

Crime Scene

Psychology Behind Bars and in Front of the Bench



THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE CRIMINAL
JUSTICE SECTION OF THE CANADIAN
PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

May 2012

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SECTION EXECUTIVE:

CHAIR
 MARK OLVER, PH.D.
 MARK.OLVER@USASK.CA

PAST CHAIR
 JEAN FOLSOM, PH.D.
 FOLSOMJN@CSC-SCC.GC.CA

SECRETARY/TREASURER
 KARL HANSON, PH.D.
 KARL.HANSON@PS.GC.CA

MANAGING EDITOR, *CRIME SCENE*
 AINSLIE HEASMAN, PH.D.
 AINSLIE.HEASMAN@ONTARIO.CA

REVIEW EDITOR, *CRIME SCENE*
 LEAH TODD, B.A.
 LEAHMTODD@GMAIL.COM

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE
 LETICIA GUTIERREZ, M.A.
 LETICIA.GUTIERREZ@PS-SP.GC.CA

DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE, NAACJ
 J. STEPHEN WORMITH, PH.D.
 S.WORMITH@USASK.CA

DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE, CLINICAL TRAINING
 DAVID SIMOURD, PH.D.
 DAVE@ACESINK.COM

DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE, POLICE PSYCHOLOGY
 DOROTHY COTTON, PH.D.
 COTTONDH@CSC-SCC.GC.CA

DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE, PSYCHOLOGY IN THE
 COURTS
 GARRY FISHER, PH.D.
 FISHERG@MTS.NET

DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE, CONFERENCE
 PROGRAMME
 JOANNA HESSEN-KAYFITZ, M.A.
 HESSEN@UWINDSOR.CA

DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE, WED COORDINATOR
 JOSEPH CAMILLERI, PH.D.
 JCAMILLERI@WSC.MA.EDU

MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR
 NATALIE JONES, M.A.
 NATALIE_CARLETON@HOTMAIL.COM

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EDITORS' NOTE

There have been many changes in our landscape since our last issue, including developments with Bill C-10, recommendations from the Mental Health Commission of Canada, and the announced closure of provincial and federal youth and adult correctional facilities, to name just a few. As a discipline we have actively contributed in each of these areas, albeit not always with the outcomes we so desired. There remains much skill, talent, and knowledge within our discipline, and I encourage you each to share your experiences, opinions, research, and accomplishments with *Crime Scene*.

- Ainslie

VIEW FROM THE TOP, by Mark Olver, Ph.D., Chair

I would like to begin this column by thanking members of the Criminal Justice Section, the Executive, and CPA. I have enjoyed working with all of you in my capacity as Chair of the Criminal Justice Section. As I wrap up my third and final year in this capacity, I am pleased to comment on some recent activities and accomplishments of criminal justice psychology, in large part through the hard work and collaborative efforts of CPA staff and our Section members.

Specifically, I have found it very rewarding to have participated in the activities of the newly created Task Force on Correctional/Forensic Psychology. This past January, with the assistance of Dr. Karen Cohen and Government Relations Manager, Meagan Hatch, members of the Task Force issued a document summarizing the evidence and the knowledge and practice contributions of professional psychology on key items in the federal government's Bill C-10, the Safe Streets and Communities Act (also known as the omnibus crime bill), including mandatory minimum sentencing, sexual offenses involving children, and treatment vs. incarceration (re: "what works" for reducing recidivism). Submitted to the Senate Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs to assist in their review of the Bill, the document can be found at: www.cpa.ca/docs/file/Government%20Relations/SenateStandingCommittee_Jan2012.pdf.

In addition, several members of the Canadian correctional/forensic psychological community shared their knowledge and expertise in testifying before the Senate Committee in February on several of these matters. As a member (and also Chair) of the Correctional/Forensic Task Force, I have found it very gratifying for professional psychology to have a voice on these very important matters for which psychology has much that is positive to contribute. The Task Force has served as a vehicle to bring busy professionals who are geographically scattered across the country together in the spirit of collaboration to advance the profession and to impart evidence informed practice to assist offenders and enhance community safety. Since the submission to the Senate Committee, further Task Force initiatives are being planned in regards to correctional/forensic psychology training, and psychologist recruitment and retention in Canadian corrections.

At the past annual CPA convention, our Career Contribution award was also renamed the Donald Andrews Career Contribution Award to honor the memory, contributions, and legacy with the passing of a giant in the field of correctional psychology, who was also a dear friend, colleague, and mentor for so many. As such, it is my pleasure to announce Dr. James Ogloff as this year's recipient of the Donald Andrews Career Contribution Award owing to his outstanding empirical, scholarly, clinical, and pedagogical contributions to criminal justice psychology. A past CPA president, Dr. Ogloff has maintained his CPA and Criminal Justice Section ties following his move to Monash University in Australia several years ago. Among his numerous achievements, Dr. Ogloff has played an integral role in founding clinical forensic psychology training streams in Australia and Canada, and we are pleased to welcome him back to Canada and honor him with this award.

Following on the heels of last year's second North American Correctional and Criminal Justice Psychology Conference (NACCJPC-2), Dr. Jeremy Mills is this year's recipient of the Significant Contribution Award, for his excellence and vision in chairing this enormous event. As with the first NACCJPC (also chaired by Dr. Mills), the second conference was a tremendous success and we are proud to recognize Dr. Mills for his leadership and hard work that culminated in a rich and highly productive exchange of research, knowledge, and ideas from international contributors.

Finally, some of you may be contemplating the position of Section Chair and, if so, I encourage you to consider taking this on. Some of the main activities include chairing the Section Business meeting at the annual convention as well as a follow-up teleconference typically held in early fall. The Chair also provides a short annual report outlining the Section's activities for CPA. The opportunity also exists to attend the Section Chairs meeting at the annual convention, which is an excellent forum to meet other Section Chairs and to learn of developments in CPA. Additional responsibilities include organizing the Criminal Justice Section awards and convention keynotes, and ensuring convention abstracts are vetted. The Chair also has the important role of liaising with CPA and serving as a conduit to the Criminal Justice Section and Executive. This includes communicating with the Section membership on behalf of the Executive and as well as updating the Executive and Section on CPA developments and initiatives. The Chair also serves as a moderator for Executive discussions and Section decision making.

