USC
UNIVERSIDADE DE SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA

BSAFELAB
LAW ENFORCEMENT, JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY
RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER LABORATORY

IAIP
INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY
OF INVESTIGATIVE PSYCHOLOGY

The 19th Conference of the International Academy of Investigative Psychology

BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA

12 – 14 JUNE 2024

www.IAIP2024.com

The 19th Conference of the International Academy of Investigative Psychology

Santiago de Compostela

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Book of Abstracts

INTRODUCTION

Dear Colleagues

Welcome to the first annual meeting of the IAIP in the post-Covid world!

This small gathering is a very important and significant one. When I - on a whim-approached Paulo Marques to see if he could help us find a venue for our first meeting of the new era, I was taken aback and delighted by his immediate and dynamic response. It's because of Paulo and Professor Ramon Arce, Dr John Synnott and Professor Maria Ioannou that we find ourselves here in Santiago de Compostela opening again this remarkable organization.

The International Academy for Investigative Psychology was originally created in 2007. At this stage, Professor Canter had developed the new academic discipline and seen a couple of hundred students from around the world, many from law enforcement agencies, through his postgraduate programs. We recognized the potential of this network to take forward this young science and start making it become part of professional practice through this vibrant emerging global network.

There have been huge advances in both the science and its application since that time but there remains so much more that we as academics and legal professionals can do if we are to fully exploit the potential of Investigative Psychology that David Canter first recognized.

Our meeting here in beautiful Santiago de Compostela is an important milestone in this journey.

I hope you find it a rewarding one.

Donna

Professor Donna Youngs
June 2024

Organizing Institution

The International Academy of Investigative Psychology

The International Academy for Investigative Psychology is the leading professional academy for researchers and practitioners seeking to apply social science to the investigation and legal process.

Supporting Organisations

University of Santiago de Compostela

The University of Santiago de Compostela is a public institution for higher education and research endowed with autonomy, full legal personality and its own heritage, which is made up by the campuses of Santiago de Compostela and Lugo and which assumes and carries out its functions as an essential public service to the community through study, teaching, research and the transfer of knowledge.

Law Enforcement, Justice and Public Safety Research and Technology Transfer Laboratory

Founded as a result of the collaboration between IPS_Innovative Prison Systems and UBI – University of Beira Interior (Portugal), BSAFE LAB is an open interdisciplinary research and technology transfer laboratory aiming to foster and develop new research and technology transfer in the fields of law enforcement, justice and public safety. Its scientific areas of expertise range from arts and humanities (including Law, history and philosophy), to biological and medical sciences, to physical sciences and engineering, to social and behavioural sciences, and to education.

Organizing and Scientific Committee

Dr. John Synnott
Dr. Paulo Barbosa Marques
Professor Dolores Seijo
Professor Donna Youngs
Professor Francisca Fariña
Professor Manuel Vilariño
Professor Maria Ioannou
Professor Mercedes Novo
Professor Ramón Arce
Professor Telma Sousa Almeida

June 12ᵗʰ

Pre-Conference Workshops

9:00 – 13:00 | Investigative Interviewing

Professor Dave Walsh

Abstract

The 4-hour workshop will cover an introduction to some of the practical measures that are key to the undertaking of investigative interviewing models. The measures are rooted in science, consequent to the research that has emerged largely over the last 20 years. The workshop will be participative as well as instructive and thus will be aimed as appealing to practitioners, policy makers and academics (whether established or new to the subject). Particularly, there is coverage on interview planning, rapport building, questioning strategies, interview structure, and evidence disclosure.

10:30 – 12:00 | Intro to Dragnet & Geographical Profiling

Professor David Canter

Abstract

The principal findings on which GOP is based are introduced: propinquity and morphology. How these are combined in the Dragnet software are described. The situations in which Dragnet can be of value in research and practice are reviewed. The limitations on the effectiveness of GOP are considered and the ethical and professional constraints under which it should be used are summarised.

June 12th

12:15 – 14:00 | Intro to Smallest Space Analysis & Facet Theory

Professor David Canter

Abstract

The principles of the Facet approach to research are summarised and how it differs from positivistic empiricism are described. The particular statistical methodology of Smallest Space Analysis (SSA), a variety of multi-dimensional scaling, is presented and its emergence as an aspect of the Facet approach to research is explained. The structures that are discovered in SSA results are considered and the particular power of the Radex structure is presented with a number of crime related examples.

Opening Ceremony
15:00 – 15:30

Professor Donna Youngs
Dr. John Synnott
Direction of the Institute Criminology of the USC
Dr. Paulo Barbosa Marques (BESAFE LAB)

June 12th

Keynote Address

15:30 – 16:30 | Why Investigative Psychology is Possible

Professor David Canter

Abstract

As an introduction to the first IAIP conference outside of the U.K. the key findings and conceptualisations that make Investigative Psychology possible are reviewed. These emerged in the initial applications of social and environmental psychology to police investigations, distinct from the clinical psychology that had earlier pervaded psychological contributions to legal processes. From this it became clear that for IP to be of direct value to professional activity research had to mirror the stages of an investigation; 1) Information Retrieval, 2) Inference Derivation and 3) Decision support. This all requires the development of theories and methodologies firmly grounded in empirical research.

Key findings from this research revealed the possibility for developing a new area of applied research. One is understanding the psychology of investigative interviews that Professor Walsh's keynote will address. Two others are the identification of structures within patterns of criminal behaviour on which inferences can be based. The most powerful structure is the Radex, which has now been found in many areas of criminality. It allows the differentiation of criminal actions essential for developing theories and predictions about criminality. The second is the marauder model of crime location choice. This allowed the development of decision support software of great value in research and practice. All of this reveals the potential of a Psychology that is Investigative, of value and relevance beyond the area of criminal enquiries.

June 12th

Plenary Session 1

16:30 – 16:50 | Rapport in Interpreter-Mediated Police Interviews with Victims: Insides from Training and Practice

Authors: Maria Gomez-Bedoya

Presenter: Maria Gomez-Bedoya

Abstract

It is widely acknowledged that rapport, especially through empathic communication and acknowledgment of feelings, plays an important role in human communication and understanding. The role of rapport-building and, to some extent, empathy, is widely acknowledged in police guidelines and police training practice. Both under PEACE guidelines and investigative interviews training, police officers and inspectors are instructed and supplied with strategies to best elicit information in these dynamics. It is, therefore, important that trainee interpreters are aware of the need to convey rapport-building expressions appropriately, and that they appreciate the linguistic, cultural and institutional differences that affect the expression of rapport in their training practices.

Despite being acknowledged in professional interactions, the concept of rapport-building and its importance in the interpreting field is still not fully understood. Specifically in police interviews with interpreters, the standpoint of asymmetrical power relationships between the police officer and the interviewee make the role of interpreters essential in facilitating communication. However, interpreters feel heightened pressure when detainees or victims cling to them for support, and it is unclear whether they may help or hinder interviewers' attempts to establish rapport with interviewees. In interpreting training, this seem to be disregarded at times, since most of the training on this topic is too general or not sufficiently linked to empirical studies and specific interpreting research. Through a discourse-pragmatic approach, the challenges faced by trainee interpreters when conveying rapport will be analysed focusing on the linguistic analysis of rapport building in training practice both in the UK and Spain, in order to explore how these trainee interpreters deal with aspects of rapport-building in police interviews into English and into Spanish respectively.

June 12th

16:50 – 17:10 | Using Artificial Intelligence to Improve Forensic |Interviews with Child Victims

Authors: Jodi A. Quas, Gunn Astrid Baugerud, Steven Hicks, Ragnhild K. Røed, Miriam S. Johnson, Pegah Salehi, Syed Zohaib Hassan, Pål Halvorsen, Saeed S. Sabet and Michael Riegler

Presenter: Jodi Quas

Abstract

Investigative interviewing skills are critical for police and child protective services, both of whom at times need to question suspected child victims about their experiences in order to intervene, protect children, and prosecute those who perpetrate harm. An impressive body of scientific research has identified which skills are most likely to lead to complete and accurate disclosures from children, and interviewers are regularly exposed to lectures and workshops on these skills. Despite interviewers being highly capable of identifying best practices, their actual implementation of these practices remains limited. What appears most effective is extensive hands-on and repeated training in skills, but this can be time and labor intensive, precluding widespread delivery of such training.

Our international team, led by scientists at OsloMet University, have developed a dynamic AI-based avatar that can be used in 3D (VR), 2D, and chatbot versions to deliver this training in an efficient and cost-effective way; it can also be re-used over time to provide ongoing training so that interviewers can maintain learned skills. The avatar is a suspected child victim, child, trained using a fine-tuned GPT-3 to answer interview questions. Training was based on mock and actual forensic interviews, but, because the avatar is dynamic, interviews unfold naturally, requiring interviewer hone their skills in response to an unlimited number of child answers. In this presentation, we will discuss the development of the avatar, findings concerning forensic interviewer's experience with it, our new work designed to refine the avatar and embed training modules, and its overall potential for widespread use in enhancing interviewing skills in cost effective manner.

June 12th

16:10 – 17:30 | Psychology at the Frontiers: Obstacles to Successful Asylum Interviewing

Authors: Jan Antfolk, Anna Ilmoni, Laura Stevens and Jenny Skrivfars
Presenter: Jan Antfolk

Abstract

Despite previous research on investigative interviewing in the asylum context, few studies have examined how the interview participants (interviewer, interpreter and asylum seeker) perceive the interview. Here we explored experiences of asylum interviews from all three perspectives. Additionally, we explored how well interviewers' and interpreters' views and attitudes align with empirical evidence regarding best-practice interviewing.

A total of 62 interviewers, 63 interpreters and 55 asylum seekers answered an online questionnaire with open and closed questions about preparation, rapport building, question strategies and overall experiences.

We found that the interviewers' and interpreters' views generally aligned with evidence-based guidelines for interviewing (e.g., use of open questions and rapport building). While 96.5% of the interviewers preferred open questions, 39.5% of the interpreters preferred closed questions over open questions. Half of the asylum seekers reported that the questions were almost always or often difficult to understand, and 64.0% were asked the same questions repeatedly. Three fourths of the asylum seekers reported that it felt uncomfortable to talk about their experiences, and 43.0% were unsatisfied with how their account was translated. Interpreters' reported use of closed questions presents a risk to interview quality that should be mitigated through training to guarantee the rights of asylum seekers.

Overall, the current findings help us address weaknesses in interview quality (i.e., asylum seekers misunderstanding) to facilitate valid asylum evaluations.

June 12th

16:30 – 17:50 | Are the Mendez Principles Necessary for Investigators in Poland? Strategies of Suspects Interrogation in Poland in the Light of the UN Principles of Effective Interviewing

Authors: Olga Mazur

Presenter: Olga Mazur

Abstract

In the year 2021, the polish Ombudsman in a letter to the Police Chief Commander in Poland recommended disseminating the ideas contained in the Mendez Principles and including them in the training program for police officers. He also requested the development of special national guidelines on the manner of conducting police interrogations and interviewings, which will precisely define the standards for conducting such activities, their duration, the method of documentation and registration, and procedural safeguards for the person being interrogated. In response to this request, the Police Chief Commander said that after analysing the Principles, he concluded that everything contained in them already has its equivalent in Polish regulations, both generally applicable and internal. Therefore, he sees no reason to develop an additional act. But is it true that Polish investigators do not need the Mendez rules?

In the paper, I will present the results of my pioneering research on the strategies used by investigators when interviewing suspects in Poland against the background of the rules described in "Principles on Effective Interviewing for Investigations and Information Gathering". Based on these analyses, I will show that most interrogations in Poland are conducted in violation of the principle of the presumption of innocence. I will prove that both prosecutors and police officers often use illegal or ethically questionable interrogation strategies. Therefore, the widespread introduction of the Mendez rules into use by Polish investigators will significantly improve the quality of information obtained during interrogation, will also confirm its reliability, and guarantee that all rights of the suspect were respected during the interrogation.

