

**The Official Organ of the Criminal Justice  
Section of CPA**

# CRIME SCENE

**PSYCHOLOGY BEHIND BARS AND  
IN FRONT OF THE BENCH**

**Criminal Justice Psychology**  
SECTION OF THE CPA

CANADIAN  
PSYCHOLOGICAL  
ASSOCIATION



SOCIÉTÉ  
CANADIENNE  
DE PSYCHOLOGIE

**Psychologie de la Justice Pénale**  
SECTION DE LA SCP

## Section Executive

### CHAIR

Jeremy Mills, Ph.D., C.Psych

### VICE-CHAIR

Nina Fusco, Ph.D., C.Psych

### PAST CHAIR

Patrick Baille, Ph.D., LL.B.

### SECRETARY/TREASURER

Andrew Gray, Ph.D.

### MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR

Vacant

### AWARDS COORDINATOR

Alisha Salerno-Ferraro, Ph.D.

### CONFERENCE PROGRAM COORDINATOR

Joanna Kayfitz, Ph.D., C.Psych

### WEBSITE COORDINATOR

Joseph Camilleri, Ph.D.

### CLINICAL TRAINING COORDINATOR

David Hill, Psy.D., C.Psych

### POLICE PSYCHOLOGY REPRESENTATIVE

Mary Ann Campbell, Ph.D., C.Psych

### NAACJ REPRESENTATIVE

Pamela Yates, Ph.D., R.Psych

### STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

Vacant

### CRIME SCENE MANAGING EDITOR

Christopher J. Lively, Ph.D.

### CRIME SCENE REVIEW EDITOR

Hannah Stewart, Ph.D. R.Psych

### SOCIAL MEDIA COORDINATOR

Alexandra Zidenberg, Ph.D.

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<b>Message from the Chair, J. Mills</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>CPA-CJS St. John's at a glance</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>2024 Significant Contribution Award Winner: Dr. Mark Oliver, N. Z. Hilton</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Criminal Justice Section Member Spotlight: Dr. Michele Peterson-Badali, H. Stewart</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>CPA &amp; CJPS Award Nomination Deadline Information</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>A Novel Model of the Propensity for Sibling Sexual Abuse, E. J. Holmes &amp; K. Babchishin</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Interrater Reliability and Alternatives to Kappa Coefficient: Part 2, M. Durham &amp; D. Kroner</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Beyond the Screen: Examining Crime Media's Influence on Criminal Profiling Accuracy among Civilians and Military Members, V. L. Mullins &amp; A. M. Zidenberg</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>The Evolution of Offender Profiling: A Brief Review of Myths, Realities, and Future Directions, R. M. Underwood</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>In Memoriam: Dr. William (Bill) Marshall, R. K. Hanson &amp; Y. Fernandez</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>Publications</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Careers / Upcoming Events</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>Hey Students! Join the CJS Executive Committee!</b>	<b>32</b>
<b>Stay Involved!</b>	<b>33</b>



## Message from the Chair

Jeremy Mills, Ph.D., C.Psych

Greetings everyone. The transition from winter to spring is part of the welcomed seasonal rhythm for me. Perhaps because I live rurally, I enjoy watching the white of winter give way to that drab brown before the explosion of green. My two, century-old maple trees, faithfully provided a gallon and a half of maple syrup this year during those drab brown weeks to be followed by fresh large asparagus from the patch when things turned green. For you city folk, asparagus can be an inch thick at the base and still tender when lightly steamed – not what you see at the supermarkets. I digress. Spring also brings the busy preparation for the CPA conference which is being held June 12-14<sup>th</sup> in St. John's, NL. Once again, the Criminal Justice Section does not disappoint. Each day brings several top-quality presentations by well known experts on a variety of topics relevant to Criminal Justice. While the full CPA program is available on the [CPA website](#), we have included all the scheduled CJS talks and events in this issue. If you are still undecided, I would encourage you to attend.

This year the Section is pleased to present **Dr. Mark Oliver** with the Significant Contribution Award for his ongoing and comprehensive work in the area of risk assessment with Indigenous populations. The award recognizes significant contributions to understanding Indigenous risk assessment, culminating in his leadership on the recently published paper in [Psychological Bulletin \(2024\)](#). The Section also recognizes **Emma Holmes** from Carleton University with the J. Stephen Wormith Graduate Research Award for Master's work on sibling sexual abuse. The quality and calibre of Emma's work resulted in the thesis committee making a nomination for a Senate Medal at Carleton University. Congratulations to both our award recipients!

The Section Executive is undertaking to gather all the Section's history in one place. Over time much of our history has slipped away and we are hoping to reconstitute that history in one record. Separately, I will send out a request to the membership for documents and information pertaining to activities and events. Here is an interesting bit of our history: The Section existed as a "Special Interest Group" prior to 1980 (how long prior we don't yet know) and formally became a Section in 1980. The "Criminal Justice Systems Section" was among the 8 original Sections recognized by CPA and by 1982 had 75 members. Stay tuned for more requests as this project moves forward.

I look forward to meeting those who are attending the conference. Newfoundland and Labrador is a great place. For those of you who are "come from aways" you can be officially "screeched in" as an honorary Newfoundlander, while those of us who were born there will simply enjoy the show. If you are new to the Section or are attending the conference for the first time, please stop me and say hi. The conference is a great way to meet your colleagues and get connected.



## CPA-CJS 2025 St. John's at a glance

### Thursday, June 12, 2025 (Room: Churchill 2)

**11:00 12-Minute Talk:** *Juror Perceptions of Interrogation and Confessions* (Madison Hynes)

**11:15 12-Minute Talk:** *Predicting intimate partner violence* (Victoria Allard)

**11:30 12-Minute Talk:** *Modelling Canadian Juror Decision Policies* (Madison Hynes)

**11:45 12-Minute Talk:** *Screening for Dementia in Older People in Custody* (Bryce Stoliker)

**12:00 Symposium:** *Suicidal Ideation at Admission to Custody* (Jeremy Mills, Andrew Gray, & Mark Olver)

**14:00 Symposium:** *Diagnoses, ACEs, and Recidivism in Youth* (Shelley Brown)

**16:00 CJS Section Annual Meeting:** All CJS Members welcome to attend; will include Section updates, elections, & presentation of Section Awards.

**17:00 CJS Section Social Reception:** All CJS Members welcome to attend; cash bar available.

### Friday, June 13, 2025 (Room: Churchill 2)

**9:00 Symposium:** *Applying ODARA to Policing and Indigenous Persons* (Sandy Jung)

**10:00 12-Minute Talk:** *Canadians Understanding of the NCRMD Defence* (Laura Melnyk)

**10:15 Symposium:** *Intrafamilial sexual contact and abuse* (Emma Holmes)

**11:15 Symposium:** *Self-Harm Threats as a Factor of IPV* (Mary Ann Campbell)

### Battery Room

**12:00 5-Minute Snapshot Session** (Isobel McMahon; Cassandra Stevenson; Eleanor Gittens; Natalie Rajack)

### Bowring Ballroom 2

**14:30 CJS Poster Session** (See CPA Program for more details)

### Saturday, June 14, 2025 (Room: Churchill 2)

**8:30 Symposium:** *Police Mental Health Call Response* (Mary Ann Campbell)

**11:00 Symposium:** *Suicide Characteristics in Offenders* (Jeremy Mills)

**12:00 Symposium:** *Sentencing & Crime Severity in Mental Health Court* (Andrew Haag)

**13:00 CJS Section Don Andres Career Contribution Award Talk:** *People, Crime, and Change* (Daryl Kroner)



**Criminal Justice Psychology**  
SECTION OF THE CPA

CANADIAN  
PSYCHOLOGICAL  
ASSOCIATION



SOCIÉTÉ  
CANADIENNE  
DE PSYCHOLOGIE

**Psychologie de la Justice Pénale**  
SECTION DE LA SCP



## 2025 Significant Contribution Award Winner: Dr. Mark Olver

N. Zoe Hilton

Dr. Mark Olver was nominated for the Criminal Justice Psychology Section's Significant Contribution Award for his several years of work that have culminated in the 2024 article, "[Too risky to use, or too risky not to? Lessons learned from over 30 years on forensic risk assessment with Indigenous persons](#)", published in *Psychological Bulletin*.

This specific work has made a significant contribution to the application of psychology to assessment in criminal justice by summarizing the strengths, limitations, and gaps in 30 years of research in a considerable meta-analysis comprising 91 studies of 22 assessment tools and related risk factors within 15 domains, with a total *N* of nearly 300,000. The article informs the law and practice of violence risk assessment with Indigenous persons by not only reviewing the empirical research but also tackling the practice applications and criminal justice implications, addressing and balancing the legal, ethical, and equity issues. It rapidly drew attention and citations, reaching the 98<sup>th</sup> percentile for article citations in Scopus. This work has already become the new definitive article for our field on criminal justice risk assessment with Indigenous individuals.

Dr. Olver's publication in *Psychological Bulletin* is a significant achievement in itself, but it represents the culmination of several years of enormous accomplishment and leadership by Dr. Olver that earned him this prestigious award for his individual efforts. Although the *Psychological Bulletin* article has six authors, Dr. Olver led this work and carried the greatest responsibility -- over several years -- for conducting the review, leading the project team, and writing the article, ensuring that the project was accomplished and the results disseminated in a timely way.

In fact, Dr. Olver has led the profession of criminal justice psychology in Canada in its response to the *Ewert v. Canada* (2015, 2016, 2018) challenge that required empirical research demonstrating the reliability and validity of measures before they can be used with Indigenous persons. He previously published multiple articles on the topic and has energetically engaged with scholarly and professional audiences on this topic, including actively contributing to the NACCJPC conferences, as well as local and national media. Dr. Olver is unquestionably our profession's leading expert on the topic.

