The Official Organ of the Criminal Justice
Section of CPA

CRIME SCENE

PSYCHOLOGY BEHIND BARS AND IN FRONT OF THE BENCH

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Message from the Chair

Jeremy Mills, Ph.D., C.Psych

Greetings everyone. It is a pleasure to once again be contributing to the Section as a member of the Section Executive and as the incoming Chair. The big change for me since my first tenure in the role in 2005 is that I am now officially a 'pensioner'. Transitioning away from full time employ, for me at least, does not mean stopping work. I anticipate continuing to be active, however, being active in doing those things that I enjoy the most. One of those things is the Criminal Justice Section and my professional identity outside of my former government role. For me, the Section has been a vehicle to meet many people who share my interest in research and forensic psychology in general. Our Section is blessed to have many world renown researchers who also happen to be very nice people. Over the years they have provided support, friendship, and the intellectual challenges that I have needed to foster a better understanding of my own interests and work.

The Section can be what you and I make of it. If you have an interest in Police Psychology, reach out to Mary Ann Campbell who is our new Director-at-Large, Police Psychology Representative. She will be leading activities of interest to those working in that area of forensic psychology. Similarly, if your area of interest is in Clinical Psychology within a criminal justice context, David Hill is our Director-at-Large, Clinical Training Coordinator who would be pleased to lead activities in this area on behalf of the Section. As your Section Executive, we are continually looking for ways to support our membership in their respective workplaces and in their interests. If you have ideas for how we can best achieve this together, please reach out to one of us on the Executive. We would like to hear from you.

The Executive is looking for Student Representatives to join and be a voice for students. Please watch for the announcement to come out shortly. We are looking for graduate level students who want to take a more active role and perhaps move into another leadership role upon graduation.

The Section Awards are an important part of recognizing the work of our members and others who have made meaningful contributions to criminal justice psychology. When we, as a Section, recognize these folks, it is momentous. The award recipients are recognized for their contributions to criminal justice psychology. Their work is frequently internationally recognized and they are contributing to the field in significant and important ways. This issue will recognize the work of recent recipients of Section awards, Dr. Daryl Kroner and Dr. Margo C. Watt. We will also be recognizing Dr. Mark Olver, who this year was admitted as a Fellow of the Canadian Psychological Association. Congratulations to all on these well-deserved accolades. The Executive has established a FIRM deadline for nominations for Section Awards of January 31, 2025 in keeping with the CPA timelines.

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Brief Recap of CPA 2024 in Ottawa

The 85th Annual Convention in Ottawa this past June. It was a great success and saw a big turn out from our Section members. At the Section's AGM, we welcomed in a few new representatives onto the Executive including **Dr. Jeremy Mills** as our Section Chair, **Dr. Andrew Gray** as our Secretary/ Treasurer**,** and **Dr. Mary Ann Campbell** as our Police Psychology Representative. **Dr. Nina Fusco** (our previous Secretary/Treasurer) is our Vice-Chair role. The Section is glad to have these folks on board and look forward to working together over the coming year.

Some other Executive Members stepped down from their roles recently, and we'd like to take a moment to thank each of them for their work and contributions to the Section. Much gratitude is extended to **Dr. Patrick Baillie** (former Chair), **Dr. Sebastian Baglole** (former Membership Coordinator), and **Gabriella Hilkes & Emma McFarlene** (former Student Representatives).

If you are interested in fulfilling the role of Membership Coordinator or Student Representative, please contact Dr. Jeremy Mills to get more details (jfmills2008@gmail.com).

Our AGM meeting also recognized the work and contributions of a few of our members, all of whom are featured in this issue. Congratulations are extended to **Dr. Daryl Kroner**, recipient of the Section's Don Andrews Career Contribution Award; **Dr. Margo C. Watt**, recipient of the Section's Significant Contribution Award; and **Dr. Mark Olver**, who was elected as a CPA Fellow.

We also wish to highlight the excellent work by all our presenters, especially from our Student Members. As always, each year of judging is a challenge when there are so many great research endeavours highlighted. Congratulations are extended to our Student Poster winners: **Emma Holmes** received the Best Graduate Student Poster prize, and **students from Dr. Kevin Nunes' CRIM 3400 class (Carleton University)** received the Best Undergraduate Student Poster prize.

We hope you can join us at the 86th Annual Convention in St. John's! See you there!

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CPA 2024 PHOTOS

(Left photo): Dr. Nina Fusco (left) presenting Dr. Daryl Kroner with the Don Andrews Career Contribution Award.

(Right photo): Dr. Christopher Lively (right) presenting Paul Murphy (on behalf of Dr. Margo C. Watt) with the Significant Contribution Award.

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CPA 2024 PHOTOS

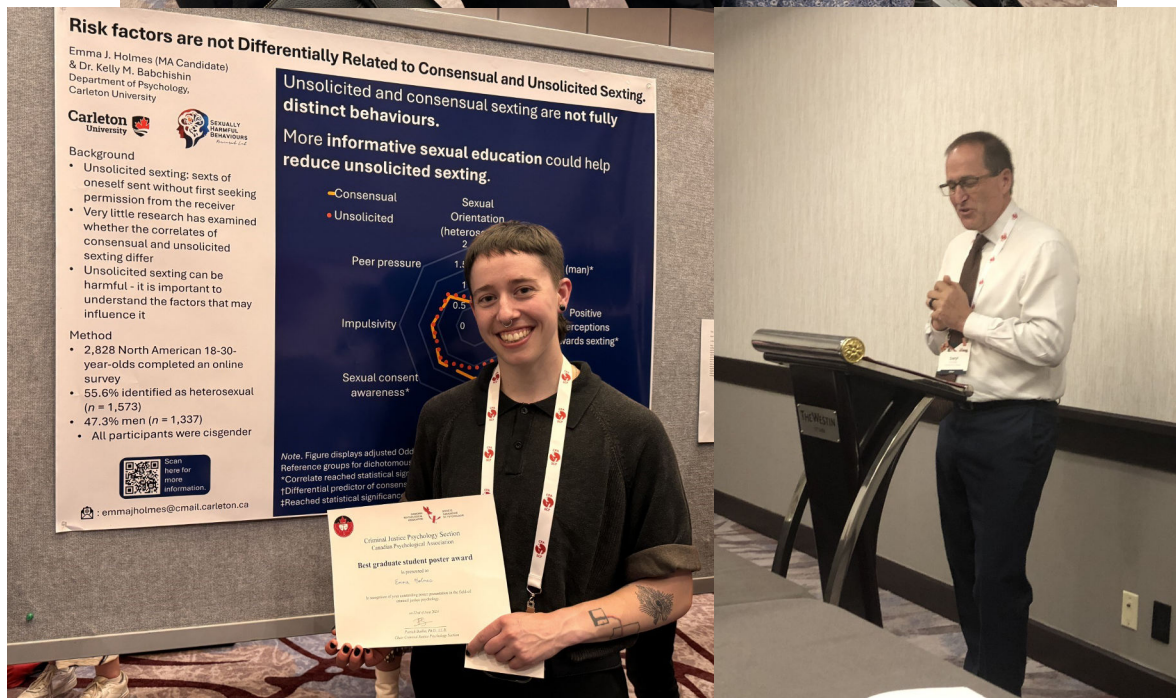

Dr. Eleanor Gittens (right), CPA President, presenting Dr. Mark Olver with the CPA Fellow Award.

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CPA 2024 PHOTOS

(Top left photo): Dr. Kevin Nunes & students from his CRIM 3400 class, winners of the Undergraduate Poster Prize.