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Poster Session 1

18:00 – 18:45

The Social-Psychological Factors that Contribute to the Increase in Religious Extremist and Terrorist Activity and Recruitment in the UK

Authors: Connor Meharry and Katrina Heath

Presenter: Katrina Heath

Abstract

The social-psychological factors that contribute to the increase in religious extremist and terrorist activity and recruitment in the UK. Religious radicalization, extremism, and terrorism are considered some of the most harmful threats to contemporary society in both individualist and collectivist cultures globally. Although terrorist recidivism is increasing in collectivist countries, it is mainly individualist cultures that have been targeted over the past 20 years, 25% in the United States of America. This study examined which social-psychological factors contributed to the rate of religious extremist and terrorist recruitment and activity in the UK.

A qualitative reflexive thematic analysis approach was used in the study, allowing five experienced ex-police officers to provide detailed accounts of the origins of terrorist activity and extremist behaviour. The semi-structured interviews collected information-rich data and were analysed using Braun and Clarke's (2006) method of thematic analysis. Four themes were commonly identified as social-psychological factors which contributed towards religious extremism, terrorist activity and recruitment into religious terror groups and organisations. These were Ideological Influence, Societal Failure, Wider Social Catalysts and Societal Reformation. The results suggested individualist societies such as the UK do not practice pro-social behaviours and values which negatively contributes to individuals without strong social networks being groomed into terror groups. This study also highlighted that these factors are commonalities amongst other forms of violent crime, therefore, efforts to combat these factors also have the potential to positively impact violent crime in general.

June 12th

Trauma-Informed Practices in the Child Protection System in Portugal

Authors: Virgínia Alves and Mariana Gonçalves
Presenter: Virgínia Alves

Abstract

Child Protection System (SPC) professionals work with children and families with high rates of adverse and/or traumatic experiences, namely interpersonal, chronic, and cumulative violence. The trauma-informed approach, recommended and adopted by different institutions, aims to increase knowledge about trauma, its prevalence, and its impact to mitigate re-traumatization, minimize the impact of adverse experiences, promote the well-being and health (physical and mental) of all those involved (e.g., children, families, professionals) and enhance the efficacy of the intervention.

This study aims to evaluate the training of professionals, the knowledge, and the adoption of trauma-informed practices, as well as the resources made available by institutions for the promotion and implementation of these practices, with children who have experienced domestic violence. Data was collected via an online Qualtrics questionnaire distributed by SPC Portuguese institutions through email.

The sample was composed of 228 SPC professionals, representing all national districts, including islands, who performed different professional and institutional functions/positions. The participants, with an average age of 41 years, were mostly women (92%), with a degree in Psychology (72%) and academic qualifications at the master's level (55%).

The preliminary results suggest that the training and implementation of trauma-informed practices among professionals were insufficient. This indicates that these practices were not fully integrated into the organizational culture of SPC. The data from this study will allow us to carry out a diagnostic analysis of the knowledge and needs of professionals and institutions regarding trauma-informed practices.

June 12th

The Impact of Gender and Witnessing Domestic Violence as Children on Adult Employment Outcomes and Self-Esteem

Authors: Pedro Andrade and Katrina Heath

Presenter: Katrina Heath

Abstract

This study investigated the impact of gender and witnessing Domestic Violence (DV) as a child on employment outcomes and self-esteem in adults. This research sought to partially replicate Covey et al., (2013), who found that witnessing DV as a child was associated with reduced income and net worth.

Forty-nine participants (32 females and 17 males) answered The Economic Constraints Scale (ECS) and the Rosenberg Self-Esteem Scale (RES). A 2-way between groups MANOVA was carried out measuring economic constraints and self-esteem levels.

There was a significant main effect for witnessing domestic violence, $F_{(2,44)}$, $p = .004$, Wilks' Lambda $= .775$, $\eta2 = .225$), with subsequent analyses of the individual measures showing a significant effect for ECS, $F_{(1,45)} = .12.51$, $p < .001$, $\eta2 = .23$), but not for RES, $F_{(1,45)} = .014$, $p > .05$, $\eta2 = .006$). For both males and females, those who witnessed DV as children presented higher economic constraints than those who did not witness DV ($M = 18.63$ (6.09) vs 28.11 (9.56) for males, and ($M = 19.36$ (8.04) versus $26.81(7.47)$ for females). Self-esteem levels were not significantly impacted for those who had witnessed DV as a child when compared with those who had not. Further ANOVAs also showed witnessing domestic violence for males and females did have an effect $F_{(1, 45)} = 12.52$, $p < .001$ on economic constraints.

This study did not support the hypothesis that self-esteem levels are lower for those who have witnessed DV as children, but it did support the impact of witnessing DV on economic constraints during adulthood, as in Covey et al. (2013), reiterating the importance of the prevention of witnessing DV for employment outcomes for both genders.

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A Systematic Review of Victims' Right to get Information in the Context of Judicial Support Programs

Authors: Sergio Guntín, Mercedes Novo and Francisca Fariña
Presenter: Sergio Guntín

Abstract

The purpose of this study is to review the described programs in the scientific literature, which focused on providing support to gender violence victims during their passage through the justice system, besides paying special attention to their right to information and how this is integrated with other offered services.

From a methodological standpoint, the guidelines set forth in the PRISMA 2020 Declaration were adhered in the preparation of systematic reviews. the established considerations in the PRISMA 2020 Declaration were followed for the preparation of systematic reviews. The search was carried out in the Web databases of Science, Scopus, PsycINFO, and the PQ Psychology Database. The starting point included a total of 913 publications, which were subjected to peer review to ensure reliability and minimize possible selection biases. Among them, only 6 met all the criteria and were included in the preparation of the qualitative synthesis.

Information is crucial for women throughout the judicial process. The lack of information could aggravate their situation of vulnerability and could also represent a violation of their rights. This must be offered in a clear and accessible way, besides taking into consideration the specific needs that are presented by each case. In addition to legal advice, women also need clear information about judicial procedures, deadlines, available resources, etc. This would not only allow them to make informed decisions but also help mitigate negative psychological states such as stress or uncertainty.

There is little evidence about programs for supporting women during the judicial process. In this context, information functions as a form of intervention that empowers survivors and is often combined with other services. Therefore, victim assistance is successful when empathetic relationships are established and empowered realistically and fairly through information.

June 12th

Exploring Justice Perception Between Batterer and Sexual Offenders: A Therapeutic Jurisprudence Approach

Authors: Sergio Guntín, Mariana Abeledo and Francisca Fariña
Presenter: Sergio Guntín

Abstract

A preliminary study has been carried out to investigate the extent to which batterer and sexual offenders perceive that they have been treated fairly during the judicial process.

To achieve this objective, we administered an ad hoc Therapeutic Jurisprudence questionnaire (Fariña et al., 2022) to a sample of 61 incarcerated men from the Argentine (n = 49) and the Spanish (n = 12) prison systems. The ages of the participants ranged from 19 to 70 years old (M = 39.34; SD = 13.61).

It was found that 59% (n = 39) of the participants considered that the process was not fair, regardless the judicial outcome. Furthermore, they pointed out that relevant aspects such as the social or family support they had were not taken into account (55.7%, n = 34; 47.5%, n = 29). A similar percentage indicates that judicial authorities do not make people want to improve, nor do they help them understand their responsibility under the criminal act (42.7%; n = 26). In general, they feel that justice in their country is not fair (60.7%; n = 37) and that it was not fair in their particular case (55.7%; n = 34). On the other hand, the analysis of variables related to the quality of care through the prism of Therapeutic Justice reveals discouraging results, underscoring the importance of continuing to adopt this approach. It should also be noted that no significant differences were found between the groups.

More than half of the participants said they were not treated fairly during the judicial process. This makes it difficult to accept responsibility and recognize the criminal act, a crucial aspect when it comes to repairing the damage that was caused to the victim and re-educating violent behaviour, as the available evidence indicates Restorative Justice and Therapeutic Jurisprudence. It is necessary to continue researching and expanding the sample to strengthen the validity and generalization of the results.

June 12th

Malingering Assessment: Sensitivity of Gough's F-K Index on the MMPI-2

Authors: Álvaro Montes, Manuel Vilariño, Laura Castro and Bárbara Amado

Presenter: Álvaro Montes

Abstract

The objective of the present study is to determine the sensitivity of Gough's index (F-K) on the Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory - 2 (MMPI-2) in the assessment of overreporting symptomatology.

Participants were 24 volunteers, 13 men (54.17%; Mage = 29.92; SDage = 12.72) and 11 women (45.83%; Mage = 24.00; SDage = 8.65), who completed the MMPI-2 under two conditions (simulation design): honest condition (responding about their real psychological state) and malingering condition (instructed to fake some serious mental illness in a situation in which they were going to be tried). The frequency of significant (T > 70) or clinically severe (T > 80) scores and the sensitivity of Gough's index (F-K) to identify malingering cases, were analysed. In the honest condition, 37.5% (n = 9) of the participants obtained at least one significant score (T > 70), and 16.7% (n = 4) obtained at least one clinically severe score (T > 80). In the simulation condition, all participants obtained at least one significant and clinically severe score.

Using a cut-off point of PD   30, the Gough's index (F-K) detected the 87.5% (n = 21) of malingering cases, and none of the honest protocols were classified as overreporting. All participants in malingering condition managed to obtain significant and clinically severe scores on at least one clinical scale. However, they were mainly identified by Gough's index (F-K) and only three of the participants were able to fake symptomatology without being detected by F-K index. Furthermore, all case of the honest condition were under the cut off score (F-K < 30). Thus, Gough's index (F-K) has shown good sensitivity in malingering assessment. However, the study does not allow us to estimate the specificity of the index.

June 12th

Forensic Psychological Evaluation in Criminal Procedures with Children and Adolescents in Spain: The Global Evaluation System as a Therapeutic Jurisprudence Practice

Authors: Mariana Abeledo, Dolores Seijo and Ramón Arce

Presenter: Mariana Abeledo

Abstract

Recent legislative developments in Spain include, as a protection measure for children and adolescents (vulnerable victims or witnesses) immersed in criminal proceedings, the need to protect their best interests and avoid possible undesirable consequences that could arise from their passage through the judicial system (victimization secondary), as well as their right to effective judicial practice (obtaining judicial testimony lawfully and with evidentiary value), an aspect in which the role of the forensic psychology professional is crucial, since, when dealing with crimes committed on the private sphere, the burden of proof falls mainly on the testimony of children and adolescents.

Along these lines, the development of the new approach proposed by Therapeutic Jurisprudence, as a new legal paradigm interested in the humanization of the law, emphasizes the way in which the legal system can affect well-being. psychological of users of justice, promoting the strengthening of the rights of victims both in terms of prevention of secondary victimization and tertiary victimization for effective protection of crime victims.

This work exposes the role of the forensic psychology professional in obtaining the forensic psychological evaluation in children and adolescents immersed in criminal procedures, proposing the Global Evaluation System (SEG) as the methodology of choice with a Therapeutic Jurisprudence perspective, as a robust and scientific-based technique that, in addition to using the Cognitive Interview to obtain the statement, includes a systematic categorical system for the content analysis of the testimony, an evaluation of the psychological damage consequence of the crime victimization and the differential diagnosis of malingering.

June 12th

Examining Child Prostitution: Offenders Profiles and Victim Recruitment

Authors: Blanca Cea, Dolores Seijo and Alvaro Montes
Presenter: Blanca Cea

Abstract

Child prostitution is a global social problem that causes severe and chronic psychological consequences to its victims. Worldwide, it is estimated that more than 1 million children are forced into prostitution each year. The aim of this study was to investigate the profile of child prostitution offenders in Spain and identify criminal variables present in the recruitment of minors. A total of 54 judicial sentences related to child prostitution issued by the Spanish courts between 2019 and 2022 were analysed, which included a total of 209 offenders. A methodological categorical analysis was conducted.

This study reveals that 78% (n=162) of the offenders were male and 22% (n=47) were female, whit ages ranging from18 to 74 years old. A direct relationship between the offender's sex and their role was observed (p<.001): while women's role was exclusively as recruiters, men played both roles as recruiters and consumers. Addtitionally, 18% of child victims recruit more children for sexual trafficking. Regarding victim recruitment, 43% of cases were onlyne (especially on social media), and 57% were through physical contact. Likewise, the analysis revealed the use of coercive strategies to engage minors in sexual practices, such as economic control, threats and violence. The most common compensations were in form of economic amounts (97%) and toxic substances (29%). Virtual recruitment and substance compensation were found to be associated with male victims, while physical recruitment and economic compensation were related to female victims. Based on the results, we discussed implications for practice. The findings highlight the need to continue investigating the contributing and risk factors for children involved in prostitution, in order to develop effective detection and prevention strategies for child sexual trafficking.

