APPLIED CRIMINAL PSYCHOLOGY

A Guide to Forensic Behavioral Sciences

SECOND EDITION

EDITED BY RICHARD N. KOCSIS, PH.D. APPLIED CRIMINAL PSYCHOLOGY

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A Guide to Forensic Behavioral Sciences

Edited by

RICHARD N. KOCSIS, Ph.D.

(With 20 Other Contributors)



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FOREWORD

I am delighted to welcome the second edition of this important book on forensic aspects of psychology, psychiatry, and behavioral sciences. This volume is introductory and wide-ranging and provides valuable information about many key forensic issues, including personality disorders, risk assessment, the forensic psychologist as an expert witness, detecting deception, eyewitness memory, cognitive interviewing, forensic hypnosis, false confessions, criminal profiling, and crisis negotiation. These are all topics where psychologists and other behavioral scientists have made great contributions. The book is international and interdisciplinary in its scope and focus. It should be of great interest to both scholars and practitioners and indeed is highly relevant to forensic practice.

Forensic psychology is a booming subject. Every year, there is a greater appreciation of the contributions of psychology to understanding and working with offenders, victims, and witnesses in prisons, hospitals, courts, and police settings. Consequently, the need for trained scholars and practitioners in forensic behavioral sciences increases every year, and their work is increasingly valued by government agencies. This book should be of great interest to students who are planning careers in forensic psychology, criminology, and policing.

The editor, Richard Kocsis, is well known especially for his contributions to criminal profiling. However, this book shows that criminal profiling, while extremely important, is only one of many topics that are included within forensic behavioral sciences. In this context, many of the contributors to this book are also well known scholars and/or practitioners. All of them have useful information to impart. The real contribution of applied criminal psychology is in applying scientific methods and scientific knowledge to problems involving human behavior and human decision-making. The work of psychologists should contribute greatly in reducing the prevalence of many troubling social problems, including crime and violence. This book is an excellent showcase of the contributions of applied criminal psychologists.

David P. Farrington

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PREFACE

MEN, MONSTERS AND APPLIED CRIMINAL PSYCHOLOGY

A pproximately 10 years have now elapsed since the first edition of this text was produced and with this passage of time it has become apparent that an updated second edition was warranted. In some areas the issues inherent to the field of criminal psychology have largely remained static whereas in others progression in the research has led to significant developments. Some are almost tumultuous¹ in their potential impact upon previously established paradigms.

Possibly the most dramatic change occurred in 2013 with the publication of the *DSM-5*² (American Psychiatric Association, 2013) and with it a number of flow-on effects concerning our conceptualization of mental disorders and ergo our consideration of criminality. Beyond the discontinuance of the multi-axial system for diagnosis³ the next most significant change pertinent to the field of criminal psychology has been the incorporation of the alternative model for personality disorders. Unlike its predecessors, the *DSM-5* provides some tacit acknowledgement of the dimensional nature to personality and thus personality disorders. In this context, we are no longer handicapped by considering these conditions as categorical constructs but instead have a more realistic model to work with wherein personality disorders are differentiated by the varying proportions of apparent personality attributes along a conceptual continuum.

This shift in paradigm has enhanced our analysis of many concepts at the core of traditional forensic psychology and criminal psychology. One of these being the phenomena of Psychopathy and the closely associated *DSM* category of Anti-Social Personality Disorder. For this reason, significant focus

^{1.} These metaphorical upheavals are, however, far fewer in number. Nonetheless, it is these substantive changes which are the impetus for this second edition, and which are reflected in the various amendments and additions and which arguably reflect some of the most interesting developments in the field as a whole.

^{2.} This circumstance will most likely be replicated with the pending release of the *ICD-11* (WHO, in press).

^{3.} Which has been something of a benchmark synonymous to previous iterations of the DSM.

has been placed upon these issues in this second edition starting with the first two chapters outlining the major categories of mental disorders associated with criminal behavior and then the addition of an entirely new chapter exclusively focused upon the concept of the psychopathic personality (Chapter 3). Another new chapter has also been included dedicated to the principles of law associated with an accused person's mental status. This chapter explores a previously omitted dimension of the applied function of criminal psychology⁴ by examining the intersection of mental illness and the operation of the criminal justice legal system.