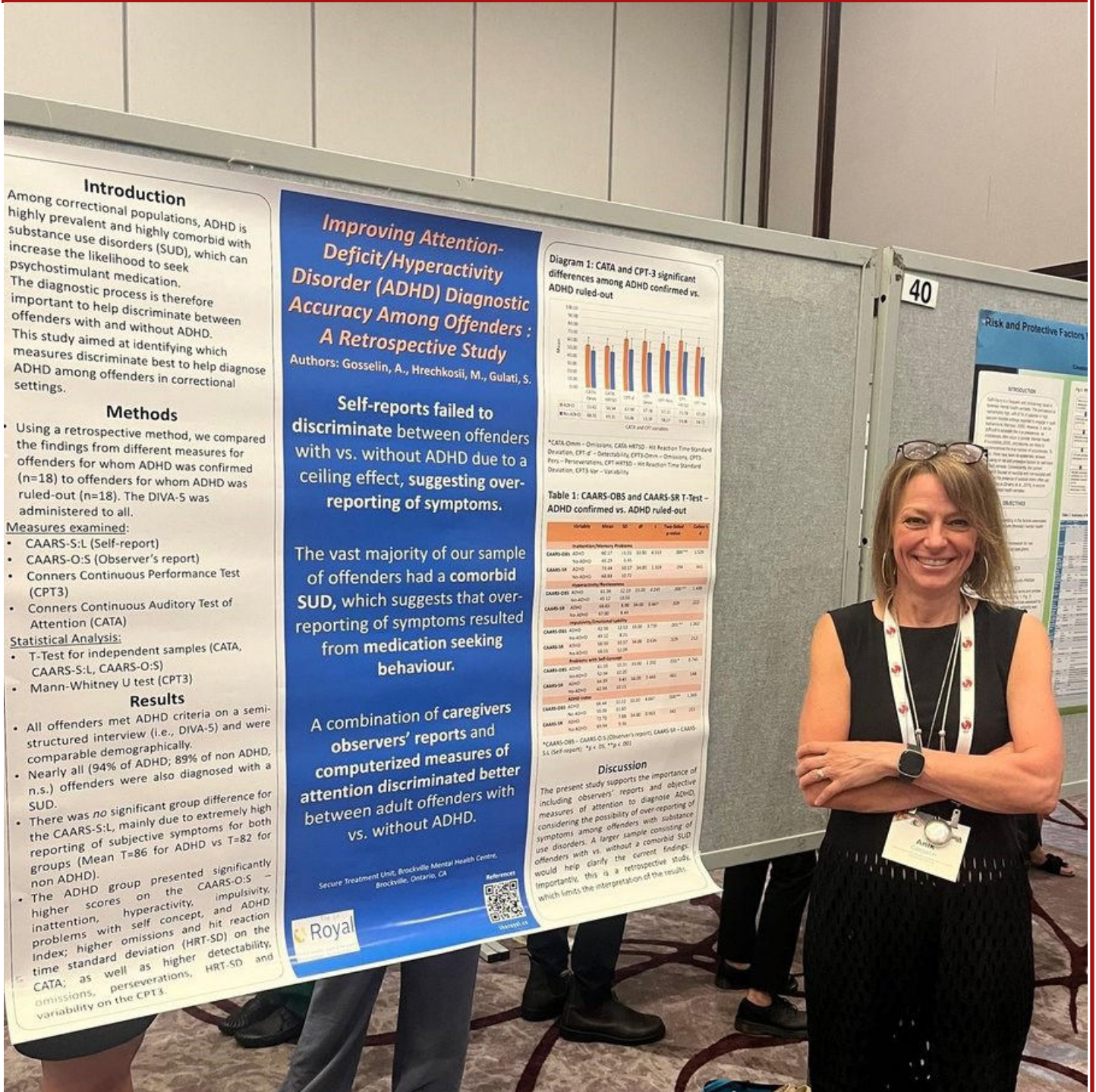(Bottom left photo): Emma Holmes, winner of the Graduate Student Poster Prize.

(Bottom right photo): Dr. Daryl Kroner offering some reflections on the work and life of the late Dr. Ralph Serin.

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CPA 2024 PHOTOS

The Brockville Mental Health Centre's Secure Treatment Unit (STU) team presenting research at CPA 2024.

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CPA 2024 PHOTOS

(Top photo): Dr. Mary Ann Campbell, Amy McQuarrie, Erin Smith, and Denika Widmer presented a symposium talk on their research.

(Bottom photo): Ellen Coady presenting research at CPA 2024.
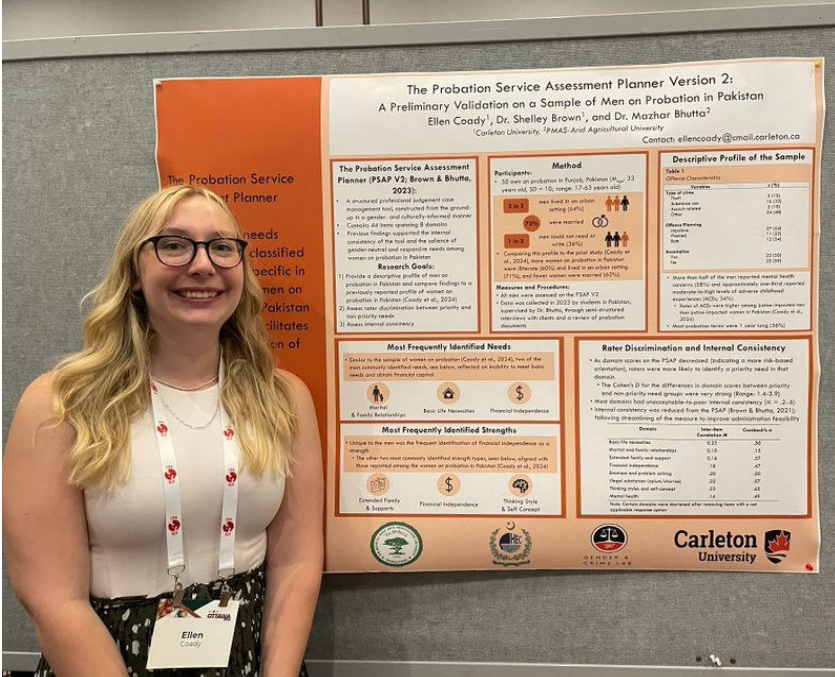
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2024 Don Andrews Career Contribution Award Winner: Dr. Daryl Kroner

Contributed

Submitting authors note: The following description of Dr. Kroner's contribution is a synthesis of only some of the accolades from the nomination letters of four highly respected researchers and members of our Section.

As evidenced by his curriculum vita, Dr. Daryl Kroner has been a prolific researcher and scholar. The sheer volume of Dr. Kroner's record is impressive. With 79 peer-reviewed publications, 2 books and 2 published treatment programs, 18 technical reports, 3 instrument manuals, and numerous conference presentations and workshops, Dr. Kroner has made substantive contributions to the fields of both forensic and correctional psychology. His contributions are even more impressive when his record is considered in light of the fact that he spent the first 20 years of his career in a 40-hour clinical position with the Correctional Services of Canada!

In 2008, he joined the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice of Southern Illinois University Carbondale where he is currently a Professor of Criminological Psychology. He was tenured and promoted within two years, and for several years now has been full professor. Over the years, in addition to his other academic duties (i.e., teaching and administration work), he was successful in obtaining numerous grants to fund his research and has graduated numerous masters and doctoral students in criminal justice psychology. The excellence of his academic contributions was such that he received the Scholar Excellence Award from his university in 2019.

Dr. Kroner provides training and consultancy in criminal justice psychology where his contributions are recognized internationally. He has been an invited speaker at numerous Canadian and American conferences. It is important to note that he is an integral part of the team that developed the common language approach to risk communication in concert with the Council of State Governments – Justice Center (USA). Further, since 2012, he is part of the Correctional Services Accreditation and Advice Panel of the National Offender Management Services of His Majesty's Prisons, United Kingdom. Other significant applied contributions to the field of criminal justice psychology include the development and validation of three tools to improve the assessment of risk of recidivism: 1) the Criminal Attribution Inventory (Kroner & Mills, 2003), an instrument designed to assess criminal thinking; 2) the Risk Context Scale (Kroner, 2012), a standardized instrument designed to assess the community contextual risk factors for released offenders; and 3) the Transition Inventory (Kroner & Mills, 2015), an instrument designed to aid in the assessment of areas that are anticipated to create difficulties in offenders' next stage of transition in their graduated releases. The latter two instruments consider risk relevant situational contexts that are traditionally neglected in assessments of risk of violent recidivism. He is a Consulting Editor and member of the Editorial Boards of the following journals: *Assessment*; *Law and Human Behavior*; *Psychological Assessment*; and *Criminal Justice and Behavior*.

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Dr. Kroner has made significant contributions in the area of violence risk assessment. For example, he produced a seminal and highly cited comparison study on the predictive accuracy of multiple risk assessment instruments and found that each were very nearly equal in predictive accuracy (Kroner & Mills, 2001). Dr. Kroner assumed that the items on risk tools predicted recidivism because they were markers for a latent dimension of antisocial orientation. To demonstrate this, he and his colleagues wrote down the items from diverse criminal recidivism scales on small slips of paper, put the slips in a coffee can, and then created new risk tools by pulling out items at random (Kroner et al., 2005). These randomly constructed scales worked as well or better than the original scales. The point of the study was not that evaluators should use random items with random weights; instead, the point was that evaluators should focus on placing individuals on the latent construct of antisocial orientation, and recognize that there are diverse ways of assessing it.

