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# CRIME SCENE

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## Message from the Chair

Keira C. Stockdale

I hope this message finds Criminal Justice Section (CJS) members, associates, and their families all doing well and able to take some time to relax and recharge over the upcoming summer months. In my conversations with CJS members, I know many of you have experienced significant challenges during the global pandemic and as result, this message may find some of you navigating grief and loss, experiencing burnout, looking to restart interrupted research activities, and/or providing human services to individuals, groups, or agencies struggling with the impacts of Covid-19. We know that Covid-19 has amplified existing gaps in service delivery, particularly for stigmatized, marginalized, and vulnerable individuals/groups. Available indicators suggest that forensic and correctional clients who were not able to access services during the pandemic may now suffer from more acute concerns (e.g., homelessness, substance use, mental illness) while also facing longer wait lists and times. As such, our collective criminal justice efforts are needed more than ever.

This includes increased advocacy efforts for forensic and correctional clientele. For instance, the percentage of Indigenous women in federal custody is reported to have increased by 38% in recent years, use of force in federal institutions has risen steadily with Black and Indigenous individuals experiencing 2.5 times greater use of force incidents, and sexual violence in custody requires greater urgency and attention (Zinger, 2022). That said, there are some important advocacy efforts that the CJS and CPA are

currently engaged in. The CJS Fitness/NCR Task Force is still going strong. A subgroup of the CPA Human Rights and Social Justice Committee, the working group on Societal and Sexual Violence, recently obtained board approval to create a CPA policy statement on gender diversity. A CPA policy statement is also currently being developed by a separate working group focusing on the decriminalization of substances. Many thanks to all CJS members who are involved in these ongoing efforts! Those who would like to get involved are invited to reach out and/or stay tuned for upcoming opportunities - for example, the CJS has been asked to consider the development of a CPA policy statement on Violence and Mental Illness.

At this juncture “late pandemic” there may also be greater need among CJS members for effective self-advocacy to address exhaustion, disconnection, and/or feelings of being less effective. For some, this may include renewed or increased efforts towards self-care, compassion, and connection. Ongoing reflection on our own roles and activities within the criminal justice system is also required. During the pandemic, I had the opportunity to participate in an anti-racism course for health service providers, which further highlighted the need to recognize our own privilege and implicit biases to promote ethical and meaningful engagement in criminal justice work and advance human rights. I am hopeful in our collective ability to do this critical work, and we are fortunate to have a strong section membership and partnerships to support these efforts.



On this positive note, I would like to recognize the hard work of all CJS Executive Members as well as the CJS Awards Committee who recently announced this year's CJS award winners. Dr. Alexandra Zidenberg is the recipient of the JS Wormith Graduate Research Award, Dr. Karl Hanson received the Significant Contribution Award for his recently published book, *Prediction Statistics for Psychological Assessment*, and Dr. Ron Roesch was awarded the Don Andrews Career Contribution Award which recognizes a corpus of work accrued that makes a significant contribution to our theoretical understanding and/or practices in criminal justice psychology and/or law. Please join me in congratulating these distinguished award recipients. Award recipients who will be attending the upcoming CPA Convention in Calgary will be recognized in person. Those who cannot attend in person will be invited to say a few words at our CJS Annual General Meeting (AGM) which can also be attended virtually. **The AGM will be held on June 18, 2022 at 1700 MDT and a reception will follow.** Looking forward to seeing you all either in person at the Convention or virtually at the AGM!



## Join Us for CPA2022 in Calgary Alberta

### Events of Interest

#### June 16, 2022

**13:00** Pre-convention workshop presented by Karlee Fellner: *Indigenous Approaches to Complex Trauma and Clinical Practice*

#### June 17, 2022

**8:30** Presidential keynote address by Ada L. Sinacore: *Human Rights and Social Justice: Leading with Compassion and Courage*

**9:45** Panel discussion led by Sandy Jung: *Segregation Reform: Benefits, Caveats, and Limitations*

**10:45** 12-minute talk by Jessie Doyle: *Report Quality Following Police Officers' Use of Force Encounters*

**11:00** CJP Poster Session and 12-minute talk by Andrew Gray: *The Short-Term Prediction of Adverse Outcomes using the SAVRY*

**11:15** 12-minute talk by Bidushy Sadika: *The Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic on Gender-Based Violence*

