Crime Scene

Fall 2017

Psychology Behind Bars and in Front of the Bench

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WHAT'S INSIDE

Word from the Chair

By Jim Cheston, Ph.D., C.Psych.

In a message I wrote in the early summer I informed of the changes in some of our executive positions from our Annual General Meeting, winners of Section awards, and the state of the Fitness to Stand Trial position paper, which was being developed by an Advisory Committee of CJSP Section members with particular expertise in the area. I also wrote that I would let you know about some less interesting information in this edition of *Crime Scene*. I hope this information will seem more interesting now than I had led you to expect in that memo.

Before I expand on those other points from the AGM, I will provide an update on the Fitness paper. It has been submitted to CPA and is under review but has not yet received final approval from the CPA Board of Directors. Once that happens, CPA will use it as an advocacy tool to advance the position at the national level. We extend considerable appreciation to the following Section members who made up the Advisory Committee and created the position paper: Drs. Barry Cooper, Laura Guy, Andrew Haag, David Hill, David Kolton, Milan Pomichalek, Ronald Roesch, Margo Watt, and Joanna Hessen-Kayfitz as our Section Executive member.

At the annual meeting of the CPA Section Chairs at the convention in Toronto there was a lot of attention paid to the 2018 convention, which will be held in Montreal. This next convention will be quite a bit different than usual, as CPA is hosting the International Congress of Applied Psychology (ICAP) and the CPA convention will be held concurrently with ICAP, later in June than usual for CPA, from June 26 - 30. The registration and submission processes will be combined with those of ICAP. Look out for emails in coming weeks on the specifics.

An issue raised by Section Chairs was the higher registration fees for the 2018 CPA convention, since it is being held in conjunction with an international congress, which comes with inherently higher costs. Of course, an international congress also comes with a considerably wider and more comprehensive collection of speakers and offerings than a national convention, which justifies the higher cost. Concerns were still raised, however, that the greater cost might deter some from attending the CPA convention. CPA has responded to the concerns raised by offering a reduction to the registration fee for CPA members. Again, further information will be coming soon from CPA.

An added bonus for the jazz lovers among us is that the Montreal Jazz Festival runs from June 28 to July 7, so there is the opportunity to combine a professional convention with one of our country's top musical events.

It was also announced at the Section Chairs' annual meeting on June 10 that the CPA Board of Directors had approved a motion on Section Bookkeeping at their meeting on June 7, 2017. That decision will result in the CPA developing the capacity to provide bookkeeping services to all CPA Sections by January 1, 2018. All CPA Sections will be utilizing the service fully by January 1, 2019. This was described as reducing the administrative burden for Section

Executives, without sacrificing autonomy. The burden on Section Treasurers will be lightened as there will be one Section bank account which will be managed by CPA, separate from the CPA general funds. Therefore, Sections will not have to maintain their own accounts, write cheques, etc. CPA will only issue payments on the approval/instructions of the Section executives. More information will be shared on this as the initiative is rolled out.

Moving forward from the business discussed at the 2017 CPA convention in Toronto and plans for the 2018 convention to be held along with ICAP (and also concurrently with the start of the Montreal Jazz Festival), many of us are starting to anticipate the 4th North American Correctional & Criminal Justice Conference (NACCJPC-4, or N4), which will be held in conjunction with the 2019 CPA convention in Halifax from May 31 to June 2. Yes, it is planned to take place a week earlier than the norm and from Friday to Sunday instead of the usual Thursday to Saturday. Regardless of those minor details, we are all anticipating N4 to again exceed our expectations with an incredible conference for Criminal Justice Psychology. Stay tuned for information on some of the specifics for the 2019 conference, which many of us look forward to with suspenseful anticipation during its four-year cycle.

Dr. Ann Crocker received the 2017 Significant Contribution Award on behalf of the National Trajectory Project team (Ann Crocker, Tonia Nicholls, Michael Seto, Malijaï Caulet, and Yanick Charette).

Left to right: Andrew Brankley, Mark Olver, Franca Cortoni & Karl Hanson

Graduate Student Poster Winner: Jean-Philippe Galipeau, University of Montreal

What about low risk sexual offenders? Impact of treatment on their recidivism

By Jean-Philippe Galipeau & Franca Cortoni, Ph.D., C.Psych.

University of Montreal

Meta-analyses have shown that the treatment of sexual offenders is effective at reducing recidivism (e.g., Schmucker & Lösel, 2015), particularly when they follow the Risk-Need-Responsivity (RNR) principles (Hanson et al., 2009). The central tenet of the risk principle is that the treatment intensity should match the risk level of the offenders. Hence, high risk offenders require intensive interventions and low risk offenders should receive minimal or no treatment. In support of this principle, studies have found that the recidivism rates of treated low risk offenders were, in some cases, higher in comparison to their untreated counterparts (e.g., Lovins et al., 2009). However, several problems reduce the confidence of these findings. For example, studies included low risk offenders who had participated in a treatment program designed for high risk offenders, which contravenes the risk principle. Research is still needed to examine whether low risk sexual offenders who participated in a low intensity treatment program reoffended more or less in comparison to a normative sample.

Method

Two groups of treated offenders were included in this study: 165 assessed at low risk who participated in a low intensity program and 182 assessed at moderate risk who participated in a moderate intensity program. Sexual recidivism was defined as official charges and convictions obtained from the Canadian Police Information Centre. Time-at-risk was a 5-year fixed follow-up period, which reduced the total *N* to 322. The recidivism rates from routine samples for the Static-99R (S-99R) were provided by Hanson et al. (2016). The analyses consisted of risk-band analyses using E/O index (Hanson, 2017) and Cox regressions.

Results

The 5-year sexual recidivism rate for the entire sample was 4.7% (*n* = 15). Based on the norms for Static-99R for the total sample, 15 recidivists were also expected. The E/O index was 1.02, which is extremely close to the perfect ratio of 1. According to this analysis, the treatment did not increase or decrease sexual recidivism for the entire sample.

When risk band analyses were conducted, a difference for very low risk offenders was found. The E/O index was 0.15, indicating that the S-99R significantly under-predicted the recidivism for this very low risk treated group. This result suggests that the treatment of the very low risk offenders actually increased their recidivism. Caution in the interpretation of this finding, however, is required: due to the small sample of very low risk offenders (*n* = 29) with only 2

sexual recidivists, the index is too unstable to be interpreted with confidence. There were no differences between on the E/O indices of the other risk groups. Finally, Cox regression analyses revealed little difference among participants from low and moderate intensity treatment program: the relative risk of recidivism for the low intensity group was 1.1 and was not statistically significant.