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The Profile of the Multiple Sexual Offender: An Approach

Authors: María Villarquide, Blanca Cea and Jessica Sanmarco
Presenter: María Villarquide

Abstract

In Spain, the 2022 Report on Crimes against Sexual Freedom states that, parallel to the growth in sexual crimes, there has been an increase in the number of acts committed by two or more perpetrators. In this sense, the phenomenon of multiple sexual assaults has occupied around 4.5% of all crimes of sexual violence since 2017. Thus, the aim of this study is to increase the existing knowledge about this type of criminal acts, and particularly the characteristics of the offenders. To this end, 88 criminal sentences were randomly selected from trials from 2013 to the present. In all of them the assault was performed jointly by at least two men. Therefore, of the 184 accused, the profile described below was obtained. The age range is between 18 and 54 years ($M = 25.65$; $SD = 7.22$). However, for preventing the phenomenon it is necessary to take into consideration, that in some cases minors are involved (15.9%, n = 14).

Of the total, only 20.4% (n = 29) have a criminal record not linked to sexual crimes. A key feature of multiple sexual assaults is the size of the group, with 62.5% (n = 55) of criminal acts being committed by two men, while 37.5% (n = 33) are perpetrated by three or more. Within the group processes, the leader is the most studied figure and appears explicitly in 27.3% (n = 24) of the sentences. Finally, it is observed that in 97.5% (n = 78) of the cases there was a relationship between the defendants prior to the assault, in fact in the 71.6% (n = 63) the participants reported having a friendship.

Given the profile of the accused, there is a need to introduce early prevention programs to avoid the appearance of this type of criminal behaviour.

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Poster Session 2

18:00 – 18:45

Gender Difference in Fear as Victims of Cybercrime by AI

Authors: Zeinab Arees, Mercedes Novo and Francisca Fariña
Presenter: Zeinab Arees

Abstract

Modern technological inventions have attracted numerous audiences of AI users in the same way as artificial intelligence applications. On the other hand, despite the increasing popularity of AI, users have many fears and doubts about becoming victims due to their lack of confidence in potential security and privacy breaches. In addition, these fears and doubts may concern some people about using artificial intelligence applications. However, the importance of this topic arises since these doubts still concern many individuals due to the fear of privacy violations being breached and the prospect of being victims, especially when it comes to being exposed to electronic hacking and having their identities impersonated when committing violations or crimes. This work addresses gender differences toward AI, explores gender fears that both genders have of being victims of fraud, plagiarism, or forgery of cybercrimes via artificial intelligence applications, and identifies gender perspectives toward fears of cybercrimes by AI. A descriptive correlational study was conducted with 117 participants, 66 women (55.9%; Mage = 27.61; SDage = 12.21), and 51 men (44.1%; Mage = 25.18; SDage = 10.08) who responded to the measurement with fear of being victimized by cybercrimes by the AI. Women's responses showed that they are more afraid of being victims by AI compared to men, of having their account hacked by an AI and obtaining personal information, impersonating their identity, publishing videos, compromising photos, rumors, or altered images of a pornographic type on social networks. We examined gender differences concerning fear as victims of cybercrimes by AI, and we discussed the results that may interest researchers in our field or the developers of AI applications by analyzing the findings of such studies.

June 12th

What are the Cyber Signatures of Human Trafficking?

Authors: Sarah Hambidge
Presenter: Sarah Hambidge

Abstract

Human trafficking (HT) remains a global issue, manifesting through the exploitation and violation of human rights. Policing efforts encounter limitations in detecting and disrupting HT due to its complex and covert nature. In particular, the internet supports HT by offering anonymity and a broad reach to traffickers. However, digital traces or cyber signatures are left that can be used by law enforcement for detection and disruption, although this necessitates an adaptation in and modernisation of policing methodologies to uncover and counteract HT operations.

Using thematic analysis of peer reviewed literature, this systematic review aims to explore the cyber signatures associated with HT. The inclusion criteria are studies that discuss digital markers, cyber patterns, or online behaviours linked to HT and detection/prevention strategies. Analyses are ongoing, with early results highlighting abrupt changes in online account details/IP addresses; distinctive financial transaction patterns; the use of encrypted/dark web platforms for trafficking logistics; and gaps in policing knowledge related to digital behaviours. These results can guide law enforcement in developing more effective strategies to use digital technologies against traffickers.

June 12th

Exploring Online Aggression in LGBT Youth: A Comparative Study on Risk Victimization Perceptions and Psychological Symptoms

Authors: Verónica Marcos, Maite Azabal, Alexander Trinidad and Mercedes Novo
Presenter: Verónica Marcos

Abstract

Cyber aggression significantly impacts vulnerable populations, notably LGBTQ youth, who are at heightened risk of online victimization. Research indicates that LGBTQ youth, identifying as sexual minorities or gender nonconforming, are disproportionately subject to cyberbullying compared to their heterosexual and cisgender peers, with victimization rates ranging from 10.5% to 71.3%. Furthermore, LGBTQ youth frequently encounter more anonymous forms of cyberbullying and report victimization across a broader array of electronic devices than non-LGBTQ youth. Such victimization contributes to severe psychological distress, manifesting as depression, anxiety, and suicidal ideation. Although extensive research exists on traditional forms of bullying, there is a notable paucity of studies addressing other forms of aggression, such as sexual harassment or intimate partner violence, directed at LGBTQ adolescents. This absence signifies a crucial gap in our understanding of the unique challenges faced by this demographic. This study aims to bridge the existing knowledge gap by examining the differential perceptions of risk and the psychological consequences of various online aggressions among LGBTQ adolescents, compared to their non-LGBTQ counterparts. Utilizing the Symptom Checklist-90 (SCL-90) scale within a cohort of 807 adolescents—comprising 137 LGBTQ and 670 non-LGBTQ individuals—and a specially crafted questionnaire assessing risk perception, our preliminary findings highlight that LGBTQ youth consistently report heightened perceptions of risk and concern regarding online victimization, with the notable exception of sexual violence. Importantly, analysis reveals that LGBTQ participants exhibit significantly elevated levels of interpersonal sensitivity, depression, and anxiety, underscoring the profound mental health implications of cyber aggression. These insights highlight the need for targeted prevention programs and interventions designed to mitigate online risks and promote a safer digital environment for LGBT youth. By addressing the nuanced experiences of cyber aggression, including

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cyberbullying, sexual harassment, and intimate partner violence, this study contributes to a more comprehensive understanding of the issue and calls for dedicated efforts to support sexual and gender minority adolescents in navigating online spaces safely.

Cyber-Violence: Perception of Fear and Risk of Victimization in Adolescence

Authors: Verónica Marcos, Zeinab Arees, Ramón Arce

Presenter: Verónica Marcos

Abstract

Fear of crime is understood as an emotional response of nervousness or anxiety in the face of criminal acts that are perceived as a personal threat. With this regard, the literature has pointed out that the virtual context opens a new space for cyberviolence, especially in the adolescent stage. Thus, the feeling of fear and concern about being a victim in these contexts has increased in recent years. However, there is a little scientific evidence that examines these variables under study. From a criminological perspective, the present study focuses on examining the frequency with which a person has felt fear about the possibility of being a victim of different types of cyber-violence, as well as the request for help from adults in their environment to manage the use of new technologies. A sample of 547 Spanish adolescents, 49.5% (n = 271) females and 50.5% (n = 276) males, with an age range between 12 and 18 years (M = 14.10; SD = 1.46), completed the measurement instruments. The results showed low mean scores for the different types of cyber-violence (cyberbullying, intimate partner cyber-violence, sexual cyber-violence, ideologically motivated cyber-violence, sex/gender cyber-violence and age-related cyber-violence); the highest score was found for cyber-bullying. As for seeking help, 23.4% of the participating sample indicated that they did not seek help or advice from adults in their environment (family, teachers, law enforcement agencies). Bearing in mind the limitations of our research, future lines of research and implications for practice are proposed, especially in terms of creating prevention plans that promote social awareness of the possible dangers that occur in the online context.

June 12th

Adolescent Stage: Cyber-Aggression, Externalising Variables and Contextual Problems

Authors: Verónica Marcos, Martín Pouso and Manuel Vilariño
Presenter: Verónica Marcos

Abstract

Cyberbullying is a legal, social and public health problem characterised by a set of victimising behaviours which originate towards new information and communication technologies. This phenomenon is characterised by the criteria of traditional bullying: violence, intentionality, chronicity, asymmetry of power and victimisation. Thus, the literature warns of worrying prevalence figures, consequently, of the adverse effects that this problem has on mental health. Nevertheless, studies seem to be inconclusive, given the characteristics of the online context. From a criminological perspective, cyberbullying is examined from the perspective of the offender, as well as its relationship with externalising variables and contextual problems.

A sample of 391 Spanish adolescents, 59.1% (n = 231) females and 40.9% (n = 160) males, with an age range between 14 and 16 years (M = 14.94; SD = 0.74), completed the measurement instruments. The results showed prevalence rates of 7.9% for cyberaggression and 3.1.% overlap with both roles. In addition, significant differences were found in all externalising problems: anger management, aggression, defiant behaviour and antisocial behaviour. On the other hand, no significant differences were found in any contextual variable: school, nor in family or peer problems. Effect sizes oscillate from small to more than large. Bearing in mind the limitations of our research, future lines of research and implications for practice are proposed, especially in terms of creating prevention and intervention plans focused on protective/risk factors and aimed at reducing both the prevalence and consequences of both victim-offender figures in childhood and adolescence.

June 12th

Psychological Factors Leading to Sextortion: The Role of Personality, Emotional Factors and Sexual Needs in Victimisation

Authors: Rachel Fletcher, Calli Tzani, Maria Ioannou, Thomas J. Vaughan Williams

Presenter: Rachel Fletcher

Abstract

Sextortion is a type of Image-Based Sexual Abuse (IBSA) and Technology-Facilitated Sexual Violence (TFSV) where a perpetrator threatens to distribute a victims sexually explicit material to coerce them into complying with certain demands, such as sharing additional sexual images, engaging in sexual acts, or transferring payment. The pervasiveness of sextortion worsened during COVID-19, as reported by United Kingdom charity 'The Revenge Porn Helpline' that cases of sextortion doubled during the pandemic, from 593 cases in 2020, to 1,124 cases in 2021, and the latest report reveals that sextortion continues to receive the most complaints. The limited literature on this topic highlights a vast demographic of victims and serious consequences following victimisation, including suicide. Given its interactional nature, the current, exploratory study examines psychological factors leading to sextortion. Specifically, personality traits, emotional factors, and sexual needs are investigated as predictors of victimisation. These psychological factors have been much neglected in the literature, despite having strong associations with sextortion-related online behaviours. Utilising data from 89 victims (73 males, 16 females; M_{age} = 24.73) and 212 non-victims (42 males, 170 females; M_{age} = 28.55) collected via an online survey, a series of t-tests and regressions were conducted to examine the objectives. Results showed that conscientiousness and emotionality were negatively predictive, and attachment-related anxiety and need for sex were positively predictive of victimisation. A comprehensive model containing these predictors correctly classified 76.1% of cases, indicating potential to measure psychological vulnerability to sextortion. In addition, this paper brings a very new form of sextortion to research attention, the financial sextortion of males. Despite previous research focusing on the sextortion of women, a significantly larger proportion of male victims than female victims participated in this research. This may reflect the evolving landscape of sextortion today.