**13:00** CPA honorary president address by Josephine Tan: *Human Rights and Psychology: What Does One Have to Do with the Other?*

**This year's award winners will be featured in the next issue of Crime Scene! Stay tuned!**

**Awards**

**Criminal Justice Psychology**

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**14:00** Symposium chaired by Gena Dufour:  
*Addressing Gaps in Sexual Violence Research*

**June 18, 2022**

**8:30** CPA keynote address by Jennifer Gómez:  
*Cultural Betrayal: From Violent Silencing to Healing for Black Women & Girls*

**9:30** Student section featured speaker Elisa Lacerda-Vandenborn: *Daring to Hope: What a Hummingbird's Story Can Tell Psychologists about Community Wellness and Social Justice*

**10:45** CJP Snapshot Session

**13:00** Workshop presented by Raymond Tafrate: *Addressing Values and Life Priorities with Justice Involved Clients*

**14:45** 12-minute talk by Kelsey Downer: *Examining Layperson Perceptions of Suspect and Witnesses Recanting*

**15:00** Symposium chaired by Sandy Jung: *Predictive Accuracy of Sexual Violence Risk Assessment*

**16:00** Symposium chaired by Neil Hogan: *Pursuing Justice and Jurisprudence for Marginalized Groups*

**17:00** CJP Section Annual Meeting and Reception



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# RESEARCH BRIEFS



## Characteristics of Minor Attracted Persons in the Community: Developing a Biopsychosocial-Sexual Typology of Men with Sexual Interests in Children

Hannah Stewart

### Acknowledgements

Based on the Doctoral Dissertation in Clinical Psychology (2022) authored by Dr. Hannah Stewart

Supervised by Dr. Mary Ann Campbell

University of New Brunswick

### Background

Child sexual abuse (CSA) has negative consequences across numerous developmental, social, economic, and legal domains (e.g., Fang et al., 2012). From studying causes of sexual offending, forensic typologies of child sexual offenders have been developed to provide insight about differences in clinical presentations, offence trajectories, and motives (Martínez-Catena et al., 2017; Robertiello et al., 2007). From examining profiles comprised of risk and protective factors, it appears that some traits may make men more vulnerable to perpetrating CSA, such as sexual interests in children. The term “minor attracted person” (MAP) is

increasingly being used to refer to people who experience sexual attraction towards prepubescent (i.e., pedophilic interest, <12 years old) and pubescent (i.e., hebephilic interest, ~12-14 years old) children. Furthermore, research suggests that risk factors implicated in the initiation and maintenance of CSA occur across five domains: 1) developmental (e.g., adverse childhood experiences, attachment); 2) self-dysregulation (e.g., impulsivity, sexual preoccupation); 3) sexual interests (e.g., pedohebephilia, other paraphilias); 4) distorted cognitions (e.g., CSA-supportive attitudes, emotional congruence with children); and 5) socio-affective deficits (e.g., mental health, personality traits, loneliness; Mann et al., 2010).

Importantly, there are MAPs who have not, and will not, sexually offend against children, and who nevertheless experience significant distress surrounding their interests (Konrad et al., 2017). Research identifying differences between MAPs who do and do not sexually offend is in its infancy (Gerwinn et al., 2018). Most research has focused on MAPs who have been convicted of CSA, which tells us little about those who do



not offend in this way. By extending literature on MAPs from correctional to community samples, this research compared profiles of community MAPs to identify targets for interventions to prevent child victimization and increase personal wellness.

### Current Study

An exploratory approach was used to examine subgroups of community-based male MAPs with no criminal justice system detection for CSA. Specifically, this research pursued three major objectives to investigate: 1) whether there are subgroups among diverse populations of community MAPs; 2) what characteristics best distinguish MAP subgroups; 3) and how group membership is related to perceived risk of acting on sexual interests in children.

Online recruitment targeted adult, community-based men ( $\geq 19$  years) who self-reported having non-traditional or “atypical” (i.e., paraphilic) sexual interests. Site moderators were contacted for permission to share the recruitment advertisement across a variety of online platforms. Participants were recruited from sources including MAP-related forums (37%), other social media forums (18%), MTurk (23%), or undisclosed (22%). The survey was administered on SoSci Survey, took about 30 minutes to complete, and included psychometrically appropriate, brief self-report measures to evaluate vulnerability factors across the five domains identified above.