Conclusion

In summary, our results suggest that the participation of low risk sexual offenders in a matched low intensity treatment program as per the risk principle does not increase, nor decrease sexual recidivism. This would suggest that scarce resources could be better reallocated toward other services to higher risk offenders. Nevertheless, given the lack of negative outcome, arguments in favor of low intensity treatment for low risk offenders can also be put forward. For example, by participating in a low intensity intervention, they could possibly have access to an earlier return to the community after having completed a treatment, which, in a cost-benefit analysis, could reduce the cost of incarceration.

Left to right: Karl Hanson, Natalie Jones, Jean-Phillipe Galipeau, Franca Cortoni, Mark Olver, & Sandy Jung

Bio

Jean-Philippe Galipeau is finishing his M.Sc. degree in criminology at the School of Criminology at the Université de Montréal. He is particularly interested in treatment efficacy with sexual offenders.

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Forensic Psychology Day @ X

By Briony Merritt

St. Francis Xavier University (StFX)

Forensic Psychology Day @ X saw researchers, psychologists, correctional staff, and community members come together to celebrate fields of research and practice at the interface of psychology and law. The event, organized by Dr. Margo Watt and students in forensic psychology courses at StFX University in Antigonish, Nova Scotia, provided a variety of oral and poster presentations, Q&A sessions, and demonstrations by dogs from the canine program at the federal women's prison (Nova Institution) in Truro, Nova Scotia to the campus and broader community.

The day started with a captivating presentation by Paul Young, superintendent of the Northeastern Nova Scotia Correctional Centre (NENSCC). Referencing his work as an RCMP officer in international venues, Mr. Young highlighted the strengths of the Canadian criminal justice system and some of the innovative measures being taken to enhance staff-resident relations in his own facility. Next, researchers from local Maritime universities (and beyond) shared their latest research projects on a range of topics related to forensic psychology. Complementary presentations by StFX alumna Angelina MacLellan, a graduate student in counselling psychology at the University of Western Ontario, and Valerie MacLaughlin, PsyD student at the Université de Moncton, described the mental health needs of the correctional system's youngest and oldest offenders, respectively. Another StFX alumna, Dr. Meg Ternes of Saint Mary's University in Halifax, challenged the audience to evaluate prevalent deception and detection strategies. Halifax-based lawyer and activist, Emma Halpern, discussed her work for the Canadian Association of Elizabeth Fry Societies as an advocate for incarcerated women and the role that volunteers can play in helping with rehabilitative programming.

After the morning presentations, the keynote address, delivered by Dr. Mary Ann Campbell, director of the University of New Brunswick's Centre for Criminal Justice Studies, provided a glimpse into recent research examining the assessment of justice-involved youth. Specifically, Dr. Campbell highlighted potential risk factors and trajectories for youth involved with the justice system. Her presentation was informed not only by research conducted at University of New Brunswick but also by her experience as a member of the IWK Youth Forensic Services Research Team (Dartmouth, NS) and position on a roundtable for crime prevention in New Brunswick.

Students enrolled in StFX's Special Concentration in Forensic Psychology – a two-year undergraduate program unique to StFX – also had the opportunity to discuss their practica experiences during a poster presentation session. Visitors were invited to learn more about the partnerships established between StFX and various forensic locations throughout Canada, such as a creative-writing mentorship established at Nova Institution for Women (Truro, NS), an on-site placement with Mental Health and Addiction Services (Pictou, NS), and a week-long practicum completed at Central East Correctional Centre (Lindsay, ON) during February break. Guests were even able to watch two practicum students in action! Kelsey

Greenidge and Carley Hegarty, under the direction of Cathie Bell, performed tricks with their "service-dogs-in-training" from Pawsitive Directions Canine Program (Nova Institution for Women).

An interactive Q&A session featured correctional psychologists from Dorchester Penitentiary and Shepody Healing Centre, Bruno Gagnon and Christian Démoré, who discussed the most challenging and most enjoyable aspects of their work. Afterwards, a second Q&A session entitled Getting from Here (X) to There (Y) provided students the chance to interview five StFX alumni currently working in forensic fields: Deputy Sheriff Derek Atwood (Yarmouth, NS), Parole Officer Nicole MacGillivary (Sydney, NS), Angelina MacLellan (UWO), Social Worker Jared Uhlman (Bridgewater, NS), and Dr. Meg Ternes (Halifax, NS). Students enrolled in the Forensic Psychology Concentration were excited to compare their practicum responsibilities with the experiences of more seasoned professionals and practitioners and to receive advice about potential career paths following graduation.

Special guests and community members attending *Forensic Psychology Day @ X* also facilitated the creation of a scholarship for a junior student accepted into the Special Concentration in Forensic Psychology (2017-2018). Currently enrolled StFX students enjoyed the unique opportunity to share their practica experiences, celebrate their placement supervisors, and consider new partnerships for the forthcoming academic year. Dr. Watt acknowledged that the day's success was facilitated, in no small measure, by funding provided by the Criminal Justice section of the Canadian Psychological Association!

Back row: Dr. Kim MacLean, Dr. Margo Watt, Dr. Mary Ann Campbell. *Front row:* Dr. Meg Ternes, Angelina MacLellan, Jared Uhlman, Nicole McGillivary, Derek Atwood.

Kelsey Greenidge *(centre)* and Carley Hegarty *(right)*, under the direction of Cathie Bell *(left)*, performed tricks with their "service-dogs-in-training" from *Pawsitive Directions Canine Program* (Nova Institution for Women, Truro).

Carley Hegarty *(left)* and Kelsey Greenidge *(right)* with their "service-dogs-in-training" from *Pawsitive Directions Canine Program* (Nova Institution for Women, Truro).

Dr. Mary Ann Campbell, director of the University of New Brunswick's *Centre for Criminal Justice Studies.*

An interactive Q&A session featured correctional psychologists from (left to right): Springhill Institution (André Gallant), Shepody Healing Centre (Christian Démoré), and Dorchester Penitentiary (Bruno Gagnon).

