

Criminal profiling



**ASSIGN
BUSTER**

Criminal Profiling 2010 Marlene Libby CRMJ 420 Barbara Bailey-

Instructor Thesis: In conjunction with law enforcement, forensic psychologists are working to integrate psychological science into criminal profiling. I.

Criminal Profiling. A.

Racial B. DNA C. Forensic II. Notable Profilers A. Thomas Bond B.

James Brussel C. Howard Tetan III. Controversies A. White v African American B. False Positives C. Scientific Validity References This paper investigates criminal profiling. It gives a brief introduction of its history and first use, then explores how effective it has been in solving crimes.

Arguments against its use are presented, and a conclusion on how to enhance its usefulness is also included.” When it comes to solving crimes, law enforcement agencies use numerous tools, resources, and people to aid them in their search for answers. One rather new resource comes from the field of forensic science, and more precisely from the field of forensic psychology. Law enforcement agencies use forensic psychologists to construct certain characteristics about a criminal who commits a certain crime; the characteristics are then formed into a criminal profile (offender profile in the United Kingdom). The law enforcement agencies then use these profiles to help identify, apprehend, and prosecute the criminals. This paper will examine criminal profiling to see whether or not it is an accurate and truly useful resource in the ever-evolving fight against crime.” Criminal profiling is based on the notion that criminality is a form of behavior that can be predicted based on knowledge of the perpetrators personality and personal characteristics. This paper looks at how during the last two decades

of the 20th century, the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) made extensive use of criminal psychological profiling in identifying perpetrators of specific crimes, such as arson, violent sex offenses, and serial criminals.

Criminal profiling is also known as offender profiling, criminal personality profiling, criminal investigative analysis and there to help investigators to profile unknown criminal subjects or offenders. There are three main goals of criminal profiling: 1. To provide law enforcement with a social and psychological assessment of the offender.

2. To provide law enforcement with a ??? psychological evaluation of belongings found in the possession of the offender???. 3. To give suggestions and strategies for the interviewing process. In modern criminology criminal profiling is considered to be the ??? third wave??? of investigative science. The first wave was pioneered by Scotland Yard in the 19th century, and it was the studying of the crime itself. The study of the psyche of the criminal is the third wave.

RACIAL PROFILING Racial profiling is one of the most volatile civil rights issues in the United States, and even the most successful African-Americans are not immune to it. Recent research shows that crime is down, but it also shows that police target African-Americans more than Caucasians. In New York complaints are up against New York police officers, because officers are required to treat residents with respect, and the 42nd and 44th precincts complaints are down. African -Americans are not the only ones targeted.

In Illinois, Hispanics take up 8% of the population; they represented 30% of the drivers stopped by police. In Maryland the percentage of Caucasians

<https://assignbuster.com/criminal-profiling/>

driving on I-95 is 76%, African-Americans are 17%. The percentage of police searches on white drivers was 20%, and on African-Americans it was 73%. A poll done by New York News polled 100 African-Americans and Hispanic men, 81 said they had been stopped and frisked at least once (Leo 16).

These studies show that police profiling might be a problem. So what is being done about it Civil Liberties group's want Federal legislation requiring all law enforcement agencies to track racial data from traffic stops. New Orleans police set up a warning system to spot cops with repeat offenses of profiling (Cannon & Morrow 35). Five states have since passed state laws outlawing racial profiling. In New Jersey Governor Christine Whitman forced the resignation of Col.

Carl A Williams Superintendent of the New Jersey State Police, for his insensitivity because remarks he made in a newspaper interview. In replying to accusations that the New Jersey State Police targeted African-Americans motorists for traffic stops on the New Jersey Turnpike. Col. Williams insisted that there was no racial profiling and that stops were made only on the basis of traffic violations. However, he was also quoted by the Newark Star-Ledger as saying that certain crimes were associated with certain ethnic groups, and that it would be naive to think that race was not an issue in drug trafficking. Col.

Williams also stated that the President of the United States went to Mexico to talk about drugs. He didn't go to Ireland. He didn't go to England. According to a survey sponsored by the New Jersey Office of the Public Defender, African Americans accounted for 13% of the drivers on the

south end of the New Jersey Turnpike, 15% of speeders, and 35% of those stopped by the State Police. Is this evidence of police racism Not necessarily. The most African-Americans and Hispanics are law abiding, but if drug traffickers are disproportionately African-American or Hispanic, the police don't need to be racist to stop many minority motorists, they simply have to be efficient in targeting potential drug traffickers. It is an unfortunate fact that much higher proportions of African-American children more than white children grow up at a social disadvantage, and are more tempted to break society's rules.

Although African-Americans are only 12% of the American population, in a recent year they comprised 56% of the arrests for murder, 42% of the arrests for rape, 61 % of the arrests for robbery, 39% of the arrests for aggravated assault, 31 % for burglary, 33% for larceny and 40% of the arrests for motor vehicle theft. Also 46% of state prison inmates i. e. those actually convicted of crimes were African-American (another 17% were Hispanic). DNA PROFILING Just a short time ago the only people that talked about DNA were scientists. Now it is almost impossible to be unaware of the impact that DNA has had on everything from the court system to genealogy. We could have a profiler that can identify us by are DNA, and that has people worried about that will be used. DNA identification is the most effective type of evidence.

It has the power to save people and to prosecute the guilty. DNA helps to identify potential suspects wrongly accused, and helps identify the crime itself. ??? Any type of organism can be identified by examination of DNA sequences unique to that species.

