

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

# CRIME SCENE

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

**Criminal Justice Psychology**  
SECTION OF THE CPA

CANADIAN  
PSYCHOLOGICAL  
ASSOCIATION



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

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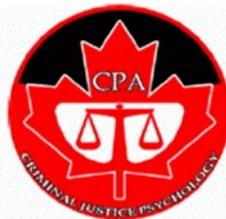
CRIME SCENE

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## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Message from the Chair, <i>S. Jung</i>	3
Message from the Past Chair, <i>J. Cheston</i>	4
Criminal Justice Psychology Section Awards, <i>N. Jones</i>	5
<b>Current Perspectives</b>	<b>9</b>
Expectations and Acceptance: Student Learning Unhindered by Pandemic, <i>N. Penman</i>	9
<b>Especially for Students</b>	<b>11</b>
Where are They Now? Featuring Cary Ryan, <i>A. Salerno-Ferraro</i>	11
<b>Publications</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Upcoming Conferences</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Careers</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Stay Involved!</b>	<b>19</b>





## Message from the Chair

Sandy Jung, Ph.D. R.Psych

The changes in our world has certainly left me with some periods of reflecting on how grateful I am for many things in my world and how much I took these things for granted pre-pandemic. For example, simple things such as picking up a few groceries or visiting with friends are now different; while larger things, such as traveling to a conference, enjoying a nostalgic 80s concert (which I truly miss), or heading to a local festival are basically non-existent in our current pandemic world.

What I am most grateful for is how much passion I have for this field to which we all dedicate our careers and training. I love what I do. As Chair of the Criminal Justice Section, I am particularly grateful for the network of those in the criminal justice field, and the enthusiasm and engagement of our 250+ Section members (one of the largest of CPA). Many of you continuously generate and contribute to our knowledge in the criminal justice field, often leading the field in research and innovations. And many of you have dedicated your careers to apply this knowledge in evidence-based practices, which we know is not a simple task, as battling between effectively serving a criminal justice population and adhering to political/governmental policies (that may be, at times, a backwards progression) has its challenges. If there is anything that our criminal justice psychology field is not, it can never be argued that we are not progressive.

There are many things to look forward to in the near and not-so-far future. For example, the N5 convention planning is underway, which will be held in Toronto in 2023. Also, many organizations have established training opportunities to ensure we maintain continuing competencies. And our Section Executive members are actively finding ways to keep you abreast of issues and developments in our field (look for upcoming articles in *Crime Scene* that explore clinical practice and police psychology issues).

I encourage our members to share this issue of *Crime Scene* with your colleagues who may not be Section members, and with graduate and undergraduate students who wish to stay connected and updated but do not know how. There are so many of us in our Section who can ensure that the next generation of researchers, practitioners, and educators in our field are ready to hit the ground running, and merely becoming a member of our Section can allow them to stay connected and abreast of the issues that concern our field.

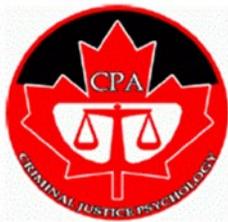
Since our AGM in August, we have welcomed new changes to our Section Executive who serve the membership. The most recent of these changes is the wonderful addition of Sebastian Baglolo from Carleton University, who joins us as the Membership Coordinator (replacing Dr. Natalie Jones who is now Awards Coordinator, and myself who acted in this capacity in the interim months). Please do not hesitate to share with him any announcements, training



opportunities, or other important information that you would like to share with the membership (sebastian.baglole@carleton.ca).

The call for nominations for our Criminal Justice Psychology Section awards is now out (see announcement in this issue) and I encourage you to considering recognizing your colleagues for at least one of these awards. Personally, at this stage of my career, I find myself to be fulfilled by paying tribute to others and celebrating their work. I hope you will find the same satisfaction by nominating your colleagues for these accolades.

In the wake of increasing Covid-19 cases across Canada, I hope you will take good care of yourself and your loved ones, both physically and mentally.



## Message from the Past Chair

Jim Cheston, Ph.D. C.Psych

Earlier this year I retired from my position as Chief Psychologist at the Ontario Correctional Institute (OCI) and started a part-time private practice in Toronto. This allows me the welcomed flexibility to spend more time with my spouse and, when the COVID restrictions in the Greater Toronto Area permit, with my new grandson. I am extending this flexibility to write this article on my personal reflections gained from almost 30 years working in the field of Correctional Forensic Psychology.

A lot has changed since I started working at the Northern Treatment Centre, which is now known as the Algoma Treatment and Remand Centre, in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario in 1991. For starters, at the time the Northern Treatment Centre was

the one correctional facility in the country that housed both federal and provincial incarcerates; it now serves only Ontario provincial offenders. It was a few years later that I started to learn about the Risk Need Responsivity (RNR) model of assessing and treating offenders. Yes, the field has changed considerably since I first started working in corrections!

There have been substantial changes in both the assessment and treatment areas of criminal justice psychology over the past three decades. The assessment of criminal recidivism risk – and particularly that of sexual and intimate partner recidivism risk – has evolved significantly and witnessed the development of a number of measurement instruments. It was sometime in the mid-1990s when Dr. Karl Hanson came to the OCI (where I was a staff psychologist at the time) to introduce and train on one of the sexual offender risk measures that he and his team had created – these were exciting times! Thereafter, the Ontario Domestic Assault Risk Assessment (ODARA) and Spousal Assault Risk Assessment (SARA) guides were developed; both were notable contributions to assessing the risk of domestic violence recidivism, which have come from the Penetanguishene group of researchers.