Dr. Olver is Professor of Psychology at the University of Saskatchewan, where he completed his PhD with a thesis on dynamic risk assessment in 2003 before becoming a registered doctoral psychologist. The work for which he received this award is only part of Dr. Olver's prolific portfolio, which includes approximately 150 peer reviewed journal articles, dozens of chapters in books and encyclopedia entries, and numerous conference presentations and workshops. Google Scholar attributes nearly 10,400 citations to Dr. Olver's work as of June 2025, over half of them since 2020, and both his h-index (51) and i10-index (127) have been high and relatively stable for the past 5 years.

Furthermore, Dr. Olver has raised a new generation of scholars to contribute to this matter by supervising and mentoring students conducting research on risk assessment for Indigenous persons and other topics, as well as supervising clinical psychology practice. Throughout his career thus far, Dr. Olver has excelled in his contribution to the application of psychology to assessment in criminal justice research and practice. Congratulations to Dr. Olver on this well-deserved award!







## Criminal Justice Section Member Spotlight: Dr. Michele Peterson-Badali

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. Michele Peterson-Badali, a leader in the field of forensic and developmental psychology. Dr. Peterson-Badali’s research, teaching, and advocacy has made important contributions to policy, practice, and ethics through increasing empirical understanding of the experiences, rights, and mental health of justice-involved youth in Canada.



**Criminal Justice Psychology**  
SECTION OF THE CPA

CANADIAN  
PSYCHOLOGICAL  
ASSOCIATION



SOCIÉTÉ  
CANADIENNE  
DE PSYCHOLOGIE

**Psychologie de la Justice Pénale**  
SECTION DE LA SCP

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

**Dr. Person-Badali:** My pathway is very indirect! My PhD from the University of Toronto's Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE) was an applied psychology – and specifically school psychology. That said, I always focused on developmental psychology as a core interest. Both my MA (Psychology, UofT) and PhD theses focused on children's developing knowledge of the youth justice system and their rights – so there has been a core interest in developmental issues that are relevant to youth criminal justice. From the PhD, I quickly moved into the university system, first working at UofT's Institute of Child Study and then taking up a tenure stream position in school and clinical child psychology at OISE. At OISE, I've taught courses in assessment and legal, ethical, and professional issues, both of which connect with my research program on children's developing legal capacities and effective assessment and intervention for justice system-impacted youth.

**Hannah:** What has driven and maintained your passion to work in the field of forensic and developmental psychology? In particular, your work has made significant contributions to develop and inform evidence-based practice, principles, and policies in the fields of child and youth justice in Canada and beyond. What are some of your recent endeavors?

**Dr. Peterson-Badali:** My work has always centered the importance of understanding and supporting the rights of children and youth. I spent years studying the rights knowledge, understanding, attitudes, and reasoning of children and youth, which has direct implications for understanding and assessing children's legally-relevant competencies (e.g., capacity to instruct legal counsel, competence to consent to treatment). Acknowledging this issue of young people's lack of full developmental maturity, the Youth Criminal Justice Act signals parents as an

important source of support for justice system-impacted youth. However, our research suggests that parents' knowledge isn't better than that of their adolescent children, nor – in general – are they a solid source of support to uphold the due process rights of their children, which has important implications for youth justice policy and practice. Since then, my colleague Tracey Skilling – a forensic psychologist and clinical scientist at CAMH – and I have studied the extent to which justice system-impacted youth's identified risk factors for reoffending are addressed while they are in the system – and whether the extent of this needs-to-service predicts reoffending. Quick answer: it does! But the discouraging finding is the overall low level of service matching for youth. Most recently, Tracey, our graduate students, and I have focused on our research on two critical areas in youth criminal justice: examining the tools used in forensic assessments to assess questions of accuracy, validity and fairness within and across subgroups of youth (e.g., gender, race/ethnicity), and understanding the relationship between mental health issues and criminal justice system involvement. The cross-cutting theme in all of this research is the importance of providing an evidence base for policy and practice that supports fair treatment and the best opportunity for young people to exit the criminal justice system and improve developmental outcomes.

**Hannah:** You embody many roles in your professional life, including being a professor and Associate Dean at University of Toronto, researcher, an international scholar, and more. 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, teaching, supervision, and beyond? What do you see as future directions in the field?

**Dr. Peterson-Badali:** As a professor in school and clinical child psychology in a faculty of education, it's probably an understatement to say that I work in a nontraditional context for someone working in forensic/criminal justice psychology. But I think that this experience – along with spending the last 10 years as OISE's Associate Dean Research, International &



Innovation – has given me a broad perspective on my work and the field. Understanding the experience of justice system-impacted youth in the broader societal context (including but not limited to education and health), and in relation to the structural and systemic issues that impact their experiences and development, makes a critical contribution to effective and ethical research, policy and practice. Going forward, I think engaging in cross-disciplinary collaboration and research that simultaneously examines issues from multiple levels (individual, family, community, and societal) is important and will (hopefully) provide a more integrated, holistic understanding of how to prevent criminal justice system involvement and support young people's wellbeing.

**Hannah:** You have played impactful 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. Peterson-Badali:** My advice is pretty basic: 1) Discover what passionately motivates you and do that; 2) Don't be afraid to pivot when that passion changes or when opportunities arise; 3) Engage with colleagues, community members, and others outside your field frequently and with genuine openness and humility; and 4) Do whatever you can to balance your work and life to sustain yourself for the long term.

**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. Peterson-Badali:** See above :) This is a fascinating and incredibly important field of research and professional practice. It's also a hard one, especially for students in combined programs where there are significant demands

for both research and professional training; you can't afford to burnout before you even finish your program! It's also a challenging field in that we often work with people who have very hard lives, where the pathway to a 'good life' is uncertain at best, and for whom we see the devastating impacts of systemic and structural inequities that have contributed to their individual circumstances. Maintaining a sense of hope – for these individuals and for your work as a whole – is critically important. In the face of both sets of challenges, I think/hope the above advice helps people maintain their energy, wellbeing, and a sense of hope and agency to sustain them in their study 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](mailto:clively@stfx.ca) or Dr. Hannah Stewart (Review Editor) at [hannah.stewart@unb.ca](mailto:hannah.stewart@unb.ca).

## 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](#)

**Criminal Justice Psychology**  
SECTION OF THE CPA

CANADIAN  
PSYCHOLOGICAL  
ASSOCIATION



SOCIÉTÉ  
CANADIENNE  
DE PSYCHOLOGIE

**Psychologie de la Justice Pénale**  
SECTION DE LA SCP





## Emma Holmes is the recipient of the 2025 J. Stephen Wormith Graduate Research Award

---

### A Novel Model of the Propensity for Sibling Sexual Abuse

---

Emma J. Holmes and Kelly M. Babchishin  
*Department of Psychology, Carleton University, Ottawa, Ontario*

**Funding:** This research was funded in part by SSHRC Explore Research Development Grant (K. Babchishin).

**Editor's Note:** Correspondence concerning this article should be addressed to Emma Holmes  
([EmmaJHolmes@cmail.carleton.ca](mailto:EmmaJHolmes@cmail.carleton.ca))

#### Introduction

Sibling sexual abuse (SSA) is defined as sexual contact between siblings that is non-consensual, where force is used, or which is occurring between siblings who are 5 years or more apart in age (e.g., [Babchishin et al., 2024](#)). While robust risk factors of SSA have not been identified, two theories may be helpful as frameworks for identifying risk factors of the perpetration of SSA: the Motivation-Facilitation Model ([Seto, 2019](#)) and evolutionary theory.

[Seto's \(2019\)](#) Motivation-Facilitation Model suggests that sexual offending is more likely to occur when an individual has the motivation to offend (e.g., poor sexual regulation) and when facilitation factors overcoming any personal or social barriers to offending are present (e.g., antisociality). Motivation factors, but not facilitation factors, seem to be particularly risk-relevant in cases of intrafamilial sexual offences ([Martijn et al., 2020](#)).

As popularized by **Westermarck (1921)**, evolutionary theory suggests that a mechanism that down-regulated sexual interest toward kin would be an evolutionary adaptation. For example, those who could recognize their kin and avoid mating with them should have been better able to pass on their genetic information. Theory suggests that humans have adapted to be able to recognize several kinship cues (i.e., cues indicating genetic relatedness), which can increase certainty about the kin status of purported siblings, thus decreasing their likelihood of engaging in sexual behaviours ([Seto,](#)

2018). However, research has not consistently found a protective effect associated with experiencing kinship cues, nor has research assessed how the experience of kinship cues interacts with motivation and facilitation factors to inform the risk of SSA.

### Current Study

This study aimed to determine how well motivation factors, facilitation factors, and kinship cues explained the propensity for SSA. We hypothesized that a model that included information about motivation factors, kinship cues, and the propensity for SSA would best fit the data. We also hypothesized that the relationship between motivation factors, kinship cues and propensity would be stronger than the relationship between facilitation factors and propensity.

### Method

The Carleton University Research Ethics Board – B gave ethical approval for this study (#119573). Cross-sectional data was collected via an anonymous online survey, which was [registered on OSF](#). After data cleaning, data from 1,164 participants were analysed. Participants were recruited through [Centiment](#) (59%), Reddit (19%), and a recruitment portal for undergraduate students (22%). Participants were recruited via quota sampling, such that about half identified as women (47%) versus men (44%) and half identified as heterosexual (49%) versus LGBTQ+ (51%). Participants were between 18 and 30 years old ( $M = 23$ ), lived in Canada (45%) or the USA (55%), were not twins, and had at least one biological sibling within 5 years of their age. Most participants had completed at least some post-secondary education (64%). About half (46%) of the participants' target sibling (i.e., their sibling closest in age to themselves) identified as the same gender as the participant.

The survey collected information about motivation and facilitation factors, kinship cues, and the propensity to engage in SSA. Motivation factors were assessed via a measure of sexual attraction to children versus adults, sexual regulation (*Sexual Compulsivity Scale*; [Kalichman et al., 1994](#)), and atypical sexual behaviours (*Child Sexual Behavior Inventory*; [Friedrich, 1997](#)). Fa-

cilitation factors were assessed by a measure of childhood antisociality – the *Childhood and Adolescent Taxon Scale* ([Harris et al., 1994](#)). Kinship cues were measured by asking participants about their perceived resemblance with their target sibling, the extent to which they had witnessed a biological parent taking care of their target sibling (i.e., parental perinatal association; [Lieberman et al., 2007](#)), and the extent that participants had shared a bed or bath with their target sibling, or had seen their target sibling nude (i.e., sibling-typical activities; [De Smet et al., 2014](#)). The outcome variable – the propensity for SSA – was assessed by capturing participants' disgust and moral opposition to fictional depictions of SSA, and the likelihood they thought they would encourage the SSA to continue if a similar situation occurred in real life.

