

The Application of Psychiatric Expertise In Law Enforcement

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The correlation between the psychiatric state and crime is widely known. The presence of a mental illness can often be observed in criminal cases and it has been proven that psychiatric disorders increase the risk of deviance. Given this knowledge, the question arises; whether law enforcement agencies can benefit from the experience and scientific achievements of psychiatric professionals. In the present paper we try to find the answer to this question. After a brief introduction of the psychiatric discipline the field of law enforcement reviewed where psychiatric expertise can be applied: criminal profiling and the most important methods of it, crime scene profiling, interrogation strategy and proactive media communication strategy. We demonstrate the advantages of psychiatric knowledge in law enforcement activity mainly through two mental disorders: schizophrenia and personality disorder.

Keywords: psychiatry, crime, profiling, interrogation, media communication

I. Introduction

The application of behavioral sciences in the fields of law enforcement has a long history. It is mainly the results of psychology that comes to mind when the role of mental health professionals during law enforcement activity is in the focus. It is undeniable, that psychology as the discipline of which the task is to explore and understand the overall human psychic has a special relevance in any case when the interpretation of the behavior is the goal.² On the other hand, due to the comprehensive nature of psychology, more specialized insight may be required in the case of certain extreme phenomena. Pathological mental state in relation to crime is one of those special situations when more focused specialty needed. The advantage that the special knowledge of psychiatry can offer in criminal cases that include mentally affected participants is widely recognized. The application of psychiatry in relation of crime is given as a routine due to the established activity of forensic psychiatry. Although the role of forensic psychiatrists in criminal cases is clear and generally accepted, it is often limited precisely because it is well defined and routine. Psychiatric expertise is mainly focused on the assessment of the mental capacity of the offender or other participants of the crime to estimate their competency to stand trial.³ This limited use of psychiatric knowledge is a waste of potential on several levels since the psychiatric field's understanding of the human psyche is way deeper and more complex than simply estimating someone's capability of conscious decision-making. There have been occasions when the possibilities of the utilization of psychiatry during law enforcement activity have been tried and succeeded. Criminal profiling is one of the most important methods by which psychiatric expertise

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² Ellen Scrivner, David M. Corey, and Lorraine W. Greene. 'Psychology and law enforcement.' *The handbook of forensic psychology* (2006), 534-551.

³ Julio Arboleda-Flórez 'Forensic psychiatry: contemporary scope, challenges and controversies', *World Psychiatry* 5, no 2 (2006), 87-91. PMID: 16946941; PMCID: PMC1525122.

has been successfully applied during criminal investigations.⁴ In fact, the very beginning of criminal profiling has a strong connection with psychiatry. In the 1950`s the case of the Mad Bomber, George P. Metesky was the first time when a criminal profile was successfully made. The profile was the work of a psychiatric practitioner, James A. Brussel. Brussel created the Bomber`s crime scene profile based on police reports and his clinical experience. The profile was so accurate that it shocked not only the law enforcement community, but it was a sensation even amongst laics.⁵ The spectacular success of Brussel`s profile encouraged criminal professionals to create methods using similar approach. A widely known example for this is the design of Criminal Investigative Analysis (CIA) developed by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, of which the famous organized - disorganized categorization has definite analogy with conditions defined by the psychiatric field. Besides the established profiling approaches, clinicians are still included during profiling activity. Although when they are it is usually sporadic, and their involvement is highly dependent on the nature of the actual case and the personal experience of the specialist.^{6,7} When criminal profiling is mentioned the first thing that comes to mind is crime scene analysis. Crime scene analysis is the most critical aspect of criminal profiling indeed, but there are other subfields of the method that deserve attention. Here we mention the most relevant ones, that are the following: crime scene analyzes, interrogation strategy and media communication.⁸ All of them may have an important role during criminal investigations supporting the work of law enforcement professionals. Since criminal profiling is mostly utilized in cases when a special psychological character of the offender is suspected, applying the psychiatric experience may be useful if not critical. In the following we introduce the potential role of psychiatric expertise in each criminal profiling method.⁹ Due to length limitation, we will not exhaust this topic, but it is not the goal anyway. Here we attempt to give the reader a brief insight to the nature of psychiatric knowledge and the possibilities it offers to the field of law enforcement.

