

BOOK REVIEWS

BEHAVIOURAL ANALYSIS OF CRIME: STUDIES IN DAVID CANTER'S INVESTIGATIVE
PSYCHOLOGY. BY DONNA YOUNGS (Ashgate Publishing Limited, 2013,
313pp., £70.00)

Behavioural analysis of crime: Studies in David Canter's Investigative Psychology is an edited collection of papers written by a selection of Professor Canter's previous students and collaborators, edited by Donna Youngs to commemorate 25 years of investigative psychology research. It is important to note that the objective of this book is to celebrate Professor Canter's contribution to the field of behavioural analysis and as such the book may have limited appeal to a wider scholarly audience.

The book is organized into three broad sections, beginning with an overview of Professor Canter's investigative psychology theory and models. The first chapter sets the scene by providing a reflective paper on Professor Canter's eclectic and prolific career and pays particular homage to the investigative psychology approach which he has developed over the past quarter of a century. Regardless of whether the reader is an advocate of the investigative psychology approach, there is no question that Canter's contribution has revolutionized the way criminal behaviour is understood and analysed—particularly from within psychology. This is exemplified by a discussion of how Canter's approach to understanding offending behaviour as an extension of an offender's non-criminal activity provides a psychological perspective on criminological theories such as Routine Activity Theory.

The remainder of the chapters in Section 1 provide some further interesting examples of how research in the investigative psychology domain has sought to bring together paradigms already applied to other disciplines in order to provide novel perspectives on criminal behaviour. For example, the chapter by Maruna and Butler describes the successful integration of psychological and criminological theories culminating in research which highlights the important role of narratives in understanding identity and offending behaviour. Another example of this integrative approach is provided in the chapter written by Fritzon which describes how Shye's Action Systems Framework has been combined with Canter's Facet Theory to propose a new theoretical framework known as Faceted Action Systems Theory (FAST). The FAST framework provides a conceptual lens through which associations between characteristics of offenders and their actions can be viewed, which also has potential clinical implications. In addition, the chapter by Ioannou discusses the application of Russell's Circumplex of Emotions to understanding the role of emotions in offending behaviour and the fundamental similarities between emotions experienced in offending and non-offending behaviour. The approaches described in these chapters highlight some innovative theoretical perspectives championed by Canter and his colleagues and demonstrates the range of influence that these interdisciplinary approaches can have on understanding offending behaviour.

Following on from the first section's focus on Canter's contributions to novel theoretical perspectives, the second section contains chapters which discuss the main

methodological approaches adopted by investigative psychology research. Some of the chapters present very detailed description of research methodology, while others seemed out of place in this section—e.g. Chapters 8 (Homicide Crime Scene Analysis by Salfati) and 9 (Investigative Psychology and Suicide by Giles) were not as clearly methodologically focused compared to others. What struck me about this section of the book was the sudden, drastic shift in complexity of the material presented in these chapters compared to those in the previous section. For instance, Sean Hammond's chapter provides a very detailed and advanced discussion of indices of inter-variable similarity, culminating in the presentation of a novel index referred to as the Jaccard-Canter Index. The detail provided and the, at times, inaccessible writing style mean that only those readers with advanced knowledge and experience of multivariate statistics are likely to fully appreciate what Hammond has to say. Yet following Hammond's very technically challenging opening chapter, other chapters included in Section 2 are comparably lacking in detail and feel overly descriptive. These disparities between levels of analyses in this section left me with the impression that most readers would only find a small proportion of the chapters of interest, depending on their prior knowledge and level of expertise.

The third section of the book is entitled 'Investigative Psychology: A problem solving approach', although the content of this section is specifically focused on geographical profiling and case linkage analysis. Similar to the chapters in Section 1, the papers included here provide some interesting examples of how the investigative psychology approach has utilized well-established methods for novel purposes, such as the application of receiver operating characteristic (ROC) analysis to the field of case linkage described in the chapter by Bennell. The chapter by Hammond and Youngs provides a brief historical overview of geographical profiling and then moves on to demonstrate the usefulness of the spatial behaviour of offenders and distance decay for conceptualizing geographical profiling techniques. These methodological approaches for analysing offenders' spatial behaviour are then considered alongside Canter's concept of 'mental maps' which provides a psychological basis for understanding the significance of space in the context of offending.