The conception of a latent dimension of antisocial orientation was fundamental to later work on the development of standardized risk levels (Hanson et al., 2017; Kroner et al., 2020; Kroner & Derrick, 2022). Importantly, he was the first to conduct studies using the 5-Level System and to demonstrate how they could improve risk level classification and risk communication (Kroner et al., 2020; Kroner & Derrick, 2022). The 5-Level System is now being used by diverse risk tool developers and evaluators in Canada, US, New Zealand, and the Netherlands.

The quantity and quality of Dr. Kroner's scientific contributions are clear, but what is equally noteworthy is the direct impact his work has on improving lives of those in the criminal justice system (a marginalized and underserved population). As noted above, Dr. Kroner has developed or co-developed two interventions and three assessment instruments designed to contribute to improved services for criminal justice clients. Dr. Kroner's contributions have contributed to major philosophical changes in criminal risk assessment, and treatment of justice-involved persons with serious mental illness. Dr. Daryl Kroner is invested in conducting the highest quality of research that advances knowledge, but he is also uniquely talented in the development of knowledge that is directly applicable to not only improving lives, but increasing public safety.

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Criminal Justice Section Member Spotlight:
Dr. Margo C. Watt

Hannah Stewart, Ph.D., R.Psych

The *Crime Scene* Team is pleased to shine a spotlight on members of our Criminal Justice Section, some of whom are world-leaders in the field of Criminal Justice. Broadly, our members practice and have expertise in a variety of forensic settings, including policing, courts, corrections, mental health, and academic research – in fact, the work of many of our members often blend these (and other) areas together. It is our hope that through the *Crime Scene's Criminal Justice Section Member Spotlight*¸ we will be able to showcase the "who's who" among us while offering an opportunity to learn more about the group we embody in the Criminal Justice Section.

This issue's *Criminal Justice Section Member Spotlight* shines a light on Dr. Margo C. Watt, who graciously offered her time to participate in this *Crime Scene* column. Through decades of dedication and contributions to clinical forensic psychology, Dr. Watt's clinical work, teaching, research, and advocacy in the fields of criminal and social justice have made lasting impacts in Atlantic Canada and beyond.

Editors' Note: If you would like to recommend a Criminal Justice Section member to be featured in an upcoming Membership Spotlight column, please contact Dr. Christopher Lively (Managing Editor) at clively@stfx.ca or Dr. Hannah Stewart (Review Editor) at hannah.stewart@unb.ca.

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Hannah: What is your academic training story? That is, can you outline the type of career path you took to become a clinical forensic psychologist? Where has this path taken you as a professional?

Dr. Watt: My journey to and through university was a bit circuitous but, ultimately, I graduated from St. Francis Xavier (StFX) University in 1993, with an Honours in Psychology, and from Dalhousie University in 2000 with a PhD in Clinical Psychology. While at Dalhousie, I completed three practica and a full residency year with the Correctional Services of Canada (CSC). Nova Institution for Women had opened in 1995 and most of my residency year was spent between Nova and Springhill Institution for Men. When I became a faculty member at StFX in 1999, I was determined to share my knowledge and experience with students. With encouragement and support from the Department of Psychology at StFX, I launched a Forensic Psychology course (2001). This evolved into a 2-year Special Concentration in Forensic Psychology (2013) and, most recently, into a 4-year Direct Entry into Applied Forensic Psychology (AFP) program (2020). This program is unique in that it truly embodies the broad scope of clinical forensic psychology, meaning the application of clinical psychology research and practice to the criminal and social justice systems. This program also benefits from the enduring contribution of alumni, many of whom work with our community partners (e.g., CSC, Elizabeth Fry Society, RCMP); one of whom we acknowledge with the Alanna Jenkins Legacy research award for 2nd and 3rd year students. For the past 20 years, our way of saying "thank you" to our many alumni and community partners has been to invite them to a one-day event at StFX in their honour. What began as "CSC@X Day" has evolved over time into "AFP@X Day", with participants ranging from graduate students and academic researchers, supreme and provincial court judges, correctional staff and prisoners, mental health advocates and practitioners.

Hannah: What has driven your passion to work in the field of criminal justice, forensic, and correctional psychology? What are some of your recent endeavours?

Dr. Watt: My passion to work in the fields of mental health and criminal justice has been inspired by many people, including family, friends, mentors, colleagues. It is always inspired by the words of two of my heroes - Nelson Mandela: *"It is said that no one truly knows a nation until one has been inside its jails. A nation should not be judged by how it treats its highest citizens, but its lowest ones"* and Winston Churchill (1910): *"We must not forget that when every material improvement has been effected in prisons, when the temperature has been rightly adjusted, when the proper food to maintain health and strength has been given, when the doctors, chaplains and prison visitors have come and gone, the convict stands deprived of everything that a free man calls life. We must not forget that all these improvements, which are sometimes salves to our consciences, do not change that position."*

One of the many pleasures of working in an academic environment is being surrounded by bright and eager students. I have had the distinct pleasure of supervising over 75 honours students at StFX, as well as 12 master and doctoral students through my status as an Adjunct Professor at Dalhousie University and Honourary Research Associate at the University of New Brunswick. Currently, some of most exciting developments in our lab at StFX are research projects involving the creation of databanks of cases derived from the fields of criminal justice and mental health. These projects and others are supported by funding from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC), Department of Justice's Crime Prevention Action Fund (CPAF), and Cooperative Education Work-Integrated Learning (CEWIL) Canada. Other important projects include my partnership on two SSHRC-funded projects intended to advance Section 81 in the Atlantic region. Section 81 is intended to promote and facilitate the engagement of Indigenous communities in providing for the care and custody of Indigenous prisoners.

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Hannah: You embody many roles in your professional life, including being a professor at St. Francis Xavier, a clinical forensic psychologist, a researcher, and more. Recently, this has culminated in you being recognized as the recipient of the Significant Contribution Award at the 2024 CPA Convention. Can you tell us a bit about these and other roles you undertake, and how they have influenced and guided the work that you undertake in research, practice, supervision, and beyond? What do you see as future directions in the field?

Dr. Watt: As a clinical psychologist within academia, I have always embraced four pillars of work. In addition to the typical three pillars of research, teaching, and service, the fourth pillar is my professional work as a registered psychologist. Ideally, these four pillars inform and inspire each other. My professional work has included(es) clinical practice in the community and with CSC, supervising candidate psychologists, serving on the executive of CPA's Clinical Psychology section and the Canadian Association of Cognitive Behavioural Therapies (CABCT) and, most recently, the Implementation Advisory Panel for the Structured Intervention Units (IAP-SIU). SIUs were implemented in 2019 to replace administrative and disciplinary segregation in all federal correctional institutions.

Hannah: You have played integral roles in the education, training, collaboration, and partnership of countless professionals working in the field of criminal justice. Do you have any advice for psychologists and other professionals working in Criminal Justice fields for fostering a long, successful, healthy career?

Dr. Watt: The recipe for success in any career is to enjoy what you are doing. To my mind, being a professor is the best job ever! The word "professor" means one who "professes, avows, or declares" knowledge and/or expertise and I would suggest "love" of our discipline, which we then share with our "apprentices" (i.e., students). This is not dissimilar to others, such as carpenters, fishers, farmers, etc. As often said and apocryphally attributed to both Confucius and Mark Twain: *"Find a job you love and you will never have to work a day in your life."*

Hannah: A large section of the readership of Crime Scene consists of students who are pursuing studies in forensic psychology, law, or other fields of criminal justice. What is an important message that you would like to share to our student readers as they develop their skills related to research, practice, and study of psychology?

