

Virginia as he nervously meets Vince Gilmer for the first time, and we feel his anguish when his clemency petitions on behalf of Vince Gilmer are twice denied.

I reached out to Dr. Benjamin Gilmer and he generously agreed to an interview. We talked for about two hours on a Saturday morning over a virtual videoconferencing platform. He told me that his book had four aspects. It was a “deeply personal memoir,” a medical mystery about a murder, a story about our “shared cognitive fallibility,” and, “most importantly, it’s a book about social justice.” He reflected on the idea that society often fails to recognize that the brain can fail and, when it fails in certain ways, it can define how we’re perceived for life.

The Other Dr. Gilmer is engaging and compelling. The central themes are important to both forensic psychiatry and correctional psychiatry. First, the text challenges us to overcome our biases. Dr. Vince Gilmer was labeled a malingerer early in his incarceration. This view of him colored the treatment he received in prison when he had behavioral outbursts or simply requested common medications like SSRIs. Too often, the approach was punitive rather than therapeutic. I want to be clear that I did not review nor am I criticizing his forensic mental health evaluation. It is apparent, however, that the perception that Dr. Vince Gilmer was a malingerer, championed by a police detective, colored the treatment he received until Dr. Benjamin Gilmer began to advocate on his behalf. One of the heroes of the story is the late Dr. Colin Angliker, a noted correctional psychiatrist, who took Dr. Vince Gilmer’s concerns seriously and arranged for the appropriate genetic testing.

The second thing a reader should know is that Dr. Benjamin Gilmer offered a recommendation for forensic mental health evaluations. He noted that cancer treatment is often guided by multidisciplinary tumor boards. He marveled that a decision to sentence a person to prison for life could be made with only one mental health evaluator. He recommends that a team of experts evaluate defendants. This suggestion is certainly a thought-provoking idea and interesting comparison.

Third, the book makes a compelling case for compassion in the criminal justice system. Whether or not one believes that Dr. Vince Gilmer was appropriately tried and convicted nearly two decades ago, he is now a man with a debilitating neuropsychiatric disease who is suffering in a correctional

environment where he cannot access the care that would be available in the community. I found Dr. Benjamin Gilmer’s words of gratitude and tribute to Dr. Angliker particularly powerful: “Thank you for listening with open ears and seeing with child-like eyes while tirelessly serving incarcerated populations for over forty years. The compassion you shared for your patients never wavered from your first patient to your last: Vince. Your example of truth-telling has changed me forever” (p 285). Every forensic psychiatrist should aspire to no less.

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Applied Criminal Psychology: A Guide to Forensic Behavioral Sciences, 2nd Edition

Edited by Richard N. Kocsis, PhD. Springfield, IL: Charles C. Thomas Publisher LTD; 2018. 373 pp. \$65.95 paperback.

Reviewed by Tyler Durns, MD

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Applied Criminal Psychology: A Guide to Forensic Behavioral Sciences, 2nd Edition, is a scholastic review of literature central to the study of forensic sciences. The book comprises international and multidisciplinary applications in the fields of psychology, psychiatry, criminology, law enforcement, and legal practice. This comprehensive collection offers an introductory treatment of 15 fundamental topics. Moreover, it seeks to do so in a pragmatic manner, such that readers are well positioned to apply its material content readily. Compiler and editor Richard Kocsis, PhD, captures the aim of the text in his Preface: “The book is not merely written from one disciplinary perspective, and nor is it exclusively written by ivory tower theorists or pure clinicians, but instead seeks to optimally blend the collective knowledge, skills, and practical experience sourced in these disciplines and approaches” (p XX). Analyzing such a wide array of complex specialties, topics, and applications is no small task, but Kocsis and his contributors accomplish it, and deserve an unreserved recommendation for a wide audience of researchers, scholars, practitioners, educators, and trainees.

Kocsis is a renowned psychologist especially well known for his contributions to criminal profiling. Beyond his own expertise, Kocsis wisely selects authors from a list of esteemed scholars, educators, and practitioners. Many core themes are discussed, including an overview of mental disorders as they pertain to criminal behavior, the role of forensic specialists as expert evaluators and witnesses, mental state defenses, and risk assessment. The text then proceeds to the more nuanced topics of detecting deception, eyewitness memory, cognitive interviewing, forensic hypnosis, false confessions, criminal profiling, psychological autopsy, and crisis negotiation. Each chapter details the theoretical basis, practical implications, and future directions for a given topic. Kocsis and his contributors impart unparalleled insights supported by their appraisal of what they consider to be the most seminal supporting data.

The text, now in its second edition, builds on the first with an updated review of the literature, following the 2013 update of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fifth Edition (DSM-5). In doing so, Kocsis affords the reader a comprehensive and useful review of extant literature. Emphasis is placed on one of the more common disorders in forensic practice, as appended from the initial work: antisocial personality disorder. The new edition further parses out accepted conceptualizations of psychopathy as a construct, as well as its various applications across areas of criminal study. Although the underlying theory is somewhat static, additional details and findings are apt and, perhaps to some, illuminating. Most pointedly, the Second Edition updates the initial version to reference contemporary topics, such as terrorism and mass shootings, as they apply to the content across chapters. Authors do not avoid controversial topics of academic and societal debate, nor do they offer presumptive perspectives; instead, they offer only the evidence basis that underlies forensic dogma, allowing readers to decipher their own interpretations and relevance.