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VIEW FROM THE TOP, Con't

I feel privileged to have served as your Section Chair for the past three years and have found this work to be highly rewarding. Most of all, I have enjoyed working with the people involved; the members of the Criminal Justice Section, its Executive, and CPA. In my capacity as Past Chair, I plan to continue my involvement in the Task Force and provide any information or assistance to the incoming Chair. If Criminal Justice Section members are interested in serving as Section Chair, please make your interest known to me or one of the members of our Executive.

I look forward to seeing you in Halifax!

Best regards,

Mark

COLUMN: CANADIAN COMMITTEE OF POLICE PSYCHOLOGISTS (CCOPP) STORIES, by Dorothy Cotton, Ph.D., Director-At-Large, Police Psychology

The world of police psychology is complex, and psychologists may engage in a variety of roles in relation to police services. There is, of course, the whole employment selection thing which is probably the single biggest area of practice for psychologists. However, it is far from the only area of practice. I have not collected data but I would guess that the next biggest area of practice would include workplace stress stuff—both at the individual employee level and the systems level that make policing a stressful job.

As far as workplaces go, a police service is...well... it is a workplace much like any other workplace. That means the employer—whether a local, provincial or federal government --is an employer. And that means there are rules to follow—rules like LAWS for example. Some of those laws stipulate things like how many hours a person can work, what kinds of qualifications they are required to have, who they are accountable to, and how we can complain about them. But other laws talk about how the employer must act toward employees. For example, your employer is not permitted to drive you crazy. (I believe the literature refers to this as 'maintaining a psychologically safe workplace.')

I was at an interesting presentation recently in which a guy named Martin Shain from the University of Toronto was talking about an emerging new framework for the protection of mental health in the workplace. He was a number of converging trends in law that are all increasingly pointing to the liability of employers who do not provide a psychologically safe workplace for employees. We are all quite used to having protections in place to keep employees physically safe and healthy—but to date, it has been hard to pin down exactly what “psychologically safe” might mean, and whether an employer is responsible for such a thing.

Shain suggests that a psychologically safe workplace is one that does not permit significant psychological injury to an employee's mental health through negligent, reckless or intentional ways—and in which reasonable efforts are made to protect the mental health of the employees. The essence of this is that the psychologically safe workplace promulgates a culture in which mentally injurious conduct is not tolerated, and there is strong support for respectfulness and fairness. Essentially, if it is reasonably foreseeable that workplace factors are going to lead to harm in an employee's mental health, and make it difficult for them to function normally, then the employer may be in trouble if there is no action taken to remedy the situation.

Uh oh.

Some of the stuff that will lead to trouble is fairly obvious—bullying, harassment, and discrimination for example. In most places, there is legislation that addresses these sorts of things. It might be Human Rights Codes, or occupational health and safety stuff, workers' compensation-type laws, employment standards, or labour laws and contracts—whatever. But sometimes the problem situations are more subtle.

Shain (https://kec.mentalhealthcommission.ca/tracking_the_perfect_legal_storm) suggests things that may lead to mental injury like:

- expecting too much of workers with no attention paid to the possible consequences;
- withholding discretion and control of work when there is really no good reason to do so;
- not giving people credit for what they do;
- being biased about who gets to do what or who gets rewards;
- failure to provide needed information;
- ignoring abusive situations and letting them fester,

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COLUMN: CANADIAN COMMITTEE OF POLICE PSYCHOLOGISTS (CCOPP) STORIES, Con't

This is not a comprehensive list but it gives you an idea. In other words, managers need to be communicative, supportive, participatory and cooperative. Sounds like things we learned in kindergarten. But alas some of us have long since forgotten about these things. This does not mean (as some cynics would like to suggest) that managers are not able to manage. Managers also need to be decisive and directive when the occasion calls for it. But frankly, you don't have any right to turn into Attila the Workplace just because you outrank someone else.

I must confess that I have always found it particularly curious that organizations whose job it is to care for others (i.e. hospitals, schools, long term care facilities) are sometimes the worst at looking after their own employees. It is almost like employees have somehow forfeited their own rights in favour of the rights of the looked-after. Like you are supposed to be working only for altruistic reasons. Like somehow that makes a negative workplace OK. There is no doubt that there are significant challenges involved in these kinds of settings. Obviously you can't leave work undone because the staff are tired. Not everyone can have—and act upon—their personal opinion as to what is the best way of doing things. There are indeed standards. Sometimes you have to work harder than you'd like, and sometimes you have to do things you'd rather not do. But to some extent, a psychologically healthy workplace is as much about process as it is outcome. How is the extra work assigned? Do you have any say in how standard processes are determined? If you are willing to go the extra mile for your employer when it is needed, are they willing to cut you a little slack when you need it?

As your mother used to say, try to play nice.

I suspect we are going to be hearing a lot more about mental health and psychological safety in the workplace over the next few years. I hear there is a new national standard coming down the pike that may provide some guidelines for employers in this regard. I know the Mental Health Commission of Canada is hot on this topic. If you want to stay ahead of the curve, you might want to check out www.guardingmindsatwork.ca or https://kec.mentalhealthcommission.ca/tracking_the_perfect_legal_storm

COLUMN: EDUCATING OURSELVES IN THE BUSINESS OF PSYCHOLOGY, by David Simourd, Director-at-Large, Clinical Training

In previous Crime Scene columns as the Director-At-Large: Clinical Training, I have suggested that forming clinical opinions about clients and communicating those opinions to various stakeholders is a central task in the practice of criminal justice psychology. Although this task may not be unique to criminal justice psychology, I am of the view that the consequences of professional opinions in our world can be more significant (e.g., release of dangerous persons to the community, inappropriate detention of a non-dangerous person, etc.) than in other areas of psychology. I have suggested that the degree to which clinicians are adept at base knowledge and skill application goes a long way to assisting in opinion formation and meaningful expression of that opinion. The combination of abilities in these areas, with personality style and maturity, allows for valuable contribution to the criminal justice field.. The topic of this column is a notable shift to a seemingly taboo subject; namely the business side of psychology, and specifically compensation.

