President's Column
Bill Foote, President

APLS is coming off of an excellent Annual Meeting in Portland Oregon. Our attendance was about 875 and we had three busy days of paper sessions, posters, receptions, and lots of networking for both students and professionals.

Our APA Hawaii sessions promise to be equally interesting and informative. This year our convention chairs, Charlie Goodsell and Preeti Chauhan, along with the Conference Advisory Committee put together a great program. The APLS theme for this meeting is *Trauma and the Law*, which will focus on the many ways that the legal system deals with people with a history of trauma. We are scheduling 7 symposia, and have accepted 29 papers and 53 posters. So, if you come to Paradise, shake the sand off your sandals and come get some inexpensive CE credits and high grade information.

Like all APA Divisions, APLS relies upon its committees to do the work of the organization. We are blessed with effective committees who make sure that APLS is active in a number of ways, many of which are unknown to our members. To highlight just a few:

The Corrections Committee, chaired by Sarah Manchak provides programming and support to those members of APLS who serve and/or do research in correctional settings. This group has been working to provide more emphasis on corrections in the programming of the APLS annual meeting and APA convention.

The Professional Development of Women Committee (PDW), chaired by Jennifer Eno Louden works to assist in the participation of women in psychology and the law. This year, at APLS Portland, the PDW committee sponsored a mentoring event in which some 75 people participated. The committee also sponsored a symposium on women as expert witnesses. The PDW committee is planning future APLS Annual meeting events, and is seeking to implement innovative ways to provide support for women at different stages of training and professional life in the psychology-law interface.
The Early Career Professional (ECP) committee, chaired by Laura Guy, focuses on helping all those who are in the first years of their professional work in psychology-law to get up to speed and providing maximum contributions to the field. The ECP committee co-sponsored a networking event for ECPs and well-respected VIPs in the field at the APLS Portland meeting. In addition, the committee provided funds for 4 early career professionals to attend the Portland meeting through “Grants in Aid.” Read the ECP Newsletter column to keep up with this busy and active group.

Psychology and the law research and practice is still, sadly, unrepresentative of the population in the participation of racial and ethnic minorities, LGBT individuals, and physically disabled people. The Minority Affairs Committee (MAC), chaired by Diane Sivasubramaniam, aims to remedy that deficit and is active in a number of projects to increase the number of students and psychologists from minority groups in APLS and in psychology and the law. The MAC supports three different awards. The *Diversity in Psychology and the Law Research Awards* promote research in minority related issues. *Student Travel Awards* assist minority students to attend APLS meetings. *The Access Path to Psychology and Law Experience (APPLE)* Program provides funding for undergraduates who are likely to enter into graduate study in psychology and the law. In addition, the MAC provided extensive activities at APLS Portland with a luncheon and an opportunity for minority folks to connect with the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation in regards to research funding.

The Teaching Training and Careers (TTC) committee, chaired by Garrett Berman, provides programming and support for those who work to develop the next generation of psychology law teachers, researchers and practitioners. The TTC sponsored a symposium entitled *Interdisciplinarity and the Psychology-Law Professional: Considerations for Graduate Training and Early Career Academics* and the Outstanding Teaching and Mentoring Award, both part of the Portland meeting. The TTC committee, like other APLS committees is indeed a working group and one product of their efforts is the Graduate School Guide. The TLC is working the 3rd edition, which will be published in 2015. The 2011 version of the Guide is available on the APLS website.

So, keep read this edition of our Newsletter to see the many other things that the APLS committees are doing to support you in your training, teaching, research and practice. See you in Hawaii (and do wear that flowered shirt/dress).
After the latest mass shooting tragedy in Sandy Hook, New York sought to become the first state to pass “amendments to the Mental Hygiene Law [to] help ensure that persons who are mentally ill and dangerous cannot retain or obtain a firearm” (Appelbaum 2013). On January 15, 2013, after record speed in passing through the State Senate and Assembly after public release, Governor Andrew Cuomo signed into law the New York Secure Ammunition and Firearms Enforcement Act (“NYSAFE”).

Critically for our purposes herein, NYSAFE adds a new section, 9.46, to N.Y. Mental Hygiene Law, which amendment purports to impose a mandatory duty to warn but is hampered by ambiguous language. It expands the duty of mental health professionals to report patients “likely to engage in conduct that would result in serious harm to self or others.” For these patients, the practitioner is “required to report . . . to the director of community services . . . who shall report to the division of criminal justice services whenever he or she agrees” (N.Y. Mental Hyg. Law § 9.46 (McKinney 2013)).

However, the law later appears to relieve the practitioner of this obligation and any liability. It states, “nothing in this section shall be construed to require a mental health professional to take action which . . . would endanger such mental health professional or increase the danger to . . . victims” (emphasis added). Further, so long as the practitioner’s decision to disclose or not to disclose is made in “good faith,” it “shall not” form the basis for civil or criminal liability.

NICS to NYSAFE: A Mental Health Perspective

Upon what legal authority and basis did NYSAFE, in part, build? At a federal level, in December 2007 the US
Senate passed H.R. 2640, which gave states permission to create “systems” for reporting the names of individuals prohibited from possessing or purchasing firearms, including people who have been involuntarily committed to psychiatric hospitals. But the practical problem was that the two categories used in the Gun Control Act were those found not guilty by reason of insanity, and those who have been civilly committed. These specific categories “speak to perceived riskiness (not always riskiness to others) at the time of a past crime or hospital admission but do not speak clearly to future risk” (Buchanan, 2011).

Well over a decade later, the mechanics, practicality and effectiveness of the NICS remains uncertain at best, and unreliable at worst. The current state of affairs reveals that “state statutes vary widely in terms of the definitions of, and reporting requirements relating to, prohibited persons with mental illness or substance abuse” (Price & Norris, 2010). Indeed, states “vary widely” in how they approach NICS related mental health cases, how they are evaluated, how they are decided and how effectively they are reported. But the important facet of the NICS system to consider is that it focuses on individuals who have a history (often in the distant past) of being involuntarily committed, and who then attempt to buy a firearm – legally. Thus, the law focuses on those persons with serious mental illness (“SMI”) who follow the rules. This intervention would seem at best low yield, as it is highly unlikely that many would-be mass murderers will have a history of prior civil commitment – and then attempt to legally purchase a firearm to perpetrate their mass homicide-suicide.

Considering the very low percentage of violent acts that are attributable to SMI, and that most of these acts do not involve guns, “the contribution to public safety of these laws is likely to be small” (Appelbaum & Swanson, 2010). It is also the case that imposing these special laws requires resources and funding, all for a speculative, unproven system. A more sensible method, as noted by Appelbaum & Swanson (2010), involves state statutes that allow “firearms to be removed from persons in emergency situations, when the risk of violence is heightened,” regardless of whether or not the person has a mental illness. This may be a rational option to pursue while awaiting more data points from the research. The small amount of research on firearms seizure laws does suggest that “seizure by police was rarely a result of psychosis; instead, risk of suicide was the leading reason” (Parker, 2010).

Returning to NYSAFE, it was passed quickly, and without much time for mental health stakeholder input. The act has several provisions with regard to mental health, but the relevant portion for this discussion is the following:

> When a mental health professional currently providing treatment services to a person determines, in the exercise of reasonable professional judgment, that such person is likely to engage in conduct that would result in serious harm to self or others, he or she shall be required to report, as soon as practicable, to the director of community services, or the director’s designee, who shall report to the division of criminal justice services whenever he or she agrees that the person is likely to engage in such conduct. Information transmitted to the division of criminal justice services shall be limited to names and other non-clinical identifying information, which may only be used for determining whether a license issued... should be suspended or revoked...

> Nothing in this section shall be construed to require a mental health professional to take any action which, in the exercise of reasonable professional judgment, would endanger such mental health professional or increase the danger to a potential victim or victims.
The decision of a mental health professional to disclose or not to disclose in accordance with this section, when made reasonably and in good faith, shall not be the basis for any civil or criminal liability of such mental health professional.

The language is unclear on key points, and contains a number of perplexing statements. For example, note that the phrase “likely to engage in conduct” appears to require an assessment of risk – in itself a contentious issue – yet there is no definition of what “likely to engage” means in real world practice. For example, does this imply “likely now,” or “likely ever”? Another key phrase: “shall be required to report” seems to elevate the requirement to what the law calls a duty, as opposed to conferring authority without civil liability. New York is one of a few states with no explicit Tarasoff (duty to protect) statute. Rather, in two separate provisions of the New York Mental Hygiene Law (MHL § 33.13) practitioners are given the “authority to warn.”

The difference between duty and authority is crucial: a duty implies that there is a legal liability for a breach of the duty, either by failing to carry it out or by carrying it out in an improper manner. Authority, on the other hand, implies permission to do something without legal consequences for failing to do it, or doing it improperly. The NY SAFE Act’s language stating: “shall be required to report” would appear to arise to a duty, yet this followed by language which appears to confuse the issue: “The decision of a mental health professional to disclose or not to disclose... shall not be the basis for any civil or criminal liability.”

Another key phrase – “to require a mental health professional to take any action which... would endanger such mental health professional or increase the danger to a potential victim or victims” – presents another set of perplexing questions. Whether this clause means that a mental health professional could claim immunity from legal liability if she was fearful of retribution by the patient or because she feared reporting might lead to acts of vengeance against some third party remains unclear. Regardless, this confounding disclaimer, if taken at face value, would seem to potentially undercut the goals of NYSAFE.

A Different Legal Prism on/for NYSAFE: Therapeutic Jurisprudence

In light of the above, respectful and evidence-informed debate over gun control, violence risk, and persons suffering from SMI is needed. While there is practicality and value in seizing the moment, there is also risk when the evidence base for action is shaky or easily manipulated for sound bites.

While it may be too late to debate passage of NYSAFE, it is not too late to turn to alternative frameworks for legal action for current and future policy action. Therapeutic jurisprudence (“TJ”) offers such a different frame. TJ is an approach to law’s implementation, process, and creation that focuses on the therapeutic, as well as psychological, consequences (Wexler & Winick) of legal “interventions.” It urges legal actors to consider how to mitigate anti-therapeutic consequences, and ideally advance health-promoting ones. Originating in mental health law, TJ has been extended to health policymaking (Campbell 2010, 2012), and could help reframe debates over gun control and the so-called “dangerously mentally ill” (Campbell forthcoming).

For NYSAFE, this might involve piloting the rollout of MHL §9.46. The pilot could include extensive data collection mechanisms that do not simply report on numbers of reports made (and for which diagnoses) or guns removed, but that also query individuals: those who make reports (i.e., health professionals) and those most intimately affected (i.e., patients). It might also consider the example of Indiana law (Ind. Code § 35-47-14) that focuses on dangerous behavior, as opposed...
to psychiatric diagnosis. Further, therapeutic-minded questions to consider in policy evaluation could ask: Does the reporting impact patient-therapist trust? Does this in turn negatively impact patient help-seeking behavior or other in-therapy disclosures? How accurate are professionals in making “danger” reports? How is the process of gun removal experienced by patients, and what are their responses?

In sum, the “experience” of the law is more than the sum of individual actions. In such sensitive areas as confidentiality, patient trust, and help-seeking behavior, it seems imperative to tread mindfully, even if urgently. Smaller steps with more thoughtful, participatory reflection may be more desirable for individuals in the short run, and work more in the service of public safety and mental health in the long run. While it is true in public policy we do not wish “the perfect to be the enemy of the good,” we also must caution against “good for us” (vs. them) approaches or letting good intentions be the enemy of well-being, safety, and justice.
References


N.Y. Mental Hyg. Law § 9.46 (McKinney 2013).


The PTSD diagnosis may help veterans obtain valuable rehabilitation resources that will aid them in their transition from military to civilian life. These resources may lead veterans to have direct (e.g. jail diversion programs) or indirect (e.g. compensation and disability evaluations) contact with the legal system. The ability of practitioners to validly diagnose PTSD is central to ensuring that resources go to the veterans who need them most.

Given the potential secondary gains in psycholegal settings, we cannot validly (or ethically) diagnose PTSD without assessing for the presence of overreporting (APA, 2000; Rogers & Bender, 2003). Yet, our current lack of understanding about the nature and practical implications of overreported PTSD among veterans impedes our ability to validly assess the diagnosis altogether. It also leaves this valuable diagnosis on tenuous legal ground via its potential inadmissibility under Frye and Daubert (Koch, O’Neill, & Douglas, 2005).

By elucidating the gaps in our empirical understanding of PTSD overreporting in veterans, this article seeks to illustrate the need to improve our ability to validly diagnose PTSD among veterans in psycholegal settings.

However, there is still disagreement about the prevalence of overreported PTSD in veterans. Some researchers have reported that symptom exaggeration is virtually non-existent and extremely rare (Lande & Williams, 2013; Marx, Miller, Sloan, Litz, Kaloupek, & Keane, 2008), while others have reported rates of approximately 20 to over 50 percent (Benjamin & Virginia, 2007; Freeman, Powell, Kimbrell, 2008; Frueh, Hamner, Cahil, Gold, & Hamlin, 2000). This lack of agreement suggests that the actual prevalence of PTSD overreporting among veterans is largely unknown. While concerning, this is not surprising given the current state-of-the-art of assessment for overreported PTSD; a review of which first requires an understanding of some contextual issues with which many veterans live.

The Importance of Context

Given the unknown prevalence of exaggerated PTSD among veterans, it is increasingly important that the methods used to evaluate PTSD in this group are considerate of the unique contextual issues common to the
veteran experience. For instance, the presumption that Criterion A traumatic military events are based on “objective fact” and “easily corroborated” (First, 2010, p. 257) ignores the realities of government record keeping. For example, veterans may experience combat situations, such as witnessing a nearby explosion, without the event being recorded or the veteran being classified as being “in combat.” Also, classified assignments may be sparsely documented given their sensitive nature. These problems with inaccurate or incomplete records may result in Criterion A events that are less objective and more difficult to corroborate than clinicians expect.

Another consideration is whether the reported symptoms actually stem from a Criterion A stressor that is “military” or “combat” in nature. Different stressors carry different stigma among veterans. Sexual trauma experienced during military service, for instance, may be perceived as more stigmatizing and more difficult to discuss than combat trauma (Weaver, Trafton, Walser, & Kimerling, 2007). Thus, a veteran’s (even intentional) misattribution of symptoms from a sexual trauma to a combat trauma, a type of manipulation that Resnick (1997) referred to as “false imputation,” does not negate the authenticity of the traumatic event or the subsequent symptoms. In fact, such reluctance to disclose the true traumatic event may support the diagnostic symptom of avoidance. Therefore, problems corroborating Criterion A events should be considered within the context of potential obfuscation stemming from a stigmatized trauma.

Additional considerations surround the challenges many veterans face in obtaining treatment. Media reports supported by data from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA; e.g. Rabaino & Glantz, 2013) are full of stories about long wait times to receive services, with estimates ranging from an average of one to two years. In spite of the President’s 2012 order to improve access to mental health services for veterans (White House, 2012), the VA’s previous practices would presumably influence current resource-seeking veterans. For example, it has been suggested that a veteran’s perception of the system as slow or unresponsive may lead him/her to exaggerate symptoms (Lande & Williams, 2013). Paradoxically, veterans may also overreport as a way to combat perceptions that assessing clinicians question the validity of their symptoms (Mossman, 1996; Sayer & Thuras, 2002). Although this type of exaggeration has been described as “partial malingering” (Resnick, 1997), these contextual issues suggest that it may be more appropriate to conceptualize such symptom exaggeration as a “cry for help,” particularly if it occurs in the context of a perceived obstacle.