A Q&A session entitled *Getting from Here (X) to There (Y)* featured, from left to right, Dr. Meg Ternes, Angelina MacLellan, Social Worker Jared Uhlman, Parole Officer Nicole MacGillivary, and Deputy Sheriff Derek Atwood.

Ahead by a century: The CCJA's upcoming milestone

The Canadian Criminal Justice Association (CCJA), an independent, national, voluntary organization working for an improved criminal justice system in Canada, is approaching its centenary, and you can be a part of it.

The CCJA is celebrating its 98th year. That's much older than:

- The rules against corporal punishment in Canada's prisons;
- The Juvenile Delinquents' Act (later Young Offenders Act, and the Youth Criminal Justice Act);
- The Ouimet Committee;
- Prisoners' right to vote.

Things change a lot in 98 years, and we help change them.

The CCJA helped produce those criminal justice reforms, and many more still. Our work is as urgent now as ever. Among the issues we are working on:

- Justice Canada is currently undertaking a massive public consultation to ask citizens for their opinions on criminal justice reform. Many of the ideas they are floating were brought to the government's attention by the CCJA more than a year earlier in an article crafted by our members and handed to various high-level officials at Justice, as well as Public Safety Canada, the Parole Board, and elsewhere.
- The CCJA is currently monitoring the government's 'moves' toward the legalization of marijuana and working with members to prepare our policy brief to circulate to decision makers in Ottawa.
- The federal government's policy on terrorism and violent extremism has changed repeatedly over the past few years and will surely do so again. The government has turned more than once to the CCJA for advice and input on this issue – one of the most pressing ones of our time.

The CCJA is ahead of the curve on criminal justice issues, leading, rather than reacting to, the national conversation. (Did you know, for example, that our first official statement on marijuana legalization was made back in 1975?) Our members are a key part of that: Through our various consultation processes, members have input in the materials we produce for Parliamentarians and other decision makers. Membership in the CCJA is an affordance to intervene in the criminal justice system via a respected, authoritative, privileged channel.

You can help us celebrate 100 years of improving criminal justice in Canada and then help us with the next 100.

If you wish to join the CCJA, go to ccja-acjp.ca/pub/en/join or visit us on Facebook (facebook.com/ccjacjp) or Twitter (@acjpccja)

Forensic Research eXchange (FRX2017)

By
Andrew E. Brankley & Will Huggon, Ph.D.

Ryerson University

Forensic Research eXchange 2017 (FRX 2017) saw researchers, students, and criminal justice professionals come together to network and learn from each other. The event, organized by Andrew Brankley, Danielle Loney, Jessica Sutherland, Lesley Zanella, and Dr. Will Huggon at Ryerson University in Toronto, ON provided attendees with large scale talks, focus groups, research proposals, a student data blitz, and networking activities. This annual event drew over 80 people from around the greater Toronto area.

The day began with Andrew Brankley delivering opening remarks about the purpose of FRX:

Public safety is a shared responsibility. Creating and maintaining resilient communities requires a broad array of professionals who enforce and help others to abide by the law, researchers who seek to better understand and reduce rule-breaking, and students who are building the skills to become the new vanguard. The knowledge and activities of these individuals is of little benefit if left unshared. How many like-minded individuals are you connected with outside your institution or field?

FRX is a forum for individuals from different fields, institutions, and professions to build a broader professional network. Fostering new relationships with individuals outside your traditional networks improves information dissemination and increases our capacity for innovative research. Traditional research conferences have a content focus; the focus of FRX is on improving the process of communication.

Afterwards, Wendy Gillis, a Toronto Star Crime Reporter, delivered a controversial presentation entitled "Oversight Together: How grassroots activism, journalism, and dialogue between the public, police and the justice system has created positive changes to police oversight in Ontario". Ms. Gillis raised questions about the relationship between local police services and the community they serve through references to her work[1] covering the police shooting of Andrew Loku on July 5, 2015. With Toronto Police officers in attendance, Ms. Gillis' talk lit the fires of discussion later during the police-focused discussion group.

The discussion groups focused upon issues in four areas: "Accessing Services" in Corrections/ Forensic Mental Health, "Issues in Open Custody" in Youth Justice, "Evidence-Based Policing" in Policing, and "My Wrongful Conviction" in Law. Attendees of the Law group were lucky to hear from Maria Shepherd. Ms. Shepherd was wrongfully convicted of manslaughter for the death of her three-year-old stepdaughter. At FRX, she spoke of her time in incarceration as well as current issues and priorities surrounding those who were wrongfully convicted. The Youth Justice group got into a lively discussion comparing Issues in Youth Justice versus Adult custody and the major aim and obstacles facing young offenders and the caregiver/mentors that in some ways act as

1. https://www.thestar.com/news/crime/2015/07/07/andrew-lokus-death-by-a-police-bullet-came-quickly-witness-says.html

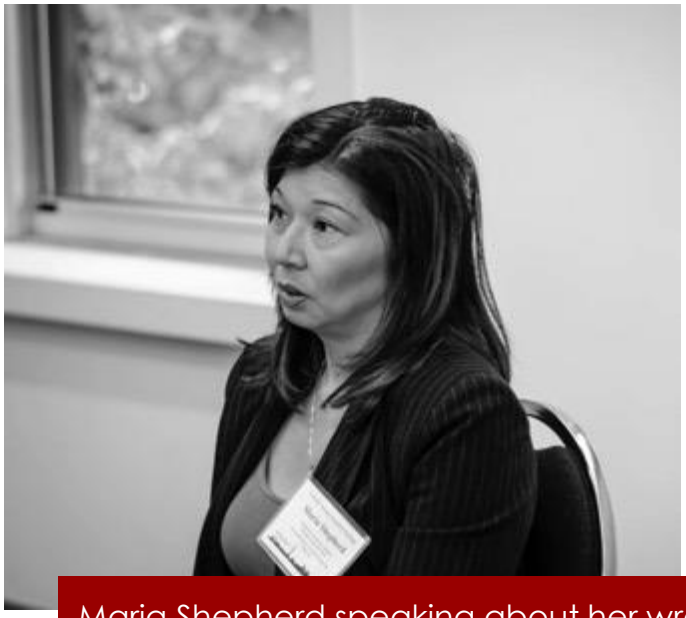
parole officers and some ways act as friends. Led by Dr. Will Huggon, the discussion was interesting and informative for the students in attendance, especially with Dr. David Day (a hands-on expert in the field) in attendance.