The RNR model was the first coherent and well-developed approach to assess criminal risk and treat offenders to reduce their likelihood of re-offending. More recently, the Good Lives Model (GLM), originated in Australia, to provide a different perspective to offender assessment and treatment. Although there has been considerable controversy in the literature over which is better, with RNR often noted as having greater empirical support, I have always seen them as complementary rather than competitive. Simply put, RNR identifies the criminogenic factors that can be targeted for treatment and GLM provides a more positive treatment context. The point is, though, that there has been tremendous improvement in recent decades in the theory, practice, and delivery of correctional treatment.





As we are entering the third decade of the twenty-first century, I see the field of Criminal Justice Psychology in Canada as very well situated to continue to significantly improve community safety through the assessment and treatment of criminal conduct. My personal experience leads me to consider two areas to be particularly promising for further exploration and development. The area of Motivational Interviewing (or Motivational Enhancement) is, I think, an area that would greatly improve correctional treatment outcomes if it was employed on a wider scale. Specifically, correctional staff can also be trained in its use for a wider engagement of the offending population, particularly in the initial preparatory phases. Personal commitment to behavioural change is a therapeutic process unto itself. This could begin to alter the correctional mindset toward the possibility of engaging offenders in positive change for their own benefit, with the resulting reduction of crime in the community.

Training correctional staff in Motivational Interviewing/Enhancement leads to greater development for my area; deliberate and well conceptualized efforts to improve the systemic aspects of the criminal justice system which interfere with offenders striving to change in a positive direction. This is obviously a substantial task which will require concerted time and effort to accomplish. However, as long as our criminal justice system remains primarily focused on punishment rather than rehabilitation, the efforts of psychologists and other mental health professionals in the criminal justice system will be constrained. We have the means to be 'smart on crime,' to effectively engage offenders in treatment that will substantially reduce recidivism. This is in contrast to remaining stuck on the politically popular phrase of being 'tough on crime'. Although the prospect of striving to modify the criminal justice system in ways that would support rather than hinder treatment progress in offenders may seem daunting, this is a process of change that can be seen as having been in progress for some time, based on the developments I have mentioned over just the past three decades.

## Criminal Justice Psychology Section Awards

Natalie Jones, Ph.D.

Please note that all nominations/submissions associated with the following three CJPS awards must be received by **February 1, 2021** and forwarded to the current Chair of the Criminal Justice Psychology Section (Dr. Sandy Jung; [Sandy.Jung@macewan.ca](mailto:Sandy.Jung@macewan.ca)). The awards will be presented at the upcoming conference of the Canadian Psychological Association, held virtually in June 2021.

For further details on CJPS awards and past award recipients, see the following link: <https://www.cpa.ca/aboutcpa/cpasections/criminaljusticepsychology/criminaljusticeawards>. If you have specific questions about any of the awards, please contact Dr. Natalie Jones, Director-At-Large, Awards Coordinator ([nataliejenniferjones@gmail.com](mailto:nataliejenniferjones@gmail.com)).

### 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. The work could be theoretical, empirical, or applied. For the theoretical and empirical works, the award would typically be based on a paper published during the previous year in an academic or professional journal. The applied contributions would address the creation and implementation of psychological services to offenders, the courts, or the police, or recognize the publishing



of a book or other resource that has made a significant contribution to the field (either applied or theoretical). The effective promotion and administration of psychologists and psychological services would also qualify as a significant contribution (e.g., setting up a treatment center, hiring 10 new psychologists). If a member of the section makes exceptional contributions on different years, then it is possible for the same individual to receive this award more than once.

Nominations for the Significant Contribution Award received by the Criminal Justice Psychology Section (CJPS) 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, and/or letters/testimonials from clients and coworkers).

In addition to meeting the eligibility criteria outlined below, the nominated contribution will be assessed on measures of **quality** (i.e., anchored in theoretical/empirical evidence), **innovation** (i.e., offers something novel to the field), and **potential impact** (i.e., likelihood of influencing policy, practice, or public understanding of criminal justice issues).

#### **Eligibility (all of the following criteria must be met):**

The following items are included in the application package:

- ◇ **One** nomination letter indicating how the nominee meets the criteria outlined above (the nomination letter must be from a CJPS member)
- ◇ Nominee's curriculum vitae
- ◇ Supporting documentation for the nomination (Note: This will vary by nomination but can include a copy of the journal article in question, reference to a book, testimonials from professionals in the field, citation metrics, etc.)

Other:

- ◇ Nominee is a CJPS member or in the process of becoming a CJPS member (Note: we will ensure this criterion is met prior to formally issuing the award)

#### **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 our theoretical understanding and/or practices in criminal justice psychology and/or law. The contributions can be theoretical, empirical, or applied. For the theoretical and empirical works, the award would typically concern a series of published works that have had an important influence on the field. Signs of this influence could include changes in practices (e.g., widespread use of treatment or assessment methods; changes in the law) as well as recognition by the academic community (e.g., bibliometric indices, awards). The applied contributions would recognize leaders in the criminal justice field who have demonstrated excellence in one of the following areas: the creation and implementation of psychological services to offenders or to the courts, the teaching and mentoring of new psychologists, and management and administration.