June 12th

Study on Phishing Awareness Among Thai Youths in Bangkok: Secondary Schools Within the Metropolitan Area

Authors: Thaksana Mektrairat, John Synnott and Maria Ioannou
Presenter: John Synnott

Abstract

The internet has become an indispensable part of our daily lives, thanks to revolutionary technological advancements. However, with the increased connectivity, the risk of data vulnerability has also risen. It has become crucial to teach young people about phishing awareness, as filtering out all anonymous or illegal online activities is nearly impossible. This study highlights the susceptibility of young adults, particularly in developing countries like Thailand, to phishing attacks due to various factors, including socioeconomic values, less-developed digital literacy, and teenagers' physical and mental development. Currently, Thailand faces digital inequality, where technology is easily accessible, but the understanding of technology is limited. Moreover, overcoming cultural and language barriers is the primary obstacle to conducting progressive studies in cybercrime investigation. The reason behind raising phishing awareness among youths in Bangkok, Thailand, is simple and fundamental in criminology studies: the more modern the city, the higher its criminogenic. We explored cybercrime intervention techniques, readapted criminology theories, gave advice for secondary school education curricula, and supported statistical approaches of the target groups. The final report should emphasize the importance of implementing educational cybersecurity measures and promoting awareness among young individuals. The increasing prevalence of phishing attacks can have long-term effects on future generations, resulting in financial loss, bankruptcy, and emotional distress for individuals and society. Most minor victims hesitate to report to the authorities, prolonging phishing scams and disrupting society. In the most unfortunate cases, cybercrime and phishing are so devastating to the point where they link to suicidal attempts. From the psychological approach, victimization in cyberspace often ends up with shame and humiliation as much as posing physical threats in stalking cases. In addition, our study clarifies confusing definitions of cybercrime and phishing, aiding academic research.

June 12th

Moral Disengagement and Cyberbullying Myths Acceptance of Greek Adults

Authors: Christina-Evgenia Tsoufi, Ntaniella- Roumpini Pylarinou and Antonia Svensson Dianellou
Presenter: Christina-Evgenia Tsoufi

Abstract

Cyberbullying is the repetitive behaviour occurring through electronic communication to distress a person despite being an issue for decades, it has been recently recognized as a crime. In Greece, it is not officially a crime, and its existence is considered a problem for youth. Moral disengagement was deduced to allow people to willingly commit harmful actions against their morals. Similarly, a commonly used "tool" for this objective is the acceptance of "myths". This research aimed to examine the moral disengagement and the cyberbullying myth acceptance of Greek adults. The study used a convenience sample of 100 Greek participants aged 18 – 62. The participants were asked to answer four sections: the demographics, the prevalence of victimization, the Cyberbullying-specific moral disengagement questionnaire, and the Cyber Bullying Myths Scale. The data was analysed with four one-way MANOVAS and a regression analysis. The results showed a high prevalence of victimization, with a lot of participants unaware of being victims. In addition, the result showed that gender played a significant role in both the cyberbullying myth acceptance and in moral disengagement alike, with female participants scoring higher on the scale of moral disengagement. Moreover, statistical significance was found for victims of harassment while no significant results were found for age and educational level. Furthermore, the regression analysis showed that moral disengagement and cyberbullying myth acceptance elements had a significant impact on people's views of the victim, in the premise of stereotypical characteristics of a cyberbullying victim. The unique nature of cyberbullying, the denial of the description of a crime, and the collective cultural beliefs impacted the results of the research. Major implications were the importance of educating the Greek population about cyberbullying and the existence of a greater number of victims than expected.

June 12ᵗʰ

Black Blue and Female Too

Authors: Danny Inglis, John Synnott and Maria Ioannou
Presenter: Danny Inglis

Abstract

The Police Race Action Plan (PRAP) recognises that racial disparities and the trust deficit are most acute with our black communities and focuses the plan around four pillars: Not under-protected, Not over-policed, Involved and Represented. Published in May 2022, some of the language may sound like new terminology; however, all the pillar areas have been in the vernacular of those engaged in race relations for decades. Due to the Significant recruitment driven by the Police Uplift Programme, there are now more than 20,000 additional officers, however owing to officer attrition from retirement and resignations, forces have recruited more than 50,000 officers. Approximately a third of officers have less than five years of service. There was an improvement in diversity from the uplift programme in both race and gender, however the insight and understanding of the tumultuous relationship between minorities and the police is not well understood amongst recruits and negatively impact culture change work. The improvement in diversity is primarily driven by the recruitment of Asian male officers. This article argues that policing needs to be more mature and nuanced in its understanding of police culture, black recruitment, and the intersectionality with gender to fulfil the PRAP objectives.

June 13th

Keynote Address

09:00 – 10:00 | What's Next for the Mendez Principles? A Discussion of Initiatives and Prospects for Effective Information Gathering from Suspects, Victims and Witnesses

Professor Dave Walsh

Abstract

In the areas of investigative interviewing (or interrogation) much research has been conducted, particularly in the past quarter of a century. We now know much more concerning how false confessions can be prompted and such matters as heightened vulnerability in the interview room. We know have an increased scientific evidence base too about what interviewers can do to achieve more accurate accounts as to what has happened from suspects, victims and witnesses. (and for that matter those which may impair such goals). Such, strategies include rapport-based ones. There has also been a plethora of research (almost exclusively conducted in the laboratory) concerning the detection of deception which has demonstrated that, for example, non-verbal behaviours are unreliable channels for detecting either truth or lies.

Together, this body of knowledge has been collated in the Mendez Principles, an expert driven publication that has been available in 2021. Almost exactly three years later there have been some steps that move practices around the world forward from this important landmark statement to that of practical developments (with realisation of the challenges that these confront). However, the take-up overall has been arguably slow. The presentation will discuss some key aspects of these matters and offer pathways to possible solutions.

June 13th

Plenary Session 2

10:30 – 10:50 | How the Sarah Everard Case has Changed Public Perceptions of Police Officers

Authors: Summer Herbert, Maria Ioannou, Calli Tzani and Tom Williams
Presenter: Summer Herbert

Abstract

Research demonstrates that news and social media can have a profound effect on public perceptions, including those of police officers. The Sarah Everard murder by a Metropolitan Police Officer has changed the public's perceptions of police forces as a whole, despite the crime only being committed by one officer.

The current research explored the impact which the Sarah Everard case had on public perceptions of the police in the months afterwards. A Thematic Analysis of 107 tweets (i.e. social media posts) was conducted, identifying seven themes. 'Who is there to protect us?'; 'Emotional Outcomes'; 'Distrust in the police' with one subtheme 'Male Distrust'; 'Misogyny in the forces'; 'Women do not feel safe'; 'The police do not care about us'; and 'Bad apples among every bunch'. It was clear from the results that the case of Sarah Everard caused the public extreme fear and anxiety, especially for women and girls. While some viewed Sarah Everard's killer as "just one bad apple among a bunch". The tweets overall demonstrated high levels of distrust towards the police as a whole, raising possible repercussions for police-public relationships and reporting decisions in the future.

June 13th

10:50 – 11:10 | Enhancing Criminal Investigations Through Integrated Geographical Profiling and Decision Support Systems: A Case Study of the Apprehension of an American Serial Violent Offender

Authors: Ben Baughman

Presenter: Ben Baughman

Abstract

Research suggest that individuals trained in fundamental concepts can conduct geographical profiling without the aid of decision support systems like Dragnet highlights the complexities and limitations of such assumptions. This study addresses the practical application of geographical profiling through a case study involving a series of linked crimes in Raleigh, NC. The aim of this exploratory case study was to demonstrate the utility of combining traditional investigative methods with decision support systems in geographical profiling to apprehend an active violent serial offender. A series of ten linked crimes were analysed, with a focus on the spatial patterns and behavioural characteristics of the offender. Utilizing both content analysis and Dragnet, a probability surface was generated to identify the most likely area containing the offender's base. The analysis revealed a spatial progression with an expanding pattern like that of the Railway Rapist negating simplistic solutions. The offender appeared to become more determined and violent as subsequent crimes shifted further from the initial crime locations. By leveraging Dragnet's output, in conjunction with traditional investigative means, the offender was successfully located within the area identified as having the lowest search cost, leading to the offender's arrest. This case study underscores the synergy between geographical profiling principles, decision support systems like Dragnet, and traditional investigative techniques. It highlights the importance of integrating technology with human expertise in criminal investigations, showcasing how a collaborative approach can enhance investigative outcomes. The findings contribute to the evolving landscape of investigative methodologies, emphasizing the value of incorporating geospatial analysis and inductive reasoning in modern law enforcement practices.

June 13th

11:10 – 11:30 | Exploration of a Typology of Juvenile Murder in Japan

Authors: Takayuki Miyadera and Kevin D. Browne
Presenter: Kevin Browne

Abstract

Juvenile homicide cases can show low levels of previous violent history compared with other violent offences. Using smallest space analysis (SSA) potential subgroups among juvenile murderers were explored, with attention to those who had shown low levels of delinquency and violence but presented with an interest in weapons and violent contents in the media.

Twenty-four case reports of juvenile murder including attempted murder were reviewed from police records and interviews with the police officers in charge of these cases. A database was constructed consisting of dichotomous variables related to 16 crime situations and 42 offender characteristics. A series of non-metric MDS (SSA-1 and MSA-1) were performed on the data.

Three distinct structural themes were found in juvenile murder: conflict, psychopathology, and crime groups. The 'Conflict' offenders (n=9) committed murder impulsively in anger, preceded by previous conflicts with the victim. They were likely to have shown violent behaviour before at school, and to have been a victim of bullying. The 'Psychopathology' offenders (n=6) were characterized by an interest in violent media, violent fantasies, animal cruelty, antisocial and narcissistic personality problems, and a history of mental illness. The 'Crime' group (n=9) are likely to have committed the crime in secrecy with the motive of material gain. Delinquent behaviours and overt antisocial behaviours were shown before, such as criminal damage and burglary, with previous adverse childhood experiences in their family background.

The analyses demonstrated that the three structural themes correctly classified 75% (18 of 24 cases) correctly. Implications and limitations related to prediction and prevention are discussed.

June 13th

11:30 – 11:50 | Exploring a Typology of Sexual Homicide Offenders of Children in the United Kingdom

Authors: Josefa Traynor, K. Tzani-Pepelasi and Maria Ioannou
Presenter: Josefa Traynor

Abstract

Typologies of Sexual Homicide Offenders (SHOs) have shown a tri-fold model of Sadistic/Angry/Opportunistic offenders in samples from Westernised cultures, such as Canada (Proulx & Beauregard, 2009; 2014), and a six-fold model for SHOs of children with a French sample (Chopin & Beauregard, 2019). However, a lack of study with a United Kingdom (UK) sample has begged the question if these findings can also be applied to relevant UK SHOs of children. The aim of this study is to establish a typology based on UK offenders and relate this to previous work. Utilising data on 81 sexual homicides of children that were committed in the UK, Smallest Space Analyses (SSA) were run on characteristics and behaviours exhibited at the crime scenes to establish themes, such as Weapons, Sexual Acts and Violent Acts. When an analysis was run on all types of crime scene variables, it showed two main clusters with ten smaller sub-themes around the edges of the plot. The two main clusters were identified as Violent, as this included violence to many different body parts, beating and kicking, and Sexual, as this cluster involved several variables pertaining to sexual acts of varying degrees of escalation. The ten sub-themes varied from Criminally Savvy-type offenders, Extremely Sexually Violent offenders, and Angry Attackers. These results appear to essentially concur with previous literature of the Sadistic/Angry/Opportunistic model of SHOs, with some expansion of further sub-themes that may only be relevant to a UK sample or those offences with child victims. Starting to understand these offenders in a UK context may have impacts for relevant police investigations by informing Behavioural Investigative Advice. Further research should expand into how the solved and unsolved offences in this data set differ.

June 13ᵗʰ

Plenary Session 3

12:00 – 12:15 | The Use of Temporal Expressions by Children and Child Interviewers in Forensic Settings

Authors: Samuel Pinheiro, Telma Sousa Almeida, Eti Tal and Carmit Katz
Presenter: Samuel Pinheiro

Abstract

The concept of time is crucial in legal contexts, especially in child abuse cases, where the child's account of the events is often the only piece of evidence available to the court. The present study aimed to understand children's ability to grasp and describe different conventional temporal dimensions and to contextualise an event in time, as well as interviewers' retrieval of temporal details.

We analysed 100 investigative interviews of preschoolers who were alleged victims of physical or sexual abuse through a temporal encoding system. Results indicated there were differences in the frequency of temporal expressions used in four variables: children's age and gender, type of abuse and questioning method. The sequence dimension was the most frequently used among the various temporal dimensions examined, both in the interviewers' questioning and the children's responses.