Collectively, these contextual issues illustrate the potential for veterans with PTSD to adopt symptom exaggeration and/or false imputation strategies to cope with challenges unique to veterans. Thus, it would seem appropriate to consider such exaggerations within an adaptational model of overreporting (see Rogers, 1997). The potential for adaptive exaggerations of actual symptoms illustrates the need for empirical methods and measures that differentiate exaggerated and/or falsely imputed symptoms of actual PTSD from purely malingered symptoms.

The Need for Improved Methods & Measures

Unfortunately, we do not currently have the empirical support that we so desperately need in psychosocial settings. The current “gold standard” PTSD assessment instruments, the PTSD Checklist (PCL; Weathers, Litz, Herman, Huska, & Keane, 1993) and Clinician Administered PTSD Scale (CAPS; Weathers, Keane, & Davidson, 2001), were developed and validated for
purely treatment-oriented settings and were not created with symptom report validity in mind (Elhai, Ford, & Naifeh, 2010). These measures rely heavily on the self-report of face valid and inherently subjective items (Koch et al., 2005), and are readily available to the public online in their entirety. While the MMPI-2 has more psycholegal utility, studies have found that upwards of one-half of veterans produced elevations on the MMPI-2 suggestive of exaggeration or malingering (Elhai, Frueh, Davis, Jacobs, & Hamner, 2003; Elhai, Ruggiero, Frueh, Beckham, Gold, & Feldman, 2002; Freeman, Powell, Kimbrell, 2008). It seems that a cautious, spectrum-based approach to interpreting such elevations is advisable, given the unknown prevalence rates and high rates of comorbidity among veterans with PTSD (see Elhai et al., 2003; Elhai et al., 2002; Freeman et al., 2008). This type of approach should continue at least until we generate more empirical support for our ability to validly assess PTSD in veterans, which includes our ability to differentiate between different levels of overreporting.


As I noted in my first update for 2013, we had a very busy 2012 at Law and Human Behavior. Submissions were up 23% over 2011, which represented the largest single year increase since we started keeping records. We suspected that this increased submission rate might be partially attributable to our switching the publisher of our journal from Springer to the American Psychological Association and that the increase might not be sustainable. It seems that our suspicions may have been correct. Submissions rates for the first third of 2013 have returned to the previous 2011 rates but are still healthy, with 83 submissions to date as of Memorial Day weekend of 2013 (compared to 82 by the end of May 2011). Although there has been an almost 20% drop in submissions since last year, we have also seen a drop in the rejection rate for the first five months of 2013. For 2012, the rejection rate was 86% but the rejection rate for 2013 has returned to around 73%, much around the same level that it was during most of Brian Cutler’s successful editorship. Thus, after what appears to have been an anomalous 2013, LHB appears to have stabilized in both its submissions and rates of acceptances.

That said, we would welcome more submissions of your best work! In our contract with APA, we were allotted many more pages than we are currently filling. Our editorial team—which also includes David DeMatteo, Amy Bradfield Douglass, Bradley McAuliff, and Patricia Zapf—has no interest in filling pages by reducing our standards for publication. We would, however, love to fill those pages that have been allotted to us with ground breaking, high-quality research at the intersection of psychology and law and we would appreciate your help in identifying research that was elegantly conceptualized and executed and that has the potential to make a significant impact on our field. If you know of work that meets those criteria, submit it to LHB if it is your own or encourage the authors of that work to consider LHB as an outlet for its publication. Or let me know about the work by emailing me at mkovera@jjay.cuny.edu and I will be happy to reach out to the authors. As members of AP-LS, we all benefit from having the strongest psycholegal research appear in the pages of LHB and we appreciate your help in continuing that tradition.
## AP-LS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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One of the great benefits of serving as AP-LS President is to take a leadership role on an initiative that moves the division forward in some way. The shape of presidential initiatives has varied over the years. For my presidential initiative, I chose to lead the Society in the development of its first strategic plan. My effort received not only the blessing of the Executive Committee in the early stages, but tremendous cooperation, encouragement, and support from dozens of AP-LS officers and members who had hands in the process. Our efforts culminated in the approval of a strategic plan.

Why does AP-LS need a strategic plan? AP-LS is a healthy professional society. It has about 3000 members and strong representation among students, as always. AP-LS Governance includes an Executive Committee, about 20 standing and ad hoc committees, and about 120 officers and committee members, all volunteers. We have a full-time, first rate administrative assistant. We have an impressive portfolio of publications, including the premier psychology-law journal, a book series, newsletter, and web page. We have programs and grants that support women, members from under-represented groups, early-career professionals, and students. We provide support for research, professional practice, and teaching. We have a fabulous annual conference. Our annual dues cost less than my monthly Starbucks card reload. We have an annual balanced budget and over $1.5 million in reserves. Given all of this great news, one might, on the one hand, ask why change anything? Nothing is broken. What are we fixing with a strategic plan? On the other hand, the size of our organization, our level of activity, and our assets oblige us, as responsible stewards, to articulate our vision, mission, values and develop systematic strategies for advancing our field and supporting our members. In addition, the timing seemed right to develop a strategic plan. APA recently developed its first strategic plan. The plan of our parent organization of course provides useful guidance for our own plan. The healthy status of our Society provided us with the opportunity to plan at a measured and comfortable pace, with no crisis to derail us or drama to distract us.

What was the planning process? We began the process with modest goals. Recognizing that AP-LS is governed by volunteers, all of whom are busy with personal and professional responsibilities, we set out to develop a brief but informative plan that would provide the Society with meaningful guidance. We sought a plan would be short enough that leadership and members might actually read it. We began by revisiting the Society’s mission statement but also proceeded to develop a vision statement, values statement, and set of strategies for achieving the Society’s vision and mission. The planning process involved creating a Steering Committee, which consisted of the President-Elect, President, and Immediate Past-President and the three Members-at-Large. The Steering Committee, which I chaired, provided overall guidance for the planning process. The Steering Committee worked through drafts of the vision, mission and values statements, vetted these statements with the Executive Committee, and eventually obtained approval for the new statements by the Executive Committee. Armed with these statements, we established five strategic planning subcommittees in order to develop strategies: (1) Research, (2) Practice, (3) Teaching and Training, (4) Membership, and (5) Governance (see Box A for Planning Committee membership). The Research, Practice, and Governance planning committees were new. We enlisted the participation of the existing Teaching, Training and Careers and Membership Committees to serve as the respective planning subcommittees. The planning subcommittees worked among themselves to develop strategies for fulfilling the AP-LS mission and vision. The strategy documents
were detailed, reviewed by the Executive Committee, and further developed by the planning subcommittees. We posted a draft of the full plan for membership review on the AP-LS web site. We made final revisions and obtained approval by the Executive Committee at the March, 2013 meeting. The full process took a little less than three years (obviously, we were not working on strategic planning full time!).

So, what is the strategic plan? The plan is presented in Box B. The vision statement is appropriately ambitious, speaking to our society’s central role in advancing our science, translating our knowledge into practice, and serving as a unifying force, major catalyst, primary resource, innovator, advocate, leader, and champion of the application of psychology-law to promote human rights, dignity and justice. Mission statements should be short, to the point, and memorable. Ours is to enhance well-being, justice, and human rights through the science and practice of psychology in legal contexts. We endorsed laudable core values, including the pursuit of excellence, reliance on the scientific method, outstanding service, social justice, diversity, and inclusion, and ethical action. Our strategies included about 25 statements describing things that we should be doing in research (e.g., Promote and advocate for federal research funding for Psychology-Law issues), practice (e.g., Develop a section of the website that offers resources for clinicians such as practice documents or links, to practice documents), teaching and training (e.g., Continue to develop and distribute materials that help support and advance innovative teaching and pedagogy), membership (Continue and bolster efforts to attract new members, improve our efforts at member retention, and diversity membership with particular attention to under-represented groups and professions), and governance (e.g., Continually reviews governance operations with the goal of improving effectiveness and efficiency). The strategy list is not exhaustive but is rather meant to be a sample of the important things we should be doing. The planning subcommittees developed more detailed plans for their continued work as ad hoc and standing committees of AP-LS.

What do we do with the strategic plan? Reading it is a good start! First, I mentioned that AP-LS has about 20 committees and about 120 volunteers, but sadly, there are many excellent activities on the strategy list that we are not yet doing. So, the plan provides members who are interested in developing a new initiative to support AP-LS with ideas about how to help advance the Society’s mission and achieve its vision. A member or group of members who wishes to tackle one of these strategies can contact our President and discuss how to get involved. Second, the Executive Committee can use the plan to prioritize the strategies and establish, populate, and task new committees. Third, it is not uncommon for unsolicited proposals to be brought to the EC by members of AP-LS and representatives of other organizations, particularly those seeking financial contributions for their initiatives. Ad hoc requests are often challenging to evaluate. Now, the Executive Committee has a more firm basis for evaluating ad hoc proposals by asking how the proposals fit into our plan.

Many aspects of the plan are already underway. Some of the strategy items on the plan emphasize the work that our committees have been doing and doing very well. Some new initiatives have been started as a result of the planning process. For example, the Practice Planning Subcommittee developed an excellent set of resources (e.g., guidelines, standards, rules, laws) that will soon be available on the web. Many thanks to Casey LaDuke for the excellent work on this project. The Governance Planning Committee has produced a set of terms of reference for AP-LS committees. The plan is posted on the AP-LS web page and provides members of AP-LS, representatives of other organizations, professionals, and the general public with an understanding of the importance and impressiveness of our Society and the outstanding work that we do.

In closing, I once again (and likely for the last time) thank the membership of AP-LS for the opportunity to serve as President and for its support of the planning initiative.
Box A

### Strategic Planning Subcommittees

#### Research
- Chris Meissner, Chair
- Lora Levett
- Naomi Goldstein
- John Edens

#### Practice
- Randy Otto, Chair
- Barbara Quinones
- Bill Foote
- Chris Finello

#### Teaching & Training
- Garrett Berman, Chair
- Monica Miller
- Gina Vincent
- Matt Huss
- Rich Wiener
- Mark Costanza

*Note: This is the AP-LS Teaching, Training & Careers Committee*

#### Membership
- Bill Foote, Chair
- Lora Levett
- Kevin O'Neil
- Lauren Kois
- Jeremy Blumenthal
- Brian Cutler

*Note: This is the AP-LS Membership Committee*

#### Governance
- Brian Cutler, Chair
- Eve Brank
- Jeremy Blumenthal
- Jen Groscup
- Dave DeMatteo

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### Box B

#### Strategic Plan

**American Psychology-Law Society (Division 41, American Psychological Association)**

*Approved by the Executive Committee, March, 7, 2013*

#### AP-LS Vision Statement

The American Psychology-Law Society aspires to excel as a valuable, effective and influential organization advancing the science of psychology-law and the translation of psychology-law knowledge into practice and policy, serving as:
A uniting force for psychology-law science and practice;

The major catalyst for the stimulation, growth and dissemination of psychology-law science and practice;

The primary resource for all psychology-law scholars and practitioners and for members of other disciplines with interests in psychology-law science and practice;

The premier innovator in the education, development, and training of psychology-law scientists, practitioners and educators;

The leading advocate for psychology-law knowledge and practice informing practitioners, policy makers and the public to use psychology-law knowledge in the pursuit of justice for all citizens;

A principal leader and global partner promoting psychology-law knowledge and methods to improve justice in diverse, multicultural and international contexts; and

An effective champion of the application of psychology-law to promote human rights, dignity, and justice.

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**AP-LS Mission Statement**

The mission of the American Psychology-Law Society is to enhance well-being, justice, and human rights through the science and practice of psychology in legal contexts.

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**AP-LS Core Values**

The American Psychology-Law Society commits to its vision through a mission based upon the following values:

Continual Pursuit of Excellence

Knowledge and Application Based on Methods of Science

Outstanding Service to Its Members and to Society

Social Justice, Diversity, and Inclusion

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**AP-LS Strategies for Fulfilling Mission and Vision**

Encourage interdisciplinary research on important social problems, promote cross-disciplinary and interdisciplinary dialogue and collaboration, and encourage interdisciplinary research across different societies, divisions, and disciplines.

Promote and advocate for federal research funding for Psychology-Law issues.

Disseminate important findings and promote evidence-based approaches to practice and policy.

Provide research mentoring for junior colleagues and students.
Encourage diversity and inclusion in research training.

Support international engagement in psychology-law training.

Promote the ethical conduct of psychology-law research.

Develop reporting standards for empirical research and encourage the sharing of research data and metadata.

Continually assess the need for new psychology-law publications.

Develop a section of the website that offers resources for clinicians such as practice documents or links, to practice documents.

Develop a web page that directs members-with explanations-to a collection of free sites for looking up cases, statutes, and regulations.

Develop focused forensic psychological listserves.

Develop an online forum for brief, lightly edited practice-oriented articles in an “open journal” format.

Disseminate information about cases relevant to forensic psychology practice.

Develop a forensic mentoring service.

Publish a listing that identifies members by a limited number of specialty practice areas, made accessible to attorneys.

Continue to maintain a strong focus on professional growth and development for students and early career professionals.

Continue to develop and distribute materials that help support and advance innovative teaching and pedagogy.

Continue to recognize teaching and mentoring excellence in psychology and law.

Continue to help further the careers of junior- and senior-level professionals in the field of psychology and law.

Continue to provide continuing professional education in psychology-law for psychologists and explore avenues for providing continuing education for attorneys.

Continue and bolster efforts to attract new members, improve our efforts at member retention, and diversity membership with particular attention to under-represented groups and professions.

Continue efforts to serve our current membership through programming, services, and other efforts directed toward underrepresented groups, students, early career professionals, practitioners, attorneys, and researchers.

Continually reviews governance operations with the goal of improving effectiveness and efficiency.
We strongly encourage others (particularly students) to be guest editors. If you would like to be a guest editor (or have questions), please email Allison at aredlich@albany.edu.

According to the most recent report from the National Registry of Exonerations, 14% of known exonerations since 1989 have involved a false confession. The intense experience that is a criminal interrogation can influence even the most strong-minded suspect to admit guilt. Yet certain suspects may be more susceptible to modern interrogation tactics than others, thus increasing the likelihood of falsely confessing. Our authors this month discuss one such group: youths. Numerous wrongful conviction cases, such as the Central Park Jogger case, have involved the interrogation of juveniles who falsely confessed. Given the number of juveniles entangled in the criminal justice system, and the current attention on wrongful convictions, it is imperative that researchers continue to study interrogations of and confessions obtained from youthful suspects, as this month’s column encourages.

Our guest authors this month are Andrea Arndorfer and Dr. Lindsay Malloy. Andrea received her Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology and Criminal Justice Studies from Iowa State University and is currently a doctoral student at Florida International University (FIU) in the Department of Psychology. Her main research interests are in eyewitness memory, interrogation procedures, and the factors influencing the elicitation of confessions. Specifically, she is interested in the processes underlying eyewitness memory and identifications, lineup administration procedures and their influence on eyewitness accuracy and confidence, and the psychological aspects of police interrogations and confession decisions. Lindsay, an assistant professor at FIU, holds a PhD in Developmental Psychology from the University of CA, Irvine and held a postdoctoral position at the University of Cambridge. She was named a “Rising Star” by the Association for Psychological Science (2011) and received an award for early career contributions to the field of investigative interviewing.