Students had a chance to practice their presentation skills in the Student Data Blitz. The blitz had students giving short 5-minute presentations on topics varying from corrections to policing to youth justice. Engaging and interesting, it allowed the students attending to be involved (and compete — the best presentation won a Starbucks card).

The day was punctuated by two large scale networking activities. *Attendee Bingo* saw bingo cards handed out with squares based on variety of variables, such as identity "researcher" or "student" and interest area "sexual crime" or "wrongful conviction". These squares had been previously randomized so each attendee's card was unique. After hearing about the Starbucks gift cards available for prizes, the beginning of play felt like it should have been proceeded by the shot from a pistol. Balancing the intensity of the morning, the *Speed Dating* activity provided a more intimate opportunity for attendees to meet one another. With professionals stationary, students rotated through chairs with directions to greet and discuss common areas of interests. These varied widely from professional practice to favourite sports teams.

When the event was done, the feedback was incredible, with lots of great ideas for directions to take in 2018. "FRX is not your typical conference," all agreed. Attendees were active participants in the day's events instead of passive recipients of information. The potential for networking did not stop at the conclusion of events; the FRX conference book included the names, contact information, and interests of almost all the day's guests. Now when asked "How many like-minded individuals are you connected with outside your institution or field?", attendees can draw from a long list of names. The authors acknowledged that the day's success was facilitated, in no small measure, by funding provided by the Criminal Justice section of the Canadian Psychological Association!

FRX2017 Team, from left to right: Will Huggon, Jessica Sutherland, Danielle Loney, Lesley Zannella, and Andrew Brankley



Maria Shepherd speaking about her wrongful conviction.

Wendy Gillis delivering the plenary address

The Youth Justice Lab at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education:

Examining Implementation of an Evidence-Based Correctional Psychology Framework for Rehabilitation of Justice-Involved Youth

By

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Shiming Huang, MA

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Ontario Institute for Studies in Education
University of Toronto

The Framework
The Risk-Need-Responsivity (RNR) model is an evidence-based and internationally applied conceptualization of criminal conduct that evaluates an individual's risk to reoffend. It posits that recidivism can be predicted and reduced by examining factors within offenders and factors within the correctional system, as well as how the two interact (Andrews, Bonta, & Hoge, 1990). RNR-based assessments inform sentencing decisions and the development and implementation of case management plans in custody and the community (i.e., in probation).

Risk: Who Should Be Targeted for Intervention
Risk levels predict future engagement in criminal behaviour (e.g., reoffending). The risk principle therefore holds that intensity of intervention should correspond to risk to reoffend: higher risk individuals respond optimally to more intensive services, while lower risk individuals respond optimally to less intensive services.

Need: What Should Be Targeted
According to the need principle, intervention should target strong and direct predictors of reoffending, called criminogenic needs. There are seven dynamic (i.e., changeable) criminogenic need domains: family circumstances and parenting, education and/or employment, antisocial peer relations, substance abuse, lack of prosocial leisure and recreational activities, antisocial attitudes, and antisocial personality (Andrews & Bonta, 2017).

Responsivity: How These Needs Can Be Most Effectively Targeted
The responsivity principle states that in order to maximize effectiveness, interventions targeting criminogenic needs must be evidence-based (general responsivity) and adapted to individuals' characteristics and circumstances (specific responsivity; Bonta, 1995).

The Context
In 2015/2016, 16,545 youth (ages 12 to 17) were admitted to the Canadian correctional system. On any given day, 8,455 youth were in custody or under community supervision, a rate of 49 youth for every 10,000 youth in Canada. Of the youth admitted in this period, three-quarters were male and a disproportionate number were Indigenous (who constituted 35% of admissions, despite representing only 7% of the youth population in reporting jurisdictions). Eighty-nine percent of youth were under community supervision, with nine out of ten of them on probation. The number of youth admitted to the justice system has consistently

declined for the past decade (Malakieh, 2017).

The Research Program

While work aimed at averting justice system involvement in the first place is essential, addressing the needs of youth already in the system, and preventing their re-involvement, is equally critical. Considering that the overwhelming majority of justice-involved youth serve community sentences, this is a significant intervention point. The Youth Justice Lab focuses on four main research areas related to community-sentenced youth: 1) evaluating risk assessment and need-targeted intervention in practice; 2) analyzing the relationship of RNR-based programming to youth outcomes; 3) examining individual and systemic factors associated with service delivery and uptake; and 4) exploring the implications (and intersections) of different research literatures/theoretical approaches to rehabilitation.

The Methodology

Quantitative

Our research is based predominantly on retrospective studies of samples of youth from across Ontario referred by the courts for comprehensive assessments under Section 34 of the Youth Criminal Justice Act, as well as samples generated by the Youth Justice Division of the Ontario Ministry of Children and Youth Services. Section 34 assessments are conducted at community mental health agencies, where multidisciplinary teams provide detailed accounts of each youth's personal and offence history, current circumstances, risk level, criminogenic needs, responsivity factors, and recommendations for intervention. Assessment reports provide the lab with youths' risk and need profiles. For study samples generated by the Ministry, risk and needs assessments conducted by probation officers yield this information. To determine whether and how youths' needs are addressed, we code probation officer case notes, which log every meeting with or pertaining to a youth (e.g., involving parents, teachers, service providers, etc.), monitor adherence to treatment recommendations, and mark progress towards probation goals. Youth are retrospectively 'followed' in these case notes for two to three years, or until they reoffend. Outcomes of interest are whether or not a youth reoffends and – for those who do reoffend – how long the youth remains in the community (i.e., days to reconviction). These data are gathered from the RCMP national criminal records database and corroborated with provincial records from the Ministry of Children and Youth Services.

Qualitative

The lab also conducts qualitative research through interviews with justice system stakeholders, including judges, lawyers, court workers, probation officers, community agency workers, and youth themselves. Following the thematic analysis technique outlined by Braun and Clarke (2006), transcripts are read multiple times and selections of text are assigned labels taken from the transcripts themselves. These labels are then grouped together under broader categories, or themes, which become the focal points of the discussion.