Dr. Watt: My advice to students would be to embrace learning, enjoy the process versus focusing on the endpoint. The endpoint will reveal itself over time. Surround yourself with people who like to learn and with people who make learning fun! Yes, fun! Fun is not incompatible with learning. Seek out opportunities to learn something new; challenge yourself. Often and whenever necessary, remind yourself that *"the privilege of a university education is a great one"* (Churchill, 1948). Many people would love to be in your position but are unable to for various reasons – lack of money, support, aptitude, freedom. Appreciate your good fortune and employ your privilege to make a meaningful difference for those less privileged.
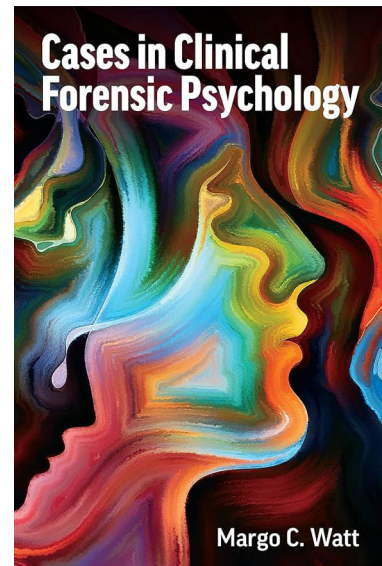
In *Cases in Clinical Forensic Psychology,* Dr. Margo C. Watt reviews and analyzes the cases of Nelson Hart, Anthony Hanemaayer, Dennis Oland, Donald Marshall Jr., Cindy Gladue, Colten Boushie, Tori Stafford, Guy Turcotte, Karla Homolka, Ashley Smith, Russell Williams, Melissa Shepard, and Gabrielle Wortman. To obtain a copy, click on the cover image to order from Amazon.

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CPA Fellow Inductee: Dr. Mark Olver

Contributed

Submitting authors note: The following description of Dr. Olver's contribution is a synthesis of only some of the accolades from the nomination letters of four highly respected researchers and Fellows of CPA.

Dr. Mark Olver has made many important contributions to forensic psychological science, particularly through peer-reviewed publications in the areas of sexual violence risk assessment, sexual offending treatment, and psychopathy. His work is highly cited and respected – both by fellow researchers, as well as policy-makers and clinicians who work with individuals who have sexually offended. Dr. Olver's research activity has resulted in more than 140 peer-reviewed journal articles, with more than one-third being first authored papers. The quality of outlets is outstanding, including high impact clinical and forensic psychology journals such as *Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology*; *Psychological Assessment*; *Journal of Abnormal Psychology*; *Current Psychiatry Reports*; *Psychology, Public Policy and Law*; *CNS Spectrums*; as well as a recent *Psychological Bulletin* paper on Indigenous risk assessment. His work has also been disseminated in criminal justice and sexual specialty journals including *Criminal Justice and Behavior, Sexual Abuse, Journal of Sexual Aggression*, and *Archives of Sexual Behavior*. These journals all have very high standards for both theoretical and methodological components of a manuscript, which attests to the high quality of research performed by Dr. Olver. Collectively, his research productivity has had a profound impact on the research community, resulting in over 8,000 citations. Given these impressive metrics, it is unsurprising that Dr. Olver has received several best paper awards recognizing the quality of this body of work.

There is a widespread belief that individuals who have committed a sexual offence remain high risk long after being convicted. Prior to the work of Dr. Olver, there was no convincing evidence to suggest that evaluators could tell whether or not individuals who had attended sexual recidivism treatment programs had benefitted from the intervention. Study after study found that therapists misjudged the degree of real progress of specific individuals; furthermore, there was only limited evidence for the effectiveness of psychological intervention overall (group level differences between those who received treatment and those who did not). Dr. Olver changed all that. He demonstrated convincingly that individuals with a sexual offence history can improve with psychological interventions, and that such changes are strongly related to reductions in the risk for sexual recidivism. His solution was based on a series of studies beginning in the early 2000s and continuing to this day. In these studies, he identified an evidence-based set of dynamic risk factors for sexual recidivism, and developed a creative way of evaluating progress in treatment (based on the Transtheoretical Model of Change).

Dr. Olver has published two important reviews (meta-analyses) on the overall effectiveness of psychological intervention on reducing sexual recidivism risk (Gannon et al., 2019; MacPhail & Olver, 2020). These reviews have improved practice by focusing program managers on the importance of using highly trained staff

(psychologists, in particular) instead of paraprofessionals (e.g., prison officers) to deliver sexual recidivism reduction programs. Programs that were led by psychologists worked to reduce recidivism; programs lead by poorly trained paraprofessional did not. These reviews have also revived interest in interventions based on behavioural reconditioning principles. When considered along with his Violence Risk Scale Sexual Offense (VRS-SO) studies (e.g., Olver et al., 2014a, 2014b, 2015, 2016, 2018), Dr. Olver has created a practical method of assessing individual change in settings where change would be expected.

Another major accomplishment has been his empirical work on ethnic bias and the application of recidivism risk tools to persons of Indigenous heritage. This work was motivated by the Ewert case that was eventually heard by the Supreme Court of Canada (see *Ewert v. Canada*, 2018). Ewert argued that research was needed before risk tools developed on non-Indigenous (mostly White) persons should be used with Indigenous persons. The Supreme Court agreed. During his work as a witness in the remedies hearing for the Ewert case, Dr. Olver identified the types of research studies that were needed, and then did them. These studies included the examination of measurement invariance for forensic measures (Olver, Neumann et al., 2018) and comparisons of predictive accuracy of risk tools for Indigenous and non-Indigenous persons (Olver, Sowden et al., 2018). Recently, he published the a comprehensive and thoughtful review of forensic risk assessment with persons of Indigenous heritage (Olver et al., 2024) in *Psychological Bulletin* – the leading review journal in psychology. This review concluded that the commonly used risk tools were able to differentiate between risk levels of Indigenous persons, but the risk tools did not work as well for Indigenous persons as for non-Indigenous persons.

Dr. Mark Olver's contributions span the areas of forensic risk assessment, mental health, and treatment mechanisms in general, sexual, and psychopathic populations. These contributions are made through research, scholarship, mentorship, and as an educator. By scholarly activity metrics, Dr. Olver's contributions are truly outstanding. In addition to the scholarly activity, the impact on an underserved population has been felt with clients, practitioners, and policy makers, thereby contributing to more informed and safer Canadian society.

CPA & CJPS AWARD NOMINATION DEADLINE INFORMATION

The submission deadline to nominate someone for a (1) Canadian Psychological Association Award (2) Canadian Psychological Association Fellow Award, (3) Criminal Justice Psychology Section Don Andrews Career Contribution Award, (4) Criminal Justice Section Psychology Significant Contribution Award, or (5) Criminal Justice Psychology Section J. Stephen Wormith Award are all due January 31 in each calendar year.

More information on nomination procedures on all awards can be found at the links below.

Canadian Psychological Association Award Information

Criminal Justice Psychology Section Award Information

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Interrater Reliability and Alternatives to Kappa Coefficient: Part 1

Cooper Sparks, M.A. & Daryl Kroner, Ph.D.
Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, USA

Editor's Note: Correspondence concerning this article should be addressed to Cooper Sparks (cooper.mitchell@siu.edu).

What is inter-rater reliability?

A primary objective of the social sciences is to bring a sense of understanding to an otherwise chaotic group of phenomena. Though research-ers often value differences between their partici-pants, systematic differences in the evaluation of their participants can be problematic and lead to unreliable data. Therefore, assessing interrater reliability is an essential step early in the analytic process. Inter-rater reliability (IRR) refers to the level of agreement between two or more raters on a specific observation (Dettori & Norvell, 2020). Low IRR reflects a generally low level of agreement between the raters, leading to unrelia-ble observations. More agreement between the raters' observations results in higher levels of IRR, resulting in more reliable and consistent da-ta. Figure 1 provides a visual description of agreement levels. For example, two jurors may decide on a guilty verdict when given the same case information, indicating higher levels of IRR. If one juror decided on a non-guilty verdict while the second juror decided on a guilty verdict de-spite having the same information, lower rates of IRR would be found.

How is IRR measured?

The most widely used measure of IRR is Co-hen's kappa (Cohen, 1960). The level of agree-ment using kappa is found by comparing the number of observations agreed on by the raters to the total number of observations (Xie, 2013). Kappa relies on dichotomous ratings such as yes/no or present/not present. Kappa rose in popularity in part due to its ability to account for chance agreements. At times, a rater may guess and pick the same observation as the other rater by chance. Therefore, kappa is used to evaluate if the agreement is better than what is expected due to chance. Researchers further developed kappa to account for more than two raters as well. While kappa is only used for two raters, Fleiss kappa can be used when three or more raters are present (Fleiss, 1971).

Limitations of Current Practices (Kappa)

Though kappa is a common measure of IRR, it is not without its limitations. First, kappa can only be used when the observations are dichotomous (e.g., yes/no, present/not present) or nominal (i.e., descriptive categories). Therefore, an agreement between continuous or ordinal types of observations, such as a Likert scale, cannot be evaluated using kappa.