II. Psychiatric knowledge

When the possible application of psychiatric expertise in criminal cases is in the focus, it is essential to clarify the actual definition of psychiatry and briefly introduce its assets. Psychiatry is a medical discipline of which the focus is the psyche and the disorders that affect it. Although psychiatry has a waste body of science and literature behind it, it is mainly a practical field hence the focus is the treatment of the mentally ill. Psychiatric professionals – even those who tend towards theoretical aspects of the field, all have a well based practical experience. This is important to emphasize, since this is one of the major factors that differs it from its closest fellow science, psychology. The

⁴ Michael G. McGrath, ‘Criminal profiling: Is there a role for the forensic psychiatrist?’, *The Journal of the American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law* 28, no 3 (2000), 315-324. PMID: 11055529.

⁵ Louis B. Schlesinger, ‘Psychological profiling: Investigative implications from crime scene analysis’, *The Journal of Psychiatry & Law* 37, no 1 (2009), 73-84. <https://doi.org/10.1177/009318530903700106>

⁶ Brent E. Turvey, *Criminal Profiling, An Introduction to Behavioral Evidence Analysis*, (London: Academic Press, 2023).

⁷ The CIA distinguishes two types of offenders: the one that leaves an organized crime scene and the other with a disorganized scene. Organized perpetrators show high level of control, planning and have good social skills, the disorganized type is socially incompetent, commits unplanned crimes and impulsive. The first subgroup corresponds psychopaths described by the psychiatric field; the latter falls in to the psychotic category of psychiatric nosology. Turvey, ‘Alternative Methods’, 75-122.

⁸ Turvey, ‘Criminal Profiling’.

⁹ McGrath, ‘Criminal profiling’.

latter is primarily a theoretical science.¹⁰ Applied psychologists are trained on the postgraduate level and it is a possibility chosen by only a part of them.¹¹ The other main characteristic of psychiatry that is worth underlining is its special object. As a medical field main concern of it is indeed the mentally ill. However, the stereotype that psychiatry is competent only in the case of severe mental disorder is not true. Psychiatrists are trained in hospitals treating major psychiatric patients during their internship. Later in their career they can turn towards psychotherapy via which they can get a deep insight into the human psyche that is not affected by severe mental disorders.¹² But without psychotherapeutic specialty psychiatrists can focus on the psychological aspect of the field if they have the personal aspiration to it. In psychiatric wards not only severe pathologies are treated. Patients get hospitalized dealing with crisis, life circumstances provoked affective problems, substance abuse and decompensation of personality disorders daily.^{13;14} As a result of that psychiatrists have the opportunity to get a practice-based knowledge about the human personality from the very beginning of their training. Therefore, the stereotype that psychiatrists cannot handle cases without major mental disorder is not accurate. It is better to say that psychiatrists are the most confident, when the mental disorders are serious, and they are the most competent professionals in such cases. Psychiatry concentrates on the mental condition, which means it works with the manifestations of the psyche – psychology on the other hand focuses on the general structure of it.¹⁵ The most important `tool` of psychiatry is the psychiatric status, with a precise description of the perceptible manifestation of the actual mental condition. The psychiatric status investigates the subject's condition by aspects such as the orientation, the style of thinking and the apparent sign of affective functions.¹⁶ The precise examination routine required by psychiatrists gives them a unique understanding of metacognition that only a few professional experiences can provide. In psychiatry there is a great importance attributed to the so-called anamnesis, that both include the medical antecedent, family history, the prior lifestyle, and socio/economic circumstances. As we mentioned, besides the medical status the personality is assessed, and professionals pay attention to it as a crucial factor during the treatment. A hospitalization usually takes weeks, but in certain cases it can last for months, even years. During this time the psychiatrists closely follow the patient's condition with a special regard for their interactions and overall behavior. All these different aspects of the patient's condition are summarized under the diagnoses.¹⁷ Giving a diagnosis to a patient is not only giving a name to the symptomatology. The diagnosis is only a word for those who do not understand the logic of psychiatry. The psychiatric diagnoses include all the aspects of the condition we just detailed, and even more. With a diagnosis the clinicians assume the etiology of the condition, in other word they

¹⁰ Thomas Grisso, 'The differences between forensic psychiatry and forensic psychology', *Journal of the American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law Online* 21 no 2 (1993), 133-145.

