Welcoming Back *The Informer*

The Institute for the Study of Crime and Justice (ISCJ) was founded in 2004 and its primary mission is to extend the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice to the greater community by bridging the gap between theory, science, and practice of criminal and juvenile justice in Connecticut. Criminology faculty represent diverse social-science disciplines which provides a broad array of knowledge and expertise. This diversity enables the ISCJ to engage in a wide-range of activities benefitting the fields of criminal and juvenile justice. Prior work has included evaluating pilot programs for Court Support Services Division, Department of Children and Families, Department of Correction, Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, and the New Britain Police Department; conducting motivational interviewing and criminal thinking training sessions for probation officers and service providers; developing an assessment tool for criminal thinking; and restructuring and creating pre-trial assessment tools for bail staff.

The ISCJ staff is excited about the return of *The Informer*. *The Informer* was first published in 2007 as a way to disseminate information about the Connecticut criminal justice system. While it was discontinued after only three issues due to staff shortages, it received a significant amount of positive attention. *The Informer*, once again, seeks to provide useful and relevant information that benefits the practice of criminal and juvenile justice in Connecticut via quarterly publication.

We invite suggestions and questions as to how *The Informer* can be of utmost use to the field. Please feel free to email the editorial board of *The Informer* so that these suggestions can be considered for future issues.

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CJ News: OPM Releases 2010 Recidivism Report

Of 16,241 offenders released from DOC supervision in 2005:

- 68% were rearrested
- 57% returned to prison for a new charge
- 54% were convicted for a new offense
- 37% were reincarcerated to serve a new sentence

Source: Connecticut Office of Policy and Management
Recent Faculty Reports and Publications


This project attempted to develop a new method for studying people’s tolerance for sexual harassment. This has traditionally been studied by using self-report questionnaires, which may not reflect people’s actual behavior. The method developed in the present study involved a fake online speed-dating program that allows the researcher to directly manipulate someone’s exposure to sexual harassment and assess their willingness to tolerate the behavior.


Newly developed guidelines to assist bail commissioners in making bond recommendations were implemented with all pretrial personnel in Connecticut in the fall of 2009. Regular use of these guidelines is expected to generate more consistency in bond recommendations across courts.


The purpose of this chapter is to help clinicians, practitioners, and educators who work with children to understand the harmful effects of suggestibility on children’s recollections of past personal experiences. Biased interviewing techniques are discussed and examples are provided to assist interviewers in determining what to do and what not to do when interviewing children about negative life events.


This project examined whether knowledge of the motivation of a rapist can influence people’s perceptions of the victim’s and perpetrator’s responsibility for the crime. We provided research participants with vignettes describing sexually and violently motivated rapes and assessed their impressions of the victim and offender. We found that participants recommended a longer prison sentence for the rapist, and assigned less blame to the victim when a rapist is motivated by sex as opposed to a rapist motivated by violence.


A self-help program for changing problematic anger reactions that is based on the most up-to-date research on the topic of anger assessment, motivation for change, and treatment. The book provides basic information about anger and assesses readers’ readiness for change, focuses on seven evidence-based skills to bring anger under control, and presents options to consider if anger continues to be a problem after applying the skills in the book and how to use techniques from positive psychology to live a more vibrant and joyful life.

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Graduate Student Master’s Theses Completion, 2009

**Francine Hall**, *Religiosity and Criminal Thinking Patterns Among Religious Non-Offenders* (Advised by Raymond Chip Tafrate, Ph.D.)

**Diane Carlucci**, *The Relationship Between Criminal Thinking Patterns and Motivation* (Advised by Raymond Chip Tafrate, Ph.D.)

**Lyndsay Ruffolo**, *Exploring the Influence of Legal and Extra Legal Factors in Bail Decisions* (Advised by Jennifer Hedlund, Ph.D.)

**Sara M. Basford**, *Recidivism Among DUI/DWI Probationers* (Advised by Stephen M. Cox, Ph.D.)

**D’Arcy N. Lovetere**, *Criminality and the Life Course: A Study of the Influence of Age Graded Transitions and Offending Patterns* (Advised by Stephen M. Cox, Ph.D.)

**Jennifer Feitel**, *Sexual Harassment: A Comparison of Connecticut, Massachusetts, New York City, and Rhode Island Department of Corrections and the Private Sector* (Advised by Kathleen Bantley, Esq.)

**Michael Holness**, *Physical Fitness, Stress and Their Effects on Police Performance* (Advised by Shamir Ratansi, Ph.D.)
Conceptualization and Measurement of Criminal Thinking: The Criminogenic Thinking Profile

Damon Mitchell, Ph.D. & Raymond Chip Tafrate, Ph.D.

