying risk communications (Kurz-Milcke, Gigerenzer, & Martignon, 2008; Visschers et al., 2009).

In order to use nominal categories, they should be explicitly linked to empirically-derived numerical risk estimates. Numerical indicators that show promise are percentiles ranks, probabilities, and risk ratios. Below is an example of a risk communication for a sex offender that takes advantage of some of the available formats.

An illustrative example:

Definition of the meaning of low, moderate, and high:

Level of severity. The level of severity of the reoffence for sex offenders is defined as “low” if the reoffence is likely to be a non-contact offence (e.g., exhibitionist), “moderate” if the reoffence is likely to be a low impact contact (e.g., molestation), and “high” if the reoffence is likely to be a high impact contact (e.g., sexual assault with threat to life or limb).

Percentile ranks. A rating of “low” is allocated to offenders whose risk is in the bottom 16% (below one standard deviation), “moderate” for offenders in the 17th to 84th percentile, and “high” for offenders in the 85th to 100th percentile (above one standard deviation).

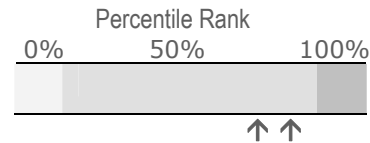
Recidivism rates. A rating of “low” is allocated to offenders with the same recidivism rate as non-sexual offenders (less than 3% after 10 years). A rating of “moderate” is allocated to offenders with recidivism rates noticeably higher than other offenders, but with relatively low recidivism rates (3-40% after 10 years). Lastly, a rating of “high” is allocated to sexual offenders who are more likely than not to reoffend sexually during their lifetime (estimated as observed recidivism rates of greater than 40% after 10 years).

Risk ratios. An offender with a risk ratio that represents half the rate of a typical offender (defined as a score of 2 on the Static-99) is described as “low” risk. An offender with a risk ratio of .51 to 1.99 is defined as “moderate” risk. Lastly, an offender that has a risk ratio representing twice the rate of a typical offender (greater than 2.00) would be classified as high.

Fictional Risk Communication

Background: Mr. X is a non-contact sex offender, without a history of contact offences, who has been convicted for indecent exposure (i.e., exhibitionism). Mr. X has a score of 5 on the Static-99 (Hanson & Thornton, 1999), a sexual risk assessment scale.

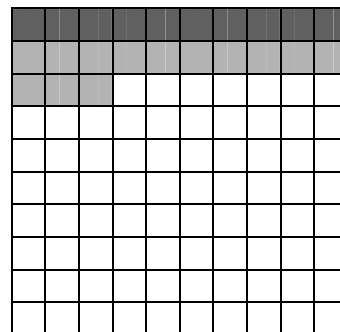
Risk communication: Compared to other Canadian sexual offenders, Mr. Smith places in the 83.7th to 91.0th percentile. The 95% confidence interval extends this range to the 81.1th to 93.0th percentile. In other words, 81.1 to 93.0% of sex offenders in Canada scored lower or equal to Mr. X on the Static-99 and 7.0 to 18.9% of sex offenders scored higher.



Mr. X belongs to a group of sex offenders who, if followed for 5 years after release, would reoffend at a rate of between 10.2 out of 100 to 23.1 out of 100. If Mr. X was followed for 10 years, the reoffending rate would increase to a range of 11.8 out of 100 to 32.1 out of 100.

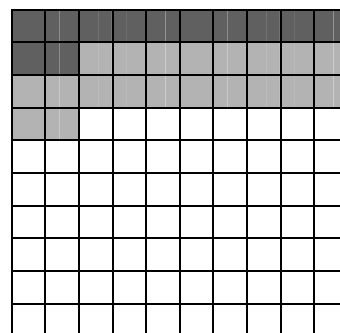
Sexual Recidivism Rates (out of 100)

5 years



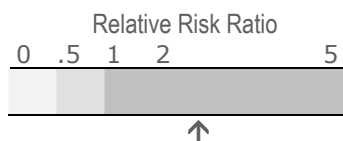
This figure represents Mr. X's expected recidivism rates after 5 years. The darker boxes depict the lower range (10.2 out of 100) and the lighter boxes depict the upper range (23.1 out of 100) of possible recidivism outcome.

10 years



This figure represents Mr. X's expected recidivism rates after 10 years. The darker boxes depict the lower range (11.8 out of 100) and the lighter boxes depict the upper range (32.1 out of 100) of possible recidivism outcome.

Mr. X's recidivism rate would be expected to be approximately 2.42 times higher than the recidivism rate of the typical sex offender (defined as a score of 2 on the Static-99).¹



In short, Mr. X. is a low risk in terms of the level of severity of the reoffence, if one is to be recommitted, as he has a history of non-contact offences only. Mr. X is a high risk offender in terms of his percentile rank and high risk in terms of relative risk compared to other sexual offenders. Lastly, Mr. X is at moderate risk when defined by his expected sexual recidivism rate.

This is provided as an example only. The explicit rules, of course, will vary depending on the context of the risk assessment. Although we believe the above rules to be plausible for communication about the risk of sexual recidivism, rules only function in risk communication when there is a common understanding. One point of the current article is that evaluators should provide clear definitions of nominal risk categories, and decision-makers should demand such definitions when they are lacking. Eventually, there may be sufficient agreement on what constitutes a "low risk" or a "high risk" offender, such that these terms can be understood without qualification. Until such time, evaluators need to make special efforts to be clear.

Notes.

1. Norms provided on the Static-99 official website (www.static99.org) were used to complete this fictional risk communication.

