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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Editor's Note

By Kyrsten Grimes, M.A.

It is an honour to be taking on the role of Managing Editor for *Crime Scene* this year. A big thank you to Fiona for all her amazing work over the years! Her presence on the Section Executive will truly be missed.

In this new role, it is my aim to further membership engagement. The newsletter is a fantastic place for members to share new ideas, projects, and opinions with the section. I plan on rolling out several new features over the next few issues:

- I hope to include a regular feature in subsequent issues where members can share their thoughts about current, controversial issues in the field, with the goal of sharing diverse viewpoints. Be on the look out for the next call for submissions for the first topic!
- Do you know of anyone (perhaps yourself??) who is doing interesting research or clinical work in the field? Nominate them to be featured in an upcoming issue of Crime Scene! It is important to recognize all the great work in which researchers and clinicians in our field are engaged!

 In collaboration with our Student Representative, Alisha Salerno, we will be adding more content that is especially relevant to our student members.

As you can see, we have a lot of exciting things in the works so stay tuned! If you have any ideas for an upcoming issue, please feel free to email me. In the meantime, check out our newest regular feature: Self-Care Corner (p. 18).



Message from the Chair

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

I would like to start by congratulating our new Crime Scene Managing Editor, Kyrsten Grimes, both on being elected to this position, and for this edition of Crime Scene, the first under her direction. Many thanks to our past Managing Editor, Dr. Fiona Dyshniku, who in addition to creating terrific editions of Crime Scene over a number of years, also served as our Student Representative on the Executive Committee; for a period of time she held both of those positions at the same time. Another addition to our Executive Committee is Dr. Nina Fusco, our new Secretary/Treasurer. It is noteworthy that Nina is replacing Dr. Karl Hanson, who held that position for far longer than I have been a member of this Section.

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Thanks and gratitude to Karl for acting in that role and of course for being an exceptional psychologist representing the profession. Moreover, much gratitude is due to Dr. Dorothy Cotton, who has also stepped down from our executive after many years of tireless service and vigorous and respected advocacy on behalf of the profession. Is there anyone who has not heard of Dr. Dorothy Cotton?!

Perhaps the most notable and gratifying news from our Annual General Meeting at CPA in Montreal is the continuing progress toward having psychologists legislatively designated to perform assessments to determine Fitness to Stand Trial, as well as to inform decision making regarding the Section 16 defence of the Criminal Code : Not Criminally Responsible on Account of Mental Illness. Member of Parliament and Chair of the House of Commons Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights, Anthony Housefather, attended and spoke at the convention. Two days prior to our AGM he had written to The Honourable Jody Wilson-Raybould, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada, recommending that she "consider amending section 672.1 of the Criminal Code to allow psychologists with training in clinical forensic psychology to perform assessments of fitness to stand trial and criminal responsibility". The letter was written on behalf of the Standing Committee and was also signed by the two vice-chairs of the committee. In a recent communication with Dr. Karen Cohen, Executive Director of CPA, she relayed that plans were being made to arrange another meeting with the federal government to further advocate this position and keep the momentum going regarding this historically significant professional opportunity.

The event that is most on my mind and I am sure on most of yours as well for the coming year is the 4th North American **Correctional & Criminal Justice** Psychology Conference (NACCJPC), or N4. The 2019 NACCJPC will be the first one held outside of Ontario, and the beautiful city of Halifax on our Atlantic coast is a wonderful location for that. It will also be the first time one of our conferences will be held a week earlier, starting on May 31, and will span Friday to Sunday (with pre-conference workshops on Thursday) instead of Thursday to Saturday. Regardless of those details, the conference has secured a top-notch collection of keynote speakers to headline a programme which promises to again warrant the Olympic analogy of the best conference in our field being held every four years. This event is not to be missed so save the date now and prepare to come and enjoy, learn, collaborate and celebrate!

As the end of 2018 approaches, I wish everyone a happy Holiday Season and all the very best in the coming year. See you in Halifax in 2019!

> For a special feature on N4, check out p. 21!

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Call for Award Nominations

The Criminal Justice Psychology Section of the Canadian Psychological Association is calling for nominations for two prestigious awards.

- Don Andrews Career Contribution Award: This award recognizes a corpus of work accrued over a period of at least 10 years that makes a significant contribution to the application of psychology to criminal behaviour, criminal justice, and/or law. Award recipients must be members of the CPA Criminal Justice Psychology Section during the year that the award is given.
- Significant Contribution Award: The Significant Contribution Award recognizes a specific work that has been recently completed (within the last year or two) that makes a significant contribution to the application of psychology to criminal behaviour, criminal justice, and/or law. If a member of the section makes exceptional contributions in different years, then it is possible for the same individual to receive this award more than once.

Nominations received by the Criminal Justice Section Executive must include a cover letter outlining how the nominee qualifies for the award, the nominee's CV, and other supporting documentation (e.g., copy of the research article nominated as the "Significant Achievement", a description of a treatment program/facility, numbers of citations in the Social Citation Index, or letters/testimonials from clients and coworkers).

The Awards will be presented at the upcoming joint conference of the Canadian Psychological Association and the Fourth North American Correctional and Criminal Justice Psychology Conference (N4), held in Halifax, Nova Scotia, from May 31 - June 2, 2019.

If you would like to nominate a colleague for either award, please forward the nomination to Dr. Jim Cheston (jim.cheston@ontario.ca) by **January 31, 2019**.

