



Crime Scene

Psychology Behind Bars and In Front of the Bench

The Official Organ of Criminal Justice Psychology of the Canadian Psychological Association

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The Editor's Note

Welcome to the pre-convention edition of Crime Scene. Hopefully you have already noticed a new edition to the newsletter and indeed a new edition to the Sections public communication. Our logo has been selected and now graces our front page. We are happy to announce that Scot Lemieux has won the logo competition. We are indebted to Scot for his patience as his initial entry was subject to 'committee' comments. In the end we believe that our new logo will represent the Section well. We hope to have an official unveiling at this years 'Awards Banquet'. Speaking of the Banquet - be sure you have your tickets and attend - information on the banquet can be found at the back of this issue.

We are also introducing a new column with this edition of Crime Scene - In the Trenches. Dr. Dorothy Cotton has responded to my request to enhance our coverage of issues important to clinical practice within the correctional/forensic field. She has committed to at least three issues and I know you will enjoy her informative and straight-forward style.

As always, I am getting 'pumped' for June's CPA Convention. This is a special convention for me as I am going back to the 'rock'. That's right, I am a Newfie who hasn't been back for a visit in over 30 years. The last time I was there it was summer and I enjoyed horseback riding and fishing, and eating cod tongues, caplin and salt fish.

See you in St. John's! Your faithful Newfie Editor

JM

View from the Top

Daryl Kroner, *President*

There are some enticing reasons to be a part of the CJS.

Let me focus on one area – the informal benefits. Yes, there are other areas, such as the formal knowledge gained, or contacts for future studies, placements, and work. But what about the informal reasons to be a part of the CJS:

The conference:

Attending a CPA is energizing. To see fellow members making a difference in their endeavours is a motivator for us all.

Attending is fun. Good food (the odd time not so good, but always excellent at our banquets!), laughs, light-hearted conversations, even some bad stories.

Attending CPA is a point of contact. There are many people that we only see once per year. Email is great, but can be cold. Telephone is also good, but can be expensive. Seeing someone in person has more warmth and develops a sense of community. That relationship is more important than..... (you fill in the rest).

Crime Scene:

Confession: The most interesting aspects of Crime Scene are finding out who is on the move – graduations, jobs, etc and the informal reasons of what lead people to their research interests and careers.

Becoming a part of the CJS is a good tradition that needs to be encouraged and passed on to our students. Just look at those who have won student awards and have gone on to make significant contributions!

It is my hope that you experience both the informal and formal benefits of belonging to the CJS.

This past year was a record high for the number of members. To those who once per year faithfully check off the CJS: Thank-you.

Criminal Justice Psychology's New Website

The new CPA Criminal Justice Section website is designed to bring the latest news in research, practice, and events to both professionals and students in criminal justice psychology. Information, such as job postings, workshops, graduate programs, and conferences will be made available for all members, and others interested in the field, in one convenient location. Issues of Crime Scene, the official publication of the Criminal Justice Section, will be archived on this new site. It is hoped that all members will contribute to the development and success of this resource by contacting the webmaster (joseph.camilleri@usask.ca) for any updates, comments, or suggestions.

<http://www.cpa.ca/cjs/>

Joseph Camilleri,
Student Representative and Web Master

In The Trenches: the practical experience of forensic and correctional psychology.

Dorothy Cotton, Ph.D.

Somehow, when it is just you and a single client/patient/offender sitting in a room together, a lot of the more esoteric aspects of psychological endeavour suddenly seem to be less relevant. Does it really matter if the rate of criminal behaviour is higher or lower among people with mental illness if the person you are seeing is schizophrenic? It's nice to know that generally speaking, when applied to large groups of randomly assigned subjects, a certain kind of intervention works for a specific kind of

problem--but if it is not working for this person, right now, then what? One of the biggest challenges facing all front line psychologists is to integrate research findings and knowledge into applied and clinical situations. *In the trenches...* will provide a thoughtful everyday look at the clinical dilemmas faced by those of us who are in the trenches.

