

**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

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Please join us for the 85th Annual National Convention of the Canadian Psychological Association, being held in our nation's beautiful capital of Ottawa on June 21—23, 2024. Haven't registered yet? Don't fret! There is still time and we hope to see you at the convention!!!



Message from the Chair

Patrick Baillie, Ph.D., LL.B.

In 2014, I was honoured to be named as the recipient of the John C. Service Member of the Year Award, for exceptional service or a significant contribution to the Canadian Psychological Association during the year. One of the privileges of the Award is the opportunity to write an article for *Canadian Psychology*. I penned a piece entitled ["Giving back' to the profession of psychology is a personal responsibility"](#). Among other suggestions of how each of us might give back, I wrote at length about clinical supervisors and their role in the formation of successive generations of psychologists. I have come up far short of distinguished service during my brief term at Section Chair – and for that I apologize. As I conclude my time in that role, though, I would like to expand on the notion of supervisors, stepping also into the realm of mentors.

I have been privileged, over the years, to have had several excellent mentors. Some started as supervisors, with the relationships then going far beyond that capacity and into something more enduring. Mentors offer direction, advice, reassurance, constructive criticism, guidance, a model, and the voice of experience. Peter Waxer, for example, was – over 35 years ago – my first practicum supervisor (and later friend), who offered the wisdom of "Never work harder than your client." In those words, he meant that, as a therapist, you can't want a particular outcome more than the client wants it. Motivational interviewing can shift things, of course, much more than the therapist's frustration can. Shane Murphy was the Chief Psychologist with the United States Olympic Committee when he gave me an hour of his time

in 1999. His advice, as one of the most prominent sports performance folks? "Make sure your clinical skills are strong; those will open many doors." The external examiner on my dissertation was Bruce Ogilvie, widely respected as the grandfather of applied sport psychology. I met Bruce in the stairwell at a conference and our conversation started a close relationship that lasted until he died in 2003. (In 2012, I was asked to write Bruce's "autobiography" (in first person) for a book highlighting the rock stars of sport psychology.) Bruce reiterated Shane's advice, setting me up for my work as a clinician with Calgary Police Service. My first legal mentor later became Chief Justice, but, right from the start, he shared, "It's really easy to make up your mind when you've heard only one side of the story." Great perspective for therapists to ponder.

On the forensic side of my career, psychologists like Tom Dalby, Lewis Dell, Barb Schmalz, and Mike Lee were early and positive influences, shaping the career I have so much enjoyed. Objectivity, formal testing, risk assessment, and how to testify were skills these experts shared with me. As with Bruce, I first met Karl Hanson at a conference and he has, more than once, been the subject of my gentle, respectful teasing. Karl and others have been so approachable, so helpful, and so patient as I have learned from their research (and tolerance).

As I have said before, there are many people in the Criminal Justice Psychology Section doing great, interesting, and influential work. They are all approachable and, I'm sure, willing to chat. For my senior colleagues, please consider taking on a mentorship role, giving back – as you have before. For those new to the criminal justice realm, please ask questions, meet people, collaborate, and find that special mentor.

As I wrap up my term as Chair, I wish to thank the members of the Section Executive who bailed me out more than once. Special appreciation goes to Nina Fusco and Christopher Lively for their significant assistance. To all, best wishes. Take care.





Join Us for CPA2024 in Ottawa Ontario

CJS Related Events of Interest

Friday, June 21, 2024

10:00 Panel Discussion: *A Culturally Responsive Approach to IPV Risk Assessment* (Angela Eke. Room: Provinces II)

10:00 Round Table Conversation Session 1: *Criminal Harassment – Conceptualization versus Conviction: A Discussion of Necessary Changes in Anti-Stalking Legislation* (Kristine Peace. Room: Confederation I-II)

11:00 Symposium: *Psychiatric Admissions and Coercive Measures* (N. Zoe Hilton. Room: Provinces II)

12:00 12-Minute Talk: *Anger as a Criminogenic Need?* (Raymond Chip Tafrate. Room: Provinces II)

12:15 12-Minute Talk: *COVID-19 and Confinement in Forensic Settings* (Ashley Lemieux. Room: Provinces II)

12:30 12-Minute Talk: *Not Criminally Responsible Homicides* (Marichelle Leclair. Room: Provinces II)

12:45 12-Minute Talk: *Reintegration, Masculinity, and the GLM* (Alia Stevenson. Room: Provinces II)

14:00 Workshop: *How to Understand a Meta-Analysis* (Maaïke Helmus. Room: Provinces II)

15:30 12-Minute Talk: *Examination of Sex Trafficking Witness Testimonies in Canadian Courts* (Krupali Patel. Room: Provinces II)

15:45 12-Minute Talk: *Race-Based Jury Instructions* (Evelyn Maeder. Room: Provinces II)

15:30 12-Minute Talk: *Examination of Sex Trafficking Witness Testimonies in Canadian Courts* (Krupali Patel. Room: Provinces II)

17:00 CJS Section Annual Meeting: All CJS Members welcome to attend; will include presentation Section Awards (Room: Newfoundland)

Saturday, June 22, 2024

9:00 Symposium: *SSPI-2 Validation* (Kelly M. Babchishin. Room: Governor General Ballroom II)

10:00 Snapshot Sessions: (See CPA Program. Room: Newfoundland)

10:00 Panel Discussion: *Aggressive Thoughts* (Kevin Nunes. Room: Alberta)

11:00 Symposium: *IPV and Police Response* (Mary Ann Campbell. Room: Alberta)

14:00 Panel Discussion: *CBT Training Programs for Probation Officers* (Raymond Chip Tafrate. Room: Les Saisons)

14:00 12-Minute Talk: *Inferences from Different Research Designs* (Kevin Nunes. Room: Alberta)

14:15 12-Minute Talk: *Sexual Harassment of Teen Girls* (Alisha Salerno-Ferraro. Room: Alberta)

15:15 Poster Session (See CPA Program. Room: Confederation III)

Sunday, June 23, 2024

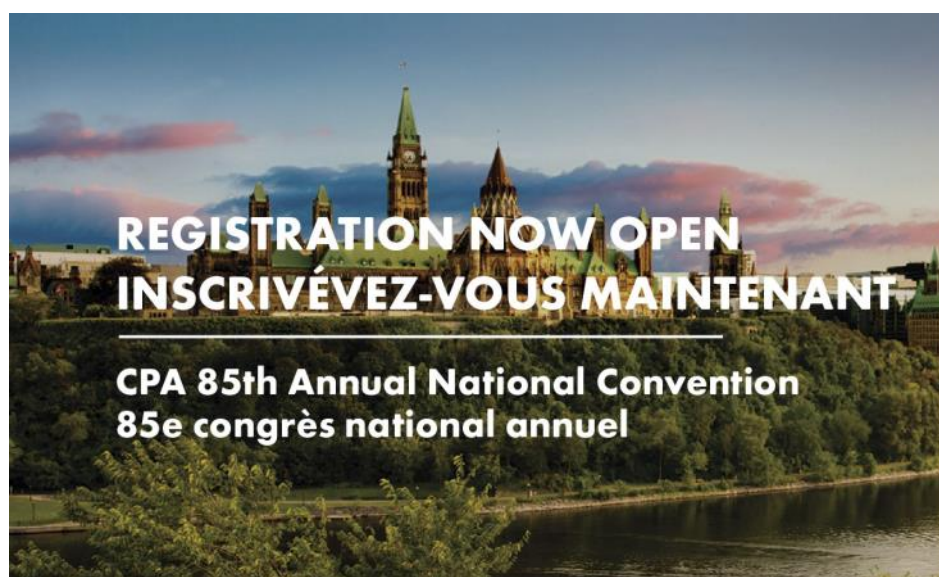
9:00 Symposium: *Case-control studies for Sexual Offending* (K. Karl Hanson. Room: Les Saisons)