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RESEARCH BRIEFS

Number of Clients at Risk for Developing False Memories of Abuse: Addendum to Legault and Laurence (2007)

By Jean-Roch Laurence, Ph.D. & Shelagh Freedman
Concordia University

When Ellen Legault and I published the article *Recovered Memories of Childhood Sexual Abuse: Social Worker, Psychologist, and Psychiatrist Reports of Beliefs, Practices and Cases* in 2007, we mostly paid attention to the beliefs and practices of professionals about memory, memory processes, mnemonic techniques, and recovered memories of abuse. The data reported quite clearly indicated that practitioners' knowledge of current memory issues, including recovered memories, was lacking and that their beliefs were at risk of misguiding practice. We concluded the report by stating that the base rate of clients recovering memories was low, and quite far from what is sometimes perceived in the literature as an epidemic of recovered memories of child sexual abuse (CSA). We did not however report the actual number of clients that may be at risk of having developed false memories. We rather indicated that an overall rate of 4.3% of clients recovered a memory of abuse per therapist. The reported rates, however, are not negligible. Rates do not always convey what the actual state of affairs may be in reality.

Few larger scale studies have reported the actual numbers of clients who recovered memories during therapy. Jacoby, Braks, and Köpp (1997) for example, reported that memories of abuse doubled in their clinical sample on catamnesis. Of the 748 clients they surveyed, 122 reported after therapy having been abused compared to 43 before therapy. On numerous occasions I received requests from colleagues for the actual number of clients who entered therapy without any memory of abuse and ended up, nonetheless, reporting abuse during or after therapy. We thus went back to the original data to look at the actual number of clients reported to have recovered memories during therapy.

Overall, 220 therapists reported having seen 21,687 clients over the last two years, of which 13,686 were women. In this specific sample, the percentage of clients who consulted for sexual abuse (excluding the ones that had no memories or only suspicion) was about 10%. This does not however mean that this percentage accurately represents the incidence of CSA. Many clients may in fact have been abused but do not consult specifically for this reason and/or do not divulge the abuse if they think it is not relevant. One would suspect, however, that professionals do conduct a complete anamnesis at the onset of therapy and that this question would be raised.

In order to arrive at an estimate of the number of recovered memory cases encountered, participants were asked: (a) how many adult clients (18 years or older) they had treated in therapy over the past *two years* and, (b) how many of these clients reported experiencing some type of sexual abuse during childhood. In addition to the number of abused clients they had seen, respondents were asked: (c) how many of such clients, at the beginning of therapy, "had no memory or suspicion of CSA (i.e., they were consulting you for some other reason)" (d) how many, at the beginning of therapy, "thought they had been abused without having any specific memories of the abuse;" and (e) "how many already remembered being abused when therapy began."

Overall, 55% of therapists surveyed reported at least one incidence of a recovered memory during therapy. If we break down the results by questions asked, we can look at the number of clients who remembered being abused when therapy began, the number of clients who entered therapy with a suspicion of having been abused *but* no actual memory, and the number of clients who entered therapy with no memory *nor* suspicion of CSA.

Table 1. Number of clients treated for CSA with and without memories at the onset of therapy

	Total
Number of clients treated for CSA	2451
Number of clients with memories at the onset of therapy	2020
Number of clients with suspicion but no memory at onset of therapy	294
Number of clients with no memory nor suspicion at onset of therapy	135
Number of potentially recovered memories during therapy	429

If we consider the numbers in Table 1, we can see that a vast majority of clients do remember and report CSA at the onset of therapy. Of the 2451 clients that were reported by therapists as having been treated for sexual abuse, 429 (17.5%) recovered memories during therapy. These memories were either completely new memories which led the clients to believe they had been abused or new memories which confirmed their original suspicion. As we already mentioned in the previous report, the incidence of potentially false recovered memories during therapy is relatively low. It is however far from being a trivial issue for the practice of therapy (McNally, 2005). Of the 429 clients treated for CSA in this sample that had no memories at the onset, how many have actually recovered historically valid memories of abuse is unknown. Because this survey was retrospective and we

did not have access to the actual dossiers of the clients, it is impossible to know if any of the recovered memories were substantiated. As Geraerts, Schooler, Merckelbach, Hauer, and Ambadar (2007) reported, discontinuous memories recovered during therapy are significantly less likely to be corroborated than continuous ones recovered outside of therapy.

In support of Geraerts et al.'s findings, we did find that the number of recovered memories increased with the number of techniques used to uncover them (see for example Andrews, 1995, 2001). Hypnosis (22%), age-regression (20%) and hypnosis-like techniques, such as guided imagery (35%), imagination work (44%), and relaxation (48%), were endorsed by a fair number of the sample as memory recovery techniques even if these techniques have been shown to be problematic and often unduly suggestive (Laurence, Day, & Gaston, 1998; Yapko, 1994).

This particular sample reported on 220 therapists' practice over the last two years. The main results of this survey replicated as well as extended many other previous surveys (see also Palm & Gibson, 1998; Polusny & Follette, 1996; Poole, Lindsay, Memon, & Bull 1995; Pope & Tabachnick, 1995). If we do a simple extrapolation on the number of therapists throughout Canada, the number of potentially false recovered memories may be quite astounding. If we add to these, the number of non-licensed therapists (that have not been surveyed on such issues) we can easily conclude that although the percentages are small, the number of people that might be affected is worrisome. It is thus quite important to continue the investigation of the conditions that may lead to the creation of false memories of abuse.