Dr. Dorothy Cotton is a seasoned (which means "old") psychologist who only wandered into the forensic area in the last five years or so, quite by accident. After 25 years in the mental health system, she is currently employed by Correctional Service Canada where she carries out cognitive and neuropsychological assessments. She also teaches at Queen's University, is a syndicated newspaper columnist, and is the only psychologist member (associate member, really) of the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police. Dr. Cotton is actively involved in national initiatives examining the interaction between police services and individuals with mental illnesses, and writes a column about psychology for police officers in the magazine "BlueLine."

In the trenches...

You have to wonder about those people who seem to stay up at night thinking of ways to shoot themselves in the feet. You know the kind of offender I mean--they seem bright enough but they go off and do really ill conceived things then regret them. They don't seem really entirely anti-social--you do see a glimmer of sincere regret as well as bewilderment there--but they still might have done some really awful things. Even when you meet with them, you note they tend to talk first and think later. It's hard to keep them on track, they are all over the map in conversation, they keep picking up the pens and papers off your desk and get totally distracted by everyone who passes in the hallway. Their emotions go from zero to ninety in a flash.

Welcome to ADHD--that's attention deficit hyperactivity disorder. And we've got a fair

number of these people kicking around the correctional system. We don't really know how many in Canada because we've never asked, but data from the US and Australia--where they DID ask--suggest we're talking about 25-40% of the incarcerated population (see the Fall 1998 issue of FOCUS--the newsletter of the Attention Deficit Disorder Association of America for details--www.add.org/images2/perison.htm)

Before you ask, the answer is "no" to the question of "isn't that a childhood disorder that kids outgrow?" Yeah, it is a childhood disorder. You'd be hard pressed to make an adult diagnosis of ADHD in the absence of a childhood history. But contrary to what we used to think, it often does not go away. There are three groups of symptoms that are identified in the DSM IV as being part of the ADHD diagnosis (physical restlessness, impulsivity and inattention)--and one additional characteristic that is generally felt to be an essential part of the adult version of the disorder (emotional dysregulation). The physical restlessness/hyperactivity part does often abate with age. But the other three--the impulsivity, problems with attention, and difficulty with emotional regulation, do not tend to go away.

Actually, if these symptoms went away, we'd be having a lot fewer of these folks as our guests here at CSC. Up to 50% of children with ADHD have problems with aggression. There is a significant co-morbidity with anti-social personality disorder, with substance abuse (as well as with bipolar disorder, OCD and Tourette's). People with ADHD often have a history of impulsive poorly thought out crimes, many traffic violations, early paternity, disrupted pattern of family and intimate relationships. Sounds like the list of admission criteria to jail, doesn't it?

People with ADHD can be a titch on the annoying side--but they can also be hugely entertaining and full of ideas. Many were the "class clowns" as kids. They can continue to be the class clowns during their stays with us in the

correctional system--which rarely augers well for their outcome.

Where do you start? Making a diagnosis is a good beginning. The key is a really thorough history. Check out the book "Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder in Adults" by Paul Wender, one of the gurus of ADHD in adults. It contains a very useful rating scale that covers the bases in terms of a behaviour history. There are other scales like the Connors Rating Scales (for which correctional norms are currently under development) and the Brown ADD Scales, both of which are available commercially through test supply companies. Although folks with suspected ADHD sometimes get referred for neuropsychological assessments, there really is not a definitive pattern that come with the disorder, nothing specifically diagnostic, You might find problems in motor impulse control, working memory, verbal memory, some executive function problems. But many people with ADHD score normally on all these tests--and many people with other kinds of problems like head injuries, history of substance abuse or FASD score badly on them. There is also the minor detail that your offender with ADHD also may well have had a head injury and a substance abuse problem and...you get the picture. A careful history and good behavioural observations are your best bet.

Treatment is a three part endeavour. Medication is a significant aspect of that care. Sure, there are potential problems with handing out Ritalin (still the drug of choice) in correctional facilities. But there are other medication choices. Along with medication comes education, developing a conceptualization of the problem. My own experience is that many offenders have been given the label of ADHD over time but very few have any understanding of what that means.

And finally, there is the actual teaching and training of self-control strategies, both cognitive and behavioural. Things like time management, organizational skills, learning to "follow through," taking control of impulsivity, handling

temper problems...it's all part of the work. Lynne Weiss, Ph.D., provides a good outline in her books which include structured workbooks for adults with ADHD. She has also developed and run programs for individuals with ADHD in the Texas correctional system, so her work is worth checking out.