Our Findings to Date

Support for the RNR Framework

Consistent with the risk principle of the RNR model, our studies have found that the Youth Level of Service/Case Management Inventory (YLS/CMI; Hoge & Andrews, 2002, 2011), an RNR-based assessment and case management tool, predicts youth outcomes. Youths' total YLS/CMI risk scores predicted odds of reoffence (Peterson-Badali, Skilling & Haqanee, 2015; Vitopoulos, Peterson-Badali & Skilling, 2012) and number of new convictions (Vieira, Skilling & Peterson-Badali, 2009). YLS/CMI total risk scores predicted reoffending equally well for Indigenous and non-Indigenous youth (Lockwood & Peterson-Badali, 2016). We also examined whether changes in YLS/CMI

dynamic risk scores improved the prediction of recidivism, tracking 200 youth from their first risk assessment to their most recent risk assessment completed prior to first reoffense or study end date. Inclusion of dynamic risk scores improved predictive accuracy above static risk and updated dynamic risk scores improved accuracy over those obtained from the initial assessment, supporting the utility of the YLS/CMI as a reassessment tool (Clarke, Peterson-Badali & Skilling, in press).

Additionally, addressing youths' identified criminogenic needs during probation was associated with reduced reoffending, which supports the need principle of the RNR framework. The greater the proportion of identified criminogenic needs addressed, the less likely youths were to reoffend (McCormick, Peterson-Badali & Skilling, 2017; Peterson-Badali et al., 2015; Vieira et al., 2009), the more days to reoffense (Lockwood & Peterson-Badali, 2016), and the fewer new convictions (Vieira et al., 2009).

Gaps in the Theory to Practice Implementation Pathway

Not all youths' identified criminogenic needs were successfully addressed during probation. Three of our studies found that, on average, only a third of youths' identified needs were met through appropriate services (Lockwood & Peterson-Badali, 2016; Peterson-Badali et al., 2015; Vieira et al., 2009). Service match was especially problematic in four domains: antisocial attitudes, antisocial peers, substance abuse, and leisure (Peterson-Badali et al., 2015). Qualitative investigation revealed that probation officers prioritize needs (e.g., education) that are more straightforward to address and can have a positive spillover effect on other domains (Haqanee et al., 2015). Limited access to overburdened community services and lack of training in counseling were also cited as barriers to treatment of certain needs (e.g., attitude, personality; Haqanee et al., 2015). A closer examination of barriers to receipt of services for justice-involved youth identified lifestyle destabilizers (e.g., homelessness), clinical destabilizers (e.g., trauma, depression), capacity (e.g., low IQ), and organizational factors (e.g., waitlists) as common obstacles.[1] Youth with lifestyle, capacity, and organizational barriers were more likely to reoffend even after accounting for their risk level and the extent to which their criminogenic needs were addressed (Kapoor, 2015).

Risk or Responsivity? Theoretical Clarifications and Implications

While the risk and need principles of the RNR model have received considerable attention, the concept of responsivity has been less definitively articulated. Questions remain about whether certain individual traits and circumstances (e.g., psychological disorders, trauma histories, minority status) fall under the category of risk or responsivity. Adding to the uncertainty is that other fields (e.g., psychopathology, developmental psychology, criminology, and sociology), have their own definitions of "risk" in the justice context that differ markedly from the RNR framework.[2]

Mental health. In a recent study, we found that the presence of mental health needs (defined as internalizing, trauma, and psychotic symptoms) and the receipt of mental health treatment were not predictors of reoffending (McCormick et al., 2017). This indicates that mental health (as defined in 'RNR' terms and therefore excluding externalizing disorders and criminogenic aspects of diagnoses such as ADHD and substance use disorders) is not a risk factor for recidivism. Of note is that youth who received mental health services were also more likely to receive services targeting their identified criminogenic needs (McCormick et al., 2017). This suggests that mental health functions as a responsivity factor: youth with certain mental health profiles may be more receptive to

1. For a discussion of destabilizers as they relate to the RNR model, see Taxman (2014).

2. For a discussion of these issues in the context of mental health and youth justice, see Peterson-Badali, McCormick, Viopoulos, Davis, Haqanee, & Skillling (2015)

services (specific responsivity) and/or such youth may be referred to more wraparound services (systemic responsivity).

Knowing that comorbidity is the rule rather than the exception in youth justice populations, we also sought to determine how different mental health issues (defined in accordance with the DSM) cluster together and their relationship to reoffending. Youth with two mental disorder profiles – (1) disruptive behaviour disorders only (e.g., conduct disorders), and (2) disruptive behaviour disorders, learning disability, and ADHD – were more likely to reoffend even after accounting for criminogenic needs treatment (Huang, 2016). Considering that these diagnoses are captured under the education and personality domains of the RNR model, this further reinforces the idea that only certain aspects of mental health are criminogenic and appropriately referred to as risk factors.

Over the last several decades, mental health courts have been developed to help address concerns related to high prevalence rates of mental health problems in justice-involved youth and adults. Research suggests that mental health courts may contribute to reductions in recidivism, yet little is known about the logic behind these programs, how they are implemented, and how they facilitate change, particularly in the youth justice system. In order to address this gap, we conducted a process evaluation of Toronto's first youth mental health court (Davis, Peterson-Badali & Skilling, 2015, 2016). Most clients successfully completed the court requirements, with case processing time comparable to traditional youth courts. While the court's theory of change reflected the belief that addressing youths' mental health needs would lead to desistance, a key finding was that, for most youth, mental health issues were only indirectly related to their offences, indicating the need to address criminogenic needs in addition to mental health needs.

Gender and trauma. While the RNR framework is purportedly gender-neutral, its efficacy in addressing female youths' needs is not well-established. In one study, we found that females and males were similar in the number and nature of criminogenic needs identified by assessing clinicians. However, addressing identified needs was associated with reduced reoffending for boys but not girls (Vitopoulos, Peterson-Badali, & Skilling, 2012). This raises questions about whether girls have additional risks not captured in the RNR framework and whether services are delivered in a gender-responsive manner.

'Trauma' is posited as a criminogenic risk in maltreatment and feminist criminology literatures but has limited empirical support in the RNR literature. In a recent study, we found that a symptom-based measure of trauma was not related to criminogenic needs or to reoffending but number of types of childhood maltreatment was a significant (and the strongest) predictor of reoffending for males and females when included alongside criminogenic needs (Vitopoulos, 2016). This supports calls for trauma-informed intervention for boys as well as girls.