¹¹ Robert S. Woodworth, 'The future of clinical psychology', *Journal of consulting and clinical psychology* 60 no1 (1992), 16-17. <https://doi.org/10.1037/0022-006X.60.1.16>

¹² Glen O. Gabbard, 'Psychotherapy in psychiatry', *International review of Psychiatry* 19 no1 (2007), 5-12. <https://doi.org/10.1080/09540260601080813>

¹³ José M. Bertolote et al., 'Psychiatric diagnoses and suicide: revisiting the evidence', *Crisis* 25 no 4 (2004), 147-155. <https://doi.org/10.1027/0227-5910.25.4.147>

¹⁴ Charles R. Swenson et al., 'The application of dialectical behavior therapy for patients with borderline personality disorder on inpatient units', *Psychiatric Quarterly* 72 (2001), 307-324. <https://doi.org/10.1023/A:1010337231127>

¹⁵ Woodworth, 'The future of clinical psychology'

¹⁶ Ahmed Aboraya et al., 'The reliability of psychiatric diagnosis revisited: The clinician's guide to improve the reliability of psychiatric diagnosis', *Psychiatry (Edgmont)* 3 no1 (2006), 41-50 PMID: 21103149; PMCID: PMC2990547.

¹⁷ Aboraya, 'The reliability of psychiatric'

specify the origin of the condition, e.g. whether the symptoms have the root on the personality or it is due to a biological reason. This makes a huge difference, since a potential biological etiology we assume that the patients overall functioning is affected. Furthermore, with the diagnosis the psychiatrist assumes the future outcome of the patient's condition, that means they attempt to predict the longitudinal run of his life. To summarize, the diagnosis is a profile of the patient for those who understand it. Adopting this kind of knowledge in criminal cases can increase the quality of criminal profiling a great deal.^{18;19}

III. Criminal profiling

In the following we discuss the possibilities of the application of psychiatric knowledge in the different aspects of criminal profiling. But before we start to introduce the different areas of it, first we must define criminal profiling. Several authors attempted to give the specific definition of criminal profiling, and they all agree on certain aspects of it. First, criminal profiling is a method of which the goal is to support the criminal investigation and not to carry it out. This may sound obvious for many, but due to the popularity of criminal profiling in the entertainment industry and the way criminal profiling is represented in pop culture, there are many misconceptions about it even among professionals. Criminal profiling basically attempts to give a general description of an unknown offender based on their behavior shown in the crime scene. With this image it helps the investigators to narrow the circle of suspects. The basic assumption of the criminal profile is that the criminal behavior has correlation with other traits that have no direct role in the criminal act per se. These traits usually involve personality, socio-economic and criminal characteristics. The depth of the profile varies by the criminal profiling methodology.²⁰ There are several approaches of criminal profiling, but there are only four that almost always mentioned; the aforementioned CIA, Investigative Psychology attributed to Canter, Brendt Turvey's Behavior Evidence Analyses and the so-called clinical profile, that has no established methodology and is more like an umbrella term, involves clinical practitioners assisting to investigations. Each approaches have different scientific backgrounds, hypothesis, and method therefore the nature of the resulting profile varies between them.²¹ In this paper we just mention these approaches and we leave their detailed explanation to further publication, since the goal here is to discover the possibilities of the clinical profile. The essence of criminal profiling is the crime scene profile. During profiling activity, the goal is to reconstruct an unknown person behind a crime of which the most important information's we can find in the crime scene. This is not limited to the crime scene per se but includes witness testimonies, autopsy reports and the result of other forensic expertise. Based on the integration of all this information, the profiler creates the profile based on the methodology they use.²² The crime scene profile is the main aspect of the role of the criminal profiler, but in certain cases it does not stop there. When it required the criminal profiler is competent to provide further aid to the

¹⁸ American Psychiatric Association, D. S. M. T. F., and American Psychiatric Association. *Diagnostic and statistical manual of mental disorders: DSM-5*. Vol. 5. No. 5. Washington, DC: American psychiatric association, 2013.