For several decades, researchers and practitioners have been concerned with how youth are interviewed as witnesses to and victims of crime. More recently, attention has shifted to the manner in which youth are interrogated as suspects of crime (Owen-Kostelnik, Reppucci, & Meyer, 2006). Increased interest in this area is appropriate given that youth may be particularly likely to be arrested and to find themselves in an interrogation room (Moffitt, 1993). In recent years, youth
has emerged as a dispositional risk factor for false confession (Kassin et al., 2010; Redlich, 2007). False confession cases involving adolescent defendants, like that of 15-year-old Anthony Caravella, reveal the vulnerabilities of youth in the interrogation room and the need for empirical research to delineate what methods are likely to protect innocent youth from confessing falsely but still elicit detailed information from guilty youth.

First, we will provide an overview of Anthony Caravella’s case. Second, we will present a brief summary of extant research relevant to the case. Finally, we will outline suggestions for future research.

**Case Overview**

In November of 1983, a 58-year-old woman was raped and stabbed to death in Miramar, Florida after she was seen leaving a bar with 17-year-old Anthony Martinez. Two months later, 15-year-old Anthony Caravella failed to appear in juvenile court on an unrelated charge and was subsequently arrested. While he was in custody, police questioned him about the November rape and murder, for which, at the time, he was not a suspect. Caravella, who had an IQ of 67 and was thus intellectually impaired, eventually gave four recorded statements to the police implicating himself in the murder. None of the four statements was consistent with each other, and the statements conflicted with the physical evidence from the crime scene. For example, Caravella told the police that he had hit the victim over the head with a Pepsi bottle when the police knew that the victim had been raped, hit over the head with a chair, strangled with a wire, and repeatedly stabbed. Also, Caravella provided incorrect information on the cause and time of death and, on multiple occasions, gave inaccurate descriptions of the murder weapons even after detectives repeatedly showed him photos of the weapons retrieved from the crime scene.

Despite the fact that no physical evidence linked Caravella to the crime, the jury appeared to rely largely on his statements to the police to convict him of first degree murder. He was sentenced to life in prison.

Seventeen years passed before Caravella’s attorneys convinced Broward County officials to test physical evidence retrieved from the crime scene (e.g., hair found on the victim, a t-shirt, a steak knife, and a vaginal swab). Multiple experts eliminated Caravella as the source of the DNA found in the victim’s body. Anthony Caravella was released from prison 26 years after his wrongful conviction.

Key factors contributing to Caravella’s wrongful conviction include (1) multiple false confessions to the police and (2) alleged police misconduct. According to Caravella’s attorneys, the police ignored or hid evidence that contradicted their beliefs that Caravella was the prime suspect. They interrogated Caravella extensively - at least four times over several days – and recorded only parts of these interrogations. Furthermore, police allegedly supplied the defendant with key information about the crime, showed him pictures of crime scene evidence and the weapons used, indicated that there would be no severe consequences for him if he confessed, and implied that confessing could get a friend out of trouble. Finally, Caravella’s attorneys alleged that police took advantage of his young age and low IQ to secure a confession. That is, police had become well acquainted with Caravella due to his criminal history and, through their previous interactions with him, had learned that he would admit to crimes that he did not commit. Some claimed that police had used Caravella in the past to close unsolved burglaries.

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1Information about the case was gathered from the Innocence Project (http://www.innocenceproject.org/Content/Anthony_Caravella.php), the Innocence Project of Florida (http://floridainnocence.org/content/?page_id=2000), and the Sun Sentinel (http://www.sun-sentinel.com/news/local/crime/fl-anthony-caravella-dna-confessions-20130227,0,5963745.story#sthash.NUG77jwb).
Proven DNA exoneration cases, self-report studies, experimental paradigms, and hypothetical vignettes all point to the same conclusion: Compared to adults, youth are particularly vulnerable to providing false confessions (e.g., Drizin & Leo, 204; Kassin et al., 2010). Characteristics associated with typical adolescent development may be related to this enhanced risk, including, for example, heightened suggestibility, susceptibility to social influence, and immaturity of judgment. Furthermore, adolescents tend to weigh immediate rewards more heavily than the potential long-term negative consequences of their actions (see Steinberg, 2009, for a review). When combined with police use of psychologically manipulative and high pressure interrogation techniques, these characteristics may lead some youth to make false confessions.

Caravella’s case provides several examples of how these general developmental characteristics may manifest in the context of a stressful police interrogation. Because only his final oral confession statement was recorded, it is impossible to know precisely what transpired during his multiple interrogation sessions. However, several alleged components are worth mentioning in relation to the developmental literature. First, Caravella believed, erroneously, that there would be no severe consequences if he confessed. Consequently, he may have weighed the immediate benefits of confessing (e.g., getting to leave the stressful context) highly while discounting or failing to understand the long-range implications of confessing (e.g., a greater certainty of conviction to a serious crime). Second, Caravella was interrogated multiple times over the course of several days. He was shown photographs of the crime scene and weapons and became highly familiar with the details of the crime. For a confession to have diagnostic value, it is critical that the details come directly from the suspect and are not tainted by other evidence or sources (e.g., the police; Kassin, 2002). If Caravella mentioned items present in the photographs, were those details from his own memory of committing the crime or merely memories of the photos themselves? Although suggestibility is primarily a concern among very young children, adolescents have been found to be more suggestible and compliant than adults (e.g., Grisso et al., 2003; Richardson, Gudjonsson, & Kelly, 1995).

Another crucial aspect of Caravella’s confession is that he intended to get a friend out of trouble by confessing. More so than adults, adolescents tend to be highly influenced by their peers (e.g., Gardner & Steinberg, 2005). They place great importance on peer relationships, and the desire to protect a peer in the interrogation room may be especially powerful for young suspects. Self-reported juvenile false confessors often mention protecting someone else as motivation for the false confession (Malloy, Shulman, & Cauffman, 2013; Viljoen, Klaver, & Roesch, 2005).

The characteristics discussed thus far illustrate typical adolescent development. However, justice-system involved youth are often characterized by additional dispositional risk factors. Specifically, youth involved in the juvenile justice system, like Caravella, are disproportionately likely to be intellectually impaired (e.g., Quinn, Rutherford, Leone, Osher, & Poirier, 2005). Intellectual impairments are associated with enhanced risk for false confession, perhaps due to the heightened suggestibility and strong desire to appease authority figures common among individuals with intellectual impairments (Kassin et al., 2010). Hence, in the interrogation context, youth with intellectual impairments may accept the blame for crimes they did not commit to please the police or because they experience memory errors as a result of highly suggestive questions or techniques. Also, although we found no evidence that Caravella had been diagnosed with a mental illness, mental health issues are over-represented among populations of juvenile offenders (Redlich, 2007). Both intellectual impairments and mental illness are associated with increased risk for false confession (e.g., Kassin et al., 2010; Redlich, 2007). Thus, if typically developing adolescents share
characteristics that enhance their risk in the interrogation room, then the adolescents most likely to come into contact with police as suspects are liable to be even more vulnerable.

Research Ideas

Of note in Caravella’s case is the presence of multiple dispositional risk factors (i.e., youth, intellectual impairment). Most experimental research on false confessions has been conducted with typically developing individuals, usually adults. However, Redlich (2007) points out that juvenile suspects may be in “double jeopardy” in the interrogation room – vulnerable due to both their young age and poor mental health. A trio of dispositional risk factors is not unlikely given that low IQ and mental illness are over-represented among justice-system involved youth. Experimental research examining the interaction of these factors is paramount. To enhance generalizability, it is imperative to conduct laboratory research with the populations of greatest interest to researchers and practitioners.

Experts agree that reforms are needed when it comes to interrogation policies concerning vulnerable suspects, including youth (Kassin et al., 2010). Thus, alternative interrogation procedures should be tested. One procedure involves an adaptation of the NICHD Investigative Interview Protocol, which was originally designed for interviewing young victims and witnesses. Hershkowitz, Horowitz, Lamb, Orbach, and Sternberg (2004) tested the effectiveness of this modified NICHD Protocol when questioning 9- to 14-year-old alleged perpetrators of sexual abuse. Open-ended prompts (e.g., “Tell me what happened.”) were effective in eliciting information from young suspects who fully or partially admitted their involvement. Certainly, more research is needed (e.g., on different age groups and crime types). However, this study demonstrates the potential utility of using an information-gathering, rather than confrontational, approach with youth.

Finally, future research should examine the potential factors at play external to the interrogation room. For example, self-reported false confessors often claim to have made the confession to protect another individual (Malloy et al., 2013; Viljoen et al., 2005). Our ongoing experimental research reveals age differences in the tendency of individuals to take responsibility to protect someone else for a laboratory wrongdoing (i.e., cheating). Preliminary analyses indicate that with age, innocent participants are less likely to sign the confession statement to protect the guilty confederate (Pimentel, Arndorfer, & Malloy, 2013). However, this study raises more questions than it answers. For example, how does the closeness or quality of the relationship between two individuals play into whether one takes responsibility for the other by falsely confessing? What if a group (e.g., a sports team) is accused of wrongdoing as opposed to an individual? How would being asked to “take the fall” for an individual with real or perceived authority influence confession decisions (e.g., an adult asking an adolescent)?

Conclusion

Anthony Caravella’s case highlights what the research findings demonstrate: Youth is a period of vulnerability when it comes to false confessions. However, experimental and field research is needed to examine the specific factors and characteristics that contribute to this enhanced risk and the interrogation methods most effective for this high-risk group. In Caravella’s case, as in many, there were multiple dispositional (e.g., youth, intellectual impairment) and situational (e.g., implications of leniency, desire to protect a friend, exposure to repeated suggestive interrogations) risk factors present.


The authors administered the Correctional Program Assessment Inventory (CPAI) 2000, interviewed, and observed the daily activities of 102 staff on 8 juvenile treatment wards in Sweden. They found that the staff members differed in their theory, methods, and therapeutic goals, and that they had low to modest confidence in management and low agreement regarding how to deliver treatment, suggesting the treatment facilities lacked strategies to unite staff. Implications for treatment are discussed.

This article addresses the question of whether probation officers agree about intervention plans and whether experienced and less experienced probation officers tend to differ in opinion. A group of 44 Dutch probation officers wrote intervention plans for four cases; results showed poor overall agreement among intervention plans. Agreement about the advice on the sanction, conditions, criminogenic needs to be addressed, and programs was fair. Agreement on all other domains was poor. Experience of the probation officers did not significantly influence the agreement about the intervention plans.

Evaluated pre- to postprogram change with the High Intensity Family Violence Prevention Program (HIFVPP) for 159 incarcerated male perpetrators of Intimate Partner Violence (IPV). Participants were assessed pre-, mid-, and postprogram. Significant improvement was found for in self-report questionnaires and facilitator evaluation ratings, and positive improvement in motivation was associated with improvement in program outcomes.

Derkzen, D., Booth, L., Taylor, K., & McConnell, A. (2013). Mental health needs of federal female offenders. Psychological Services, 10, 24-36,
Examined mental health needs of 88 federally sentenced females in Canada with the
Computerized Diagnostic Interview Schedule (C-DIS-IV). Results suggested elevated rates for certain diagnoses including substance dependence and comorbid psychiatric and substance use disorders. Alcohol dependence also was elevated for Aboriginal women.


Using a randomized experimental design, this study evaluates the effectiveness of Minnesota Circles of Support and Accountability (MnCOSA) by conducting a cost-benefit analysis and comparing recidivism outcomes in the MnCOSA and control groups. Despite the small total sample size (N = 62), Cox regression results suggest that MnCOSA significantly reduced three of the five recidivism measures examined. The results from the cost-benefit analysis show the program has produced an estimated US$363,211 in costs avoided to the state, resulting in a benefit of US$11,716 per participant.


Described medication adherence differences between inmates in the Connecticut Department of Correction with bipolar disorder treated for 12 weeks with either the Texas Implementation of Medication Algorithm (TIMA) for Bipolar Disorder or TAU. Results included high rates of psychotropic medication nonadherence among female inmates with bipolar disorder, and mood stabilizers were the most frequently missed medications. An interaction was also found of Treatment Condition x Baseline Adherence x Time in Treatment x Biweekly Symptom Severity. Participants with high baseline adherence exhibited greater decreases in daily adherence over time, regardless of treatment condition. TIMA participants missed fewer doses than TAU participants.


The present study analyzed risk variables related to successful completion of a federal pretrial release program using a large and demographically diverse sample of pretrial defendants. Significant differences were found between variables predicting overall success of pretrial release, including a history of failures to appear and escape behavior. Logistic regressions indicated that Whites were significantly more likely than Blacks to succeed. Differences in contributing variables were also found between ethnic groups.


Examined relationship of optimism, work family conflict, and attitudes towards prisoners with the Maslach Bunrout Inventory and the Professional Quality of Life Scale. The components Negative Experience of Work and Positive Experience of Work were predicted from the linear combination of optimism, work family conflict, and attitudes towards prisoners. The model predicted 44% of variance in Negative Experience of Work, with work family conflict and optimism accounting for the most variance. The model predicted 24% of the variance in Positive Experience of Work, with optimism and attitudes towards prisoners accounting for the most variance.
Investigated prevalence of burnout and coping mechanisms in 208 correctional officers via an online survey including the Maslach Burnout Inventory – Human Services Survey (MBI-HSS) and the Brief Coping Orientation to Problems Experienced (COPE). Results suggested that correctional center officers used mostly adaptive coping strategies, but still reported high levels of burnout. Other variables including gender and length of experience could lead to the level of burnout experienced.


Research suggests that the criminogenic characteristics of the inmate population, the security level of the prison, and the prison environment are three structural characteristics that define a prison’s institutional capacity for control, as reflected in the aggregate-level measures of inmate misconduct. This study of 50 state men’s prisons supports the hypothesized direct effects of institutional capacity for control on the level of violent and nonviolent inmate misconduct and for the contextual effect of prison environment.


Community treatment and supervision failures that result in a return to prison are rarely disentangled. The current study explores failure types, prevalence, and competing risk predictors for a sample (N = 580) of halfway house participants. Authors explore and describe the risks associated with participation community corrections interventions.


This study investigated the effectiveness of the Relaxation Skills Violence Prevention (RSVP) program, a five-session group therapy program, with a sample of 137 juvenile detainees randomly assigned to treatment conditions. Results indicate that the RSVP group experienced significant declines on a measure of anger and perceived ability to control one’s present and future anger, as compared to the control group.


One hundred thirty-six Australian drug court participants were randomly assigned to intensive judicial supervision (IJS) or supervision-as-usual (SAU). IJS participants had lower odds of failing drug tests and accumulated fewer days in custody than those in the SAU group, but there was no significant difference in the rate at which sanctions were served in prison, time spent on the program, progression to later program phases, or likelihood of graduating from the program.


The authors examined perceptions of procedural justice among 51 mental health court (MHC) divertees in the NYC-area with severe mental illness by conducting direct interviews and courtroom observations. The results indicated that participants’ perceptions of procedural
justice were moderate overall, negatively correlated with symptoms at baseline, and positively correlated with attitudes toward their own recovery. Perceptions of procedural justice increased from baseline to 4 month follow-up; this increase was correlated with a decrease in symptoms but not an increase in attitudes toward recovery.


Evaluated a structured living program for 111 geriatric prisoners in Nevada that provides for psychological, physical, and spiritual needs of aging incarcerated veterans. Results from inmate self-reports included high life satisfaction and daily physical functioning, low psychological distress, moderate prison context stress, and extremely high satisfaction with the program.