For further details on the awards and past award recipients, see the following link:

https://www.cpa.ca/aboutcpa/cpasections/ criminaljusticepsychology/ criminaljusticeawards



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RESEARCH BRIEFS AND RECENT PUBLICATIONS

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Recent Publications

Hanson, R.K. (2018). Long term recidivism studies show that desistance is the norm. *Criminal Justice and Behavior, 45*(9), 1340-1436. doi:10.1177/0093854818793382

A criminal history record is a valid indicator of the propensity for rule violation, and such records are rightly used in applied decisionmaking both within and outside of the criminal justice system (e.g., employment screening). A criminal conviction, however, is a time dependent risk factor. During the past decade, researchers have examined desistance using statistical models of residual hazards. These studies find that after about 10 years offence free (5 years for juveniles), the risk presented by most individuals with a criminal record is not meaningfully different from that of the general population. Similar time free effects are found for both sexual and nonsexual offences. Given that desistance is almost inevitable, record retention and access policies need to carefully consider the consequences of decisions being based on old records with little information value.

Hilton, N. Z., McKee, S. A., Ham, E., Green, M., & Wright, L. (2018). Cooccurring mental illness and substance use disorders in Canadian forensic inpatients: Under diagnosis and implications for treatment planning. *International Journal of Forensic Mental Health*, 17, 145-153. doi:10.1080/14999013.2018.1451416

Research suggests that co-occurring substance use disorder (SUD) is prevalent among adults with psychiatric illness. Studies with forensic patients in Australia indicate that co-occurring disorders (CD) are underdiagnosed. To help determine how widespread CD underdiagnosis is in forensic populations internationally, we compared current diagnoses recorded in the clinical record with clinical evidence gathered during forensic assessment meeting DSM-IV criteria for SUD, in a Canadian sample of 638 male forensic inpatients. Among 491 with a major mental illness diagnosis, most (61%) met criteria for CD but only 19% were diagnosed as such. CD was associated with longer hospitalization, and with greater evidence of criminal history, antisociality, and risk of violent recidivism, regardless of how CD was defined. Identifying CD based on documented evidence, though, allowed for slightly greater detection of group differences. Underdiagnosing SUD has a potential impact on understanding substance use as a criminogenic treatment need in forensic mental health.

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Jung, S. (2018). Sexual Violence Risk Prediction in a Police Context. *Sexual Abuse, 30*(5), 576–592. doi:10.1177/1079063216681563

Adoption of evidence-based approaches by police services offers a practical and scientific solution to ensure public safety and proper allocation of resources. Advances in the field of sexual violence risk prediction have the potential to inform policing practices. The present study examines the validity of existing actuarial measures to predict the future sexual violence behavior of 290 identified male perpetrators of sexual assault against adult victims (ages 16 and older). The Static-99R and Static-2002R were coded from police documentation, and the sample was followed up for at least 1 year with an average of 3.6 years. Both measures showed large effects for predicting any offending, violent offending, and sexual offending in the form of charges and convictions. The findings suggest that existing sex offender research can extend to police practice, and criminogenic factors used to predict recidivism among convicted offenders may apply to assessing the risk posed by perpetrators of police-reported sexual assaults.

Jung, S., Toop, C., & Ennis, L. (2018). Identifying Criminogenic Needs Using the Personality Assessment Inventory With Males Who Have Sexually Offended. *Sexual Abuse, 30*(8), 992–1009. doi:10.1177/1079063217715018

The present study investigated the relationships between the scales of the Personality Assessment Inventory (PAI) and variables relevant to recidivism risk and criminogenic need to inform clinicians' use of the PAI for purposes of treatment planning and risk management. PAI profiles, risk measure and domain scores, and recidivism data were collected for 158 males who have been convicted of sexually offending. Data were analyzed to investigate whether select clinical scales of the PAI correlated with conceptually relevant domains of risk and/or recidivism. Our findings demonstrated that the antisocial scales were consistently associated with risk constructs and recidivism, while very few clinical and personality scales showed relationships with risk constructs. The PAI seems to include select scales that represent risk-related needs. but also, other scales that may be more related to responsivity issues, and therefore may have utility to address two of the risk, need, and responsivity principles.

Newstrom, N.P., Robinson, B.E., Hoefer, C., Hanson, R.K., & Miner, M. (2018). Sex offender supervision: Communication, training, and mutual respect are necessary for effective collaboration between probation officers and therapists. *Sexual Abuse*. Advance online publication. doi:10.1177/1079063218775970

Developed with the goal of preventing recidivism, contemporary sex offender supervision models focus on collaboration between probation officers and therapists. To date, there is little research describing the relationships and attitudes of probation and treatment professionals as they work together. This exploratory study examined the working relationships between probation officers and therapists from two probation departments using the containment model - a supervision model used specifically for sex offenders - in two large metropolitan areas of the United States, Maricopa County, Arizona and New York City, NY. Utilizing focus groups and treatment agency surveys, we examined

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relationships within these systems in order to highlight significant themes that emerged from the experiences of probation officers and therapists as they engaged in the supervision of probationers who have committed sexual offenses. Probation officers and therapists in our study identified important characteristics (i.e., regular, timely face-to-face communication, valuing treatment and supervision, adhering to respective roles) that they believed promoted excellent/superior collaborative relationships, as well as important characteristics that they believed hindered high quality supervision, treatment, and collaboration (i.e., poor communication, not valuing treatment, unrealistic probation expectations, conflicting supervision/ treatment goals). Our findings suggest that the differences between probation officer and therapist professional orientations can make implementing collaborative approaches such as the containment model challenging, but rewarding when the approaches work well. Suggestions for enhancing collaboration were made including the use of jointly-scored dynamic, assessment tools.