Another limitation are the paradoxes that occur due to kappa's dependence of marginal distribu-tions and base rates. Marginal distributions are the types of ratings each rater provided. For ex-ample, if ratings were "guilty/not guilty", the mar-ginal distribution for rater A may show that they gave a "guilty" rating 45% of the time and a "not guilty" rating 55% of the time. Bias and preva-lence of observations can then impact these mar-ginal distributions, resulting in misleading kappa values. For example, if rater A rated 40 partici-pants as being "guilty" but rater B only rated 10 participants as being "guilty" there is a large dif-

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ference in the number of observations made by the raters (i.e., bias). When these proportions of "guilty" vs. "not guilty" ratings are vastly different across the raters, larger kappa values often occur despite having lower levels of agreement. Even when two raters consistently agree and are accurately rating an observation, but the observations are not common (i.e., low prevalence or base rates), lower kappa values are often found. For example, raters A and B may accurately and consistently identify 5 "guilty" verdicts, but there were 300 total observations. As a result, researchers would likely find lower kappa values and conclude that there was insufficient inter-rater reliability.

Kappa Alternatives
To help combat the limitations of kappa, researchers began using additional measures of IRR (Dettori & Norvell, 2020; Xie, 2013). The current paper will discuss Krippendorff's Alpha, Gwet's AC 1, and Bennett, Alpert, and Goldstein's *S*.

Unlike kappa, Krippendorff's alpha can be used with two or more raters, multiple types of data (i.e., dichotomous, continuous), and can be a useful IRR measure when there is missing data (Marzi, et al., 2024). Raters are not restricted to yes/no types of responses but can use Likert or qualitative responses, creating more flexibility in assessing agreement. The biggest limitation of Krippendorff's alpha has been its complicated calculation process. As a result, researchers developed the K-Alpha Calculator (https://www.k-alpha.org; Marzi, et al., 2024).

Another widely used kappa alternative is Gwet's AC_1. Gwet (2008) introduced this measure of IRR to combat the problematic paradoxes that commonly occur with kappa (e.g., high levels of agreement but low kappa values; Ohyama, 2021). Unlike kappa, Gwet's AC_1 can be used with two or more raters, but is typically limited to dichotomous observations (Ohyama, 2021). Kappa and AC_1 primarily differ in their measurement of chance, with AC_1 accounting for chance agreements only when the raters agree on a rating but at least one rater guessed (Ohyama, 2021; Xu & Lorber, 2014). AC_1 predicts the amount of agreement due to chance and does not allow chance

agreement to exceed 0.5, making AC_1 less susceptible to random agreements that lead to higher IRR values (Dettori & Norvell, 2020; Xie, 2013). AC_1 is also useful when there are large differences between the percentage of ratings given across raters or rare observations. For example, there may be large differences in the percentage of cases that go to trial compared to those that do not go to trial. In this case, AC_1 may be more beneficial than kappa.

Bennett, Alpert, and Goldstein's *S* (1954) have also been used in place of kappa to measure the agreement between two raters on nominal variables. Bennett and colleagues' *S* is commonly referred to as a marginal free index of inter-rater agreement as it is not dependent on base rates like kappa and other kappa alternatives (Warrens, 2014; Xie, 2013). Therefore, the agreement value is not impacted by how often an observation did or did not occur (i.e., base rates and prevalence). The proportion of observed agreement to the number of options for a rater to choose from (i.e., categories) is linearly transformed, resulting in a marginally independent *S* (Lambert et al., 2022; Warrens, 2014). As a result, the *S* value can be reliably interpreted because the paradoxes commonly seen with kappa do not occur (Warrens, 2014).
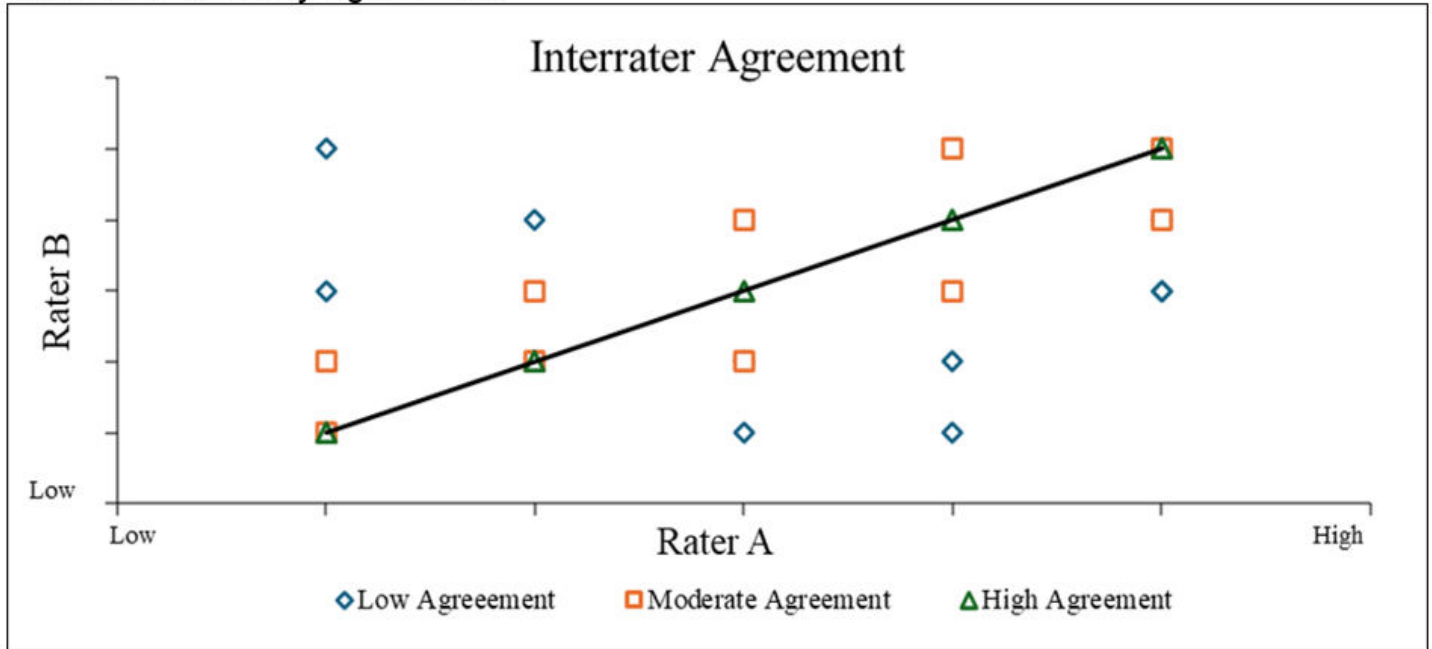
Conclusion
Although there are additional alternatives to kappa, the Krippendorff's alpha, Gwet's AC_1, and Benett, et al., *S* have commonly been used and have a body of literature to support their use. Each alternative measure offers a solution for the problems commonly encountered when kappa is used. Therefore, researchers can more confidently assess IRR without encountering kappa's paradoxes. Additionally, alternative measures of IRR may be a better measure of agreement when the data is missing, rare or uncommon, nominal/ordinal, or when there is a large difference between the rater's observations. With the notable benefits and body of support for alternative measures of IRR in mind, we propose that researchers move beyond kappa and begin using alterative measures of IRR. Part II will cover the "how-to's" of calculating these proposes IRR indexes.

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Figure 1
Inter-rater reliability agreement.

Interrater Agreement

◇ Low Agreeement   □ Moderate Agreement   △ High Agreement

Editors' Note: In addition to the reference cited throughout the article, the authors also provide the following citations as additional resources for readers: McHugh (2012); Vach & Gerke (2023)

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Behind the Badge: Early-Career Insights on Advancing IPV Risk Assessment in Canadian Policing

Meghan Weissflog[1], Mirna Batinic[2], Shelby B. Scott[2], Madison Wesenberg[3], & Denika Widmer[4]

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We represent a team of undergraduate, graduate, and early career researchers responsible for collecting data across three Canadian policing agencies for the CELIA IPV project (Common language for intimate partner violence risk appraisal and mitigation: An evidence-based policing approach; https://www.celia-ipv-project.ca/). The CELIA project is a multi-site research partnership to develop a common language for communicating risk levels associated with intimate partner violence (IPV) as measured by the Ontario Domestic Abuse Risk Assessment (ODARA). The primary objective of this study is to promote and advance evidence-based practices in policing for assessing and responding to IPV by developing standardized IPV risk levels that can be directly associated with specific risk mitigation strategies, facilitate case prioritization, and resource allocation. Additionally, the work will gather specific data relating to coercive and controlling behaviours, as well as examine IPV risk across relationships and genders. The CELIA project is intended to establish new multi-disciplinary partnerships between policing agencies across Canada, including the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP), Edmonton Police Service (EPS), and the Saint John Police Force (SJPF), and academic experts in IPV research from the University of New Brunswick, MacEwan University, and Waypoint Research Institute.