Overall, this report can be filed under the good news/bad news category. On the one side it is clear that most clients report being abused at the onset of therapy. On the other side a sizable proportion of those treated for CSA did not report any awareness of abuse memories until therapy had begun and a decision was made to use mnemonic techniques. Many of these clients may now be harbouring memories of abuse that are not valid. The familial and social consequences of such beliefs can be avoided with a better understanding of the extrinsic and intrinsic factors that contribute to the creation or recovery of false memories. It is certainly important to sensitize both the professionals and the general public about these issues.

Notes.

1. We would like to thank Ms. Anna Agalaryan for re-entering and proofreading the original data set.

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

STAYING CONNECTED ...

SECTION BUSINESS

Greetings Everyone!

Exciting news: There will be another North American Correctional and Criminal Justice Psychology (NACCJP) conference in 2011! Thank you to Jeremy Mills, Daryl Kroner, Robert Morgan, Robert Ax, Jim Cheston and Guy Bourgon, among others, who have all come together to form the Committee planning this next conference.

More exciting news: This year's annual Convention is right around the corner. The first day of the conference is action-packed with Keynote Speaker and Award Recipient Dr. Jim Bonta, as well as CPA Invited Speaker, Dr. Bob Hare, both speaking on Thursday June 11th. Immediately following these talks is the Section's Poster Session, which always proves interesting. And to finish off this exciting first day, our Section is hosting our third "Celebration of Excellence" Banquet at Restaurant Julien in the evening. Be sure to register before the deadline (May 22nd). This 'soirée' provides the perfect opportunity for mixing and mingling, and of course, to recognize and celebrate the "excellence" that is so evident in our Section! ☺ Friday hosts many interesting sessions and symposiums, as does Saturday. And, of course, don't forget our always-early Section Business Meeting on Saturday morning at 8am in the Richelieu Room (Convention Floor 80 Theatre). Overall, there are many reasons to attend this Convention but these are just some highlights that will surely keep you engaged! Hope to see you there!

And more exciting news: As the next article highlights, there will be a lot of turnover in the Executive this year, and this is the time to get involved! We hope that you consider running for the Executive this year and decide to contribute through one of the many available positions. You can make a difference! If you are interested, read on for details

**MAKE SURE TO ATTEND THIS YEAR'S
SECTION BUSINESS MEETING:
SATURDAY JUNE 13TH AT 8AM**

Your Section's Executive

Your Section's Executive currently consists of 14 people. Each Executive member plays a specific role, and each member is elected at the Annual Convention's Section Business Meeting (SBM). Perhaps you are interested in serving on next year's Executive?

A number of Executive members are resigning from their positions this year so we encourage you to consider one of these roles. In fact, you could run for any of the positions as each position is voted in at the Annual Section Business Meeting. Below you will find a short description of the various positions, should you be thinking about expressing interest in one of them.

POSITION (Running for 2009)	POSITION DESCRIPTION
CHAIR (open)	Liaise with CPA (e.g., keeping CPA informed of Section activities and responds to information requests on criminal justice issues). Develop and guide objectives set by the Executive. Develop mechanisms for the planning of Section objectives. Chair the annual SBM. Contribute to each <i>Crime Scene</i> with the View from the Top column and to Psynopsis with an annual article about the Section.
PAST CHAIR (Not elected)	Be a bastion of sober second thought and assume the duties of Chair in the event of his/her inability to perform his/her duties due to illness or mental defect.
SECRETARY/ TREASURER (Karl Hanson)	Responsible for financial matters and recordings of the Section proceedings (e.g., writing cheques, and serving as corporate memory for the Section). Contribute to <i>Crime Scene</i> at least once per year. Prepare a report for circulation prior to next year's SBM on year's accomplishments.
CRIME SCENE EDITORS (open)	The <i>Crime Scene</i> Editorial Team is responsible for the publication of <i>Crime Scene</i> , twice each year (October and May). Production of this newsletter involves solicitation of submissions, review of articles, correspondence related to submissions, revisions, writing the Editors' Note and other components of the newsletter, as well as formatting and distribution of the final product. The Editor(s) position can be designed as you wish: you can take on the task on your own or create an Editorial Team (e.g., Managing Editor, Review Editor, and an Editorial Assistant).

<p>DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE: NAACJ (Steve Wormith)</p>	<p>Liaise with National Associations Active in Criminal Justice (NAACJ) and maximize the Section's representation at funded meetings. Prepare a report for circulation prior to next year's SBM on year's accomplishments. Contribute to <i>Crime Scene</i> at least once per year.</p>
<p>DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE: CLINICAL & TRAINING (Mark Olver)</p>	<p>Identify CJS clinicians (target of 15 CJS members), foster discussion of clinical issues, identify training needs and potential pre-conference workshops addressing those needs, encourage and develop one symposium on clinical issues for the Annual conference. Contribute to <i>Crime Scene's</i> dedicated column by either writing the column or soliciting appropriate pieces from others. Prepare a report for circulation prior to next year's SBM on year's accomplishments.</p>
<p>DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE: POLICE PSYCHOLOGY (Dorothy Cotton)</p>	<p>Identify CJS members with interests in Police Issues (target 15 members), foster discussion of related issues, encourage and develop one symposium and/or pre-conference workshop on police issues for the CPA annual conference. Contribute to <i>Crime Scene's</i> dedicated column by either writing the column or soliciting appropriate pieces from others. Prepare a report for circulation prior to next year's SBM on year's accomplishments.</p>
<p>DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE: PSYCHOLOGY IN THE COURTS (Garry Fisher)</p>	<p>Identify CJS members with interests in Court Issues (target 15 members), foster discussion of related issues, encourage and develop one symposium and/or pre-conference workshop on court-related issues for the CPA annual conference. Contribute to <i>Crime Scene's</i> dedicated column by either writing the column or soliciting appropriate pieces from others. Prepare a report for circulation prior to next year's SBM on year's accomplishments.</p>
<p>DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE: CONTINUING EDUCATION (open)</p>	<p>Investigate possible strategies to develop CE credits for the Section, and mutually recognized CE credits with the CJS of Division 18 of APA. Provide a report to the Executive on recommendations, as well as a report for circulation on year's accomplishments. Contribute to at least one <i>Crime Scene</i> per year.</p>
<p>DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE: CONFERENCE PROGRAMME (Leslie Helmus)</p>	<p>Oversee the CJS convention program including reminders for submissions for the next year's conference. Work with DAL's to identify specific pre-conference workshops and symposiums. Oversee evaluation of student posters and respective prizes at the conference. Contribute to at least one <i>Crime Scene</i> per year.</p>
<p>DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE: WEB COORDINATOR (Joe Camilleri)</p>	<p>Responsible for maintaining the Section's website in a timely fashion and for liaising with the web staff at CPA. Prepare a report for circulation prior to next year's SBM on year's accomplishments.</p>