We used structural equation modelling to test three models: (1) the Motivation-Facilitation-Kinship model, which included information about motivation factors, facilitation factors, kinship cues, and the propensity for SSA; (2) the Motivation-Facilitation model, which excluded information about kinship cues; and (3) the Motivation-Kinship model, which excluded information about facilitation factors. We measured how well each model fit the data, and the correlation of motivation, facilitation factors, and kinship cues with propensity.

### Results

While all three models fit the data well (i.e., all yielded acceptable fit indices), the Motivation-Facilitation model fit the data significantly better than the other two models. This suggested that SSA propensity was best explained by motivation and facilitation factors (and not evolution-informed factors).

Across all three models, motivation factors were strongly positively correlated with the propensity for SSA ( $r = .760-.777$ ), while facilitation factors ( $r = .206-.207$ ) had a small positive correlation with propensity. Contrary to evolutionary theory, kinship cues were positively (rather than negatively) correlated with propensity ( $r = .274-.275$ ).

## Discussion

Consistent with past research ([Martijn et al., 2020](#)), we found that an increase in motivation factors (e.g., worse sexual regulation) was related to an increase in the propensity for SSA, adding more evidence to the literature suggesting that motivation factors are important risk factors for SSA. Similarly, we found a small positive relationship between facilitation factors (antisociality) and propensity. Contrary to evolutionary theory, however, we found that experiencing more kinship cues was related to an increased propensity for SSA.

Despite theory and some research suggesting that kinship cues should be negatively related to SSA, some research has found that sibling-typical activities (e.g., sharing a bed) occurred more frequently between siblings who had engaged in sibling sexual contact (e.g., [Bevc & Silverman, 2000](#)). [Bevc and Silverman \(2000\)](#) suggested that sibling-typical activities removed barriers to engaging in sexual contact, thus increasing the likelihood that such contact would occur. Similarly, [Seto \(2019\)](#) has identified situational factors as a type of state facilitation factor that provide opportunities to commit a sexual offence; access to a victim is an important predictor of sexual abuse perpetration. It is possible that sibling-typical activities better fit with Seto's conceptualization of a situational factor than the conceptualization of kinship cues proposed by evolutionary theory. Future research should thus aim to disentangle the possible overlap between kinship cues and situational factors. Increased proximity with a sibling (insofar as it relates to the experience of kinship cues) may have some inhibitory effect on propensity (e.g., [Lieberman et al., 2007](#)), but other behaviours (e.g., sharing a bed) might increase one's risk for sexual contact beyond the protective effect of proximity itself, by providing an opportunity to engage in harmful sexual behaviours.

**Editors' Note: Additional reference cited can be found below.**

Friedrich, W. N. (1997). *Child Sexual Behavior Inventory: Professional Manual Psychological Assessment Resources*.

Westermarck, E. (1921). *History of human marriage*. (5th ed.). Macmillan.



CPA and APA have partnered together to offer hundreds of new professional development courses. Click [here](#) to view the course catalog.

**Criminal Justice Psychology**  
SECTION OF THE CPA

CANADIAN  
PSYCHOLOGICAL  
ASSOCIATION



SOCIÉTÉ  
CANADIENNE  
DE PSYCHOLOGIE

**Psychologie de la Justice Pénale**  
SECTION DE LA SCP



## Interrater Reliability and Alternatives to Kappa Coefficient: Part 2

Matthew Durham, B.A. & Daryl Kroner, Ph.D.  
Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, USA

**Editor's Note:** Correspondence concerning this article should be addressed to Matthew Durham ([matthew.durham@siu.edu](mailto:matthew.durham@siu.edu))

In the first part of this duology, [Sparks and Kroner \(2024\)](#) discussed the Kappa Coefficient and other alternatives that combat the limitations of  $\kappa$  when it comes to establishing interrater reliability. The primary limitation to  $\kappa$  is that it can only be used for dichotomous and nominal level data. The alternatives suggested to address that limitation are Krippendorff's Alpha, Gwet's  $AC_1$ , and Bennett, Alpert, and Goldstein's S. Krippendorff's Alpha can be used for multiple raters, nominal and metric data, and is better when working with missing data. Gwet's  $AC_1$  is typically used with dichotomous observations, however, it can be used with two or more raters and accounts for chance agreements. This is especially useful when there are large discrepancies between raters or with rare observations. Finally, Bennett, Alpert, and Goldstein's S (BAG's S) is an alternative to  $\kappa$  that does not rely on base rates. It is a calculation of the proportion of observed agreement to the number of options for a rater to choose from that is then linearly transformed into a marginally independent S ([Sparks & Kroner, 2024](#)). Despite their utility, calculating these alternatives by hand can be very difficult and time-consuming. This follow-up article will address how to take the three alternatives to  $\kappa$  and run them in the programs R and RStudio.

### What are R and RStudio?

R by itself is an open-source programming language and computing system that is capable of handling complex statistical analyses. R alone

can have a steep and intimidating learning curve if one is unfamiliar with the language or coding in general. To address this, RStudio, an integrated development environment (IDE), was developed. RStudio makes R more manageable by giving the user four distinct panels—Source, Console, Environment, and Output—each with a unique function to help organize work and execute functions. The Source panel allows the user to organize script and upload formerly saved script which can then be executed in the Console panel. The Console panel is where script is executed and though script can be typed into this panel, utilizing the Source panel is highly recommended. The Environment panel is where data is housed and where newly generated data frames and matrices are stored. The Output panel is where plots are generated and it is also where information about various packages and functions within each package are stored.

### Step 1: Install & Load Packages

When beginning a session in RStudio, it is recommended to start by installing and loading the packages that will assist in the analyses to be conducted. This will allow for any possible updates to be addressed before data starts to be input and analyzed. The panel that should be utilized for this step is the Source panel. Unlike the Console panel, the Source panel will allow the user to go back and see which packages they have previously used for that particular project and can later be saved at the end of the session.





To install and download packages the function `install.packages()`. When using this function it is important to use the double quotation marks surrounding the package name. For example, if the package **irr** is the desired package, then the script would look as follows: `install.packages("irr")`

Once the package is installed, it will need to be loaded into the session using the `library()` function. When using this function, type the name of the package that is to be used in the session, but do not add the double quotation marks. Typing the name of the package in the parentheses is all that is required. For example: `library(irr)`

## Step 2: Load Data and Generate Data Frames

There are a couple of different ways in which the user can upload data into the session by using a package such as **haven** or **readxl** which allow the user to upload data formatted for other software such as SPSS, Stata, or Excel. Another way to load data into the session is by using the Environment panel. In the upper lefthand corner of the Environment panel is a manila folder with a green arrow pointing to the right. By clicking that icon the user can go through the files on their device and manually select the data they wish to load into the current R session. There are pros and cons to both approaches, however, using packages may be the more useful route, especially if the data are being imported from another program.

Once the datasets are loaded into the session, it is important to identify the variables that will be used for the  $\kappa$  alternative. A data frame is a frame of reference for a particular subset of data within a larger group of data. Data frames are a way of setting up data so that only the desired variables are being accounted for in a function. To create a data frame, there are a few different functions that can be used such as `df()`, `as.data.frame()`, and `data.frame()`. The columns intended to be analyzed for that data frame are in the parentheses. This can be done by selecting columns from an existing data frame

or generating data within the function itself. In Table 2 there is an example of the `as.data.frame()` function that is utilized to properly use the sample data. There are ways of generating data frames that do not utilize these functions, however, this ensures that the data will be recognized as a data frame and not a table or a matrix, which would not be recognized as appropriate for some functions.

## Step 3: Select Kappa Coefficient Alternative

To analyze Krippendorff's Alpha, the package **irr** will be utilized. To analyze the data, the function `kripp.alpha()` will be used. Within the parentheses there are two arguments that are necessary to operate: `x` and `method`. The `x` argument dictates the data frame from which the `kripp.alpha()` function will be operating on. The `method` argument helps the function to recognize the data type that is being analyzed. Within the double quotation marks, nominal, ordinal, interval, or ratio should be placed so that the function can accurately assess the data. If this function is not utilized, then the function assumes nominal data. To test this, we ran the example script in Table 1 using all four levels in the `method` argument and all four levels yield different results.

When writing lines of code that will produce results, it is beneficial to label these results so that they will be easier to recall later. Labeling allows the user to easily type in a key word rather than rewrite the code or dig through the source panel trying to find the specific line. This is useful for especially large projects that contain numerous lines of code.

**Sample Line:** `EX_Output <- kripp.alpha(example, method = c("ordinal"))`

Following the sample line of code above will not immediately produce a visible output in the Console panel. Use the function `print()` to view the results of the analysis. When using this function for Krippendorff's Alpha, the user will see three outputs in the Console panel: the number of subjects, the number of raters, and the calculated

alpha. This output can help the user identify that the number of participants and researchers is correct.