11:00 Symposium: *Criminal Attitudes and Associates* (Jeremy Mills. Room: Les Saisons)

12:00 Symposium: *National Trajectory Project—Community (NTP-C)* (Anne Crocker. Room: Les Saisons)

14:15 12-Minute Talk: *Measuring Motivational Interviewing Practices in Probation* (Damon Mitchell. Room: Les Saisons)

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SEE YOU
THERE!**



CPA SCP
OTTAWA
2024

June 21 - 23, 2024
21 - 23 juin, 2024

Criminal Justice Psychology
SECTION OF THE CPA



Psychologie de la Justice Pénale
SECTION DE LA SCP

IN MEMORIAM:

DR. RALPH SERIN

1953—2023

Bronwen Perley-Robertson¹, Shelley L. Brown¹, Caleb D. Lloyd², Natasha S. Maltais¹, Danielle J. Rieger¹, Sonya A. McLaren¹, Mackenzie D. Dunham³, Nick J. Wilson⁴, Devon L. L. Polaschek⁵, Kirk Luther¹, & Madison McAskill⁶

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It is with immense sadness that we acknowledge the passing of Dr. Ralph Serin, our cherished mentor, colleague, and friend, who left us in November 2023 after a private but determined battle with cancer. Ralph's lengthy and distinguished career in corrections and academia saw him in different roles and often at the helm of important research projects. At the core of all his work, however, was his unwavering dedication to his students, colleagues, peers, and the correctional populations he served.

Ralph's journey in the field began in the 1970s as a classification officer at the Kingston Penitentiary, a former maximum-security prison in Ontario. It was there that Ralph's commitment to understanding criminal behaviour and fostering community reintegration took root. In 1975, Ralph began his decades-long career with the Correctional Service of Canada, serving as a parole officer, psychologist, and, most recently, as Director of Operations and Programs Research. Ralph transitioned to a career in academia in 2003 when he joined Carleton University's Psychology Department. With this shift, Ralph remained steadfast in his commitment to rehabilitation and bringing evidence to policy. He continued his work as a psychologist for Brockville Jail throughout his tenure at Carleton and provided consulting services to correctional and parole agencies worldwide, including in Canada, the United States, the United Kingdom, New Zealand, Hong Kong, and Bermuda.

Ralph applied this same dedication to practice as he did to teaching. He was revered in the classroom for his wealth of knowledge, real-world experience, and charisma, inspiring countless students to pursue advanced studies in forensic psychology. As the Director of the Criminal Justice Decision Making Laboratory, Ralph was also known for his rigorous academic standards and passionate mentorship. He supervised more than 80 undergraduate and graduate students, many of whom became his life-long collaborators and friends. In addition to these achievements, Ralph made immense academic contributions to the university, securing millions of dollars in funding, presenting his research at more than 200 conferences worldwide, and publishing more than 160 articles, reports, book chapters, and textbooks.

The decision making and risk assessment models that Ralph built during his time at Carleton University have been adopted by correctional and parole agencies in Canada and abroad, reaching the United States, Singapore, France, Australia, and New Zealand. This groundbreaking work recently earned Ralph a lifetime achievement award from the Association of Paroling Authorities International (APAI) and the National Institute of Corrections, as well as the Renee Collette International Excellence Award from APAI. Below, we highlight Ralph's key innovations and some of his more recent endeavours to enhance correctional practice.

Structured Parole Decision Making Framework (SDMF; Serin, 2004)

Parole decision makers must consider a multitude of factors when evaluating release suitability. While recidivism risk is crucial, legislation and policy stipulate that other factors, such as psychological functioning, institutional adjustment, rehabilitation progress, release plans, and victim impact statements, must also be considered. Despite this, many policy documents lack clear guidance on how to weigh the required information. To address this gap, Ralph developed the SDMF, a structured professional judgment model for parole decision making. The SDMF has transformed parole board operations by integrating policy requirements with empirical research, focusing attention on factors linked to successful community reintegration. In doing so, the SDMF mitigates the influence of extraneous information and cognitive biases on parole decisions. Adopted into Canada's federal policy in 2011 and implemented across 12 U.S. states, the SDMF serves as the benchmark for evidence-based parole decision making.

Community Supervision Decision Making Framework (CSDF; Serin et al., 2021)

In Ontario, probation and parole officers (PPOs) are tasked with complex dual roles to enhance public safety. Not only must PPOs hold justice-impacted people accountable, but they must also actively engage in rehabilitative change work. However, risk assessments and policy cannot always assist PPOs in real-time decision making. For example, if a moderate risk case has failed to report twice, should the officer automatically issue an arrest warrant, or should some other mechanism be adopted? How (and when) should the ultimate decision vary as a function of trauma, diversity, and inclusivity principles? To fill this gap, Ralph and a team of experts modified the SDMF to be used by PPOs in Ontario. The revised measure—the CSDF—was recently explored in a proof-of-concept exercise.

Dynamic Risk Assessment for Offender Re-entry (DRAOR; Serin, 2007)

In the early 2000s, “re-entry” had become a buzzword that described the unsustainable numbers of people exiting over-crowded prisons with a high probability of returning within a short time of release. Program models to address this problem were in abundance, but all were largely inattentive to individual needs and largely insufficient to support success. Simultaneously, research on popular risk tools measuring stable dynamic risk factors promisingly showed that change in risk factors could predict reductions in recidivism, yet effect sizes were disappointingly small. Showing further promise, researchers focusing on people with sexual convictions and people with psychiatric diagnoses were developing new clarity toward defining and identifying acute dynamic risk factors related to imminent violence. In a fourth emerging development, criminologists began re-imagining the process of change toward desistance from crime by using internal, psychological constructs, invigorating focus on structured assessment of individual strength factors.

Within these contexts, Ralph envisioned a more structured, responsive, and solution-focused approach to case management within community corrections. His reviews of significant parole failures for the Canadian Parole Board also made Ralph aware that dynamic risk factors were not being adequately attended to for those on parole. The field seemed ready to embrace a framework where practitioners would regularly re-evaluate each individual's rehabilitation targets, re-entry challenges, and prosocial drivers of crime desistance to guide person-centered intervention and management. Ralph's case management framework, DRAOR, is three perspectives in one structure. DRAOR includes stable dynamic risk factors, acute dynamic risk factors, and dynamic strength factors, all within a manualized assessment designed for non-clinical staff to quickly re-score items through a typical supervision session with an individual with any type of criminal history.