Tedeschini, J. & Jung, S. (2018). Motivational Interviewing in the Context of Police Investigative Interviews with Suspects. *Investigative Interviewing: Research and Practice*, 9(1), 01-13.

The field of police investigations has been gradually progressing from accusatorial approaches to inquisitorial approaches in the context of interviewing suspects. This article explores the utility of motivational interviewing, which was taken from the field of counseling and provides a structured approach to engaging individuals in moving from ambivalence to motivation to change, in the context of police investigative interviews with suspects. Motivational interviewing offers an ethically driven approach to rapport building and can be effective in many situations. This article highlights the contexts where motivational interviewing may be applied and where it is contraindicated. Implications for training of police investigators and for research will also be discussed.



Recently Defended Dissertations

Offender Memories of Their Crimes: Exploring the Factors Involved in the Experience of Intrusive Memories

Annik Marketa Mossière, Ph.D. University of Saskatchewan

Objective: Limited research has examined perpetrator induced trauma symptoms in offender populations. The aim of the current study was to examine offenders' memories about their crimes, and explored potential factors involved in the experience of intrusive memories. Method: One hundred adult male offenders serving provincial sentences completed a questionnaire package examining offence-related shame, guilt, instrumentalityreactivity, psychopathy, and memory characteristics. This cross-sectional design relied solely on participant self-reports. **Results:** Forty-three percent of the sample reported experiencing intrusive memories of a crime they committed. Intrusive memories

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were experienced across all crime types. As expected, shame was found to be the most significant and accurate correlate of intrusive memories, over and above the other primary factors of interest in this study. Discussion: Findings suggest that a substantial number of offenders suffer from intrusive memories about their crimes. Results are in line with theoretical foundations of posttraumatic stress disorder, and are consistent with literature examining trauma symptomology in victim, first responder, and veteran populations. This study further demonstrates that the experience of offence-related symptoms like intrusive memories and shame are not limited to forensic psychiatric or homicide perpetrator samples. Enhancing knowledge about intrusive memories has important implications with regard to responsivity factors, as well as for assessment and treatment.

Les cognitions soutenant la cyberdélinquance sexuelle commise envers les enfants : leur nature, leur mesure et leur rôle [Cognitions supporting online sexual offending against children: Their nature, measurement and role]

Sarah Paquette, Ph.D. Supervised by: Franca Cortoni, Ph.D., C. Psych Université de Montréal

La recherche scientifique ayant porté sur les agresseurs sexuels d'enfants avec contact a mis en lumière l'importance des facteurs cognitifs en lien avec le passage à l'acte délictueux et la récidive sexuelle (p. ex., Helmus, Hanson, Babchishin et Mann, 2013). Les premières recherches portaient sur l'identification des produits cognitifs, aussi nommés distorsions cognitives, des agresseurs sexuels d'enfants, ainsi que sur le développement d'instruments psychométriques pour la mesure des distorsions cognitives (p. ex., l'Échelle de molestation; Bumby, 1996). Plus récemment, un pan de la recherche a contribué au développement des connaissances sur les structures cognitives (c.-à-d., schémas cognitifs, également nommées théories implicites), lesquelles sont présumées représenter les croyances profondes des délinquants sexuels à propos du monde et de leurs victimes. Ces recherches portent toutefois une attention particulière sur les agresseurs sexuels avec contact, négligeant ainsi d'examiner les individus qui s'engagent dans des délits sexuels en ligne. Les résultats préliminaires des études s'y étant intéressées suggèrent que les cyberdélinquants présenteraient des structures cognitives distinctes de celles agresseurs sexuels avec contact (Bartels et Merdian, 2016), indiquant ainsi la nécessité d'étudier davantage ce construit psychologique auprès de cette population. La présente thèse vise donc à contribuer au développement des cognitions qui soutiennent la cyberdélinquance sexuelle commise envers les enfants.

Cette thèse présente les résultats de trois études distinctes, mais complémentaires, avant tentées de faire la lumière sur la nature. la mesure et le rôle des cognitions qui soutiennent la cyberdélinquance sexuelle. À partir d'un échantillon de soixante interrogatoires policiers de cyberdélinguants sexuels, une analyse thématique de discours a permis d'identifier huit théories implicites partagées par les consommateurs de matériel d'abus sexuels d'enfants et par les auteurs de leurre d'enfants : 1) les délits sexuels ne causent pas de torts aux enfants ; 2) le monde est incontrôlable ; 3) les enfants sont des êtres sexuels ; 4) le droit d'agir à sa guise ; 5) le monde est dangereux ; 6) les enfants sont des partenaires de vie ; 7) l'univers virtuel n'est pas réel et ; 8) l'internet est incontrôlable. Les résultats issus de cette analyse ont servi de

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base pour le développement, suivant la Théorie classique des tests et la Théorie de la réponse à l'item, du questionnaire psychométrique intitulé Cognitions sur les crimes sexuels sur l'internet (C-CSI), lequel a été validé auprès d'un échantillon indépendant constitué de 241 délinguants sexuels en ligne et avec contact ainsi qu'auprès de délinquants non sexuels. L'examen de l'échelle a révélé d'excellentes propriétés psychométriques, incluant une vaste gamme d'items représentant un continuum de difficulté à être en faveur des cognitions soutenant la cyberdélinguance sexuelle, en plus d'une bonne capacité à discriminer parmi les sous-groupes de délinquants. La troisième étude visait à examiner l'association de ces cognitions, combinées à la sexualité atypique, l'autorégulation problématique et la perception de l'anonymat, à la cyberdélinquance sexuelle commise envers les enfants. Les résultats révèlent que les cognitions soutenant les comportements sexuels en ligne sont associées à la cyberdélinquance sexuelle, alors que les cognitions soutenant l'agression sexuelle sont associées à la commission de délits sexuels commis avec contact envers les enfants. De plus, les résultats indiquent que les cognitions modèrent la relation entre la préoccupation sexuelle et la cyberdélinquance sexuelle chez les hommes fortement préoccupés par la sexualité.

