

# CRIMXXIEDITIONS

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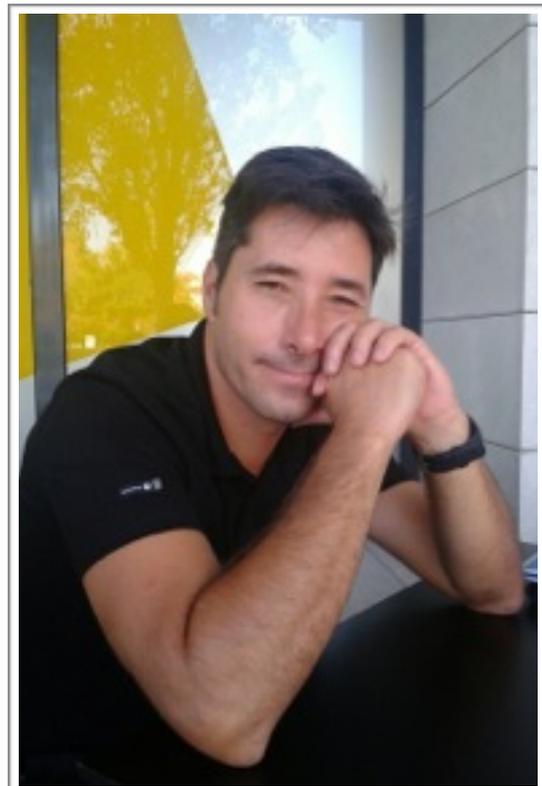


**MARK E. SAFARIK  
(EEUU):**

*'...calling yourself a profiler because you have a forensic science background from a university but without any law enforcement experience in my mind tells me that it is so many words in the wind'*

**FÉLIX RÍOS (ESPAÑA):**

*'Recently we got a verdict of a triple murder and the jury mentioned three times -the report of the criminologist...- That may be a milestone in the Spanish legal history and criminology, but the news still hasn't echoed in academic environments'*



## Greetings from the guest director to the readers:

Dear friends and lovers of criminology, criminalistics, forensic science and criminal profiling:

It is for me an honor to introduce this fourth newsletter that our friends Nathalie Rademaker and Pau Jordan with hard work and enthusiasm have prepared. Yes we have already four exciting criminology and criminal profiling newsletters. If in previous issues we have had the participation of great professionals such as Antonio Chazarra, Alfredo Velazco, Tania Konvalina, Justo López and Jorge Jiménez, among others, in this issue we have the honor of counting with the testimonies of two profilers, the american Mark E . Safarik and the spanish Felix Rios, director of this Journal.

**Mark E. Safarik** in 1995 was part of the Behavioral Analysis Unit, investigating serial murders, sexual homicides and mass murder. He is certainly an unique profiler who has followed the footsteps of Robert Ressler, because as he says, ‘...he has always remained accessible to those who asked for his help and humble in providing it... He had a significant impact in the direction my career has taken me’.

**Félix Ríos** is one of the pioneers in the extrapolicial criminal profiling in Spain and applies criminology in his work field, he defends the report of the criminologist in the courts and is among those who believe that ‘colleges should strengthen the training of its professionals in the preparation of such reports and use those who do have experience in this field’.

I do not want to steal more of your precious time and overtake other details of both interviews. I hope you enjoy it as much as we did in the development and reading and I want to encourage you to go outside to find truth. A trained criminologist, with experience and enthusiasm is the best guarantee to bring down the barrier that we set in front of ourselves before we even pass it. You already know that there are criminologists who made it, why? Because they didn't knew it was impossible.

**Juan Antonio Carreras Espallardo**

Criminologist and journalist. Vice President of the International Academy of Forensic Scientists, Europe.