<p>STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE (open)</p>	<p>Represent student issues to the Executive. Contribute to <i>Crime Scene's</i> dedicated column for students, by either writing the column or soliciting appropriate pieces from others. Prepare a report for circulation prior to next year's SBM on year's accomplishments.</p>
<p>MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR (Natalie Jones)</p>	<p>Oversee the Section membership list and email distribution list. Update list as required and send various materials via email to Section memberships as appropriate. Assist with <i>Crime Scene</i> as required, and contribute to at least one <i>Crime Scene</i> per year.</p>

Hope to see you at the SBM (8:00am Saturday morning in the Richelieu Room (Convention Floor 80 Theatre) and if you are interested in a seat on the Executive, you can express your interest to any of the current Executive members now, or at the SBM. Not only will serving on the Executive keep you connected, it enables you to represent and assist the whole Section. Here's your opportunity to make a difference!

COME JOIN THE SECTION'S EXECUTIVE!

IMPORTANT NEWS!!!

A New CPA Section on Extremism and Terrorism

In the fall of 2008 a Petition was submitted to the Board of Directors of CPA to establish a section about Extremism and Terrorism. The petition was approved. Our plan is for all interested people to gather at the Section Business Meeting (SBM) at the upcoming conference in Montreal. The SBM will be held on Thursday June 11, 2009 at 8am in the Richelieu Room (Convention Floor 80 Theatre). During this first section meeting we will hold a vote for selecting the executive committee for this section and deal with by laws issues.

The Statement of purpose and goals of the proposed Section is as follows:

Extremism and terrorism are serious and pose cognitive, emotional and behavioural threats to contemporary life. Evidence suggests that the prevalence of extreme ideologies is expanding leading to growing concerns regarding the translation of these ideologies into terrorists' acts. Front-line decision-makers, policy-makers and political scholars have been seeking help from psychologists in understanding this phenomenon

from a psychological point of view. The application of psychological knowledge and theory to this world-wide problem is extremely useful. Other organizations around the world have been offering degrees and conferences to deal with this phenomenon. The purpose of this section is to contribute a psychologically-informed understanding of this problem and to help work toward solutions.

The goal of this section is to provide an avenue for psychologists to meet and discuss issues related to Extremism and Terrorism. It is hoped that through this section, psychologists can contribute by applying their expertise towards understanding and combating extremism and terrorism.

We encourage you to attend this SBM and help this section to grow. We look forward to seeing you.

On behalf of the founding officers
Dr. Wagdy Loza, C. Psych.,
Chief Psychologist, Kingston Penitentiary

**Criminal Justice Psychology Section
presents
Celebration of Excellence Banquet
at the Canadian Psychological Association
70th Annual Conference 2009**

The Criminal Justice Psychology Section is hosting their 3rd *Celebration of Excellence Banquet* at the upcoming 70th Annual CPA Convention in Montreal, Quebec in June 2009. This event will give everyone from across Canada an opportunity to gather, mingle, and celebrate our successes.

The Banquet is open to all CPA members, students, and non-CPA members interested in our field. This year we have chosen a local French restaurant, just 2 blocks from the conference hotel, which will provide you with a tasty selection of culinary delights for your enjoyment.

Tickets must be purchased before May 22, 2009. The regular price is \$60 for CJP Section members, \$65 for non-Section members, and there are reduced prices for students.

Come join us for a night of fantastic food, great company and a night of celebrating excellence!

Restaurant Julien, Montreal Quebec
Thursday, June 11, 2009
Drinks: 6:00 p.m. (cash bar)
Dinner: 7:00 p.m.

Final Registration deadline: May 22, 2009

For further details, please contact Leslie Helmus at lesliehismus@yahoo.ca.

We hope to see you there!

CPA 70th Annual Convention: CJP Section Highlights

By Guy Bourgon, Ph.D.

Director-at-Large: Conference Programme

Think June. Think June in Montreal. Think summer sun, outdoor patios, fine French cuisine, a city alive with its *joie de vie* and CPA's 70th annual Convention. Now we're talking. This year's convention is lined up to be something special. Let me tickle your taste buds with a little plate of hors d'oeuvres: CPA Invited Speaker Robert Hare on *Psychopathy, behavioral genetics, neuroscience and culpability*; CPA Criminal Justice Section Keynote speaker James Bonta will talk on *Following a crooked road in the search for what works*; and Criminal Justice Section's *Celebration of Excellence Banquet*. And that is just Thursday! Each day, the menu offers a variety of symposiums on diverse topics. Of course, no convention is complete without the poster session buffet, where you find out about some 80 research projects in 2 hours. It is an excellent time to connect with colleagues from across the country and find out about new and interesting projects and take in the spirit of Montreal. What a great way to spend a few days in June contributing to Canadian excellence in correctional psychology.