#### **Eligibility (all of the following criteria must be met):**

The following items are included in the application package:

- ◇ **Two** nomination letters indicating how the nominee meets the criteria outlined above (at least one of the two nomination letters must be from a CJPS member)
- ◇ Nominee's curriculum vitae
- ◇ **Two** first-authored research publications by the nominee appearing in peer reviewed journals

Other:

- ◇ Nominee is a CJPS member or in the process of becoming a CPJS member (Note: we will ensure this criterion is met prior to formally issuing the award)



- ◇ Nominee is not a former recipient of this award

The nominee's application will be assessed on the basis of the following criteria:

1. **Productivity over time:** Achievement must be the product of a career of contributions (over 10 years) as opposed to a single contribution, no matter how significant the contribution. A singular contribution might more appropriately be recognized by a CJPS Significant Contribution Award.

2. **High quality and innovation:** The nominee must be an original thinker and/or creator whose work has established new frames of reference. Is their research or are their practical endeavours novel/sophisticated? This could involve cutting edge statistical or analytic approaches, a unique merging of ideas from different fields, developing a unique training approach, etc.

3. **Acclamation:** The nominee must be recognized and known for superlative contributions to the field as evidenced by awards, invited talks, bibliometric indicators, etc.

4. **Practical implications:** The nominee's work has either direct or indirect practical implications for advancing and bettering the field of criminal justice.

5. **Impact:** Considerations of a nominee's impact may include the following:

- Presentation of research findings at conferences
- Specialized trainings or invited talks/workshops (consider venue/outlet, size/type of audience)
- Media coverage of research
- Instances where expertise is called upon (e.g., consultations; court testimony; service to the community, government agencies, or educational institution; community-engaged scholarship, etc.)
- Impact of research on the community or larger society (e.g., their work changes policy/practice somewhere)

6. **Research citizenship and/or service to the profession:** This criterion is also an indicator of leadership and influence in the field, and may include the following:
- Grant and journal reviewing, including participation on editorial boards (consider role in journals, volume of activities, and prestige of journals)
  - Mentoring of other researchers (excludes practitioners but can include scientist/practitioners). Can include supervision of researchers in university or government settings.

### J. Stephen Wormith Graduate Research Award

J. Stephen Wormith was an inspiring advocate and educator of forensic and correctional psychological practices in Canada and internationally. He was a professor in the Department of Psychology, and Director, Centre for Forensic Behavioural Science and Justice Studies, at the University of Saskatchewan. His research on risk assessment, correctional interventions, crime prevention, and public attitudes towards offenders and criminal justice have had a major impact in the field. He has had a significant influence developing the next generation of researchers, clinicians, and advocates in the field of criminal justice psychology.

The Criminal Justice Psychology Section of the Canadian Psychological Association is honouring Dr. Wormith's legacy by presenting the Graduate Research Award to one successful applicant in recognition of their graduate level research in the field of psychology that examines criminal behaviour, the law, and/or other psychological phenomena in a criminal justice context. This award was developed with the intent of recognizing research excellence of graduate-level criminal justice psychology students and is expected to be awarded annually. Submissions that will be considered for the J. Stephen Wormith Graduate Research Award will be reviewed and adjudicated by the Section Executive and/or members of the



Awards Subcommittee. Evaluation of submissions will focus on the extent to which the research builds upon theory and extant empirical literature, incorporates appropriate and innovative research design and analytical methods, and holds relevant implications for the field of criminal justice psychology. The award will be announced in the *Crime Scene* newsletter, on the Section website, and at the annual CPA convention.

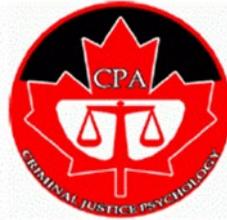
If you would like to submit your graduate research for consideration, your submission should include (a) a cover letter containing a physical address, e-mail address, and telephone number, (b) a 100- to 150-word statement (included in your cover letter) of how the research contributes to criminal justice psychology, (c) a letter of support from your faculty supervisor, (d) an updated curriculum vitae, and (e) a manuscript of your graduate research as described below. Prior to submission, applicants should ensure adherence to the following eligibility criteria and submission guidelines:

- Only research completed as a graduate thesis or dissertation is eligible for award consideration.
- Only completed investigations are eligible and must have been completed (i.e., thesis or dissertation was defended or submitted to university committee) in the 12 months preceding the submission deadline.
- Applicant cannot be a former recipient of the award.
- Applicant, at the time of submission, should be a member of the Criminal Justice Psychology Section or in the process of becoming a member.
- Research should be prepared in the format of a manuscript submitted for publication, strictly adhering to APA 7<sup>th</sup> edition style. The research and manuscript must be of publishable quality. Length is limited to 20 pages (min. 10 pages), excluding abstract, references, figures, and tables.

The recipient of this award in 2021 will receive \$1,000 and will be asked to provide a summary of their research for publication in the *Crime Scene* newsletter. The award recipient will also be strongly encouraged to attend the CPA convention and present their research.