The authors examined the effects of child maltreatment on psychological outcomes among 5,172 mother and child pairs in Australia. The results indicated that maltreatment, specifically, emotional abuse with or without neglect, physical abuse, and sexual abuse were significantly related to internalizing and externalizing behavior at age 14 after controlling for potential confounds. The results support that child neglect and abuse have adverse effects on mental health.


The authors examined the effect of administrative segregation, in which inmates are locked in single cells for 23 hours per day and have restricted access to programs, on psychological deterioration by comparing scores on the Brief Symptom Inventory among 215 male inmates who had and had not been subject to administrative segregation. The results indicated a small positive change in psychological symptoms over time across groups. However, the results did not reveal a significant difference between those who were subject to administrative segregation and comparison offenders. The researchers suggest future research should examine whether and under what conditions administrative segregation may harm inmates.


This article describes two studies of the prevalence and incidence of nonsuicidal self-injury (NSSI) in federally sentenced Canadian women. Results indicate lifetime prevalence rates of NSSI ranging from 24% to 38%. One-year incidence of NSSI in a federal institution was 3.6 per 27.4 years of incarcerated. Both studies indicated that most women first initiated NSSI in the community prior to incarceration.


Evaluated the Ambivalence Model of Craving with a cue reactivity methodology to examine the desire to use and desire to not consume in a clinical sample of 155 incarcerated female substance abusers participating or waiting to begin participation in a nine-month drug treatment
program. All four substance cue-types (alcohol, cigarette, marijuana, crack cocaine) showed good reliability and high specificity. The validity of measuring approach and avoidance as separate dimensions was supported by meaningful clinical distinctions between groups with different reactivity patterns and incremental prediction of avoidance inclinations on measures of readiness for stages of change.


The authors interviewed a random sample of 125 female prisoners to examine possible trajectories to prison. The results indicated that female prisoners who were physically and sexually victimized as children were more likely to be hospitalized for a psychological problem as an adult, attempt suicide, have a substance use disorder, and to be sexually abused in the year preceding prison. The authors discuss treatment implications and basing treatment on women’s trajectories to prison.


Reported results from first generation of crisis training using in-class evaluations (N=314) and 3-month follow-up evaluations (N=53) for police officers. Significant improvements were found between pre and posttest comparisons in total score, knowledge, attitudes, and skills. Specific in-class gains were not retained during follow-up, but officers endorsed use of de-escalation techniques, and a positive impact of training on interactions with veterans.


This meta-analysis includes forty-five diversion evaluation studies reporting on 73 youth diversion programs. Results indicate that diversion is more effective in reducing recidivism than are conventional judicial interventions. Both study- and program-level variables influenced program effectiveness. The relationship between program-level variables and the risk level targeted by programs is discussed.

FORENSIC ASSESSMENT


The authors examined the impact of personality traits on criminal thinking style among 133 violent and 179 nonviolent recidivist male prisoners in a high-security prison. A multiple regression revealed psychoticism, extraversion, neuroticism, associations with criminal friends, and criminal identity were significant predictors of criminal thinking style.


The authors investigated the reasons mental health experts cite for why they decline or withdraw from forensic assessments by administering an online survey to 29 forensic psychologists and psychiatrists. The most common reasons for withdrawing or declining were: ethical issues/
conflicts, problems with payment, and problems retaining counsel and/or the examinees. The authors report their findings are consistent with previous studies and demonstrate that mental health professionals have valid personal and professional reasons for withdrawing from legal cases.


Authors investigated discrepancies in IQ scores on the Wechsler Adult Intelligence Scale (WAIS) and the Wide Range Intelligence Test (WRIT) among 47 males and 8 females with developmental disabilities. The results indicated that individuals scored significantly higher on the WAIS-III compared to the WRIT, with a mean difference of 13 points. The authors discuss clinical and legal implications of the underestimates of the WRIT and suggest that multiple measures with strong psychometric properties, as well as collateral information, be used for clinical evaluations in forensic cases.


The authors analysed 483 evaluation reports of 165 defendants in Hawaii and evaluated the reliability of legal sanity opinions. Results showed that unanimous agreement occurred only in 55.1% of the cases and that there were more disagreements when a defendant was under the influence of drugs or alcohol at the time of offense. Higher agreement was seen in diagnosing a psychiatric disorder or when there was a prior psychiatric hospitalization.


The authors examined the accuracy of the Structure Interview of Reported Symptoms, Second Edition, compared to the original version, using archival data from 114 patients in a maximum-security forensic hospital and 32 community members who participated in a simulation. Results indicated that second edition yielded a high specificity rate but lowered sensitivity rates. The removal of the total score also hindered identification of feigning. Implications for clinical use were discussed.


A confirmatory analysis of data on 646 incarcerated and probation adolescent females (North American and European) was conducted to test for a model fit for the Psychopathy Checklist: Youth Version in females. Results indicated that both 3- and 4-factor models were an adequate fit and for participants in less restrictive settings. The 4-factor model fit only demonstrated acceptable fit on 2 out of 4 indices in the incarcerated sub-sample.


This article describes three studies of how biases and imperfect accuracy might affect rates of disagreement among forensic examiners. Study 1 assumed that examiners could discriminate between competent and incompetent accurately and used computer simulation of 20,000 pairs of CST evaluations to determine how different judgment thresholds would elevate disagreement rates above those expected through chance error alone. Studies 2 and 3 evaluated the
assumptions of Study 1 using previously published data. Imperfect accuracy alone would often explain much between-examiner disagreement, even if examiners approached evaluations with distinct biases. Many instances of between-examiner disagreement might be attributable to imperfect accuracy that expresses itself in random errors, rather than to examiner biases that imply different thresholds for judging defendants' competence.


The authors employed structural equation modeling to investigate whether the WAIS-III or WAIS-IV provides a more valid measure of intelligence using the FSIQ score. The results demonstrated that the WAIS-IV had a better fit to the standardization sample, and was better in terms of measurement, scoring, and structural model as compared to the WAIS-III, which is consistent with the WAIS-IV publisher’s representation.


Investigated use of the Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory Lie scale in the preemployment selection of police officers with an L scale raw score cutoff of 8 for hiring decisions in 4348 officers and follow-up data on performance provided by supervisors. Officers with raw scores of 8 or higher had significantly more performance problems than those with raw scores of 7 or below, and these results remained significant when controlling for level of education, ethnicity, and scores on the 10 MMPI-2 Clinical Scales.

**DELINQUENCY/ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOR**


Examined prevalence and associations between psychiatric disorders, substance use problems, and substance use problems in 3,614 adolescents interviewed via telephone about engagement in delinquent acts and experience of PTSD, major depressive episode, substance use, interpersonal violence, and other trauma exposure. Delinquent were more likely than nondelinquent adolescents to experience trauma, report past-year PTSD, major depressive episode, alcohol abuse, and nonexperimental drug use. After controlling for demographics and trauma exposure, delinquency was associated with increased likelihood of PTSD and substance use across genders and increased likelihood of major depressive episode in girls.


Moffitt’s developmental taxonomy suggests that genetic factors influence life-course-persistent (LCP) offending, that genetic risk factors will be mediated by neuropsychological deficits, and that genetic factors interact with environmental factors. Behavior genetic methodologies were used to test this theory. Results suggest that genetic factors influence persistent offending and that these influences are partially mediated by levels of self-control. Additional findings are discussed.

The current study examined the familial concentration and transmission of crime in a sample of sibling pairs drawn from the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health (Add Health). Only 5% of all families accounted for more than 50% of all criminal arrests. Between-sibling similarity and intergenerational transmission in being arrested, being sentenced to probation, being incarcerated, and being arrested multiple times were observed. Structural equation models indicated that the concentration and transmission of crime was due, in part, to genetic factors and mating patterns.


Examined relationships between psychopathy and cognitive empathy in a sample of incarcerated male offenders using a laboratory measure of cognitive empathy based on the empathic accuracy paradigm (the ability to accurately infer others’ emotions in a simulated interpersonal interaction). Empathic accuracy performance was most strongly associated with behavioral/antisocial and lifestyle features of psychopathy as measured with the Psychopathy Checklist – Revised. Psychopathy was also associated with poorer empathic accuracy for negatively valenced emotions only (fear and sadness), with nonsignificant moderate effect sizes observed for joy. The behavioral/antisocial factor of psychopathy was associated with poor overall empathic accuracy for negatively valenced emotions, and the interpersonal/affective factor was associated with poor empathic accuracy for joy. Interpersonal and lifestyle features of psychopathy were associated with poor empathic accuracy for positively valenced emotions, while affective and antisocial features of psychopathy were negatively associated with empathic accuracy for negatively valenced emotions. Psychopathy was not associated with ratings of perceived task difficulty.


Data collected from the Projects on Human Development in Chicago Neighborhoods (PHDCN) were used to examine (1) the underlying structure of adolescent problem behavior, (2) continuity and change in patterns of problem behaviors across mid to late adolescence and (3) the risk and protective factors related to observed patterns of behavior. Results suggest that a 4-class categorical model best represents the pattern of responses to behavioral items used to measure delinquency, substance use, and risky sexual practices. The analyses revealed patterns of stability, escalation, and de-escalation, as well as differential risk across the four groups.


Evaluated mediator models of violent perpetration and peer victimization in 112 (68 male and 44 female) incarcerated youth. The relationship between child emotional abuse and victimization was fully mediated by depression, and the relationship between child physical abuse and victimization was partially mediated by depression. Drug use fully mediated the relationship between child emotional abuse and fighting.


The authors suggest that no studies have empirically shown that behavioral offender profiling has scientific validity and solid accuracy. Based on data from 839 Japanese homicide cases, the authors constructed multivariate logistic regression models to infer offenders’ characteristics of sex, age, stranger offender, criminal record, single offender, member of organized crime, and residential area. Validity was evaluated with a tenfold cross-validation procedure and receiver operating characteristic (ROC) analysis. The ROC results indicated moderate and sufficient accuracy.


Examined whether a deficit in information-processing precedes criminal offending in 73 individuals who became criminal offenders at age 23 and 123 noncriminal individuals in a birth cohort of 1,795 children using measures of P3 amplitude. Reduced P3 amplitude at 11 years was associated with increased antisocial behavior at 11 years; criminal offenders showed significantly reduced P3 amplitudes to target stimuli compared to controls. Findings remained significant after controlling for antisocial behavior and hyperactivity at 11 years and alcoholism at 23 years. P3 deficits at 11 years were associated with adult crime at age 23, suggesting reduced P3 could be an early neurobiological marker for cognitive and affective processes that place a child at risk for adult crime.


The role of three aggression-related knowledge structures—normative beliefs, behavioral scripts, and early maladaptive schema—and trait anger were examined with respect to the aggressive behavior of an offender sample. Normative beliefs and scripts accounted for almost a quarter of the variance in participants’ aggression, beyond the effects of anger.


The authors examined the effects of multiple terminations of intimate relationships involving cohabitation on offspring antisocial behavior among 8,652 offspring ages 6-9, 6,911 offspring aged 10-13, and 6,495 offspring aged 14-17 of a national sample of U.S. women. The results indicated a significant association between cumulative maternal relationship transitions and antisocial behavior in childhood and that this relationship remained after controlling for confounds. The authors suggest interventions to reduce child exposure to parental relationship transitions may be helpful in reducing risk of delinquency in adolescence.


This article describes a secondary data analyses on mental health assessment and offense history data for 700 juveniles referred to juvenile justice agencies in Alabama. Multiple regression analysis was conducted to predict subsequent offense severity by disorder profile, adjusting for prior offense severity and other background variables. Juveniles with a substance use disorder...
with or without co-occurring disorders were at greater risk for escalating offense seriousness.


This study examined whether a two-factor model for severe violence could be generalized to severe intersibling violence (ISV) in a sample of 111 young offenders (age M = 14.83, SD = 1.45). Exploratory factor analysis revealed a model comprising two factors: severe ISV perpetration with weapon use (Factor 1) and severe ISV perpetration without weapon use (Factor 2). Results provide empirical support for the two-factor model of violence severity previously established with adult offenders and demonstrates construct validity of the severity measures among different types of offenders.


The risk assessments and risk management decisions of 234 probation officers, based on vignettes (depicting mental disorder, substance abuse disorder, both or neither), were analysed. Results indicated that mental disorder had a strong effect on officers’ risk assessments. Mental disorder also had the strongest effect on officers’ desire to manage risk with forced mental health treatment. Implications of the finding were discussed.


Assessed the impact of juvenile court processing into young adulthood using participants from a prospective longitudinal study of 1,037 boys from low-socioeconomic areas of Montreal followed from ages 6-25 years. During adolescence, 176 participants were processed in juvenile court, and 225 were arrested by not sent to court. The risk of conviction for adult offense was 50% for court-processed participants compared with 24.3% of their matched counterparts. Court-processed participants committed an average of 0.39 violent crimes, compared with 0.15 for their matched counterparts, and an average of 2.38 nonviolent crimes compared to 1.30 for their matched counterparts.


Examined how serotonin transporter (50HTTLPR) polymorphisms, monoamine oxidase-A (MAO-A) variants, and childhood abuse measured with the Childhood Trauma Questionnaire related to dimensions of psychopathy in a forensic sample of 237 men with elevated levels of environmental adversity. Emotional deficits in psychopathy as measured with the Psychopathy Checklist: Screening Version were highest among carriers of the 5-HTT long allele. Impulsive and irresponsible lifestyle features of psychopathy were higher among low-activity than high-activity MAO-A carriers. Genetic effects were not moderated by a history of childhood abuse.


Tested hypotheses of the triarchic conceptualization of psychopathy in 209 female prison inmates and 627 undergraduate students administered psychopathy and psychopathy-relevant measures. The triarchic domains (boldness, meanness, and disinhibition) explained variance in other psychopathy models to degrees consistent with conceptual expectations. Boldness was associated with narcissism, thrill/adventure seeking, and low behavioral inhibition system
functioning in the female correctional sample; meanness was associated with Machiavellianism, low empathy, and low behavioral inhibition system; and disinhibition was associated with impulsivity and fun-seeking.

Tsai, J., Rosenheck, R. A., Kasprow, W. J., & McGuire, J. F. (2013). Risk of incarceration and other characteristics of Iraq and Afghanistan era veterans in state and federal prisons. Psychiatric Services, 64, 36-43. Compared risk of incarceration of veterans of Operations Enduring Freedom (OEF), Iraqi Freedom (OIF), and New Dawn (OND), and identified sociodemographic and clinical characteristics of incarcerated veterans of OEF/OIF/OND using administrative national data for 30,968 incarcerated veterans from October 2007 to April 2011. OEF/OIF/OND veterans were younger, less likely to be incarcerated as other veterans when controlling for age and ethnicity, and constituted only 3.9% of incarcerated veterans. OEF/OIF/OND veterans were less likely to be incarcerated, were 26% less likely to be diagnosed with drug abuse or dependence, and were three times more likely to have combat-related PTSD than other veterans.

Weaver, C. M., Trafton, J. A., Kimerling, R., Timko, C., & Moos, R. (2013). Prevalence and nature of criminal offending in a national sample of veterans in VA substance use treatment prior to the Operation Enduring Freedom/Operation Iraqi Freedom conflicts. Psychological Services, 10, 54-65. Evaluated prevalence and types of criminal arrest in 99,512 veterans in substance use disorder treatment in 150 VA facilities from 1998-2001 using the Addiction Severity Index (ASI). Over half (58.2%) had three or more previous arrests, and 46% reported at least one criminal convictions. The majority (69.3%) had at least one arrest not due to drug possession, sale, or intoxication, and almost 24% reported at least one arrest for a violent crime. Results suggest existing VA SUD treatment is an underrecognized intervention for justice involvement among veterans.