Les résultats issus de cette thèse ont de nombreuses retombées, tant pour le bénéfice de la recherche scientifique que pour la pratique clinique. D'abord, cette thèse a permis de contribuer à l'avancement des connaissances concernant la nature des cognitions en identifiant les structures cognitives des cyberdélinquants sexuels liées aux délits des consommateurs de matériel d'exploitation sexuelle d'enfants et des auteurs de leurre d'enfants. Ensuite, elle a fourni le premier outil psychométrique spécifiquement validé pour la mesure des cognitions soutenant la cyberdélinquance sexuelle, lequel permettra entre autres, une

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mesure du changement en contexte thérapeutique. Enfin, une meilleure connaissance cognitions qui supportent la cyberdélinquance sexuelle contribuera à l'élaboration de meilleures cibles de traitement pour les hommes qui s'engagent dans l'exploitation sexuelle des enfants sur l'internet.

Scientific research on contact sexual offenders against children has highlighted the importance of cognitive factors in relation to sexual offending and sexual recidivism (e.g., Helmus, Hanson, Babchishin, & Mann, 2013). Early research focused on identifying the cognitive products, also called cognitive distortions, of individuals who sexually offend against children, and developing psychometric instruments for their measure (e.g., the MOLEST scale; Bumby, 1996). More recently, efforts have focused on developing a better understanding of the cognitive structures, (i.e., cognitive schemas also called implicit theories) that appear to represent the offenders' deep beliefs about the world and their victims. This knowledge, however, was developed for offenders who engage in contact sexual offending and the research on the cognitions of individuals who engage in online sexual offending remains very limited. While preliminary results suggest that online sexual offenders possess offense-supportive cognitive structures that are different from those of contact sexual offenders (Bartels & Merdian, 2016), much work remains to better understand this phenomenon. The overarching goal of this thesis was to improve our understanding of the offense-supportive cognitions of online sexual offenders.

This thesis presents the results of three

light on the nature, measure and role of

First, from a sample of sixty police

cognitions that support online offending.

separate but complementary studies that shed

interrogations of online sexual offenders, a thematic discourse analysis identified eight implicit theories shared by child sexual exploitation material users and child luring offenders: 1) Nature of Harm; 2) Uncontrollability; 3) Child as Sexual Being; 4) Entitlement; 5) Dangerous World; 6) Child as Partner: 7) Virtual is not Real and: 8) Internet is Uncontrollable. The results of this analysis served as the basis for the development, following Classical Test Theory and Item Response Theory, of the Cognitions on Internet Sexual Offending scale (C-ISO) which was validated with an independent sample of 241 individuals who had been convicted for online sexual, contact sexual, or non-sexual offenses. The analyses revealed that the scale possesses excellent psychometric properties, includes a wide range of items that represent a continuum of difficulty and that successfully discriminate between offenders' groups. The third study examined the association of these cognitions, combined with atypical sexuality, problematic self-regulation and perceived anonymity, with online sexual offending against children. Results revealed that cognitions supporting online sexual behaviour are specifically associated with the commission of online sexual offending against children, while cognitions supporting the sexual abuse of children are associated with the commission of contact sexual offending. In addition, results indicate that cognitions moderate the relationship between sexual preoccupation online sexual offending behaviors for men highly preoccupied by sexuality.

The results from this doctoral research have several research and clinical implications. First, this thesis contributes to the development of knowledge regarding the nature of cognitions by identifying the cognitive structures of online sexual offenders associated with the consumption of child sexual exploitation material and the luring of children online. Furthermore, it provided the first psychometric tool specifically validated for the measurement

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of cognitions supporting online sexual offending, which will allow measuring changes in a therapeutic context. Finally, the improved understanding of the cognitions that support online sexual offending will contribute to the elaboration of better clinical targets in the treatment of men who have engaged in the sexual exploitation of children on the internet.

The Role of Individual Protective Factors in Predicting Youth Recidivism

Julie L. Wershler, Ph.D. University of New Brunswick

Youth criminal behaviour has significant implications for both public safety and youth functioning; thus, effective methods to manage youth risk and promote rehabilitation are imperative. Risk assessment aims to assess the factors underlying a youth's criminal behaviour in order to make informed decisions about risk management and intervention. However, risk assessment has been criticized for not considering protective factors (i.e., characteristics of the youth or his/ her environment that reduce the likelihood of offending). There is limited research on individual characteristics of youth that act as protective factors for recidivism and results of available research are inconsistent, both of which limit the assessment of individual protective factors and their integration into risk assessment. The current dissertation investigated the role of individual protective factor domains in youth risk assessment. Research objectives included examining whether individual protective factors across personal, social, emotional, and cognitive domains predicted recidivism and whether these protective factor domains moderated the relationship between risk factors and multiple markers of recidivism. Participants

included 173 youth (aged 12 to 18 years) who received a court-ordered risk assessment through the IWK Youth Forensic Services. Recidivism in the form of new charges was assessed over an average follow -up period of approximately 7 years. A significant proportion of youth committed general (87%) and violent (65%) recidivism. Although gender and youth risk level were both significant predictors of general recidivism, higher cognitive ability was the only protective factor that emerged as a significant individual predictor of general recidivism. No support for a moderating effect of the protective factor domains was found. This study contributes to our understanding of the relationship between individual protective factors and youth recidivism. Specifically, better cognitive ability is a promising protective factor for general recidivism. However, resiliency domains, at least as conceptualized and measured in the current study, were more consistent with specific responsivity factors than as protective factors. These results have important implications for risk assessment and rehabilitative practices for justiceinvolved youth, including suggestions for how practitioners can best utilize protective factors as part of risk assessment and rehabilitative interventions.