Clinicians are not involved in criminal justice psychology as a hobby or just for fun – we are all compensated for our efforts, which by extension, makes us professionals. As professionals, we expect fair and reasonable compensation for the work we do. The question then becomes what is fair and reasonable. Unfortunately, the business side of criminal justice psychology is virtually ignored in all our training and experiences. The vast majority of clinicians working in our field are employed in government organizations and as such are not required to deal with money matters to any significant degree. It is not a stretch, however, that at some point in their careers a considerable number of criminal justice psychologists will have the pleasure of becoming engaged in some type of private practice matter to some degree. The degree of involvement may be as limited as a 'one off' consultation or training exercise, to a few hours per week of part-time private practice, up to full-time private practice. Despite the degree of involvement, having a sense of appropriate compensation is useful for both the clinician and the consumers of our services. The hot button issue becomes, what is appropriate compensation?

The determination of compensation among criminal justice psychologists working in government agencies is fairly simple – you get what you get! In these circumstances, psychologists are salaried employees who receive compensation based on established group pay range and benefit allowance, including pension. Changes to the rates of pay and benefits are generally few and far between over time and thus compensation may be of no interest to these clinicians. For those clinicians working privately, particularly those with full-time and part-time practice, compensation often varies from clinical activity to clinical activity and across client groups. The business of psychology often becomes a factor in decision making for such issues as determining what clinical activities to pursue/accept and what clinical activities to refuse. In its simplest form, the business of psychology is no different than any other economic enterprise; income must be greater than expenses if we are to make a living for ourselves and families. The challenge for criminal justice psychologists is to find a balance between professional responsibility and quality of financial life. This is never an easy task because the helping professions orientation of psychology invariably conflicts with the more hardened nature of the business world.

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COLUMN: CLINICAL TRAINING Con't

How do criminal justice psychologists improve their business acumen? Although there are numerous training and educational options available to become an effective criminal justice psychologist with regard to base knowledge and skill application, the opportunities to develop keener skills in the business side of criminal justice psychology are less obvious. Certainly a Harvard University MBA is not a prerequisite to improving the economic where-with-all of criminal justice clinicians; knowledge and application of small business practices obtained by way of various reading material sources or educational courses is more than adequate. Seeking advice and information from friends/acquaintances who operate a small business of any nature can also be very valuable. In this way, comparing compensation among similar criminal justice professionals (e.g., law, social work, psychiatry, etc.) as well as non-criminal justice professionals (e.g., skilled trades, finance, etc.) can be both enlightening and useful. General discussions with other psychologists can also be helpful, although this can be a delicate matter at times.

All psychologists are trained to be critical thinkers. A central function of clinicians is to form opinions about clients and convey those opinions to various stakeholders. The majority of our professional time is dedicated to ensuring our opinions are sound by way of continuing education through various methods (e.g., reading, conference attendance, collegial contact, etc.). Very little of our education or training is dedicated to the business side of the profession to ensure that the compensation we receive is commensurate with our skills, abilities, and contributions to the criminal justice system. There are options available to fill this gap which can compliment the base knowledge and skill application that are required to be an effective criminal justice psychologist. I am of the opinion that being strong in base knowledge, skill application, and having an adequate sense of the business of psychology, makes for an effective criminal justice psychologist.

RECENTLY DEFENDED DISSERTATIONS AND THESES

Enhancing community supervision of acquisitive offenders: A needs identification and skill building manual (Undergraduate Thesis)

By: Angel Hennigar
St. Lawrence College

Acquisitive crime accounts for a large percentage of the overall crime rate in Canada. In addition, the recidivism rates of acquisitive offenders are alarmingly high, indicating a need for effective supervision strategies in the community in order to enhance the reintegration of this offender population. At the time of this applied thesis, however, correctional staff at the agency that is the subject of this thesis lacked the means to adequately identify and address the specific needs of acquisitive offenders while on parole in the local community. Therefore, this thesis sought to develop a standardized supervision method for correctional staff that would allow them to assess and overcome the many barriers faced by acquisitive offenders during their community reintegration. It was assumed that an effective way of accomplishing this goal would be through the development of a needs identification and skill building manual. Given this, the final products created for this applied thesis include a facilitator's manual and an accompanying participant's manual that focus on improving offenders' skills in the following areas: Job-readiness, financial management, self-management, and motivation. These skills were targeted based on a review of the current literature which indicated that deficits in any of these areas are related to the initiation of and persistence in acquisitive offending. It was further believed that improving acquisitive offenders skills in these areas would aid in their community adaptation and result in less acquisitive reoffending.

This applied thesis focused on the development of the manual, and not its implementation. This is a considerable limitation, since no evaluation data could be gathered on the manual's efficacy for offenders or correctional staff. However, the development of the manual was guided by the empirical literature, and changes were made to the manual's contents based on feedback obtained from two correctional staff members and one offender. Furthermore, additional strengths, limitations, and multilevel challenges to the manual's implementation, as well recommendations for future research are discussed.

For more information: anghennigar@yahoo.ca

RECENTLY DEFENDED DISSERTATIONS AND THESES CON'T

The relationship between matching service to criminogenic need and recidivism in male and female youth: Examining the RNR principles in practice

Nina A. Vitopoulos
University of Toronto

Research supports rehabilitative programming addressing youths' risk to reoffend, criminogenic needs and responsivity factors with the goal of reducing reoffending. However, the Risk-Need-Responsivity (RNR) framework takes a 'gender neutral' approach that critics assert overlooks the unique needs of females. It remains largely unknown whether matching treatment to RNR needs is as effective for female youth as it has been shown to be for male youth. Comparative analyses of 39 male and 37 female justice system-involved youth indicate that across RNR categories, females and males were similar in quality and quantity of needs, and had them met through probation services at a similar rate. However, while the RNR assessment tool predicted risk for recidivism equally well, the matching of services to RNR needs appears to be far more potent in reducing recidivism for boys than girls, suggesting a moderating effect of sex on the relationship between RNR matched treatment and re-offending.

For more information: ninavito@gmail.com

SPECIAL FEATURE: Addressing the Problem of Youth Crime, by Robert D. Hoge

The federal government has proposed changes to the Youth Criminal Justice Act that deemphasize the rehabilitative focus of the system and encourage a more punitive approach. The changes appear motivated by two beliefs: (a) a serious problem of youth crime exists in Canada, and (b) the problem can best be addressed through punitive sanctions.

The issue of the extent and severity of youth crime in Canada has been addressed extensively in recent discussions of the government proposals and need not be discussed in detail here. In summary, available data indicate that youth crime rates, including rates of violent crime, have not increased significantly since introduction of the Youth Criminal Justice Act in 2003.