LAW ENFORCEMENT, CONFESSIONS, & DECEPTION


The authors examined the impact of leading questions and negative feedback on changing responses (shift) as measured by the Gudjonsson Suggestibility Scale (2). Participants (n = 80) were interviewed about a story they heard with either negative or neutral feedback and either leading or non-leading questions. Only feedback affected shift, where shift was greater for participants receiving negative feedback.


The authors tested the effects of incentives to lie as a cue to deception detection accuracy. In study one the incentives to lie or tell the truth were developed, where participants (n = 64) were incentivized through either helping the experimenter or avoiding a boring task. In study two, participants (n = 62) made veracity judgments of statements from study 1. Accuracy was extremely high when participants were given access to the incentive information. In study 3 participants (n = 121) performed more inaccurately when given access to the diagnostic incentive information, but not given access to the verbal portion of the suspect’s statement.
‘You caught ‘em!’…or not? Feedback affects investigators’ recollections of speech cues thought to signal honesty and deception. Legal and Criminological Psychology, 18, 128–140. doi: 10.1111/j.2044-8333.2011.02037.x Participant-investigators received training on speech cues that they were told signal either honesty or deception. After hearing a suspect's account of a theft, participants decided whether the suspect was lying or telling the truth. Participants subsequently received immediate confirming, disconfirming or no feedback about their performance. Then participants rated the frequencies of speech cues that they had been instructed to detect. Disconfirming feedback significantly altered retrospective judgments about the characteristics of the suspect's account.

Detecting deception in second-language speakers. Legal and Criminological Psychology, 18, 115–127. doi: 10.1111/j.2044-8333.2011.02030.x Students (N = 51) judged the veracity of clips of 30 targets, who spoke English as their native or second language, and who lied or told the truth about a transgression, and indicated their confidence. Participants were more confident when judging native-language truth-tellers than second-language truth-tellers. Also, participants were more likely to exhibit a truth-bias when observing native-language speakers and a lie-bias when viewing second-language speakers.

An examination of police department uniform color and police–citizen aggression. Criminal Justice and Behavior, 40, 228-244. doi:10.1177/0093854812456644 This study examined whether police departments that wear dark uniforms are more aggressive than those that wear lighter uniforms. It was predicted that departments utilizing black uniforms would experience more assaults on officers, citizens killed by police, and excessive force complaints. No statistically significant difference was found between departments wearing black and light uniforms after controlling for community contextual variables. The potential reasons for the inconsistency between this study and previous research findings are discussed.

Use of nonfatal force on and by persons with apparent mental disorder in encounters with police. Criminal Justice and Behavior, 40, 321-337. doi:10.1177/0093854812474425 In this study of Australian police, it was recorded that 306 (7.2%) of the 4,267 people on whom they used force in Victoria, Australia, between 1995 and 2008 appeared to have a mental disorder. These individuals were more likely to make threats or use weapons on police and to have weapons used or threatened against them by police, as compared to those who did not appear to be mentally disordered. Authors discuss the need for communication and verbal deescalation tactics during police training and practice as well as proactive broader system-level changes.

Sorting the liars from the truth tellers: The benefits of asking unanticipated questions on lie detection. Applied Cognitive Psychology, 27, 107–114. doi: 10.1002/acp.2879. Truth tellers performed five tasks and liars observed the activity room and were asked to generate a story in which they claim to have performed five tasks. The interview included four thematically related pairs of questions. The first question of each pairing was easy for interviewees to anticipate. The second included a perspective shift, which made the question harder to anticipate. An object sorting task was used to measured cognitive load. Liars' verbal responses showed a greater decline in details across three out of four question pairs. Liars also sorted significantly fewer objects per minute.

The authors conducted two studies evaluating liars’ strategies for selecting the content of their lies. Participants described a truthful story in order to identify a salient event, then lied about the event, and finally, described their strategies for choosing the content of the reported lies. Liars overwhelmingly chose to report a previously experienced event. The majority of discrete details reported were experienced, occurred relatively frequently, occurred relatively recently, and were typical or routine.


A serious crime was described to 74 undergraduates who were asked to imagine that they were guilty or innocent. They then completed a questionnaire about the strategies that they would use during a BAI. Both guilty and innocent suspects were more willing to show the innocence of a shooter. Both guilty and innocent suspects were more willing to show the innocence rather than guilt indicators. Innocent suspects had a blind faith in the power of innocence to demonstrate that they were not guilty. The general (non-BAI) strategies coincided with those of previous studies.


In Experiment 1, participants read two life stories of the same narrator, one rich and the other poor in details, while their presentation order was manipulated. Results showed that participants tended to believe the narrator more when the rich story preceded the poor story than the reverse. In Experiment 2, the richness-order was manipulated within a single story, and revealed that a story that began in a rich manner was perceived as richer.


In study 1 (N= 110) and 2 (N= 120), participants in a negative mood achieved higher accuracy in classifying truthful as well as deceptive messages than participants in a positive mood. Experiment 3 (N= 64) crossed nonverbal cues (fidgety vs. calm movements) and message characteristics (low vs. high plausibility). Only the plausibility of the message influenced participants’ credibility judgments under sad mood conditions, whereas only the nonverbal cues influenced participants’ judgments of credibility under happy mood conditions.

Shaw, D. J., Vrij, A., Leal, S., Mann, S., Hillman, J., Granhag, P. A. & Fisher, R. P. (2013). Expect the unexpected? Variations in question type elicit cues to deception in joint interviewer contexts. Applied Cognitive Psychology, 27, 336–343. doi: 10.1002/acp.2911. Authors examined the effect of a second interviewer's demeanor and expected and unexpected questions on cues to deception. Participants (N= 168) appeared before two interviewers: The first asked all the questions, and the second remained silent. The second interviewer exhibited either a supportive or a neutral demeanor. Liars provided more detail to expected questions and less detail to unexpected questions, particularly when the second interviewer was supportive.


The authors examined how decisions in a first person shooter task (FPST) are affected by training.
Participants for study 1 were police officers (n = 52) and students (n = 75), where some of the students received practice on the FPST. Trained students and police were less likely to exhibit racially biased shooting decisions during the test FPST. In study 2a, participants were students (n = 120), where some received practice in FPST that reinforced a base rate of higher black criminality. In study 2b, participants were officers who specialized in street/gang crimes (n = 22) and patrol officers (n = 31) and community members (n = 45). Students who received biased base rate training and gang/street crimes officers were more likely to exhibit racially biased shooting decisions.


The risk principle suggests that higher risk offenders should receive more intense services than lower risk offenders. Relatively little research has examined the impact of varying levels of treatment dosage by risk. This study seeks to identify the number of treatment hours that are necessary to reduce recidivism using a sample of 689 adult male offenders in a residential community corrections facility. Results support the provision of higher treatment dosages to high-risk offenders; substantial reductions in recidivism were observed among high-risk offenders receiving 200 or more hours of treatment.


The first experiment investigated how much spatial and temporal detail is given by people who are discussing a true or false intention. The results showed that those with a true intention gave more spatial and temporal details. The second experiment examined these details in a one-question interview and whether the amount of temporal detail given can be manipulated by question phrasing. The amount of detail was much lower in these short interviews, but can be increased with specific phrasing.


The authors examine the extent to which perceptions of procedural justice among persons with serious mental illness (SMI) are associated with self-reported levels of cooperation and resistance in encounters with police. One hundred fifty-four persons with SMIs who reported a police contact within the past year were interviewed using the Police Contact Experience Survey and the Link Perceived Devaluation and Discrimination Scale (PDS). Findings suggest that greater perceptions of procedural justice are associated with more cooperation and less resistance. The effect on cooperation is moderated by both perceived stigma and the type of encounter. Higher perceived stigma was, unexpectedly, associated with greater cooperation.


The authors examine the effects of one police agency’s early intervention system on personnel complaints, citizen complaints, use of force, and secondary arrests, as well as arrests and proactive arrests, for 118 graduates and 118 matched controls. The authors found that the effect on risk outcomes was very similar for treatment and control groups, and that program trainees made fewer proactive arrests and fewer arrests overall.
LEGAL DECISION-MAKING/JURY RESEARCH


Jury eligible participants read a crime vignette modeled on an actual felony-murder case manipulated with regard to outcome information and relevant case facts. They made likelihood judgments and rated felons on intent and culpability. Results indicated that outcome information biased death likelihood ratings in hindsight but did not significantly affect assessments of case evidence.


The authors measured the fluctuation of emotions across five time points of a capital trial and tested the relationship between changes in emotion and sentencing decisions. Anger initially increased and then decreased during the course of the trial. The more individual mock jurors' anger increased during any stage of the trial, the more likely they were to assign a death sentence. When jurors' anger increased, they rated mitigating factors as weaker, which mediated the relationship between change in anger and sentencing.


This experimental study examined the effect of stereotypes on pre- and post-deliberation judgments in a mock trial. Results indicated that the more strongly jurors held preexisting “Superpredator” stereotypes about juvenile offenders, the more likely they were to find the defendant guilty and the less likely they were to believe the defendant should have been tried in juvenile court. The effects of preexisting biases appeared to be minimized after jury deliberation. Stereotypes were able to be experimentally activated; implications are discussed.


Participants watched videotaped opening statements. Defendant's responsibility was judged to be greater when plaintiffs used PowerPoint slides than when they did not and less when defendant used PowerPoint slides than when it did not. Each party's use of PowerPoint increased participants' recall evidence, which increased defendant's judged responsibility (when plaintiffs used PowerPoint) or reduced it (when defendants used PowerPoint). PowerPoint also functioned as a peripheral cue, influencing participants' judgments of defendant's responsibility by affecting perceptions of attorneys.


The authors examined the impact of a judge's instructions regarding eyewitness discussion after the crime. Participants (n = 80) read a case with two eyewitnesses, where their initial accounts differed and one later changed her account to match the other. Conditions varied on whether or not the eyewitnesses admitted to post-event discussion and whether or not the judges' instructions were general or specific about co-witness contamination. The specific warning resulted in higher sensitivity to evaluating the inconsistent witness.

This article examines the opinions of jury-eligible participants regarding entrapment-related issues in online sex offender sting operations. Participants (N=512) provided lower guilt ratings when the undercover officer initiated the online sexual solicitation than when the defendant initiated the online sexual solicitation. This effect was mediated by the causal attributions made by mock jurors for the defendant’s actions. Entrapment defense was also less successful for participants with a crime control orientation than for participants with a due process orientation.


Research indicates that focusing the camera on the detective and defendant equally (rather than on the defendant alone) while recording an interrogation protects defendants from a saliency bias among jurors. The authors demonstrate that, even with an equal-focus video, a salience bias can occur when the defendant is a member of a minority group and is seen as distinctive. Mock jurors viewed an equal-focus confession video. The defendant’s physical appearance remained constant, but when jurors believed he was a minority group member, they directed more visual attention toward him, rated his confession as more voluntary, authentic, and incriminating, and considered him more likely guilty.


Participants (N= 146) read a scenario in which they were the injured pedestrian in an accident. They answered questions regarding settlement and apology negotiations. Full apologies that were given in response to a request by the injured party or at the suggestion of a mediator were viewed in similar ways to the same apology given spontaneously. Full apologies offered by an attorney on behalf of the wrongdoer were less effective than apologies offered directly by the wrongdoer.


Participants read a transcript of a rape trial and made judgments regarding the victim's responsibility for the rape, sympathy for the victim, willingness to help the victim, perceived witness credibility, and verdict. The victim's responsibility for the rape was manipulated between subjects. Sympathy mediated the relationships between perceived victim responsibility and: (a) willingness to help the victim, (b) credibility, and (c) verdict.


Participants watched a video of an accident involving two men and then read either a non-leading eyewitness statement that blamed no one or a leading eyewitness statement that blamed one of the men for the accident. Over one-third of participants who read a leading statement subsequently blamed the same person as the eyewitness, yet less than 4% of participants who read a non-leading statement blamed one of the men.
RISK ASSESSMENT/COMMUNICATION


The study compared the use of dynamic and static risk assessment measures in a forensic psychiatric inpatient setting over two periods: short term (up to one month) and medium term (up to six months). Results from 66 patients suggested that dynamic measures appeared to be more accurate than static measures for short- to medium-term predictions of inpatient aggression. Implications were discussed.


The study examined the predictive validity of release plan quality in re-imprisonment among 49 high-risk offenders who were in an intensive cognitive-behavioural rehabilitation programme in New Zealand. Plan quality was compared as a predictor of re-imprisonment with three well-validated risk assessment instruments. Results obtained indicated that plan quality may protect offenders from quick re-imprisonment despite high levels of assessed criminal risk which may then lead to improved parole outcomes.


This study investigated the value of the 61-item Dutch diagnostic and risk assessment tool (RISc) with respect to predicting probation supervision violations of male probationers (N = 14,363). RISc assessments were completed before the start of the supervision period. The predictive accuracy of the RISc, with regard to supervision violation, was supported. All RISc subscales and the total score significantly predicted probation supervision violation.


The authors examined the utility of callous-unemotional traits in predicting recidivism among a large ethnically diverse community sample of young adult males in a longitudinal design. A follow-up was conducted after approximately 3.5 years using multiple sources of official criminal records. Callous-unemotional traits were found to significantly add to the prediction of recidivism beyond other well-established predictors of re-offending. Implications were discussed.


The study aimed to evaluate the Risk Context Scale by following a sample of 257 supervised male parolees in the community (M = 870 days). Using a mediation analysis, the authors found that an initial static risk probability was altered up to 26% by accounting for risk context. Implications of the findings in terms of recidivism, intervention strategies, and recommendations for future risk assessments are discussed.


150 male offenders attended an institution-based cognitive-behavioral-oriented violence
reduction treatment program and were followed up for 5 years post-release for court adjudicated community violent recidivism. The Violence Risk Scale scores were found to significantly predict violent recidivism and specifically, dynamic predictors could be used to assess treatment progress in risk reduction among high risk offenders with significant psychopathic traits.


The authors examined the structural and predictive properties of the Psychopathy Checklist-Revised in 766 Canadian male offenders of recidivism with a follow-up of 26 months post-release. Results indicated that items were invariant across both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal groups and that a 4-factor model fit the data well. Also, moderate effect sizes were found for predictive validity and specifically, the Lifestyle and Antisocial factors consistently and significantly predicted all recidivism outcomes.


Examined factor structure of the Acquired Capability for Suicide Scale in a sample of male prison inmates. A 4-factor model provided the best statistical and conceptual fit, but 3 of these were each associated with previous exposure to painful and provocative events. None differentiated suicide attempter status; results suggest that interpersonal theory is promising in application to prison population suicide.

SEX OFFENDERS


The authors investigated change in psychometric test scores in predicting recidivism risk in a sample of 3402 sexual offenders on probation. Results indicated that treatment outcome status was not related to violent or sexual recidivism. They found some support that participants classified as not requiring further change on the socio-affective functioning had a lower rate of reconviction but that did not add predictive power to overall static risk assessment.


The current study assessed the validity of Keppel and Walter’s (1999) classification system for serial sexual murder by examining the crimes and backgrounds of 53 serial sexual murderers. Proximity Scaling was used to examine the degree of co-occurrence between behaviors/characteristics. No evidence of highly co-occurring behaviors/characteristics from Keppel and Walter’s proposed categories was found, suggesting that the classification system is invalid.