As long as these folks are seen as a "a pain in the ass" rather than an individual with an executive function/self-regulation problem, we're not likely to make much progress in getting them on track.

Recently Defended Doctoral Dissertations

Abused Women's Perspectives on the Criminal Justice System's Response to Domestic Violence

Paula Barata, PhD
University Health Network
Princes Margaret Hospital

In the last five years a number of studies have been conducted that have given abused women voice in the discussion about whether or not the criminal justice system (CJS) can be helpful to them. These studies have used a variety of methods and examined different questions, but they have not considered how women's views of separate parts of the CJS come together in their perspectives about the system as a whole. The purpose of this study was to better understand battered women's views about the criminal justice system (CJS), and how those views are integrated into complex perspectives for individual women. Q methodology was used. Fifty-eight abused and formally abused women were recruited to represent a broad range of experiences and perspectives. They sorted 72 statements about domestic violence and the CJS on a large template that ranged from strongly disagree to strongly agree. Principal component analysis with varimax rotation was performed and the resulting factors were analysed for meaning. A small number of women who represented each factor were interviewed to aid in this interpretation. Five perspectives were identified representing divergent views of the CJS: 1) Trust in the CJS; 2) Disappointment in the CJS; 3) Victims should have input into the CJS and be sure they want to use it; 4) The CJS cannot protect women and can make matters worse; and 5) The CJS should be used for her safety, for his rehabilitation, and for justice despite its problems. The perspectives that emerged are new in their complexity and in their substance. Overall, the emergence of multiple perspectives as opposed to one polarized perspective has theoretical, methodological, and applied implications for research and practice. The description of each of the perspectives expressed by the women in this study may also be useful in advising other women who hold similar perspectives.

For more information please contact Dr. Barata by email at paula.barata@unh.on.ca or by post at University Health Network, Princes Margaret Hospital, 610 University Ave., 15-510, Toronto, ON M5G 2M9 or call (416) 946-2271

Research Brief

The Dynamics of Residential Elder Abuse in Canada From 1988-98: Twenty Legal Summaries and What We Can Learn From Them

Dr. Brian Bigelow & Dr. Rom-Rymer

Given our ageing population, our residential elderly population is burgeoning and will continue to do so. Aside from young children, the elderly are our most vulnerable citizens. Because of the physical and mental dependency of their clientele, residences for the elderly are based on public trust. This unique population presents those engaging in psycho-legal abuse assessments with unique and demanding challenges. Their vulnerability and fragile state places them at an inherent disadvantage in dealing with abusive circumstances. Thus, an acceptable standard of care is inherently at a higher standard that meets or exceeds what adult children themselves would accept for their aged parents. Moreover, the move to a nursing home signifies the loss of basic autonomy and often the dignity that goes with it. It's like separation anxiety all over again, only in reverse. The more disabled elderly residents must often also endure the intrusive assistance of well-meaning strangers in the performance of their most basic personal routines. In the words of one 84-year-old lady, "I don't want to live in one of those places. They treat you like a corpse. They wipe your nose and everything."

Thus, residential homes for senior citizens are highly specialized environments. We felt that it is valuable to examine the circumstances that give rise to residents' complaints against residential workers, as well as workers complaining about the quality of care provided by their coworkers, so that employers and employees can more effectively avoid complaints, contain spiraling costs, and maintain the public's trust. Homes for the elderly are an essential service as adult children become overburdened with care giving demands. But, aside from frank cases, ascertaining what is abusive or negligent can be difficult for this population and residence and nursing homes need concrete examples of unacceptable conduct. The legal and ethical standards of working with such patients often require a very large degree of emotional restraint. If homes become too confused as to what is expected, then they may well decide to leave this market segment. For example, how does one assess the impact of an allegedly negligent incident otherwise intended to provide an acceptable standard of care?