In 2008, New Zealand Department of Corrections piloted DRAOR in collaboration with Ralph. It was then implemented rapidly into routine pa-

role practice in 2010 after several high-profile cases of poor parole management led to a loss of faith in the probation services' ability to manage and address risk, signalling the need for a new approach. In 2010, Iowa Department of Corrections piloted DRAOR and implemented it widely in 2011. Currently, DRAOR has been implemented in seven jurisdictions within five countries. To date, there have been 18 dissertations, 19 peer-reviewed journal articles, and over 30 conference presentations focused on evaluating DRAOR. This body of work has demonstrated DRAOR's utility to guide case managers' assessment of risk factors that predict various types of criminal recidivism among various client groups, with consistent findings across studies both with and without Ralph's direct involvement.

Structured Dynamic Assessment Case-Management 21-Item (SDAC-21; Serin & Wilson, 2012)

In 2012, recognition of the need for a similar instrument for institution-based case management led colleagues in New Zealand to adapt the DRAOR for case managers within prisons, creating the SDAC-21. The decision to develop and implement the SDAC-21 was directly linked to the success in improved practice in New Zealand Corrections from the introduction of DRAOR and the faith it gave to Corrections about staff ability to apply dynamic measures. Using a similar structure to DRAOR, SDAC-21 retains stable dynamic risk factors as rehabilitation targets, replaces acute dynamic risk factors with responsiveness and program readiness considerations, and reframes some strength factors as competencies for successful future re-entry. In 2015, Iowa Department of Corrections piloted and then fully implemented SDAC-21 into their institutions, with research showing associations between SDAC-21 scores and misconducts. Recent research using the SDAC-21 in New Zealand found 80% of people in prison were assessed using SDAC-21 over the last 10 years and that the measure had a good level of convergent validity with static risk scores and was able to differentiate needs across age and gender groups.

Client Change Scale (CCS; Serin & Lloyd, 2018)

While evidence-based correctional programs are known to reduce recidivism overall, the field lacks clear guidance for identifying who has individually benefitted. Current tools for measuring programming change are either limited in scope—focusing on specific populations and deficits—or offer minimal predictive value for crime desistance. To address this gap, Ralph and his colleague developed the CCS, a comprehensive measure of change that considers strengths alongside dynamic risk factors. The CCS was designed for use in diverse programming contexts, including formal institutional- and community-based programs, as well as routine community supervision. By facilitating the comprehensive assessment and documentation of change, the CCS is designed to inform programming strategies and post-program decisions. Examining individual differences in CCS assessments may also help to explain variability among program completers in terms of recidivism. Recent archival studies have demonstrated the reliability and predictive validity of the CCS in multiple community settings, and a pilot study with parole officers in Canada is underway to assess the scale's practical utility.

Sentinel Event Assessment Protocol (SEAP; Serin, 2020)

In discussions with his colleagues in U.S. federal corrections, Ralph became aware of the challenges supervision officers face when assessing the risk of serious and sudden recidivism. To aid officers in predicting these critical events, Ralph developed the SEAP, a comprehensive case management tool for community supervision. The SEAP integrates risk factors across all rates of change to not only identify those most likely to reoffend, but also to determine when recidivism is likely imminent. The organization of items into meaningful domains is further intended to guide intervention strategies aimed at preventing imminent recidivism. Preliminary research conducted with five archival samples in North America shows the potential utility of the SEAP in facilitating these tasks.

Ralph's Legacy

Reflecting on Ralph's legacy, we are reminded of the indelible mark he left on the field as a professional, an academic, and particularly as a person. His brilliance, dedication, and passion for bringing evidence to practice were remarkable; yet, what truly set Ralph apart were his generosity, kindness, and unmistakable wit.

Ralph was a gracious mentor not only to his students, but also to junior faculty in the department. He was incredibly generous with his time—always available for a call, ready to offer advice, encouragement, or simply a listening ear. Perhaps one of Ralph's greatest gifts as a supervisor was his ability to see potential in others and provide opportunities for growth. He graciously assisted his students in building connections with his many established colleagues, emphasizing that success is "all about people and timing." Beyond merely supporting his students' decisions to work during their studies, Ralph eagerly helped them secure positions that would shape their careers. The Correctional Service of Canada's Research Branch was a testament to this; at one point, it seemed to be made up almost entirely of Ralph's students, both past and present.

Another trait that endeared Ralph to those who knew him was his humility. In the face of his students' successes, he would often remark, "I simply accept fantastic students and then get out of their way." Yet, we knew he did so much more than this. We owe Ralph a debt of gratitude for his unwavering support, insightful guidance, and his belief in our potential.

Ralph's trademark emails with the subject line, "Quick call?" sometimes led to hour-long conversations where he updated us on his latest musings and myriad projects, leaving us in awe of his boundless energy. We'll miss these emails, along with his spontaneous phone calls, often made during his commutes to Brockville Jail – or perhaps more famously, on errands like visiting the Apple store. Above all, though, it's Ralph's wry humour that we will miss the most. In even

the most challenging moments of research, Ralph could effortlessly bring a smile to our faces and help us see the proverbial light at the end of the tunnel.

Ralph, your absence is felt deeply, but we feel privileged to have been part of your remarkable journey. In your memory, we will carry forward your vision for promoting compassionate and evidence-based policy, and work towards it at every opportunity we can.



CRIMINAL JUSTICE SECTION MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



Dr. Jim Cheston

Hannah Stewart, PhD, RPsych

The *Crime Scene* Team is pleased to revive our column 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 and highlight the “who’s who” among us while offering an opportunity for our readership 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. Jim Cheston, who graciously offered his time for an interview for this *Crime Scene* column. Although Dr. Cheston reported that he had retired from his role as a correctional forensic psychologist 4 years ago, it was abundantly clear that Dr. Cheston remains an active, vivacious, and passionate member of the criminal justice psychology community.



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

Dr. Cheston: I grew up in Vancouver and first completed a Bachelor's degree in Commerce & Economics at Simon Fraser University. During my third year of that degree I realized courses like psychology and sociology were of greater interest to me, but I decided to just finish the degree. After working an entry position at a forestry company in downtown Vancouver I quit and started a cross-country bicycle trip across Canada. On the east coast I decided to complete additional education and did two years of upgrading in psychology at St. Mary's University in Halifax before being accepted into a Masters/Ph.D. program in Applied Social Psychology at the University of Windsor. Approaching the end of that program and with only my doctoral dissertation to complete I was awarded a Northern Ontario Bursary, for which I received a bursary for committing to work in the north for two years. When looking for work in Ste. Marie after completing my dissertation, the only provincial government position for a psychologist was at the Northern Treatment Centre, NTC (now the Algoma Remand and Treatment Centre, ARTC). NTC was a combined federal and provincial institution with half CSC inmates and half Ontario provincial inmates – interesting place to start learning about forensic psychology! In the late 1990's CSC withdrew from the arrangement, the S.S.M. jail was closed and NTC became the ARTC.