¹⁹ Allen Frances, 'The past, present and future of psychiatric diagnosis', *World Psychiatry* 12 no 2 (2013), 111. doi: [10.1002/wps.20027](https://doi.org/10.1002/wps.20027)

²⁰ Wayne Petherick and Nathan Brooks, 'Reframing criminal profiling: a guide for integrated practice', *Psychiatry, Psychology and Law* 28 no 5 (2021), 694-710. DOI: [10.1080/13218719.2020.1837030](https://doi.org/10.1080/13218719.2020.1837030)

²¹ Turvey, 'Criminal profile'

²² Laurence Alison et al., 'The personality paradox in offender profiling: A theoretical review of the processes involved in deriving background characteristics from crime scene actions', *Psychology, Public Policy, and Law* 8 no 1 (2002), 115-135. <https://doi.org/10.1037/1076-8971.8.1.115>

investigators. This usually means that they follow the process of the investigation and assist in it actively. There are two main areas where the profiler can help the investigation: media communication and interrogation strategy.²³ Media communication is a proactive strategy aimed at provoking the perpetrator to show some activity or make them contact the police in some way so they can be identified. Media communication usually uses some kind of psychological strategy and strongly relies on the crime scene profile. The same is the case during the interrogation strategy as well, with the only difference that at this point of the investigation a suspect has been arrested and the profiler assists the investigator in the hope of a confession. Law enforcement and behavior science already came up with interrogation strategies that have already been proven to be effective.²⁴ These strategies focus on the most effective ways to get to the truth detecting controversies in the testimony and they are not specific to different types of personalities.²⁵ The interrogation strategy that the criminal profiler creates is more like a psychological tactic of which the aim is to get to the specific subject therefore it is designed to the actual person and based on the crime scene profile.

IV. The Clinical approach in the different aspects of criminal profiling

Clinical profiling is the approach of criminal profiling that applies the knowledge and experience of mental health professionals. Psychiatry is not the only clinical discipline that can be utilized for this goal. Clinical psychology also suitable for this purpose, and in ideal circumstances the two are used together. However, in this paper we focus on psychiatry with the special regard of its advantages detailed before. Clinical profiling does not have an established methodology and contrary to the other criminal profiling approaches there has been no empirical research carried out aiming to give it a scientific background. Clinical profile highly relies on the personal experience of the clinicians.²⁶ However, if there are no studies having the specific goal to develop a clinical profiling method, there have been several research done to explore the correlations between mental disorders and crime.²⁷ Among the results of these works we can find many that are suitable to apply during criminal profiling activity. In the following we will refer to them while representing the potential of psychiatric knowledge in relation of criminal investigations.

A Crime scene profiling

Crime scene profiling is the very base of criminal profiling and accordingly most of the research focuses on this aspect of the method. When the correlation of psychiatry and crime is the subject psychoses is the phenomenon that is discussed the most often.²⁸ Psychosis is a condition that can occur on the bases of several psychiatric disorders. In the state of psychosis, the person loses the connection with reality. Psychoses can occur in various forms. The most characteristic psychotic

²³ Sanjeev P Sahni and Tanni Choudhury, 'The science of criminal profiling', *Criminal Psychology and the Criminal Justice System in India and Beyond* (2021), 51-68. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-16-4570-9_4

²⁴ Turvey, 'Criminal profiling'

²⁵ Christian A. Meissner et al. 'Developing an evidence-based perspective on interrogation: A review of the US government's high-value detainee interrogation group research program', *Psychology, Public Policy, and Law* 23 no 4 (2017), 438-457, <https://doi.org/10.1037/law0000136>

²⁶ Turvey, 'Criminal profiling'