P.S. For some reason I'm hungry now.

**HELP OUT YOUR
FELLOW
CRIMINAL JUSTICE
RESEARCHERS!**

**JUST A REMINDER THAT
LINKS TO ONLINE STUDIES
RELATING TO
CRIMINAL JUSTICE PSYCHOLOGY
ARE AVAILABLE
ON OUR WEBSITE,**

www.cpa.ca/sections/criminaljustice/onlineresearch/

**TAKE A FEW MINUTES
TO COMPLETE A STUDY
AND HELP OUT
SOMEONE IN YOUR FIELD!**

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Do you have a recent publication? List it here.



Camilleri, J. A., & Quinsey, V. L. (2009). Individual differences in the propensity for partner sexual coercion. *Sexual Abuse: A Journal of Research and Treatment*, 21, 111-129.

Lalumière, Harris, Quinsey, and Rice (2005) proposed a three-path model (psychopathy, young male syndrome, and competitive disadvantage) of the development of sexually coercive behavior, but none of these individual difference characteristics have been tested among partner rapists. Using a community sample in Study 1, the authors find that psychopathy is the only significant predictor of self-reported propensity for partner sexual coercion. This model is tested in Study 2 by comparing convicted partner rapists, nonsexual partner assaulters, and heterosexual child molesters. One third of partner rapists are psychopaths, and their psychopathy scores are no different from those found in correctional samples. Partner rapists have an average IQ, providing further evidence that competitive disadvantage is less characteristic of partner rapists. There is some indication that partner rapists desist with age. The authors discuss these findings in light of recent findings that implicate cuckoldry risk in partner sexual assault.



Hanson, R. K., Bourgon, G., Helmus, L., & Hodgson, S. (2009). *A meta-analysis of the effectiveness of treatment for sexual offenders: Risk, Need, and Responsivity* (Corrections Research User Report No. 2009-01). Ottawa, ON: Public Safety Canada.

The effectiveness of treatment for sexual offenders remains controversial, even though it is widely agreed that certain forms of human service interventions reduce the recidivism rates of general offenders. The current review examined whether the principles associated with effective treatments for general offenders (Risk-Need-Responsivity; RNR) also apply to sexual offender treatment. Based on a meta-analysis of 23 recidivism outcome studies meeting basic criteria for study quality, the unweighted sexual and general recidivism rates for the treated sexual offenders were lower than the rates observed for the comparison groups (10.9% [$n = 3,121$] versus 19.2% [$n = 3,625$] for sexual recidivism; 31.8% [$n = 1,979$] versus 48.3% [$n = 2,822$] for any recidivism). Programs that adhered to the RNR principles showed the largest reductions in sexual and general recidivism. Given the consistency of the current findings with the general offender rehabilitation literature, we believe that the RNR principles should be a major consideration in the design and implementation of treatment programs for sexual offenders.

Available from http://www.publicsafety.gc.ca/res/cor/rep/_fl/2009-01-trt-so-eng.pdf. A form of this report is also *in press*: Hanson, R. K.,



Bourgon, G., Helmus, L., & Hodgson, S. (in press). The principles of effective correctional treatment also apply to sexual offenders: A meta-analysis. *Criminal Justice and Behavior*.

Hanson, R. K., & Morton-Bourgon, K. E. (2009). The accuracy of recidivism risk assessments for sexual offenders: A meta-analysis of 118 prediction studies. *Psychological Assessment*, 21, 1-21.

This review compared the accuracy of various approaches to the prediction of recidivism among sexual offenders. Based on a meta-analysis of 536 findings drawn from 118 distinct samples (45,398 sexual offenders; 16 countries), empirically derived actuarial measures were more accurate than unstructured professional judgement for all outcomes (sexual, violent or any recidivism). The accuracy of structured professional judgement was intermediate between the accuracy found for the actuarial measures and for unstructured professional judgement. The effect sizes for the actuarial measures were moderate to large by conventional standards (average d values of .67 to .97); however, the utility of the actuarial measures will vary based on the referral question and samples assessed. Further research is needed to identify the psychologically meaningful factors that contribute to risk for reoffending.



Read, J. D., & Desmarais, S. L. (2009). Lay knowledge of eyewitness issues: A Canadian evaluation. *Applied Cognitive Psychology*, 23(3), 301-326.

Lay opinions concerning eyewitness topics were surveyed in three community samples of juror-eligible participants in Canada. The scientific reliability of these topics had been previously evaluated by eyewitness experts. The first survey assessed participant responses to the identically worded expert items. Participants responded to many statements with greater accuracy than anticipated. Two subsequent surveys assessed the consistency of lay knowledge across variations in the directionality and wording of items and the provision of additional contextual information. Taken together, jury-eligible participants frequently responded to survey items in ways that closely resembled the responses of experts and suggested awareness and understanding of these topics at levels beyond those previously obtained. Further, the provision of contextual information increased response accuracy and reduced the frequencies of Don't Know responses. Deficiencies in knowledge for 50% of the topics were also apparent; however, these topics were frequently those for which the experts themselves had not reached consensus.



INFORMATION REVIEWS

Have you read a book, article or research on which you would like to provide commentary – good, bad, provocative, or humourous? If so, write us and it could be included in this new Information Reviews section.