The present paper reviews 21 disciplinary hearings and appeals taken from Lexis-Nexus (Canada) over a ten-year period ending in 1999 in an effort to sensitize forensic evaluators, managers and those working with the elderly, to the behavioral dynamics involved which give rise to abuse complaints within the residential geriatric population. Each legal transcript was carefully content analyzed so that emergent categories were identified encompassing complaint type, dynamics, and the disposition of the hearing or appeal. Every effort was made to cover only those aspects of these cases which embraced the behavioral dynamics of the events giving rise to the complaints and how these complaints were disposed of at the hearings.

Most of the 10 upheld elder abuse complaints ranged in order from assault/physical abuse (14 counts), having no remorse (4 cases), being a chronically problematic worker (4 cases), or being verbally abusive (1 count). Cases which resulted in reduced penalties involved being an exemplary worker (4 counts), having a new worker on the scene (4 counts), dealing with a uniquely difficult resident (4 counts) and the complaint lacking credibility (5 counts). Other categories, such as coworker conflict, corporate philosophy applications, and refusing to assist did not discriminate the outcome of the case. Obviously, larger legal data bases need to be mined for such information, but at the present time it appears that homes

for the elderly would be wise to tread very carefully in dealing with cases where there is an exemplary worker dealing with complaints from a new worker on the scene and particularly in cases in which there are problems with the credibility of the complaint. Complaints of assault, especially accompanied with lack of remorse from a worker with a history of conduct difficulties are more likely to result to an adverse outcome for the worker.

For more information you can contact Brian Bigelow at bbigelow@nickel.laurentian.ca

Recent Publications

Hanson, R. K., & Wallace-Capretta, S. (in press). Predictors of criminal recidivism among male batterers. *Psychology, Crime, & Law*.

The present study examined recidivism risk factors in a sample of 320 male batterers attending community treatment. Recidivism was assessed by new charges for violence or for any offence during a 5 year follow-up period. The variables associated with recidivism among male batterers were similar to those found for other criminal populations (e.g., young, unstable lifestyle, substance abuse, criminal history). There was no evidence that potential offenders were deterred by expectations of negative consequences, either social (e.g., friends would disapprove) or official (e.g., arrested, lose job). Maintaining positive relationships with treatment providers was associated with reduced recidivism.

Kroner, D. G., Mills, J. F., & Reddon, J. R. (in press). A Coffee Can, Factor Analysis, and Prediction of Criminal Risk: The Structure of "Criminality". *International Journal of Law and Psychiatry*.

The predictive accuracy of the Psychopathy Checklist-Revised, Level of Service Inventory - Revised, Violence Risk Appraisal Guide, and the General Statistical Information on Recidivism were compared to 4 instruments

randomly generated from the total pool of original items. None of the 4 original instruments better predicted post-release failure than the 4 randomly generated instruments. Factor analysis of the risk items indicated a 4-factor solution and all 4 factors were equal to the original instrument in predicting post-release failure. Thus, the original instruments did not improve prediction over randomly structured scales, nor did the restructuring of items improve risk assessment. We argue that a predominantly construct approach is the optimal method to advance risk assessment within the criminal justice and mental health systems.

Mills, J. F., Jones, M. N., & Kroner, D. G. (in press). An examination of the generalizability of the LSI-R and VRAG probability bins. *Criminal Justice and Behavior*.

Statistics such as the Pearson's r and Receiver Operating Characteristics are often used to test the generalization of criminal and violence prediction instruments. However, these analyses overlook potential error in the assessment of risk if the rates of offending within the initial validation samples are assumed accurate for other samples. This study examined the generalizability of the Level of Service Inventory-Revised and Violence Risk Appraisal Guide probability bins in a predominantly violent correctional sample. The findings showed that the initial bin probabilities were not transferable to our sample of predominantly

violent male offenders. An empirical method of optimal binning was introduced. The discussion centered on the accurate use of bin probabilities in the communication of risk.

Hilton, N.Z., Harris, G.T., Rice, M.E, Lang, C., Cormier, C.A., & Lines, K.J. (in press). A Brief Actuarial Assessment for the Prediction of Wife Assault Recidivism: The ODARA. *Psychological Assessment*.