# CURRENT PERSPECTIVES



## Expectations and Acceptance: Student Learning Unhindered by Pandemic

Nathan Penman

Practica were cancelled everywhere, schools were not going to be opening up,” recalls Dr. Margo C. Watt, Program Coordinator and Professor of Forensic Psychology at St. Francis Xavier University (StFX). “That would be the first thing that you’d cut, right? It’s seen as to be impossible—the courts are closed, the prisons are closed, everything’s closed.” Dr. Watt, a registered clinical forensic psychologist, had a difficult decision to make when considering whether to accept new students to the Forensic Psychology program, a rare and unique opportunity provided to undergraduate students. “StFX was still deliberating, so it still wasn’t even clear to me, I didn’t know if we were going to be in class or what the situation was—so many unknowns. I just decided I would take as many students as I thought I could possibly handle because I was so impressed with the applications, and I thought we’ll figure it out.”

The adversity brought by the global pandemic inspired creativity and innovation borne out of the need to provide practicum placements to 25 students—myself included. As a new and junior student to the program, I kept my expectations modest. I thought any potential opportunities

would be afforded to the senior students and that classes would be online. However, despite the realities of the pandemic, we’ve been very fortunate at StFX. Take it from Emma Munro, a junior student in the program who’s hoping to work in forensic and clinical settings, “I’m enjoying the in-person class, and I’m excited about working virtually for different placements. [In class,] we touch on so many little topics we wouldn’t necessarily consider outside of practicum: active listening, leading a conversation, eliciting information—all of the fundamentals for going into practicum placements and future jobs.”

Her contemporary, Olivia Stephenson, pursuing a career in profiling or interrogations, added, “I’m really interested in what makes people commit crimes, that’s why I’m here.” In class, we’ve received training on how to interview people through the Evidence-Based Investigative Interviewing course made by Dr. Joseph Eastwood from Ontario Tech University. Olivia went on to explain, “I think the [Evidence-Based] course is really interesting because I watch a lot of true crime TV, and they always show bits and pieces of interviewing the suspect, but I never knew how much went into the interview.” For me, I



think Olivia's quote exemplifies the first key word I want to highlight, *expectations*. It's safe to say that this year hasn't unfolded as one would have normally expected—but really, how often does it? Since we shifted our expectations of the year to one of optimism and openness, we've made strides in the opportunities we've created with help from our many "Friends of Forensic Psychology" and associates from the fields of criminal justice and mental health.

With typical in-person field trips to courts and prisons not available, and practicum opportunities severely limited, we called on these friends and associates to see if they were willing and able to help. Fortunately, many of them saw the potential in online placements. In the words of senior student, Kierra Maika, pursuing a career in social work, "I feel like I'm getting a lot out of my placement that I still would have gotten had I done it in person. Nothing really changed, my supervisor is fantastic to alter our activities to [be] online, and I feel like I'm not missing out with it. I'm doing two placements right now. First, I'm continuing my first placement with the Ontario Provincial Police in the Victim Response Support Unit by now working on their website. My second is making a COVID coping kit. I'm working with E. L. Adams II, a registered psychologist in Ottawa, and we're using adaptive, evidence-based coping strategies to design a kit for undergraduate students to help them with university life and COVID."

Her classmate, Juliana Khoury, who already completed a Bachelor of Humanities degree with a minor in political science and is hoping to pursue graduate studies in clinical psychology, has a placement with Dr. Aubrey Immelman. "I pivoted with Dr. Watt's help to doing an online placement with a political psychologist in the United States, and we're doing a psychological profile of Justin Trudeau. I was originally going to run a book club in a provincial correctional facility ... but this [new practicum experience] has certainly made up for it."

I'd be remiss if I failed to mention the opposite side of the coin for practicum placements, the supervisors. Christopher Lively has been work-

ing with Marc Sgro, a senior student pursuing a career in the legal field, for a few months now. Chris is a PhD Candidate at Memorial University of Newfoundland, and was among the first cohort of graduates from the Forensic Psychology program at StFX. Chris begins his story by saying, "I started [at StFX] in physics and mathematics. I wasn't in psychology at that time, but I was taking electives in it. I was able to come back for a second degree later on and ... that interaction with the forensic course literally changed the course of my life. It shaped my goals and desires to pursue this type of career." During his time as an undergraduate student in the Forensic Psychology program, Chris was able to do a practicum placement at the Nova Institution for Women teaching guitar to female inmates. After volunteering there, he ended up securing a position at that prison before starting his master's degree program at Memorial University.

Now, in collaboration with Dr. Eastwood and Dr. Brent Snook (Chris' PhD supervisor), Marc and Chris are working on developing stimuli for a project that aims to examine how the behaviour of the police during a suspect's interview impacts a suspect's alibi. Moreover, the goal of the project is to examine how these behaviours and changes in a suspect's alibi affect jurors' and judges' abilities to assess an alibi's credibility. Marc described to me how he found the practicum placement: "We've turned sit-down meetings into Skype meetings. For us, that's worked because I think research can be very flexible—he's not even in the province [of Nova Scotia], and we're still able to communicate and get things back and forth. It's been interesting and I've enjoyed it, and it hasn't changed the experience in a negative way. I'm just happy and fortunate to be getting experience."