This still leaves the question of what to do with youth in conflict with the law. The government's preferred approach appears to be based on an increased use of punitive sanctions, including custody. This is contrary to the original spirit of the Youth Criminal Justice Act. Whereas that Act stresses the importance of community protection and holding youth accountable for actions, it also places a great deal of emphasis on identifying and addressing the factors placing the youth at risk for criminal activity. The government's response stands in conflict with the original spirit of the Act.

Which approach is correct? Many commentators have made the point that a growing body of sound empirical research from criminology and psychology demonstrates the efficacy of rehabilitative approaches relative to more punitive strategies. In other words, interventions directed to the personal and social factors placing the youth at risk for criminal activity are, for the most part, more effective than punitive strategies, particularly those involving incarceration.

Another body of empirical research is relevant to this issue, and the results of these studies should carry considerable weight with the government. This research demonstrates that rehabilitative interventions, particularly those delivered in the community setting, can be cost effective, especially in comparison with punitive sanctions. This research involves attaching a dollar value to the costs of the program and a dollar value to the impact of the program. In the case of juvenile justice interventions, the latter would be based on estimated savings from measured declines in new criminal activity and other positive results.

Valuable information about cost benefit ratios of various strategies for addressing youth crime has been provided by the Washington Institute for Public Policy, an agency of the Washington State government. The legislators of Washington State have mandated that state funding of social programs is dependent on empirical demonstrations that the programs achieve their stated goals and, further, that the programs are cost effective. As part of this mandate, the Washington State Institute for Public Policy has conducted cost/benefit research with state programs and has reviewed a large body of similar research from other states and countries.

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Analyses conducted by this agency show clearly that many of the rehabilitation programs developed for youth in conflict with the law show very favourable cost/benefit ratios. Initial investments in the programs can pay significant dividends in the future in terms of savings associated with reduced contacts with the police and judicial systems, reduced school dropout rates, improved school performance and adjustment, and reduced use of medical and mental health services. For example, certain community-based pre-charge diversion programs for low and moderate risk youth (similar to those offered as part of the Youth Criminal Justice Act) can return on average \$5.58 for every dollar invested even with the cost of delivering the program factored in. Punitive strategies are, on the other hand, generally associated with negative cost/benefit ratios.

This is not to say that negative sanctions have no role in dealing with a youth in conflict with the law. Fines, community service orders, and probation can assist in holding the youth accountable for his or her actions. Further, there will likely always be some role for holding youth in custody settings, particularly where a very serious crime is committed or the youth persistently fails to respond to more rehabilitative strategies. However, the evidence shows very clearly that carefully targeted and delivered community-based rehabilitative programs can be more effective in reducing the incidence of youth crime than punitive sanctions— and can also produce favourable economic returns.

For More Information:

Robert D. Hoge, Ph.D., C.Psych.
Emeritus Professor & Distinguished Research Professor
Department of Psychology
Carleton University
Ottawa, ON K1S 5B6

robert_hoge@carleton.ca

SPECIAL FEATURE: Issues Regarding the Assessment and Intervention with Middle-Eastern Radicalization, Extremism, and its Operational Manifestation: Terrorism, by Wagdy Loza

In this article I will succinctly discuss four issues related to the above noted topic. At the outset, I say that I agree with most of Dernevik, Beck, Grann, Hogue and McGuire's (2009) suggestions. Specifically: a) most mental health professionals do not have any specific expertise in completing assessment on terrorists; b) risk assessment tools commonly used with violent offenders are not valid for use with terrorist offenders; and c) mental health professionals need to seek additional expertise from professionals in other fields prior to beginning their assessments. To this I would add that professionals in other fields may very well not possess the expertise and competency to perform these culturally and ideologically pregnant assessments. Indeed, given that few terrorists are mentally ill, one wonders whether being a "mental health professional" per se provides any advantage to the assessor.

1. Competency

After 9/11 Canadian professionals (clinicians and non-clinicians) ventured into the complex field of Middle-Eastern extremism. For the last decade, they have been completing assessments, doing research, making public presentations and I fear might soon be developing intervention programs. Unfortunately, very few of these professionals possess the necessary background to undertake these tasks. The majority of these professionals have acquired their knowledge through the media and books. The involvement of these professionals will, in my opinion cause more harm than good.

Many salient issues related to Middle-Eastern extremism are alien to western culture and consequently not easily grasped by Westerners through theoretical means. Most interested Western professionals are at the disadvantage of not having in-depth, first hand understanding or knowledge of the history, culture, ideologies, values, language, religion, history, ethnicity, regions, customs, and political and social backgrounds of the dominant or minority Middle-East populations. For obvious reasons, there is a scarceness of empirically-based knowledge of extremism/terrorism as opposed to historical, philosophical or political analyses of extremism/terrorism. When researchers examine different terrorist movements, it becomes apparent that they represent varying groups with different social and political agendas that may or may not share common characteristics with the group from which they emerge. What is saliently lacking in important areas include common belief systems and associated ideological values, thinking, organization, decision making processes, personality dynamics, and motivations.

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SPECIAL FEATURE: Issues Regarding the Assessment Con't

As suggested by Dernevik et al. (2009), extremism/terrorism is a very complex problem that should involve interactions between several disciplines. However, in light of this complexity, it is not surprising that a large number of divergent explanations are proposed by sociologists, political scientists, police agencies, psychiatrists, psychologists, and other professionals, with each discipline providing explanations reflecting internal and disjointed rubrics (Loza, 2007a). Additionally, I believe that much of the literature/information is coming from professionals who have little understanding of the ideological realities and how they are manifested "on the ground". Such analyses are inappropriately and unrealistically based on analogies to intrinsically dissimilar Western liberal culture, religion, and value systems.

