

Part Three, the shortest section of the book, investigates in three chapters how individuals within these two postwar societies have come to view reconciliation and belief in whether justice has been achieved now that war is ended and the trials are under way. The opening chapter examines visual artists in the former Yugoslavia and how their work allows them an outlet to express their feelings about the war. Unfortunately, it is hard to identify any concrete connections to the tribunals and the pursuit of justice, but it is an interesting account of how artists reflect their feelings about war through their art. Nothing is mentioned of musicians, writers, and poets, who no doubt are recording their own unique impressions through their work. Perhaps, these perspectives can be explored in a future edition or second volume.

In the penultimate chapter, questions of reconciliation are investigated within the city of Vukovar. Serbs and Croats were asked individually about their feelings on the current status of interethnic friendships. While the war may be over, both sides have found it hard to return to prewar friendships because there is much resentment on both sides, and feelings ranging from entitlement to bitterness about the past are considered acceptable. The concluding chapter goes one step further to gauge the actual feelings of reconciliation individuals experience in forgiving their enemies as an entire ethnic class. The conclusion is reached that reconciliation can be achieved only when an individual is able to humanize the perceived enemy and understand their feelings of loss and betrayal. The book comes full circle and uses the work of the tribunals to bring individuals to trial for their crimes against humanity to humanize the impersonal aspect of the wars. Unfortunately, the evidence presented in this closing chapter shows that there is still a long way to go for individuals to attain such enlightened perspectives, thus becoming beneficiaries of the justice offered by the tribunals.

Overall, this book is an interesting read, although, at times, it is difficult to trace the connections between the tribunals and their overall effectiveness. This confusion, however, may have been the goal—to show that justice is not a simple black-and-white matter of bringing perpetrators of atrocities to justice, but rather a myriad of gray issues in need of resolution, both inside and outside the courtroom. The book will hopefully serve as a catalyst for further works on the topic.

## Offender Profiling: An Introduction to the Sociopsychological Analysis of Violent Crime

By George B. Palermo, MD, and Richard N. Kocsis, PhD.  
Springfield, IL: Charles C Thomas Publisher, 2005. 266 pp.  
\$56.95.

Reviewed by Jacqueline K. Buffington-Vollum, PhD

According to the authors, this book was written from the perspective that the “field” of profiling lacks a coherent theoretical model. In an attempt to rectify this deficiency, they approached profiling from a holistic perspective—what they term “sociopsychological” criminal profiling—their intent being to present the material from a “more thorough, more research-oriented, and more objective” perspective than have others. And it is the opinion of this reviewer that the authors succeed in doing so. Specifically, they provide a comprehensive review of the cumulative knowledge about the psychosocial components that should contribute to the development of an offender profile, a discussion of crime scene assessment and considerations related to staging, and balanced appraisals of several of the leading current approaches to profiling.

The book begins with a thorough consideration of the “Psychosocial Substrate of Criminal Profiling.” The authors consider the origins of profiling. At the most basic level, profiling occurs in all social interactions. Humans, inherently social beings and living in a social milieu, rely on cognitive heuristics to predict others’ behavior. They describe psychological testing, attitudinal testing, and psychiatric diagnosis as forerunners of their type of profiling. To place the topic in context, they reference various fictional and nonfictional works that have pondered factors theoretically related to crime (e.g., Lombroso, Dostoyevski). Overall, the chapters in Part I thoroughly explore both psychological/psychiatric (e.g., theories of personality and personality traits/characteristics such as impulsivity, sadism, and aggressivity; and mental illness) and “sociocriminological” perspectives (e.g., theories of criminality and offender typologies) about factors that may be operating to produce criminal behavior in its most persistent and aberrant forms. Emphasis is given to serial offenses—such as homicide, rape, and arson—as they are the

cases in which profilers' assistance is most likely to be enlisted (particularly from the mental health professions, from which the authors derive their knowledge and experience). A major premise of the book, and of most types of profiling, is that the criminal act committed is a manifestation of the offender's motivations, desires, and personality traits, thereby providing clues to the individual(s) who committed it.

Part II, "The Crime Scene," provides notes on crime scene assessment and the personality of the investigator, as well as a chapter on crime scene staging and its detection. Oddly, although these topics—especially the fundamental factor of crime scene assessment—arguably form the crux of criminal profiling, this is the shortest (and probably weakest) section of the book. Indeed, a discussion of information that might be documented and/or interpreted through proper crime scene assessment (e.g., location/position of the body, intensity of the attack, and injuries sustained) comprises only 4 of the 28 pages of this section of the book. Integral information that should be addressed was not even discussed in this section ("What?" "Where?" "When?" "How?" And ideally, "why?" to assist in identifying "who?"). In contrast, the authors proceed to provide an extensive, informative chapter, replete with 11 case descriptions and results from an informal survey, on crime scene staging and its detection. In comparison, particularly given the relative infrequency of staged crime scenes, this seemed somewhat akin to overkill (no pun intended).

Part III, "The Main Approaches to Profiling," was intended to provide the reader with a relatively comprehensive summary of the major literature in the expanding field of criminal profiling. As such, the authors use specific criteria to determine inclusion/exclusion of profiling paradigms for discussion. To be included, the method had to incorporate research (in the form of numerous original, quantitative studies published in academically peer-reviewed media) that shared some common theory or methodology, collectively characterize the approach, and be distinct from other approaches or bodies of work. Thereby, a representative sampling of the current, major approaches to criminal profiling—specifically, Criminal Investigative Analysis, Investigative Psychology, Crime Action Profiling, and Geographic Profiling, and the authors' general brand of profiling, Sociopsychological Criminal Profiling—are outlined. In each chapter, the historical origins and major contributors to each method are discussed, the key concepts and

methods are defined, and a review of the empirical research on the approach's validity is provided. Finally, the strengths and limitations of each paradigm are explicated.