As previously mentioned, some of the changes over the past 10 years have been almost tumultuous with regard to the theoretical upheaval they have generated. One example of this concerns the topic of criminal profiling.⁵ Since the publication of the first edition research and debate has emerged culminating in empirically grounded evidence in support of the validity of the technique. Although this development is long overdue, the implications of this debate has also opened a veritable Pandora's Box with respect to what these findings pose. In particular such evidence appears incongruent with the postulates of some theorists who have touted that the proficient application of the technique can only be achieved via the adoption of their doctrines. Evidence however has emerged which suggests that proficiency in profiling independent of these doctrines indirectly points to the foibles of these tenets (Kocsis & Palermo, 2015, 2016).

Another dimension surrounding the impetus for this second edition has been the changing times. Possibly the most significant is the seemingly endless conflicts which have flared around the world and the apparent escalation that has occurred internationally in the form of terrorism. The past ten years have arguably ushered in an unsurpassed era of barbarity in humanity's collective schema with the regular promulgation by media of stories and images of indiscriminate stabbings, shootings, bombings, executions, beheadings and the seemingly endless glorification of rape, murder and other acts of extreme violence. The bitter reality of these veritable celebrations of monstrous acts—carried out predominantly by men—is not their obvious depravity, but rather, the dissolute reality of how common and internationally pervasive such violence has, it appears, now become throughout the world.⁶ These

^{4.} Beyond investigative and response applications in field operations such as those typically undertaken by law enforcement, security and intelligence agencies.

^{5.} The term 'criminal profiling' is used here for expediency in recognition of the common colloquial meaning it engenders in terms as referring to any form of behavioral analysis of crime features and patterns for the purpose of identifying the potential offender.

^{6.} On the 14th of February 2018 many international media outlets were dominated by news concerning 19-year-old Nikolas Cruz who embarked on a mass shooting rampage at his former school in Florida, USA. Underlying the monstrous circumstances of this event where Cruz killed 17 people was its dissolute context in actually representing the 17th gun related incident to have occurred within a U.S. school since the beginning of that same year (Aiello, 2018).

developments reverberate in the material contained in this second edition.

I wish to conclude by canvassing some of the special characteristics inherent to this book which, in my view, separate it from others. The first of these is the particular ideological orientation of the topics examined and its emphasis upon issues which feature a pragmatic application of psychology, psychiatry and criminology in some legal, law enforcement or counter terrorism/national security context. It is this sentiment in attenuating upon operational applications which is hopefully conveyed in the title of the book, *Applied Criminal Psychology*.

A second distinguishing characteristic is what I regard as its atypical composition.⁷ In assembling this book, I have attempted to combine the scholastic merits associated with both authored and edited textbooks whilst concomitantly minimizing their respective limitations. Specifically, I have sought to assemble and present research and literature by authors who are regarded as authorities in their respective fields and thus optimally capture their insights and most importantly, the depth of their knowledge and expertise in the material conveyed in their respective chapters. In short, this book has adopted a chapter structure akin to those found in prescribed texts for training/educational purposes but at the same time incorporates the benefits of specialized expertise obtained from multiple contributing authors typically found in edited books.

The final aim of this book is to offer the reader an international and multidisciplinary perspective. To this end, effort has been expended on not just focusing upon any one country or jurisdiction but instead presenting a comprehensive analysis relevant to readers in various countries and jurisdictions. Likewise, this text uses authors from a host of disciplinary backgrounds including psychiatry, psychology, criminology and law. Additionally, the contributing authors reflect an important combination of being both academic

^{7.} The more conventional approaches found amongst scholarly texts is to adopt one of three methods. The first is with the production of a textbook which provides a comprehensive analysis of topics within a field with a view to serving as a prescribed text for a course in its target area(s). Books following this design are typically co-authored by a small number of authors within a given area. The limitation to this approach is whilst academic authors are often knowledgeable scholars in many areas, it is arguably impossible for them to be genuinely regarded as authoritative experts in every issue covered in such books. As a consequence, irrespective of the erudite coverage of issues all such books often invariably feature some component which merely reflects the author(s)' own review and interpretation of the available literature in which they may have little to no substantive expertise. The second common approach to the production of scholarly texts is where they represent edited compilations by an august collection of authors all of whom contribute individual chapters to a book. The coordination of such a text is typically overseen by a number of authors who serve as the editors of the book. Unfortunately, texts which follow this formulation are typically structured around a more specialized area of focus and thus seldom feature the comprehensive scope of the aforementioned authored books. The third common approach to scholarly texts are authored books which are, likewise, focused upon a particular topic or item of research but are instead written by any number of authors as opposed to a conglomeration of contributors.