**Sample Line:** `print(EX_Output)`

### Step 3B: Gwet's AC<sub>1</sub>

For Gwet's AC<sub>1</sub>, the package **irrCAC** should be installed. There are two functions that can be used depending on how the data is setup. There is a function for the raw ratings of 3 or more raters, `gwet.ac1.raw()`, and a function for a dataset that is the distribution of raters by subject and category, `gwet.ac1.dist()`. In Tables 2 & 3, both examples will be provided. Both functions considerably overlap in terms of the arguments that are entered. They both utilize the arguments `ratings`, `weights`, `conflev`, and `N`. The single difference between the two is the argument `categ.labels` for `gwet.ac1.raw()` and `categ` for `gwet.ac1.dist()`. These two arguments are identical in their use, as they only differ in name. For both of these functions, the primary argument that is needed is the `ratings` argument, which is the data frame under which the function will operate. The `weights` argument is an optional argument that will define the type of string being used: quadratic, ordinal, linear, radical, ratio, circular, or bipolar. If this argument is not utilized, then R will run the function as "unweighted." The `categ` and `categ.labels` arguments are used when defining the categories. This helps sparse out unused categories from the dataset. Finally, the argument `N` is used to represent the population size if there is one. If not, the default is infinity. If the user is well versed in interrater reliability, these optional arguments may be especially helpful in analyzing data, however, the primary argument that is needed is `ratings`.

**Sample Line:** `Raw <- gwet.ac1.raw`  
(`Example_raw`)  
`Dist <- gwet.ac1.dist`  
(`Example_dist`)

### Step 3C: Bennett, Alpert, and Goldstein's S

### (BAG's S)

For the final alternative, there is not a package that has a designated function to run BAG's S. In order to run BAG's S, a constructed function utilizing the **irr** package can be done. This function is generated using the calculation provided in [Bennett, Alpert, and Goldstein's \(1954\)](#) original article and shown in Figure 1. The following will be a description of the process used to construct Table 3. Naming is the first step of creating a new function. The name of the function for this article will be called BAGS. Next, the `function()` function will be used to generate the `BAGS()` function.

**Sample Line:** `BAGS <- function(ratings)`  
{

In the sample line above, the `ratings` placeholder tells the function to operate using the `ratings` from a given data frame. If `ratings` are not included in the line of text, the code will not operate properly. Following the parentheses, the braces will encapsulate the next lines of code `{}`. The next step is to construct the script that will run the necessary calculations that are needed to calculate BAG's S. The calculations will include `k`, observed agreement, and expected agreement. To find the value of `k`, the following line of code will be used:

```
k <- length(unique(as.vector
(ratings)))
```

The next step is to calculate the values for observed and expected agreement. To find agreement the `agree()` function is utilized. The agreement of the ratings can then be used to generate the observed agreement.

**Sample Line:** `agree <- agree(ratings)`

To generate the observed agreement, only the value generated from the `agree()` function is necessary. To pull the values specifically, the `$` is used. This can be done simultaneously while naming the observed agreement.

**Sample Line:** `P_o <- agree$value`

The next step is to calculate the expected agreement which is just 1 divided by k.

**Sample Line:** `P_e <- 1/k`

From there, the next step of the process is to produce the formula that will use all of the values to calculate BAG's S.

**Sample Line:** `S <- ((k - 1) * (P_o - P_e)) / (k - P_e)`

The final step of the process is to retrieve the value produced by the code. To obtain the value, use the function `return()`. To close the function, place the righthand curly parentheses `}`. Now that the script is written, the user should be able to apply the function to their data frame and obtain BAG's S. The written script is provided in Table 4, and should be easier to follow line for line.

**Sample Line:** `return(S)`  
`}`

## Conclusion

The Kappa coefficient by itself can be very limited in its utility, however, there are numerous alternatives that can account for some of the shortcomings of  $\kappa$ . Some of the alternatives to  $\kappa$  are Krippendorff's Alpha, Gwet's AC<sub>1</sub>, and Bennett, Alpert, and Goldstein's S. Each of these alternatives offer various advantages compared to  $\kappa$  that can be difficult to calculate by hand. Using R and RStudio are effective ways of calculating these alternatives, each with their own unique packages or constructed functions. These calculations can be used to help researchers better identify and establish interrater reliability and not be restricted by the typical limitations of  $\kappa$ .

## Figure 1.

*Bennett, Alpert, and Goldstein's S Equation*

$$S = \frac{(k - 1) \times (P_o - P_e)}{k - P_e}$$

*Note.* k = number of categories. P<sub>o</sub> = observed agreement. P<sub>e</sub> = expected agreement. This formula was translated from Bennett, Alpert, and Goldstein's original work, this is not how the formula is transcribed in the original article.

**Table 1.**  
*Krippendorff's Alpha Example Script.*

```

Install.packages("irr")      ##install package
library(irr)                 ## load package into session
data(anxiety)                ## EXAMPLE data set
Anxiety <- t(anxiety)         ## Transpose data using t() to be read correctly if not data is interpreted as
AX_Output <- kripp.alpha(Anxiety, method = c("ordinal")) ##Name & Generate Results
print(AX_Output)             ## View Results

```

**Table 2.**  
*Gwet's AC<sub>1</sub> (Raw) Example Script*

```

install.packages("irrCAC")    ##Install Package
library(irrCAC)               ##load package into session
data(cac.raw4raters)          ##Example Raw Data Set
Raw <- gwet.ac1.raw(cac.raw4raters) ## Name & Generate Results
print(Raw)                    ##View Results

```

**Table 3.**  
*Gwet's AC<sub>1</sub> (Distribution) Example Script*

```

install.packages("irrCAC")    ##Install Package
library(irrCAC)               ##load package into session
data(cac.dist4cat)            ##Example Distribution Data Set
Trial1 <- as.data.frame(cac.dist4cat[, c("a", "b", "c")]) ##Trim data set the "Group" Column is not necessary
T1 <- gwet.ac1.dist(Trial1)    ## Name & Generate Results
print(T1)                     ## View Results

```

**Table 4.**  
*Bennett, Alpert, & Goldstein's S (BAG's S) Example Script*

```

install.packages("irr")
library(irr)

##No existing function to calculate BAGs S

BAGS <- function(ratings) {
  k <- length(unique(as.vector(ratings))) ## Number of categories
  agree <- agree(ratings)                ##Compute agreement
  P_o <- agree$value                       ## Observed agreement
  P_e <- 1 / k                            ## Expected agreement

  S <- ((k - 1) * (P_o - P_e)) / (k - P_e) ## Compute BAG's S using the formula

  return(S)
}
Anx_s <- BAGS(anxiety)                    ##Name & Generate Results
print(Anx_s)                             ##View Results

```

*Note* The # symbol in the script is a way of keeping notes throughout the script that will not run as part of the function.





# Beyond the Screen: Examining Crime Media's Influence on Criminal Profiling Accuracy among Civilian and Military Members

Vivian L. Mullins<sup>1</sup> & Alexandra M. Zidenberg<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Department of Military Psychology and Leadership, Royal Military College of Canada, Kingston, Ontario

<sup>2</sup> School of Criminology, University of Montreal, Montreal, Canada

**Author Note:** Correspondence concerning this article should be addressed to Alexandra M. Zidenberg (alexandra.zidenberg@umontreal.ca).

## Introduction

Criminal profiling is the process of using information from a crime to ascertain the characteristics (e.g., physical characteristics, cognitive processes, social status, and behaviors; Chifflet, 2015 as cited in [Greife & Khoshnood, 2022](#)) of the perpetrator. Profilers assist police investigations by identifying the suspect(s), or helping to provide insightful direction derived from crime scene facts (Wilson & Soothill, 1996, as cited in [Greife & Khoshnood, 2022](#)).

Goldworthy (2001) suggests that logic and reasoning must be present in the construction of a profile, to avoid any decisions determined through 'common sense' (as cited in [Petherick & Brooks, 2020](#)). The three types of logic used are induction (i.e., the hypotheses about what may have occurred or be true), abduction (i.e., falsifying each possible conclusion until finding the best possible solution) and deduction (i.e., one conclusion must be correct through laws and principles; [Petherick & Brooks, 2020](#)). Moreover, Hazelwood et al., (1995) believed that there were four crucial cognitive aspects that were essential for profiling accuracy including understanding the psychology of the criminal while committing the crime, experience with investigations, the ability to think rationally

though logic and reason, and intuition, serving as a "sixth sense" in the navigation of crimes and delinquency (as cited in Bolton, 2019).

Most public understandings of profiling come from media portrayals ([Tremblay, 2023](#)). Crime media allows individuals to indulge in their curiosity of the criminal world, through fiction (e.g., *CSI: Crime Scene Investigation*, *Criminal Minds*) and nonfiction (e.g., true crime documentaries and podcasts). This type of media has gained an increased amount of attention from the public in recent years ([Brooks, 2022](#)). With the growth of crime media exposure, analytical thinking and investigative reasoning may be enhanced or, conversely, distorted by this exposure.

Crime-related media often portrays criminal-profilers as extremely accurate in their predictions ([Greife & Khoshnood, 2022](#)). While criminal profiling in crime media is inspired by real criminal investigation processes, it is highly dramatized for the impact on viewing pleasure (Herndon, 2007, as cited in [Greife & Khoshnood, 2022](#)). Donovan and Klahm (2015), discovered that, in fictional crime shows such as *Criminal Minds*, the offender profiles have an 88% accuracy, as well as never suspecting an



innocent citizen (as cited in [Greiwe & Khoshnood, 2022](#)). These depictions of criminal profiling, while entertaining for a crime show viewer, distort the reality of the practice (Dowler et al., 2006, as cited in [Greiwe & Khoshnood, 2022](#)).

Cultivation theory posits that an individual's reality of the world is shaped by the images, ideas, and values they are exposed to through television viewing ([Vicary & Zaikman, 2017](#)). A further examination of media influence is the 'CSI Effect', created in 2004 as an encompassing term for the cognitive biases generated through the consumption of crime-related media ([Christoloukas & Mitsea, 2022](#)). Crime media viewers may develop inflated perceptions of real-life forensic science, believing it to be automatically credible and valid as it is presented as such in shows, without further questioning the collection and handling processes ([Vicary & Zaikman, 2017](#)).

## Methods

Ninety-nine participants were recruited through posts on social media and through emails to the Royal Military College (RMC) community. Fifty-two of the participants were officers of the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF), with 51 of those respondents being students at RMC, and 47 participants were civilians. There were 38 males, 52 females and 2 non-binary, with an age range of 18 to 57 years old, and an ethnic majority of white respondents in the sample. If participants elected to participate, they were directed to the survey which was hosted on SurveyMonkey. Before commencing, participants were asked whether they were at least 18 years of age and if they consented to the terms of the anonymous survey.