Send us your dissertation abstract to be included in the next issue!



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CBT with Justice Involved Clients: Interventions for Antisocial and Self-Destructive Behaviors Authored by Raymond Chip Tafrate, Damon Mitchell, & David J. Simourd

By David J. Simourd, Ph.D.

Scientific inquiry into forensic/correctional psychology has expanded enormously over the years and has created an impressive repository of knowledge. From this knowledge has risen a general consensus of correctional "best practices" – two of which are the principles of risk-need-responsivity (RNR) and the application of cognitivebehavioural techniques (CBT).

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Integrating these two concepts directly into forensic clinical work holds the most promise for altering the criminal trajectories of justice-involved clients. Blending correctional science and practice is no easy feat; however, the odds of success increase when practitioners can turn to an evidencebased template. The aim of *CBT with Justice -Involved Clients: Interventions for Antisocial and Self-Destructive Behaviors* is to offer a potential template to forensic practitioners to achieve success with their clients.

> "Integrating these two concepts directly into forensic clinical work holds the most promise for altering the criminal trajectories of justice-involved clients."

With that goal in mind, *CBT with Justice* Involved Clients is a treatment planner book. In other words, its focus is more on the practical application of correctional best practices and CBT concepts than on theoretical and empirical issues. In spite of this orientation, the book is grounded in science and layered with clinical experience that can be applied to diverse justiceinvolved clients in both community and custody settings. It begins with some practical guidelines for assessment, case formulation, and methods to enhance client motivation for change and elicit identification of prosocial values and life priorities. This is followed by a practical menu of intervention strategies to alter criminogenic thinking and destructive lifestyle patterns.

Throughout, the underlying premise is to reduce the recidivism potential of justiceinvolved clients. As a practitioner-friendly book, it offers detailed case examples, reproducible worksheets, and recommendations for a range of assessment instruments. A unique feature is that it includes narrative scripts to assist practitioners in launching into focused conversations with justice-involved clients.

CBT with Justice-Involved Clients provides practitioners with step-by-step guidelines for using CBT with forensic clientele in a wide range of professional settings; it is also useful to those beginning their foray into applied work in this area. Most importantly, it is affordable and readily available: <u>https://</u> www.guilford.com/books/CBT-with-Justice-Involved-Clients/Tafrate-Mitchell-Simourd/9781462534906/summary

I hope you enjoy reading the book as much as I enjoyed working with two great colleagues on a resource we all wish we had when we were starting our careers in the exciting world of forensic/correctional psychology.



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ESPECIALLY FOR STUDENTS

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A Word from the Student Representative

By Alisha Salerno, M.A.

I have been very fortunate to have had amazing mentors throughout my student career. While completing my undergraduate degree at Ryerson, I joined the Psychology and Law Lab where I was warmly welcomed by the other lab members, both junior and senior graduate students. As an undergrad, being part of such a supportive and collaborative lab was such a valuable experience. I was invited onto different projects, taught how to write a research proposal, how to analyze data, and of course I became an absolute pro at coding and data entry! They taught me how to give a research talk, made me rehearse my first poster presentation over and over again until it was nearly perfect, and importantly, they showed me how to laugh and have fun even when you are drowning in work. Perhaps the most valuable things they taught me were how to be a great mentor myself, to always ask for advice and seek help from those around you, and the importance of paying it forward.

Now, as a (nearly) senior PhD student, I make it a priority to make myself available to the junior researchers in our lab and give them the same great help and advice I was given when I was in their shoes. And of course, whenever I find myself in a frustrating situation, I always turn to my lab mate, who is my senior, who always has great advice based on her own personal experiences. After all, the best advice always comes from those who have already walked the walk.

Recently, I went out into the twitter-verse to ask senior Ph.D. and recent graduates, "what is the best advice you could give incoming graduate students?". The replies did not disappoint. Here is some invaluable advice from the academics of the twitter-verse (with some commentary from yours truly):

"It's OK to leave at 5 pm :)"

This is a difficult one for many students as there is always more work to be done. However, you won't be productive if you are tired and over-worked.

"Help each other. Your fellow students are an amazing resource. Nobody wins if you turn grad school into a competition."

It is so important to see your fellow students as allies and not competitors. No one understands the stressors of grad school better than another grad student. Lean on each other for support. Help each other succeed.

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"Also, talk about data ownership, authorship, and intellectual property at the start of a project. You can always talk again if things change."

I think this speaks to the importance of being on the same page as someone who you are working with. It might feel a bit awkward to bring this up at the beginning of a fresh research partnership, but it'll be a whole lot worse to disagree on it when the project is over!

"Setting time limits on your work hours will force you to be productive."

This is a great piece of advice, and I'm not just saying that because it was from one of my own fantastic mentors. Treat grad school like a job, and when the work day is over, do something else that is fun, fulfilling, relaxing or all three.

"You can't put maximum effort into everything. Focus on the most important things and learn to be OK with having less important things be "good enough."

The workload in grad school can be overwhelming at times. It is unrealistic to put a high level of effort into absolutely everything. The first thought paper I ever wrote took me three days to write. I quickly learned this was not realistic and not where I should be prioritizing my time.