Life-course persistent offenders have been found to account for a disproportionate number of serious crimes. The authors used a nationally representative sample to examine the tendency for life-course persistent offenders to commit sexual assault. Findings suggest that life-course
persisters are disproportionately more likely to be sexually coercive compared to other individuals.

These two studies investigated how the structure of affect (positive vs. negative affect) and impulsiveness (motor/planning vs. cognitive impulsiveness) correlate with forms of sexual violence. A sample of 32 men convicted of rape, 31 men convicted of child sexual abuse, and 37 male college students reporting sexual violence against women were assessed with the Positive and Negative Affect Schedule and the Barratt Impulsiveness Scale. Results indicate that negative affect and motor/planning impulsiveness characterized individuals convicted of rape and lower positive affect characterized child sexual molesters. College student offenders presented higher motor/planning and cognitive impulsiveness than controls.

The current study identifies geographic and environmental factors that are useful in examining offending consistency across series of sexual assaults, drawing on criminal career research and methodology as a way to improve the study of behavioral consistency. The sample included 72 serial stranger sex offenders who committed a total of 361 sexual assaults. Use of diversity index, forward specialization coefficient, and Jaccard’s coefficient all revealed a high degree of offending consistency and highlight promising factors for crime linkage of serial sexual offenses.

Large samples of contact offenders, internet offenders, and mixed contact/internet offenders were compared on a range of self-report measures. A multivariate general linear model found a mixed offender profile that was more similar to internet offenders than to contact offenders. The contact group showed less victim empathy, more pro-offending attitudes, externalized locus of control, more assertiveness, diminished ability to relate to fictional characters, and more impulsivity than the internet and mixed offender groups. The mixed offender group demonstrated more empathic concern than the other two groups. The mixed offender group also differed from the internet group in personal distress and perspective-taking ability. Additional findings are discussed.

The current study examines the relationship between therapeutic climate of sexual offender treatment groups, risk level, psychopathy, and phase of treatment among 137 sexual offenders detained indefinitely under Wisconsin’s Sexually Violent Person’s Law. A MANOVA indicated that the therapeutic climate did not differ as a function of the risk level of the participants. The overall therapeutic climate of the two treatment tracks (Lower vs. Higher PCL-R) differed significantly. The mean therapeutic climate scores for both tracks indicated positive therapeutic climates in both treatment tracks overall. Therapeutic climate also differed as a function of phase of treatment for each of the treatment tracks.


This study examined nonfatal suicide attempts in a sample (N = 3,030) of incarcerated male sex offenders. Fourteen percent of sex offenders in the sample had made a suicide attempt at some point in their lives. Of those, 11% had reported a suicide attempt prior to incarceration, 0.5% had made a suicide attempt while incarcerated, and 2.5% made suicide attempts both prior to and during incarceration. Those who made suicide attempts were significantly more likely than those who did not to have had an abusive childhood, a history of psychiatric problems, intellectual impairment, male victims, and related victims. Suicide attempts also scored higher on actuarial risk measures than nonattempters. Additional findings and implications are discussed.


Archival data on 19,215 male youth charged with sex, assault, and/or robbery offenses between 1990 and 2004 were analyzed. Generalized estimating equations (GEE) were used to model changes in the probabilities of plea bargain outcomes before and after policy implementation and after implementation of a revised policy that included online registration requirements. Results indicate significant increases in the probability of plea bargains for sex offense cases across subsequent time periods, supporting the hypothesis that South Carolina’s initial and revised registration and notification policies were associated with significant increases in the likelihood of plea bargains to different types of charges and to lower severity charges.


A national U.S. sample of state-level policy makers (N = 61) were interviewed about their perceptions of the sexual offenders in their state, their state’s sex offender laws, and collateral consequences of these laws. Results indicated that most respondents (who were selected nonrandomly) were familiar with the sex offender legislation in their states, most of the laws were drafted with the goal of increasing public safety, and policy makers believed their laws were functioning as intended, despite the lack of empirical support.


The authors conducted secondary analyses to examine the degree of association between various measures of cognitive distortions and denial/minimization among child molesters and rapists. Meta-analysis indicated that greater endorsement of cognitive distortions about sex offending in general was significantly associated with greater denial/minimization of one’s own guilt and deviance (r = .24), harm to one’s own victims (r = .32), one’s need for treatment (r = .21), and responsibility for one’s sex offenses (r = .16) among child molesters. Cognitive distortions and denial/minimization appear to be distinct, though correlated, constructs.


The authors examined the effects of a treatment program involving group therapy, relapse prevention programming, and psychoeducation the ability to recognize high-risk situations and use coping skills effectively by administering the SOSCT to 139 convicted sex offenders in
inpatient treatment. The results showed that posttreatment scores improved significantly, with a small effect size, and that there were no significant differences between offender groups, suggesting similar results across the spectrum of offenders.


The study cross-validated the Ontario Domestic Assault Risk Assessment and the Domestic Violence Risk Appraisal Guide using an incarcerated high-risk Austrian sample (N = 66) with a mean follow-up of 55 months. Both instruments were found to have reliability and predictive accuracy – good predictive accuracy for domestic violence recidivism and moderate effect sizes for both general criminal and violent recidivism. Further psychometric properties were explored and implications discussed.


The authors propose three types of perpetrators of serial sexual homicides: competitively disadvantaged, psychopathic, and sadistic offenders. Using biographical data of 82 serial sexual homicide offenders, they tested their model and the organized/disorganized model. Principal components analysis produced five components, and cluster analysis revealed three distinct groups of perpetrators (sadistic offenders, competitively disadvantaged offenders, and slashers), and a fourth heterogeneous group. There was mixed support for both models.

Van der Put, C. E., van Vugt, E. S., Stams, G. J. J. M., & van der Laan, P. H. (2013). Differences in the prevalence and impact of risk factors for general recidivism between different types of juveniles who have committed sexual offenses (JSOs) and juveniles who have committed nonsexual offenses (NSOs). Sexual Abuse: A Journal of Research and Treatment, 25, 41-68. doi:10.1177/1079063212452615

The current study examined differences in the prevalence and impact of dynamic risk factors for general delinquency between youth with nonsexual offenses, youth with misdemeanour sexual offenders, youth with felony sexual offenders, and youth with offenses against much younger children. Prevalence of dynamic risk factors for general delinquency was significantly lower in juvenile sex offenders than in nonsexual offenders. More serious sexual offenses were associated with a lower prevalence of dynamic risk factors. Additional findings and implications are discussed.


The relationship between psychometric changes in treatment and recidivism was investigated in a sample of 3773 sex offenders using the Structured Assessment of Risk and Need. The findings indicated that offenders who scored at the ‘normal range’ before and after treatment were reconvicted at a lower rate than those who did not change. An overall treatment change did not significantly add to the predictive validity of the risk assessment tool.

Wilson, R.J., Pake, D.R., Abracen, J. & Pake, D.R. (2013). Comparing sexual offenders at the regional treatment centre (Ontario) and the Florida civil commitment center. International Journal of Offender Therapy and Comparative Criminology, 57, 377-395. Doi: 10.1177/0306624X11434918. Authors compared demographic characteristics of 459 sex offenders at the Regional Treatment Centre (RTC) in Canada and 120 residents of the Florida Civil Commitment Center. The results indicated the two samples were nearly identical in number of sexual convictions, PCLR scores,
and rates of recidivism, while they differed in age and STATIC-99 scores. Authors note that since the groups are so similar, and since RTC offenders are eventually released to the community, the postrelease behavior of this group may be used to predict potential outcomes for the SVP residents.

WITNESS ISSUES


Police officers (N= 76) worked through an investigative scenario, some were subjected to a time pressure manipulation, with their hypotheses generation and prioritization skills compared to a control. Time pressure reduced hypothesis generation and individual differences in time urgency moderated this effect; individuals who tend to perceive time to pass slowly continued to generate hypotheses despite the presence of time pressure. Time pressure increased action prioritization, but only for officers with low time urgency or high fluid ability.


Participants (N= 131) watched a videotaped trial in which the witness's original confidence statement was presented as part of a previously recorded videotaped identification procedure or read by the witness at trial. Additionally, the witness's identification confidence was either high or low at the time of the identification and high at the trial. Significant interactions demonstrated that confidence inflation evidence factored into judgments of the eyewitness and defendant guilt more strongly in the videotape condition.


Participants performed memory tests with a confederate, and then completed individual memory tests. Results indicated that confederates who answered questions prior to participants impacted their public and private memory reports for accurate information but only impacted public reports for misleading information. Participants' confidence in their performance in the presence of a confederate mirrored the confederate's confidence levels, suggesting a confidence conformity effect.


Children aged 5–7 and 8–11 years viewed a film of a staged theft, then 1–2 days later were shown either a TP or TA video line-up. Half of the witnesses viewed line-ups that included a ‘mystery man’ (a black silhouette with a white question mark), which they could select if they did not recognize anyone. When the ‘mystery man’ was present in the line-up, there were significantly fewer false identifications for the TA line-ups.


Armed officers (N= 300) took part in an interactive staged crime scenario and were permitted to
confir (or not) while writing statements. Some officers also provided an independent statement prior to conferring while others were provided with retrieval support instructions. Although errors were transmitted during discussions, conferring had no overall impact on the accuracy or content of final statements. However, officers who wrote an initial independent statement did not incorporate any errors obtained from colleagues into their final accounts.


Students (N = 304) watched a crime video with a confederate co-witness and then completed an identification task. Prior to completion, the participant learned if the confederate chose from or rejected the lineup and their confidence (or heard no co-witness information). Those who heard the co-witness chose were more likely to also choose. Witnesses who chose from the lineup and heard the co-witness chose from or rejected the lineup expressed more confidence if the co-witness was more confident.


In Experiment 1 (N=118), a lengthy interview exacerbated participants’ tendency to temporally discount a distal consequence when deciding whether or not to admit to criminal and unethical behaviors. This effect was especially pronounced among less serious behaviors. In Experiment 2 (N=177), participants’ tendency to temporally discount a distal consequence when making admission decisions was exacerbated by the expectation of a lengthy interview; an effect that became stronger the longer the interview continued.


In either a “friendship-enhancing” or a “stranger-maintaining” condition, undergraduates (N= 81) completed tasks with a confederate. The confederate left the room and returned either empty handed (evidence-absent) or with money in her hands (evidence-present). Questioned about the theft, participants could corroborate or refute the confederate’s false alibi. Participants in both conditions were as likely to support the alibi. In the “evidence-present” condition, participants were much less likely to corroborate the alibi than in the “evidence-absent” condition.


A national survey of 786 victim/witness assistants (VWAs) 46 states indicated that prosecutor-based VWAs or parents/guardians most frequently served as support persons. One support person was almost always or often used with child victims and/or witnesses of all ages. Support persons were extremely common in cases involving child sexual abuse, physical abuse, neglect, and adult domestic violence. Overall, support persons provided more informational than emotional support. The most common emotional support was to accompany the child to trial. Support persons rarely or never questioned children directly during investigative interviews or in court. Additional findings and implications are discussed.

The interview-identification-eyewitness (I-I-Eye) teaching aid directed participants to attend carefully to how law enforcement interviewed the eyewitness, before considering factors that might affect accurate identification. After viewing the I-I-Eye or one of two control aids, 293 participants read a trial transcript that contained either strong or weak eyewitness evidence. Police followed proper procedures in the strong case, but not in the weak case. Only I-I-Eye participants demonstrated sensitivity to the evidence strength manipulation, rendering more guilty verdicts in the strong case.

The author examined the impact of non-identifications on perceptions of the suspect’s guilt. In study 1, participants (n = 22) read about a suspect line up, where the suspect was identified, a foil was identified, or no identification was made. Identified suspects were rated as most likely to be guilty, followed by non-identifications, and then followed by foil identifications. Study 2 followed a similar procedure, but participants (n = 159) were also asked to generate alternative explanations. Participants generate more alternative explanations for non-identifications. These alternatives were rated by participants (n = 33) in study 3, where alternatives for non-identifications were considered the strongest.

The study examined the impact of the presence of stolen property on live showup identification performance. Two hundred seventy students were exposed to a simulated theft. During the subsequent showup, the presence of the target and stolen property was manipulated. Both factors independently predicted the accuracy of identification decisions. Participants were more accurate when the target was in the showup and when the stolen property was present during the identification.

The study examined the diagnostic value of within-pair consistency to predict truth-telling in pairs of children aged 8 to 10 years. Twenty-three pairs were questioned about one experienced event and one imagined event. The diagnostic value of within-pair consistency to predict truth-telling was modest: approximately one out of three judgments would have been mistaken.

OTHER

This study investigated job stress among prison wardens. Results indicate that wardens who perceived themselves as having higher levels of transformational leadership capacity experienced less job stress. Employee trust was correlated with job stress; peer support was not. Although corrections tenure was unrelated, having had a wider breadth of corrections experience was related to less job stress.

This study draws on monthly internal administrative panel data covering a 7-year period from all federal prisons, including complaints, responses and misconduct for each prison. The data show that distributive outcomes (denial/grant) do not predict inmate violence within a given prison. However, consistent with the procedural justice paradigm, violence within a given prison does increase significantly with the volume of late replies as well as substantive rejections of complaints. An unexpected finding was that violence grew as the number of support staff per inmate declined within a given prison; however, the opposite effect was found with respect to custody staff per inmate.


Data from 2,104 participants in the Child Development Supplement of the Panel Study of Income Dynamics were investigated to assess the degree to which self-control is linked with intellectual achievement in childhood and adolescence. Results of a Poisson regression analyses indicate that intellectual achievement is significantly related to variations in self-control, controlling for a variety of parenting measures, age, race, gender, and previous levels of self-control. The relationship between intellectual achievement and self-control is discussed.


This article examines the effectiveness of using different kinds of written reminders to reduce misdemeanor defendants’ failure-to-appear (FTA) rates. A survey of defendant showed that reminders reduced FTA overall, and more substantive reminders were more effective. FTA varied by offense and offender characteristics, such as geographic location, type of offense, and number of offenses. The reminders were somewhat more effective for Whites and Hispanics than for Blacks. Additional findings and implications are discussed.


This study examined the impact of “correctional adaptations” – attitudes learned in prison – on the behavior of 75 discharged civil psychiatric patients. Medical charts were reviewed for incidents of institutional misconduct, and patients had been previously administered the Psychopathy Checklist–Screening Version (PCL-SV), Brief Psychiatric Rating Scale (BPRS), and Structured Assessment of Correctional Adaptation (SACA). Only about half of the sample committed at least one act of misconduct, with an mean of 2.8 incidents. Bivariate analyses revealed a significant relationship between incidents and the total SACA score. The SACA was significantly predictive of misconduct, regardless of arrest history.

Chambers, J. C., Horvath, M., & Kelley, L. (2013). Reconstructing and sequencing behaviors in multiple perpetrator rape. Psychology, Crime & Law, 19, 253-275. doi: 10.1080/1068316X.2011.631537 The authors analyzed 101 multiple perpetrator rape cases to assess what general themes there were. Two dominant themes were displayed. The Manipulate theme consisted of cases where there were fewer perpetrators (two) and they were more likely to socialize with the victim first. The Force theme consisted of cases where there were many perpetrators (three or more) who relied on the force of their number and no socialization
Cheng, W., Ickes, W. & Kenworthy, J. B. (2013). The phenomenon of hate crimes in the United States. *Journal of Applied Social Psychology, 43*, 761–794. doi:10.1111/jasp.12004. This review examined hate crimes in the United States. Findings derived from the FBI data from 1996–2008 revealed that the incidence of anti-racial hate crimes varied among different racial groups, that antireligious hate crimes were committed toward Jews and Muslims more than toward others, and that anti-sexual orientation hate crimes focused on male homosexuals more than others. Antireligious hate crimes were more likely to be directed against property, whereas anti-racial and anti-sexual orientation hate crimes were more likely to be directed against people.