Participants were presented with a detailed description of an anonymized case involving the sexual murder of a young woman. This case was based on a real homicide which was necessary to ensure that the details of the crime were ascertainable and accurate. Bolton's (2019) 33 item profiling questionnaire was used for the participants to indicate their assumptions of the offender based on the report, to create their 'criminal

profile' for the specific 'unsolved' case. Questions ranged from the offender's general demographics and physical characteristics to the intent, the planning and execution, their behaviour and personality traits, past and present social history and the treatment of the victim. Due to the crime being a solved case, the participants' answers were compared to the real perpetrator's descriptions. Additionally, the respondents were given a questionnaire adapted from Bolton (2019) which asked the participants to indicate on average how much time they spent watching television, reading, and more specifically crime media consumption whether it be fictional or non-fictional.

## Results

The participants had an average score of 43.5% ( $M = 13.05$ ,  $SD = 2.488$ ) on the profiling questionnaire. The total sample ANOVA revealed that there was no significance between crime-media consumption and criminal profiling accuracy,  $F(2,92) = .669$ ,  $p = .515$ . However, some questions were found to be significant, such as "Was the offender comfortable in the area?" Tukey's Least Significant Difference (LSD) post hoc tests revealed that for the question regarding whether the offender was comfortable in the area where the crime occurred, participants who self-reported consuming 'a lot' of crime-related media were more inclined to correctly perceive the offender as being comfortable compared to the participants who consumed 'a little' crime media ( $MD = .204$ ,  $p = .015$ ).

Additional ANOVAs were conducted for RMC ( $F(2,48) = .990$ ,  $p = .144$ ) and Non-RMC ( $F(2,35) = 2.657$ ,  $p = .084$ ) participants, which were not significant. Tukey's LSD post hoc test revealed that there was a significant difference between all three levels of crime media consumption and the offender's alcohol usage for the RMC group. Individuals who consumed 'a lot' of crime media compared to those who consumed 'a little' or 'none' were less inclined to correctly associate the offender with alcohol usage ( $MD = -.907$ ,  $p = .034$  and  $MD = -1.87$ ,  $p < .001$ , respectively). Lastly, the RMC students who consumed 'a little' compared to those who selected 'none' for crime-

related media consumption were less inclined to associate the offender with drinking alcohol ( $MD = -.962, p = .016$ ). A similar pattern was observed between CAF and non-CAF officers.

## Discussion and Conclusion

In summary, media exposure did not significantly influence profiling accuracy. All participants performed poorly with an average accuracy of 43.5%. Furthermore, despite military members being given training in decision-making, risk assessments and overall awareness as well as analysis skills, they still performed equally to the general civilian public. This may reflect [Janser's \(2007\)](#) observation that despite structured Military Decision Making Process training, human discernment remains vulnerable to biases, potentially affecting final decisions in similar analysis tasks. These findings also align with [Kocsis et al.'s \(2000\)](#) study, where even professional profilers achieved only 46% accuracy on a similar 30-item questionnaire—providing insufficient evidence for predictive validity.

Unlike **Bolton's (2019)** study, which found significant correlations between crime media consumption and profiling accuracy among law enforcement professionals (LEPs), this study revealed no such relationship. This discrepancy might stem from methodological differences (i.e., the absence of visual media and lack of LEPs). The study's limitations included reliance on self-reported media consumption, absence of a control group, and a relatively small sample size. Future research should explore cognitive biases in profiling, incorporate different media types (fiction vs. non-fiction), and include law enforcement professionals.

Ultimately, profiling accuracy depends on objectively determining evidence without the influence of biases. Therefore, if criminal profiling is to be considered a dependable, well founded, and valid aspect of investigations, it must withstand external influence from media induced biases and perceptions.

### **Editors' Note: Additional reference cited can be found below.**

Bolton, A. (2019). *Media Effects and Criminal Profiling: How Fiction Influences Perception and Profile Accuracy*. (Order No. 13862876). ProQuest Dissertations & Theses Global Closed Collection.

Tremblay, L. A. (2023). *Assessing the Relationship Between True Crime Documentary and Podcast Consumption, Fear of Crime, and Protective Behaviors*. (Order No. 30695120). ProQuest Dissertations & Theses Global.



# The Evolution of Offender Profiling: A Brief Review of Myths, Realities, and Future Directions

Robson M. Underwood

*Department of Psychology, St. Francis Xavier University, Antigonish, Nova Scotia*

**Editor's Note:** Correspondence concerning this article should be addressed to Robson M. Underwood (x2022ckd@stfx.ca).

Human criminal behaviour has been a research topic for the past two centuries. Early investigators such as Cesare Lombroso and Francis Galton looked at biological perspectives, while figures such as Freud and Skinner focused on psychological perspectives. Offender profiling, founded in psychology, investigates major personality and behaviour characteristics at a crime scene to apprehend the offender. Since these early theorists on criminal behaviour, there has been an increasing evolution of offender profiling, specifically with the rise of science and technology, with new fields emerging, such as geographic profiling and investigative psychology, as well as the creation of units focused on behaviour analysis and science in law enforcement. Scientific attempts to understand criminal behaviour can be rooted in the early 1800s. However, the investigation into psychological concepts of criminals is very new in retrospect, and it has many crucial flaws in its portrayal in the media and its scientific foundation in practical use. This paper will investigate the evolution of offender profiling, its roots in psychology, and how these techniques and practices are used in modern law enforcement and academia.

As violent and aggressive criminals have withstood the test of time, psychological theories created to understand these individuals have been increasingly evident over the past two centuries. Genetics and physiological makeups of these types of offenders first became of interest in the

1800s, with physicians such as Cesare Lombroso focusing on formations of the human skull and Francis Galton's eugenics movement in the late 1800s to early 1900s to create so-called 'superior humans,' whose one of many characteristics included, being good citizens ([Ramesh, 2021](#)). Austrian neurologist Sigmund Freud published *Criminals from a Sense of Guilt* in 1916. Freud theorized that humans have sexual conflict in development and suffer from an acute unconscious sense of guilt that can only be alleviated with criminal behaviour ([Fitzpatrick, 1976](#)). American Psychologist B.F. Skinner understood criminal behaviour in the context of learning and its manipulation because of reinforcement and punishment, founded on Ronald Akers' Social Learning Theory and Edward Sutherland's Differential Association Theory ([Carvalho & Ossorio, 2021](#)). Skinner theorized that humans learn criminal behaviour from those around them, which is reinforced by positive rewards. While these early theorists helped enrich literature and research that helped us understand criminal behaviour, applying this knowledge in a criminal investigation was not common until early cases arose, such as the "Mad Bomber."

George Metesky, the Mad Bomber, laid approximately 30 small bombs around New York City between 1940 and 1956, eluding police for approximately 16 years. As the New York City Police struggled to catch this criminal, Dr. James Brussel, an American psychiatrist who worked in





counterintelligence during World War II, was brought in to help with the investigation in 1956 ([Winerman, 2004](#)). Dr. Brussels studied the crime scene photos and notes from the Mad Bomber, making various assumptions, some based on common sense. In contrast, others were based on psychological concepts, such as Kretschmer's Constitutional Theory and psychoanalysis. For instance, Dr. Brussels said that paranoia peaks around the age of 35, and thus, they were able to calculate the approximate age of the bomber. As a result of this and many other assumptions that Dr. Brussels made, the profile led to Mr. Metesky's apprehension ([Winerman, 2004](#)). As a result of this successful investigation, law enforcement agencies around North America began using psychiatrists and psychologists to aid in investigations.

In 1972, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) founded the Behavioural Analysis Unit to consult on different, unusual and bizarre cases. The unit aimed to use psychological research and operational experience to understand criminal behaviour better ([FBI, 2024](#)). This unit within the FBI has greatly impacted law enforcement techniques, creating tools such as the Violent Criminal Apprehension Program (ViCAP) to link seemingly unrelated crimes and the Behavioural Threat Assessment Center to understand the risk of terrorist and targeted location attacks. The FBI defines *offender profiling* as "an investigative technique by which to identify the major, personality and behavioural characteristics of the offender based upon an analysis of the crime(s) he or she has committed" ([Douglas & Burgess, 1986](#), p. 9). An offender profile can be formed using either inductive or deductive reasoning. Inductive offender profiles are equated with psychological *syndromes*, a cluster of related symptoms that can characterize a specific individual ([Turvey, 1999](#)). As such, profiles of offenders are created using previous behaviours and characteristics displayed by similar individuals who commit the given type of crime ([Petherick, 2009](#)). Deductive offender profiles focus on the offender's general pattern of behaviour and specific offender characteristics, not compared to all similar offenders. ([Petherick, 2009](#)). While specific methods of reasoning in criminal profiling differ

through inductive and deductive reasoning processes, characteristics such as victimology, crime scenes and the organized/disorganized typology are often used.

Victimology involves looking into aspects of the victim's life, such as the timeline before the crime, the demographics of the victim and a psychological autopsy. Crime scene variables include the location of the crime, method of approach, weapons and the obvious motivation of the crime. Organized/disorganized typologies also were used in the offender profile and were mostly linked to psychological concepts. Organized classification is thought to be representative of psychopathic characteristics. That is, the offender is aware of and understands the nature and quality of their crime ([Turvey, 1999](#)). In comparison, disorganized classification mimics the psychotic offender. The offender and the crime scene are messy, and normal intellectual and social functioning deterioration is evident ([Turvey, 1999](#)). While these aspects of offender profiling are the most well-known amongst the public, many are not rooted in evidence or are not currently applied.