²⁷ Emily D. Gottfried and Sheresa C. Christopher., 'Mental disorders among criminal offenders: A review of the literature', *Journal of correctional health care* 23 no 3 (2017), 336-346. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1078345817716180>

²⁸ Helinä Häkkänen and Taina Laajasalo, 'Homicide crime scene behaviors in a Finnish sample of mentally ill offenders', *Homicide Studies* 10 no 1 (2006), 33-54. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1088767905283544>

symptoms are hallucinations and delusions. Hallucinations are perceptions that lack external stimulus, delusions are false ideas in which the person unwaveringly believes. The most common psychiatric disorder that comes with psychoses is schizophrenia. Schizophrenia is a chronic psychiatric disorder that leads to the person's deterioration in the long run. The psychoses characteristic to schizophrenia usually comes with hallucinations – mainly the auditory type and delusions. Besides that, disorganized speech, grossly disorganized or catatonic behavior and negative symptoms²⁹ can be observed.³⁰ Several studies investigated the violence correlated to schizophrenia, and many of them showed results can be useful for crime scene profiling. For example, studies found that the crime scene of violent offences committed by schizophrenics are usually disorganized, shows signs of extreme brutality and bizarre. The victimology can be characteristic in the case of murders committed by people with schizophrenia.³¹ Close relatives as victims are typical. Matricide is especially common among schizophrenic murderers, and this is true vice versa; the most matricide is committed by people with the disorder.³² The profile of the schizophrenic offender has been investigated as well. Research has found that those patients who show violent tendencies usually come from lower socio-economic background, single, and live an isolated lifestyle. They are usually men. A typical symptomatology has been identified as well, patients with violent tendencies usually suffer from commending or threatening acoustic hallucinations and religious, paranoid or possession type delusions.^{33;34} Schizophrenia is a good example to demonstrate that psychiatric knowledge can support the criminal profile. Paraphilias have an unquestionable importance in criminal profiling due to their significance in serial murders^{35;36} and they are often related to personality disorders.³⁷ Personality disorder is class of mental disorders characterized by pervasive dysfunction of behavior, cognition, and emotional experience. The maladaptive pattern of coping mechanisms is exhibited across many contexts and deviating from those accepted by culture. There are three clusters of personality disorders, Cluster

²⁹ Negative symptoms can appear in several forms. The most typical to schizophrenia is the decrease of emotional expressions, the lack of motivation and spontaneous activities, spontaneous speech and the loss of the ability to enjoy pleasures previously appreciated and asociality. American Psychiatric Association, 2013

³⁰ American Psychiatric Association, 2013.

³¹ Jonghan Sea, Eric Beauregard, and Sanggyung Lee, 'Crime scene behaviors and characteristics of offenders with mental illness: A latent class analysis', *Journal of forensic sciences* 65 no 3 (2020), 897-905. doi: 10.1111/1556-4029.14276

³² Robert A. Schug, 'Schizophrenia and matricide: An integrative review', *Journal of Contemporary Criminal Justice* 27 no 2 (2011), 204-229. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1043986211405894>

³³ Both hallucinations and delusions have several types. Hallucinations can occur at the level of all sensory modality - e.g. visual and acoustic, and they are quite variable by their theme – e.g. an acoustic hallucination can be commending, commenting or threatening. The same is true to delusions, there are several types of delusions – e.g. paranoid, possession or religious type. The type of the symptom and its content are usually typical of the patient. American Psychiatric Association, 2013.

³⁴ Markku Eronen, Jari Tiihonen, and Panu Hakola, 'Schizophrenia and homicidal behavior', *Schizophrenia bulletin* 22 no 1 (1996), 83-89. doi: 10.1093/schbul/22.1.83

³⁵ Paraphilias are perversions in the medical sense. The most important paraphilias in relation of crime are sadism – sexual arousal triggered by torturing people or animals, and fetishism – sexual arousal fixated on objects or body parts. American Psychiatric Association, 2013

³⁶ Gene G. Abel et al., 'Multiple paraphilic diagnoses among sex offenders', *Journal of the American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law Online* 16 no 2 (1988), 153-168.

