**Criminological and Forensic Psychology**

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Introduction

This book is designed to support final-year students in Psychology who are taking modules in criminal psychology. It also would be appropriate for postgraduate students in forensic psychology or similar courses. Having taught these topics for some years, and being an active researcher and consultant in criminal psychology for more, the author has written this book with the express intention of it being another form of support to those embarking on research or practice careers, or those who are simply interested in the psychology of crime and want something a bit more technical than the true crime section of the library. Its scope is broader than simply forensic psychology and will support courses in other aspects of criminal psychology or criminology.

Most of the chapters, where appropriate, examine a case study in each of the crime areas under examination. For example, the chapter on juvenile offenders considers the sad case of Jamie Bulger, killed by two 10-year old boys, and what happened to them in the criminal justice system as they were tried, convicted and imprisoned. The chapter on psychology in investigation examines some rather gruesome murders that took place in the East End of London in the nineteenth century, and how modern psychology might have helped the police in their then unsuccessful investigation. Serial murderer Stephen Griffiths is the case study in the chapter on homicide, perhaps an atypical case due to the fact he was reading for a PhD in Criminology. However, serial murder is not a typical activity and is not carried out by typical people. The Central Park Jogger case was a brutal attack on a young woman in New York, which was termed by the governor, Mario Cuorno, as ‘‘the ultimate shriek of alarm’’ (Pitt, 1989). What happened next as a result of that alarm is of interest to psychology, however, and Chapter 14 examines how and why people confess to a crime they did not commit. In this way, each topic hopefully comes more alive and real for the reader, and shows how all the techniques and theories of psychology can be used to examine and attempt to explain real life crimes.

 At the beginning of each chapter there is a list of key terms that are discussed within it. These are also listed in the glossary at the end of the book. Within chapters there may also be boxes of text. These explain terms that are important, but which are not included in the main text to avoid confusion. Section 1 takes the reader through the process of becoming a forensic psychologist, but also sets out how to be a researcher in the wide areas of criminal psychology. Chapter 1 defines forensic psychology and briefly looks at where the psychologist works, and then considers the training which needs to be completed before anyone can call themselves a forensic psychologist. Chapter 2 looks at the broader issues of researching in the psychology of crime and the difficulty of accessing and working with forensic samples.

Section 2 examines the psychological explanations of crime and criminals. It takes a broad look at the theories available to explain crime in Chapter 3, and then considers, in more depth, questions of the criminal mind in Chapter 4 and the juvenile offender in Chapter 5.

Section 3 looks at specific crimes in more detail and provides the psychological explanations for homicide, sexual crimes, terrorism, arson, theft and fraud. Defining each topic, these chapters look at the legal aspects of these crimes in brief and then provide a more in-depth examination of the psychological explanations for them. The chapter on homicide covers the act of killing people, from genocide to manslaughter, with a look at single, multiple and serial homicide in between. Serial murder is then examined in more detail, evaluating the ways in which several psychological theories can or cannot explain why people kill over and over again. Chapter 7 considers why people kill for a cause, sometimes including themselves, and what theoretical perspectives in psychology can tell us about political or social violence, as distinct from person-to-person killing.

Carrying on with theme of crimes against the person, Chapter 8 examines rape, sexual assault and child molestation, looking at some of the crimes that are deemed so heinous that those convicted of them are often kept in isolation from other prison inmates. Sexual crimes cause a great deal of anger and revulsion, but the social scientist will always question their own feelings and those of others to try to understand why this is the case and why some people still carry them out. This chapter does not set out the answer, but looks at the ways in which psychology is attempting to find it.

Crimes against property are those that do not have a personal victim, except as the result of the loss of property or money. Arson, while dangerous and potentially lethal, is not directed at a person as such, but against houses, cars and other building or structures. In Chapter 9, the definition of arson, and the distinction from pyromania, is discussed, along with psychological theories that may explain why people set fires. Chapter 10 examines another property crime, theft, and the range of activities that come under that heading. While kleptomania is an explanation for some stealing, it is not the whole story. Stealing on a large scale, however, comes under the heading of fraud or white-collar crime. This includes fraudulent money-making schemes, embezzlement, and generally conning people out of their hard-earned cash. The psychology of the fraudster is examined in Chapter 11.

Section 4 moves on to the more forensic element of criminal psychology and follows the route of the psychology of crime from investigation to imprisonment. It is concerned with the psychology of the investigation process and covers profiling and crime scene analysis (Chapter 12) interviewing witnesses and victims (Chapter 13), and identification and interrogation of suspects, and what can go wrong at this stage (Chapter 14).

Section 5 puts psychology in the court room. Chapter 15 outlines what happens in court, how evidence is handled and how testimony from both eyewitnesses and expert witnesses is managed. Chapter 16 looks at the mind of the defendant, paying particular attention to the insanity plea and the application of the M’Naghten rules in the case of a man who thought he had got away with his murders as there were no bodies to examine. Chapter 17 looks at how the jury sees the court and what happens in both the court room and the jury room, and how to research this aspect of the criminal justice system.

Section 6 is concerned with what many see at the endpoint of criminal justice – prison and what happens there. Chapter 18 is concerned with questions about imprisonment: why do we imprison our criminals? What is prison for? And what happens in there? The role of the prison psychologist is briefly examined here. Chapter 19 looks at the major issue of mental disorder within prison. There is a high proportion of people within both the prison system and secure hospitals who have committed a crime but who are mentally ill. How we treat them is a controversial and costly issue. Chapter 20 looks at the case of the long-term prisoner, the life prisoner and the capital prisoner, and the psychology of each of categories of incarceration.

In addition to the main textbook, there is also a companion website, access to which is granted on adoption or purchase. The website contains lecturer resources, consisting of PowerPoint slides for each chapter, a test bank of multiple-choice and short-answer questions for each chapter, and student resources, with multiple-choice questions for a self-assessment test bank and a glossary of key terms. In this way, users of the textbook are supported with resources to aid learning via both the textbook’s structures and the linkages to areas for self-assessment and tutor assessment.