"Everything takes longer than you expect. Don't compare your progress to other students! We're all doing the best we can."

As Roosevelt said, "comparison is the thief of joy". Everyone has their own journey. Embrace yours. "You are doing this phd for you, no one else. Take charge and own it."

It took a lot of effort and passion to get here. Don't lose sight of why you started in the first place.

"Weekends are yours. Have and indulge in hobbies. Talk to your peers. Back your files up. Don't be afraid to ask for help. Be you."

"Don't lose your interests outside of grad school. You don't need to work 24/7 to be successful. This will also prevent you from isolation!"

My favourite kinds of hobbies are those that engage my mind and body so that I couldn't possibly be thinking about my research!

"Always stock up on coffee. If you don't drink coffee, start! Truth- never stop being optimistic. It's a struggle, but you'll make it."

Grad school is hard. You probably knew that before you applied yet here you are! You are here to learn, to grow, and to accomplish things you never did before. You can do it.

Have a question for our student representative?

Contact Alisha at salern0a@yorku.ca

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5 Things to Know Before Conducting Research in Law Enforcement

By Lynden P. Perrault¹, Martina E. Faitakis², Renee M. Bencic³, Alicia R. LaPierre¹ & Adam N. Morrill²

¹Carleton University ²MacEwan University ³University of Ontario Institute of Technology

We are a team of undergraduate and graduate research assistants (RA) who were essential in the data collection process for a large-scale research project focused on intimate partner violence risk called, "Optimizing Risk Assessment for Domestic Violence" (ORADV), supported by a SSHRC Partnership Development Grant (Drs. Jung, Ennis, Hilton, and Nunes). This project was conducted at the Integrated Threat and Risk Assessment Centre (I-TRAC) in Edmonton, Alberta. We learned a lot, and here are five things we think are important for potential RAs and students to consider before diving into police-related empirical research:

1. Communication

It is critical for RAs to effectively communicate with other members of the research team, including the research coordinator if there is one (in our case, we sought input from ours, Anna Pham, at various times), and members of law

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enforcement. Coding problems are common, and many of these issues are resolved during formal or informal team meetings. Effective communication is therefore necessary to promote clarity and consistency while coding, which is an essential component to any research project. Being able to ask questions, keep notes, and confirm you are not making erroneous decisions is necessary to ensure reliability and consistency across RAs. Additionally, it is important to remember the setting in which you are working. Maintaining professional communication with the law enforcement officers is always important and necessary. They are great to chat with, extremely knowledgeable, and will usually be as eager to chat with you as you are with them. Just be mindful of where you are, who you are talking to, and who you are representing while you are on site.

2. Focus / Concentration

RAs must have the mental capacity to sift through and pull relevant information from lengthy documents. Files can often be over 1000 pages and may contain repetitive information with small bits of relevant information dispersed throughout. Therefore, being meticulous for extended periods of time is essential to the role of a RA. It is also important to recognize your own fatigue and to take breaks so that your coding is not compromised. If you feel drowsy, stop and take a walk: You don't want your coding to suffer because you are unable to focus!

3. Problem Solving Skills

Another issue that RAs will run into is how to deal with ambiguous information. Although coding manuals are available, which provide explicit guidelines for coding each item within a particular risk assessment measure, real-world cases are not so simple. Cases often contain conflictual or omitted information that can make coding difficult.

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Having the ability to first recognize ambiguous information, and then make appropriate coding decisions, is a vital skill. That being said, it is important to not let your problem-solving skills lead to "clinical judgements" or biases that unintentionally influence your coding. Remember that each case is different, and there are gaps you will need to fill in, but never make assumptions from the available information. Flagging items you are uncertain about and coding them only after you have been able to gather sufficient information can help!

"As an RA in a police setting, be prepared to deal with intense and traumatic subject matter."

4. Handling the Content

As an RA in a police setting, be prepared to deal with intense and traumatic subject matter. For the ORADV project, files contained male-to-female intimate partner violence events, ranging from threats with weapons to sexual assaults to murder. Many of these offenders have extensive criminal histories and traumatic pasts, which are included in the files and can sometimes be more graphic than their most recent offences. It is important to keep this in mind if you are potentially triggered by, or have trouble coping with, such subject matter. It is also important to note that many cases involve children or vulnerable persons. With this in mind, know your boundaries. If you read something you are unable to stomach, acknowledge that these might not be the kind of cases you take on in the future. Similarly, you may come across a particular file within a case that might be unexpectedly unsettling. For example, maybe photographs of victims do not bother you, but 911 recordings do. That is okay because we are all potentially triggered by something! It is simply important to be able to acknowledge your boundaries,

5. Don't Be Complacent

Lastly, it is important to remember to never be complacent. You may get to a point where you feel like you have enough experience to know what you are doing. A case that might have taken you three days to code, now might only take you one day to code. But remember that referring to the coding manual is a necessary part of the coding process. It is what ensures consistency and, ultimately, high quality data collection across RAs. After all, memory has been shown to be unreliable for finer details, so why risk it? Complacency also applies to passing judgement on offenders. If you are not vigilant, you may find yourself unintentionally making assumptions about particular offenders or specific index offences based on previous cases you coded. Do not forget that your job as a RA is not to code based on heuristics, but to code by objectively extracting data. Each case has its own unique story to tell. Your job is to code it reliably!

