

The text contains several strengths, including references through 2009, very fine reviews on privilege, estimating premorbid IQ, minority group testing and interpretations, and only rare proofreading errors. However, this book suffers from its attempt to address an excessively broad audience. Also, there is a lack of medical input in chapters obviously requiring such expertise, insufficient editing, and categorical statements that are debatable or only weakly supported.

References

1. Horton AM Jr, Hartlage LC (editors): Handbook of Forensic Neuropsychology. New York: Springer Publishing Company, 2003
2. Watts v. United States, No. 77-1428 (D.C. Cir. 1977)

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Psychology and Law: Bridging the Gap

Edited by David Canter and Rita Žukauskienė. Hampshire, UK: Ashgate Publishing Limited, 2008. 262 pp. \$49.95.

The cover of *Psychology and Law* describes the book as a tool to “build bridges between the two very different disciplines of law and psychology, and establish the true nature of the interaction between the two.” In doing so, the book includes contributions from an international group of authors from North America and Europe. Besides being from different countries, the authors come from diverse backgrounds in law, psychology, sociology, and criminology. The book is co-edited by David Canter, a Professor in the Department of Psychology at University of Liverpool in the United Kingdom, and Rita Žukauskienė, a Professor in the Department of Psychology at Mykolas Romeris University in Lithuania.

The book opens with an overview by David Canter. Immediately following is an overview of the complexities of the offender profiling work originally done by Canter. Brief descriptions of Canter’s profiling equations in the areas of criminal pertinence, contingency destabilization, criminal salience, and integrative modeling and inferential fluency are presented. This leads into an examination of legal uses of the polygraph in Europe. The next three chapters

discuss aspects of identification: eyewitness research, identification in court, and profiling evidence in court. These include in-depth discussions of the errors and bias that can be introduced in using these techniques.

The heterogeneity of individuals with antisocial behavior is then covered. Civil liability for another individual’s criminal behavior is reviewed. This area of liability consists of civil suits for alleged negligence that may have allowed or facilitated the commission of a crime. One common example occurs if a visitor to a property is attacked; the victim may allege that the property owner provided negligently inadequate security. The next section looks at the psychological consequences of prison. Psychopathy is then covered as a past, present, and future construct. Two chapters are devoted to actuarial, clinical, and computer-assisted violence risk assessments. The final two chapters close with public policy discussions of the role of psychology in legal matters.

The book’s collection of international authors provides a broad view of the interaction between psychology and the law. Many of the chapters focus on history and current practice from countries in North America and Europe and thus give the reader a glimpse into how different approaches, as reflected by legislation and legal precedent, have played out in various countries.

This reader found two chapters to be particularly engaging due to a combination of prior and piqued interest. The first, on polygraph testing, went into great detail about the underlying theories and different processes used in testing. This section illuminated a test that many professionals in the field will never witness. The author then gave a thoughtful analysis of the possible benefits and errors as a result of the underlying theoretical approach as well as the manner in which the tests are conducted. Discussions such as these provide a greater level of understanding of factors that may satisfy a reader’s curiosity or help in a forensic case.

Another fascinating chapter considers the psychological ramifications of incarceration. These range from the traumatizing effects of prison to the problems associated with attempting to return to life outside of prison. Of particular interest are the possible functional adaptations that may occur in prison that lead to dysfunction later. The author delves into these with an insight that is highly illuminating. Finally, the multitude of problems

in performing research in this population is covered, helping to explain the relative dearth of knowledge in this area.

Similarly, most readers should find specific chapters within the book that will sate their appetite for a richer discussion in their areas of professional interest. Many readers are likely to discover areas of previously unrealized interest. Given the passion the authors exhibit for their respective areas of expertise and research, this book may spark ideas for budding researchers and writers. Examples include the use of profiling, eyewitness identification, and violence risk assessments.

Given its varied but relatively narrow scope, the book is able to delve deeper into the topics that it does cover and provides a much more nuanced view of each topic. The authors of each portion have included numerous citations and references and are clearly focusing on their areas of professional interest. As a result, readers are often treated to a historical perspective and the evolution, current state, and future direction of the subject at hand. Readers who have an interest in any of the included topics are likely to learn something new from the more sophisticated discussions. The drawback of this approach is that the book does not function well as a practical guide to daily practice of forensic psychiatry or psychology. It only examines several select areas of the authors' expertise. In each, the authors place greater focus on history, concepts, and research than on utilitarian advice. In addition, the primer's international flavor does not assist in daily work but creates an interesting backdrop to the understanding of the field overall.

In summary, readers with a pre-existing interest in any of the topics covered in *Psychology and Law* are likely to find it to be an informative read. Even those readers without a prior interest may themselves be drawn to a new subject. However, those readers looking for a handbook on the practical aspects of working in the intersection between the fields of psychology and law should look elsewhere.

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Death by Jury: Group Dynamics and Capital Sentencing

By Nadine M. Connell. El Paso, TX: LFB Scholarly Publishing LLC, 2009. 222 pp. \$62.00.

Jury deliberation has long been of interest to the general public, the legal community, and forensic mental health professionals, especially when capital sentencing is involved. Who are the jurors? How did they reach their verdict? Have their personal biases influenced their judgment? How are individual jurors influenced by their cohort of jurors? Although a jury's decision regarding the death sentence is considered advisory,¹ in most states the jury's decision is rarely overturned. Consequently, each juror bears a large responsibility for deliberating the facts and rendering a fair and just decision while being cognizant of its potential finality.

In *Death by Jury: Group Dynamics and Capital Sentencing*, author Nadine M. Connell presents a compelling discussion about jury dynamics in capital cases that includes information of general interest as well as scholarly and timely material on capital sentencing deliberations. The book is part of a series of recent scholarship in criminal justice, and the material draws on perspectives from criminology, police science, sociology, victimology, and the law. Connell frequently cites data collected from the Capital Jury Project, a study developed to quantify the decision-making process of capital jurors.

The author commences with a description of the death penalty in America. She carefully traces the origins of capital punishment, including how it evolved in American law. She describes legal precedents aimed at limiting jury discretion in deliberating death penalty cases and summarizes empirical research about variations in how juries apply capital sentencing guidelines. After examining literature regarding fundamental fairness in jury deliberations, Connell suggests that jurors generally are not purposefully trying to circumvent the law with their decisions.

The remainder of the book examines the role of group dynamics in jury deliberations. In Chapter 2, "The Role of the Jury," the author reviews the