As Dr. Watt explained to me, "it's like somebody pressed a pause button, and we all had to stop and figure out how we're going to do things differently. And that's what we're doing." This brings me to the second and final word I want to highlight in this article, *acceptance*. We can't change the realities of the pandemic situation, but our attitudes and openness to changing the way we do things can lead to growth in areas we



would not have explored otherwise. The Forensic Psychology Program at StFX began as a course, became a course with service learning, grew to be a 2-year special concentration offering, and next year will become a direct-entry four-year program. The **expectations** of what students can get out of forensic psychology at StFX has constantly evolved; and even in star-crossed conditions, **acceptance** gives us the ability to hold onto the good and explore the opportunities provided by a twist of fate.



Clockwise from bottom left: Olivia Stephen, David Biddle, Emma Munro, Dafina Kohzani, Allison Hancock, Sarah Shaw, Rachel Jollimore, Brooklyn Johnson, Alaa Salih, Marc Sgro, Juliana Khoury, Bailee Lawton, Nathan Penman, Kierra Maica, Jenna MacIntosh, Blade Mann-Dixon, Ella Mulva-hill, Jasonique Moss, Drew MacPherson, Gracie Grieve, Mercedes Hustler

Missing: Emma Valardo, Dylan Wright, Elle Levesque, Daniella Serrao

Photo Credit: Mercedes Hustler and Dr. Margo Watt

# ESPECIALLY FOR STUDENTS



## Where are They Now? Featuring Cary Ryan

Alisha Salerno-Ferraro, M.A.

For this edition, we are pleased to feature Cary Ryan. Originally from British Columbia, Cary recently concluded her graduate studies in Social Work at Dalhousie University in Nova Scotia. She is an outdoor enthusiast who enjoys camping, canoeing, kayaking, biking, and hiking. She also enjoys photography and painting. Cary's journey is a unique one. While living in British Columbia, she worked for 12 years in the criminal justice system in different roles, specifically as a police officer and a youth probation and restorative justice facilitator. While working in these various roles, she completed her Bachelor of Arts in Psychology through the University of Fraser Valley and Thomas Rivers University. While working as a youth probation officer, Cary saw the need to upgrade her education and returned to school where she completed her Master's in Social Work. Cary has a wealth of experience in the criminal justice sector, as well as an impressive educational CV. Cary notes that she is a survivor of structural violence, domestic violence, and family violence. Researching criminal justice responses to domestic violence is now a large part of the work she does today.

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**A: Cary, tell us about the work you do.**

C: I am a Social Worker registered with the Nova Scotia College of Social Workers and am currently working in the field of research as a Research Coordinator for the School of Social Work at Dalhousie University. I work directly under Dr. Nancy Ross and Dr. Cassandra Hanrahan. The majority of my work is with Dr. Ross in the area of policy development related to the criminal justice system's responses to domestic violence in Nova Scotia and throughout Canada. With Dr. Ross, we are also looking at exploring the experiences of women participating in domestic violence court programs in Nova Scotia. For Dr. Hanrahan, I am doing work in the area of human-animal interactions and social work, environment and social work, and sustainability and social work.

**A: What do you love most about your job?**

C: The autonomy to manage my own schedule without being micro-managed. My bosses are great, and I think my life and work experience gives them the confidence to allow me to work on my own schedule. Also, I have the autonomy to figure out what my own social work practice will look like in this field. For example, I choose to be involved in a number of community groups in order to stay rooted in what's happening front-line in this field, and to be able to work collaboratively with other professionals.

**A: How did your education in psychology help you in your previous career and in your new role? How did it bring you to your present position?**

C: It took me 11 years to complete my education in psychology, as I worked at the same time. I enjoyed my education, as it allowed me to reflect on my own experiences as a survivor, as well as the experiences of those around me. It helped me build compassion towards others, and to improve my understanding of mental health. My career goals have always been to be helping folks in one way or another, so psychology supported all of the work I did in British Co-

lumba in the criminal justice system, as well as provided an excellent foundation for my social work education.

**A: What are your research interests?**

C: I am currently interested in applying the social work/social justice lens to analyze the criminal justice system (i.e., the processes, the policies), particularly in the area of domestic violence and family violence.

**A: How did your education help you get to where you are today? What part of your education was most useful/beneficial for the position you are in now?**

C: My education became critical to my career when I left policing in 2009, as the jobs I was interested in (Probation) required a degree, which is why I focused on completing my degree at that time. Once I became a youth probation officer in British Columbia, in order to move forward in that career – or any career I was interested in – I needed to have a master's degree, or a bachelor of social work, so it was at this time that I decided to pursue both. I have to say, all of my education and training have become critical to the work I am doing now in research, and they all play a role in being able to critically analyze issues within the criminal justice system and beyond.

However, I can't say enough about my social work education at Dalhousie University; it opened my eyes and changed my worldviews dramatically. The School of Social Work at Dalhousie University focuses on critical analysis and social justice and trains the student to look at the layers upon layers of factors behind the surface of social issues. It allowed me to see for the first time structural and systemic abuse and oppression, to understand the role intersectionality plays when folks are navigating this patriarchal, neoliberal, capitalist, colonialist society we live in – the barriers people face and the impossibility of being able to fight against these powers. It allowed me to understand how my day-to-day choices to maintain my own survival, can



serve to perpetuate oppression for others, and how to disrupt that cycle, and push for change so that those who are facing unsurmountable barriers in society can be supported in working towards emancipation. My social work education helped me expand my understanding of mental health to go beyond seeing it as an individual problem and understanding it in the context of the larger factors discussed here.