In sum, conducting police-related empirical research can be challenging. The file content can be difficult to cope with, the data collection is never as pretty as collecting data in a traditional lab, and ambiguity both in the files and in coding can present a real challenge for remaining consistent. Despite this, working as a RA can be both informative and incredibly rewarding. RAs develop the skills that are required to rigorously code rich datasets, communicate effectively, and simultaneously gain experience with the materials and forms regularly used by law enforcement. By conducting research in a law enforcement setting, RAs will surely improve the integrity of their future research and may, in turn, develop a passion for forensic-related research.

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SELF-CARE CORNER

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New Feature: Creating a Dialogue

By Kyrsten Grimes, M.A.

Self care is important for all mental health professionals, but it is arguably even more important in forensic and correctional settings, with some research suggesting that rates of burnout are higher here than in general psychiatric settings (Chandler, Newman, Butler, 2017). This may be due to a variety of factors, including greater psychiatric comorbidity in forensic than in non-forensic settings (Beck & Hunt, 2002; Butler et al., 2006; Maccio et al., 2015). In turn, this may lead to more challenging patient behaviours, which has been identified as a contributing factor to staff burnout in forensic settings (Elliot & Daley, 2013).

Significantly more research is needed in this area, but regardless of the setting, self care is critical to combating burnout and compassion fatigue. How often do we actually engage in self-care activities, however? Self care is often not focused on in graduate training. Indeed, it may even be considered a "taboo" subject in some programs. This is concerning

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given that the ability to practice self care is critical in both academia and clinical practice.

The Self-Care Corner is a new, regular feature where members are encouraged to share how they practice self-care or how they implement it. Sharing challenges faced in doing so is also encouraged! Despite its importance, self care is often not discussed in the workplace. It is my hope that with this space, a dialogue is established amongst clinicians and researchers working in forensic and correctional settings, while simultaneously offering support in the practice and implementation of self care.

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WORKSHOPS, EVENTS, AND CONFERENCES

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Sexual Behaviours Clinic Training: Working with Specialized Populations and Provider Self-Care

By Ainslie Heasman, Ph.D.

The 8th annual training event at the Sexual Behaviours Clinic (SBC) at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH) was held on November 15 & 16, 2018 to an engaged crowd with three excellent speakers. This event has evolved over the years to showcase leading clinicians and researchers in the area of sexual violence and abuse prevention. This year, Dr. Lawrence Ellerby kicked off the event with a full day of training divided into two topics. The morning focused on the importance of using traditional cultural and spiritual approaches in the assessment and treatment of Aboriginal men and women who sexually offend. Dr. Ellerby highlighted the importance of understanding the individual's exposure and involvement in their own culture and traditional healing practices as

well as the impact of residential schools in their history or that of their family. Dr. Ellerby reminded the audience that treatment of Aboriginal clients with sexual offences should also include offence specific programming targeting relevant dynamic risk factors with a focus on a strengths based wellness approach and collaboration with traditional/spiritual healers.

After a networking lunch that included a tour of the SBC phallometric laboratory, Dr. Ellerby engaged the group in an interactive session on the impact of working with an offender population and self-care. Attendees had the opportunity to explore in small groups the stressors and impacts associated in working with individuals with sexual behaviour concerns. The implications of compassion fatigue and vicarious trauma were discussed. The day ended with participants identifying strategies to support their wellness in their personal and professional lives.

The second day of the event focused on female sexual psychophysiology and the assessment and treatment of women with sexual offences. Dr. Meredith Chivers shared the various methods of assessing female sexual response and an overview of what turns people on. Specifically, Dr. Chivers spoke about the variation in gender-specificity of arousal and the importance of context. Dr. Chivers highlighted the lack of data comparing the sexual psychophysiology of women who have sexually offended with those who have not, along with the gender asymmetry in most paraphilias.

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The second half of the day saw an in-depth presentation by Dr. Franca Cortoni on assessment and treatment of women who sexually offend. Dr. Cortoni spoke about the importance of a gender-informed approach to the assessment and treatment of women with sexual offences as well as some of the latest research on the static and dynamic risk factors for this population. She highlighted that one of the main reasons behind the lack of risk assessment tools for women is the lack of a sufficiently large enough dataset (of approximately 5000 women) to allow for valid statistical analyses. Dr. Cortoni's talk concluded with a detailed discussion on gender-informed treatment and the importance of understanding the unique manifestation of the treatment areas of women.

> "One of the main reasons behind the lack of risk assessment tools for women is the lack of a sufficiently large enough dataset (of approximately 5000 women) to allow for valid statistical analyses. "

The annual event was filmed again this year to allow those interested and unable to attend to watch the training on their own. The videos are currently being edited and are available for purchase <u>HERE</u>. Videos along with all PowerPoint presentations will be sent out to those who purchase them as soon as they are edited. If you wish to be on the mailing list to hear of future training events at the SBC, please email sbceducationday@camh.ca.

Fall/Winter 2018

Did you hold an event recently that may be of interest to our members?

Tell us about it! Send a summary of your event to be included in the next issue!

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Register for N4!

By Joe Camilleri, Ph.D.

After years of planning, we are ready for the 4th North American Correctional and Criminal Justice Psychology Conference! The conference will be in Halifax, Nova Scotia from May 31 to June 2, 2019. Though N4 is run in conjunction with CPA's annual convention, all our programming will be held at the Delta Halifax.

We are very excited to share the full lineup of keynote speakers, which includes: Dr. David Farrington (Cambridge University) for his career contributions; Dr. Karin Beijersbergen (Ministry of Justice and Security, The Netherlands), who is an emerging scholar on procedural justice; Dr. Lynn Stewart (Correctional Service Canada), an expert on women offenders; and Dr. Gregory Walton (Stanford University), who will also serve as a CPA Plenary Speaker for his work on wise interventions. In addition to these keynote speakers, there will be pre-conference workshops, symposiums, 5- and 12-minute talks, discussion forums, and posters.