The authors examined the impact of calibrating for crime type when engaging in geographic profiling. The authors used cases with known offenders of residential burglary (n = 77), theft (n = 585), and auto theft (n = 35) from the same area. The authors compared the effect of the calibrated and the default functions on accurately identifying the residence of the perpetrator. Results indicate that the calibrated functions performed no better than the default.

This study looks at factors which shape promotional aspirations by analyzing multiple-agency data assessing the impact of demographic, work environment, and organizational factors on patrol officers’ aspirations. Results indicate that the most consistent predictors of these aspirations are gender, race, education, and experience; job satisfaction, and organizational size.

The authors test a model that incorporates (a) police officers' perceptions of organizational and supervisor support; (b) global, domain specific, and situational motivation; and (c) engagement. The hypothesized model was tested using two samples of police officers. In Study 1, work motivation was significantly related to both intraindividual and contextual factors. Self-determined work motivation was positively related to work engagement. Using a cross-sectional design with multiple measurement points, these results were replicated at the situational level in Study 2. Results highlight the importance of understanding the mechanisms through which work engagement can be enhanced.

This study explores the effects of job stress, job involvement, and job satisfaction upon continuance, normative, and affective commitment in correctional organizations. Key workplace and demographic variables had varying effects on each type of organizational commitment. Results support and extend findings from prior correctional studies suggesting that organizational commitment is a multidimensional construct and that the mechanisms responsible for the development of each type of commitment differ.

Jacques, K., & Taylor, P. J. (2013). Myths and realities of female-perpetrated terrorism. *Law and...
Human Behavior, 37, 35–44. doi: 10.1037/h0093992
Data on female (n=222) and male (n=269) terrorists were examined across eight variables. The majority of female terrorists were found to be single, young, native, employed, educated to at least secondary level, and rarely involved in criminality. Compared with their male counterparts, female terrorists were equivalent in age, immigration profile, and role played in terrorism, but they were more likely to have a higher education, less likely to be employed, and less likely to have prior activist connections.

This study examines the impact of perceived risk and fear of sexual assault on male and female offenders’ fear of property crime, violent crime, and gang crime. Perceived risk and fear of sexual assault were significantly associated with fear of property, violent, and gang crime among both men and women. Results support Ferraro’s shadow of sexual assault thesis.

In three experimental studies, the authors showed that victims mainly want to receive an apology after an intentional transgression, whereas perpetrators want to offer an apology after an unintentional transgression. These divergent apologetic needs among victims and perpetrators were mediated by unique emotions: guilt among perpetrators and anger among victims. These results suggest that an apology serves very different goals among victims and perpetrators, thus pointing at an apology mismatch.

This study examined the effects of education on attitudes toward several criminal justice issues among college students enrolled in a senior-level forensic psychology course compared to a nonpsychological psychology course. Results indicated that education about public policy issues influenced students’ attitudes toward the death penalty, prison reform, and the insanity defense. Race, gender, and academic class standing were associated with differences in attitudes about criminal justice issues in a much more complex way than previously discussed.

The authors examined the prevalence of stalking of professionals in private practice and mental health clinics in Rome. The results indicated that the rate of stalking in private mental health settings was higher than in public settings and that the perpetrators of stalking behavior were primarily women targeting mental health professionals in private practice. The implications of their findings were then discussed.

The authors examined the prevalence of emotional and behavioral problems among juveniles in correctional facilities in Jordan by administering the Youth Self Report (YSR) to 187 adolescent
males. The results indicated an 84% prevalence rate for emotional and behavioral problems, 46% for scores above clinical cutoff points for internalizing and externalizing behavior, and 24% for suicidal ideation, suggesting the seriousness of mental health problems among adolescents in correctional facilities.


The present study examined the perspectives of 18 older Asian Indian using semistructured interviews. Content analysis revealed four broad categories: (a) challenges of living in the United States, (b) giving and receiving care in the family, (c) reflecting on present and future circumstances, and (d) approaches to coping. Implications for research, practice, and policy are discussed.


Authors examined whether children of various ethnic backgrounds exhibit different consequences of neglect among 1,039 neglected children and a sample of matched controls who were interviewed in adulthood. The results indicated that neglected Black and White children exhibited consequences to IQ, reading ability, and occupational status, compared to controls. Black children showed more anxiety and dysthymia, while Hispanic children exhibited increased risk for alcohol abuse. The authors conclude that the data lends support for three theories: racial invariance, double jeopardy, and resilience, and policy implications are discussed.
AP-LS Members and Students,

COMMITTEE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The AP-LS Student Section Committee has had a very fun and exciting past few months.

AP-LS CONFERENCE

We held a number of successful events at the Conference in Portland, OR.

- **Student Welcome Breakfast and Orientation:** We had over 100 attendees join us for breakfast and a run down of how to successfully attend an AP-LS Conference.
- **Student Section Committee Sponsored Panel** entitled “Ask the editors”: *Publishing in eminent North American and international psychology-law journals and legal periodicals*. We again had a packed house for our panel, which offered candid expertise from Dr. Stephen Hart, Dr. Margret Bull Kovera, Christopher Slobgin, Dr. Michael Lamb, and Dr Barry Rosenfeld. Thank-you again to our panelist that made the event such a huge success!
- **Inaugural 5km Fun Run:** We had over 60 AP-LS attendees come out for our inaugural 5k Fun Run. It was a beautiful Portland morning as we ran along the Willamette River. See a photo of our runners below!
- **Campus Representative Recognition Breakfast:** In recognition of all of the hard work of our CR’s we held a breakfast to thank them for all their hard work over the year. Thank-you again all of our fabulous CR’s! Our CR’s have been integral to the success of our committee over the past few years. We are particularly proud of our CR’s of the Month from this past term: Ashley Pritchard (Simon Fraser University) and Laura Townsend (California Lutheran University).
- **Student and ECP Networking Event:** We co-hosted a networking event with the ECP committee to connect students and ECP’s with the luminaries in the field. We received a ton of great feedback from this event and hope to offer it again at future conference with the mentorship committee.
- **Student Section Social:** We hosted a social for all student attendees of the conference and enjoyed great conversations and made many new connections. At the social we held a much anticipated book raffle of autographed books generously donated by several AP-LS authors and editors. Many authors offered words of advice for our students. One of our favorites was Dr. Don Bersoff’s Ethics book that was autographed: “To my future ethical colleague – Don Bersoff, APA President”!
- **Student Poster/Paper Awards:** We were able to offer eight awards for outstanding student posters and papers at this year’s conference. This included one award for outstanding diversity presentation and one award for outstanding innovative presentation. Congratulations, to our winners!
  - **Best Overall Posters**
    - Hayley Wechsler, *From the lab to the courtroom: Assessing attorney beliefs*
concerning scientific evidence and expert credibility. Sam Houston State University

- Stephanie Kline, Offender characteristics, offender PAI scores, and victim characteristics for White, Black, and Latino sex offenders. Sam Houston State University.
- Casey LaDuke, Neuropsychology can enhance violence risk assessment: Opportunities and limitations for mental health professionals. Drexel University.

- **Best Overall Papers**
  - Jacklyn Nagle, Smiling behaviors and credibility in actual trials: Naturalistic observations of witnesses. University of Alabama
  - Katlyn Farnum, Effects of instruction type and vigilance on age discrimination judgments. University of Nebraska-Lincoln
  - Lauren Kois, Competency to stand trial among adult female inpatients. John Jay College and the Graduate Center, CUNY

- **Diversity-Related Research Award Winner**
  - Lauren Gonzalez, Microaggression experiences of persons with mental illness and criminal justice involvement: An exploratory study. John Jay College and the Graduate Center, CUNY

- **Innovation-Related Research Award Winner**
  - Lindsey Davis, Comparing sexual homicide offenses against children, adolescents, and adults. John Jay College and the Graduate Center, CUNY

**PHOTOS FROM AP-LS 2013 IN PORTLAND**

First row: Ron Roesch & Patty Zapf signing copies of their books (first three photos), Campus Representatives at the CR Recognition Breakfast; Second Row: AP-LS Fun Run along the Willamette River, Don Bersoff’s signed book and the student winner of his book at the raffle with Committee Chair Alana Cook; Bottom row: AP-LS students enjoying the Student Section Social (first three photos), Student Section Committee at the conference.
We have also completed our law student survey. A report was prepared by our Law Liaison, Meghann Galloway. An abstract is provided below. For a copy of the full report, go to www.ap-ls/students.

Abstract: In order to collect data on the prevalence and status of legal education among current AP-LS members, the Student Section Committee developed and distributed a survey asking AP-LS members about their experiences and opinions related to this topic. Of the 294 individuals who completed this survey, the majority reported never having received formal legal training in a law school setting, although those who did report completing this type of training generally appeared to find it helpful. A significant majority of respondents reported a primary focus in psychology over law, and a sizable minority report to principally practice in an academic setting. Many respondents articulated a desire for increased opportunities to network with lawyers and dual degree professionals, and stated they generally wanted more education in the law through AP-LS. It is the hope of the Student Section that the results from this survey will prompt conversation among members of the organization related to legal training and ways in which any deficits can be addressed.

POST-DOCTORAL RESOURCES

Our experimental liaison, Marlee Kind Berman, has compiled an up to date list of post-doctoral sites in psychology and law that is now available on our webpage: http://www.ap-ls.org/students/postdoc.php

2013 APA CONFERENCE PLANS

The Student Section Committee of Division 41 (American Psychology-Law Society) has extended an invitation to all students to attend two of our events this year at the 2013 APA Convention in Hawai’i.

First, we are co-hosting a panel with the student leaders of Division 18 (Psychologists in Public Service) titled "Trauma and the law." Presenters will speak on topics that will be of interested to those with clinical, legal, and policy interests alike. Panelists will also dialogue with the audience. The panel is comprised of:

- Dr. Joel Dvoskin, who teaches at the University of Arizona Medical School and has a consulting practice in forensic psychology in Tucson, Arizona.
- Dr. Patricia Griffin, a long-time consultant for SAMHSA’s GAINS Center for Behavioral Health and Justice Transformation, the TAPA Center for Jail Diversion, and the Pennsylvania Mental Health and Justice Center of Excellence.
- Dr. Nancy Wolff, an economist, professor, and director of the Center for Behavioral Health Services & Criminal Justice Research at Rutgers University.
- Dr. Amanda Zelechoski, an assistant professor at Valparaiso University.

Dr. Dvoskin will present recommendations he offered in coordination with the American Psychological Association for members of a community following the occurrence of a traumatizing mass tragedy, such as the recent shootings in Colorado and Arizona. Dr. Griffin will discuss her experience with recent developments in diversionary efforts for military personnel and veterans.
with mental health problems, including veterans-focused crisis intervention training for law enforcement officers, screening jail inmates for military service and common mental health symptoms, and diversionary veterans courts. Dr. Wolff will present a study she conducted that examined the traumatic and stressful event exposure and psychiatric health characteristics of a large sample of incarcerated males. Finally, Dr. Zelchoski will present research and recommendations related to implementing trauma-informed practices in law enforcement and correctional settings.

The panel is scheduled for Thursday, August 1, from 11:00-11:50a.m. in Room 319A in the Convention Center. All are welcome!

Second, we are hosting a social from 12:00-1:00p.m. in the Division 41 hospitality suite (the hospitality suite room number will be posted in the hotel lobbies when APA begins). Snacks and refreshments will be provided. Again, all are welcome!

We look forward to meeting everyone at the two events!

**STAY TUNED**

In the coming months we will be holding elections for next year’s Student Section Committee! Election announcements will be made in June and July. We strongly encourage students to consider running for a position. See the dates of the election below and keep an eye on your inbox. You must be an AP-LS Student Member to run in the election.

- June 29th: Call for nominations opens
- July 13th: Call for nominations ends
- July 14th: Online election of officers begins
- July 28th: Online election of officers closes
- July 30th: Elected officers announced

**REMEMBER**

Our communications officer, Brianne Layden, is always open for suggestions to post to our Facebook page. We recently started a feature for student authors on the page that highlights recent articles published in psychology and law with student authors. If you are a student with a recently published paper or know of a student author on a recent published paper, please send it our way: blayden@sfu.ca

Remember to visit our webpage and like us on Facebook for regular updates from the Student Section Committee.

**THANK YOU!**

As this is the last newsletter contribution of the 2012-2013 Committee, we would like to thank all of the AP-LS members for their continued support for our committee over this past year. We would like to extend a special thanks to the Executive Committee of AP-LS. It has been a pleasure to work with you all. We would also like extend a special thank you to Kathy Gastky for her continued support and help! Last, and definitely, not least we would like to thank the committee members from this year’s Student Section and our past-chair, Lauren Kois. We met all of our goals set at the beginning of the year (and some!) thanks to the hard work and dedication of our committee members, and had a ton of fun while doing it. Thank you!
2012-2013 Committee Members:

Lauren Gonzales, B.A., *John Jay College of Criminal Justice, CUNY*
Brianne Layden, M.A., *Simon Fraser University*
Tallie Armstrong, M.A., *Sam Houston State University*
Casey LaDuke, M.S., *Drexel University*
Marlee Kind Berman, M.A., *John Jay College of Criminal Justice, CUNY*
Meghann Galloway, B.A., *Drexel University*

We thank all of you for your continued support and we look forward to seeing many of you in Hawai‘i!

Alana N. Cook, M.S.
Chair, AP-LS Student Section Committee
Simon Fraser University

Christopher M. King, B.S.
Chair-Elect, AP-LS Student Section Committee
Drexel University
Call for Papers for the Journal of Threat Assessment and Management

Journal of Threat Assessment and Management (JTAM) is a scholarly journal publishing peer-reviewed papers representing the science and practice of risk for violence and fear-inducing behavior. JTAM is published by the American Psychological Association and is a forum for scholarly dialogue regarding the most important emerging issues in the field. The first issue of the journal will appear in Spring 2013.

The Journal of Threat Assessment and Management will be an international periodical for professionals and scholars whose work focuses on operational aspects of threat assessment and management. The journal will be unique in three ways. First, it will be devoted exclusively to the subject of violence risk. Second, it will be applied in nature, dealing with the development, implementation, and evaluation of procedures for assessing and managing violence risk. Third, it will both reflect and promote the values of interdisciplinarity and internationalism, based on the view that preventing violence requires collaborations that cross professional and, in many cases, geopolitical boundaries.

Being published by APA connects Journal of Threat Assessment and Management to a large body of authoritative and high-quality research available through PsycARTICLES®, the most used full-text database in psychology and one of the most popular databases in all scholarly disciplines and fields. PsycARTICLES® is available to a global audience of nearly 3,200 institutions and 60 million potential users.

Stephen D. Hart, PhD is the incoming Editor of Journal of Threat Assessment and Management. He is professor of psychology at Simon Fraser University. Dr. Hart’s primary area of expertise is forensic psychology. His work focuses on clinical-forensic assessment in criminal and civil settings, particularly of violence risk and psychopathic personality disorder. As Editor, Dr. Hart is joined by international senior editorial advisory board members Jens Hoffman, PhD, J. Reid Meloy, PhD, and Lisa Warren, PhD.