This study broadens the knowledge of preschool-aged children's and interviewers' usage of conventional and contextual temporal expressions during investigative interviews, improving the legal system's understanding of their capabilities and limitations as witnesses.

June 13th

12:15 – 12:30 | Investigative interviewing of Autistic Children: Future Directions

Authors: Telma Sousa Almeida, Patricia Gonçalves and Michael Lamb
Presenter: Telma Sousa Almeida

Abstract

Our previous work explored the completeness, richness, and accuracy of autistic children's recall of experienced events, when interviewed with the Revised NICHD Investigative Interview Protocol. Findings indicated that autistic children and their TD peers did not differ significantly with respect to memory performance across various delays (i.e., after delays of two weeks and two months). Longer delays (2-months) led to less detailed and accurate accounts of past experiences for children in both groups. Recall prompts elicited more detailed and more accurate responses from children than recognition prompts. Autistic children recalled fewer correct narrative details than TD peers when questioned using open invitations, cued invitations, and directive questions. Nonetheless, they were as accurate as TD peers when responding to all types of prompts. Subsequent work explored the narrative coherence of these accounts. Results revealed that, over time, both autistic and TD children showed a decrease in narrative coherence, although this decrease was more pronounced in certain respects for autistic children.

Our current research builds upon these findings by exploring autistic children's ability to recount an experienced event after an even longer delay. Our experimental approach will assess the effectiveness of two best-practice interview techniques on the ability of autistic and TD children to recall information 1-week and 6-moths after an experienced event. This study pioneers the evaluation of the Witness Aimed First Account (WAFA, 26) for use with autistic children. We will recruit 180 participants, 90 autistic children and 90 TD children. Participants will be matched on cognitive skills relevant to event recall: memory, language, attention, and executive function. Interviews will be transcribed and analysed for quantity and accuracy of the information provided. Data will be statistically analysed to assess the effects of group, interview strategy and delay on interview performance.

June 13th

12:30 – 12:45 | Enhancing Veracity Assessments in Forensic Evaluations: The Benefits of Expert Collaborative Voting Systems

Authors: Riccardo Loconte, Stéphanie Maldera, Chiara Battaglini, Pietro Pietrini, Giuseppe Sartori and Merylin Monaro

Presenter: Riccardo Loconte

Abstract

Criminal investigations massively rely on interviewing suspects and eyewitnesses. However, assessing the truthfulness of those interviews is not straightforward. Indeed, humans exhibit inherent biases when detecting lies, and intuitive judgment has been proven to be around chance level. Similarly, the performance of a single forensic expert remains low, and the reasons behind this poor performance are still debated. This study aims to strictly compare the performances of 120 naïve raters and 36 forensic experts in evaluating the veracity of 62 narratives (32 genuine and 30 deceptive) transcribed from videotaped interviews collected in low-stakes scenarios and designed to increase liars' cognitive load by posing unexpected questions. Each transcript was evaluated by 10 naïve raters and 3 forensic experts. Naïve raters provided gut-decisions, while experts -before making their decisions- evaluated each narrative through the Reality Monitoring criteria, which is the most theoretically robust framework in the forensic psychology field. Results showed that the average expert judge's performance (accuracy=59.3%) outperforms those of naïve raters (accuracy=54.3%). However, higher accuracy was reached when a collaborative voting classification system, i.e., a method that combines the decisions of multiple raters to make a final evaluation, was employed. Specifically, by combining the decisions of three forensic experts for each transcript, an accuracy of up to 62.9% was reached, surpassing the one obtained by combining the decisions of three (accuracy=58%) and ten (accuracy=59.7%) naïve judges, respectively. This evidence suggests that the poor performance of a forensic expert can be easily increased by implementing a voting system of at least three experts, having implications in the legal and forensic settings. Finally, the mediating factors that can account for the experts' performances, along with the cues that guided naïve raters' decisions, are presented and discussed.

June 13th

12:45 – 13:00 | Moving the Dial in Detecting Embedded Lies Using Computational Analysis

Authors: Riccardo Loconte and Bennett Kleinberg

Presenter: Riccardo Loconte

Abstract

Verbal deception detection research often relies on written accounts or transcripts of conversations and typically assumes statements to be either truthful or deceptive. However, a more nuanced and realistic perspective acknowledges that the veracity of statements exists on a continuum where truthful and deceptive parts are embedded within the same statement. The detection of embedded lies has been hampered by lack of suitable datasets and sufficiently granular analytical methods. To move the dial on embedded deception detection, we developed a new dataset of truthful and deceptive statements in which participants explicitly indicated the embedded lies within their texts. Using a within-subjects design, participants provided a truthful account of a past autobiographical event. They were then instructed to re-write the same event in a deceptive manner. Importantly, each participant then selected phrases from the deceptive statements that constituted embedded lies (i.e., lies within an otherwise truthful account). Each embedded lie was rated regarding its centrality, deceptiveness and source by the participant. We further collected demographic variables and measured lying profiles (with the Lying Profile Questionnaire) after controlling for social desirability (using the Balanced Inventory of Desirable Responding).

The resulting dataset of truthful statements and embedded lies was then analysed using computational techniques from Natural Language Processing and machine learning. We present the dataset as a novel resource for verbal deception detection and present findings on the computer-automated detection of deception at the statement-level as well as at the granularity of individual embedded lies.

These results will be discussed in light of their implications for advancing the understanding of individual differences in deception and the potential for developing effective deception-detection strategies using computational methods.

June 13ᵗʰ

Plenary Session 4

14:00 – 14:20 | A Likelihood Approach to Case Linkage Analysis: Understanding Behavioural Consistency and Coincidence

Authors: Kari Davies, Terri Cole, Elena Reid, Matthew Brett, Sarah Galambos, Matthew Tonkin, Jessica Woodhams and Lee Rainbow

Presenter: Kari Davies

Abstract

Case linkage analysis (CLA) is the process of distinguishing whether a series of crimes that are presented as potentially linked, are judged to be actually linked by an expert, based on an analysis of the behaviour exhibited during the offences. The theory underpinning CLA has historically been conceptualised by researchers as the same as the theory underpinning all approaches to behavioural crime linkage in general; that of behavioural consistency and distinctiveness. However, practitioners have noted an overlooked but important factor in conducting CLA: the concept of behavioural coincidence; that a behaviour has co-occurred coincidentally across unlinked offences, compared to co-occurring in linked offences. This study was the first to empirically test whether the concepts of behavioural consistency and coincidence could be used to distinguish between linked and unlinked offences. We used data from the UK's Violent Crime Linkage Analysis System (ViCLAS), creating likelihood ratios for both the presence and absence of behaviours across crime pairs, as well as at an individual and thematic level, using 10,537 offences including 634 series. Results indicated that the principle of using likelihood ratios to assess the consistency versus coincidence of behaviours exhibited during stranger sex offences is a valid way of differentiating between linked and unlinked offences. Results demonstrate that many of the variables that would have been subject to offender planning are those that demonstrate the highest likelihood ratios. Further, by considering the likelihood ratios and frequencies created for each behaviour in tandem, whether the behavioural consistency was 'meaningful' could be assessed. The analyses support an evidence-based, statistical analysis approach to CLA, providing important contextual information for practitioners.

June 13ᵗʰ

14:20 – 14:40 | Misogyny, Anger, or Sadism? Reconceptualising the Vindictive Rapist and their Offences

Authors: Michael R. Davis

Presenter: Michael R. Davis

Abstract

Rapists and their offences are markedly heterogenous. As such, a variety of typological systems have been developed to assist behavioural investigative advisers and forensic mental health professionals in differentiating the motives and behaviour of sexual offenders. Traditional typologies routinely described four primary forms of offence behaviour. However, with the publication of the MTC:R3 typology several new variants were described, including the "vindictive rapist." This was initially conceptualised as a misogynistic variant of the pervasively angry rapist, whereby gratuitous physical and sexual violence was directed solely at women. Both types were thought to have little in the way of planning, premeditation, or paraphilic sexual interests. However, subsequent research indicated that some vindictive rapists' offences often involved a degree of premeditation and even some paraphilic elements. Indeed, some authors have posited that the vindictive rapist is actually more like the overt sexual sadist than the pervasively angry type. This paper will provide an overview of the various disparate research findings and propose a reconceptualisation of the construct. It will be argued that the offences of vindictive rapists can be properly viewed on a continuum from the predominantly angry to the partially sadistic. Case studies will be used to describe the differences within this continuum whilst highlighting the importance of misogyny. The addition of this new conceptualisation to a pragmatic meta-model of rapist behaviour will be described with recommendations for differentiating the vindictive rapist from other motivations. Future directions for investigative and clinical practice, as well as research, will also be outlined.

June 13th

14:40 – 15:00 | A Cross-Cultural Study Between Greece and the United Kingdom on Stalking Perpetration and Stalking Typologies

Authors: Ntaniella- Roumpini Pylarinou, Maria Ioannou and John Synnott
Presenter: Ntaniella- Roumpini Pylarinou

Abstract

Stalking is a complex crime that has been a part of people's interpersonal relationships for centuries. In England and Wales stalking was criminalized under the Protection against Harassment Act (1997) and the Freedom of Protection Act (2012). Greece updated its penal code and specifically in Article 333 "Threat" (4531/18) and amended it to include stalking without explicitly defining what stalking is or the behaviours that accompany the crime. Prior research in stalking have covered many aspects of the crime from preparation to typologies using different types of samples such as police data of stalking cases and a forensic sample. Limited cross-cultural research has been conducted in stalking and none examining a self-identifying sample of stalking perpetrators. The present study examines stalking perpetration, and Stalking Typologies in Greece and the United Kingdom. A total of 1068 participants were recruited (529 Greek and 539 UK participants), aged 16-79 years. The questionnaire included a Demographics section and Experience with stalking (perpetration, and stalking behaviours experienced). The results illustrated that 55 participants (10.4%) of the Greek participants and 43 participants (8%) of the UK participants had stalked someone. Examining the data further revealed that 145 Greek participants (27.41%) and 107 participants (19.85%) UK met the English and Welsh legislation criteria (2 or more behaviours) for stalking perpetration. In both samples more women than men stated that they had stalked another individual. A Smallest Space Analysis was performed to examine stalking typology regarding stalking behaviours for peprpetration and revealed two themes (aggression, and sexuality). The cultural differences that affected the results for each sample were evident with regards to the behaviour that were found in each country's theme. The implications focused on the need for more awareness on what constitutes as stalking and that male victimization is a serious issue for both countries.

June 13th

15:00 – 15:20 | The Experiences and Impacts of Low-Level Sexual Harassment on Women

Authors: Terri Cole, Kari Davies, Charlotte Crittell and Mathushari Ilakiyavarathan
Presenter: Terri Cole

Abstract

Dorset Police requested this research investigating experiences and impacts of low-level sexual harassment (LLSH) on women. Study one used a questionnaire asking about experiences of LLSH (N=97) and study two utilised a diary entry method (N=15 aged) where over a three-week period participants recorded details of any instances of LLSH. The first study used thematic analysis and identified four themes highlighting the methods of harassment; decisions regarding whether to report to police; the impact on women; and coping mechanisms. The second study used Interpretive Phenomenological Analysis and identified four themes regarding the methods of harassment; victim feelings; victim response and perpetrator response. The most common behaviours experienced in both studies included catcalling, persistent/repetitive behaviour, unwanted attention, persistent staring and sexual comments/jokes. Alarmingly study one found 12% incidents involved physical interaction; and 6 of the participants in study two reported persistent following. Public areas (including transport), the workplace and clubs/pubs were most common environments for LLSH to occur. Impacts included feeling sick, unsafe, traumatized, humiliated, fear, anger, anxiety, avoidance (e.g., non-attendance or quitting school/work) and impacts to interpersonal relationships. Most women in study one (83%) claimed they wouldn't report their experience of LLSH to the police, for fear it may not be taken seriously or they may be ridiculed. Findings from study two noted the frustration of bystander apathy highlighting disappointment at others' lack of intervention. Participants in both studies used routine precautionary tactics such as choosing specific seating on public transport, being conscious of what they were wearing or avoiding groups of men, to counteract harassment. Potential suggestions to improve women's experiences were suggested including the use of a bespoke app for advice and easy reporting; use of social media and posters in susceptible areas to enhance public awareness and advice.