2. Use Of Correctional/Forensic Risk/Need Measures Is Not Appropriate.

The currently used Correctional/Forensic Risk/Need measures were not specifically designed for use with extremist/terrorist offenders, nor have they been standardized on them. Most of the items included in these measures are not related to risk factors intrinsic to extremists/terrorists. Examination of the items of commonly employed risk instruments are appropriate for predicting violent recidivism in criminal populations, and typically reflect self-centered motivation (SCM), unconcern for negative impact on others (UNIO), or poor self-regulation (PSR) resulting in immediate gratification that disregards impending and significantly greater long-term losses (see Nussbaum et al., 2010 for a neurobiological account of these distinctions.). For example, Factor 1 of the PCL-R-2 (Hare, 2003) largely reflect SCM (e.g., Promiscuous Sexual Behaviour) and UNIO (e.g., Lack of Empathy), while Factor 2 reflects PSR (e.g., Poor Behavioural Controls) The Violence Risk Appraisal Guide (VRAG; Harris, Rice & Quinsey, 1993) items also reflect historical events within these classes that are often present in the life histories of violent criminals including SCM (collapsed under Psychopathy and associated DSM-Criteria for any personality Disorders), UNIO (Cormier-Lang adult property offense score) and PSR (Alcohol Abuse History). The Level of Supervision Inventory-Revised (LSI-R; Andrews, Bonta, 1995) similarly reflect criminal tendencies within these overarching themes as many of the concrete-realistic items (e.g., property aspects of criminal history) can be subsumed under SCM and UNIO, and difficulties with PSR result in difficulties with Finances, Education and Employment, Alcohol and Drug Problems etc. Also, items of the Self Appraisal Questionnaire (SAQ; Loza, 1996, 2005): Anger, Criminal Tendencies, Antisocial Personality Problems, Conduct Problems, Criminal History, Alcohol/Drug Abuse are, in my opinion, of little value in completing assessment on extremists/terrorists.

Unlike the case with criminals, links between extremist culture/terrorism and criminogenic SCM, UNIO and PSR are not only absent, but generally reversed. It takes considerable selflessness and devotion to voluntarily undertake the possible loss of one's life for a "superordinate cause". Self-destruction to further the aims of the group represents the antithesis of "psychopathic" SCM motivation. The devotee cares greatly about the group's ultimate success and often sees terrorism as redressing the (typically unrealistic) threats on others in his/her ideological camp. Indeed, this pseudo-belief is promulgated by those in the upper echelons of the extremist-terrorist hierarchy to manipulate the lower echelon groups into self-sacrifice. Finally, considerable PSR is often necessary to forgo immediate gratification for a (chimerical) promise of unlimited ecstasy in the next life for "martyrs." Thus terrorists within an extremist ideology (as opposed to their ideological "executives") may very well score quite low on conventional risk instruments designed to identify those terrorists acting out of a sense of ideological purity.

In light of the above, there is an obvious need to develop measures specifically designed to measure middle-eastern extremism/terrorism. These measures should focus on prominent ideological themes that are considered the central sources of grievance promoted by the middle-eastern extremists/terrorists. Such a measure has been developed and is referred to as the Assessment and Treatment of Radicalization Scale (ATRS, Loza, 2007b) (formerly the Belief Diversity Scale or BDS; Loza, 2007b). The ATRS is a theoretically driven and empirically validated, self-report instrument that was constructed to quantitatively measure Middle-Eastern extremist ideologies on risk areas that are reported in the literature. The ATRS consists of six subscales and a total scale, with each subscale designed to reflect a prominent ideological theme promoted by Middle-Eastern extremists. To date, three studies have been conducted and the results demonstrated the reliability and validity of this measure (Loza, 2010a, Loza, 2010b, Loza, El-Fatah, Prinsloo, Hesslink, and Seidler, 2011).

3. The Importance of Using Validated Measures.

Since 2011, several non-psychiatrist and non-psychologist professionals identified risk factors or developed models to guide with the assessment of extremists and potential terrorists. On the surface these models look impressive and some of the factors are moderately related to terrorist potential. These factors are repeated in almost all models. Unfortunately: a) these models do not include the more important factors that purported to help with identifying a Middle-Eastern extremist/terrorist (see Loza, 2007a, 2010a, 2010b, and Loza et al., 2011); b) They do not benefit from the factors identified by middle-eastern experts who have dealt with phenomena of extremism/terrorism decades before the 9/11 incident; c) These models do not provide directions regarding how to assess these factors.

SPECIAL FEATURE: Issues Regarding the Assessment Con't

To illustrate the importance of the points presented in this article, in court hearings of the "Toronto 18 Terrorists", several psychiatrists completed conventional risk/need assessments for criminal violence. Never-the-less, the Crown dismissed a psychiatric report as being of "virtually of no utility", because "the report relied on instruments not designed to deal with ideologically driven criminals" and added that "it can provide no comfort whatsoever on extremist's likelihood to reoffend". The outcomes of these hearings clearly indicated the present lack of adequate measurements to help with prediction of radicalism and terrorism and the critical importance of using measures validated for such purposes. Also, a reference was made to a tool that was alleged to assess extremists. The use of this tool "was quickly discredited," as the court heard it was "untested and not accepted by the psychiatric community". Another psychiatric report was "dismissed as flawed by the Crown" because of "the lack of any tool designed to measure the risk of political or religious extremism" (O'Toole, 2010, p. A1).

4. Conclusions

I suggest that clinicians and others interested in assessing potential for terrorism within ideological contexts need to be knowledgeable in understanding the history, culture, ideology, values, language, religions, ethnicity, region customs, and political and social backgrounds of the population in question prior to undertaking assessments or designing interventions for extremists/terrorists. This would involve physically spending years of living in different countries of the middle-east. As this is not practical or easy to do I would go with Dernevik et al.'s (2009) suggestion of seeking additional expertise from professionals in other fields prior to undertaking such assessments. I would, however, caution that because of the conflicting agendas of middle-eastern "experts" that professionals be extremely vigilant in selecting those attempting to provide such expertise. They must select independent and objective experts whose only agenda is to realistically identify those likely to be at significant risk for terrorist activity stemming from extremist beliefs, values and sentiments. This is but one example of the difficulties that must be surmounted to make this specific form of risk assessment effective and impartial.

NOTE: I would like to thank Dr. David Nussbaum for his review, addition, and helpful comments.

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For More Information: WML1@SYMPATICO.CA

73rd Annual CPA CONVENTION: CRIMINAL JUSTICE SECTION HIGHLIGHTS, By Joanna Hessen-Kayfitz, Director-at-Large, Conference Programme

Hello everyone! I am excited to write my first contribution as the new Director-at-Large, Conference Programme. I am taking over the reigns from Leslie Helmus, who has been really wonderful with helping me tackle my first task in this new role - that of Review Coordinator for this year's CPA conference submissions under our Section. There is a lot of great research being done, and it was a real treat to get "first dibs" at reading over what our colleagues in the field have been up to.