Overall, Part III is the strongest component of the book. The authors make it clear that the section is not intended to be an exhaustive discussion of approaches to profiling—nor would it be feasible to provide such a discussion—but they provide a fair and balanced consideration of each included paradigm. In addition, they include an addendum to draw attention to other materials and approaches that were only briefly mentioned but that have made contributions to the field. With respect to the "discrete" approaches, there appears to be significant overlap between Investigative Psychology and Crime Action Profiling (the second author's expanded approach), and disproportionate space was allowed for the latter (nearly 40 pages versus approximately half that for the other approaches). However, these limitations do not constitute a major weakness of the book, nor is it unexpected that an author would highlight his or her particular system or technique. Furthermore, many of the additional pages devoted to Crime Action Profiling focus on discussing studies that have examined the actual practice of profiling (e.g., necessary skills of a profiler, structure and composition of profiles, and studies on its accuracy and perceived utility), an area that is largely unique to—and a strength of—this particular paradigm.

Taken as a whole, the book appears to succeed in achieving the authors' intended purpose. They effectively integrate the cumulative knowledge, both basic and advanced, from psychiatry, psychology, criminology, and sociology, and delineate the importance of each to the field of criminal profiling. They justify their assertion that profiling is not only an art but an emerging science and do so in a fair, balanced manner. They present both "positive and negative observations regarding the practice, and raise questions about its utility and its pitfalls" (p. 248). Furthermore, the authors keep an eye toward pragmatism throughout the book, highlighting the need to be accessible to the actual users of the practice of profiling (i.e., law enforcement). By these accounts, this book has the potential to be useful to practitioners, researchers, and students in the mental health and law enforcement fields.

Nevertheless, the publisher would have done well to have performed a more thorough editing of

the book (and should do so in future editions). For example, there are certain small inaccuracies (e.g., referring to Crime Action Profiling as “Crime Action Analysis” in the Preface) that could confuse the reader. Moreover, the chapter on crime scene staging was written by Robert Hazelwood and Michael Napier and is identified as such on the book’s title page. However, this is not noted on the cover, in the table of contents, or even on the title page of the chapter itself. It seems that such an asset would be highlighted to bolster further the book’s appeal.

## **Multisystemic Therapy and Neighborhood Partnerships: Reducing Adolescent Violence and Substance Abuse**

By Cynthia Cupit Swenson, PhD, Scott W. Henggeler, PhD, Ida S. Taylor, and Oliver W. Addison. New York: The Guilford Press, 2005. 272 pp. \$38.00 (hardcover).

Reviewed by Bandy Lee, MD, MDiv

Multisystemic therapy (MST) is an intensive family- and community-based treatment that addresses the multiple determinants of serious antisocial behavior in juvenile offenders. Based on systems theory and Bronfenbrenner’s social ecological model of behavior,<sup>1</sup> the multisystemic approach posits that individuals are embedded in a network of systems that encompass individual, family, and extrafamilial (peer, school, and community) factors, and that behavior is a function of their reciprocal interactions within and between these systems. Integrating many empirically guided treatment models and delivering services in the settings where the problems occur, MST strives to promote behavioral change in youths’ natural environment, using the strengths of each system to facilitate change. It is one of the most evidence-supported, successful community interventions available,<sup>2</sup> and it demonstrates the importance of multidimensional, ecological changes in the modification of behavior. At a time when the study of violence is still largely fragmented among disparate fields, each with its own distinctive theory for prevention, this emphasis on a comprehensive and integrated programming is a welcome approach.

In this clearly written and practical volume, the authors purport to present to an audience of “clini-

cians, academics, policy-makers, community developers, and citizens in any neighborhood concerned about its youth.” Indeed, in the short span of 272 pages, the authors offer guidelines for everything from clinically implementing MST to community policing, as well as strategies for neighborhood outreach and program subsidizing. They attempt to foster a collaborative process among practitioners of different fields by outlining concisely the major contributions of the various perspectives in simple language. Thus, they address one of the greatest challenges of our time: that while each discipline of study accrues ever specialized and detailed information, it remains isolated and blind to the findings of other fields, so that little communication, integration, or collaboration is possible. Furthermore, there is an expanding gap between theory and practice, and despite the increasingly technical demands of academic research (or rather partly because of them), empirical knowledge and expert analyses have little effect on actual policy decisions.

The authors divide the text into three parts. The first reviews the multiple causes of youth and community violence and the extensive body of intervention research, including the widespread practices that unfortunately exacerbate criminal behavior and substance abuse. The first part also provides an in-depth description of MST. The middle section offers a thorough account of the comprehensiveness of the neighborhood project and how the individual components combine to be mutually supportive. The last part instructs on how to build and sustain neighborhood-based programs and offers some inspiring words from those who have benefited from the Neighborhood Solutions Project, an extended case example the authors use to illustrate the implementation of MST.

The authors rightly point out that the research literature on protective factors against violence and substance abuse is much less extensive than that on risk factors. I might venture further that while much work has been done to investigate the individual factors that exacerbate or mitigate violence and substance abuse, hardly any research has looked into how these factors might relate to each other and how they might affect the overall syndrome for which violence is a symptom. Despite the book’s attempts to address the larger contexts in which violence occurs, it falls short of conceptualizing violence in a way that might be helpful in this approach. For instance,