An actuarial assessment to predict male-to-female marital violence was constructed from a pool of potential predictors in a sample of 589 offenders identified in police records, followed up for almost five years on average. Archival information in several domains (offender characteristics, domestic violence history, nondomestic criminal history, relationship characteristics, victim characteristics, index offense) and recidivism was subjected to set-wise and step-wise logistic regression. The resulting 13-item scale (Ontario Domestic Assault Risk Assessment, ODARA) showed a large effect size in predicting new assaults against legal or common-law wives or ex-wives, Cohen's $d = 1.1$, ROC area = .77, and was associated with number and severity of new assaults and time until recidivism. Cross-validation and comparison with other instruments are also reported.

DNA: A Practical Guide

Author(s): Rose, David and Goos, Lisa

A single source for the legal and scientific aspects of DNA collection and analysis and the presentation of DNA evidence in Canadian criminal courts. The book addresses practical questions such as the methods of collection of a DNA sample from the crime scene or suspect, the science of DNA analysis and typing,

preparation of a DNA warrant, presentation of DNA evidence to a judge or jury, and the role of the expert witness in the specific context of DNA evidence. Post conviction issues are also covered, in particular the National DNA Databank and other databanks, e.g. FSS, Codis. Theoretical issues such as the nature of DNA evidence are also examined.

This work will serve as a complete resource for those involved in the investigation, prosecution and defence of charges involving DNA evidence.

ISBN/ISSN : 0-459-24123-0

Publication Number : 7730

Product Type : Supplemented book

Number of Volumes : 1 volume looseleaf, filed to date, with 2 months free service

Number of Pages : Approximately 320 pages

Binding : 3-Ring Binder

Publication Date :

Publisher : CARSWELL

For more information contact Lisa Goos at lisagoos@yorku.ca

CPA St. John's, NFLD Criminal Justice Section Activities

Thursday June 10th

Psychopathy and Aggression Across the Lifespan

(Daniel Waschbusch, moderator; Mary Ann Campbell, Kristin Kendrick, Stephen Porter)
11:00-12:55 p.m.

Criminal Justice Section – Keynote Speaker
Paul Gendreau. “Making ourselves understood to the people that count”

2:00 – 3:00 p.m.

DVTO: A New Approach to Addressing
Domestic Violence (Dallas Savoie)
3:00-3:25 p.m.

What's Wrong with Existing Risk Assessment
Tools? (David Nussbaum) 3:30-3:55 p.m.

Three Recently Validated Assessment Measures
Developed on Offenders, for Offenders
(Jeremy Mills, moderator; Daryl Kroner, Loza
Wagdy)
4:00-5:55 p.m.

Friday June 11th

Section Business Meeting
8:00 – 9:00 a.m.

Embracing Change in Probation and Parole: The
Role of Assessment and Evaluation
(Lina Girard, moderator; Susan Cox, Eugene
Stasiak)
10:00-11:55 a.m.

Poster Session
12:00 – 2:00 p.m.

Saturday June 12th

Rational Emotive Behavior Therapy Theory
Review: Criminal Justice System (Jerome
Fransblow) 12:00-12:25

Overcoming Barriers to Graduate Research in
Criminal Justice Psychology
(Joseph Camilleri) 1:00-1:55

Upcoming Conferences

15th Annual Trauma and Dissociation Conference

June 17th & 18th, 2004

Westin Hotel, Ottawa, Canada
Presented by: The Ottawa Anxiety & Trauma
Clinic

Featuring:

Dr. Anna Salter International lecturer,
consultant, and author in the area of
psychological trauma

Author of:

- Transforming Trauma: A Guide to Understanding and Treating Adult Survivors of Child Sexual Abuse
- Predators, Pedophiles, Rapist, and Other Sex Offenders: Who They Are, How They Operate, and How We Can Protect Ourselves and Our Children
- Treating Child Sex Offenders and Victims: A Practical Guide

Dr. Sue Johnson

Professor of Psychology and Psychiatry,
University of Ottawa

Director of the Ottawa Couple and Family
Institute

Author of:

- Emotionally Focused Couple Therapy with Trauma Survivors: Strengthening Attachment Bonds
- The Practice of Emotionally Focused Marital Therapy: Creating Connections
- Emotionally Focused Therapy for Couples (with Leslie Greenberg)

**The Psychopharmacology of Posttraumatic
Stress Disorder, and Comorbid Disorders**

Trauma and the Military
Speaker To Be Announced

Conference Coordinator: All Events
Planning Services
Aliza@alleventsplanning.com

For more information and updates, visit the
Ottawa Anxiety & Trauma Clinic website at:
www.anxietyandtraumaclinic.com