The final dataset of  $N = 833$  consisted of men with sexual interests in minors ( $n = 609$ ;  $M_{age} = 29.7$  years) and men with other paraphilic interests ( $n = 224$ ;  $M_{age} = 35.3$  years). Typology development only included MAPs who had not been formally charged or convicted for sexual offences against children ( $n = 584$ ). Men with other paraphilic interests ( $n = 224$ ) and a small sample of MAPs with detected CSA histories ( $n = 25$ ) were used to compare profiles.

### Results & Implications

The Vulnerability Typology emerged from cluster analysis, with three latent groups differentiated by relative endorsement of risk and protective characteristics. With lower endorsement of factors, MAPs classified in Cluster 1 ( $n = 165$ ) were labelled *Low Vulnerability*. MAPs classified in Cluster 2 ( $n = 270$ ) were labelled *Moderate Vulnerability*, showing modest endorsement of all factors. Finally, Cluster 3 MAPs ( $n = 149$ ) had higher endorsement of most vulnerability factors and were labelled *High Vulnerability*.

The *Low Vulnerability cluster* demonstrated unimpaired profiles with more social aptitude, better self-regulation, and less developmental predisposition to risk factors. These strengths may offer protective effects against committing CSA. Low vulnerability profiles were similar to profiles of men with other paraphilic interests. Little or no intervention may be required since protective devices may sufficiently support ongoing prosocial management.

MAPs in the *Moderate Vulnerability cluster* had profiles with modest impairment across domains, including indications of sociosexual challenges. Moderate vulnerability profiles shared similarities with low vulnerability, high vulnerability, and MAP-CSA group profiles. While not as wholly distressed as high vulnerability profiles, they may not benefit from protective factors to the same degree as the low vulnerability group. Moderate intensity, skill-building interventions could be warranted to strengthen capacities for managing deviant arousal and other life stressors.

Finally, the *High Vulnerability cluster* displayed global deficits across all domains. Having many areas of clinical and criminogenic need could increase susceptibility to multiple pathways leading to sexual offending. High vulnerability profiles were similar to profiles of the MAP-CSA group and clinical samples in literature. Of note, average endorsement of adverse childhood experiences, sexual preoccupation, and mental health disturbance exceeded recommended clinical cut-offs. Globally elevated need represents multiple target areas, which can

warrant longer-term, higher-dosage treatment.

The high vulnerability group self-reported highest risk for acting on sexual interests in children, whereas lowest risk was reported by the low vulnerability group. Higher self-perceived risk positively correlated with criminogenic factors including CSA-supportive cognitions, emotional congruence with children, sexual preoccupation, problematic personality traits, and pedohebephilic interest. Overall, average scores were the low-to-middle range, suggesting that MAPs did not consider themselves at high risk of acting on interests.

Results suggest that multiple stressors may destabilize and increase vulnerability to problematic outcomes (Ward & Beech, 2008). On the other hand, well-matched proactive intervention based on established clinical models may shift MAPs to lower risk status (Bonta & Andrews, 2017). The Vulnerability Typology provides a framework to guide assessment and treatment programs for community MAPs. Specifically, prevention and risk assessment should target areas of: 1) antisocial features (e.g., offence-supportive cognitions, problematic personality traits, self-regulatory deficits); 2) sexual interests (e.g., pedohebephilic interests, other paraphilias, sexual preoccupation); and 3) psychosocial functioning (e.g., stress, depression, anxiety, trauma, loneliness). The dynamic nature of vulnerability factors presents targets for intervention to reduce risk for criminal behaviour, increase wellness, and build good lives. Along with efforts for replication, future research may extend results to develop prevention, assessment, and intervention programs for community MAPs who have not sexually offended.

The development of prevention programs for at-risk persons is critical not only to avert sexual victimization of children, but also to reduce harm and promote wellness at an individual level. Despite having no historical criminal justice involvement, community MAPs present with complex needs profiles and demonstrate numerous concerns which may prompt help-seeking. Effective community treatment for

MAPs should embrace person-centred (versus punitive), trauma-informed approaches that focus on establishing positive, collaborative therapeutic relationships while supporting clients' capacities to make safe decisions and set positive life goals (Levenson & Grady, 2018; Walker, 2020).