When I found myself starting a career in correctional forensic psychology in 1991 I did not know about forensic psychology. Most of the people in the area had similarly followed other academic graduate routes and ended up in forensic. The academic training and professional preparation has developed immensely since I entered the field.

Over the course of his enriched career, Dr. Cheston progressed his work in correctional forensic psychology in capacities including Chief Psychologist with the Office of the Correctional Investigator (OCI), member of the Ontario Provincial Psychology Advisory Committee, work with the Correctional Minister/Solicitor General in collaboration with pillar psychologists to apply research into operational practice and evaluate programs in correctional institutions, and working with law enforcement personnel to address issues of trauma. In these roles, he fought to foster paradigm shifts in moving issues from a perspective of criminality toward issues of socialization and environment – that is, shifting attention from issues of control toward issues of developing social consciousness. Dr. Cheston also made substantial contributions to CPA's Criminal Justice Section, including his numerous years in his roles as an Executive and Director-at-Large. Since his retirement 4 years ago, Dr. Cheston has been appointed as a member of the Ontario Review Board, the adjudicative body which holds jurisdiction over individuals who have been found by a court to be either unfit to stand trial or not criminally responsible by reason of mental disorder. Dr. Cheston also is a member of the Ontario Psychologist College assisting with psychologists' oral examinations for registrations, harkening a new generation of correctional forensic psychologists.

Hannah: You have endeavoured to help clients in forensic and correctional populations make positive changes throughout your professional pursuits. What has driven your passion to work with this group for the last 3 decades?

Dr. Cheston: In retrospect I am honestly grateful that my life path brought me to work as a psychologist within the criminal justice field. The complexity of the work is hugely motivating and inspiring. There is so much more than an individual client before a forensic mental health

professional working in criminal justice. The basic question of “who is the client?” requires primary consideration of the offender within the context of community safety represented by the risk/welfare/improvement of the offender, while also keeping in mind the safety of criminal justice staff members, other offenders, colleagues and oneself. As difficult the therapeutic need of the individual offender client before me, the task was always whether and to what extent it might be possible to improve that individual’s life experience to a point of increasing the likelihood of that person leading a better, prosocial life that would thereby lessen risk to the community. Of course, within the range of people in the criminal justice system there are those who are relatively well functioning and can easily lead a future prosocial life, and there are those few who are best kept within custody and not returned to the community.

While reflecting on the winding road of his professional journey, Dr. Cheston remarked on just how far the field of criminal justice psychology has progressed over the course of his career. Whereas psychologists had little formal training in clinical or forensic psychology when he first entered the field, Dr. Cheston has witnessed the growth of our discipline in the development and integration of principles of Risk-Need-Responsivity and clinical psychology in practice and research undertaken with justice-involved clientele. Additionally, he commented upon huge progressions being made via the integration of neuropsychology into the theory and practice of correctional forensic psychology toward understanding how and why therapeutic approaches can be effective in work with justice-involved populations. Dr. Cheston described that these advancements help “move away from thinking that there’s something ‘wrong’ with the person, and reformulating that in a way of understanding that these are neural networks operating in a particular way because of past experiences and genetic vulnerabilities all coming together.” He reflected upon how the merging of these perspectives have enabled

effective work with a group of clients who often are both risky and vulnerable, who often view the world in very different ways than many members of society. This requires criminal justice professionals to strive for understanding where justice involved clients are coming from, if hoping to be effective in fostering real prosocial change. Dr. Cheston commented upon how issues in criminal justice and corrections psychology, in particular, are comprised of so many moving, dynamic, challenging features and issues that emerge and interact in parallel. He emphasized the importance of recognizing and integrating approaches that concurrently consider multi-level issues and systemic structures in order to work effectively in this field – even more so than is evident in other areas of psychology.

Hannah: What has helped you persist working in this challenging field? Do you have any advice for psychologists and other professionals working in Criminal Justice fields for fostering a long, successful, healthy career?

Dr. Cheston: The challenge is a big part of what has kept me working in this field. The challenge is represented by levels of obstacles to being able to connect therapeutically with offenders within an organizational and social environment that is characterized by control, oppression and criminal values. To those challenges are added the questionable likelihood of therapeutic gains being maintained within the criminal subculture of prisons, and then in the social network of the person when discharged to the community with limited prosocial supports, frequent criminal associates and serious substance use issues. Related to that is the potential for accomplishing meaningful change for individuals which manifests in a safer and more enjoyable life experience of community members not having to face the consequences of criminal acts.

In interviewing Dr. Cheston, he exuded vehemence for issues embedded in the field of criminal justice and correctional psychology. In addition to the challenges inherent to working with complex justice-involved clients, he

reflected on the personal challenge of working with criminal justice populations and the impact that it has on ourselves as both professionals and people. This includes dealing with the real potential for second hand trauma as correctional forensic psychologists are “exposed to some horrendous and unspeakable things... and in this field, a person need to be capable of dealing with that... there are times when the impact of the work that we do draws out big emotional/physiological/behavioural reactions... we need to draw these boundaries for ourselves, but some days the emotional impact of them can hit harder, and it helps me appreciate the challenge of what this job involves and the demands it makes from the psychologists doing this work.” Dr. Cheston advised of the importance of setting boundaries, self-advocacy, and self-reflection to ensure our own needs are met and reactions are processed in order to be effective in the challenging, stimulating work that we do.

Hannah: Not only are you a correctional forensic psychologist, but you also are an active member in several other professional organizations. Can you tell us a bit about the work involved in the other roles you maintain?

Dr. Cheston: I have enjoyed contributing to the profession over the years through involvement with the Criminal Justice Psychology Section of CPA, first as an executive member and then as Chair of the section from 2015 to 2019. I was also a member of the Steering Committee for the North American Correctional & Criminal Justice Psychology Conferences 3, 4 and 5. These activities have been tremendously rewarding and have brought me into regular contact with interesting and accomplished colleagues across the Canada as well as in other countries. Being a part of organizing the NACCJP Conferences was extremely satisfying as the work we did resulted in amazing international conferences very four years.

Dr. Cheston believes that there is “lots of room” for psychologists to be effective and contribute to developments in the field of criminal justice and

correctional psychology across numerous platforms. Forensic psychology is multifaceted in that it focuses on the nuance of issues toward perspectives that seek to understand just how deep issues go, in order to foster both personal change and public safety. This opens opportunities for correctional forensic psychologists to offer their expertise to inform developments in political, legislative, and institutional approaches and practices via working groups and public outreach endeavours. Additionally, opportunity for correctional forensic psychologists to address psychosocial and personality features among justice-involved populations in the “uphill battle” of helping people make change amidst a system fraught with barriers to service and a dearth of support resources. He reflected that “the system is not set up for facilitating change, BUT there is so much resiliency and sometimes change can happen against all odds with the right therapeutic support and engagement.” Dr. Cheston opined that progressing approaches to foster better connections with clients, including changes to the correctional environment and relationships built within these environments, are key components in criminal justice intervention and future directions being undertaken in this field.