Indigenous youth. While Indigenous youth are assessed and treated within a system that follows the RNR framework, there is very little research supporting its applicability to this population. In a recent study (Lockwood, 2016; Lockwood & Peterson-Badali, 2016) we found that Indigenous and non-Indigenous youth were similar in risk scores, number of identified criminogenic needs, proportion of needs addressed, and reoffence rates. However, Indigenous youth were evaluated as higher risk in the peer and leisure domains, more likely to have needs related to education and leisure, and less likely to receive adequate peer-specific intervention. In addition to longstanding issues of poverty and discrimination related to colonization, the higher mobility of Indigenous

families may contribute to the elevated needs in these domains.

The role of colonization-informed factors (e.g., intergenerational trauma, disconnection from traditional culture) in the offending behaviour of Indigenous youth has not been adequately conceptualized or investigated. From a responsivity perspective, qualitative research indicates strong support for Indigenous-specific, community-based programming. However, barriers to matching clients with Indigenous programming are numerous and include poor communication between mainstream and Indigenous justice partners and inconsistency in Indigenous-specific program offerings (Finseth, 2014; Finseth & Peterson-Badali, 2015).

Current Lab Members & Projects

The Youth Justice Lab operates under the direction of Dr. Michele Peterson-Badali, Professor in the Department of Applied Psychology and Human Development and Associate Dean – Research, International and Innovation at OISE (m.petersonbadali@utoronto.ca), and Dr. Tracey Skilling, Clinician Scientist at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health and Assistant Professor in the Departments of Psychiatry and Applied Psychology and Human Development at the University of Toronto (tracey.skilling@camh.ca).

Current investigations at the Youth Justice Lab include:

- Do adolescents who offend sexually differ from those who offend violently but non-sexually in risk, needs, and reoffending? (Safi Abbas, safi.abbas@mail.utoronto.ca)
- What are the educational achievement trajectories of justice-involved youth? Does intervention change them? Are they related to reoffending? (Zohrah Haqanee, zohrah.haqanee@utoronto.ca)
- How do we understand the desistance process for male and female youth? How do hypothesized strength factors, when considered alongside established risk factors, enhance the assessment and treatment phases of current rehabilitation practices? (Sonia Finseth, sonia.finseth@mail.utoronto.ca)
- What are the barriers to services for community-sentenced youth at the individual, group, and systems levels? (Anjani Kapoor, anjani.kapoor@mail.utoronto.ca)
- When explored psychometrically, what is the applicability of the YLS/CMI to various subgroups of youth offenders? What can be learned about the reliability and validity of the measure and how it is used to communicate risk? (Shiming Huang, shiming.huang@mail.utoronto.ca)
- (How) can we provide effective service to Indigenous, justice-involved youth in the context of the RNR framework? (Ilana Lockwood, ilana.lockwood@mail.utoronto.ca)

Acknowledgements

This work would not be possible without the assistance of many people, including Ministry of Children and Youth Services/Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Service staff (including Lauren Freedman, Kathy Underhill, and Mike Kirk) and Research Committee members (including chair Greg Brown and former chair David Day); staff and judges at the Ontario Court of Justice (particularly Mr. Justice Brian Weagant); probation officers and service providers in Toronto, London, and Thunder Bay; and the youth who have permitted us to use their information for research purposes. We are most grateful for their time and support!

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(Bolded names denote current and former student lab members)

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The Psychology Law Evidence Database

By

Dr. Alana Cook

The Psychology Law Evidence Database coordinators, Drs. Cook, Roesch, and Zapf would like to spread the word about a new freely available resource aimed at policy makers and legal professionals to increase access to evidence for decision making in their professional roles: www.psychologylawevidence.com

The field of Psychology and Law is vast, and it is becoming increasingly challenging for professionals and the public to navigate through the ever-growing body of information to identify and access high-quality research that is relevant to their respective fields. The Psychology Law Evidence Database (PLED) was created to address this need, and is a collaborative endeavor between researchers at Simon Fraser University's (SFU) Mental Health, Law, and Policy Institute (Dr. Alana Cook and Dr. Ron Roesch) and Consolidated Continuing Education and Professional Training (CONCEPT)/John Jay College of Criminal Justice (Dr. Patricia Zapf).

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Development of the database was supported by a grant from the Canadian Bar Association and ongoing support is provided by the American Psychology-Law Society, members of the SFU Mental Health Law and Policy Institute, CONCEPT, and John Jay College of Criminal Justice. We are also supported by the many professionals internationally who serve as reviewers for the database.

To access the PLED, please visit **www.psychologylawevidence.com**.

The database is available for use, but the team is always seeking professional and senior graduate student volunteers to contribute as reviewers for sources included in the database. To ask questions or for those interested in volunteering, please contact pled@sfu.ca

New Student Representative

Alisha Salerno

Hello Section members! It is a great honour to be taking over as Student Representative. It was wonderful to meet so many of you at CPA in June. I felt so warmly welcomed. I would like to take this opportunity to tell you a bit about myself and my research, especially for those of you who I didn't get a chance to chat with at CPA.

I have just entered the first year of my PhD at York University in Toronto and have just (finally!) wrapped up my Master's thesis. I am in the social-personality research area, so I approach most of my research from a social-psychological perspective. My main research interests are the forensic implications of developmental disability, evidenced-based policing, and sexual assault. For my Master's thesis, I investigated police response to developmental disabilities through developing and administering a survey to people with developmental disabilities and caregivers of people with disabilities on their experiences with the police. I have come away from this project with a newfound appreciation for community-based research and qualitative methods.

Outside of academia, I am involved with a not-for-profit organization called Reach Toronto, which I co-founded in 2011. Reach Toronto is a centre that provides services and programs to youth and adults with developmental disabilities. My Master's thesis was actually inspired by my personal experiences working with this population. Although I am busy pursuing my graduate studies, I continue to teach the social skills day program once a week, which I always look forward to as a nice break from writing!

I also volunteer as a research assistant at the Centre for Research, Policy and Program Development at the John Howard Society of Ontario (JHSO). For those of you who are unfamiliar, the JHSO is a Canadian non-profit organization that focuses on understanding and developing effective and humane responses to crime and prison reform. I conduct research on a variety of topics at the JHSO, but my favourite projects are those centered on the mental health of offenders and prisoner quality of life.