With that in mind, the upcoming CPA conference in Halifax, Nova Scotia is fast approaching. There are a number of events that I would like to orient you to. First of all, our Section Business meeting will be held on Thursday, June 14th at 12pm. Although your stomachs may direct you otherwise at that hour, I encourage you to attend. I myself made it out to one of the earlier crack-of-dawn meetings way back in 2007 and am quite thankful that I did. I was warmly received and welcomed into a Co-Student Representative position shortly thereafter. It's a great way to meet the people that head the Section and perhaps get involved by running for a position on the Executive. Right after the business meeting at 1pm, the Task Force of the Future of Psychology in Corrections Services will convene. Given the recent passing of Bill C-10 and resulting anticipated influx of inmates into the already-taxed system, this is a very important meeting for anybody currently (or planning to be) involved with correctional psychology to attend. Our Section Poster Session is scheduled for Thursday at 1:30pm where you will find a great selection of research presentations that focus on various areas of criminal justice psychology. As usual, I would like to orient all of the students who are presenting posters that we will once again be holding our annual Student Poster Competition where cash awards will be granted for the best graduate and best undergraduate poster! Also on Thursday at 4pm, make sure you attend the talk of our Section Keynote speaker and Don Andrews Career Contribution Award recipient, Dr. James Ogloff. Congratulations also to Dr. Jeremy Mills, who will be receiving the Significant Contribution Award. Otherwise, there are some great symposia offered by members of our Section, so you are sure to find a topic that interests you - the trick is to bring your runners and pack light so you can move quickly between sessions!

On a more personal note, I am especially excited that this year's CPA conference is being held in Halifax, as this beautiful city will be my new home for the 2012-2013 internship year, where I will be joining the team at Nova Scotia Capital District Mental Health! With that, I am looking forward to a great conference, seeing some old faces, and meeting some new ones.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS ACTIVE IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE (NAACJ) ANNUAL REPORT 2011-2012, by J. Stephen Wormith

During the 2011-2012 year, the undersigned continued to represent the Canadian Psychological Association on the National Associations Active in Criminal Justice (NAACJ), which is an 'umbrella' organization for various voluntary sector and professional organizations that are national in scope and have a particular interest in Canada's justice system. NAACJ is funded by an operating grant from federal Ministry of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness and currently consists of 18 organizations.

Much of the past year in the voluntary sector of criminal justice has been devoted to the government's *Omnibus Crime Bill*, Bill C-100, as it passed through the House of Commons and the Canadian Senate. Numerous member organizations provided testimony or submitted briefs to the justice committee's of both houses. (In fact CPA submitted a brief the Senate Committee.) Although there was general agreement about the content of the Bill (organizations opposed it on ideological, practical and empirical grounds), there was not a consensus amongst organizations on a strategy to oppose the bill, in part, because there was a sense that it was a done deal, and no amount or type of objection would have any impact on its passing into law. Consequently, much of the opposition was declared simply for the historical record and the belief that simply by going on record in opposition to the bill, but doing so with respect, might serve a longer term agenda. The undersigned participated in some of these discussions, as did Dr. Karen Cohen, Executive Director of CPA, who attended various meetings held in Ottawa over the last year.

Thematic meetings and consultations were also held with civil servants from the Departments of Justice, Public Safety Canada, and the Correctional Service of Canada. A full day session with CSC was conducted with a title "*Focus on the Family: Enhancing the Role of Families in Corrections and Communities.*" A second session with government was entitled "*Substance Abuse Solutions.*" Other particular topics included homelessness, the dramatic increase in user fees for pardons, and mental disorder/mental health problems amongst offenders.

NAACJ is particularly proud to announce its newly formatted website. The website includes descriptions of, and links to, all 18 organizations, including CPA, as well as links to upcoming criminal justice events and relevant documents. The website may be found at <http://www.naacj.org/>

This report has been submitted to the CPA Board of Directors as my annual report.

Respectfully submitted
J. Stephen Wormith, Ph.D.
CPA representative to NAACJ

CRIMINAL JUSTICE SECTION 2012 ANNUAL REPORT, by Mark Olver

Section Executive

The 2011/2012 Executive is Mark Olver (Chair), Jean Folsom (Past Chair), Karl Hanson (Secretary/Treasurer), Ainslie Heasman (Managing Editor, Crime Scene), Leah Todd (Review Editor, Crime Scene), Natalie J. Jones (Membership Coordinator), Leticia Gutierrez (Student Representative), J. Stephen Wormith (Director-At-Large: NAACJ), David Simourd (Director-At-Large: Clinical and Training), Dorothy Cotton (Director-At-Large: Police Psychology), Garry Fisher (Director-At-Large: Psychology in the Courts), Joanna Hessen-Kayfitz (Director-At-Large: Conference Program), and Joseph Camilleri (Director-At-Large: Website Coordinator).

Membership

The membership as of September 29, 2011 was 402 (261 regular members, 141 students).

Annual Convention Activities (include date and time of section business meeting)

The Criminal Justice Section will be active throughout the convention with symposiums, workshops, theory reviews and a poster session.

Our section's Keynote Speaker is Dr. James Ogloff who will be presenting on applied topics in clinical forensic psychology. Dr. Ogloff is also this year's recipient of our *Donald Andrews Career Contribution Award* for his outstanding empirical, scholarly, administrative, and pedagogical contributions to Canadian criminal justice psychology. In addition, our *Significant Contribution Award* will be going to Dr. Jeremy Mills for his work and vision in chairing the organization of the Second North American Correctional and Criminal Justice Psychology Conference (NACCJPC) held in Toronto in conjunction with CPA's annual convention last year. There will also be one award each for the best student poster by an undergraduate and by a graduate student.

Our section Business Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 14, from 12:00 – 12:55. This will be followed by one hour meeting from 1:00 – 1:55 for members of the Task Force for Psychology in Corrections to meet.

Past-Year Projects

Over the past year, the Criminal Justice Section and its Executive have had an opportunity to evaluate and reflect on the second North American Correctional and Criminal Justice Psychology Conference. The fiscal contributions from the section came in under budget (please see Section Financial Report), and the convention was judged to be a strong success by its attendance and quality of presentations. The Section has committed to hosting a third NACCJPC at the Ottawa convention in 2015.

The Criminal Justice Section has maintained representation on the CPA Professional Affairs Committee (chaired by Executive Member Dorothy Cotton and attended by the Section Chair). The Section is also involved in an advocacy Task Force initiative from the Professional Affairs Committee (Task Force for Psychology in Corrections). The Special Interest Group on Police Psychology has continued to be active through our listserv, and in particular, through the ongoing development of the pre-employment clinical assessment guidelines.