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. Cheston: Criminal Justice Psychology is a fascinating field with a number of ways to forge a fulfilling career. A critical component for me has always been the significant social service element that is integral to working in the criminal justice field; working with offenders has consequences that are directly related to enhancing community safety. I see Canada as a world leader in criminal justice psychology and

this is an exciting time of the field developing further and collaborating with forensic psychologists worldwide. It is very challenging, though developing and providing increasingly effective means to assess and treat people who have been involved in criminal actions to change in positive ways and thereby make communities more safe, is an exceptionally meaningful line of work.

Reflecting on his work in the field of criminal justice psychology, Dr. Cheston reflected that “clinical forensic psychologists, it has to be part of their makeup. Both in that they thrive on a challenge, and also operate with that compartmentalization of not letting it infiltrate into other areas, because we are working with tremendously emotional material.” According to Dr. Cheston, elements of self-care become crucial to our work in this field, as well as recognition of the importance of working with colleagues who similarly demonstrate these values and dedication to resiliency amongst the challenging, complex field of criminal justice.

If you would like to recommend one of our members to be featured in an upcoming Membership Spotlight, please contact the Crime Scene Editors Christopher Lively (clively@stfx.ca) or Hannah Stewart (hannah.stewart@unb.ca).

2024 CJS SECTION AWARD RECIPIENTS



The CJS Section is pleased to announce that two of our Section Members will receive special honours at the Section's Annual Meeting in Ottawa. Dr. Daryl Kroner will be recognized as the recipient of the Don Andrews Career Contribution Award, and Dr. Margo C. Watt will be recognized as the recipient of the Significant Contribution Award. Please join us at the meeting to celebrate Dr. Kroner's and Dr. Watt's well-deserved accolades. Congratulations to both!!!

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STUDENT OPINION



The Cameron Herrin Case: Why the Public Should Not Influence Rulings in Criminal Trials

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Abstract

Sometimes, there are court rulings that cause public outcry – a notable case of this being the Greyhound Bus murder case in 2008, where a man with schizophrenia was given an NCRMD (not criminally responsible by reason of mental disorder) verdict for killing his victim (Pauls, 2018). The public demanded that he be incarcerated instead due to the gruesome nature of the man's crime (CBC News, 2014). But should the public influence court verdicts? This opinion paper argues against allowing the public having a say in court rulings for a number of reasons. For example, the public are often biased towards one party, therefore violating the rule of the impartiality of the judge; their biases will render them unable to make decisions that benefit society; and they do not understand the law and are not trained in the law, therefore making them unable to correctly apply the law to the case. Lastly, a case study of a recent vehicular homicide court ruling in Florida and its subsequent outcry on social media is utilised as a supporting argument against allowing the public to influence court verdicts.

Keywords: justice, law, public opinion, rulings, judges

In 2018, 18-year-old Cameron Herrin from Florida partook in a street race which resulted in the death of a mother and her 2-year-old daughter (Dodgson, 2021). Three years later, Judge Christopher Nash found Herrin guilty of vehicular manslaughter and sentenced him to 24 years in prison (Dodgson, 2021; Spata, 2021). After his sentencing, pictures of his trial went viral on social media. Many netizens began advocating for Herrin's release, saying that he was too good-looking to be a murderer or incarcerated. Others said that he looked innocent, deserved a second chance, and that he did not mean to commit manslaughter. Posts of him began circulating online with the hashtag #justiceforcameron, and others began petitioning for the justice system to reconsider his sentencing. It is evident that his attractive appearance played a part in the social media obsession about Herrin; Dodgson (2021) noted that both the comments and posts frequently focused on his facial features. As the public's intent on having Herrin's sentence reduced or eliminated was because of his appearance and not because of the law, this shows that the public is incapable of understanding the law and thus should not decide criminal rulings.

A Repeat of the Past

While the prosecution of Cameron Herrin took place in the United States, the public outcry is not strictly an American phenomenon. Public criticism on criminal case decisions also have occurred in the Canadian justice system. A notable case involved Vince Li, a man diagnosed with schizophrenia who beheaded Tim McLean in 2008, who subsequently was found to be not criminally responsible by reason of mental disorder (NCRMD). His disposition involved him being remanded to a Canadian forensic psychiatric hospital and released years later (Pauls, 2018). Many laypeople disputed this ruling and fought for him to be incarcerated after he completed his treatment, despite forensic psychologists determining that he no longer posed a threat to the public (CBC News, 2014, Pauls, 2018).

The Duty of the Judge

Judges must interpret the law and apply it to the case, all while being neutral and uninfluenced by the defending or accusing party. Hausegger and colleagues (2014) add that in addition to thinking impartially, judges must appear to be impartial in their conduct. In the Cameron Herrin case, the public was not thinking, nor acting, impartially – the public had a clear bias of wanting Herrin's sentence to be reduced or lifted (Dodgson, 2011). This lack of impartiality shows that the public cannot serve as a neutral and fair judge of the matter.

Additionally, judges must follow a code of conduct or an ethical code while making decisions. These responsibilities include adhering to the law, being neutral and unbiased in the case, and making decisions that benefit the justice system and society (Hausegger et al., 2014). The public showed that they were willing to ignore the law, be biased toward one party, and allow someone guilty of vehicular homicide to be released back into society without punishment (Dodgson, 2021), all because of Herrin's physical appearance. Moreover, this bias toward Herrin due to his age and appearance shows the public's inability to separate their personal biases from recognising and prioritising the facts of the case: Herrin was illegally street racing; he fatally hit a

mother and child; and manslaughter, which is the act he committed, requires at least 18 years in prison (Spata, 2021).

As personal biases contributed to the public's desire for Herrin to be released (Dodgson, 2021), allowing the public to make court decisions may end up harming society more than helping it as they are not fairly analysing the facts. It is important to note that if the public had successfully released Herrin from his sentence, he could decide to street race again, thus putting the community in danger. This decision to release him then would not benefit society, thus proving the public's inability to make fair and just rulings.

Implications for the Justice System

As seen in the case of Cameron Herrin, the public would not be able to fulfill the duties of the judge. Hausegger and colleagues (2014) note that judges are provided with specialised training that laypeople often do not receive – training that teaches judges to think from many different perspectives. Given that laypeople are not trained nor equipped with the multi-lateral thinking that judges employ, they would be unable to think and make rulings from a neutral perspective. This lack of impartiality would mean that the public would not be able to consider both sides of the story and make a well-informed decision.

When judges make their rulings, they are expected to be grounded in the law and based on previous rulings of similar cases. Hausegger and colleagues (2014) add that if these decisions are not following the law, the judges and their rulings are illegitimate. Therefore, if the public were to be given the power to decide on criminal rulings and chose to deviate from the law and previous criminal court decisions, they would not be fulfilling their duties as a judge. Additionally, judges are considered to be reasonable persons due to their significant knowledge of the law and previous rulings of similar cases (Hausegger et al., 2014). By giving the public the power of judges, despite having less knowledge of the law and previous rulings of similar cases (thus making them unreasonable persons), the justice system would not be run fairly and instead have rulings

based on the public's biases and not the law.