The application of psychological methods to offender profiling has taken two perspectives: a clinical approach in a case-by-case situation or a repeated measures approach in investigative psychology ([Fox & Farrington, 2018](#)). One problem with offender profiling in its application is that common-sense rationale appears to be practiced in law enforcement instead of scientific rationale, and it has been shown not to outperform comparison groups in predicting the mental processes of offenders ([Snook et al., 2007](#)). A meta-analysis conducted by [Fox and Farrington \(2018\)](#) of 426 publications on offender/criminal profiling found that rigorous research and evaluation of accuracy need to be more thorough to provide success in the practice. The organized/disorganized typology is similar in that there is no psychological evidence to support these theorized categories ([Pinizzotto, 1984](#)) and it is too dichotomous in its application to human behaviour ([Canter et al., 2004](#)). One factor that influences the overestimation of accuracy is the media. The criminal profiling illusion was coined by [Snook et al. \(2008\)](#) and

is defined as the positive attitudes towards criminal profiling based on little evidence. The term profiling caught on in the public with the creation of shows like *Criminal Minds* and *Silence of the Lambs*, which have been thought to influence the creation of unfounded literature in this field ([Winerman, 2004](#)). For the most part, literature and research focusing on offender profiling have not changed much since its creation over 40 years ago. It often follows these unsupported theories; however, various new approaches appear to be founded on more scientific rigour.

The critical analysis of offender profiles mostly appears concerning because there is little scientific evidence of the models and theories used, and the FBI and many other law enforcement organizations appear to consider these criticisms. Current researchers who use statistical methods in evaluating crime scenes appear to be more involved in the applied practice with law enforcement and provide a more cautious, broad-minded view of their involvement. For example, Dr. Gabrielle Salfati works with the Federal Bureau of Investigation to aid in more statistical methods of crime scene analysis. Dr. David Canter, the founder of the Center for Investigative Psychology in Liverpool, uses geographic profile methods of analysis that look at offending locations using computer software. The Royal Canadian Mounted Police and many other law enforcement agencies use geographic profiling in their behavioural science unit ([RCMP BSB, 2009](#)). Both use computerized approaches that minimize the lack of validity involved with direct investigator techniques. Overall, the current view of offender profiling focuses more on statistical and computerized approaches to offender profiling and has moved away from direct inferences that law enforcement agents traditionally may make.

Early theories in criminal behaviour, rooted in biological and psychological perspectives, laid the foundation for profiling techniques that continue to influence modern investigations. The Behavioural Analysis unit in the FBI and many other law enforcement agencies currently use and advance this field of research and are also accredited in its founding. However, many practices originating in these units are now controversial due to their lack of evidence. Despite the large amount of evidence that disproves many offender profiling techniques, these are exacerbated by the media. Geographical profiling and the expansion of investigative psychology have provided a more rigorous data-driven approach with much more specific validity. Ultimately, offender profiling continues evolving towards more empirical use and evaluates important flaws.

**Editors' Note: Additional reference cited can be found below.**

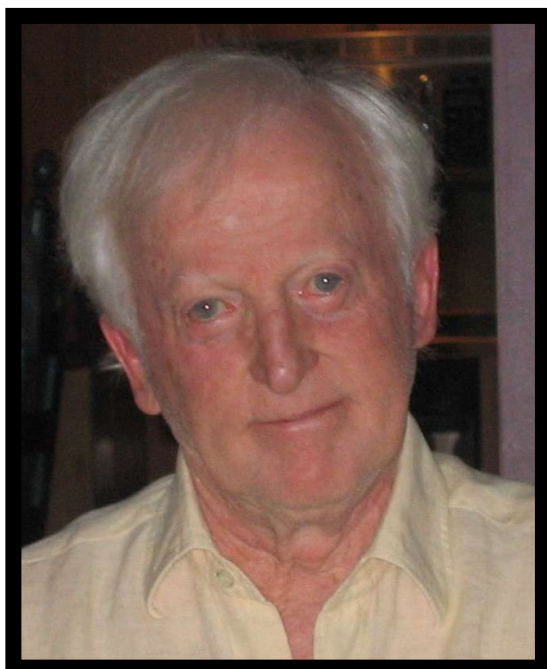
Turvey, B. E. (1999). *Criminal profiling: An introduction to behavioral evidence analysis*. Academic Press.



## IN MEMORIAM

**William L. Marshall, Ph.D., O.C., FRSC (1935-2024)**

*Submitted by R. Karl Hanson & Yolanda Fernandez*



Bill Marshall was one of the great Canadian forensic psychologists. Most sexual recidivism treatment programs throughout the world have been influenced by his work; many would not exist without him. He was an outspoken advocate for humane therapeutic approaches to persons with a history of sexual offending, advanced the scientific foundations for sexual recidivism treatment, and personally trained hundreds – if not thousands – of therapists.

Born and raised in Perth, Western Australia, he left school at age 15 and worked at various clerical jobs until, at age 26, he enrolled in the University of Western Australia as a mature student. After graduating with an undergraduate degree in psychology in 1967, he completed a Master's of Science Degree at the University of London (1969) under Stanley (Jack) Rachman who inspired Bill to follow the scientist-practitioner model. In 1969, Bill moved to Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario, where he completed his Ph.D. (1971) and taught for the rest of his life.

He received just about every available academic award and recognition. These included the Significant Achievement Award from the Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers (1993), the Santiago Grisolia Prize for Worldwide Contributions to the Reduction of Violence, Queen Sofia Centre, Valencia, Spain (1999), the First Lifetime Achievement Award from the International Association for the Treatment of Sexual Offenders (2014), and a Lifetime Fellowship in the Royal Society of Canada (2000). In 2006, the Governor General made him an Officer of the Order of Canada. And, most notably, he received the 2013 Don Andrews Career Contribution Award from our section.

I (RKH) first met Bill in the 1980s. I had just turned my professional attention to sexual victimization, and was floundering around. Bill inspired confidence and opened doors. One of the highlights of my career was working closely with Bill during a consultation at the Vatican on the problem of sexual abuse within the Catholic Church (see photo). Beyond any of his roles as professor, supervisor, or mentor, he had the personal presence of a natural leader: dynamic, curious, wickedly funny, and deeply kind. His energy was contagious. He didn't just teach but performed, challenged, provoked,



and most of all, connected. Those of us who attended his lectures remembered them years later, not just for what we learned, but how we felt.

For his graduate students (including YF), Bill was much more than a supervisor. He was an anchor. We were a family. He modeled every value he taught: curiosity, empathy, discipline, and grace. His approach to therapy wasn't something he just talked about. He lived it in the way that he treated people, especially his students.

Bill loved learning. He studied human behavior with the same intensity and joy he brought to understanding art, tending his garden, or distance running. He found delight in discovery, even when it meant letting go of a long-held belief. He couldn't quite understand why changing your mind in light of new evidence was considered controversial. He saw it as a sign of strength, not weakness. For him, knowledge was nobody's possession: it was a shared resource, a "cloud of consciousness" that we all drew from. He never stopped being fascinated by people, and he never stopped showing up for the ones he cared about. To be taught by Bill was to be seen, to be believed in, and to be reminded that learning and caring are not separate acts.

May we carry his lessons forward, both spoken and unspoken.



Bill Marshall (front, center), his partner (Jean Webber, beside him in white sweater) and colleagues on the roof of the Sistine Chapel, Vatican City, 2003.

**Criminal Justice Psychology**  
SECTION OF THE CPA

CANADIAN  
PSYCHOLOGICAL  
ASSOCIATION



SOCIÉTÉ  
CANADIENNE  
DE PSYCHOLOGIE

**Psychologie de la Justice Pénale**  
SECTION DE LA SCP





# PUBLICATIONS

## Recently Published Abstracts

**Send us the abstract of your recently published paper for inclusion in an upcoming issue!**

**Check out these recently published worked by our CJS Members!**

**Jung, S., Thomas, M. L., Robles, C. M., & Kitura, G. (2024). Criminogenic and non-criminogenic factors and their association with reintegration success for individuals under judicial orders in Canada. *International Journal of Offender Therapy and Comparative Criminology*, <https://doi.org/10.1177/0306624X241270603>**

Justice-involved individuals who reach the end of their full prison sentence no longer benefit from the supervision and rehabilitation services offered by probation or parole. Some of these individuals, who have been assessed to be a high risk for sexual and violent reoffending and

deemed to pose a significant violence risk in the community if released, are placed on a judicial order in Canada, and police are asked to supervise and manage the risk of these individuals. In the current study, the files of 45 high-risk, justice-involved individuals, who completed their sentences, were released from a Canadian prison into the province of Alberta, and supervised by police under a judicial order, were reviewed for the presence of criminogenic and non-criminogenic needs over the first year of release. The associations between these needs and proximal reintegration outcomes were examined. Our findings revealed that basic needs and responsivity issues were prevalent in the early part of supervision; however, these factors were unrelated to proximal reintegration success. In contrast, criminogenic needs were prevalent and associated with poorer reintegration. This study reinforces the role that police can play in monitoring and addressing criminogenic needs with the goal of reducing recidivism and employing the help of non-police supports to address non-criminogenic needs.

**Pham, A. T., & Jung, S. (2024). Risk constructs behind Ontario Domestic Assault Risk Assessment. *Victims & Offenders*, 19(6), 1049–1065. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15564886.2022.2117750>**

Actuarial risk assessment measures are often criticized because items are typically historical



and do not capture potential change. Latent variable models are used to link historical risk factors to risk domains that may be the target of intervention. Using exploratory factor analysis, we explored the latent factors of the Ontario Domestic Assault Risk Assessment (ODARA) and the extent to which factors predict general, any violent, and IPV recidivism by conducting area under the receiver operating characteristic curve (AUC). We found that the ODARA contains three factors, which could be best attributed as antisocial patterns, victim vulnerabilities, and index of offense-related. Antisocial Patterns significantly predicted all outcomes, whereas Victim Vulnerabilities only predicted general reoffending, and Index Offense did not reliably predict any of the recidivism outcomes. Moreover, Antisocial Patterns predicted all recidivism outcomes as well as the ODARA total. Additionally, Antisocial Patterns was able to predict any violent and general reoffending significantly better than Victim Vulnerabilities and Index Offense. Given that only Antisocial Patterns could predict IPV recidivism, our current understanding of factors unique to IPV needs further exploration to increase understanding and conceptualization of factors most strongly associated with IPV offenses, thereby improving the assessment of risk.