**A: What kinds of jobs were you looking for once you graduated?**

C: I was interested in working in the field of Research and Policy related to the criminal justice system. I was also interested in developing a private practice looking at critical stress debriefing for first responders and restorative justice practices.

**A: How did you find the transition from academia to work, and in your case, back to academia? Was there anything that surprised you?**

C: Throughout the past 20 years, I have gone back and forth with work and education, so I have become accustomed to these changes, although every time I go back to school, it is a financial risk and that creates stress. I've always been careful about what I am willing to go into debt for, and school has been a comfortable investment for me that I typically haven't regretted – although, trying to secure good and reliable work after obtaining my Master's Degree in Social Work to set myself up in a position to pay back student debt has been a challenge. Most research work connected to universities is grant-paid, fixed term, and that's a challenge for long-term financial planning.

Since finishing my Master's Degree in Social Work in 2018, I feel like I haven't left school, even though I have been working now for 2 ½ years. The research work is so similar to being a student, but that may also be what is attractive about the work to me, since I am a life-long learner and love going to school and learning.

**A: Based on your research experience, what is a piece of advice you'd give to someone who just graduated and is new in the job market?**

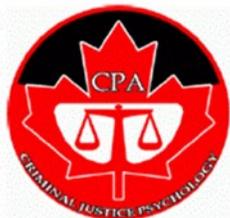
C: Be open to what possibilities and opportunities could result from your education and be realistic as to where your interests lie and where the job possibilities are. Sometimes, you have to embrace an opportunity you didn't plan for, a job you didn't see yourself doing because that's the job that's available to you. However, there is something to be learned in every job opportunity, and it may open the door to something you never imagined you would do and that you actually love. It wasn't until the last half of my Master's in Social Work program that I imagined the idea of working in policy and research, but it was a step I am glad I took as I enjoy it greatly. Having said that, there aren't a lot of stable jobs in this field for social workers as of yet in Nova Scotia, and realistically, I have a family to support and bills to pay. So there will come a time that I will need to find something more permanent, and it may not be in research and policy or even the criminal justice system. So, therefore, I need to stay open to opportunities, even if I don't feel that they are right for me in the moment. In the many different jobs I have held over the years, I have gained skills and learned something that I have been able to carry forward with me into the next job adventure. Also, my advice is to invest in your future and make sure you're putting some of your earnings into a retirement plan or pension (if this is available to you). The years will go by fast and the little investments month to month add up.

Cary, thanks so much for sharing your story with us and best of luck with your future endeavours!

*If you or someone you know is a recent graduate who has recently entered the workforce and would like to be featured in an upcoming issue, contact Alisha at [salern0a@yorku.ca](mailto:salern0a@yorku.ca).*



# PUBLICATIONS



## Recently Published Abstracts

**Babchishin, K. M. & Hanson, R. K. (2020). Monitoring changes in risk of reoffending: A prospective study of 632 men on community supervision. *Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology*. Advance online publication. doi:10.1037/ccp0000601**

**Objectives:** Few studies have examined how much individuals change on intermediate targets of risk to reoffend. Even fewer studies have examined the extent to which change on such measures predict reoffending. Establishing the validity of intermediate measures requires a multistep approach that a) assesses the reliability of the change, b) assesses change using statistical analyses that can account for measurement error, and c) examines the extent to which change on these intermediate measures predict reoffending. **Method:** The current study examined the validity of an intermediate measure of risk to reoffend scored by community supervision officers (i.e., ACUTE-2007) in a large sample of men convicted of sexually motivated offences (N = 632). **Results:** We found that risk to reoffend changes across time, the pattern of change varies across individuals, risk levels can predict different pattern of change, and that the best predictors of recidivism are the latest score or a rolling average of scores. **Conclusions:** Community supervision can use recent information con-

cerning the community adjustment of their clients to predict recidivism. Best practice includes updating assessments and adjusting supervision practices based on their clients' most recent assessment, or the average of previous assessments.

**Hanson, R. K. (2020). Altruistic (costly) punishment as motivation for vindictive rape. *Sexual Offending: Theory, Research, and Prevention*, 15(1). Article e3067. doi:10.5964/sotrap.3067 [open access]**

This paper presents a model of vindictive rape based on common mechanisms for maintaining cooperation among humans, namely altruistic (or costly) punishment, sex role expectations, and retributive ("eye for an eye") justice. Vindictive rapes are characterized by high level of victim harm without explicit sadistic sexual interests. They are also distinguished from angry, reactive sexual aggression in response to personal insult or threats. In this model, vindictive rape is considered a form of retributive justice in which the perpetrator punishes the female victim for perceived transgressions against sexual norms. None of the specific psychological mechanisms are intrinsically problematic. Nevertheless, individuals who have committed vindictive rapes



would still be expected to have risk-relevant schema worthy of interventions. For such individuals, the primary treatment targets would be loosening rigid sexual norm expectations for women, increasing confidence in conventional methods of maintaining social order, and decreasing willingness to hurt others at the cost of hurting oneself. A 15-item Vindictive Rape Attitude Questionnaire is presented in order to facilitate further research on the topic.