Hausegger and colleagues (2014) advise that following the law when making decisions is important as judges' biases, beliefs, and values can affect the ruling. As such, judges must push aside personal biases in favour of social implications, questions of fact, questions of law, and the parties at hand. However, as public values and interests differ from the values and interests of the law, allowing the public's biases to influence the decision can harm the community more than help it.

Conclusion

The media frenzy surrounding Cameron Herrin's trial is not an unusual phenomenon. In instances of high-profile or shocking cases, laypeople will voice their opinion about the case and disagree with the court's ruling (Spata, 2021). However, judges must follow the law and stay impartial (Hausegger et al., 2014). As seen in both the Cameron Herrin and the Vince Li case, the public greatly struggles with these two aspects of impartiality and adherence to law as they did not undergo the training needed to understand the law and think neutrally. As the public does not understand the ethical code nor knowledge required to make such decisions, they should not influence rulings as they may inadvertently harm the community more than helping it.

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RESEARCH UPDATE



Research Update: Implementation of the Core Member Needs and Strengths Tool in Circles of Support and Accountability Operations

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In the Fall/Winter 2023 issue of *Crime Scene* (Volume 30, Issue 2), we reported on a new measure designed to assist staff and volunteers in their work with individuals convicted for sexual offences (ISOs). Circles of Support and Accountability (CoSA) support *core members* in their reintegration into the community (CoSA Canada, 2021). The CoSA program was created in 1984 in Hamilton, Ontario, in response to the release of a high-risk ISO without programs or other supports in the community. Unfortunately, at its 30-year anniversary, the original program has announced its closure due to an absence of funding (Mennonite Central Committee Canada, 2024). Other sites across the country have also closed (e.g., CoSA Nova Scotia, 2022), despite CoSA being an evidence-based intervention that consistently demonstrates positive results in terms of recidivism reduction, public safety, and improved well-being (e.g., Clarke et al., 2015; Elliot & Zajac, 2015; Höing et al., 2013; Wilson et al., 2010).

In 2021, the Mennonite Central Committee of Ontario (MCCO) initiated the creation of a tool to streamline data collection, tailor work in circles to relevant needs, track core members' progress, and reduce reliance on unstandardized approaches and risk measures in their CoSA programming. The Core Member Needs and Strengths Tool (CM-NAST) was developed in consultation with CoSA staff and licensed psychologists to assess factors related to CoSA's reintegration work, including the social determinants of health (e.g., employment/income, housing, food security, etc.), as well as risk (e.g., atypical sexual interests, antisociality), responsiveness (e.g., hostility towards women, self-regulation deficits), and protective (i.e., leisure activities, social network) factors. The resulting tool contained 89-items across six sections, which are intended to be assessed over several sessions with core members. Once development of the tool was complete, CoSA Canada facilitated a pilot study of the CM-NAST via a research grant from Public Safety Canada.

(Grant No. 23002). The purpose of this pilot study, which was completed in March 2024, was to assess the utility of the CM-NAST and provide preliminary data assessing the validity of the tool.

The tool was piloted on 55 new core members by 12 CoSA staff/volunteers across Canada between April 2022 and March 2024. All CoSA staff and volunteers rated the CM-NAST as user-friendly, containing content relevant to their reintegration work, and having logical organization. Potential barriers to CM-NAST completion included the limited availability of data in official documentation (e.g., offence details) and core members' reluctance to disclose sensitive information (e.g., sexual interests, parole breaches). Furthermore, CoSA staff/volunteers noted that multiple formats of the tool (e.g., Microsoft Word documents, PDFs, etc.) were required to accommodate the varying technologies at their CoSA sites.

Results from the pilot study ($N = 55$ across 7 CoSA sites in Canada) are being developed for publication. While there was some broad support for the psychometric properties and usefulness of the tool, this study is limited by a small sample size, and the recent CoSA closures will hinder continued validation of the CM-NAST. While there is a need to increase use of the CM-NAST across various reintegration settings, the evidence of the pilot study suggests that the CM-NAST demonstrates significant potential as an evidence-based reintegration tool developed by and for reintegration service workers.

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PUBLICATIONS

Recently Published Abstracts

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Stewart, J., Swanek, J. & Forth, A. (2024). Actions speak: Personality, nonverbal behaviors, and self-perceptions of vulnerability in collage-aged women, *Journal of Criminal Psychology*, Advanced online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1108/JCP-02-2024-0013>

Purpose – Despite representing a relatively small portion of the population, those who experience repeat victimization make up a significant share of all sexual and violent crimes, implying that perpetrators target them repeatedly. Indeed, research reveals specific traits (e.g. submissiveness) and behaviors (e.g. gait) related to past victimization or vulnerability. The purpose of this study is to explore the link between personality traits, self-assessed vulnerability and nonverbal cues. **Design/methodology/approach** – In all, 40 undergraduate Canadian women were videotaped while recording a dating profile. Self-report measures of assertiveness, personality traits and vulnerability ratings for future sexual or violent victimization were obtained following the video-recording. The videotape was coded for nonverbal behaviors that have been related to assertiveness or submissiveness. **Findings** – Self-perceived sexual vulnerability correlated with reduced assertiveness and dominance and increased emotionality (e.g. fear and anxiety). Additionally, nonverbal behaviors differed based on personality traits: self-touch was linked to lower assertiveness, dominance and extraversion and higher submissiveness, emotionality and warm-agreeableness. **Originality/value** – To the best of the authors' knowledge, this is the first study of its kind to consider the relationships between personality, self-perceived vulnerability and nonverbal behaviors among college-aged women. Potential implications, including enhancing autonomy and self-efficacy, are discussed.

Hogan, N. R., & Corăbian, G. (2024). Investigating racial disparities in violence risk assessment using the Spousal Assault Risk Assessment Guide–Version 3 (SARA-V3): Structured professional judgment ratings and recidivism among Indigenous and non-Indigenous individuals. *Psychological Assessment*, 36(5), 339–350. <https://doi.org/10.1037/pas0001307>

Racial disparities in criminal justice outcomes are widely observed. In Canada, such disparities are particularly evident between Indigenous and non-Indigenous persons. The role of formal risk assessment in contributing to such disparities re-

mains a topic of interest to many, but critical analysis has almost exclusively focused on actuarial or statistical risk measures. Recent research suggests that ratings from other common tools, based on the structured professional judgment model, can also demonstrate racial disparities. This study examined risk assessments produced using a widely used structured professional judgment tool, the Spousal Assault Risk Assessment Guide–Version 3, among a sample of 190 individuals with histories of intimate partner violence. We examined the relationships among race, risk factors, summary risk ratings, and recidivism while also investigating whether participants' racial identity influenced the likelihood of incurring formal sanctions for reported violence. Spousal Assault Risk Assessment Guide–Version 3 risk factor totals and summary risk ratings were associated with new violent charges. Indigenous individuals were assessed as demonstrating more risk factors and were more likely to be rated as high risk, even after controlling for summed risk factor totals and prior convictions. They were also more likely to recidivate and to have a history of at least one reported act of violence that did not result in formal sanctions. The results suggest that structured professional judgment guidelines can produce disparate results across racial groups. The disparities observed may reflect genuine differences in the likelihood of recidivism, driven by psychologically meaningful risk factors which have origins in deep-rooted systemic and contextual factors.

