

responsibility and, in a few cases, wanting to help the offender or settle a case more peacefully. Many victims wanted to know why the offense occurred from the offender's perspective and how the offender behaved after the mediation occurred. Although this book focuses on the victim's perspective, it would be interesting to also study the offender's experience of mediation. Through the mediation process, one of the hopes expressed by victims was to deter offenders from committing similar crimes in the future.

This book illustrates how abstract the concept of restorative justice is even when broken down into its simplest elements. Contributing research toward this topic presents an enormous challenge in terms of devising appropriate variables to measure and in securing participants. The book discusses several ethics concerns in the research, such as how withholding offers of restorative justice processes could adversely affect victims, thereby making it impossible to randomize research group assignments. Thus, the sample size was small even though participants were drawn from two different counties, Spain and Belgium, with similar practices. To compensate, both qualitative and quantitative data were collected to complement each other. One example of this data collection method was that participants were asked to comment on their motivations for participating in mediation in qualitative interviews and then rank these motivations in a survey. This data showed that the most important motivation to the study participants was the desire to express the impact of the crime to the offender. This motivation was frequently identified in interviews through various lenses, such as a longing for recognition of victim status and hope of influencing the offender to reduce future criminal behavior. Even so, the author admits that the ability to generalize from these findings is limited and that the conclusions are mostly theoretical. The study provides valuable insight into the victim's perspective and seems to successfully expand on previous theoretical understandings of how restorative justice is experienced.

Overall, the book provides an excellent introduction to the subject by describing the development of the restorative justice concept over the past few decades and the history of various practices. The critique of prior theories and research appears balanced and fair. The new research presented is thorough despite its limitations and sets up an agenda for future research. Dr. Bolívar approaches a very complex subject by comprehensively discussing and studying the inherent nuances rather than avoiding them or

oversimplifying them. The information presented in the book is relevant to all fields pertaining to legal processes, including forensic psychiatry.

Disclosures of financial or other potential conflicts of interest: None.

## **Infanticide and Filicide: Foundations in Maternal Mental Health Forensics**

Edited by Gina Wong, PhD, and George Parnham, JD. Washington, DC: American Psychiatric Association Publishing; 2021. 429 pp, \$67.00.

Reviewed by Alyssa Beda, DO

DOI:10.29158/JAAPL.230002-23

**Key words:** infanticide; filicide; Andrea Yates; post-partum

*Infanticide and Filicide: Foundations in Maternal Mental Health Forensics* combines chapters written by social workers, psychiatrists, psychologists, and attorneys with experience at the intersection of maternal mental health and forensics. As the text states in its introduction, the killing of a child by the mother, maternal filicide, is not a new phenomenon nor specific to any culture. In 2001, Andrea Yates drowned her five children while experiencing postpartum psychosis. Her case serves as the crux of the text, and her defense attorney, George Parnham, JD, as one of the text's coeditors. A portion of this text is an autobiographical account from Mr. Parnham, as he expresses his shock in response to this crime and subsequently his compassion and willingness to learn about Mrs. Yates' state-of-mind. Co-editor Gina Wong, PhD, also brings her expertise as coeditor to this text. Throughout her career as a psychologist, she has diagnosed and treated women with perinatal mental health conditions prior to serving as a perinatal expert witness in Canada.

*Infanticide and Filicide* is divided into four sections labeled as "foundations." The first uses five chapters to examine the legal aspects of maternal infanticide and filicide, the second explores the impact of perinatal psychiatric complications in such cases, the third discusses the role of the expert witness, and the fourth contains sociocultural considerations and feminist approaches to prevention and

treatment. The final section offers two clinical cases to which the four foundations are applied. At the end of every chapter, there is a summary of the main clinical, legal, and cultural points as well as a section of practice questions and discussion prompts. Key terms and concepts are defined in the glossary at the end of the text.

The text's back cover describes its purpose to serve as a guide and "an invitation to forge ahead together in canonizing a subspecialty field of maternal mental health forensics in an effort to address, advance, and advocate on behalf of mothers, fathers, their children, their families, and generations to come." This goal is noble, and a heavy undertaking for one text alone. Each foundation has the potential to fill multiple volumes. Though this book provides a breadth of information, the audience is not clear. To this point, the back cover asserts the text is relevant to all audiences, stating, "Whether casually interested in the topic or actively involved in maternal infanticide or filicide cases . . . readers will gain a comprehensive understanding of the legal outcomes . . . and advanced understanding from a biopsychosocial perspective."

When an audience is broad for a very specific topic, such as infanticide and filicide in a forensic context, it is difficult to navigate the nuances without a shared understanding or background knowledge. If the desired audience are only those who are "casually interested," perhaps a primer on the difference in international justice systems is imperative. For instance, an early chapter focuses on an Illinois postpartum law that has great potential to help mitigate and reduce sentencing for those suffering from mental illnesses who engage in illegal or violent conduct in the postpartum period. It is here that the informational groundwork is clear, until parallels are drawn between law making in different countries, such as Great Britain and the United States (p 50). To applaud one country's systems without recognizing the difference between legal systems can be confusing or potentially misleading. The United States and Canada work within a common law system that leads to an adversarial approach, whereas Great Britain operates within a civil law system that has an inquisitorial approach.

Overall, I found this collection enjoyable, as it is exciting to recognize several contributing authors within this specialty. While its goal to help "canonize

the subspecialty" is lofty, I do think it is a step in the right direction. I hope others working in the field of forensic psychiatry take interest in maternal mental health, especially as it related to infanticide and filicide, and using this text is one potential way to do so. Ultimately, I find the most appropriate audience of the text to be psychiatry residents or trainees in other mental health fields who are interested in women's mental health who could utilize this text for further exploration of this specific topic and to best understand the current state of research in the field.

Disclosures of financial or other potential conflicts of interest: None.

## **Can't Be Trusted**

By Bart Johnson, PhD. Self-published, available on Amazon. \$12.00.

Reviewed by Kathryn Baselice, MD

DOI:10.29158/JAAPL.230003-23

**Key words:** schizophrenia; fitness for duty; expert; diagnosis

In his autobiographical book *Can't Be Trusted*, Bart Johnson, PhD, aims to explore the implications of the label of mental illness. Dr. Johnson, who earned a PhD in electrical engineering from MIT, had aspirations to fly airplanes. In pursuit of his piloting license, however, a Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) psychiatrist diagnosed him with schizophrenia, a diagnosis that automatically bars one from piloting an aircraft.

The book, with the exception of the first two chapters, generally follows the author's life in chronological order. The first chapter explores general information about FAA medical certificates and regulations relating to piloting. The second is a brief description of the author's suicide attempt, a jarring and puzzling inclusion that is not explored in any further depth in the remaining chapters. The author then chronicles his family history (Chapter 3), childhood and adolescence (Chapter 4), college and graduate studies (Chapter 5), and work history (Chapters 6 and 7). Chapter 8 is entitled "Psychosis" and is devoted to an unfortunately brief exploration of the author's experience with psychotic depression. Chapter 9 is devoted to a