Violence and Aggression Symposium
2004

June 20 - 23, 2004
Delta Bessborough Hotel
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

Offering: 5 plenaries and 12 concurrent
sessions, poster session, networking

For more information call (306) 966-5575 or
email va.symposium@usask.ca or visit the
website at www.extension.usask.ca/go/va

CPA
Pre-Convention Workshop

June 9, 2004

Delta St. John's Hotel and Conference Centre,
St. John's Newfoundland

Criminal Recidivism and Violence Assessment Workshop

Presenters: Jeremy F. Mills, Ph.D. & Daryl G. Kroner, Ph.D.

The educational goal of this one-day workshop is to provide psychologists with a review of the theoretical underpinnings related to criminal and violence risk assessment in combination with a very applied coverage of issues necessary to conduct risk assessments. Theories of criminal behaviour will be reviewed both from a social learning perspective and a personality perspective. Current risk prediction instruments will be reviewed paying particular attention to the strengths and weaknesses of each. A number of psychological tests used in the assessment of offenders will be reviewed giving particular attention as to how the interpretation may be applied to the overall assessment and management of the offender. The assessment procedure and recommended report content areas will be covered in detail.

Learning objectives of the Activity:

- Understanding and applying actuarial risk assessment instruments.
- Understanding the limitations of actuarial risk instruments.
- Communicating risk meaningfully to the decision-maker.
- How to effectively use self-report and psychological test results in risk assessment.
- How to write a risk assessment.

Outline of the material to be covered:

- Contrasting therapeutic and risk assessment.
- Review of differing approaches to risk assessment.
- Review of some current actuarial risk assessment instruments.
- Establishing a criteria for selecting an actuarial instrument.
- Communicating risk: percentages, categories, time and caveats.
- Communicating risk management issues.
- Assessment process.
- Report content and structure.

For more information go to the CPA website www.cpa.ca and follow the links to the convention information.

Criminal Justice Psychology Section Celebration of Excellence Banquet

The Criminal Justice Psychology Section will be hosting a Celebration of Excellence Banquet at the upcoming 65th Annual CPA Conference in St. John's, Newfoundland in June 2004. This event will give everyone from across Canada an opportunity to gather, mingle, and celebrate our successes. The Banquet is open to all CPA members, students, and non-CPA members interested in this field. Tickets must be purchased before May 24th for \$55 (CJP Section members) or for \$60 (non-Section members). Come join us for a night of fantastic food, great company and a night of celebrating excellence!

The Garrison Salon, The Fairmont Newfoundland Hotel

Thursday, June 10, 2004

Drinks: 6:30 p.m. (cash bar)

Dinner: 7:30 p.m. (a full "Newfoundland Style" buffet dinner)

Final Registration deadline: May 24, 2004

For more information please contact Tanya Ruge, Corrections Research, Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Canada, 340 Laurier Avenue West, 10E, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0P8. or E-mail RugeTanyaSGC@csc-scc.gc.ca

Please forward this invitation to anyone who would be interested in attending this event. Non-CPA-members are also welcome!

We hope to see you there!

The Banquet Planning Committee

(Tanya Ruge, Terri-Lynne Thomas, Chantal Langevin)

Section Elections

As always the section will elect the new executive at this year's annual Section Business Meeting (SBM) in St. John's.

The current executive is listed on the front page of this newsletter.

Note that nominations are taken from the floor of the SBM as usual so there is still lots of time if you choose to get involved.

CJS Fellows of CPA

The CJS is very proud that a good number of our members have been honoured by the Canadian Psychological Association with the designation of Fellow. Below are the names of current CJS members who are Fellows of CPA. These names will soon be appearing on our website.

Donald A Andrews
James Bonta
Paul Gendreau
Luc Granger
R. Karl Hanson
Grant T. Harris

Robert D. Hoge
Alan Leschied
James Robert Ogloff
Vernon L. Quinsey
Marnie E Rice
Robert W Robinson

Christopher D Webster
Stephen Wong
J Stephen Wormith
John C Yuille

See You In St. John's!