This study had several strengths and limitations. Numerous safeguards were implemented to ensure participant confidentiality, safety, and honest engagement among a hidden population. Measurement of multiple factors across key domains among a sufficiently large sample allowed development of comprehensive biopsychosocial-sexual profiles. Limitations include potential bias from self-report measures and self-selection, an ethical inability to inquire about any undetected CSA behaviours, and acknowledging that data was collected early in the COVID-19 pandemic.

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# PUBLICATIONS



## Recently Published Abstracts

**Battaglia, A. M., Gicas, K. M., Mamak, M., & Goldberg, J. O. (2022). Mistakes in interpersonal perceptions: Social cognition in aggressive forensic psychiatry patients. *Criminal Behavior and Mental Health*, 1–14.**  
<https://doi.org/10.1002/cbm.2228>

**Background:** While there is an established link between untreated psychosis and aggression, an enhanced understanding of the role of social cognition is still needed.

**Aims:** To examine social cognitive functioning among patients in a specialist forensic mental health service who had been deemed not criminally responsible for acts of violence due to a psychotic disorder. It was hypothesised, first, that such patients would show reduced social cognitive functioning compared with healthy, nonviolent comparison participants and, second, that those who continued to be aggressive while inpatients would demonstrate significant reductions compared to the now nonaggressive group.



**Methods:** The study samples were of 10 recently aggressive and 15 not-recently aggressive patients and 20 healthy, nonviolent comparison participants. Each completed the Toronto Empathy Questionnaire (TEQ), the Reading the Mind in the Eyes Test-Revised (RMET) and the Interpersonal Perception Task-15 (IPT-15).

**Results:** There was no significance between group differences on the RMET and TEQ. The patient group as a whole, however, showed significant interpersonal misperceptions, with specific misperceptions on IPT-15 deception and kinship subscales, while at the same time lacking self-awareness of their errors. Misperceptions on the IPT-15 competition subscale were unique to recently aggressive patients.

**Conclusions:** Select aspects of reduced social cognitive functioning were found among not criminally responsible patients with psychosis who had committed violent acts and who continued to act aggressively while forensic inpatients. These findings enhance our understanding of the role of social cognition in predisposing toward violence and the potential importance of incorporating interventions which improve social cognition directly. We suggest also the potential for future research using virtual reality technologies in treatment.

**Battaglia, A. M., Mamak, M., & Goldberg, J. O. (2022). The impact of social media coverage on attitudes towards mental illness and violent offending. *The Journal of Community Psychology*, 1–12. <https://doi.org/10.1002/jcop.22807>**

The aim of this study is to better understand stigma towards individuals with mental illness who commit violent offences, and examine ways to mitigate the negative impact of social media news stories of schizophrenia and violent offending. Psychology undergraduate students (N = 255) were exposed to Instagram images and captions of recent real news stories of violent offending by individuals with schizophrenia. In the experimental condition, contextual clinical explanatory information was integrated. Pre- and post-measures of stigma were completed. There

was a significant increase in negative attitudes towards individuals with mental illness who committed violent offences following the no-context condition, which was clearly mitigated in the experimental condition where context was provided. In both conditions, there were significant increases in intended social-distancing behaviours towards and perceptions of dangerousness of individuals with schizophrenia, and negative beliefs about mental illness more generally. There appears to be utility in incorporating knowledge-based clinical information to mitigate some facets of stigma.

**Labrecque, R. M., Gendreau, P., Morgan, R. D., & King, M. M. (2020). Revisiting the Walpole Prison Solitary Confinement Study (WPSCS): A content analysis of the studies citing Grassian (1983). *Psychology, Public Policy, and Law*, 26(3), 378–391. <https://doi.org/10.1037/law0000247>**

In the last decade, scholars have expressed growing concerns about the credibility of some studies in the biomedical and social sciences domains that are broadly regarded as classics, that is, studies that are widely cited as the definitive answer on a topic and are in the public interest. In the current investigation, we directed our attention toward one such classic—the Walpole Prison Solitary Confinement Study (WPSCS)—which reported that inmates placed in prison solitary confinement suffered traumatic psychological damage (Grassian, 1983). Our survey of the peer-reviewed literature referencing the WPSCS from 1983 to 2017 confirmed that a very large proportion (i.e., 81%) of articles cited the study without any discussion of its fatal methodological limitations (e.g., response bias confounds, no comparison group). The number of uncritical articles, moreover, has increased over time despite the fact that 30 years ago the first criticisms of the study appeared and have continued to do so. We offer several reasons from the cognitive psychological literature as to why the WPSCS has been viewed favorably. Lastly, we discuss how the WPSCS may have diverted attention away from managing prisons in a humane fashion and provide recommendations for reducing reporting biases in the academic literature.