June 13th

Keynote Address

15:30 – 16:30 | Advances in Investigative Psychology Research

Professor Maria Ioannou

Abstract

In recent years, investigative psychology has undergone significant transformation, propelled by advancements in psychological theory, methodological innovation, and technological integration. This keynote presents an overview of the latest research developments within the field, highlighting key areas of progress and their implications for both theoretical understanding and practical application. The integration of data science, the intersection of investigative psychology with other disciplines that has fostered a multidisciplinary approach in research and technological developments have enhanced advancements in Investigative Psychology research and its impact.

A key focus of this address is the escalating challenge of cybercrime and the impact of the online environment on criminal behaviour. The digital age has introduced new forms of crime, requiring innovative investigative techniques and a deeper understanding of online behaviours.

In conclusion, this keynote address integrates the latest research findings and advancements, aiming to inspire ongoing innovation and collaboration within the field.

June 13ᵗʰ

Plenary Session 5

16:30 – 16:50 | Exploring the Contaminating Effects of Written and Visual Misinformation on Facial Memory

Authors: Dara Mojtahedi, Daniel Hunt and Eilidh Noyes

Presenter: Dara Mojtahedi

Abstract

Empirical and historic evidence indicated that misleading post-event information can contaminate witnesses' recollections of events as well as their facial representations of those involved. Eyewitnesses can also encounter misleading information through visual stimuli such as inaccurate composite sketches or bias line-ups, however, research examining the contaminating effects of such cues is comparatively sparce. The present study sought to examine and compare the impact of different forms of misinformation (written vs visual misinformation) on participants' visual representations of targets. A 5 (target face) x 3 (misinformation type) between groups experiment was conducted on XX participants. After watching a video footage centred around a target of interest participants were presented with post-event information that was either a misleading written report (falsely described a salient facial feature of the target), a misleading photograph (doctored to present the salient facial feature incorrectly), or not misleading (a description of the target's personality). Participants were later asked to recall the facial features of their target (free recall and subsequent closed questions) and identify the target out of a line-up consisting of a correct un-edited image of the target and a different image of the target that was doctored to depict the misinformation. Participants who encountered the misinformation were significantly more likely to report the false information in their free recall and closed question responses, however, no clear differences were observed between the two misinformation sources. A misinformation effect on facial identification was not consistently observed, however, results did show that participants who reported the misinformation during questioning were more likely to make a false identification. Our findings suggest that facial representations of perpetrators are highly malleable.

June 13ᵗʰ

16:50 – 17:10 | Investigative Psychologists in the Netherland

Authors: Mirjam Hupperetz

Presenter: Mirjam Hupperetz

Abstract

The Dutch police has had some twenty plus years of experience with investigative psychologists. This talk will elaborate on the development of this expertise within the Dutch police. In these years, these psychologists have developed from a few specialists with deep knowledge on specific subjects who provide specific products to 60 professional experts all over the country. Their main goal is applying psychological knowledge to police work. Whereas they began as specialists in few, very specific areas, they are now more and more participating in a broad range of investigations, subjects and safety issues. Investigative psychologists must be able to advice in a broad range of subjects. Investigative interviewing and risk assessment are traditionally the main themes, but we see that the practice of policing requires an all-round specialist psychologist who can help find solutions for all sorts of safety problems. Some of the areas of expertise include patterns of behaviour (relevant for domestic violence, stalking, femicide, sexual exploitation), clinical psychological problems, family dynamics and development towards violence. will reflect on the position within the organization and the dilemmas that come along. Also, I will talk about the broad variety of subjects that come along in the work and the different products that are developed. Finally, some time will be reserved to explain how to keep the expertise relevant: the investigative psychologist has to continuously develop new areas of expertise on one side and make sure the knowledge is secured in the organization the other side.

June 13th

17:10 – 17:30 | Typologies of English Young Men Involved Knife Crime

Authors: Sandra Jareno-Ripoll, Kevin D. Browne and David Canter
Presenter: Sandra Jareno-Ripoll

Abstract

In England, there are ongoing concerns regarding the extent of knife crime and the involvement of young men, who commit most of the offences. Existing interventions have been criticized for their limited efficacy and lack of specialism and a 'one-size-fits-all' approach. This Study aimed to identify different types of knife crime offenders.

The study conducted a Smallest Space Analysis (SSA) using 42 characteristics recorded on young people referred for knife crime offences to the Youth Offending Service in Nottingham. The sample included 250 males involved in knife crime aged 11-17 years.

The SSA plot identified two major typologies: Gang related knife crime (GKC) and Personal adversity related knife crime (PAKC), which were distinctly different. GKC involved 'instrumental aggression' organised by groups of young people, without anger and with intent, as means to an end. For example, to protect competition and territory for illegal drug sales. It was characterised by prolific knife offences, previous history of criminal acts, and gang membership. By contrast, PAKC involved young people with previous adverse experiences (ACEs) acting alone and showing 'hostile/expressive aggression' with anger and impulsivity but not always intentional. The PAKC type of knife crime encompassed three subthemes: (1) Personal Vulnerabilities (eg; current mental illness, substance misuse and maladaptive personality traits). (2) Safeguarding Concerns (eg; previous exposure to domestic violence, child abuse and neglect). (3) Mixed Home and School Risk Factors (Off School, absconding, bullying, violence and criminality in the home, violence and abuse to parents and other family members, loss of a parent). There is a distinction between instrumental knife crime shown by gang members and hostile/expressive knife crime shown young people who act alone having suffered personal adversity. Two-Thirds of knife crime offenders have mental health issues, more investment in adolescent mental health services is required.

June 13th

17:30 – 17:50 | A Typology of Rural Arsonists: Characterization of Criminal Behaviour Patterns

Authors: Rita Ribeiro, Duarte Teles, Luís Proença, Iris Almeida, Cristina Soeiro
Presenter: Rita Ribeiro

Abstract

Rural arsonists are responsible for a significant part of fires that cause environmental and community damage. Despite its prevalence in several countries, few studies have examined the characteristics and typologies of rural arsonists, contributing to the continuing lack of awareness of rural crime. Therefore, this study identifies the discriminant characteristics of rural arsonists and develops a typology of the criminal patterns associated with this rural crime. For this purpose, the sociodemographic and psychosocial characteristics, criminal behaviour and crime scene information of 450 rural arsonists' criminal records were analysed. Findings indicate that 61% of rural arsonists had mental health and alcohol problems. However, compared to previous literature, most were older adults ($M = 45.64$; $SD = 16.02$), had no criminal record (66%) and were employed (54%). By focusing on overcoming the limitations of previous typologies, the current one has been improved conceptually and methodologically, resulting in the classification of rural arsonists into three groups: Expressive – Mental Health Problems (39%), Expressive – Alcohol Consumption (38%), and Instrumental – Socially Adjusted (23%). This study enhances the comprehension of rural crime and establishes the groundwork for future research in the field by increasing knowledge of the characteristics of Portuguese rural arsonists and assisting criminal investigations.

June 13th

17:50 – 18:10 | Psychological Factors Leading to Sextortion

Authors: Rachel Fletcher, Calli Tzani, Maria Ioannou, Thomas J. Vaughan Williams
Presenter: Rachel Fletcher

Abstract

Sextortion is a type of Image-Based Sexual Abuse (IBSA) and Technology-Facilitated Sexual Violence (TFSV) where a perpetrator threatens to distribute a victims sexually explicit material to coerce them into complying with certain demands, such as sharing additional sexual images, engaging in sexual acts, or transferring payment. The pervasiveness of sextortion worsened during COVID-19, as reported by United Kingdom charity 'The Revenge Porn Helpline' that cases of sextortion doubled during the pandemic, from 593 cases in 2020, to 1,124 cases in 2021, and the latest report reveals that sextortion continues to receive the most complaints. The limited literature on this topic highlights a vast demographic of victims and serious consequences following victimisation, including suicide. Given its interactional nature, the current, exploratory study examines psychological factors leading to sextortion. Specifically, personality traits, emotional factors, and sexual needs are investigated as predictors of victimisation. These psychological factors have been much neglected in the literature, despite having strong associations with sextortion-related online behaviours. Utilising data from 89 victims (73 males, 16 females; Mage = 24.73) and 212 non-victims (42 males, 170 females; Mage = 28.55) collected via an online survey, a series of t-tests and regressions were conducted to examine the objectives. Results showed that conscientiousness and emotionality were negatively predictive, and attachment-related anxiety and need for sex were positively predictive of victimisation. A comprehensive model containing these predictors correctly classified 76.1% of cases, indicating potential to measure psychological vulnerability to sextortion. In addition, this paper brings a very new form of sextortion to research attention, the financial sextortion of males. Despite previous research focusing on the sextortion of women, a significantly larger proportion of male victims than female victims participated in this research. This may reflect the evolving landscape of sextortion today.

June 13th

Round Table
18:00 – 19:00

Current Developments on the Implementation of Effective Interviewing Procedures for Investigations

Panellists: Dave Walsh, Georgina Heydon, Maria Gomez-Bedoya, Olga Mazur and Telma Sousa Almeida

Moderator: Paulo Barbosa Marques

Interviewing witnesses and suspects is one of the most commonly used means of obtaining evidence in criminal investigations. It is a procedure closely linked to the functioning of human memory and cognition and, as such, it benefits from the contributions that psychological science has made in this specific area of knowledge. It is essential that Investigative Psychology knows how to integrate scientific evidence in the field of investigative interviewing, advocating for practices based on methodologically robust studies but also respectful of individual rights and liberties, especially human dignity, and moving away from pseudoscientific or counterproductive practices that still persist in several jurisdictions. Four decades after the advent of the Cognitive Interview, many steps have been taken in scientific research in this area of knowledge, but the return of this scientific knowledge to the community, namely to the frontline personnel who protect and serve us, has been a little more discreet. In 2021, the 'Principles on Effective Interviewing' drafted by leading experts was launched by the United Nations which provided members for the first time with a clear set of recommendations relating to law enforcement interviewing practices, based on science, ethics and law. The elimination of torture and inhumane treatment by the police (and more generally law enforcement) in the course of their investigations is central to ethical and fair legal procedures worldwide, and yet many countries do not fully adhere to the standards of what are now known as the 'Mendez Principles'. This round table, made up of academics and professionals who are part of the COST action "Establishing Networks to Implement the Principles on Effective Interviewing for Investigations" (IMPLEMENDEZ, CA22128), aims to discuss the most recent advances in the implementation of investigative interview methods in line with the Mendez Principles in different jurisdictions.

June 13ᵗʰ

Poster Session 3

18:00 – 19:00

How can we Effectively Prevent Young People from Becoming Victims of Child Criminal Exploitation and Mitigate Threat, Risk, and Harm?

Authors: Claire McGuire
Presenter: Claire McGuire

Abstract

The aim of this presentation is to gain an understanding of Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE) levels in the Northwest of England and explore the strategic and tactical response from law enforcement, safeguarding services and third sector non-governmental organisations. It will examine the commissioning, delivery and evaluation of interventions to tackle CCE across Greater Manchester and assess whether they are having an impact on reducing exploitation and mitigating harm. It will seek to provide recommendations to law enforcement, safeguarding services and NGO surrounding the design and delivery of diversionary programmes to achieve victim engagement, positive outcomes, and value for money.

June 13th

The Application of Criminal Behaviour for the Rapist Profiles in Thailand

Authors: Nutthika Keeratithammakrit, John Synnott and Maria Ioannou
Presenter: Nutthika Keeratithammakrit

Abstract

Offender profiling has been applied in a wide range of criminal investigations, including those involving sexual offenders. Over the past three decades, offender profiling has gained recognition for its effectiveness, reliability, testing, and transparency of evidence-based techniques in assisting the investigative process by psychologists. This study aimed to construct a comprehensive Thai Rapist Profile by focusing on both offender characteristics and patterns of criminal behaviour. A semi-structured interview was used to collect data from 54 Thai male incarcerated sex offenders. Smallest Space Analysis was then utilised to analyse all related variables and generate the SSA output to interpret to the profile. The Thai Rapist Profile encompasses four themes: Confident Interpersonal (Intimate), Interpersonal (Violent), Overtly Sexual, and Social Influence (Amateur Criminality). In conclusion, this profile proved instrumental in shedding light on the characteristics typical of Thai sex offenders. It has significant implications for the investigative process in identifying and narrowing down suspects efficiently.