When DNA sequencing technologies progress further, direct comparison of very large DNA segments and possibly even whole genomes, will become feasible and practical and will allow precise individual identification (DNA Forensics 1). Forensic Psychology Forensic psychology can play a number of key roles in a criminal investigation. Immediately following a crime the forensic psychologist may be asked to act as a criminal profiler. Criminal profiling involves the psychologist using his understanding of human behavior, motivation, and pathology so that he/she can create a psychological profile of the offender. The profiles can be surprisingly accurate. From observations of the crime scene one can infer the behavioral characteristics of the individual who created it.

To a profiler everyone is a slave to his or her psychological make-up. Profilers use their knowledge of which the typical offender bears the characteristics and then predicts not only how the investigators can expect the offender to behave in the future, and also what the offender's physical appearance will be like. Forensic profiling is the process to gather data about the crime scene, victim, and offender while helping the investigators solve the case, arrest and prosecute the offender. Forensic profiling is always advancing with new research, tools, and information to help solve cases. Thomas Bond During the 1880's Dr Bond was trying to profile Jack the Ripper's personality. Thomas Bond was also a police surgeon, and assisted in the autopsy of Mary Kelly who was killed by Jack the Ripper.

Dr Bond had mentioned in his notes the sexual nature of the murders with elements of rage. Dr Bond's profile said that five murders of seven in the area

<https://assignbuster.com/criminal-profiling/>

at the time had been committed by one person alone who was physically strong, and daring, and is very composed. He also stated that the offender was a quiet person and who appears to be harmless in his appearance. Dr Bond reported later that the offender was responsible for other murders. James A. Brussel Dr Brussel was known as the ??? Sherlock Holmes of the couch???.

He was also known as the father of criminal profiling. His application of psychiatry to criminal investigation has earned him recognition as a true pathfinder. Between 1940 and 1956 New York was plagued by a bomber and at the time Dr Brussel studied photographs of the crime scene and analyzed the mailings that the bomber sent to the press to be able to give a detailed description of the offender. The police requested a profile from Dr.

Brussel as they were frustrated in not being able to narrow down the suspect. With the description that Dr. Brussel gave to the police they tracked down George Metesky who they arrested in 1957 and he confessed immediately upon his arrest. Dr.

Brussel assisted the New York City police from 1957 to 1972. Dr Brussel was also involved with the Boston Police and his profiling led to the apprehension of Albert DeSalvo who is better known as the ??? Boston Strangler???, this is when the media dubbed Dr. Brussel as ??? Sherlock Holmes of the couch???. Howard Tetan Howard Tetan served as a police officer in California, and he joined the FBI in 1962. Mr. Tetan was very interested in the application of criminal profiling and he included some of these ideas in his class that he taught at the National Police Academy in Washington, D.

C. Mr. Tetan met with Dr.

Brussel and he exchanged psychological strategies and investigative ideas with Dr. Brussel, but did not agree with Dr Brussel's Freudian interpretations. Tetan teamed up with Instructor Patrick Mullany and they designed a method for analyzing unknown offenders in unsolved cases. They tested their ideas on a case involving a seven year old girl who was abducted from the Rocky Mountain campsite in Montana in June 1973. The profile that they came up with led to the arrest of David Meirhofer a local 23 year old single man who was also suspected in another murder case. Meirhofer was the first serial killer to be caught with the new investigative technique called offender profiling or criminal investigative analysis. White v.

African American During the Civil Rights movement, thousands of African-Americans were arrested and beaten by police. Today we face the same problem, police departments get more and more complaints from African American citizens. In New York City in 1999 a street merchant was mistakenly shot to death because a cop thought he pulled out a gun.

In New Jersey four college basketball players were heading to tryouts at a college, when stopped the driver couldn't get the van into park and two officers opened fire. Luckily nobody was hurt. Racial profiling is one of the most volatile civil rights issues in the U. S. and even the most successful African Americans are not immune from harassment. Recent research shows that crime is down, but it also shows that police target African Americans more than whites. False Positive Results can be mislabeled or misread.

So when the evidence is in court how can a juror establish if an error was made. Scientists are not eager to admit their mistakes. However, what if a mistake was made. An innocent person could be convicted and a guilty person could be freed to kill again. There needs to be regulations set on the process in which DNA is tested it should not be allowed to be used in criminal courts until we can make sure that it is done correctly. References: 1.

Cannon, Angie, and James Morrow. ??? A Bruised Thin Blue Line.??? U. S. News and World Report 29 March 1999. 2. Leo, John.

??? Those NYPD Blues.??? U. S. News and World Report 5 April 1999: 16 -20
3. Drummond, Tammerlin. ??? It??™s Not Just in New Jersey,??? Time 14 June 1999 4.

Holmes, R. M., & Holmes, S.

T. (2008). Profiling Violent Crimes: An Investigative Tool(4 ed.) Thousand Oaks: Sage Publications, Inc. 5.

Wooster, Martin Morse. ??? The Truth about Racial Profiling,??? The American Enterprise., Septemeber 2001. 6. Harris, David A., ??? The Reality of Racial Disparity in Criminal Justice: The Significance of Data Collection.

??? Law and Contemporary Problems (2003). 7. Gladwell, M. (2007, 07 11). Dangerous Minds: Criminal Profiling made Easy.

“. Retrieved 12 5, 2010, from New Yorker. com: www. newyorker. com 8.

Berg , Bruce., ??? Criminal Investigation??? (2008), 4th Edition. 9. Harris, David A. ??? The Reality of Racial Disparity in Criminal Justice: The Significance of Data Collection.

??? Law and Contemporary Problems. (2003) 10. Perri, Frank S., Lichtenwald, Terrance G.

, (2009). ??? When Worlds Collide: Criminal Investigative Analysis.??? Retrieved 12 5, 2010, from: www.all-about-forensic-psychology.com