## Recently Defended Theses

**Title: The Factor Structure of Intimate Partner Violence Risk**

**Author: Anna T. Pham**

**Supervisor: Dr. Kevin L. Nunes**

**Carleton University**

Intimate partner violence (IPV) has elicited a great deal of attention from the research, clinical practice, and policy communities because of its widespread prevalence and harmful impact on the individuals and society. Effective risk assessment can help identify individuals who are in the highest risk category and are thus in most need of management strategies. Therefore, a better understanding of risk factors that underlie IPV risk is necessary to optimize available risk assessment measures and effectively manage risk. The purpose of this dissertation was to explore the factor structure of combined items from the Ontario Domestic Assault Risk Assessment, Spousal Assault Risk Assessment, and Brief Spousal Assault Form for the Evaluation of Risk and examine whether the underlying risk factors predict recidivism outcomes. Data were collected for 300 adult men who were charged or accused of violence against their past or current female intimate partners and whose files were referred for a comprehensive threat assessment between 2010 and 2016. Using exploratory factor analysis, I found that items from these measures assessed six underlying risk factors. Although two factors significantly predicted IPV, any violent (violence against anyone), and general (violent and non-violent) recidivism outcomes, only one factor containing mostly Central Eight risk factors (for general violent and criminal recidivism) independently predicted violent and IPV recidivism over time above and beyond other factors, suggesting that not all risk factors included in these measures are independently predictive of recidivism, particularly IPV recidivism. Additionally, I found that randomized selections of items predicted as well as the original measures. Overall, findings from this dissertation suggest that IPV risk assessment

measures may benefit from additional risk-relevant factors, and researchers have suggested that the development of informative causal theories of IPV recidivism can help motivate risk factors for consideration in risk assessment measures, as current IPV theories fail to produce predictive models. In addition, more empirical work is also needed to identify risk factors strongly related to IPV recidivism that can assist in risk assessment and ultimately risk management.

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**PUBLISHED**



# ESPECIALLY FOR STUDENTS



## Employed in a High-Secure Mental Health Facility: A Student Experience

Victoria Justason

Waypoint Centre for Mental Health Care (Waypoint) in Penetanguishene, Ontario offers both inpatient and outpatient forensic and general mental health services. Waypoint houses Ontario's only high-secure forensic institution for individuals with severe mental illness who have become involved in the criminal justice system. Although these patients only constitute a small percentage of the mental health patients in the province, service, de-stigmatization, and research in this population is needed.

My desire to see this specific population receive evidence-based care and progress through the forensic system are the most important drivers of my passion and education in psychology. My specific areas of interest within forensic psychology are patient-oriented research methods, relapse prevention, and risk assessment. For this reason, I was extremely fortunate to conduct my undergraduate thesis for Laurentian University with Dr. Liam Marshall at the Waypoint Research Institute (WRI).

Following some high-profile elopements from Waypoint, staff needed a risk assessment tool to evaluate risk of elopement. The Waypoint Elope-

ment Risk Scales (WERS) were developed by Dr. Marshall in 2016 to predict and reduce the occurrence of elopement events. As research has shown, these events can cause potential harm and mistrust amongst the patients, staff, and the community. It was our goal to reduce elopement occurrences and provide educational opportunities for staff to better understand behaviours that are related to elopement. The WERS is a novel elopement risk assessment instrument in that it is comprised of three empirically derived scales that measure historical, stable, and acute risk for elopement factors, while acknowledging the dynamic nature of elopement risk. These assessment tools account for an individual's potential to alter their behaviour and attempts to reduce over-restricting individuals based on historical factors alone.

My undergraduate thesis aimed to validate the historical scale of the WERS. I was encouraged to explore recent elopement literature, develop research questions, create spreadsheets, and conduct statistical analyses. My thesis was a considerable learning experience where I was able to consolidate my statistical learning from university and apply these methods to a real-



world project. The results of this study showed that the WERS historical scale predicted elopements from Waypoint. The WERS has now been adopted on many of the inpatient programs at the hospital. We also found that elopement and attempted elopement events were reduced on the programs that used these assessment tools. The WERS assessment tools have now garnered interest from other forensic hospitals in Ontario.