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The Steering Committee is also organizing a Banquet of Excellence where we will celebrate the achievements of our members and attendees. Winners of the Career Contribution Award, Significant Contribution Award, and undergraduate/graduate student poster prizes will be announced at the banquet.

Stay connected to conference updates on Facebook, Twitter, and cpa.ca/naccjpc, and please share these links with colleagues to help us spread the word.

We hope to see you in Halifax!

N4 Steering Committee: Joe Camilleri (Chair), Guy Bourgon, Jim Cheston, Joanna Hessen-Kayfitz, Zoe Hilton, Daryl Kroner, Ruth Mann, Jeremy Mills, Femina Varghese

Follow us on Facebook and

<u>Twitter</u> for the latest updates!

Save The Date: PRATO 2019

By Professor James Ogloff AM



Violence is a serious and pervasive problem in both young people and adults. A concerning level of crime and disorder and the criminalisation of youth has broad social, legal, economic and health consequences. Crime and violence are often rooted in broader urban and social problems. Media and community responses call for more, and more authoritarian, sanctions. Australian prison populations have grown by almost 40% over five years, with higher rates of growth for female offenders. Such growth is unsustainable and unnecessary as intervention can lead to desistance from crime. Efforts to prevent violence and to understand and treat violent offenders come up against 'get tough on crime' approaches, which are often disaggregated and fail to address the 'real world' problems. A broad range of professionals are involved in such efforts but confront difficulties in achieving cooperation, with whole of government commitment.

This international conference brings together policy contributors, lawyers, clinicians, legal decision makers, advocates, and researchers to explore the phenomenon of violence from a crossdisciplinary perspective, focusing on clinical, welfare, and legal strategies to explore effective responses to addressing, intervening and preventing violent behaviour.

The conference will be held at Palazzo Vaj, the Monash University Centre in Prato, Tuscany, which provides an exciting opportunity to meet in an inviting setting to share research, practice and policy developments that enable a critical examination of novel approaches to understanding and managing violence across the lifespan.

This exciting conference is hosted by Professor James Ogloff AM (Swinburne University, Australia) and Professor Rosemary Sheehan AM (Monash University). The conference will give particular attention to the following themes:

Understanding violence and offending

- Exploring youth violence and anti-social behaviour
- · Family violence and child welfare
- Gender and cultural effects
- Legal reforms for managing violent offending
- Advances in offending programs and approaches to desistance from violence
- Mental illness, trauma, personality dysfunction, substance misuse and violence
- Risk, intervention, diversion and decarceration approaches and policy.

The conference will offer considerable opportunity for cross-national dialogue. Keynote speakers, presented papers and roundtable forums will address the aims of the conference.

Visit www.swin.edu.au/prato2019 for more details.





KEYNOTE SPEAKERS INCLUDE

Judge Amanda Chambers, Children's Court of Victoria, Australia

Professor Fergus McNeill, University of Glasgow

Professor Giovanni de Girolamo, IRCCS St John of God Clinical Research Centre, Italy

Professor Mark Olver, University of Saskatchewan, Canada

Professor James Ogloff AM, Swinburne University of Technology, Australia

www.swin.edu.au/prato2019

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CALL FOR ABSTRACTS: Opens I March, closes 30 May, 2019



Other Upcoming Conferences

Contemporary Issues in Forensic Psychology, American Academy of Forensic Psychology Various dates and locations

<u>31st Annual San Diego International</u> <u>Conference on Child and Family</u> <u>Maltreatment</u> January 26-31, 2019, San Diego, California

American Academy of Forensic Sciences 71st Annual Meeting February 18-23, 2019, Baltimore, Maryland

American Psychology-Law Society Conference March 14-16, 2019, Portland, Oregon

35th Annual Symposium in Forensic Psychology March 28-31, 2019, San Diego, California

<u>33rd Annual National Adolescent Perpetration</u> <u>Network Conference</u> May 2-4, 2019, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida

<u>CPA's 80th Annual National Convention</u> May 31-June 2, 2019, Halifax, Nova Scotia

<u>19th International Association of Forensic</u> <u>Mental Health Service</u> June 25-27, 2019, Montreal, Quebec

American Psychological Association Annual Convention August 8-11, 2019, Chicago Illinois

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CAREERS

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Have You Checked Out the Job Openings on the CPA Website Lately?

If not, here are some positions that may interest you:

 Saskatchewan Health Authority (North Battleford, SK) is looking for two Psychologists (Forensic and Non-Forensic)

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



STAY INVOLVED!

We are looking to fill several vacant positions on our Executive for 2019:

- ♦ Vice Chair
- ♦ Director-at-Large
- ♦ *Crime Scene* Review Editor

Individuals interested in these positions are encouraged to submit a statement of interest to our Membership Coordinator, Dr. Natalie Jones (nataliejenniferjones@gmail.com) by **May 1, 2019.** The election will take place at the Annual Business Meeting at the 2019 CPA Convention.

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!

If you have ideas for submission or questions, please contact the Managing Editor, Kyrsten Grimes (kyrsten.grimes@mail.utoronto.ca).

Be sure to stay tuned for the next call for submissions where we will be looking for members to contribute to the new and exciting features to be included in the next issue!

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 out our Website: <u>https://www.cpa.ca/aboutcpa/cpasections/</u> <u>criminaljusticepsychology/</u>

Thank you for supporting the Criminal Justice Psychology Section!

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