Chantal Langevin and her husband welcomed a little girl, Remy, into the world in March!
Congratulations!

Any more news? Contact us.

KUDO KORNER

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



Congratulations to
Dr. Jim Bonta,
who will be receiving the annual
Career Contribution Award
at the upcoming CPA convention in June!



Congratulations to
**Dr. Joanna Pozzulo, Dr. Craig Bennell
and Dr. Adelle Forth**,
who will be receiving the
Significant Achievement Award
for their textbook, *Forensic Psychology*,
at this year's conference!



MEMBERS ON THE MOVE

After 19 years as a Psychologist with CSC,
Dr. Denise Preston has taken over as
the Regional Director, Ontario/Nunavut Region
of the National Parole Board.
She can be reached at 613-634-3857
or at PrestonDL@npb-cnrc.gc.ca

Dr. Hugues Hervé has recently left his position at
The Forensic Psychiatric Hospital in British Columbia
to pursue private practice on a full time basis.
With Dr. Barry Cooper, Dr. John Yuille and Jane Cameron,
Dr. Hervé is now a partner in
The Forensic Alliance (www.theforensicalliance.com),
a research, consulting, educational, and training corporation
that was formed to bridge the gap between the forensic
behavioral sciences and forensic practice.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES



Public Safety
Canada

Sécurité publique
Canada

Employment Opportunity: Research and Knowledge Transfer Advisor

Public Safety Canada
Ottawa, Ontario

The Corrections Research Unit of Public Safety Canada wishes to recruit a Research and Knowledge Transfer Advisor. To meet this challenge, you must have a university Degree in a discipline related to criminal justice, such as criminology, psychology, or sociology, with acceptable specialization in statistics (the specialization may be obtained through an acceptable combination of education, training and/or experience). Your background must include experience in EACH of the following areas:

- Experience in social science research in corrections and/or the criminal justice system.
- Experience in applying research methodology and conducting statistical analyses using the statistical software program SPSS.
- Experience in participating on research and development teams.
- Experience in designing, conducting and managing research projects related to correctional and/or criminal justice issues.

The ability to communicate in both official languages is essential for this position.

For more information on this position please call Dr. James Bonta at 613-991-2831. To submit your application, please visit www.jobs.gc.ca from May 11 to May 22, 2009.

**KNOW OF ANY
EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES
THAT MAY INTEREST YOUR
COLLEAGUES?**

LET US KNOW.



Photo courtesy of the Sheraton Centre Toronto Hotel

Plan to Attend!

THE 2ND NORTH AMERICAN CORRECTIONAL AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE PSYCHOLOGY CONFERENCE (NACCJP 2): AN INTERNATIONAL MEETING OF MINDS FOR CORRECTIONAL PSYCHOLOGY EXCELLENCE

June 2-4, 2011
Sheraton Centre Toronto Hotel
Toronto, Ontario, Canada

The world's largest and best conference specifically for correctional psychologists and students will be held in one of the world's most diverse, cosmopolitan, and *fun* cities!

Featuring:

- Distinguished speakers
- Continuing education (CE) workshops
- Hundreds of symposia, papers, and posters

The first NACCJP Conference in 2007 was a resounding success, with more than 200 program submissions, over 350 registrants, and a 4.4 (out of 5.0) quality rating – an unprecedented level of involvement and satisfaction for a first conference! NACCJP 2 will be even better!

More details available soon on the Canadian Psychological Association website: <http://www.cpa.ca/>

"I really enjoyed the conference in 2007 and learnt immensely."

-Dr. Katie Seidler, Sydney, Australia

Sponsored by:



Criminal Justice Section of
the Canadian
Psychological Association
(CPA)



Criminal Justice Section of
Division 18 of the
American Psychological
Association (APA)

**HAVE COMMENTS ON WHAT
YOU HAVE READ?
EMAIL US.
WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!**

If you know of any employment opportunities,
contact us!

UPCOMING CONFERENCES



Second National Conference on Restorative Justice

May 13-15, 2009 San Antonio, Texas, U.S.A.
<http://www.restorativejusticenow.org/>



Canadian Psychological Association 70th Annual Convention

June 11-13, 2009 Montreal, Quebec
www.cpa.ca



The 5th Irish Criminology Conference

June 15-16, 2009 Ireland
Contact: criminology@ucd.ie



9th Annual International Association of Forensic Mental Health Services Conference

"Facing the Future: Forensic Mental Health Services in Change"
June 24-26, 2009 Edinburgh, Scotland
<http://www.iafmhs.org/iafmhs.asp>



British Society of Criminology Annual Conference

June 29-July 1, 2009 Cardiff, Wales
www.britsoccrim.org



139th Congress of Corrections

August 7-12, 2009 Nashville, Tennessee, U.S.A.
www.aca.org



American Psychological Association 117th Annual Conference

August 7-12, 2009 Toronto, Ontario, Canada
www.apa.org



**The 19th Conference of the
European Association of Psychology and Law**

September 2-5, 2009 Sorrento, Italy
<http://www.law.kuleuven.ac.be/eapl/>



**The 9th Annual Conference of the European Society
of Criminology**

September 9-12, 2009 Ljubljana, Slovenia
<http://esc.sazu.si/>



Health Work & Wellness™ Conference 2009

"Taking Care of Business"

September 30-October 3, 2009 Gatineau, Quebec
<http://conferences.healthworkandwellness.com/>



**Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers
28th Annual Research and Treatment Conference**

September 30-October 3, 2009 Dallas, Texas, U.S.A.
www.atsa.com



**The 12th International Institute for Restorative Practices
World Conference**

October 21-23, 2009 Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, U.S.A.
www.iirp.org.php



**The 11th Annual Conference of the International
Corrections and Prisons Association**

October 25-30, 2009 Bridgetown, Barbados
<http://www.icpa.ca/news/1409>



**The 12th European Prison Education Association
International Conference on Prison Education**

October 29-November 1, 2009 Cyprus
<http://www.epea.org/>



American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting

November 4-7, 2009 Philadelphia, PA
www.asc41.com



**North American Correctional and Criminal Justice
Psychology (NACCJP) Conference**

June 2-4, 2011 Toronto, Ontario, Canada



16th World Criminology Congress

August 5 - 10, 2011 Kobe, Japan



TIPS FOR STUDENTS!