This recent manuscript concerns the development of the Criminogenic Thinking Profile (CTP), a new scale to measure criminal thinking patterns. The CTP was developed by collecting verbalizations from offenders that were judged by probation officers and case managers as examples of criminal thinking. These verbalizations were put into questionnaire format and became the first experimental version of the CTP. The scale was administered to a large group of offenders, and statistical analysis narrowed the CTP to a more efficient 62 item scale that measured 8 criminal thinking patterns. A follow up study with the revised version of the CTP supported the validity of the scale as a measure of criminal thinking among offenders: Scores on the scale were strongly positively correlated with measures of psychopathy, and aggressive personality disorders such as antisocial, sadistic, and borderline personality disorders, while being strongly negatively correlated with measures of healthy personality functioning. The instrument awaits future research exploring its clinical utility and its relationship with criminal behavior and other criminal thinking indices.

Definition of Criminal Thinking Patterns

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Thinking pattern</th>
<th>Description of thinking pattern</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Disregard for Others</td>
<td>lack of concern, empathy, and/or remorse</td>
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<tr>
<td>Demand for Excitement</td>
<td>low tolerance for boredom, impulsivity</td>
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<td>Poor Judgment</td>
<td>underestimating negative outcomes related to risky behaviors</td>
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<tr>
<td>Emotionally Disengaged</td>
<td>lack of trust, avoidance of emotions that lead to vulnerability and intimacy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parasitic/Exploitive</td>
<td>parasitic and exploitive worldview, evading responsibility</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Justifying</td>
<td>normalization/ minimization of antisocial/self-destructive behavior</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inability to Cope</td>
<td>giving up in the face of adversity, ineffective problem solving</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grandiosity</td>
<td>overestimating one’s skills, abilities, and inner qualities</td>
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What are some personality patterns positively related to criminal thinking?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Personality pattern</th>
<th>Description of personality pattern</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Psychopathic</td>
<td>lack of conscience, predatory</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sadistic</td>
<td>controlling, aggressive, callous</td>
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<tr>
<td>Antisocial</td>
<td>impulsive, dishonest, irresponsible</td>
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<tr>
<td>Borderline</td>
<td>unstable and unpredictable in mood and behavior</td>
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What are some characteristics negatively related to criminal thinking?

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<tr>
<th>Characteristic</th>
<th>Description of characteristic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adaptability</td>
<td>ability to adapt to changes in one’s environment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Work Life Skills</td>
<td>skills necessary to communicate/work effectively on the job</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Responsibility</td>
<td>doing things for the good of others</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Compulsive</td>
<td>perfectionistic, disciplined, rigid, conforming</td>
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</table>
Female Offenders in Connecticut

Susan V. Koski

Incarceration rates in Connecticut have dropped in recent years. The nearly 5% decline in the current prison population is likely due to a number of factors. Better usage of community resources and restructuring of probation and parole services are among the most significant. The numbers are expected to go down from about 18,000 inmates to around 17,700 by January 2011. However, the incarceration rate of female offenders nationwide has maintained a steady increase. From 1998 to 2008 the national female incarceration rate rose 40% compared to 25% for males. Female offenders are being incarcerated at a far greater pace than males which begs the question, how can Connecticut address this issue?

In an attempt to address the rising female prison population, literature suggests that female offenders must be treated differently than their male counterpart. Effective treatment must include numerous interventions by professional, empathetic, and experienced staff. Koons et al. (1997) provides six common issues found among the female prison population (see diagram below). Effective treatment programs may begin by identifying the common themes found within their specific female offender population and implement treatment accordingly. Community Partners in Action utilizes this model with the Resettlement Program, directed by Deborah Rogala. The program is unique in that it addresses the needs of their population through collaboration with the women’s prison (York), various community resources, and treatment facilities. Female offenders are also encouraged to share their stories within the community to provide outreach and assistance for others in need. Treatment efficacy for a growing prison population has implications that reach much further than the program itself. Community involvement as described by Koons et al. (1997) is considered a key role in the offender’s desistance process.

Reference:

Common Issues of Female Offenders (Koons, 1997)
- prolonged periods of unemployment and a lack of skills needed to gain stable employment
- substance abuse and drug dependency
- parenting issues; it is common for female offenders to begin having children prior to age 18
- lack of education
- mental illness
- childhood victimization; e.g., physical and sexual abuse

In 2007, there were a total of 1,821 state police officers (82 were female officers).
In 2008, there were 10,657 local police officers (787 were female).
As of 2008, there are 101 local police agencies in CT.
In 2008, the Connecticut State Police reported 190 assaults on officers, more than double than those in New Haven or Bridgeport.