Given the wide range of topics covered within the chapters, and the interdisciplinary nature of the investigative psychology approach, there are substantial variations in the tone between the various chapters and sections which readers may find difficult to reconcile. This is most evident in the variable levels of theoretical and technical detail provided throughout the chapters, and therefore the extent of prerequisite knowledge required by the reader. In order to fully appreciate this book from cover to cover, the reader would need a solid background in psychology, criminology, and multivariate statistical methods, however readers with such a background would most likely find some of the chapters overly descriptive and repetitive and lacking in critical engagement with competing and complementary theoretical and methodological approaches. For example, readers with knowledge of this subject area may find the lack of critical discussion surrounding the use of multi-dimensional scaling techniques and offender typologies disappointing. It appeared as though this might be addressed in Jamie Lee's chapter, and indeed this is the closest that the book comes to critical analysis of methodologies, however it only provides brief responses to some of the main issues concerning the use of the facet approach to analysing offending behaviour. I realize that providing a full review of the literature is not the aim of this book, however by not engaging consistently

with some of the key theoretical and methodological debates the main arguments in the book appear unbalanced.

In addition to the inconsistencies in technical content, it also seemed as though the sections and individual chapters were not written with any particular underlying goal or conceptual and stylistic continuity. This is perhaps understandable in a collection of papers such as this one however it made reading the book from cover to cover quite difficult. This lack of stylistic continuity is particularly apparent in Chapter 10 by Jamie Lee which is presented in a question and answer format, completely different than other chapters, which (for this reader) interrupts the flow of the book. Similarly, the final section of the book, which presents a (seemingly random) selection of works by Professor Canter, suddenly changes format which leaves the reader wondering how it relates to the content of the previous chapters.

After reading this book, I was left considering under which circumstances I would recommend this book to students or fellow academics. This is a difficult question, given the fact that the objective of this book is to celebrate David Canter's contribution as a researcher, practitioner, and mentor in the investigative psychology approach to understanding criminal behaviour. Due to this specific purpose, it is a collection of interesting articles written by scholars who have studied the investigative psychology approach with Professor Canter over the years. However, due to the nature of the book, it does not present a particularly well-balanced account of the theory and research. In my opinion, this limits the book's scholarly appeal, and I do not feel that it is objective enough to be used as a supplementary text for students studying criminology or psychology more widely. However, readers who wish to understand the history and contribution of Canter's investigative psychology approach will find this collection of papers interesting and insightful. My only advice would be to read this book with its purpose in mind and appreciate that there is a wider body of literature on these topics which interested readers (particularly students) should explore in order to ensure they have a balanced and well-informed opinion of the topic.

Lisa Smith

University of Leicester

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STREET ART, PUBLIC CITY: LAW, CRIME AND THE URBAN IMAGINATION. BY ALISON YOUNG
(Routledge, 2014, 177pp. £75.00 hb, £24.99 pb)

This is a book about illegal art on the street. It covers a wide range of artistic practice from graffiti through to guerrilla knitting, but with the main focus on 'street art'. Alison Young offers an intelligent and engaging account of her experiences as 'a spectator to and researcher of street art' (p. 9) drawing on 'two decades looking at art on city walls' (p. 9). Her research involved what she calls an 'ethnography of the cityscape' (p. 91) including interviews with 64 street artists from several cities conducted over a number of years. The book is structured around six substantive chapters interspersed by five vignettes of encounters with street art. Whilst Young has a romanticized view of street art and states, 'It would be easy to mistake the book's approach as stemming from an uncritical affection ... to assume it is a 'fanboy'

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