Corăbian, G., Hogan, N. R., & Olver, M. E. (2024). Working toward desistance: Canadian public attitudes and policy endorsement for the treatment, management, and prevention of sexual offending. *Psychology, Public Policy, and Law*, 30(2), 179–196. <https://doi.org/10.1037/law0000405>

Understanding public sentiments toward persons who commit acts of sexual violence and the means to prevent it is essential to the development of successful and workable policies to re-

duce sexual victimization. We examined Canadian attitudes toward persons who commit sex offenses, support for sexual violence prevention policy (i.e., incapacitation/control [IC] vs. rehabilitative/reintegrative [RR]), and the interrelations among attitudes, demographic variables, and policy endorsement in a representative sample of English-speaking adult Canadians ($N = 1,008$) who completed an online survey battery. Results demonstrated that the Canadian public had largely negative feelings toward individuals with a history of sex crimes, especially those who target children; beliefs about the population, in general, tended to be more neutral, and respondents anticipated meaningful reductions in sexual violence with treatment. Canadians endorsed both RR-related (e.g., therapy, stable housing, job assistance, bolstering community supports) and IC-related (e.g., residence restrictions, being placed on a registry, prison time) policies. Punitive attitudes were related to endorsement of more IC policies, and fewer RR policies, while rehabilitative attitudes demonstrated the reverse. Further, conservative political orientation and having children were associated with increasingly negative attitudes and IC policy endorsement, while education level was associated with more rehabilitative attitudes and RR policy endorsement. Multipredictor models upheld these findings, demonstrating that public beliefs, emotional feelings, and key demographics uniquely predicted RR versus IC policy endorsement. The findings have implications for future policies and reintegration strategies and may encourage collaboration between researchers, policymakers, and the public.

Thompson, N., & Hanson, R. K. (2024). Paraphilic offending: Another privilege of White men? *Journal of Sexual Aggression*, Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13552600.2024.2328046>

People from historically oppressed groups are over-represented in many Western criminal justice systems. Some studies have found, howev-

er, that certain paraphilic sexual offences, such as child sexual abuse imagery and exhibitionism, are predominately committed by White men. This meta-analysis compared the ethnoraacial distribution of perpetrators of paraphilic offences and of sexual aggression offences against adults in Canada, the United States, Australia, and New Zealand ($k = 35$; $N > 20,000$). White men were more likely than Indigenous, Black, and Latino men to commit paraphilic offences, $OR = 2.3$. Among men who committed sexual offences, White men were more likely to have had adverse childhood experiences (ACEs), $OR = 1.6$. This pattern indicates that more in-depth analysis may need to be done on how power and privilege influence how people act on their atypical sexual interests. These differences in ACEs may necessitate further research on how intimacy violations may contribute to some paraphilic sexual offences.

Lee, S. C., Babchishin, K. M., Mularczyk, K. P., & Hanson, R. K. (2024). Dynamic risk scales degrade over time: Evidence for reassessments. *Assessment*, 31(3), 698-714. <https://doi.org/10.1177/10731911231177227>

Risk tools containing dynamic (potentially changeable) factors are routinely used to evaluate the recidivism risk of justice-involved individuals. Although frequent reassessments are recommended, there is little research on how the predictive accuracy of dynamic risk assessments changes over time. This study examined the extent to which predictive accuracy decreases over time for the ACUTE-2007 and the STABLE-2007 sexual recidivism risk tools. We used two independent samples of men on community supervision (NStudy 1 = 795; NStudy 2 = 4,221). For all outcomes (sexual, violent, and any recidivism [including technical violations]), reassessments improved predictive accuracy, with the largest effects found for the most recent assessment (i.e., those closest in time prior to the recidivism event). Based on these results, we recommend that ACUTE-2007 assessments occur at least every 30 days and that the STABLE-2007 assessments occur every 6 months or after significant life changes (e.g., successful completion of

treatment).

Hanson, R. K., Lee, S. C., & Thornton, D. (2024). Long term recidivism rates among individuals at high risk to sexually reoffend. *Sexual Abuse*, 36(1), 3-32. <https://doi.org/10.1177/10790632221139166>

Preventive detention provisions in the US and Canada assume we can identify, in advance, individuals at high risk for sexual recidivism. To test this assumption, 377 adult males with a history of sexual offending were followed for 20 years using Canadian national criminal history records and Internet searches. Using previously collected information, a high risk/high need (HRHN) subgroup was identified based on an unusually high levels of criminogenic needs ($n = 190$, average age of 38 years; 83% White, 13% Indigenous, 4% other). A well above average subgroup of 99 individuals was then identified based on high Static-99R (6+) and Static-2002R (7+) scores. In the HRHN group, 40% reoffended sexually. STATIC HRHN norms overestimated sexual recidivism at 5 years (Static-99R, $E/O = 1.44$; Static-2002R, $E/O = 1.72$) but were well calibrated for longer follow-up periods (20 years: Static-99R, $E/O = 1.00$; Static-2002R, $E/O = 1.16$). The overall sexual recidivism rate for the well above average subgroup was 52.1% after 20 years, and 74.3% for any violent recidivism. The highest risk individuals (top 1%) had rates in the 60%–70% range. We conclude that some individuals present a high risk for sexual recidivism, and can be identified using currently available methods.

Babchishin, K. M., Dibayula, S., McCulloch, C., Hanson, R. K., & Helmus, L. M. (2023). ACUTE-2007 and STABLE-2007 Predict Recidivism for Men Adjudicated for Child Sexual Exploitation Material Offending. *Law and Human Behavior*, 47(5), 606-618. <https://doi.org/10.1037/lhb0000540>

Objective: Risk assessment is essential to effective correctional practice. For individuals with contact sexual offenses, many risk tools are available. There are fewer options, however, for

individuals whose sexual offending exclusively involves child sexual exploitation materials (CSEM; legally referred to in Canada and the United States as child pornography). **Hypotheses:** The present study examined the predictive validity of the ACUTE-2007 and STABLE-2007 sexual recidivism risk tools among men with CSEM offenses. We expected these tools to show moderate predictive validity across study groups. **Method:** We compared the scales' discrimination and calibration across three groups: (a) 1,042 men with contact sexual offenses against children (baseline comparison), (b) 228 men with exclusive CSEM offending (no contact sexual offenses), and (c) 80 men with both contact sexual offenses and CSEM offenses. **Results:** We found that the ACUTE-2007 and STABLE-2007 total scores and items had comparable (and often better) discrimination for men with CSEM offending compared with contact sexual offending against children in the prediction of any sexual recidivism, violent recidivism, and any recidivism. Calibration analyses indicated that the overall sexual recidivism rates for the median ACUTE-2007 and STABLE-2007 scores were similar for men with exclusive CSEM offenses compared with men with any contact offending against children. Almost all of the sexual recidivism for the CSEM-exclusive group involved further CSEM offenses. **Conclusions:** This study supports the use of these tools to rank-order men with CSEM offending in terms of their risk of reoffending and to help direct treatment and management efforts.