June 13ᵗʰ

Is the National Referral Mechanism Effective in the Context of the Exploitation of Children Through County Lines?

Authors: Sarah Rotherham

Presenter: John Synnott

Abstract

The aim of this PhD will be to understand the nature, process and experience of young people who have been exploited through County Lines and subsequently referred into the National Referral Mechanism in a domestic setting. A series of research questions have been developed to explore the central aim of the study, they are; Does the NRM add any value for those referred in? Do the Under 18's raise exploitation (Sec 45 statutory defence)? Are there evident variables present for those referred into the NRM and those that are not? What is the time frame for those in the NRM and those that are not? A mixed methods approach to data collection is being taken utilising both police data (quantitative) and semi-structured interviews (qualitative) with key stakeholders, this will enrich the data that is gathered and strengthen any findings. For the financial years 2018-2023 the following data has been extracted from Merseyside police systems: Under 18's arrested for Modern Slavery offences in Merseyside; Under 18's victims of Modern Slavery offences in Merseyside; Under 18's arrested for Possession with Intent to Supply offences in Merseyside. This data will then be analysed to address the research questions. In respect of the semi-structured interviews, the sampling will take a snowball approach through accessing known key stakeholders within Merseyside Police specifically the Protecting Vulnerable Persons department. From this, an exponential discriminative snowball method will be adopted with the recommendations from the initial participants being assessed by the researcher and contacted for inclusion should they be suitable. Participants will be asked questions relating to their role within the arena of County Lines, whether that is to safeguard victims or pursue offenders. The participants will also be asked questions to understand how the National Referral Mechanism impacts their respective areas of business.

June 13th

Exploration of a Typology of Juvenile Murder in Japan

Authors: Takayuki Miyadera and Kevin D. Browne
Presenter: Kevin D. Browne

Abstract

Juvenile homicide cases can show low levels of previous violent history compared with other violent offences. Using smallest space analysis (SSA) potential subgroups among juvenile murderers were explored, with attention to those who had shown low levels of delinquency and violence but presented with an interest in weapons and violent contents in the media.

Twenty-four case reports of juvenile murder including attempted murder were reviewed from police records and interviews with the police officers in charge of these cases. A database was constructed consisting of dichotomous variables related to 16 crime situations and 42 offender characteristics. A series of non-metric MDS (SSA-1 and MSA-1) were performed on the data.

Three distinct structural themes were found in juvenile murder: conflict, psychopathology, and crime groups. The 'Conflict' offenders (n=9) committed murder impulsively in anger, preceded by previous conflicts with the victim. They were likely to have shown violent behaviour before at school, and to have been a victim of bullying. The 'Psychopathology' offenders (n=6) were characterized by an interest in violent media, violent fantasies, animal cruelty, antisocial and narcissistic personality problems, and a history of mental illness. The 'Crime' group (n=9) are likely to have committed the crime in secrecy with the motive of material gain. Delinquent behaviours and overt antisocial behaviours were shown before, such as criminal damage and burglary, with previous adverse childhood experiences in their family background.

The analyses demonstrated that the three structural themes correctly classified 75% (18 of 24 cases) correctly. Implications and limitations related to prediction and prevention are discussed.

June 13ᵗʰ

"She was Only Walking Home": Public Perception of Victim-Blame for Sexual Assault on Clothing Choice

Authors: Naomi Buck and Nicola Mallowan
Presenter: Nicola Mallowan

Abstract

Clothing colour choice can influence perceptions of people and clothing style influences levels of victim-blame. Along with Lerner's (1965) Just World hypothesis, these findings support Burt's (1980) rape myths, which attribute more victim-blame to those wearing 'provocative' attire when assaulted. Yet, at the time Sarah Everard was abducted, sexually assaulted, and murdered, her clothing choice did not align with public perception rape myths. The aim of this study was to gain an insight into current public perceptions of victim blaming of sexual assault on clothing choice.

Forty-nine participants from the general population were asked to complete an online survey, including a hypothetical scenario depicting a sexual assault of a woman, with varied digitally manipulated photographic images of the victim (colour and style). Participants then completed a 4-item victim-blame Likert scale. The results of the study found no significant difference between participants level of blame on victim's colour choice (red/non-red) or clothing style (conservative or provocative); $F (1, 13.93) = .703$, $p = .407$, $\eta p 2 = .017$. This indicates that victim's choice of clothing did not impact on public perceptions of victim-blame.

This study sheds light on current public attitudes towards victim blaming and rape myths of clothing choice. Perhaps this shift in public opinion stems from increased high-profile media attention of campaigns such as #MeToo, as well as Sarah's story, promoting awareness and understanding of sexual assault. If they are going to do it, they are going to do it; it is reassuring to know that societal views are finally catching on to this realisation. Let us now focus on educating perpetrators to make a safer environment for women and girls.

June 13ᵗʰ

Deconstructing Juvenile Criminal Styles: An Empirical Study on Severity and Desistance from Crimes in Kuwait

Authors: Adullah Althuwaikh, Ewa Stefanska and Nicholas Longpre
Presenter: Abdullah Althuwaikh

Abstract

This empirical investigation targets the intricate dynamics of juvenile offending within the Kuwaiti context, specifically aiming to unravel the diverse individual and environmental risk factors that influence the criminal styles of juveniles (solo, co-offender, and mixed-style offender). Utilizing a robust sample of 656 juvenile offenders sourced from official records at the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) in Kuwait, the study meticulously applies binary logistic regression analyses to discern the predictive factors that demarcate these offenders' pathways. A pioneering dimension of this research is its integration of criminal profiling techniques, which aims to deepen the understanding of the behavioural patterns and psychosocial characteristics of juvenile offenders, thereby providing a nuanced perspective on their criminal trajectories. The findings illuminate that cultural background and high levels of violence critically forecast the likelihood of a juvenile adopting a solo offending style, underscoring the significance of socio-cultural and behavioural determinants in shaping criminal behaviour. Delinquency stands out as a pivotal predictor for juvenile co-offenders, indicating that prior criminal conduct plays a substantial role in predisposing juveniles towards collective criminal activities. Intriguingly, mixed-style offenders are significantly influenced by peer influence, family dynamics, and substance use, highlighting the complex interplay between social relationships and individual choices in the genesis of juvenile delinquency. Further, the study's use of criminal profiling emerges as a vital tool in identifying and understanding the distinct behavioural and psychological profiles of juvenile offenders. This approach not only augments the predictive accuracy of juvenile offending pathways but also enhances the design and implementation of targeted intervention programs. It addresses the specific risk factors and behavioural patterns identified through criminal profiling, the research advocates for a more personalized and effective approach to juvenile justice interventions.

June 13th

The Aftermath of MOSAVE: Evidentia University on the Trail of The Beast

Authors: Antonio Domínguez-Muñoz, Jorge Jiménez Serrano, Alicia Juárez Bielsa, Andrés Sotoca Plaza and Rafael M. López Pérez

Presenter: Antonio Domínguez-Muñoz

Abstract

This study aimed to test the System for Analysis of Validity in Evaluation (SAVE) in open questions of a known case, the murders of Luis Alberto Garavito, alias The Beast, as problem-based learning in criminal settings, after the publication of the operational manual of this method (MOSAVE) in 2022. Problem-Based Learning (PBL) is an instructional method that uses complex, real-world problems as a vehicle to promote student learning of concepts and principles, as opposed to the direct presentation of facts and concepts. We ask the participants to get Garavito to show the real places where the victims are still buried so that their remains can be returned to their families. The last exercise took place in May 2023. SAVE is designed to incorporate a wide range of useful methods, techniques and skills from different sources with the collaboration (in Spain) of the Criminal Behaviour Analysis Section (SACD) of the Guardia Civil, the Behaviour Analysis Section (SAC) of the Policía Nacional, the Centro de Inteligencia de las Fuerzas Armadas (CIFAS), the Centro National de Inteligencia (CNI) and its Academy, where MOSAVE was presented, after being developed in accordance with the objectives of the Psychological Intelligence Group (PsycInt). SAVE is structured in three phases that are not necessarily consecutive: Verisimilitude (V1), the analysis of the verbal content of the statement; Veracity (V2), as the verbal/non-verbal congruence, and Verification (V3), the checking of the previously obtained information. There is also a transversal phase (V0), or Identity Valuation, which makes it possible to adapt the previous results to each case and to integrate all the previous knowledge in order to improve rapport and influence, using Cialdini's techniques. This specific SAVE application is called SAVIOR. Several teams of law enforcement and intelligence officers had to overcome Garavito's reluctance to provide information by using influence and persuasion based on behavioural analysis.

June 13ᵗʰ

Understanding the Nature and Scale of the Roles Adopted by Females in Serious and Organised Crime Groups in Merseyside and in the UK

Authors: Claire Doyle, John Synnott and Maria Ioannou
Presenter: Claire Doyle

Abstract

This research aims to: 1. Understand the nature and scale of the roles adopted by females in serious and organised crime (SOC) groups in Merseyside and in a National context in the UK; 2. Understand the crime offending rates and characteristics of female offending for all crime versus the crime offending rates and characteristics of female offending for females involved in serious and organised crime within Merseyside and in the UK; and 3. Establish the impact and consequences of females involved in serious and organised crime. A background review of literature highlights the complexities of SOC, the threat SOC creates to communities and the impact and challenges SOC presents to policing. Not only does SOC involve different offences, but offenders also operate at a local level and on a national and international scale. It is also apparent, there is limited research relating to females involved in SOC, specifically in the UK. Understanding the role played by females in SOC is important as research shows that roles played by females are often considered to be different than of males. This research will provide an overall picture of women in SOC in Merseyside (located in the North-West of England covered by Merseyside Police,) and maximise what we know about females and SOC overall in the UK. Increasing our knowledge and understanding of female involvement in SOC is the central focus of this research. For confidence in the approach by policing to be high in relation to how they manage serious and organised crime, police forces must make sure that all offenders are targeted out for attention, including women. This research will address a gap in knowledge regarding the roles females play in serious and organised crime in Merseyside and the UK and assist to influence policy and practices in UK policing regarding serious and organised crime.

June 13th

Understanding the Role of Cuckooing as a Tactic within Modern Criminality

Authors: Ruth Lewin, John Synnott and Maria Ioannou
Presenter: John Synnott and Ruth Lewin

Abstract

County lines is a method of drug dealing. To be defined as a county line the National Crime Agency's current definition states there must dedicated phone line and the movement of drugs. This method of drug dealing if often accompanied by the exploitation of both children and adults. One method of exploitation used is currently called cuckooing. Cuckooing is the act of using or taking over an address for the purpose of criminality, within the county line this could be for the storage, preparation, packaging or selling of drugs. There are large gaps within academia regarding attributes and behaviours commonly seen within cuckooing offences, the address and the methods used to gain entry and cuckoo a victim. There are no national statistics available for cuckooing due to this not being a recordable crime, resulting in offences which occur during cuckooing falling into a range of other categories such as assault and modern-day slavery. The first part of this study aims to use existing data sets held by the police within the Northwest to create a quantitative cuckooing database with key information regarding attributes of cuckooing offences. The second part aims to use online focus groups of professionals working within policing, adult care and housing who have experience working with cuckooing victims and offenders to provide a qualitative narrative regarding the methodology of cuckooing. It is hoped that this project will help enrich the knowledge base surrounding cuckooing within county lines both in academia and professionals working within safeguarding.

June 14th

Keynote Address

9:00 – 10:00 | Development of Psychology in the Middle East: Opportunities for Forensic and Investigative Psychology

Dr. Joanne Hands

Abstract

This presentation explores the evolving landscape of psychology in the Middle East region, focusing specifically on the promising avenues within forensic and investigative psychology. The abstract delves into the unique cultural, social, and legal frameworks that shape the practice of psychology in the Middle East, highlighting the growing interest and demand for specialized fields like forensic psychology.

The presentation aims to shed light on the opportunities and challenges faced by professionals in the region seeking to contribute to the field of forensic and investigative psychology. By discussing cases and emerging trends, the audience will gain insights into the potential applications of psychological principles in forensic settings, such as criminal investigations, legal proceedings, and rehabilitation programs. The presentation seeks to encourage collaboration, research, and innovation in the field of forensic psychology within the Middle East by fostering dialogue and knowledge exchange.