Our section has maintained its publication of its semi-annual newsletter, *Crime Scene*. Members of the Executive contribute regular columns while others provide thought-provoking and/or research articles for our special features section. The newsletter is broadly distributed and frequently requested from people outside of the section. The section's website is regularly maintained and each new *Crime Scene* added to its Publications section.

Next-Year Projects

Our main focus over the next year will be to review and support Section initiatives, maintain the activity of our newsletter, engage in planning for next year's convention, and continue the Section's involvement in the Task Force for Psychology in Corrections.

STUDENT WATER COOLER: Zen and the Art of Being a Working Student: A Noble Eightfold Path, by Leticia Gutierrez

As a full-time PhD student, working researcher for a government criminal justice research unit, and former teaching assistant, students have asked me if I have any suggestions for balancing work and student life. A reality that we face as students is that it is often a financial requirement that we work through university. It can also be extremely beneficial to gain work experience (in your area of academic interest, if possible), as it enables you to acquire skills, networking opportunities, and gain marketable experience outside of the often insular environment of university. Finding a balance between student and work life can be an intimidating and sometimes overwhelming task. As a senior PhD student and government researcher, I have amassed some experiential wisdom (or “zen”) in this area and have organized it into a *noble eightfold path*. These are some nuggets of advice that would have served me well as a 17 year-old starting university and have been invaluable in helping me strike a balance as a PhD student.

1. **Set goals that are realistic and achievable.**
Taking multiple courses often means having multiple deadlines (e.g., papers, assignments, exams). Planning ahead and setting intermittent goals is an effective way to manage the variety of tasks you have to accomplish over the course of the semester. This will limit the number of all-nighters you would otherwise encounter! Setting short- and long-term goals will allow you to produce your best work (e.g., allows time for proof-reading), and reduce the stress associated with “cramming.”
2. **Prioritize your work.**
With competing tasks that often have overlapping deadlines, planning and prioritizing are essential. At the beginning of the semester, identify each deadline and prioritize your tasks accordingly. Using a calendar or agenda can be extremely useful to visually map out the tasks ahead.
3. **Treat your time like you treat your finances – budget!**
Arguably, the most valuable asset you have at your disposal is time; therefore, budgeting your time as you would budget your finances is a way to maximize your productivity and leisure activities. How many times have you watched multiple re-runs of an old TV show and wondered where the time went? How many times have you cancelled plans with friends/family, or cancelled a shift at work because you left a project to the last minute? Proactively budgeting for work and relaxation will allow you to enjoy the benefits of both.
4. **Strive for well-roundedness.**
Although it is important to find your niche and area of specialization, it is also important to develop and maintain a breadth of interests. Don't neglect your hobbies; they can be an extremely enriching part of your personal life. One of my hobbies was playing the bass guitar, so as an undergraduate student I pursued a minor in music. This encouraged me to maintain my skills and interest in this area and allowed me to develop friendships and contacts within the musical community.
5. **Maximize your time by finding overlaps between your school and paid work.**
Although it is more difficult to do, try to find ways of gaining an overlap between your academic interests and your paid work. One strategy to accomplish this is by first finding volunteer opportunities that could lead into employment opportunities. My work in the research unit has given me rich knowledge and experience that I have been able to apply to my courses, and university has enriched my contributions at work.
6. **Collaboration is key!**
Given that our workload is a major determinant of our productivity, looking for opportunities to collaborate with other students, professors, or researchers is a way to be balanced and productive. Collaboration creates valuable experience while networking with the people in your field. Attending conferences is a great way to meet people in your field and explore possible opportunities for collaboration.
7. **Don't be afraid to set expectations and boundaries with your supervisor and/or boss.**
As students who are newly entering a field, we often feel obligated to “bite off more than we can chew.” Although ambition is an important ingredient for success, creating unrealistic expectations and boundaries can have a multitude of detrimental effects. Setting mutually agreeable and realistic expectations with your superiors (in school and work) can be a great way of avoiding unforeseen negative outcomes along the way. Even writing down the division of tasks and expectations at the beginning of a project can prove to be extremely beneficial for everyone involved.
8. **Don't burn yourself out — allow yourself to take a break and have fun!**
While being academically and financially productive is important, it shouldn't come at the expense of your mental and physical health. Don't push yourself too hard as this could end up setting you back in the long-run (e.g., needing to take time off of school and/or work). Cherish the time you have with your friends and family, as well as your leisure activities, as these are also markers of success that contribute to your overall well-being.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Hanson, R. K., Lloyd, C. D., Helmus, L., & Thornton, D. (in press). Developing non-arbitrary metrics for risk communication: Percentile ranks for the Static-99/R and Static-2002/R sexual offender risk tools. *International Journal of Forensic Mental Health*.

The aim of this paper was to advance risk communication by examining percentile ranks as a non-arbitrary metric for quantifying risk. Although percentile ranks have a simple meaning, their calculation is complicated by ties (i.e., more than one offender having the same score). The strengths and weaknesses of percentile ranks are discussed, as are the options for calculating and presenting them in applied risk communication. As a demonstration, percentile ranks for Canadian sexual offenders were computed for the most popular sexual offender risk assessment tools (Static-99, Static-99R, Static-2002 and Static-2002R). The distribution of Static-99 scores was highly stable in international comparisons of sexual offenders from Canada (1990 to 2005; $n = 2,011$), Sweden (1993 to 1997; $n = 1,278$) and California (2008-2010; $n = 37,600$). The major limitation of percentile ranks is that they measure the “unusualness” of scores in a particular reference group, and may not correspond to other indicators of relative or absolute risk. Consequently, we recommend that evaluators presenting percentile ranks should consistently provide recidivism base rate information so that decision-makers do not confuse the rarity of a score with estimates of absolute recidivism risk.

Helmus, L., Hanson, R. K., Thornton, D., Babchishin, K. M., Harris, A. J. R. (in press). Absolute recidivism rates predicted by Static-99R and Static-2002R sex offender risk assessment tools vary across samples: A meta-analysis. *Criminal Justice and Behavior*.

