

Forensic Psychology

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What is a Forensic Psychologist?

- Forensic psychology is most of the time focused on the criminals.
- They try to figure out:
 - why certain types of people commit crimes;
 - what type of person committed a crime;
 - and how to prevent people from committing crimes.
- They use psychology techniques to get clues and information about the crime

Eyewitness Identification

- Eyewitness testimony rely on what the witness saw/came across
- Law enforcement ask the eyewitness to identify a suspect by either a line up or photos.
 - A line up is where the witness stands in a room and identifies the possible suspect.
 - When photos are used, the eyewitness has to choose one photo to identify the possible suspect.



Eyewitness Error

Causes of Eyewitness error:

1. The witness is not often told that the criminal might not be on the line up or photos.
2. Many times victims accuse those by their race
3. The "fillers" are poorly chosen. They all have to look similar so no one stands out.
4. The person conducting the photospread/lineup knew who the suspect was.

False accusation

- In law, a false allegation is when a person can intentionally accuse another of a crime that they did not commit, and does so with full knowledge that the accused person is not guilty.

False Confessions

A false confession is when someone admits to be guilty of a crime when that person is actually not. The person takes place for the criminal.

http://www.law.cornell.edu/rules/frcrmp/rule_11

The reason behind false confession

Mr. Lowrey said: **“I didn’t know any way out of that, except to tell them what they wanted to hear”**

Reasons behind fake confessions:

- Is to avoid harm
- to get a benefit that was promised to them,
- to avoid interrogation
- to give into interrogation.
- mental illness
- Law enforcement could manipulate and extract a false story after intense interrogation and asking particular questions.

Interference with accurate identification

A person with direct or indirect access to the crime's information messes up with the reliability or accuracy of it.

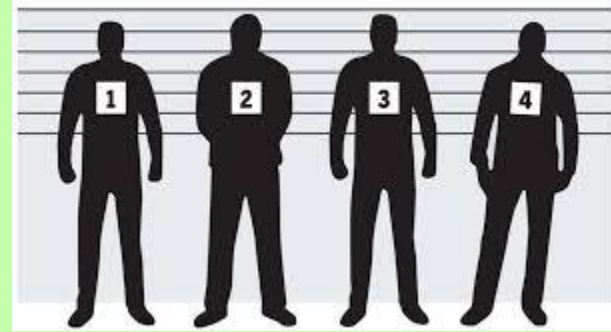
Causes:

- Suspects/Witnesses might have given wrong information
- Staff members might have pestered with the information to help either the suspect or the victim.

Misidentification

Often, witnesses or victims chose the wrong person in photo arrays or lineups.

The most common cause for misidentification is to rely almost 100% on the eyewitness' memory to identify the suspect.



Crime Details

Specific details of a crime can inform investigators about the criminals mental state, such as their behavior and how they conduct themselves.

Recognizing physical evidence can be critical in solving crimes.

References

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Information: False confessions

Use: supports idea that people may lie in interviews, leading to false confession or accusation.

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Information: Eyewitness identification

Use: describe what this is.

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