The Journal of Threat Assessment and Management is now accepting submissions on topics such as:

- Targeted violence
- Threats against public figures
- Stalking
- Intimate partner and family violence
- Terrorism
- Group violence
- Sexual violence
- Workplace, school, and campus violence
- Assessment instruments and procedures
- Management strategies and tactics
- Threat assessment teams and units
- Operational issues
- Professional issues
- Legal issues
- Best practices

In addition to empirical reports of original research, we encourage submissions in the form of conceptual, theoretical, procedural, or legal reviews; case studies illustrating critical issues; and scholarly or professional comments and debates.

To submit an article or for more information, please visit: www.apa.org/pubs/journals/tam
Miscarriages of Justice

A Publication of the Albany Law Review

in Partnership with

The University at Albany School of Criminal Justice

Fourth Annual Issue: 2013-2014

Miscarriages of Justice is a special interdisciplinary issue of the Albany Law Review, published annually in collaboration with the University at Albany School of Criminal Justice. The Law Review’s fourth annual Miscarriages of Justice issue anticipates being published in the spring of 2014. The theme for the 2013–2014 issue is:

THE LAW’S PURSUIT OF TRUTH AND JUSTICE: CONGRUENCE AND CONFLICT

Truth and justice, both valued objectives of systems of law, are not synonymous. Although often interrelated and congruent, they frequently co-exist in tension and occasionally are at loggerheads. The fourth annual Miscarriages of Justice issue of the Albany Law Review, published in partnership with the University at Albany School of Criminal Justice, invites submissions that examine the fundamental relationship between truth and justice in law. Of particular interest are articles that explore and/or dispute the existence of circumstances under which justice arguably is best served (or only served) by ignoring or compromising the truth—or vice versa.

Example issues within the general theme:

1. Doctrinally, the truth is a casualty to competing principles of justice through constitutionally-based exclusionary rules, double jeopardy safeguards and statutes of limitations, evidentiary privileges, and policy grounded criminal law defenses such as diplomatic immunity and entrapment.

2. A proliferation of specialized tribunals—i.e., those exclusively dedicated to juvenile, veteran, drug-dependent, or mentally ill offenders—dispense a type of justice that arguably discounts certain truths, such as salient offense characteristics and the harms they cause, and instead emphasize the peculiar status and perceived disabilities of the accused offenders and treatment modalities.

3. Actors within the legal system similarly may be torn between serving the truth and adhering to competing ethical norms or precepts of justice, such as when attorneys cross-examine truthful witnesses, represent clients insistent on testifying falsely\(^1\), or learn that an innocent person has been convicted and is being punished for a crime committed by a client; when prosecutors possess evidence favorable to defendants who are factually guilty, or face post-conviction claims of innocence; or when litigants successfully shape the composition of the jury during voir dire.

4. In any of the foregoing circumstances, is justice necessarily served when other considerations are subordinated to the search for truth—i.e., an accurate and complete collection and exposition of the facts?

Can justice be promoted in law when the truth is skewed or deliberately disserved? Are there circumstances under which the truth must be subverted for justice to be dispensed under law? Is truth—the whole and nothing but—either a sufficient or necessary condition for justice? The Albany Law Review invites the submission of articles that explore these and related questions.

Articles must be submitted no later than December 1, 2013 to be considered for inclusion in the 2013–2014 Miscarriages of Justice issue. For further information or if interested in submitting to the fourth annual issue of Miscarriages of Justice, please contact Keri Bagala, Executive Editor for Miscarriages of Justice of the Albany Law Review, at kbagala@albanylaw.edu or by phone at (914) 299-6511.

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Call for Proposals for the AP-LS Book Series

The APLS book series is published by Oxford University Press. The series publishes scholarly work that advances the field of psychology and law by contributing to its theoretical and empirical knowledge base.

The editor is interested in proposals for new books. Inquiries and proposals from potential authors should be sent to Dr. Patricia Zapf, Series Editor (E-mail: pzapf@jjay.cuny.edu or phone: 212-866-0608).

AP-LS members receive a 25% discount on any book in the series. The series books are available for purchase online from Oxford University Press online at: http://www.us.oup.com/us/collections/apls/?view=usa

Call for Nominations

Did you have an outstanding undergraduate student this year? Nominate that person for the Undergraduate Paper Award!

Nominations are due June 30th. Nominations should include a copy of the APA-style paper (no more than 20 pages of text) and a letter of support from the mentor. Mentors, please speak specifically to the nature and extent of the student's contribution to the project. Email nominations or any questions to Twila Wingrove, wingroveta@appstate.edu.
AP-LS is now on Facebook!
Follow us at

www.facebook.com/APLS41

Submit your photos!

Help us make the newsletter more exciting by submitting your pictures. Pictures taken at research presentations, conferences, and other gatherings would be a great addition to future newsletters!

Submit pictures by emailing them to mhuss@creighton.edu
The AP-LS Committee for Early Career Professionals (ECPs) is pleased to provide an update on our recent activities and ongoing work related to the Grant-in-Aid program, conference events, and resources available to ECPs.

**Grant-in-Aid Program.** The Committee for ECPs administers a Grant-in-Aid program annually. In the most recent competition, we awarded grants of $5,000 to four ECPs to assist with costs of conducting their research. We are very pleased to announce the recipients for the 2012 Grant-in-Aid cycle:

- **Curt A. Carlson, Ph.D.**  
  *Texas A&M University – Commerce*  
  The influence of perpetrator distinctiveness on the weapon-focus effect and simultaneous versus sequential lineup performance: An ROC analysis

- **Jennifer A. A. Lavoie, PhD**  
  *Laurier-Brantford University*  
  Inside Insight Pilot Project: Gender Differences in Mental Health and Coping in Incarcerated Youth

- **Lindsay C. Malloy, Ph.D.**  
  *Florida International University*  
  Memory and Suggestibility in Children with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder

- **Galit Nahari, Ph.D.**  
  *Bar-Ilan University*  
  Verifiability: A new approach for detecting Lies

Congratulations to this year’s awardees! We look forward to hearing about their results at a future AP-LS or APA conference. Of course, integral to the Grant-in-Aid program are the numerous reviewers who volunteer their time to provide valuable feedback to applicants. We would like to express our sincere thanks to the following individuals for serving as reviewers during the 2012 Grant-in-Aid cycle:

- Karl Ask
- Brian Bornstein
- Maggie Bruck
- Ray Bull
- Brian Cutler
- Angela Evans
- Ron Fisher
- Fiona Gabbert
- Susan Golombok
- Par Anders Granhag
- Marcia Hartwig
- Lucy Henry
- Eric Hickey
- Carol Ireland
- Tedd Judd
- Patricia Kering
- Ali Khadivi
- Steve Lindsay
- Dawn McQuiston-Surrett
- J. Reid Meloy
- Laura Mickes
- Kathryn Modecki
- Jeff Neuschatz
- Tonia Nicholls
- Ira Packer
- Mark Patry
- Steven Penrod
- Jodi Quas
- Randall Salekin
- Dan Simon
Upcoming ECP Grant-in-Aid deadline: The next deadline is October 15, 2013. Details about the grant-in-aid program and application instructions are online at http://www.ap-ls.org/grantsfunding/ECPGrantsInAid.php

AP-LS Conference. This year, the conference co-chairs again offered reduced conference fees for ECPs who were within 3 years of their most recent degree (in addition, membership dues continue to be reduced for ECPs who are within 7 years of graduation).

The ECP Committee and Student Section co-organized a networking event: “AP-LS Networking Social: Connecting ECPs and Students with Luminaries in the Field.” Interested participants pre-registered and were matched with one or more of their identified “VIPs” with whom they were paired for a brief meeting/conversation. We very much appreciate the support of the following VIPs who attended the function:

Marcus Boccaccini  Tom Grisso  Allison Redlich
Brian Bornstein  Scott Gronlund  Ron Roesch
Bette Bottoms  Steve Hart  Richard Rogers
Stanley Brodsky  Kirk Heilbrun  Melissa Russano
Margaret Bull Kovera  Michael Lamb  Jennifer Skeem
Brian Cutler  Kimberly Larson  Chris Slobogin
David DeMatteo  Lindsey Malloy  Gina Vincent
Kevin Douglas  Cynthia Najdowski  Richard Wollert
Joel Dvoskin  Ira Packer  Jenn Woolard
Jennifer Eno Louden  Steven Penrod  Dustin Wygant
Jane Goodman-Delahuntly  Kathy Pezdek  Patricia Zapf

The ECP Committee also hosted an evening reception at the conference to promote socializing and networking opportunities. It was an excellent turnout, and we are looking forward to welcoming you to our social in New Orleans!

Call for Nominations: The APA Committee on Early Career Psychologists (CECP) is seeking nominations for two representatives to serve a 3-year term (2014-2016): an Education Representative and a State, Provincial, and Territorial Psychological Associations (SPTA) Representative. Candidates need to submit a statement of interest, curriculum vitae, and one letter of recommendation. Nomination materials must be received by August 16, 2013. Details about responsibilities and application instructions are available at http://www.apa.org/careers/early-career/committee/call-for-nominations.aspx

Upcoming Awards for ECPs: Alberti Center Early Career Award for Distinguished Scholarly Contributions to Bullying Abuse Prevention. Deadline: July 15, 2013. Details about eligibility, application, and selection procedures for this $1,000 award can be found in the attached and at http://gse.buffalo.edu/alberticenter/awards

Information about various funding opportunities available for ECPs through APA is available online at: http://www.apa.org/careers/early-career/funding/index.aspx

Upcoming APA Convention. As usual, the AP-LS ECP Committee will host a Hospitality Suite Social at APA (time/date TBD). On Saturday, August 3, 2013, at 6:00 pm the Committee on
Early Career Psychologists will host the Early Career Social Hour at the Hilton Hawaiian Village Beach Resort in the Rainbow Suites I and II. We hope to see you there!

If you have input for the ECP Committee on how best to support ECPs or if you would like to make a suggestion for a newsletter column or workshop topic, please contact the committee chair, Laura Guy (laura.guy@umassmed.edu), or any other member of the committee: Caroline Crocker Otis (carolinecrockerotis@gmail.com), Charlie Goodsell (goodselc@canisius.edu), Kathleen Kemp (kathleen.kemp@yahoo.com), and Troy Ertelt (troy@grandforkstherapy.com).
Notification of Conference and Call for Proposals

In recent years both academics and practitioners have increasingly begun to recognize that the field of psychology has a tremendous amount to offer practicing attorneys. Traditionally, those who connected law and psychology focused primarily on juries, trials, and criminals’ states of mind. But today, researchers are broadening their focus to examine the ways in which psychology can be of use to a wide variety of common lawyering practices, including interviewing, counseling, writing, negotiation, and ethical conduct as well as attorney satisfaction and business success. For one example of this work see Jennifer K. Robbennolt & Jean R. Sternlight, Psychology for Lawyers: Understanding the Human Factors in Negotiation, Litigation, and Decision Making (ABA 2012).

This growing field draws broadly from cognitive and social psychology pertaining to memory, judgment and decisionmaking, and persuasion; developmental psychology examining attachment theory or social and emotional development; clinical psychology relating to counseling, meditation, and communication; neuroscience as it relates to economic and moral decision making, emotion, and communication; and organizational psychology as it relates to the structures of legal practice. Legal researchers have come to this interdisciplinary field with varied backgrounds, including from clinical work, legal writing, alternative dispute resolution, pretrial litigation, family law, immigration, transactional practice, criminal law, health law, and many more.

Yet, while many are interested in the field of psychology and lawyering, this area has not yet fully coalesced. To date no conferences, listserves, or sections of organizations focus primarily on the potential contributions of psychological research to lawyering. Thus, while some in the growing field do exchange ideas and papers, others miss out on opportunities to benefit from each others’ ideas and experience.

Our goal in hosting this conference is to begin to fill this void – to bring together a broad range of academics in both law and psychology to focus on the many insights empirical psychological research can provide to law students and practicing attorneys. The focus will be on lawyering rather than law, in that we will examine how knowledge of psychology can enhance the practice of law rather than how it can inform substantive law (though the latter is also an interesting and important question). We will also consider how best to teach this material to
law students. And, the conference will include a discussion of next steps we might take to further advance this field.

We welcome proposals (250 words or less) from prospective presenters from law, psychology, or other disciplines who wish to present on how insights drawn from psychological research can be applied to help lawyers better represent their clients. (Presenters will be expected to pay their own expenses, except that UNLV will provide some nice meals.) Please submit your abstract electronically as a Word document or PDF to Jean.Sternlight@unlv.edu by July 15, 2013. Include a title and your contact information as well. The Nevada Law Journal has offered to publish approximately ten papers arising out of this conference. Please let us know if you think you might be interested in this publication opportunity. Final papers would be due in the summer of 2014.

Finally, if you are interested in attending the conference but prefer not to make a presentation, please let us know that as well. We will need panel chairs, attendees, and quite likely commentators. While there is no conference registration fee, attendance will be limited. You can reserve a spot by registering here: http://law.unlv.edu/registration-LawPsych2014. We will be providing more details on the conference, accommodations and other matters closer to the date.

If you have questions please contact:

Jean R. Sternlight
Saltman Professor of Law & Director Saltman Center for Conflict Resolution
University of Nevada, Las Vegas Boyd School of Law
Jean.Sternlight@unlv.edu
(702) 895-2358
Call for Psychology and Law Syllabi

The AP-LS Teaching, Training, and Careers Committee (TTC) is continuing its efforts to collect syllabi for courses in Psychology and Law or closely related topics. There are already a number of syllabi that have been collected over the years on the AP-LS website (http://ap-ls.org/education/Teaching.php). However, we would like to routinely post new syllabi. We would appreciate your assistance in providing us with a copy of your syllabi. If you have not already provided one, please do so in the following way: Send a copy of your syllabi to Matthew Huss (mhuss@creighton.edu). Soft copies may be submitted as e-mail attachments (Word Perfect, Word, or ASCII files are preferred)
**Grant Planner**

**American Psychological Association**
Various awards compiled by the APA are available for psychologists
Submission deadlines: Various

For further information see [www.apa.org/about/awards/index.aspx](http://www.apa.org/about/awards/index.aspx)

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**National Science Foundation**
Law and Social Sciences Division
Dissertation Improvement Grants
Submission deadlines: January 15th and August 15th, yearly

For further information see [www.nsf.gov](http://www.nsf.gov)

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**American Psychological Association**
Early Career Awards 2013
Various awards compiled by the APA are available for ECPs
Submission deadline: Various

For further information see [www.apa.org/about/awards/index.aspx](http://www.apa.org/about/awards/index.aspx)

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**American Psychology-Law Society**
Grants-in-Aid
Maximum award: $750
Submission deadlines: January 31st and September 30th, yearly

For further information see [www.ap-ls.org/grantsfunding/GrantsFunding.php](http://www.ap-ls.org/grantsfunding/GrantsFunding.php)

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**National Institute of Mental Health**
Various
Submission deadline: Various

For information on NIMH funding for research on mental health see [www.nimh.nih.gov](http://www.nimh.nih.gov)

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**American Psychological Association**
Student Awards
Various awards compiled by the APAGS are available for students
Submission deadlines: Various

For further information see [www.apa.org/about/awards/index.aspx](http://www.apa.org/about/awards/index.aspx)