**Hanson, R. K., Newstrom, N., Brouillette-Alarie, S., Thornton, D., Robinson, B. E., & Miner, M. H. (in press). Does reassessment improve prediction? A prospective study of the Sexual Offender Treatment Intervention and Progress Scale (SOTIPS). *International Journal of Offender Therapy and Comparative Criminology*.**

This prospective study examined the predictive validity of the Sex Offender Treatment Intervention and Progress Scale (SOTIPS; McGrath et al., 2012), a sexual recidivism risk/need tool designed to identify dynamic (changeable) risk factors relevant to supervision and treatment. The SOTIPS risk tool was scored by probation officers at two sites ( $n = 565$ ) for three time points: near the start of community supervision, at 6 months, and then at 12 months. Given that conventions for analyzing dynamic prediction studies have yet to be established, one of the goals of the current paper was to demonstrate promising statistical approaches for the analysis of longitudinal studies in corrections. In most analyses, static SOTIPS scores predicted all types of recidivism (sexual, violent, and general [any]). Dynamic SOTIPS scores, however, only improved the prediction of general recidivism, and only when the analyses with the greatest statistical power were used (Cox regression with time dependent covariates).

**Hilton, N. Z. and Helmus, L. M. (2020). Using graphs in sexual violence risk communication: Benefits may depend on the risk metric. *Sexual Abuse*. Advance online publication, August 17, 2020. doi:10.1177/1079063220951191**

Actuarial scales provide a relatively objective and reliable assessment of individuals' risk of recidivism. Recent research has explored how graphs can improve quantitative risk communication. We tested whether graphs can improve understanding and perception of sexual violence risk when matched with risk metric. Participants ( $N = 676$ ) were recruited from Amazon's MTurk platform and read a brief description of a man convicted of a sexual offense, including results of a fictional sexual recidivism risk scale. In Study 1, absolute risk of recidivism enabled participants to distinguish between individuals with relatively high and low risk of sexual recidivism. In Study 2, this distinction was enhanced by adding a graph, especially when percentiles were communicated. Risk ratios increased perceived risk. Objective numeracy increased understanding and reduced perceived risk. We recommend that risk communication assumes limited statistical numeracy, and further research with practitioners to test the effect of graphs and risk metrics on forensic/judicial decisions.

**Hilton, N. Z., Pham, A. T., Jung, S., Nunes, K. L., & Ennis, L. (2020). Risk scores and reliability of the SARA, SARAV3, B-SAFER, and ODARA among intimate partner violence (IPV) cases referred for threat assessment. *Police Practice and Research*. Advance online publication. doi:10.1080/15614263.2020.1798235**

Threat assessment services help police by identifying risk and recommending ways to mitigate risk for cases perceived to have a high potential for intimate partner violence (IPV). However, research has yet to show that cases referred for threat assessment score higher on IPV risk tools than routine policing samples, which would show whether referrals are appropriate. Furthermore, it is unknown whether these tools can be scored reliably from documents gathered by threat as-



sessors without contacting perpetrators or victims. We scored the Spousal Assault Risk Assessment Guide (SARA) and its revision (SARA-V3), Brief Spousal Assault Risk Evaluation Form (B-SAFER), and Ontario Domestic Assault Risk Assessment (ODARA) from threat assessment files of 238 men referred for IPV offenses. Cases scored higher than previously reported routine policing samples. Inter-rater reliability coefficients for total scores and most subscales were  $\geq .70$ . Findings support appropriateness of referrals and capacity to reliably score IPV risk tools.

**Hilton, N. Z., Cesaroni, C., Ham, E., & Skilling, T. (2020). Institutional adjustment of young adults undergoing forensic assessment. *Psychology, Crime, & Law*. Advance online publication. doi:10.1080/1068316X.2020.1798429**

Adolescence and emerging adulthood are considered distinct developmental periods and times of peak criminal offending and onset of many major mental disorders. Previous research suggests that adolescents and young adults in adult correctional institutions adjust more poorly than their older counterparts do, and psychosocial adjustment is associated with pre-existing vulnerability. Research with institutionalized young adults is sparse. We studied institutional and psychosocial adjustment of men admitted to a forensic psychiatric hospital. Overall, younger age on admission was associated with previous vulnerability (i.e. adverse childhood experiences) and institutional adjustment (e.g. assaults, management problems), but not psychosocial adjustment (i.e. mood problems, psychosis, social withdrawal). Age had small and inconsistent effects on adjustment measures in regression analyses controlling for length of stay. Comparing the 141 young adults aged 18–24 with 141 men aged 25–59 matched on pre-admission psychiatric and criminal history did not yield age-related group differences. The apparent poorer adjustment of young adults may be attributable to younger onset of psychiatric and criminal justice involvement, resulting in earlier admission to the institution.

**Mcphail, I. V. & Olver, M. E. (2020). Interventions for pedohebephilic arousal in men convicted for sexual offenses against children: A meta-analytic review. *Criminal Justice and Behavior*, 47(10), 1319–1339. doi:10.1177/0093854820916774**

Given the centrality of pedohebephilic interest in understanding sexual offending against children, several interventions have been developed to help men manage or inhibit their sexual arousal to children to reduce the intensity of their experience of such arousal. A meta-analytic review was conducted to examine the effectiveness of interventions for managing pedohebephilic arousal, as measured by phallometric testing. A systematic literature review identified 23 within-group design studies and 18 single-case design studies ( $N = 1,071$ ) for analysis. Behavioral and pharmacological interventions showed moderate to large effects for reducing pedohebephilic arousal. Moderator analyses suggest that men with high pre-treatment pedohebephilic arousal showed the greatest reductions in arousal. Small effects were found for comprehensive treatment programs; none of the interventions had the effect of increasing sexual arousal to adults. These results support the effectiveness of behavioral and pharmacological interventions for managing pedohebephilic arousal in men convicted of sexual offenses against children.