³⁷ Peer Briken et al., 'Paraphilia-related disorders and personality disorders in sexual homicide perpetrators', *Sexual Offender Treatment* 5 no 1 (2010), 1-7.

A, B and C.³⁸ Based on scientific data cluster A and cluster B personality disorders are the most important among offenders of sexual crime. Cluster A personalities share certain common features: they live an isolated lifestyle; they tend to behave eccentric and show a significant level of social incompetence. They tend to have rapid psychotic episodes, that are way less severe than the condition occurs with schizophrenia, but it still can have serious impact on their behavior. Therefore, offenders with cluster A personality may show disorganized behavior and the lack of control or planning in the crime scene. Cluster B personalities on the other hand are socially competent, in many cases quite extrovert, manipulative, impulsive and dramatic. Their capability of control is much higher than people with cluster A personalities and this usually shown in an organized crime scene.^{39;40}

B Interrogation strategy

Psychiatrist spend a career examining the extreme cases of humanity and it is safe to say that psychiatrist are experts of communication from a certain point of view. In the case of severe mental disorders, such as schizophrenia the significance of the psychiatric experience is obvious. But in other cases, this need is not that evident. Personality disorder is an excellent example for demonstrating this. Personality disorders as it was explained before a pervasive pattern of maladaptive behavior, cognition and emotion. Personality disorder is usually the result of social learning among abnormal circumstances and many author treat them as dysfunctional versions of the human personality.⁴¹ Interacting with someone with a personality disorder can be confusing, but not in the same way as it can be with someone with a severe mental problem, such as schizophrenia. Individuals with personality disorder are able to recognize their actions and consequences of them. On the surface they are make the impression of rational people but as the definition of personality disorder suggest, their cognition and emotion regulation are strongly impacted. This manifest mainly in their personal interactions and it makes the difficult to deal with.⁴² The cluster B personalities have a special significance in relation of crime. This is especially true to antisocial and narcissistic personality disorder, but borderline personalities are more common among offenders than in the normal population as well.⁴³ Interrogating a borderline personality can be very challenging due to their poor emotional regulation, tendencies of manipulation and impulsivity. The special phenomena of splitting can result quite embarrassing situation for those who do not have experience this group of people. Splitting is a spectacular psychological trait people with borderline personality show. The essence of splitting is the so called black and white style of thinking, that means a person can see people whether perfect and all good, or the opposite end, bad and evil. This change of perception of others is dramatic and erratic for the surroundings and usually comes with extreme emotional intensity. For example, if a borderline

³⁸ Cluster A: paranoid-, schizoid and schizotypal personality disorder, Cluster B: antisocial-, borderline-, histrionic- and narcissistic personality disorder, cluster C: dependent, avoidant and obsessive-compulsive personality disorder. American Psychiatric Association, 2013.

³⁹ Turvey, 'Criminal profiling'

⁴⁰ American Psychiatric Association, 2013.

⁴¹ Robert E. Kendell, 'The distinction between personality disorder and mental illness', *The British Journal of Psychiatry* 180 no 2 (2002), 110-115. doi:10.1192/bjp.180.2.110

⁴² Annemarie Miano et al., 'Emotional dysregulation in borderline personality disorder and its influence on communication behavior and feelings in romantic relationships', *Behaviour research and therapy* 95 (2017), 148-157. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.brat.2017.06.002>

⁴³ Randy A. Sansone and Lori A. Sansone, 'Borderline personality and criminality', *Psychiatry (Edgmont)* 6 no10 (2009), 16-20. PMID: 20011575; PMCID: PMC2790397.

personality sees someone all good and perfect, they tend to show extreme positive affections that are way inappropriate in the context. But with a sudden twist they can go from loving to openly hostile, that can be a hard situation to handle for the interrogator.⁴⁴ It is only one example that demonstrates what advantages may have the psychiatric insight during interrogations, but of course the list goes on and only due to the length limitations we do not exhaust it.