Having the opportunity to explore various career options, speak with a variety of mental health care professionals, and network with an interdisciplinary team throughout my undergraduate program allowed me to explore potential research interests and develop my personal desire to initiate change in a forensic mental health setting.

Nearing the end of my bachelor's degree, an opportunity arose with the WRI as a student academic placement, funded through the Canada Summer Jobs Grant. This was the start of my employment with Waypoint. Over the period of this contract, I was involved with many forensic-oriented research projects that included work with the ECT program, longitudinal research of patient outcomes, and database creation/cleaning. As my placement was ending, I was hired as a research analyst. This is my current role at the WRI, which has allowed me to explore, collaborate, and discuss various research questions with well-known researchers in the field of forensic mental health, including Dr. Liam Marshall (sexual offending), Dr. Zoe Hilton (domestic violence/risk assessment), and Dr. Nadiya Sunderji (patient safety, patient-oriented research methods). It has challenged me to view research and implementation in a different way than the education system was able to provide. I have a new appreciation for the term "evidence based" and the procedures that are followed to determine the effectiveness of proposed strategies. Moreover, having received an introduction to how patient-oriented research can be developed and effectively used to produce research has given me a different outlook on the way research could be conducted. Incorporating this unique perspective allows research

to be more relevant to the individual experience and has the potential to improve clinical outcomes. These opportunities have allowed me to explore my research interests further, determine a more cohesive path forward in forensic mental health, and support empathic decision making.

I have come to learn invaluable skills and lessons through my work with the WRI. I have learned about the value and the concerns of risk assessment, the importance of truly evidence-based and evidence-informed clinical application, and the challenges that forensic mental health services face. I have had a remarkable opportunity to meet some users of the forensic mental health system, who have provided me the opportunity to understand the successes and struggles that many of these individuals face. I consider myself extremely fortunate to have these interactions in my work life, as it has developed a deeply compassionate and empathic approach to my daily work.



# SPOTLIGHT ON POLICING



## The Psychology of Cybercrime

Eleanor Gittens

The entire world has been on lock down or restricted over the pandemic. As a result, few industries benefited or grew during this time. Two industries that saw noteworthy advances were technological and internet-connectivity spaces. Cybercriminals have sought to monopolize on the dramatic increase of persons connected to the internet. Since the lock down, countries around the world have seen an increase in cybercrime activities. With so many people working from home the lock down presented a number of security challenges from the theft of information to breaches of video-conferencing platforms. Cybercriminals have ransomed millions of dollars from businesses during the pandemic using tactics like phishing, social engineering, and other hacking tools.

Nearly 85% of all successful data breaches involved defrauding humans rather than exploiting weaknesses in network security. In fact, more than 90% of all cyberattacks or breaches are caused by human error. Humans are the weakest link in the cybersecurity chain. Computers are the weapons but the victims and perpetrators are human. Several factors contribute to the increase in cyberattacks especially the popularity of phishing and ransomware attacks. Many

companies use email security systems to mitigate the potential of phishing by scanning emails and categorizing into regular correspondence, irregular correspondence and potential spam. Despite this, corporate email systems still remain easy targets.

Ransomware is a type of malware (malicious software) that threatens to publicize private data unless a ransom is paid, and it has become increasingly popular as it offers cybercriminals a quick buck. These criminals do not have to be sophisticated hackers or programmers as these tools are now readily available for purchase as ransomware-as-a-service or the software for direct use in the attack. The sudden and massive shift to working from home has created a target rich environment. This is because employees who are now working from home are using insecure personal devices. This has inspired cybercriminals to shift their focus more heavily towards phishing and social engineering schemes capitalizing on the stress, panic, and anxiety of the pandemic.

Cybercrime is an unlawful act wherein the computer is either a tool or a target or both. As such cybercrimes can be considered internet-enabled

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(tax fraud, copyright infringement) or internet specific crimes (malware distribution, hacking). Cybercrimes can also be differentiated between property crimes (identify fraud) and crimes against the person (internet abuse) as in traditional crimes. Cybercrimes vary in impact, method, and motive. In Canada, spear phishing was the top reported tactic with romance-related scams and investment scams as runner ups in 2021. Spear phishing is a variation of phishing where criminals target a specific individual because of their privileged access or the fact that they secure and protect the personally identifiable and confidential information for people or organizations, whereas phishing is an unsolicited email or text message sent to multiple random recipients impersonating a trusted organization, service provider, or website.