I am really excited for my new role at the Criminal Justice Psychology Section (CJPS) and can't wait to see what the future holds. Feel free to contact me if you would like to talk about the CJPS or even just to chat about research or anything criminal justice-related! I look forward to getting to know everyone and serving as your new student representative.

Expanded MA Thesis Abstract

Spot the Violent Sex Offender: Identifying Violent and Less-Violent Sex Offenders at a Glance

By
Mari C. Shanahan Somerville,
B. A. Hons. M. A. Candidate,
Psychology
Carleton University

People are able to make accurate social judgments from minimal information. Although person perception is believed to be an evolutionarily evolved ability, not everyone is equally accurate. For instance, individuals scoring higher on psychopathic traits are better able to identify vulnerability than those who score lower. This study investigated which personality traits, including psychopathy, were associated with increased accuracy in perceiving violence and what facial cues individuals used when making their judgments. Two separate samples of undergraduates (n = 267 and n = 203) judged the potential for violence of 84 sexual offenders, from just two-second glances at facial photographs, and completed self-report measures of general personality dimensions and psychopathic traits. Contrary to prediction, participants in both samples were unable to distinguish between the violent and less-violent groups of offenders. However, as predicted, there were no gender differences in accuracy and some cues to masculinity tended to be valid cues to violence. Across both samples, most general personality characteristics measured by the HEXACO did not contribute to accuracy. However, under the more controlled conditions for sample two, low honesty-humility, a characteristic which has previously been associated with increased psychopathy, contributed to greater accuracy. Moreover, boldness and total psychopathy, as defined by the Triarchic Psychopathy Measure, both contributed to increased accuracy in the detection of violence for sample two. Taken together, the results suggest that people use both valid and misleading cues when making quick judgments about others' potential for violence and that the relationship between psychopathic personality traits and accuracy in threat detection warrants further investigation.

Did you recently defend your thesis or dissertation?

Consider submitting an expanded abstract of your work to *Crime Scene*.

Recent Publications

Glover, A. J. J., Churcher, F. P., Gray, A. L., Mills, J. F., & Nicholson, D. E. (2017, August 7). A Cross-Validation of the Violence Risk Appraisal Guide—Revised (VRAG–R) Within a Correctional Sample. Law and Human Behavior. Advance online publication. http://dx.doi.org/10.1037/lhb0000257

The Violence Risk Appraisal Guide—Revised (VRAG–R) was developed to replace the original VRAG based on an updated and larger sample with an extended follow-up period. Using a sample of 120 adult male correctional offenders, the current study examined the interrater reliability and predictive and comparative validity of the VRAG–R to the VRAG, the Psychopathy Checklist—Revised, the Statistical Information on Recidivism—Revised, and the Two-Tiered Violence Risk Estimate over a follow-up period of up to 22 years postrelease. The VRAG–R achieved moderate levels of predictive validity for both general and violent recidivism that was sustained over time as evidenced by time-dependent area under the curve (AUC) analysis. Further, moderate predictive validity was evident when the Antisociality item was both removed and then subsequently replaced with a substitute measure of antisociality. Results of the individual item analyses for the VRAG and VRAG–R revealed that only a small number of items are significant predictors of violent recidivism. The results of this study have implications for the application of the VRAG–R to the assessment of violent recidivism among correctional offenders.

Viljoen, J. L., Gray, A. L., Shaffer, C., Bhanwer, A., Tafreshi, D., & Douglas, K. S. (2016). Does reassessment of risk improve predictions? A framework and examination of the SAVRY and YLS/CMI. *Psychological Assessment.* Advance online publication. http://dx.doi.org/10.1037/pas0000402

Although experts recommend regularly reassessing adolescents' risk for violence, it is unclear whether reassessment improves predictions. Thus, in this prospective study, the authors tested 3 hypotheses as to why reassessment might improve predictions, namely the shelf-life, dynamic change, and familiarity hypotheses. Research assistants (RAs) rated youth on the Structured Assessment of Violence Risk in Youth (SAVRY) and the Youth Level of Service/Case Management Inventory (YLS/CMI) every 3 months over a 1-year period, conducting 624 risk assessments with 156 youth on probation. The authors then examined charges for violence and any offense over a 2-year follow-up period, and youths' self-reports of reoffending. Contrary to the shelf-life hypothesis, predictions did not decline or expire over time. Instead, time-dependent area under the curve scores remained consistent across the follow-up period. Contrary to the dynamic change hypothesis, changes in youth's risk total scores, compared to what is average for that youth, did not predict changes in reoffending. Finally, contrary to the familiarity hypothesis, reassessments were no more predictive than initial assessments, despite RAs' increased familiarity with youth. Before drawing conclusions, researchers should evaluate the extent to which youth receiving the usual probation services show meaningful short-term changes in risk and, if so, whether risk assessment tools are sensitive to these changes.

Recent Publications

Viljoen, J. L., Shaffer, C. S., Gray, A. L., & Douglas, K. S. (2017). Are adolescent risk assessment tools sensitive to change? A framework and examination of the SAVRY and the YLS/CMI. *Law and Human Behavior, 41,* 244-257.
http://dx.doi.org/10.1037/lhb0000238

Although many adolescent risk assessment tools include an emphasis on dynamic factors, little research has examined the extent to which these tools are capable of measuring change. In this article, we outline a framework to evaluate a tool's capacity to measure change. This framework includes the following: (a) measurement error and reliable change, and (b) sensitivity (i.e., internal, external, and relative sensitivity). We then used this framework to evaluate the Structured Assessment of Violence Risk in Youth (SAVRY) and Youth Level of Service/Case Management Inventory (YLS/CMI). Research assistants conducted 509 risk assessments with 146 adolescents on probation (101 male, 45 female), who were assessed every 3 months over a 1-year period. Internal sensitivity (i.e., change over time) was partially supported in that a modest proportion of youth showed reliable changes over the 3-, 6-, and 12-month follow-ups. External sensitivity (i.e., the association between change scores and reoffending) was also partially supported. In particular, 22% of the associations between change scores and any and violent reoffending were significant at a 6-month follow-up. However, only 1 change score (i.e., peer associations) remained significant after the Bonferroni correction was applied. Finally, relative sensitivity was not supported, as the SAVRY and YLS/CMI was not more dynamic than the Psychopathy Checklist: Youth Version (PCL:YV). Specifically, the 1-year rank-order stability coefficients for the SAVRY, YLS/CMI, and PCL:YV Total Scores were .78, .75, and .76, respectively. Although the SAVRY and YLS/CMI hold promise, further efforts may help to enhance sensitivity to short-term changes in risk.

