

The “Assessment and Diagnosis” section is a strength of this book. The chapter titled “Mental Illness and Sex Offending” provides an excellent review of the phenomenology of paraphilic sexual arousal. Also, the review of “Laboratory Measures of Penile Response in the Assessment of Sexual Interests” highlights the strengths of this assessment measure. The authors note that many courts in the United States have rejected the admissibility of penile plethysmography (PPG) evidence and conclude that, despite the clinical utility of PPG, testing will probably follow the course of dexamethasone suppression for mood disorders, and the use of PPG will diminish. The inadmissibility of PPG in some jurisdictions highlights the oft observed fact that scientific and legal utility do not necessarily mesh well.

Other sections of the book that deal with standard topics such as “Neurobiology/Neuropsychology” and “Treatment” do a capable job of summarizing information that is accumulating in a steady, incremental fashion; however, for those abreast of the sex offender literature, the book contains scant new material, and a more selective reading of the chapters’ summaries of newer data and authors’ opinions is the best approach. For neophytes to this area, however, a complete reading would be in order.

The book contains some contentious spots such as the chapter titled “Psychological Treatment of Sex Offenders.” The authors review relevant research and highlight the fact that evaluating the long-term effectiveness of sex offender treatment remains beset with difficulties. This topic leads to discussions that extend beyond the available research and toward authoritative opinions about the clear difference between the relapse-prevention model, which the authors conclude is ineffective, and a new model that combines the responsivity principle from the risk/needs model, Ward’s Good Lives Model, and motivational interviewing. Together, these models downplay the need to focus on the offender’s past offensive behavior and shift the emphasis to the future and the development of a more fulfilling life. Readers will have to draw their own conclusions about these types of authoritative opinions.

The “Special Populations” section is diverse and the generally succinct and pithy chapters summarize data in an easily accessible manner. Topics include: female sexual offenders, sexual boundary violations by professionals, stalking, child pornography and the Internet, sexual abuse by clergy, manifestations of

sexual sadism, and intellectual disabilities and sexual offending.

In the “Forensics” section, there is relevant coverage for both the U.S. and Canadian reader on history, legal definitions, relevant policy, and legal case decisions on child pornography and the Internet, sexual predator laws and their history, and sex offender registries and community notification.

This book is best conceived as a starting point rather than a destination for sex offender information. In the final analysis, the editors’ goal for a single-volume resource is met but comes with the inevitable tradeoff of a lack of in-depth coverage of some topics. If breadth is what the reader is seeking, I would commend this book. If more in-depth knowledge of specific topics is desired, the reader might begin with other books that are on point with the specific sex offender topic of particular interest. Another concern was the rather small font size, which could be challenging for tired eyes reading the book at the end of a workday.

I think the back cover comments get it exactly right by identifying this as an ideal text for forensic psychiatric fellowship training programs. I can think of no better primer on sex offenders for a forensic psychiatric fellow or resident. For the more seasoned forensic clinician, this book would be recommended only if the goal is to expand the breadth of knowledge into some new sex offender areas with burgeoning research.

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Wrong Place, Wrong Time: The Central Park Five

The Central Park Five (theatrical documentary, 2012). Written and directed by Ken Burns, Sarah Burns, and David McMahon; produced by Florentine Films. Opened in New York City on November 23, 2012. 119 minutes. The Central Park Five: The Untold Story Behind One of New York City’s Most Infamous Crimes by Sarah Burns. New York: Vintage Books, 2012. 240 pp. \$15.95 (paperback).

In 1989, five black and Latino teens, 14 to 16 years of age, found themselves in the wrong place at the

wrong time, not in the trivial sense, but in a city out of control amid crime, racial tension, and gross economic disparities at a time when the citizenry was desperate for solutions. How and why they confessed falsely to the beating and rape of a white female jogger in New York's Central Park is the subject of the documentary *The Central Park Five*, based on the research of Sarah Burns and on her book of the same name. The first edition of her book in 2011 was subtitled *A Chronicle of a City Wilding*, referencing a group-violence phenomenon to which the 1989 crime was misattributed. More important, Burns was characterizing the city of New York and its institutions as a mob engaged in wilding, with these boys, the Central Park Five, as the victims.