Lee, S. C., Hanson, R. K., & Yoon, J. S. (2023). Predictive validity of Static-99R among 8,207 men convicted of sexual crimes in South Korea: A prospective field study. *Sexual Abuse*, 35(6), 687-715. <https://doi.org/10.1177/10790632221139173>

The accuracy of risk assessment tools for Asian populations has received relatively little research attention. This study evaluated one of the most widely used static risk assessment tools - Static-99R - for assessing the likelihood of recidivism among men convicted of a sexual crime in South Korea. Overall, this South Korean sample ($N =$

8207) appeared to have a higher risk (more paraphilic interests, more sexual/general criminality) than the Static-99R normative samples (who were mostly White individuals from Western countries). Despite the differences, Static-99R was able to discriminate recidivists from nonrecidivists in South Korea, with AUC values similar to that observed in the normative samples (e.g., 0.72 for sexual recidivism). In terms of calibration, the observed sexual recidivism rates of the current sample were higher than the international routine/complete normative samples but lower than the high-risk/high-need normative samples ($E/O = 0.75$ and 1.26 , respectively). Consequently, evaluators in South Korea can have reasonable confidence in the ability of Static-99R to rank individuals according to their relative likelihood of sexual recidivism.

Lee, S. C., Brankley, A. E., & Hanson, R. K. (2023). There is no such thing as zero risk for sexual offending. *Canadian Journal of Criminology and Criminal Justice*, 65(3), 1-31. <https://doi.org/10.3138/cjccj-2022-0025>

The public is justifiably concerned about the risk presented by individuals with a history of sexual crime. Given that recidivism risk varies across individuals and over time, what level is so low as to be indistinguishable from sexual recidivism risk in the general population (a desistance threshold)? This risk is not zero. Comparing census data to the number of males convicted of sexual offences in the province of British Columbia in two cohorts (2006, $N = 362$; 2011, $N = 422$), we found that approximately 1% of all adult males in British Columbia would be expected to be convicted of a sexual offence by age 50. Across the full lifespan (until 99), that proportion was estimated to be 1.38% for the 2006 cohort and 1.50% for the 2011 cohort. Other research has found that most individuals released from a sexual offence present a similarly low residual risk ($< 2\%$) after 10 years of being offence-free in the community. Consequently, applying long-term restrictions (e.g., lifetime registration; Criminal Code of Canada §161) to such individuals will serve no public protection function.

Miner, M. H., Brouillette-Alarie, S., Davies, S., Newstrom, N., Robinson, B. E., Thornton, D., & Hanson, R. K. (2023). Reliability and factor structure of the Sex Offender Treatment Intervention and Progress Scale. *Sexual Abuse*, 35(1), 83-102. <https://doi.org/10.1177/10790632221082667>

Assessment of risk of sexual recidivism has progressed from tools containing only static factors to tools including dynamic (i.e., changeable) risk factors. The psychometric properties and factor structure of one such scale, the Sex Offender Treatment Intervention and Progress Scale (SOTIPS) were explored. Seven hundred and thirty-one men assigned probation for sexual crimes in New York City and Maricopa County, Arizona were administered SOTIPS three times: intake into probation, six months later, and six months after that. SOTIPS showed good internal consistency (Time 1 $\omega = .87$, Time 2 $\omega = .89$, and Time 3 $\omega = .91$), and acceptable inter-rater reliability (for the 26 cases rated in the same month, ICC = .821). An exploratory factor analysis did not result in the original factor structure proposed by the developers; instead, SOTIPS showed two factors: sexual risk and antisocial opposition. This factor structure required the averaging of two items to avoid collinearity. SOTIPS showed temporal invariance indicating that its factor structure and its association to underlying latent variables are consistent over time.

Allison, M., Jung, S. & Culhane, S. E. (2023): The effect of alibi consistency, presence of physical evidence and timing of disclosure on mock juror perceptions. *Psychiatry, Psychology and Law*, 1-12. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13218719.2023.2206869>

Inconsistent alibis often are viewed negatively, but they may be due to simple mistakes and not deception. The strength of alibi evidence also matters; alibis supported by strong corroborative physical evidence are more believable than alibis with no physical evidence. The timing at

which the alibi is disclosed to the prosecution also can affect alibi believability. Two hundred and seventy online participants evaluated a consistent or inconsistent alibi that had corroborative physical evidence or not, and was disclosed early or late. Collapsing across the three conditions, more participants voted guilty than not guilty, and more believable alibis were associated with more not guilty verdicts. Consistent alibis were more believable, and the defendant was viewed more positively on five character traits than when the alibi was inconsistent. There were few effects of alibi timing. In sum, consistency led to positive views of alibis and defendants.

Thomas, M. L., & Jung, S. (2023). Differences in Criminogenic Risk Factors and Risk Prediction Based on Sexual Assault Typology. *Journal of Threat Assessment and Management*. Advanced online publication. <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.

Gaudette, J. P., Watt, M. C., & Lively, C. J. (2024). Sex differences in stigma reduction toward minor attracted persons (MAPs) via contact interventions. *Journal of Psychological Research*, 6(2), 28-38. <https://doi.org/10.30564/jpr.v6i2.6364>

Individuals who are sexually attracted to children (i.e., people with pedophilic interests or minor-attracted persons; MAPs) can, and do, live offence-free. Stigmatization and fear of conviction, however, can prevent MAPs from accessing appropriate support and treatment. Previous researchers compared the impact of two interventions – narrative humanization vs. scientific information—in reducing stigma towards people with pedophilic interests and found the former to be more effective. Using freely available secondary data, the present study replicated and extended this previous research by directly examining sex differences in impact of the two interventions. As predicted, females (vs. males) held more negative and stigmatic attitudes towards sex offenders at baseline and, while both interventions showed a positive impact on these negative attitudes, the impact was greater for females. Results are discussed in terms of reducing stigma regarding MAPs by positioning the issue in the public health domain by educating mental health professionals via contact interventions as a means of better protecting children and preventing child sexual abuse.

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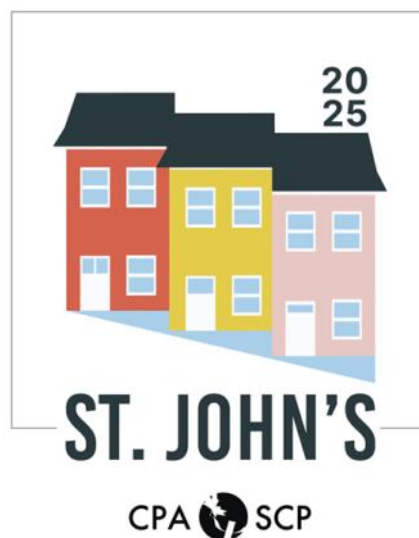
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