Kocsis's selection of experts across disciplines makes the book not only applicable to a variety of domains but also provides potentially novel content for individuals in adjacent areas of specialization. Coral Donado, Mark Palermo, Charles Scott, Philip Resnick, Elizabeth Loftus, and James Herndon are but a few of contributors widely regarded as leading experts in their respective fields, who are called on to

identify foundational knowledge within their respective areas of concentration.

The text reviews themes raised by the media and the reactions they elicit. It does so in a manner that does not distract from the empirical data. The content and prose are succinct, with nearly every line relating a key finding. This default to empirical research directs readers toward the most salient facts without unnecessary detail or diversion. Rather than attempting to abridge information across chapters, Kocsis and contributors stay true to findings and avoid extending the evidence base into parallel realms where research findings might be applicable but remain indeterminate.

Another appreciated feature throughout the text is its review of psychoanalytical theories as they apply to forensic practice. Although their use in forensic settings is controversial, to paraphrase Maya Angelou: You can't really know where criminology is going until you know where criminology has been. Provisional exploration of the psychoanalytical underpinnings affords insight into the origins and chronology of forensic practice and is rightly accompanied by, and often countered with, prevailing and widely accepted evidence in modern practice.

The book does have some pitfalls, although they are few and minor. Whereas antisocial personality disorder is extensively reviewed, in-depth discussion of other personality disorders as they apply to forensic study is somewhat lacking. Another omission error is the lack of discussion of psychometric instruments in lie detection and malingering assessments. Such discussion would be beneficial to those interested in conducting forensic evaluations. Generally, Kocsis and his authors make few errors of commission, but they could extrapolate further. The review of some topics may be considered cursory to some experts; however, even a disparaging reader must acknowledge that this as an inevitability given the latitude of the book. Indeed, terse overview garners value for readers who are early in their pursuit of forensic work and may serve as a focused reference guide for those with more experience.

Applied Criminal Psychology: A Guide to Forensic Behavioral Sciences, 2nd Edition, is a valuable resource for criminologists, forensic psychologists and psychiatrists, students of sociolegal processes, and all those involved in legal and investigative pursuits. The text is balanced, thorough, and accessible. The text is expansive, yet focused topics are detailed without

apparent bias. This book is fitting for a field of study that should, at the least, rely on objective data. Kocsis and his authors steadfastly deliver on that goal.

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Parental Alienation: Science and Law

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Parental Alienation: Science and Law was edited by Demosthenes Lorandos, PhD, JD, and William Bernet, MD. There are 14 other individual authors. The book comprises 13 chapters divided into two larger sections. Section One, consisting of six chapters, is titled “Clinical Considerations and Research.” Section Two, consisting of the remaining chapters, is titled “Legal Issues.” The purpose of *Parental Alienation: Science and Law* is to provide a thorough analysis and history of parental alienation and parental alienation syndrome. In conjunction, editors and contributors articulate potential solutions to address this psychological phenomenon adequately.

Parental alienation (PA) theory has gained traction in the United States and internationally, with early references dating back to English common law in 1804. The book’s authors define the concept as a mental condition in which a child allies strongly with one parent while rejecting the other parent without legitimate cause. Emphasis is placed on the last portion of the definition, “without legitimate cause.” If there is evidence of abuse or neglect from the nonpreferred parent, the more appropriate term is parental estrangement. This distinction is crucial when determining the best course of action regarding the psychological and physical well-being of the child.

Although many attorneys and mental health professionals recognize PA as a form of psychological abuse and parental alienation syndrome as a mental condition, the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of

Mental Disorders, Fifth Edition (DSM-5) does not recognize PA as a diagnosis, and introduction of PA concepts in courtroom proceedings is subject to expert witness scrutiny. The authors of *Parental Alienation: Science and Law* cite multiple studies measuring alienating behaviors in children and by parents or caregivers. The authors outline specific psychological consequences of parental alienation, such as higher incidences of depression and personality disorder pathologies. Additionally, the text’s authors criticize the adversarial family court system, which they argue increases the propensity for parental alienation. Finally, in the chapter titled “Public Policy Initiatives Related to Parental Alienation,” the authors recommend solutions to reduce parental alienation cases within the United States.

The text’s authors provide readers with an in-depth analysis of the five-factor model, a tool to structure the investigation and assessment of parental alienation (not to be confused with the five-factor model of personality assessment). The five-factor model of parental alienation syndrome consists of the following five components: contact refusal by the child; the presence of a prior positive relationship between the child and the rejected parent; the absence of abuse or neglect by the rejected parent; the use of multiple alienating behaviors on the part of the favored parent; and the child’s exhibiting several of the behavioral manifestations of alienation (i.e., lack of ambivalence, an absence of guilt for harsh treatment of the alienated parent, rejection of extended family, etc.).

In Chapter 2, “The Psychosocial Assessment of Contact Refusal,” the reader is given an illustration of a typical assessment procedure for contact refusal for mental health providers. Contact refusal can occur for a broad range of reasons including, but not limited to, parental alienation syndrome. Chapter 2 describes the various external and internal motivators for contact refusal and outlines the appropriate intervention. Examples of these internal and external motivators include loyalty conflict, the child’s normal preference, and the child’s avoiding conflict. In Chapter 4, “Parental Alienation: How to Prevent, Manage, and Remedy It,” the authors focus specifically on parental alienation itself and describe a thorough approach to reduce its prevalence and incidence. This approach involves the implementation of psychotherapy for parents and children, education programs for children and parents, and effective enforcement of court orders. Forensic psychiatrists, child psychiatrists, and