These techniques often involve social engineering and emotional manipulation. Social engineering employs emotions and psychological methods to trick or deceive a person for the purpose of theft or to gain access to sensitive and personal information for unauthorized use. Therefore, at its very core, social engineering is psychology. There are many emotions that are exploited like fear, greed, loneliness, love, and belonging. Ransomware attacks exploit fear. Cybercriminals gain and restrict access to valuable or confidential resources and demand payment to release those resources. They threatened victims with the destruction of the resources or public release or sale of sensitive information. This can range from customer credit card profiles to explicit content. Victims fear the loss of important resources or the release of damaging material.

The Nigerian or inheritance scam exploits greed. Who doesn't want something for nothing? Victims are often approached with the promise of very large sums of money that can be 'released' with the provision of personally identifiable information or the payment of a relatively small fee. The sums often range in the millions but recently we are also seeing award or prize schemes where victim have won monetary awards and prizes that they have not entered in any way. Large well known organiza-

tion names e.g. Amazon, Shoppers Drug Mart, or key personalities are used in an effort to solicit trust in the fraudulent scheme. Victims are often required to provide personal information like credit card or banking information in order to collect. This information is then used to defraud the victim. This scam plays on victims feeling like they are winners and happening upon a windfall that no doubt would be very useful in these difficult and unstable economic times.

Romance scams exploit loneliness and those looking for love. In this case, the victim is often catfished where a fake identity is used on online dating websites and apps or on social media as a means of soliciting an amorous relationship. Once the cybercriminal believes that amorous bond is strong enough and a degree of trust has been achieved, a sudden disaster manifests where an urgent, time sensitive need for funds is revealed. The cybercriminal milks this relationship until the funds dries up and then moves on. The victim often finds themselves in significant debt in an effort to assist their partner and is left heartbroken and broke. A popular example is the case of the Twitter Swindler recently documented in a true crime film produced by Netflix.

In psychology, emotions are often defined as a complex state of feeling that generates physical and psychological changes which in turn influence thought and behaviour. Emotions are associated with temperament, personality, mood, and motivation. As such, the manipulation of emotion can result in changes in thought and behaviour. However, some people are more susceptible than others which could be grounded in their personality or temperament. Forensic psychology has used these principles and theories to offer insight into criminal behaviour. With the advent of the Internet, the element of online criminal activity was added to criminal behaviour. Cyberpsychology was developed to explore the psychological impact of emerging technology on human behaviour.



While the majority of the country transitioned to working from home during lock down, as restrictions lift, we advance towards a new normal. Many companies have embraced the flexibility of working from home and many employees are not expected to return full-time to the office. This suggests that these vulnerabilities will remain. It is important that organizations actively work to minimize the security risks and individuals seek to become more cyber aware and better digital citizens.

## CAREERS

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

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

- ◇ Psychologist, Maplehurst Correctional Complex and Vanier Centre for Women

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



## UPCOMING EVENTS

[CPA's National Annual Convention](#) will take place in Calgary, AB from June 17-19, 2022.

The [IAFMHS 2022 Conference](#) will take place in Berlin, Germany on June 14-16, 2022.

[APA's National Annual Convention](#) is scheduled to take place in Minneapolis, Minnesota on August 4-6, 2022. It will also provide virtual programming,

The annual [Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers \(ATSA\) Conference](#) will be held in Los Angeles, California on October 26 – 29, 2022.

The [International Forensic Psychiatry Lecture Series](#), hosted by McMaster University and St. Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton, is a weekly educational webinar series that covers engaging and innovative topics in Forensic Psychiatry.



# STAY INVOLVED!

## Contribute to *Crime Scene*:

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

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

If you have ideas for submission or questions, please contact the Managing Editor, Dr. Kyrsten Grimes ([psychologicalservices@drkgrimes.com](mailto:psychologicalservices@drkgrimes.com)).

## Join the CJP Section Executive:

The Criminal Justice Section is currently looking for a Social Media Coordinator. Members are encouraged to submit a statement of interest to Dr. Keira Stockdale, Chair ([keira.stockdale@police.saskatoon.sk.ca](mailto:keira.stockdale@police.saskatoon.sk.ca)).

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

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

Don't forget to check us out on our [Website](#) or on [Twitter](#)!

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