**Day, D. M., Wiesner, M., Walsh, M., & Augimeri, L. (2024). Criminal trajectories of SNAP (Stop Now And Plan) and non-SNAP children and predictors of trajectory group membership among SNAP children using the Early Assessment Risk Lists (EARLs). *Journal of Developmental and Life Course Criminology*, 1-22. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s40865-024-00263-4>**

The use of risk assessments for adults and youth has become widespread in criminal justice systems across North America. However, the lack of a risk assessment instrument for children has been a shortcoming in the developmental criminology literature. The Early Assessment Risk Lists (EARLs) were developed by researchers at the Child Development Institute and have become important tools for assessing the level of risk among children between the age of 6 and 11

years referred to the Stop Now And Plan (SNAP) program for children who engage in conduct problem behavior. In this longitudinal study, we examined the criminal trajectories of two groups of children, those admitted into the SNAP program between 2001 and 2009 and those referred but not admitted to the SNAP program in this same period. We also examined the use of the EARLs to predict trajectory group membership in the SNAP sample. Latent Class Growth Analysis Zero-Inflated Poisson models were estimated for criminal convictions to cluster individuals into latent classes. Results indicated that a two-class model provided the best fit to the data for both groups. In terms of predictors, higher EARL Total risk scores and Responsivity risk scores were associated with higher odds of being in the high-level offender class than in the rare offender class. The Child risk score and male youth had marginally ( $p < .08$ ) higher odds of being in the high-level offender class. The findings suggest a need to address early risk factors for children on a developmental pathway towards involvement in criminal activity, particularly for male children.

**Schwier, M., Zidenberg, A. M., & Iqbal, S. (2025). Exploring correlates of multiple perpetrator rape proclivity in women. *Violence and Victims*. <https://doi.org/10.1891/VV-2024-0122>**

Little is known about women's interest in multiple perpetrator rape (MPR), as most of the literature to date has investigated men. Thus, the aim of the current study was to explore correlates of interest in MPR in women. Loneliness, psychopathy, and anger rumination were hypothesized to be related to an interest in MPR, according to previous work. In a fixed order, participants completed a series of questionnaires on Qualtrics that included the Multiple-Perpetrator Rape Interest Scale (M-PRIS), the UCLA Loneliness Scale: Short-form, the Aggression Questionnaire, the Sexual Fantasy Questionnaire, the Anger Rumination Scale, the Measure for Assessing Subtle Rape Myths, and the Self-Report Psychopathy (SRP-III) Short Form. Descriptive analyses revealed that most of the participants ( $N = 182$ ) were university educated and married White women. A backward stepwise linear regression

indicated that psychopathy, rape myth acceptance, aggression, and deviant sexual fantasies were individually correlated with MPR interest. An in-depth analysis of the M-PRIS showed that 37% of participants had some level of sexual arousal, behavioral propensity, and/or enjoyment of hypothetical scenarios involving rape. Further work is needed to help establish risk factors for MPR interest in women and to assess which risk factors are most predictive of participating in rape.

**Thomas, M. L., & Jung, S. (2024). Differences in criminogenic risk factors and risk prediction based on sexual assault typology. *Journal of Threat Assessment and Management*, 11(4), 262–283. <https://doi.org/10.1037/tam0000218>**

Typologies have the potential to help us better understand the motivations and behaviors of individuals who commit sexual offences. Using a well-established typology by Knight and Prentky (1990) that proposes five types of individuals who commit sexual assault, we examined whether there were differences in criminogenic risk factors and whether two well-validated actuarial risk tools predicted recidivism outcomes for those categorized into four of these five types (i.e., opportunistic, pervasively angry, sexual, vindictive; sadistic was excluded due to a small sample). Consistent with our expectations, our analyses of 297 individuals investigated for sexual assault revealed significant differences among the types for four of six criminogenic needs. Also, in examining the predictive validity of the Static-99R and Static-2002R, it was found that the risk tools were not consistently accurate across the different types of individuals for each recidivism outcome. These results provide preliminary empirical support that criminal justice professionals may benefit from considering typology when working with individuals who sexually assault others.

**Wright, J., Zidenberg, A.M., Varsanyi, S., Macauley, K., Sanabria, S. (2025). *The Murky Circumstances of Consent in***

***Canada: A Commentary on R v Kirkpatrick. Canadian Journal of Women and the Law/Revue femmes et droit*, 36(1), 48-61. <https://doi.org/10.3138/cjwl-04-x>**

The Supreme Court of Canada recently ruled on *R. v Kirkpatrick*, a case that raises many complex questions regarding consent and sexual violence in Canada. Despite the complainant stating that she would only have sexual intercourse with Ross Kirkpatrick with a condom, Kirkpatrick chose not to wear one, and he was charged with sexual assault. While at trial, it was found that the complainant consented to the sexual activity, and the BC Court of Appeal subsequently disagreed with that finding. Ultimately, the Supreme Court of Canada held that, when both parties agree to use a condom, the removal of the condom by one party is not consensual and constitutes sexual assault. In this commentary, we discuss how this case highlights the murky circumstances of consent in Canada, with particular attention to the growing phenomenon of “stealthing.” We lay out the key jurisprudence leading up to *Kirkpatrick*—namely, *R. v Hutchinson* and *R. v Mabior*. Then, we outline the state of the framework on consent in Canada, and we critique the legal tests for vitiating consent through fraud. We conclude that the definition of sexual activity to which an individual consents must consider essential conditions such as condom use.

**Zidenberg, A.M. & Blades, H. (In Press). Experiences of d/Deaf Individuals in the Criminal Justice System. In S. MacDonald & D. Peacock (Eds.), *Handbook of Disability, Crime, and Justice*. Routledge.**

Advocacy groups have long been calling for increased awareness of the issues and injustices faced by d/Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and Deafblind individuals in the criminal justice system. Despite these calls and examples of injustices faced by these people, little research attention has been devoted to this area. d/Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and Deafblind individuals face unique challenges in the criminal justice system whether they are encountering the system as a perpetrator, victim, or witness. Unfortunately, the research that does





exist tends to be piecemeal and difficult for criminal justice practitioners to review and reference in their practice. Therefore, this chapter will review and synthesise the literature on the experiences of d/Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and Deafblind individuals at all levels of the criminal justice system. The chapter will also present concrete suggestions for improving criminal justice practice with this population.

**Zidenberg, A. M., Iqbal, S., & Schwier, M. (2025). Understanding Attitudes and Psychological Characteristics of Zoophilic Fantasy Endorsers. *Anthrozoös*, 1-15. <https://doi.org/10.1080/08927936.2025.2476295>**

Although there are growing bodies of literature on both zoophilia/bestiality and sexual fantasies, there is very little information available on individuals who fantasize about zoophilic behaviors. Thus, the current study explored potential differences between individuals who reported zoophilic fantasies and those who did not. Participants completed a series of questionnaires that measured constructs such as multiple perpetrator rape interest (M-PRIS), loneliness (UCLA Loneliness Scale), rape myth acceptance (SRMA-II), and psychopathy (SRP-III Short Form;). The results were then compared with participants' responses to item 13 ("sex with an animal") on the Sexual Fantasy Questionnaire (SFQ). The results indicated that 46% ( $n = 140$ ) of participants reported having at least some zoophilic fantasies. Additionally, those with zoophilic fantasies scored higher than participants without zoophilic fantasies on interest in multiple perpetrator rape, rape myth acceptance, and self-reported psychopathy. Conversely, participants without zoophilic fantasies scored marginally higher on loneliness. This study was largely preliminary and exploratory, so more work needs to be done to investigate correlates of zoophilic fantasies in order to determine potential correlated problematic attitudes and treatment targets for clinicians.

**Gray, A. L., Viljoen, J. L., Nicholls, T. L., & Douglas, K. S. (2025). Assessing change in risk and protective factors: A case study and examination of the Violence**

**Risk Scale-Youth Version, Short Term Assessment of Risk and Treatability: Adolescent Version, and a structured professional judgment approach to rating and formulating change. *Journal of Threat Assessment and Management*. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1037/tam0000247>**

We present a multiple case study analysis and an examination of methods for reassessing risk for violence across three timepoints. Using archival data, risk for violence was assessed among two adolescents charged with a violent offense using the Violence Risk Scale–Youth Version and Short-Term Assessment of Risk and Treatability: Adolescent Version, with each measure demonstrating an approach to the clinical assessment of change in risk. The stages of change method were represented by the Violence Risk Scale–Youth Version, and a newly developed structured professional judgment framework for rating and formulating change in risk (described herein as the Change in Violence Risk Protocol) was applied to the Short-Term Assessment of Risk and Treatability: Adolescent Version. Although the findings of our case study illustrate the capacity for each method/tool to detect change in dynamic factors across the follow-up periods, several meaningful differences emerged. In addition to highlighting challenges in study design and clinical application of the risk assessment measures, we discuss the implications concerning the reassessment of violence risk among adolescents and provide recommendations for future research.