One benefit of developing these multi-disciplinary partnerships is the training and experience it has afforded student and early career coders at each partner site. In particular, coders have received training on how to score the ODARA, methods of risk assessment research, and the extraction of sensitive data from police and criminal justice records. Furthermore, coders have gained experience in coordinating and collaborating with both academic and non-academic partners to conduct research in an applied setting and translate the results to inform real-world practices. The purpose of this article is to share some of the CELIA project coders' reflections on their

personal experiences and insights into the challenges they faced, the knowledge they acquired, and the impact that participating in the CELIA project has had on their academic and professional development.

Madison Wesenberg, Department of Psychology, MacEwan University
In my role with the CELIA project, I completed data collection at EPS headquarters. After obtaining security clearance, I was assigned to work with a civilian liaison officer from EPS who supervised me and the other team members. A selection of digital occurrence reports involving IPV and associated criminal records were provided on secure USB drives that we accessed while on site. In addition to providing supervision, the liaison officer answered any questions we had and looked up missing or ambiguous information in their record management system.

While working on this project, I was able to apply much of the theory that I learned during my undergraduate education in a real-world setting. Coding police files provided me with the opportunity to apply my knowledge of risk assessments, receive additional training in multiple risk assessment tools, and see many theoretical concepts, such as the cycle of violence, play out in real-life cases. Participating in this project also gave me a better understanding of the rigorous preparation required to conduct a large-scale study. I was able to meet with the collaborating partners and understand how each component of the project reflected their particular research interests and how they came together to create a cohesive project.

Ultimately, participating in this project provided me with the necessary skills and experience to gain employment as a police and court support advocate. I learned about reporting, charging, and court processes, which I have used to help those who have experienced sexual violence navigate the criminal justice system. Additionally, participating in this project has provided me with research experience and helped me build connections with other researchers in my field that will strengthen my graduate school applications.

Denika Widmer, Department of Psychology, University of New Brunswick Saint John
I was fortunate to participate in the data collection conducted for the CELIA project at the SJPF headquarters, a municipal police agency in Saint John, New Brunswick. After passing the necessary security checks, I was granted access to a secure workspace in the station to review sensitive case information, such as police occurrence reports. My role required me to collaborate closely with the SJPF crime analyst, where I would specify the types of files we were looking for and she would search the system and print the relevant case files.

Before this project, I had little exposure to the realities of IPV and although I had gained some knowledge through taking courses, the complexities of IPV cannot be fully grasped through a textbook. For instance, textbooks often mention the various behaviours that can be considered abusive. However, when reading real case files and people's firsthand experiences, it can be much harder to pinpoint the exact types of abuse occurring. Oftentimes, when the victim discusses their partner's behaviours, they may not recognize these actions as abusive, especially when the abuse involves subtle, long-term, and covert behaviours.

This project provided me with a new-found passion for IPV research and introduced me to the world of risk assessment. Before working on the CELIA project, I was unaware of the range of risk assessment tools available and the pivotal role they can play in professionals' decision-making processes. Observing its real-world application revealed opportunities to work with organizations like social services, law enforcement, and non-profits to evaluate programs and policies. When I began

my Master's degree, I was certain that I wanted to pursue a Ph.D.; however, this project allowed me to see the various job opportunities (e.g., crime analyst, victim advocate, policy advisor) I could pursue with a Master's degree. This realization has encouraged me to explore these opportunities and gain practical experience before deciding to continue my education.

Shelby Scott, Research Unit, Criminal Behaviour Analysis Section, Ontario Provincial Police
I was working as a civilian research assistant with the OPP when the CELIA project commenced. In prior roles, I worked extensively with police records management and the national police information centre database. The experience I gained from previous positions, including reviewing large quantities of police data and understanding how information is captured within policing, allowed me to contribute to the CELIA project and collaborate with the project team in meaningful ways. This included participating in the creation of processes for case selection, conducting thorough and accurate data collection, problem-solving for missing or irregular data, and assisting project team members in deciphering police-specific material. My experience has helped me become more acutely aware of the practical and ethical elements of a large project, including ethics applications, research agreements, and security clearance processes.

As this was a large-scale project with multiple collaborators, I learned that meticulous record keeping is of utmost importance, as well as how necessary it is to have consistent and clear communication between coders and project coordinators. However, what stands out the most from my involvement with the CELIA project was experiencing how powerful teamwork can be. Collaborating with each researcher allowed several unique skill sets and abilities to be combined, which enabled each phase of the project's processes to be completed with care and precision.

Through my role as a research assistant working on various projects, including the CELIA project, I've developed a deeper passion for forensic psychology and research. I've been inspired to pursue further educational advancement. I intend on applying to graduate school to earn an MSc in Forensic Psychology. My involvement working in a police research setting, including on the CELIA project, has heightened my focus and sparked my interest in pursuing additional IPV research.

Mirna Batinic, Research Unit, Criminal Behaviour Analysis Section, Ontario Provincial Police
My prior educational experiences include completing a Bachelor's and Master's degree in psychology, with focus on forensic psychology. I have also previously worked and volunteered in diverse settings such as detention centres, hospitals, and a sexual assault centre. These experiences have helped me gain skills related to research and working in applied settings, which were helpful when working on the CELIA project. Working with various populations has given me a better understanding of offences from the lenses of the victim, offender, and police. Additionally, conducting research at the OPP as a Master's student was helpful and allowed me to begin the CELIA project with an understanding of working with police data. Transitioning from student to employee at the OPP allowed me to maintain prior working relationships and create new ones through the CELIA project.

I have gained many experiences and skills through involvement with the CELIA project. Notably, I completed ODARA training. Additionally, I learned the importance of maintaining the organization of files and coding notes with large quantities of data. I also gained experience in effectively communicating research and coding questions in a timely manner, which is particularly important when working with multiple sites and collaborators. I particularly enjoyed learning about the similarities and differences between the different sites involved in the project and the various ways in which data could be collected, shared, and combined. My interest in risk assessment increased as a direct result of working on this project, and I hope to continue working on similar projects in the future. I intend to continue my education and work in applied forensic settings.

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Conclusions

Student and early career researchers have played an important role in the CELIA project, gaining hands-on experience in data collection, IPV risk assessment, and conducting applied research with policing partners. Their reflections illustrate the value of this project in developing their academic and professional interests, highlighting the real-world application of theoretical concepts, the challenges of working with sensitive data, and the importance of interdisciplinary collaboration. The CELIA project has demonstrated that the benefits of collaborative research extend well beyond answering research questions by providing students and early career researchers with a platform for skill development, exposure to diverse research methods, and advancing their education and career goals.

Overlapping risk correlates are associated with perpetrating in-person sexual coercion and non-consensual forward of sexts

Emma J. Holmes

Department of Psychology, Carleton University, Ottawa, Ontario

Background

The non-consensual forwarding of sexts is a harmful sexual behaviour that occurs when the recipient of a sext forwards that sext to another person, without the consent of the original sender (Wachs et al., 2021). Although some research has suggested that the non-consensual forwarding of sexts is an extension of in-person sexual coercion (e.g., sexual assault; Choi et al., 2016), other research suggests that demographic characteristics (e.g., Cortoni et al., 2017; Fournier et al., 2023; Hanson et al., 2006; Morelli et al., 2023; Moyano et al., 2023; Schokkenbroek et al., 2023), peer pressure (Barrense-Dias et al., 2020; Kingree & Thompson, 2015), and sexual consent awareness (Moyano et al., 2023) might be differentially related to the perpetration of in-person sexual coercion and the non-consensual forwarding of sexts.

Current study

One of the aims of this study was to examine whether the correlates associated with the perpetration of in-person sexual coercion were similar to those associated with the non-consensual forwarding of sexts.

Method

The Royal Ottawa Health Care Group's Research Ethics Board gave ethical approval for the original study (Reference #2018044; Thorne et al., 2024); this project involved the analysis of an anonymized dataset.

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After data cleaning, data from 2,780 participants recruited through online ads were analysed. Participants were between the ages of 18 and 30 years, cisgender (data from transgender participants were examined in a separate study; see Holmes & Babchishin, 2024[1]) and were fluent in English. Participants were mostly women (53%), from the USA and Canada (58% and 40%, respectively), heterosexual (56%), and had completed at least some post-secondary education (76%).