**ARE YOU PRESENTING A POSTER AT
THE UPCOMING CONFERENCE?**

**VISIT THE SECTION'S WEBSITE FOR
HELPFUL TIPS ON HOW TO CREATE
THE PERFECT POSTER**

**WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE
UPCOMING**

CPA 70TH ANNUAL CONVENTION

≈ CJP SECTION HIGHLIGHTS ≈

Thursday June 11, 2009

Keynote Speaker & Award Recipient Dr. Jim Bonta
Saint-Laurent Room (Convention Floor 100 Theatre)
12:30-1:25pm

CPA Invited Speaker Dr. Robert Hare
Richelieu Room (Convention Floor 80 Theatre)
2:00-2:55pm

Criminal Justice Psychology Poster Session
Hochelaga Room 1-6 (Convention Floor Exhibits & Posters)
3:00pm-4:55pm

**Criminal Justice Psychology Section's
Celebration of Excellence Banquet**
Restaurant Julien
1191 Avenue Union, Montreal (just blocks from the hotel)
6:00pm-9:30pm

Friday June 12, 2009

Many exciting sessions and symposiums.....

Saturday June 13, 2009

Section Business Meeting
Richelieu Room (Convention Floor 80 Theatre)
8:00am-8:55am

AND LOTS MORE!!!

STUDENTS' WATER COOLER

The Students' Water Cooler is a forum 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 or Leslie (your Student Representative!) at lesliehelmus@yahoo.ca.

Getting Involved in Criminal Justice Psychology: Some Reflections

By Leslie Helmus, B.A.(Hons)
Student Representative

Before I introduce the article that Alyssa Taylor wrote for the Students' Water Cooler, I would like to make a few comments. In the last issue of *Crime Scene*, Steve Wormith wrote a thought-provoking article about how criminal justice psychologists in Canada should take a more activist role in political issues (if you missed this article, you can access old *Crime Scene* issues from the publications section of our website, <http://www.cpa.ca/sections/criminaljustice/>). Steve's article encouraged me to think of ways that I (and other students) can get more involved in our field.

I think many students tend to feel unqualified to take on leadership positions but someday we will be responsible for charting the course of our field and like most things, we should prepare ourselves for this in baby steps. Finding small ways to take a more active role in our field will help us broaden and diversify our learning experiences (which always looks good on a CV) and network with colleagues across the country. There are lots of ways to become more active in our field without making a huge time commitment, and I'd like to take this opportunity to remind students of some exciting upcoming events and opportunities.

Hopefully many students plan on attending the CPA conference in Montreal from June 11-13. Some of the world's most distinguished researchers in criminal justice psychology will be giving talks this year and it should be a great learning opportunity. The poster session is a great place to meet a diversity of students and get a sense of the breadth of research being conducted across Canada. If you're presenting a poster this year, remember that the Criminal Justice section gives a \$200 award for best student poster. In previous *Crime Scene* issues, Guy Bourgon (who, with a team, is responsible for picking the poster prize winner) published a useful article with tips on effective poster presentations (it's available in the publications section of our website, <http://www.cpa.ca/sections/criminaljustice/>).

Also during the conference, the Criminal Justice Section is organizing a Banquet at a lovely French restaurant located

only two blocks from the conference hotel. This is a fabulous opportunity to network with other students and professionals in criminal justice psychology, and from the registration forms we have already received, I can tell you that the guest list includes many distinguished researchers that I am looking forward to meeting. And in an effort to make the banquet as student-friendly as possible, the Criminal Justice Section has generously offered a reduced ticket price for students. If you haven't received an email with the registration form, or if you have any questions about this event, please don't hesitate to email me (lesliehelmus@yahoo.ca). I hope to see lots of students there!

Another way to get more involved is to consider joining the Criminal Justice Section Executive. The "Section Business" column of *Crime Scene* summarizes the responsibilities associated with each position. Although members are voted in during the Section Business Meeting at the conference in June, you can still run for a position without attending the conference (in fact, when I first joined the Executive, I was voted in for the Membership Coordinator position *in absentia*). If you are interested in joining the Executive, I encourage you to contact current Executive members for more information.

I will leave you with one last idea about getting more involved in the field. Back by popular demand, a second North American Correctional and Criminal Justice Psychology (NACCJP) Conference will be held concurrently with the CPA conference in Toronto in 2011. The first conference (held in Ottawa in 2007) was a huge success and we are expecting a similar (and possibly even bigger) turnout the second time around. Organizing this conference is a lot of work and we will be looking for lots of volunteers. It seems like a long way off, but the preparation will begin before you know it and there are many ways students can get involved. Stay tuned in the next year or so for more information.

Hopefully I have stimulated lots of ideas about becoming more active in Criminal Justice Psychology on the Canadian front. The next article in the Students' Water Cooler is written by Canadian Ph.D student Alyssa Taylor, who offers her perspective on the benefits of getting involved with the American Psychology-Law Society. Enjoy!

