

Criminal Profiling: An Introduction to Behavioural Evidence Analysis

By B. Turvey

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Turvey summarises criminal profiling as 'the process of inferring distinctive characteristics of the individual offender responsible for a particular crime' (p. 1). In contrast, movies and television series readily suggest that criminal profiling is the work of chain-smoking alcoholics, tormented psychics or rookie cops plucked from the academy to solve serial murders for the FBI. Most paradigms of criminal profiling, however, require rather more logic, skills and expertise than that attributed to the fictional realm. It may, nevertheless, come as a surprise to learn that there is no governing body that regulates criminal profiling. As Turvey recognises, 'The plain truth is that many of those who refer to themselves as criminal profilers have no or little case experience, inadequate levels of training, and exist almost parasitically on the ignorance of the professional communities that profilers are intended to serve (p, xxviii). Thus, the aim of this book is twofold. Although primarily an academic text aimed at students, forensic clinicians, lawyers and detectives, underlining this work is the author's desire for criminal profiling to be regulated and afforded expert recognition. Turvey, himself a criminal profiler and forensic scientist, states, 'The criminal profiling community cannot continue to play to the images portrayed in the popular media and expect to achieve professional credibility, or maintain professional integrity (p, xxx). Although the majority of the chapters in this book are by Turvey, individuals from the fields of law enforcement, information technology, along with a psychiatrist and criminalist, have each contributed to the text. The first of the 25 chapters in this book offers, 'An Overview of Criminal Profiling.' The chapter summarises aspects of serious crime investigation in the US and UK and how such cases have influenced the evolution of criminal profiling as it is today. In chapter 2 Turvey takes a brief look at media portrayals of criminal profiling, in an effort to dispel the myths that psychic abilities are utilised in such practice. Indeed, it is no coincidence that Turvey refers to the supernatural under this chapter heading, Inductive Criminal Profiling. Turvey openly acknowledges that such methods, based on subjectively formed experience, are too often based on intuition, premise and statistical argument. Chapters 3 and 4, The Deductive Method of Criminal Profiling, and Goals of the Deductive Method of Criminal Profiling, respectively, introduce the model of criminal profiling utilised by Turvey. The book subsequently progresses using a deductive perspective, where one is encouraged to approach criminal profiling through 'a process of logic, reasoning, critical thinking and argumentation' (p. 15).

The process referred to by the author as behavioural evidence analysis (BEA) is the thorough examination of forensic evidence, victimology and crime scene characteristics (p. 31). Turvey views these three components as a language for crime-scene reconstruction and an expression of what occurred and how. The final step is the convergence of all the available physical and behavioural evidence and comprises the final, fully rendered criminal profile. In turn, chapters 5 to 11 lead

one through the logical progression of the deductive criminal profiling process and BEA, giving an overview of Case Assessment, Equivocal Forensic Analysis, An Introduction to Crime Reconstruction, Wound Pattern Analysis, Victimology: Profiling the Victim, Victimology: Risk Assessment, and Crime Scene Characteristics. Chapters 12 to 17 discuss in detail the behavioural and motivational characteristics of offenders, respectively; Organised V. Disorganised — A False Dichotomy, Understanding Modus Operandi, Understanding Signature, Motivational Typologies, Offender Characteristics, and Psychopathy and Sadism.

The subsequent three chapters, Investigative Strategy, Trial Strategy and Deductive Profiling: A Clinical Perspective from the UK, demonstrate the practical applications of BEA and criminal profiling. These chapters enable one to appreciate that for a profiler to practise effectively they require the support of a plethora of related disciplines. In turn, the need for regulated professional practice is echoed in chapter 20, Ethics and the Criminal Profiler.

Alternatives Methods of Offender Profiling (chapter 22) gives an overview of procedures for inferring specific or general offender characteristics. Such alternative methods include the polygraph, statement and handwriting analysis, models of geographic profiling, investigative psychology and smallest space analysis (SSA); the latter being a model of investigative psychology that deduces a criminal profile based on the offenders interaction with the victim.

The remaining chapters focus on the application of profiling to more specific offences, namely, Use of Fire and Explosives, Serial Rape and Serial Homicide and, Cyberpatterns: Behaviour on the Internet. Finally, the extensive appendices contain case studies to demonstrate the practical application of BEA and criminal profiling.

As noted in the preface, this work is a first attempt, by Turvey, to create a reference text of specific methods of criminal profiling and evidence interpretation. On a professional level Turvey has effectively utilised this text as a vehicle to proselytise for criminal profiling to be governed by a regulatory body. And from an academic perspective the author has presented a comprehensive introduction to a wealth of criminal profiling techniques and methods of implementation. However, although this text appears appropriate for the audience it is intended the large number of chapters tends to enforce brevity on detail in part. Similarly, despite the author's criticism of inductive methods of profiling the book is heavily supported by reference to other seminal texts, many of which actually advocate inductive profiling.

Such a publication, along with Turvey's private practice, will inevitably attract a degree of undesirable attention from offenders themselves. Nevertheless, in the early paragraphs of this book, Turvey openly acknowledges his intention to use the Author's Notes to 'unpack (my) emotional bags' (p. xv). Although the Author's Notes do offer an insight into Turvey's application of BEA, such personal disclosure seems inappropriate. Conversely, what does become apparent from this preamble is Turvey's respect for the victims of crime. Included in the text is an exercise to encourage victim empathy. Criminal investigations naturally focus on the offence and the offender and the victim becomes simply a by-product. Similarly, the author recognises that graphic and explicit case material can elicit a voyeuristic excitement in some individuals (p. 237). Thus, it is noted that Turvey has kept case photographs to a minimum. To date, many of the publications relating to criminal

profiling are based specifically on statistical, and often subjective and/or inductive studies from the UK and America. Turvey, however, offers an objective investigation tool. Similarly, whereas most paradigms of profiling are based on serial homicide and/or sex offences, BEA is applicable to all forms of serious crime ranging from stalking to cybercrime to sexual homicide.

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