Participants completed an anonymous online survey, which collected demographic information (age, gender, sexual orientation), whether participants had non-consensually forwarded a sext or perpetrated in-person sexual coercion (assessed via the *Sexual Experience Survey – Short Form Perpetration*; Koss et al., 2007), and the frequency with which they had received different types of sexts (i.e., nude, semi-nude, and non-consensual). The survey also collected information about the characteristics of the participants, such as their impulsivity (*Barratt Impulsiveness Scale – 15*; Spinella, 2007), their susceptibility to peer pressure (*Peer Pressure* scale; Santor et al., 2000), their sexual consent awareness (*Sexual Consent Scale-Revised*; Humphreys & Brousseau, 2010), their antisociality (*Childhood and Adolescent Taxon Scale – Self Report*; Harris et al., 1994), and their sex drive (how frequently they had sexual fantasies involving children, adolescents, and adults).

Two multivariate logistic regressions assessing the relationship between each of the hypothesized correlates and each perpetration type (in-person sexual coercion and the non-consensual forwarding of sexts) were modelled. Logistic regressions yielde adjusted Odds Ratios (aOR) which estimate the relationship between a correlate and an outcome, after controlling for the other correlates in the regression. Confidence intervals around aOR can then be compared across perpetration types; non-overlapping confidence intervals suggest that the relationship between a correlate and an outcome is significantly different between perpetration types (p < .01; Cumming & Finch, 2005).

Results
Being older, being a man, having perpetrated the other sexual coercion type (i.e., either the non-consensual forwarding of sexts or in-person sexual coercion), greater susceptibility to peer pressure, and higher sex drive were significantly related to having perpetrated both in-person sexual coercion and the non-consensual forwarding of sexts (Table 1). All of the correlates had overlapping aOR values, meaning that no differential correlates were identified.

Implications
Aligning with past research suggesting that the non-consensual forwarding of sexts may be an extension of in-person sexual coercion (Choi et al., 2016), the present research found a strong relationship between perpetrating each sexual coercion type. Given that similar factors were related to perpetrating in-person sexual coercion and the non-consensual forwarding of sexts, this research suggests that programs aimed at preventing in-person sexual coercion may be effective in preventing the non-consensual forwarding of sexts. However, future research should employ longitudinal methodologies to test whether there are causal relationships between the risk factors identified herein and each outcome.

---

[1] Holmes, E. J. & Babchishin, K. M. (2024). Safe sexting and sexual orientation: A comparison of risky sexting practices across sexual orientations and genders. *Archives of Sexual Behaviour*. [Revise and resubmit].

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Table 1
Logistic Regressions Predicting Both Perpetration Types

Correlate	Perpetrating in-person sexual coercion (*n* = 380)		Non-consensually forwarding a sext (*n* = 256)	
	aOR	95% CI	aOR	95% CI
Age	1.06	[1.03 – 1.10]	1.06	[1.02 – 1.10]
Gender (*man*)	1.94	[1.49 – 2.52]	2.67	[1.94 – 3.68]
Sexual orientation (*straight*)	-[a]	-[a]	0.88	[0.65 – 1.18]
Other sexual coercion type	1.77	[1.28 – 2.44]	1.83	[1.32 – 2.53]
Frequency received semi-nude	1.04	[0.86 – 1.26]	1.43	[1.09 – 1.87]
Frequency received nude	1.08	[0.90 – 1.31]	1.42	[1.08 – 1.86]
Frequency received non-consensual sext	1.06	[0.94 – 1.19]	1.36	[1.19 – 1.56]
Impulsivity	1.11	[0.92 – 1.35]	1.13	[0.90 – 1.42]
Peer pressure	1.31	[1.19 – 1.44]	1.18	[1.05 – 1.31]
Sexual consent awareness	1.11	[0.98 – 1.25]	0.997	[0.87 – 1.15]
Antisociality	1.06	[1.02 – 1.11]	1.01	[0.96 – 1.06]
Sex drive	1.36	[1.13 – 1.65]	1.28	[1.02 – 1.60]

Note. Reference groups for binary correlates are in italics. [a]Sexual orientation did not have a significant bivariate relationship with in-person sexual coercion and so was not included in the regression predicting in-person sexual coercion.


IN MEMORIAM

Professor Dr. Christopher D. Webster (1936-2024)
Submitted by Jeremy Mills

The Criminal Justice Section recognizes the tremendous influence that Dr. Webster had on Canadian and international forensic psychology. He might best be known to many as co-author of the HCR-20, Spousal Assault Risk Assessment (SARA), Short-Term Assessment of Risk and Treatability (START), Early Assessment Risk Lists (EARL-20), as well as many other assessment instruments. Dr. Webster was an honorary lifetime Fellow of CPA. Reflections on his life and work by colleagues can be found in the International Association of Forensic Mental Health Services Newsletter.
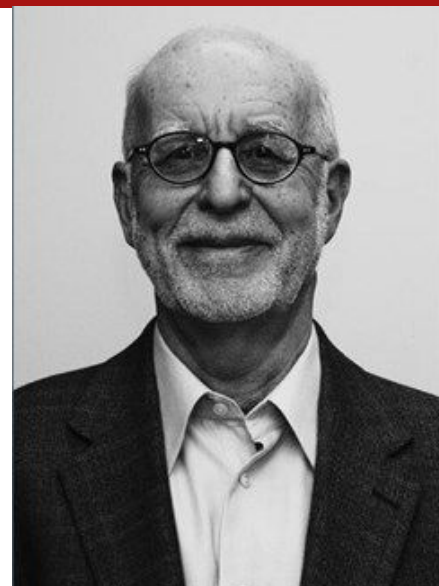
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Professor Dr. David P. Farrington, OBE (1944-2024)
Submitted by R. Karl Hanson

Prof. Farrington was one of the most productive and influential criminologists of his time – and his time was long. He started publishing in the 1960s and continued to his final months. In November, 2024, his h-index on Google Scholar was an astonishing 199! In recent years, his collective work of over 800 publications has averaged 7500 citations per year. At the time of his death, Prof. Farrington was a very active Emeritus Professor of Psychological Criminology and Leverhulme Trust Emeritus Fellow in the Institute of Criminology, Cambridge University, with over a dozen articles published in 2024.

A highlight of Prof. Farrington's legacy for which he probably will be most remembered for was directing the Cambridge Study in Delinquent Development (started by Donald J. West), which was a truly prospective study of 400 London males from age 8 to 56. He never lost sight of the utility of his research findings and frequently presented to policy decision-makers on the topics of crime prevention, rehabilitation, and crime control. He won every major honour available to a criminologist, including the Stockholm Prize in Criminology (2013) and the Order of the British Empire (OBE, 2004).

Prof. Farrington had a Canadian connection. In 1978-1979, he was a Visiting Research Worker at the Ministry of the Solicitor General, Ottawa (now Public Safety Canada), and at Groupe de Recherche sur l'Inadaptation Juvenile, Université de Montréal. He was a frequent visitor and advisor to the Public Safety Canada during the time that I worked there (1990s to 2010s), including direct briefings with the Ministers of Public Safety in 2010 and 2013.

After one of these briefings, I asked him when he was returning to the UK. He said that his next stop was a week-long writing retreat in a remote hotel with his friend and colleague Rolf Loeber. David Farrington believed in his work and had fun doing it. He was an inspiration to me, and to many, many others aspiring to use psychologically-informed research evidence to improve crime policies and practices.

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Blais, J., Hanson, R. K., & Harris, A. J. R. (2024). Where should we intervene 20 years later? Case-control and prospective cohort designs provide similar answers. *Criminal Justice and Behavior.* **Advance online publication.** **https:// doi.org/10.1177/00938548241291155**

In 2000, this journal published an influential case-control study identifying dynamic risk factors for sexual recidivism (Hanson & Harris, 2000). In 2017, updated recidivism information for the same sample was obtained with an average follow-up of 20 years. The current study compared the risk factors that differentiated between sexual recidivist and non-recidivists between the two research designs: original case-control and updated prospective cohort. Of the 82 comparisons, 50 favoured the prospective design while 32 favoured the case-control; however, most of the differences were small and non-significant. Static and dynamic risk factors were approximately equivalent between study designs. Factors identified as sex-specific (e.g., sexual deviancy) were also equivalent between designs while general risk factors (e.g., substance use) were more likely identified in the prospective design. Overall, case-control studies can be used for the identification of risk factors, especially for low base rate behaviours such as sexual recidivism.