Sincerely,

Leslie Helmus

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The Perks of AP-LS Student Membership: Conferences, Networking, & Tequila*

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AP-LS Campus Representative
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It is hard to refute the fact that graduate students are busy people, and yet most of them are always seeking ways to improve their respective CVs and network with other researchers in order to improve their overall marketability. I would like to offer a way to accomplish these goals and many more: Join the American Psychology and Law Society (AP-LS).

This society is an interdisciplinary organization devoted to scholarship, practice, and public service in psychology and law. AP-LS seeks to advance the contributions of psychology to the understanding of the law and promote the education of psychologists in legal matters. Also, it informs the psychological and legal communities and the general public of current research in the field of psychology and law. Despite its short history, the activities held by AP-LS have been quite diverse, including developing a collection of course syllabi and teaching materials, conducting a survey of career opportunities for graduate students, studying ethical problems in the field, and surveying special interest groups about issues related to psychology and law.

Speaking as the AP-LS Campus Representative for Carleton University, I have personally found one of the most valuable elements of being an AP-LS member is attending their annual conference. This conference hosts the leading figures in the area of law and psychology from around the world. The recent conference held March 5-8th 2009 in San Antonio, TX was graced with the presence of Dr. Elizabeth Loftus who delivered the Invited Presidential Address on "Rich False Memories" – a truly phenomenal talk to have witnessed. In addition to broadening the knowledge of students about the latest research (often within and beyond their specific area of study), this conference offers both undergraduate and graduate students a chance to present research projects (in oral or poster form). Students can therefore build up their CV's with international conference experience. Recently, AP-LS has even begun to cater more formally to students' professional career development. I had a conversation with one of the AP-LS student liaisons at this past conference and he informed me that the student section cabinet has made new initiatives and has more funds to focus on student growth and communication.

These new goals were quite evident, as the student section offered a three-part career professional development series that provided information on CV and personal statement development, as well as the academic hiring and interview

process. My colleagues and I were lucky enough to attend one of these workshops and all agreed it was not only rewarding from an informative standpoint, but also provided several opportunities for networking with both new and established professionals. More specifically, students had the chance to interact in an informal setting with individuals from different law and psychology careers (e.g., clinicians, research academics, instructors, etc.). Clinically-inclined students were provided with free licensing packages full of guides, references and other aids to help them pursue this path. Research and teaching career-oriented students benefited by asking questions about the hiring process and obtaining information about the similarities and differences between American and Canadian academic institutions (I firmly believe it was such a good turnout because of the professional development benefits and not simply because students enjoy free food. Although the mouth-watering tacos and delicious nachos with guacamole sure did help – the tequila was reserved for the post-conference John Jay College Reception in order to encourage and possibly improve the karaoke singing).

The student section of AP-LS also fosters social relationships among students by hosting an equally well-attended dessert social for all interested students. This event puts you in contact with the rising stars within your field and provides boundless opportunities for career networking and future collaborative research projects (it also provided students with the chance to win AP-LS loot). Finally, this section does its best to help students from a financial standpoint. It offers dissertation awards, undergraduate paper awards, and student travel awards to increase student representation at the conference. Given the tremendous strides this section has made in very few years, one can only imagine the degree of student-friendliness at future AP-LS conferences.

This brings me to the next best reason to become an AP-LS member – next year's conference will be held in none other than the venue of the 2010 Winter Olympics: Vancouver, B.C. Although AP-LS is obviously an American organization, they are gracing their neighbours' to the north with their presence in early March 2010. The deadline for applications for conference presentations is typically not until October of the preceding year, which leaves plenty of time for interested students to submit. In addition to the annual AP-LS conference, this organization always provides members with information and a chance to meet student representatives from other law and psychology related conferences. For instance, the European Association of Psychology and Law conference in 2009 will be held in Sorrento, Italy (for any Canadian students looking to cross an ocean to broaden their horizons).

Graduate students are known not only for their tendencies to migrate towards free food and embrace traveling, but also some are rather frugal with their spending habits. Given the current economy, few would argue that this conscientious approach is not unwarranted, which is why you will be pleased to know that an annual student AP-LS membership is discounted at \$15.00 (USD). This membership provides you with a year of *Law and Human Behavior* publications, the AP-LS newsletter, and free registration for students to the annual conference.

While I imagine that the preceding AP-LS information has been enough to convince you of the worthwhile benefits of joining the society, I am sure there are some of you who want even more! If you aren't content with simply being a member of AP-LS, why not visit the AP-LS website and consider applying to become a student Campus Representative for your respective institution. There are currently 35 graduate programs across the United States and Canada that have appointed a spokesperson to promote AP-LS worldwide. Now is the time to get involved – build your psychology and law knowledge and overall career marketability (while enjoying free food, travel opportunities, and maybe even some tequila): Join the American Psychology and Law Society!

For any questions regarding AP-LS, please email me at ataylor5@connect.carleton.ca or visit their website: <http://www.ap-ls.org/>

Cheers,
Alyssa Taylor

*The views expressed in this article are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of AP-LS.

COMING SOON....

The next CPA convention is right around the corner and we hope to see you there! Also, you can look forward to another interesting Issue of *Crime Scene* in October with a new *Crime Scene* Editorial Team! It has been an absolute pleasure working with you during our past four years as Editors. Wishing you all a fabulous summer filled with many opportunities!

HAVE A MINUTE?

Think of how you can
contribute to *Crime Scene*.

Email us.

Hope to see you in
Montreal!