A family affair, *The Central Park Five* film is the product of Sarah Burns, her father Ken Burns, and her husband David McMahon. The documentary is superbly crafted and meticulously researched. The subject matter is complex: the metropolis as an adapting organism, the inequalities of capitalism, race relations, the crack epidemic, the disenfranchisement of lower class youth, and, as Mayor Ed Koch stated, "putting the criminal justice system on trial." The five suspects became acquainted after each of them had given statements implicating themselves and each other, using information fed to them by detectives or from their imaginations during prolonged and intense interrogations. New Yorkers were fed up; something had to be done about youths running wild in the streets. A defenseless young woman beaten, raped, and left for dead in Central Park, the holy of holies? Intolerable!

The five suspects were Antron McCray, Kevin Richardson, Korey Wise, Yusef Salaam, and Raymond Santana, Jr, all Harlem residents. There was no evidence against them besides their incongruent statements. Defense questions about how they were mirandized were all rejected by the presiding judge, Justice Thomas Galligan. In her book and film, Burns highlights what forensic psychiatrists know: judges are loath to suppress confessions, because it would prohibit some prosecutions. Four of the youths, with their perplexed parents watching, gave videotaped versions that were shown to the jury. On his mother's advice, Salaam declined. Our impression was that the parents' effectiveness was undermined by several factors: specific misdirection by police and officials, shock from hearing their sons' incriminating statements, and the pervasive social

dynamic of low socioeconomic status interacting with law enforcement. Worse, a long-sought serial rapist, Matias Reyes, aka the East Side Slasher, who had been apprehended but never investigated for this incident, was the perpetrator. Although Reyes had been prosecuted for other crimes, the detective handling him failed to see whether Reyes' DNA matched that found on the victim. It would have derailed the prosecution of the boys, who served nearly 7 years as juveniles, except Wise, who was sentenced as an adult and served about 12 years. Reyes, sadly, did not emerge until 2001, when he discovered that Wise, who was still in prison, had been serving time for Reyes' crime. Reyes took responsibility, and there was a DNA match. New York's Supreme Court overturned the convictions in 2002. Civil litigation filed in 2003 has yet to produce a result for the men, now struggling to rejoin mainstream society.

The book, *The Central Park Five: The Untold Story Behind One of New York City's Most Infamous Crimes*, is a fascinating study of the intersection of culture, psychology, and the politics of fear. Burns points out that the Central Park Jogger case was not an aberration; rather, it was the culmination of pent-up rage in a city held hostage by violence. In each of the six book chapters, she guides readers through the disturbing yet uncomfortably conceivable maze of events and social dynamics that ultimately led to misapplied justice. Chapter One transports readers to the palpable social tensions pervading New York City in the late 1980s, providing an unnerving bird's-eye view of the movements of the Central Park Five on April 19, 1989, and the horrifying crime that would lead to the boys' arrests. Chapter Two focuses on the general police interrogation process and the typical tactics that police employ to elicit confessions. Then, with meticulous detail, Burns describes the boys' interrogation experiences, the various tactics they faced, and the futile efforts of their parents, who were outmaneuvered in their attempts to get their sons home. In Chapter Three, the media's role and the power of racial stereotyping in the case is explored within the context of America's historical racial divide. Chapter Four carefully contrasts the physical evidence of the crime against the mismatched statements of the boys and traces the evolution of introducing DNA evidence into rape cases, the type of evidence that would ultimately lead to the exonerations of the Central Park Five. Chapter Five provides detailed accounts of

the criminal trials and eventual convictions of the Central Park Five, while offering insights into the courtroom strategies of the defense and prosecution. Chapter Six describes the painful aftermath that faced the Central Park Five following their convictions and the events that ultimately led to their exoneration. The book's epilogue provides readers with a glimpse at the remarkable recovery of the Central Park Jogger and the struggles of the Central Park Five in their attempts to acclimate to a world that had moved on without them.