Hilton, N. Z., Hanson, R. K., Campbell, M. A., & Jung, S. (2024). Police and researcher use of the Ontario Domestic Assault Risk Assessment (ODARA): Interrater agreement and examination of published norms. *Journal of Threat Assessment and Management.* **Advance online publication.** **https:// doi.org/10.1037/tam0000239**

There is limited research on how intimate partner violence risk assessment translates into practice. The Ontario Domestic Assault Risk Assessment (ODARA) is an actuarial intimate partner violence risk assessment tool used by police in the United States and Canada that informs relative risk (percentile rank) based on data derived from routinepolicing samples. Ensuring normative samples are up-to-date enhances confidence in the percentile ranks. Recent research suggests that police may score individuals higher on average than

the current norms. We examined interrater reliability between police and researchers in routine policing samples and compared their score distributions with each other and with the published percentile norms. We expected poor interrater reliability and that both police and researchers' scores would be higher than the published percentile norms. We analyzed ODARA scores from three samples in which police and researchers scored the same or similar cases. We tested interrater reliability using intraclass correlations, Pearson correlations, κs, and percent agreement. We summarized mean differences between police and researchers' scores using fixed-effect meta-analysis and tested differences in score distributions using a chi-square goodness-of-fit test. Correlation coefficients showed fair-to-good agreement and yielded similar values. There were only small differences in police and researcher median and mean scores and no substantial difference between the means and distributions of police and researcher scores overall. However, both groups scored cases higher on average than expected from the percentile norms. Updated ODARA norms may be needed and could be based on either police scores or researcher coding.

Babchishin, K. M., Hanson, R. K., & Lee, S. C. (2024). Risk to reoffend changes over time: Improving correctional programming through progress monitoring. *Psychological Assessment, 36*(10), 595-605. https://doi.org/10.1037/pas0001335

Progress monitoring is integral to evidence-based practice. Correctional settings, especially the supervision of individuals who commit sexual offences, elicit public concern; negative outcomes can be catastrophic. Using a prospective longitudinal study of 2,939 men with a history of sexual offences undergoing community supervision, we examined different models of progress monitoring and how they should inform the assessment of risk for sexual recidivism. We found that the most recent assessment scores of the ACUTE-2007 and STABLE-2007 sexual recidivism risk tools provided the best information about reoffending risk compared to using: a) the worst period of adjustments (i.e., highest risk score); b) the best period of adjustments (i.e., lowest risk score); or c) a rolling average of scores. We also found that the latest STABLE-2007 scores

incrementally predicted sexual recidivism beyond baseline risk as assessed by demographic and criminal history variables (i.e., Static-99R). We conclude that the risk for sexual recidivism changes over time, and that community corrections is advanced by repeated assessment of dynamic (changeable) risk factors.

Leclair, M., Luigi, M., Deveaux, F., Imbeault, A., Beauchamp, C., Gray, A. L., Dufour, M., Nicholls, T. L., Seto, M., & Crocker, A. G. (2024). Not criminally responsible on account of a mental disorder for a homicide: Examining gender differences to identify opportunities for early prevention. *International Journal of Forensic Mental Health*. Advance online publication. https://doi.org/10.1080/14999013.2024.2382682

This study examined the characteristics and healthcare service trajectories of 98 men and 29 women found not criminally responsible on account of mental disorder (NCRMD) for a homicide in Canada using data from Criminal Review Boards and police reports, as well as health administrative databases for a subsample in Québec (*n* = 51). Three quarters of the sample had no prior criminal justice involvement, and half had contact with mental health services in the year preceding the offense. Victims were usually known to the people found NCRMD for a homicide (83%). Women were more likely to have a mood disorder as primary diagnosis, and less likely to have displayed overt psychotic symptoms at the time of the offense. They were more likely to be found NCRMD following an event of intrafamilial violence, typically involving their children. Women were more likely to commit a homicide shortly after seeking mental health services, with an average of 18.6 days elapsing since service contact compared to an average of 101.3 days for men. Overall, these findings signal unsuccessful attempts by a subgroup of individuals, particularly women, suffering from severe mental illness to seek timely, appropriate services. Strategies for prevention, including early intervention and services, are discussed.

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Gray, A. L., Mills, J. F., & Forth, A. E. (2024). Risk for violent and IPV recidivism among incarcerated men with a history of IPV perpetration: An examination of the predictive validity of the ODARA, DVRAG, and PCL-R. *Criminal Justice and Behavior.* **Advance online publication. https://doi.org/10.1177/00938548241280397**

Using a hybrid prospective-retrospective study design, we examined the predictive validity of the Ontario Domestic Assault Risk Assessment (ODARA), Domestic Violence Risk Appraisal Guide (DVRAG), and the Psychopathy Checklist–Revised (PCL-R) in an incarcerated sample of 94 Canadian adult men with a history of intimate partner violence (IPV) referred for treatment. The sample was followed for an average of 3.6 years following release, yielding base rates of 23.4% and 12.8% for violent and IPV recidivism, respectively. Analyses revealed that the ODARA and DVRAG displayed high inter-rater reliability and that the two measures along with Factor 1 of the PCL-R generated the largest area under the curve (AUC) for IPV recidivism (AUC = .71, .71, and .69, respectively). Predictive validity of the three measures was maintained even after accounting for treatment exposure. Although promising, clinical implications of administering the ODARA and DVRAG to incarcerated men with a history of IPV are discussed.

Mills, J. F., Gray, A. L., Wang, E. W., & Chroback, K. M. (in press). A Large Sample Factor Analysis of the Measures of Criminal Attitudes and Associates in a Diverse Population of Incarcerated Offenders. *Psychological Assessment.*

Antisocial attitudes and associates are central constructs related to antisocial and criminal behavior. The self-report Measures of Criminal Attitudes and Associates (MCAA) has grown in application within the literature over the past two decades. However, tests of the MCAA's factor structure can best be described as preliminary and there has been no test of measurement invariance. For the current study, we examined the reliability and construct-validity of the MCAA in a diverse sample of incarcerated adults in the state of Texas (N = 72,099). Using confirmatory factor analysis, we examined the underlying factor structure and tested for measurement invariance across sex, race/ethnicity, and demand characteristics. Our results supported the original four-factor structure of the MCAA, with measurement invariance being demonstrated across sex (i.e., male vs. female), race/ethnicity (i.e., Black Non-Hispanic, White Hispanic, White Non-Hispanic), and demand characteristics (i.e., mandated versus voluntary treatment). Modest associations between the MCAA and criminal history variables were observed, with between-group differences yielding small effect sizes. Overall, our findings provide strong support the four-factor structure and measurement invariance of the MCAA.

Eastwood, J., Snow, M., Crough, Q., Han, T., Snook, B., Gregory, M., Fallon, L., & Lively, C. J. (2024). Your alibi better not be a-changin': the effect of alibi change and interview strategy on perceptions of alibi witness's credibility, suspect innocence, and interview quality. *Psychology, Crime & Law*, **1–25. https://doi.org/10.1080/1068316X.2024.2441822**

Across three experiments, we assessed the effect of change in an alibi witness' account and interviewer's strategy on perceptions of alibi witness' credibility, suspect innocence, and interview quality. Participants listened to a mock-interview with an alibi witness who, as the interview progressed, either altered or maintained their alibi statements in response to an interviewer's implicit threat (Experiments 1-3), explanation of how memory works (Experiments 1-3), explicit threat (Experiments 2 & 3), or no attempt to influence the alibi witness's account (i.e. control condition, Experiments 2 & 3). A mini-meta-analysis showed that changes in the alibi witness' account negatively impacted ratings of suspect innocence (M_d = −1.21) and alibi witness credibility (M_d = -.79). The effect of changes in an alibi witness's statement as a function of interview strategy was largest for the control (M_d = −0.65) and implicit threat (M_d = −0.65) conditions, followed by the explicit threat (M_d = −0.51), and memory-based explanations (M_d = −0.42). The implications of these findings for alibi witnesses, suspects, and criminal investigations are discussed.

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CPA's 2025 National Annual Convention is scheduled to take place in St. John's, NL on June 12-14, 2025.

The International Association of Forensic Mental Health Service Conference is scheduled to take place in Dublin, Ireland on June 24-26, 2025.

APA's National Annual Convention is scheduled to take place in Denver, CO, on August 7-9, 2025.

The annual Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers (ATSA) Conference will be held in Orlando, FL on September 15-17, 2025.

Society for Police and Criminal Psychology Conference is scheduled to take place in Anaheim, CA on September 24-28, 2025.

CPA's 2026 National Annual Convention is scheduled to take place in Montréal, QC on June 4-6, 2026.

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