scholars as well as expert clinical practitioners. Thus, the book is not merely written from one disciplinary perspective, and nor is it exclusively written by ivory tower theorists or pure clinicians, but instead seeks to optimally blend the collective knowledge, skills and practical experience sourced in these disciplines and approaches. I am honored to have been able to assemble such a diverse collection of scholarly authors who hail from around the world and who have offered their unique insights and perspectives for producing a text which aims to enhance knowledge of key topics. It is the simultaneous integration of all of these characteristics which, I hope, sets this book apart. It has been my distinct honor to collaborate with all of the contributing authors in this book and it is my sincere ambition that our collective efforts result in the reader's intellectual enrichment and enjoyment.

R.N.K.

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APPLIED CRIMINAL PSYCHOLOGY

Part A

CRIMINAL BEHAVIOR, MENTAL DISORDER AND THE LAW

Chapter One

MENTAL DISORDERS AND CRIMINAL BEHAVIOR

HJALMAR VAN MARLE

In the criminal court, forensic psychiatrists and psychologists are sometimes called upon as expert witnesses to answer questions relating to responsibility for a crime, dangerousness for reoffending (i.e., risk-assessment), and treatment for the prevention of reoffending given the presence of a mental disorder. The main purpose of this chapter is to describe the connection, if any, between the presence of any mental disorder and the criminal behavior of the accused to enable a judgment to be made about the offender in court.

Forensic psychiatry entails both a medical and psychiatric/psychological assessment of the individual within a legal context. *Forensic*' means that accumulated medical and psychological knowledge is interpreted according to the law in an explanation of the individual under examination (Rogers & Shuman, 2005). The results of the person's examination are interpreted in terms of the relevant law so that legal questions can be answered.

Forensic psychiatry has as its paradigm the biopsychosocial model (Engel, 1980), which is an interpretive philosophy and research model of a person as a unity of different levels of functioning—molecular, cellular, biological, psychological, and social—and leads to different forms of psychiatric and psychological treatment. The question of why one person develops one disorder but not another, or no disorder at all, is an important question in medicine. It leads researchers not only toward disease-promoting factors but also to *'resilience,'* the often unknown factors, that prevent illness. For contemporary psychiatry, it is biological research into neurological (i.e., brain) activity that strives to answer why some people develop a mental disorder but others do not. Personal and social factors should not be underestimated because their impact on criminal behavior is essential and determinative.

The effect of psychological and social factors on the functioning of our brain is the central question, because it is the seat of our actions. For forensic psychiatry, a key question is which patient becomes an offender and which offender becomes a patient (van Marle, 1996) and thereafter what came first, the proclivity toward crime or the mental disorder (Goethals, Fabri, Buitelaar & van Marle, 2007). There are many psychiatric patients and offenders. However, the field of the forensic mental health concerns itself with combinations such as *'mad and bad'* as well as *'disorder and offense'* coming together in one person. Forensic psychiatrists and psychologists evaluate a person in the totality of these factors and offer their professional opinion about that person.

Questions typically posed to forensic psychiatrists and forensic psychologists can include the following (Van Marle, 2012):

- 1. Is a mental disorder present now and was it present at the time of the crime? If so, does it comply with the legal definition of: *Impaired development and/or disorder of the person's mental capacities*'?
- 2. Can a connection between the two be demonstrated?
- 3. If so, what is the nature of this connection and what is the strength of it?
- 4. What is the level of responsibility of the offender/patient for the crime?
- 5. What is the risk for reoffending, with regard to the impaired development and mental disorder and which risk factors are present?
- 6. Is treatment (and what kind of treatment) possible to reduce reoffending (i.e., recidivism)?

The objective of this chapter is to briefly explore the range of mental disorders and their relationship (if any) to criminal behavior. Emphasis is placed predominantly on mental disorders that are frequently observed among criminal offenders.¹

UNDERSTANDING AND DEFINING MENTAL DISORDER

The conceptualization of mental disorders has always traditionally been undertaken by mental health experts. That is, psychiatrists and psychologists typically identify and thus agree on a certain constellation of symptoms, their combination (as syndromes) and their possible interplay with causal factors. These constellations can then be labeled as a mental 'disorder,' 'disease' or 'illness.' Mental disorders only exist via the manifestation of symp-

^{1.} Although some others will also be briefly canvassed.