The Central Park Five film captures the climate and culture that permitted an institutional blindness that wrought a grossly unjust outcome. Four of the Central Park Five, now adults, are interviewed on camera and one off. In page-turning fashion, we are led, painfully, through press coverage, politics, ambitious prosecutors, protests, and the sacrifice of the defendants to the juggernaut of a city in need of healing. As *New York Times* reporter Jim Dwyer pointed out, New York was a "social moat" dividing two cities: "Truth, reality, and justice were not part of it."

The film compels viewers to confront the misconception that an innocent will not bear false witness against himself, as we watch the unfolding events that move the boys from their true denials of guilt to their fateful false confessions. It humanizes the Central Park Five, permitting a view of their individual lives and experiences in a manner that often was absent amid sensational media coverage. This approach is well balanced with attention to the life of Trisha Meili, the Central Park Jogger, a testament to the ability to survive such a horrific crime. Although traumatic brain injury prevented her from remembering the incident, she testified in one of the trials and has written a memoir of her recovery.¹ There are newly filmed appearances by Mayors Koch and Dinkins, attorneys, journalists, historians, family members, and psychologist Saul Kassin. Archival footage of Mayor Koch and Governor Cuomo demonstrates the self-congratulatory "We got 'em!" attitude meant to instill confidence among New Yorkers. Dr. Kassin, well known in academics² and now before a mass audience, explains the process of self-incrimination. Juror No. 5, the holdout after 10 days of deliberation, tells us how he succumbed to group pressure to convict, proving Dr. Kassin's point about how ordinary people under pressure act in inexplicable ways.

Burns' broader point about the residual risk of rushing to judgment, even in our postracial society, is worth bearing in mind as we are awash in news of violence.

The book and film illuminate a fundamental question regarding confessions: since we have a right not to self-incriminate, why would any innocent person confess to a crime? Quick answer: psychological and psychiatric factors, with results later regretted. The evaluation of false confessions seldom appears on the radar screens of most forensic psychiatrists. Perhaps it is due to the apparent futility of asking a court to disregard what is already a settled matter. Or perhaps the study of false confessions is seen as the domain of social psychologists. Its importance has been most spectacularly demonstrated in the postconviction work of the Innocence Project. About 25 percent of convictions overturned through DNA evidence were based on false confessions or admissions.³ Mental disability is a significant factor in producing false confessions that place innocent defendants on death row.⁴

Although the phenomenon of false confessions was described in the mid-19th century,⁵ it was not on public display until over 200 persons confessed to the Lindbergh Baby kidnapping and murder in New Jersey in 1932. The convicted and executed Bruno Hauptmann never confessed; his guilt is still controversial. In the past several years, *The Journal* has embraced a role for forensic psychiatrists⁶ and social psychologists^{7,8} in formulating a scientific basis for testimony. Although it is obvious that a variety of mental disturbances may give rise to false or unreliable evidence,⁹ how ordinary individuals can incriminate themselves is a counterintuitive process that is hard to sell in court.⁸ Jurors may regard guilt or innocence as a function of the perceived coerciveness of an interrogation.¹⁰ Juveniles, under increasing protection from courts, are especially vulnerable to interrogators.¹¹ The film and book make the rationale for those protections seem self-evident.

On a practical level, expert witnesses, who were absent from the Central Park Five's legal proceedings in 1990, can shed light on the dynamics of confessions. The film and book go a long way toward explaining how justice can go awry when police and the public need sacrificial lambs, and suspects are manipulated into mistaking self-incrimination for an exit door. We highly endorse both media presentations to

forensic practitioners. There is little doubt that false confessions exist. Now let us apply what we know to help courts deal with this troubling problem.

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