C Proactive media communication

It has been seen for several occasions that perpetrators on the run usually follow closely the media concerning the crime they have committed. It may have obvious motives: they try to collect information about the progress of the investigation for practical reasons. But in certain cases, the motivation is beyond the common sense and they are driven by emotional urges. This may be the case of perpetrators with certain personality disorders.⁴⁵ Antisocial-, narcissistic personality disorder and psychopathy are surrounded by many misconceptions. They certainly share many common features but they are not the same. Antisocial personality disorder is characterized by deviant attitude, lack of empathy and manipulative tendencies. People like that do not care with others, do not respect personal property, the law and refuse to reckon with the consequences of their actions. Antisocial individuals are impulsive and they show extreme level of sensation seeking. Psychopaths are people with antisocial personality disorder but they show further deviant traits. Psychopaths show extreme callousness, Machiavellianism, a tendency to manipulate on an extreme level, sadism and narcissism. Narcissistic personality disorder certainly shows similarities with antisocial personalities and psychopaths, but their overall character is distinguishable from the two.⁴⁶ The narcissistic personality's most important attribute is the extreme egoism and megalomania. They have a general sense of empowerment and consider themselves more important than the rest of people. They have an intense need to feel superior and they literally seek the admiration of others. They lack empathy and do not consider other people feelings, but they are usually more controlled than psychopaths and antisocial personalities. From a criminal perspective the main difference between narcissistic and antisocial personalities is their motivation. Antisocial personalities use aggression as primal coping mechanism, but their aggression is usually only a tool in practical agendas. This is the same with manipulation; they control people to get what they want.⁴⁷ Narcissistic on the other hand are motivated by their self-perception and the grandiose image they desperately try to show the world. This can be so extreme, that a narcissistic person would rather go against their best interest than to lose their sense of superiority.⁴⁸ If a law enforcement professional realizes this difference, he has a powerful tool against both type of perpetrators. Narcissistic perpetrators often take their crimes as glorifying acts that make them special and outstanding. They usually collect articles about their crimes and take their public image very seriously. In most of the cases, they do their best to stay in the shadows, but sometimes they cannot stand the temptation to show off with what they have done, and the history of criminology knows several cases when the offender got in touch with the media or the police sending bragging letters.⁴⁹ This phenomenon opens the possibility for law enforcement agencies to come up with

⁴⁴ Miano, 'Emotional dysregulation in borderline'

⁴⁵ Molly Gross 'Serial Murder and Media Coverage' (2020). *Honors Undergraduate Theses*. 794.

⁴⁶ American Psychiatric Association, 2013.

⁴⁷ John G. Gunderson and Elsa Ronningstam, 'Differentiating narcissistic and antisocial personality disorders' *Journal of personality disorders* 15 no 2 (2001), 103-109. <https://doi.org/10.1521/pedi.15.2.103.19213>

⁴⁸ Otto F Kernberg, 'The narcissistic personality disorder and the differential: diagnosis of antisocial behavior', *Psychiatric Clinics* 12 no 3 (1989), 553-570. DOI:[https://doi.org/10.1016/S0193-953X\(18\)30414-3](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0193-953X(18)30414-3)

⁴⁹Gross, 'Serial Murder and Media'

proactive communication strategies to make the perpetrator leak information of his identity and whereabouts.⁵⁰

V. Summary

In this paper we made an attempt to present the special knowledge and experience of the psychiatric field. We tried to convince the reader that the expertise of the psychiatric field can be useful during law enforcement activities especially in the case of offences triggered by emotions and special psychological or psychiatric conditions. We focused on criminal profiling of which the target is this very group of crimes. We reviewed the most important methods of criminal profiling and demonstrated the advantages of the clinical approach in relation of each. We did this using the most well-known psychiatric conditions by the criminal world: schizophrenia and personality disorders without attempting to present them exhaustively, as one study is far from sufficient for this goal. Needless to say, the knowledge of the criminal contexts of both classes of mental disorders is much broader than that has been presented here, and there are many other mental disorders deserve the attention of law enforcement. The introduction of these conditions to the criminal field should be the work of further publications.

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