**Canning, C. Szusecki, T., Hilton, N. Z., Moghimi, E., Melvin, A., Duquette, M., Wintermute, J., & Adams, N. (2025). Psychological health and safety of criminal justice workers: A scoping review of strategies and supporting research. *BMC Health & Justice*, 30(10), 1-21. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s40352-025-00320-0>**

**Background:** People working in the criminal justice system face substantial occupational stressors due to their roles involving high-risk situations, trauma exposure, heavy workloads, and responsibility for public safety. Consequently,



they have a higher prevalence of mental health problems than the general population. Employees identifying as women, Two-Spirit, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersexual, Asexual, and all others (2SLGBTQIA+), or Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC), may experience additional stressors due to discrimination, harassment, and systemic barriers to seeking and receiving support. Psychoeducational and psychosocial programs have shown mixed effectiveness for preventing or reducing occupational stress, emphasizing the urgent need for multi-level, comprehensive, system-wide approaches. This scoping review aimed to capture and consolidate recommendations from strategies, frameworks, and guidelines on supporting the psychological health of criminal justice workers. **Results:** The scoping review of 65 grey and 85 academic literature records presents recommendations aimed at improving the psychological health and safety of criminal justice system workers. Findings were mapped by occupational groups to the Social-Ecological Model and accounted for factors across the individual, interpersonal, institutional, and policy levels. The most common recommendation across all criminal justice occupational groups was workplace mental health training to reduce stigma, encourage help-seeking, prepare workers for traumatic incidents, and promote culturally responsive approaches. At the individual level, physical health, healthy lifestyle choices, and coping strategies were widely recommended. Interpersonal interventions, including peer support and models emphasizing wraparound care, were also recommended. Institutional factors such as fair workloads, safe working conditions, and harassment-free workplaces were emphasized. At the policy level, presumptive coverage policies and adequate funding for staffing needs were highlighted. **Conclusion:** This scoping review captured intersecting strategies and recommendations, consisting primarily of individual- and institutional-level supports and services. Fewer records discussed the need to address structural and policy considerations such as labor shortages, patchy mental health benefits, underfunding, and discrimination. The review highlights the need for shared responsibility across different levels,

providing a framework for improving the psychological health and safety of criminal justice workers.

**Hilton, N. Z., Pham, A. T., Nunes, K. L., Jung, S., & Ennis, L. (2025). Criminogenic needs among men who perpetrate intimate partner violence: Association with risk management recommendations and recidivism. *Journal of Forensic Psychology Research and Practice*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/24732850.2025.2483700>**

**Background:** Understanding criminogenic needs is important for risk management of intimate partner violence (IPV). **Method:** We analyzed criminogenic needs and management recommendations in 300 men charged for IPV. **Results:** Case files mentioned five criminogenic needs, from antisocial personality (50%) to family/marital problems (94%). Total needs positively correlated with risk management recommendations and substance use positively correlated with IPV recidivism. Needs did not predict recidivism above Ontario Domestic Assault Risk Assessment (ODARA) scores. Risk management recommendations did not reduce the ODARA's predictive effect. **Conclusions:** We found initial evidence for need principle adherence. Future research should improve criminogenic need measurement and examine risk management implementation. **Impact Statement:** Criminogenic needs are risk factors that are changeable through intervention. In this study, criminogenic needs were common in a high-risk sample of men who perpetrated intimate partner violence. Service providers made more recommendations for managing risk when more criminogenic needs were present; however, there was limited matching of proposed management strategies to specific criminogenic needs. Improvements to the assessment and management of criminogenic needs could help reduce intimate partner violence.

**Radatz, D. L., & Hilton, N. Z. (2025). Criminogenic and noncriminogenic needs in men and women who self-report intimate partner violence. *Criminal Justice and Behavior*, 52(4), 646-665. <https://doi.org/10.1177/00938548241307233>**



Little is known regarding the criminogenic needs of men and women who self-report intimate partner violence (IPV). We examined criminogenic and noncriminogenic needs of men and women within the general population who self-reported in three groups: perpetrating physical IPV, perpetrating non-IPV physical violence, and nonviolence perpetration. The sample included 847 men and 1437 women from the Interpersonal Conflict and Resolution (iCOR) Study. Those who self-reported IPV exhibited criminogenic and noncriminogenic needs, ranging from antisocial personality patterns (10%) to criminal associates (69%). Participants who self-reported engaging in IPV had the most criminogenic and noncriminogenic needs, had similar needs to those reporting non-IPV violence, and had consistently more needs than the nonviolence group. Overall, women reported more noncriminogenic needs than men. Community-based IPV treatment programs accepting individuals from multiple referral sources should anticipate variation in criminogenic and noncriminogenic needs among participants, especially relative to gender and referral type.

**Brankley, A. E., Lee, S. C., Hanson, R. K., & Zabarauckas, C. (2025, April, in press). History matters: Racial variation in the prevalence of sexual offence convictions. *Journal of Sexual Aggression*.**

Overrepresentation of racial minority groups in the criminal justice system is a significant social problem, but little is known about representation in sexual crime. In this study, a cohort of adult males convicted of sexual offenses in British Columbia, Canada ( $N = 4,362$ ) was compared with census data ( $N = 4,074,385$ ) for patterns of over- and underrepresentation. Demographic information, criminal history, and psychological risk factors (from Static-99R, STABLE-2007) were compared across six different racial groups (White, East Asian, South Asian, Black, Latin American, and Indigenous). Racial groups with a history of colonial oppression in North America (i.e., Black, Indigenous, Latin American) were overrepresented; White, South Asian, and East Asian groups were underrepresented. Differences in reported crime correlated with

scores on items related to the propensity for rule violation, but not sexual crime-specific factors. Considering the social-historical context associated with an evaluatee's race may improve the cultural sensitivity of risk assessments.

**Hanson, R. K., Cortoni, F., & Sandler, J. (2025, January, in press). The sexual recidivism rates of women are still low: An updated meta-analysis. *Criminal Behaviour and Mental Health*.**

**Background:** Compared to men, women are less likely to sexually offend. Previous reviews found low rates of sexual recidivism among women. The last published meta-analysis was based on studies from before 2010.

**Aims:** Conduct an updated meta-analysis of the sexual recidivism rates of women returned to the community. We expected the rates to be low, and to decline the longer they remain sexual offence free in the community.

**Methods:** Fourteen studies met selection criteria. Their publication/presentation dates ranged from 1998 to 2023. Results were presented as raw proportions as well as meta-analytic averages.

**Results:** Of the 4,208 women, 3.1% (131) were known to have sexually reoffended. The rate was 2.4% during the first five years (64/2642,  $k = 8$ ) and 1.1% between years 5 and 10 (6/535,  $k = 2$ ). There was large and significant variability across studies (prediction intervals:  $< 0.001\%$  to 11%). The rates of violent recidivism (7.8%) and general (any) recidivism (30.1%) were substantially higher than the rate of sexual recidivism.

**Conclusions:** This review confirms previous findings that the sexual recidivism rate of women is very low. Their risk is so low that it is unlikely to be reduced by sexual crime specific treatment or public protection measures (e.g., registration, notification). Instead, gender-responsive interventions should focus on the women's risk for general criminal recidivism and strive to promote successful reintegration.

## CAREERS

There are numerous opportunities posted on CPA's Career Ad site. Positions currently being offered include:

- ◇ Psychologists
- ◇ Executive Directors
- ◇ Mental Health Consultant
- ◇ And More!

For a complete listing of career opportunities, see <https://www.cpa.ca/careers/>



**Have an upcoming event you want mentioned in *Crime Scene*? Contact the Managing Editor ([clively@stfx.ca](mailto:clively@stfx.ca)) with the details to have it advertised in *Crime Scene*!**

## UPCOMING EVENTS

The WayPoint Research Institute is hosting the [Integrating Science, Practice, Innovation, Research and Experience \(InSPIRE\) 2025 Conference](#) on June 3-4, 2025.

[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 Montreal, QC on June 4-6, 2026.

N6 is scheduled to take place in Victoria, BC on June 3-5, 2027

CPA  SCP

**Montréal**  
2026

**Criminal Justice Psychology**  
SECTION OF THE CPA

CANADIAN  
PSYCHOLOGICAL  
ASSOCIATION



SOCIÉTÉ  
CANADIENNE  
DE PSYCHOLOGIE

**Psychologie de la Justice Pénale**  
SECTION DE LA SCP

# HEY STUDENTS! JOIN THE CJS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE!

**Are You the Next Student Representative for the Criminal Justice Section?  
Join the CPA-Criminal Justice Section's Executive Committee!  
Seeking Two Student Representatives for the Section Executive**

Are you a graduate student interested in becoming involved in the Section Executive the Criminal Justice Section? The Executive Committee is looking for up to two graduate student representatives, at least one of whom shall be a graduate student in their third or greater year of graduate studies.

The Student Representative position has been developed for the purpose of student development and the broader representation of all CJ Section students. The Student Representative role will be focused on increasing student engagement, as well as developing the students' skills on practical professional leadership tasks and governance roles. There is hope that the person will continue to provide leadership after graduation.

The role of the graduate students is to represent the student voice and perspective to the executive, to attend meetings of the executive as scheduled, to assist other executive members with tasks and undertakings on behalf of the executive, and to contribute to *Crime Scene* newsletter.

Anyone interested in becoming a Student Representative on the executive is invited to submit your name, university and program, and confirmation of your year of graduate study. If you cannot attend the conference but wish to be considered for the position, please submit your name to the Section Chair Dr. Jeremy Mills through the Section email account [CJSection@gmail.com](mailto:CJSection@gmail.com). In the event that there are more student applications than positions available, you may be asked to submit a brief one-page description of yourself and your reasons for wanting to be a Student Representative to be read out at the Section Business Meeting.

To participate the Section Executive and in the nomination process you must be a member of CPA and Criminal Justice Section in good standing for the current calendar year.

**Votes will be held at the Section Business Meeting in St. John's NL on  
Thursday June 12, 2025, 4:00 p.m. in Room Churchill 2**

**Criminal Justice Psychology**  
SECTION OF THE CPA

CANADIAN  
PSYCHOLOGICAL  
ASSOCIATION



SOCIÉTÉ  
CANADIENNE  
DE PSYCHOLOGIE

**Psychologie de la Justice Pénale**  
SECTION DE LA SCP



# STAY INVOLVED!

## Contribute to *Crime Scene*:

We are always looking for the latest news, events, research, or commentaries that may be of interest to our members. We accept a wide range of submissions and encourage both professionals and students to consider contributing in English and/or French.

Students, this is a great opportunity to boost your CV!

Please contact our Managing Editor, Dr. Christopher Lively (clively@stfx.ca), or our Review Editor, Dr. Hannah Stewart (hstewar5@unb.ca), if you have ideas for submission or questions.

## Do you have ideas, comments, or suggestions?

Feel free to contact any member of our Executive team—we want to hear from you!

Don't forget to check us out on our [Website](#) or on [X](#)! (the platform formally known as Twitter)

## Thank you for supporting the Criminal Justice Psychology Section!