June 14th

Plenary Session 6

10:30 – 10:50 | Investigating the Effects of Age and Cultural Background on Public Perceptions of Adverse Childhood Experiences

Authors: Tyler Simpson, Sophia Tkazky and Henriette Bergstrøm
Presenter: Tyler Simpson

Abstract

The recent shift in public discourse surrounding adverse childhood experiences (ACEs), from a parenting or safety issue to a public health concern, highlighted the importance of investigation of the public perceptions of ACEs, and understanding the extent to which people believe childhood adversities and trauma can affect life outcomes in adulthood. This research aim was to investigate the role of age and cultural background on the perceived harmfulness of adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) in relation to their influence on offending behaviour. The cultural background was measured by the Patient's Cultural Background Scale, and the data regarding age, gender and ethnic background was collected via survey. The 10-item Perception of ACEs influence on Offending Scale (PACEO) was utilised to measure participants' perceptions towards ACEs influence on offending behaviour. The data collected from 119 participants was subjected to multiple regression analysis. The results indicated that together age and cultural background significantly accounted for 6.5% of the variance in PACEO scores. Cultural background score was found to be a significant predictor, but contrary to the previous studies, age was not a significant predictor of PACEO scores. These findings may contribute to identifying factors which shape an individual's perceptions of ACEs and their perceived influence on offending behaviour. A greater awareness of ACE perceptions can inform the development of effective interventions targeted at educating individuals about the detrimental effects of ACEs and assist defence barristers in identifying individuals who may be more susceptible to the influence of mitigating evidence.

June 14th

10:50 – 10:10 | Absent Without Trace: Trauma Informed Approaches to Offender Risk Assessment

Authors: Paula Rothermel and Emma Expo

Presenter: Paula Rothermel

Abstract

Currently absent from academic discourse is the integration of trauma-informed approaches within offender risk assessment procedures and practices within the prison system in the United Kingdom. It is widely recognised that the enduring impact of trauma can render a child perpetually in a state of fight, flight, or freeze, manifesting in diminished levels of self-awareness and self-efficacy. Given the prevalence of adversity and trauma among this demographic, there is a justified call for systematic screening, comprehensive assessment, and interventions grounded in empirical evidence. The absence of such support leaves this cohort ill-equipped for responsible adulthood, increasing their susceptibility to criminal behaviour. Regrettably, childhood trauma frequently emerges as a contributing factor in assessing offenders as high risk, leading to delays in parole eligibility. Existing interventions within prisons or offender behaviour programmes inadequately address childhood trauma, and the consideration of trauma-related evidence during parole hearings is often inadequate, misunderstood, or outdated. Parole hearings typically centre on current and recent offences and behaviours, with minimal effort to comprehend and mitigate the impact of childhood trauma on an offender's risk profile, both pre- and post-release. This discussion paper aims to examine how Parole Hearings inadvertently expose the tensions between potential biases and an individual's Human Rights Act 1998 (HRA) entitlement to a fair hearing under Article 6. Behind closed doors, within a quasi-judicial setting, biases may manifest wherein an offender's childhood trauma, experienced as a victim, can serve as a hindrance to later risk assessments for release.

June 14th

10:10 – 10:30 | Predicting Victims who Remain in Abusive Relationship in Greece

Authors: Vasiliki Kravvariti and Kevin D Browne
Presenter: Vasiliki Kravvariti

Abstract

Approximately half of victims of domestic violence and abuse (DVA) remain with their intimate partners despite the risk of serious physical and mental harm. The aim of this study was to explore the individual and relationship characteristics of 54 adult victims of DVA to identify risk factors that influence a decision to remain in an abusive relationship.

Using 74-item victim questionnaire, data was collected from 36 women and 18 men attending six DVA support organizations in Greece. This study compared two groups of adult victims: 34 (63%) who remain with their abusive partner ('high risk') and 20 (37%) who have left their abusive partner ('low risk'). Individual and relationship characteristics that showed significant differences between these two groups were entered into a logistic regression to establish whether these factors could predict group membership.

Findings indicated that a 9- factor model, with a cut-off score of 4 or more, could predict outcome in 88.9% of cases. Predictor (IVs) variables within the model included gender, employment status, close to parents, close to friends, stop seeing friends due to partner, please partner to avoid hurt, physically tried to stop the abuse, belief that partner will change, felt like staying in or returning to the abusive relationship.

From this study a simple summation checklist has been developed that can be used as a risk assessment to predict victims of DVA who stay in the abusive relationship, placing themselves at high risk of further abuse and harm. This could be used in Greece to guide intervention strategies, with those women identified as 'high risk' requiring more comprehensive intervention and support.

June 14th

10:30 – 11:50 | Do LGBTQIA+, Black and Minority Ethnic and Disabled People have Bespoke Needs When they Have Experienced Domestic Violence and Abuse?

Authors: Terri Cole, Jane Healy, Orlanda Harvey and Chloe Smith
Presenter: Terri Cole

Abstract

The research aimed to identify bespoke support needs that may be required by victims/survivors of domestic violence and abuse (DVA) who have protected characteristics as defined by the Equality Act 2010, specifically: LGBTQIA+ communities, Black and Minority Ethnic communities, and disabled people. METHOD: The data collected included an online survey of the general public (N=317), a focus group with professionals working with victims/survivors of DVA, and two online interviews with people in these communities with lived experience of DVA. Thematic analysis identified four main themes encapsulating how individuals accessed help initially; good practice; secondary victimisation; and support needs. The latter were subdivided into subthemes of general and specific bespoke needs. RESULTS All groups found barriers in accessing help initially and had similar needs, however different communities had bespoke issues. For example, LGBTQIA+ may find accessing appropriate refuges difficult and experience specific forms of abuse including threats of being 'outed'; BME highlighted specific difficulties in relation to recognition and reporting due to cultural considerations such as shame and a lack of family support; and disabled people faced enhanced concerns including how to physically access support if their abuser was also their carer. Importantly for professionals working in the field secondary victimisation was noted by those who had previously experienced DVA. CONCLUSIONS: Key considerations for policing and criminal justice agencies will be identified including victims/survivors lack of recognition and acknowledgement of abuse, confusion as to who gives what type of help and protection, and the need for in depth knowledge of those investigating such cases of the bespoke needs and difficulties faced by different communities when reporting such crimes.

June 14th

Applied Session

12:00 – 13:30

Intimate Partner Violence Facilitated by Technology

María José Garrido Antón, Neus Mascaró Coll, Laura Sánchez Morón, Lidia Alonso Corona

Abstract

Technology-facilitated gender-based violence against women (TFGBV) is the use of technology to enact violence against an individual who identifies as a woman (García-Collantes, & Garrido, 2019; L.O. 1/2004). The purpose of this research is to offer both a quantitative and qualitative x-ray of this crime through the data reported in Spain. The study was carried out with a total sample of 514 cases between 2015 and 2022. Dictionary of variables created ad hoc by the General Directorate of Coordination and Studies (DGCD) of the Secretariat of State for Security of the Ministry of the Interior. The database was created with the SPSS statistical program. Descriptive and inferential analyzes were carried out. Sociodemographic and psychological characteristics of both victim and perpetrator will be shown, as well as the criminal fact. Society and technology advance faster than law and prevention policies. The lack of training, sensitization and awareness on cybersecurity issues leads to protection gaps that in terms of gender violence can lead to the commission of crimes such as violations of fundamental rights such as privacy and/or the secrecy of communications, as exemplum. This research sheds light on the complexity of this criminal phenomenon with high social complexity such as gender based- violence in previous relationships, underlining the importance of addressing this phenomenon in a multidisciplinary manner to protect the rights of women.

Closing Ceremony

13:30 – 14:00

June 14th

Applied Session

14:00 – 18:00

The Global Evaluation System Forensic Technique to Assess Psychological Damage

Professor Ramon Arce

Abstract

Criminal cases against persons are committed ordinarily in private sphere reducing mainly (the estimation is about 85% of cases) the incriminate proofs to victim-witness testimony and the evaluation of the damages to the victim claimant. Nonetheless, the victim testimony about the event and the victim reports about the damages are not sufficient evidence to sentence the accused. As the burden of proof corresponds to accusation, prosecution requires expert reports to bestow probationary value to victim testimony and/or damage to set aside the presumption of innocence principle. To expert psychological reports about psychological damage the following criteria are required: the application of a scientific-based forensic technique, the measurement of psychological damage, the differential diagnosis of malingering (none malingered damage may be classified as real damage), and the establishment of a causal link between the investigated crime and the psychological damage. The structured clinical interviews and clinical diagnosis are not valid for this purpose: have no psychometric properties and do not measure the differential diagnosis of malingering. Thus, we created the forensic clinical interview to measure psychological damage and the differential diagnosis of malingering. This toll was reliable ($\alpha = .85$ for the measurement of psychological damage and $\alpha = .744$ for the measurement of malingering) and valid (predictive, convergent and discriminant validity). Then, we design a multi-method (knowledge and recognition task) and multi-measurement (interview and psychometric) forensic technique, inserted into the Global Evaluation System, that was scientifically tested and validated. In this applied session, the forensic evaluation of psychological damage technique will be developed.

June 14ᵗʰ

Best Practice Approaches to Improving Police Interviewing of Adolescent Victims and Witnesses

Professor Jodi Quas

Abstract

In this applied session, Dr. Jodi Quas will review the state of the science concerning forensic interviewing of adolescent victims and witnesses. In contrast to the large amounts of scientific research and police training that have focused on legal questioning of child victims/witnesses and adult victim/witnesses, far less attention has been devoted to training police on legal questioning of adolescent victims or witnesses. The lack of attention is particularly concerning given that adolescents (i.e., youth ages 12-18) are highly likely to experience or witness crime. For example, adolescents in many countries across Europe, Canada, and the U.S. are the second most common age group to be exposed to violent crimes and as a result be questioned by police about what has happened. Dr. Quas, a leading expert on children's and adolescents' eyewitness capabilities, will present new research on interviewing approaches specifically for adolescents. She will begin by discussing the types of criminal activity adolescents are most likely to experience and witness (e.g., interpersonal violence, online and offline exploitation) and the reasons why adolescents are highly reluctant to discuss those experiences with authorities. She will then describe how adolescent reluctance is expressed in interviews with police and interactions with other legal professionals. Finally, she will new work that is documenting specific interview tactics (e.g., rapport building, question phrasing) that increase adolescents' comfort in interviews and willingness to discuss negative personal experiences. Attendees will gain knowledge of evidence-based recommendations regarding best practice questioning approaches for adolescents, a unique and particularly vulnerable population of victims and witnesses.

June 14th

Violencia de Género Facilitada por la Tecnología (in Spanish)

María José Garrido, Lidia Alonso Corona, Neus Mascaró Coll and Laura Sánchez Morón and Secretaria de Estado de Seguridad

Abstract

La violencia de género contra las mujeres facilitada por la tecnología es el uso de la tecnología para ejercer violencia contra una persona que se identifica como mujer. El objetivo de esta investigación es ofrecer una radiografía cuantitativa y cualitativa de este delito a través de los datos denunciados en España.

El estudio se realizó con una muestra total de 514 casos entre 2015 y 2022. Diccionario de variables creado ad hoc por la Dirección General de Coordinación y Estudios (DGCE) de la Secretaría de Estado de Seguridad del Ministerio del Interior. La base de datos se creó con el programa estadístico SPSS v25. Se realizaron análisis descriptivos e inferenciales.

Se mostrarán las características sociodemográficas y psicológicas tanto de la víctima como del agresor, así como el hecho delictivo. La sociedad y la tecnología avanzan más rápido que la ley y las políticas de prevención. La falta de formación, sensibilización y concienciación en materia de ciberseguridad conlleva a brechas de protección que en materia de violencia de género pueden derivar en la comisión de delitos como vulneraciones de derechos fundamentales como la intimidad y/o el secreto de las comunicaciones, ad exemplum.

Esta investigación arroja luz sobre la complejidad de este fenómeno delictivo de alta complejidad social como es la violencia de género en las relaciones previas, subrayando la importancia de abordar este fenómeno de manera multidisciplinaria para proteger los derechos de las mujeres.

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