Pettersen, C., Nunes, K. L., Kostiuk, N., Jung, S., & Atlas, M. (2020). Explicit and implicit self-esteem, narcissism, and recidivism risk in a sample of men who have sexually offended against children. *Archives of Sex Behaviour*, 49, 1319–1332. doi:10.1007/s10508-019-01598-6

The relationship between implicit and incongruent explicit and implicit (i.e., discrepant) self-esteem, narcissism, and sexual offending against children requires further research. We examined the relationships between self-esteem, narcissism, and risk of violent (including sexual) recidivism and compared sexual offenders against children ( $n = 28$ ) and non-sexual offenders ( $n = 44$ ) on these measures. All participants were adult men. In both groups, greater narcissism was associated with greater risk. Among sexual offenders against children, contrary to theoretical accounts and previous research findings, higher explicit self-esteem was associated with greater risk. However, further analysis indicated that explicit self-esteem may only be relevant to recidivism risk insofar as it reflects narcissism. Neither implicit nor discrepant self-esteem were related to recidivism risk in either group. Group comparisons indicated that sexual offenders against children had lower explicit self-esteem and narcissism than non-sexual offenders. In summary, our findings suggest that although sexual offenders against children have lower explicit self-esteem and narcissism than other offenders, within this group, higher explicit self-esteem and greater narcissism may be associated with greater risk. Taken together, previous and current findings suggest that including measures of narcissism in psychological assessment batteries administered to sexual offenders against children could be beneficial. Our findings also further question the wisdom of targeting low self-esteem in correctional treatment programs aimed at reducing recidivism.

Sparks, B., Wielinga, F., Jung, S., & Olver, M. E. (2020). Recidivism risk and criminogenic needs of individuals who perpetrated intimate partner sexual violence offenses. *Sexual Offending: Theory, Research, and Prevention*, 15 (1), Article e3713. doi:10.5964/sotrap.3713

Despite the common occurrence of sexual violence in intimate partner violence (IPV) and its association with increased risk of intimate partner homicide, intimate partner sexual violence (IPSV) is often overlooked in the literature. As a result, little is known about risk factors that may be unique to IPSV perpetrators. The present study utilizes a police-reported sample to compare the risk/need profiles of 36 IPSV and 36 IPV perpetrators by creating theoretically meaningful risk composites as proxies for a number of the central eight risk/need areas posited by Andrews and Bonta (2010, <https://doi.org/10.1037/a0018362>). Results indicate that the risk/need profiles of the IPSV group are more severe than the IPV group, with higher scores in measures of substance abuse, relationship instability, sexual aggression, and mental health concerns. Potential implications for IPSV assessment and intervention at the level of policing and correctional programming are discussed, including the need for higher intensity treatments and the treatment of non-criminogenic needs.



Zara, G., Farrington, D. P., & Jung, S. (2020). Denial in sex offending treatment: Examining criminal career diversity. *Journal of Forensic Psychology Research and Practice*, 20(5), 451–473. doi:10.1080/24732850.2020.1776050

Sex offenders commonly exhibit some degree of denial of their offending. Past research has shown that denial conflicts with treatment completion, but does not necessarily increase sexual reoffending risk. This study explores whether the impact of denial upon the treatment of sex offenders is unequivocal or influenced by other factors, such as criminal career variables and dynamic risk. Thirty-five convicted male sex offenders in Italy were assessed for criminal career characteristics (e.g., heterogeneous versus specialized offending), for the nature of denial, and for dynamic risk factors. Interventions for sex offenders may be more effective if they are designed to differentiate between heterogeneous offenders who are difficult to engage in treatment, and specialized sex offenders who are more likely to engage in and complete treatment, regardless of their level of denial. Heterogeneous and specialized sex offenders pose different risks and these differences need to be taken into account in treatment.

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## UPCOMING CONFERENCES

### Virtual Events

CPA's National Annual Convention will take place from June 7-25, 2021 as a virtual event. The deadline for all abstract submissions is January 22, 2021. Please visit the convention [website](#) for more information.

Submissions are currently being accepted for APA's National Annual Convention, scheduled to take place from August 12-15, 2021. Click [here](#) to submit your proposal.

The 39th Annual Research and Treatment Conference sponsored by the Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers will be held online for the first time ever. There will be many great keynotes including CPA Section Member, Dr. Michael Seto, along with many great presenters. Please see the convention [website](#) for registration.

The American Academy of Forensic Sciences Annual Meeting will also be holding its first virtual meeting from February 15-19, 2021. Register [here](#) by January 18, 2021 to receive the early bird rate.

The International Forensic Psychiatry Lecture Series, hosted by McMaster University and St. Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton, is a weekly educational webinar series that provides engaging and innovative topics on Forensic Psychiatry. More details: <https://www.forensicpsychiatryinstitute.com/>



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