There has been considerable research on relative predictive accuracy (i.e., discrimination) in offender risk assessment (e.g., are high risk offenders more likely to reoffend than low risk offenders), but virtually no research on the accuracy or stability of absolute recidivism estimates (i.e., calibration). The current study aimed to fill this gap by examining absolute and relative risk estimates for certain STATIC sex offender assessment tools. Logistic regression coefficients for Static-99R and Static-2002R were combined through meta-analysis (8,106 sex offenders; 23 samples). The sexual recidivism rates for typical sex offenders are lower than the public generally believes. Static-99R and Static-2002R both demonstrated remarkably consistent relative predictive accuracy across studies. For both scales, however, the predicted recidivism rates within each risk score demonstrated large and significant variability across studies. We discuss how the variability in recidivism rates complicates the estimation of recidivism probability in applied assessments.

Hermann, C. A., Babchishin, K. M., & Nunes, K. L., Leth-Steensen, C, & Cortoni, F. (In press). The factor structure of the Bumby RAPE Scale: A two-factor model. *Criminal Justice and Behavior*.

Rape-supportive cognition is both theoretically and empirically related to rape. Several types of rape-supportive cognition (cognitive distortions) have been identified in the literature, suggesting rapists' rape-supportive cognition may be multidimensional. The Bumby RAPE scale (Bumby, 1996) is one measure of rape-supportive cognition. We conducted an exploratory factor analysis using polychoric correlations to examine the types of rape-supportive cognition assessed by the Bumby RAPE scale with a sample of 280 adult male sex offenders. A two-factor model was found; the two factors were labelled Excusing Rape and Justifying Rape. The current study suggests the Bumby RAPE scale is multidimensional. This factor structure may provide greater precision and clarity in the assessment of rape-supportive cognition, which may facilitate more informative research and, ultimately, contribute to more effective sex offender treatment and management.

Kroner, D. G., & Takahashi, M. (2012). Every session counts: The differential impact of previous programmes and current programme dosage on offender recidivism. *Legal and Criminological Psychology*, 17, 136-150. doi:10.1111/j.2044-8333.2010.02001.x.

Purpose. The present study examined the impact of current treatment dosage on recidivism among offenders.

Methods. Using a sample of dropouts from a community treatment programme, current treatment dosage and past completed programmes were used to predict criminal recidivism.

Results. After statistically controlling for risk levels, only current dosage was predictive of recidivism.

Conclusions. Offenders' current direction, indicated by current dosage, is central to reducing recidivism. Strategies for offenders completing treatment sessions are discussed.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Mill, J. F., Kroner, D. G., & Morgan R. D. (2011). *The Clinician's Guide to Violence Risk Assessment*. Guilford: New York.

Seto, M. C., Wood, J. M., Babchishin, K. M., & Flynn, S. (In press). *Online solicitation offenders are different from child pornography offenders and lower risk contact sexual offenders*. *Law and Human Behavior*.

The current study compared 38 lower risk (based on actuarial risk assessments) men convicted of contact sexual offenses against children, 38 child pornography offenders, and 70 solicitation offenders (also known as luring or traveler offenders). Solicitation and child pornography offenders were better educated than contact offenders but did not differ on other sociodemographic variables. In comparison to child pornography offenders, solicitation offenders had lower capacity for relationship stability and lower levels of sex drive/preoccupation and deviant sexual preference. Solicitation offenders were also more problematic than lower risk contact offenders on sex drive/preoccupation and capacity for relationship stability and had greater self-reported use of child pornography. Differences between groups on two actuarial risk measures, the Static-99 and the VASOR, were inconsistent. This study suggests that solicitation offenders differ in meaningful ways from lower risk contact offenders and child pornography offenders and, consequently, in risk, treatment, and supervision needs.

Zinger, I. (2012). *Conditional Release and Human Rights in Canada: A Commentary*. *Canadian Journal of Criminology and Criminal Justice Issue*, 54 (1), 1.

Liberty interests and human rights are at stake when granting, denying, suspending, or revoking conditional releases of prisoners. An evidence-based program of gradual conditional release is the best way of reducing recidivism and enhancing public safety. The "get tough on crime" approach affects the degree to which conditional release is used and relied upon by correctional and parole authorities. This commentary reviews key concerns regarding the accountability of both Parole Board Canada and the Correctional Service of Canada when making decisions about conditional release. Factors that have influenced the diminishing contribution to early release are discussed. The "changing profile" of the federal prisoner population is used to identify important failures in Canadian public policy and in upholding the human rights of prisoners.

KUDOS

Congratulations to Leslie Helmus who is now working for Correctional Service of Canada.

Congratulations to Dr. Carolyn Abramowitz who is now working for the Ontario Correctional Institute.

**Deadline for October 2012 Issue -
September 7, 2012**

UPCOMING CONFERENCES

Violence and Aggression Symposium, University of Saskatoon

June 3-5, 2012 Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada

<http://ocs.usask.ca/va14>

John Jay College of Criminal Justice Tenth Biennial International Conference - Global Perspectives on Justice, Security and Human Rights

June 6-9, 2012 New York, New York, United States

http://johnjay.jjay.cuny.edu/ic_ny/x.asp

American Society of Trial Consultants

June 7-9, 2012 New Orleans, Louisiana, United States

www.astconference.org

The Stockholm Criminology Symposium

June 11-13, 2012 Stockholm, Sweden

www.criminologyprize.com/extra/pod

Canadian Psychological Association's 73rd Annual Convention

June 14-16, 2012 Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada

www.cpa.ca

The Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues 2012 Biennial Conference

June 22-24, 2012 Charlotte, North Carolina, United States

www.spssi.org

142nd Congress of Correction

July 20-25, 2012 Denver, Colorado, United States

www.aca.org

American Psychological Association's 120th Annual Convention

August 2-5, 2012 Orlando, Florida, United States

www.apa.com

24th Annual Crimes Against Children Conference

August 13-16, 2012 Dallas, Texas, United States

www.cacconference.org

The 2012 International Conference on Special Needs Offenders

August 26-29, 2012 Ottawa, Ontario, Canada

www.specialneedsoffenders.org

European Association of Psychology and Law Conference

August 28-31, 2012 Nicosia, Cyprus

www.eapl.eu

Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers 31st Annual Research and Treatment Conference

October 17-20, 2012 Denver, Colorado, United States

www.atsa.com

The American Society of Criminology, 68th Annual Meeting

November 14-17, 2012 Chicago, Illinois, United States

www.asc41.org