Bourgon, G., Mugford, R., Hanson, R.K., & Coligado, M. (in press, 2017). Offender risk assessment practices vary across Canada. *Canadian Journal of Criminology and Criminal Justice.*

The dominant Canadian approach to offender rehabilitation, the Risk, Need, Responsivity (RNR) model, requires assessing offenders' likelihood of recidivism and their criminogenic needs (i.e., risk/need assessments). The current study examined the risk/need assessments routinely used in Canadian corrections, and compared their risk category labels. All Canadian jurisdictions used a risk/need tool for general recidivism, most used sex crime specific tools, and a few used tools specific to intimate partner violence. There was, however, considerable diversity in the names, number, and meaning of the risk category labels, which could result in different responses to the same individual based solely on the version of the risk tool used in any specific jurisdiction. Our results suggest that increased attention to the meaning of risk category labels could facilitate offenders receiving the most appropriate and fair correctional responses.

Recent Publications

Lee, S. C., Hanson, R. K., & Zabarauckas, C. L. (2017). Sex offenders of East Asian Heritage resemble other Canadian sex offenders. *Asian Journal of Criminology.* Advance online publication. doi:10.1007/s11417-017-9252-y

Although there is considerable research on Caucasian sexual offenders, there has been much less research on sex offenders of Asian heritage. The current study compared East Asian (e.g., Chinese, Japanese, and Korean) sex offenders in British Columbia (B.C.), Canada, and other B.C. sex offenders on items and total score of Static-99R. This study included all provincially sentenced adult male sexual offenders (n = 4580) supervised in the community by B. C. Corrections (including 122 East Asian sex offenders). Sexual, violent, any crime, and any recidivism (including technical violations) data were collected with an average follow-up 4.3 years. The total scores of Static-99R were similar beween East Asian sex offenders and other ethnic groups (M = 2.0 vs. M = 2.4). East Asian offenders scored significantly lower than other ethnic offenders on several items measuring general criminality (e.g., prior non-sexual violence, prior sentencing dates, and any prior sex offenses). In contrast, Asian offenders appeared to be more paraphilic (e.g., any convictions for non-contact sex offenses). Lastly, Static-99R significantly predicts sexual, violent, and criminal among sex offenders of East Asian heritage.

Mattek, R., & Hanson, R. K. (2017). Committed as a violent sexual predator in his 10th decade: A case study. *Archives of Sexual Behavior.* Advance online publication. doi:10.1007/s10508-017-1041-2

We report a case study of Atypical Offender (AO), a man who was civilly committed as a sexually violent person several years after his 90th birthday. In this article, we review the factors that usually contribute to virtually zero rates of sexual crime among nonagenarians for clues as to why these protective factors did not apply to this exceptional case. Psychological assessments and court records portrayed AO as having many of the features expected of persistent sexual offenders against children (e.g., pedophilic interests, child-oriented lifestyle). What was unusual, however, was AO's exceptional good health and vigor, which was maintained well into his tenth decade. Consequently, we recommend that forensic evaluators of older sexual offenders systematically consider the offenders' health as part of the overall risk assessment.

Recent Publications

Hanson, R. K., Harris, A. J. R., Letourneau, E., Helmus, L. M., & Thornton, D. (2017, in press). Reductions in risk based on time offense free in the community: Once a sexual offender, not always a sexual offender. *Psychology, Public Policy and Law.* doi:10.1037/law0000135

Whereas there is a common assumption that most individuals with a criminal record can be eventually reintegrated into the community, the public has different expectations for sexual offenders. In many countries, individuals with a history of sexual offences are subject to a wide range of long-term restrictions on housing and employment, as well as public notification measures intended to prevent them from merging unnoticed into the population of law-abiding citizens. This paper examines the testable assumption that individuals with a history of sexual crime present an enduring risk for sexual recidivism. We modelled the long-term (25 year) risk of sexual recidivism in a large, combined sample (N > 7,000). We found that the likelihood of new sexual offenses declined the longer individuals with a history of sexual offending remain sexual offense free in the community. This effect was found for all age groups and all initial risk levels. Nonsexual offending during the follow-up period increased the risk of subsequent sexual recidivism independent of the time free effect. After 10 to 15 years, most individuals with a history of sexual offenses were no more likely to commit a new sexual offense than individuals with a criminal history that did not include sexual offenses. Consequently, policies designed to manage the risk of sexual recidivism need to include mechanisms to adjust initial risk classifications and determine time periods where individuals with a history of sexual crime should be released from the conditions and restrictions associated with the “sexual offender” label.

FORENSIC PRACTICES & SYSTEMS: A FOCUS ON SOUTH ASIAN COMMUNITIES

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Facilitators include:
Dr. Kiran Patel, MD, FRCPC, Forensic Psychiatrist, CAMH
Dr. Smita Vir Tyagi Ph.D., C.Psych, Forensic Psychologist, CAMH
Ms. Kendra Naidoo, Legal Counsel, CAMH
Mr. Gavin Mackenzie, Legal Counsel, CAMH
Dr. Gursharan Virdee, D.Psych, Psychologist , CAMH
Ms. Sireesha Bobbili, MPH Researcher, CAMH
Mr. Biraj Khosla, OT, Clinician, Forensic Service, CAMH
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Afternoon Session
Got DBT? Understanding and Applying Dialectical Behavior Therapy in Sex Offender Treatment
Dr. Jill D. Stinson, Ph.D.

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All Day
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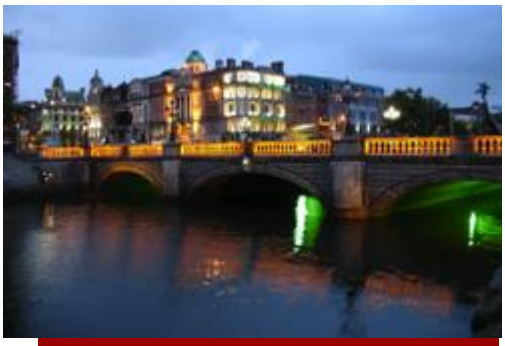

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18th International Association of Forensic Mental Health Service
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http://www.iafmhs.org/2018conference

Antwerp, Belgium

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