## Félix Ríos

(Spain)

Félix MacGrier Ríos Abréu is a criminologist and legal expert in profiles:

- He is one of the leading experts in the reconstruction of the crime and development of criminal profiling in practical and real cases, having made numerous reports to court records, getting the reopening of cases after years of filing for lack of evidence .
- The canary criminologist combines his work as an expert in detecting counterfeits, with scientific work giving seminars, conferences and workshops of criminal profiling throughout the Spanish geography.
- In addition, he does voluntary work helping families of victims of disappearances and unresolved crimes in Spain and foreign countries, advising their lawyers and trying the reopening of cases.

*‘...colleges should strengthen the training of its professionals in the preparation of criminological reports and use those who do have experience in this field’*



***You're considered one of the pioneers of extrapolicial offender profiling in Spain, how were your beginnings ?***

Very difficult , I finished the degree of criminology and after four years of college I realized that at a practical level they taught us very little, something very similar happens today with the spanish degrees . My bedside book was 'Whoever Fights Monsters' from Robert Ressler, and as my work practices I designed a basic profiling tool for the Civil Guard of Las Palmas. That encouraged me to look for a practical development of the criminal profiling technique on my own.



***And that development came?***

Indeed, I started working with another criminologist, Oscar Diaz, in reviewing some unresolved cases in the Canary Islands, and soon I realized how important that virgin territory was for criminologists in that area. I started using profiling and reconstruction reports as a basis to request the reopening of archived cases, and the success was more than remarkable.

***Do judges and courts welcome well the figure of the criminologist as an expert profiler?***

Normally yes. Keep in mind that the administration of justice moves through customs, and we are something new in the legal world. That can cause suspicions in some cases, but if the performance of the criminologist expert is always ethical and useful, judges and courts will gratefully acknowledge them. Recently we got a verdict of a triple murder and the jury mentioned three times 'the report of the criminologist...'. That may be a milestone in the Spanish legal history and criminology, but the news still hasn't echoed in academic environments.

***There is much debate in academic forums on the criminological report and its judicial and extrajudicial application, what do you think of this scientific instrument and what experience have you had in this matter?***

I sincerely believe that the thing is misguided. There have been very few criminologists who have managed to get reports in the administration of justice and there is no sufficient collegial or academical concern of bringing it to the university classrooms. The basic problem is that 95% of universities who teach criminology have professors who aren't criminologists, and when they actually are criminologists the just haven't worked outside the academical environment. Imagine that all universities in Spain that provide a training in medicine don't have doctors in their faculties, or that the few who are have had no practical experience outside the academia. Disconcerting right? Well in Spain we're with our arms crossed regarding this situation towards criminology.

On the other hand I think that the colleges should strengthen the training of its professionals in the preparation of such reports and use those who do have experience in this field, and I do not mean myself, but to many others who have beaten the copper in the halls of the courthouse without having the support from anyone, such as Vicente Garrido and others. In fact, I know that at least the College of Valencia wants to go to that road.

***How do you use the profiling?***

Well, I have adapted several methodologies, in short, what I use is what works for me in the cases. There are points in common with Safarik, Turvey, Velasco, Genovés, Soto and Jiménez, but my method of work is more practical and on the field. I can't imagine profiling sitting behind an office desk.

***On what types of cases do you apply profiling?***

Well, especially on expressive crimes (sexual assaults and homicides) but in all cases, not only in the serials wich are less. It's absurd and ridiculous focusing the training in profiling on serial crime because it's rarely seen, and it's the easiest to investigate despite what show series and movies tell us. I'm 15 years in this and I have only worked on two serial cases, one is Angy and the other one is the paedophile of Ciudad Lineal.

***What advice would you give to Spanish profilers and criminologists who want to work in this field?***

To have faith, to fight, and do not expect help from anyone. Unfortunately we live in a country where those who open the gap to those behind are usually criticized and persecuted. They should move away from the topics and theory, hitting the streets and leaving the offices and computers to the time of writing the report, if not, criminology and criminal profiling in Spain are at risk of becoming an authentic dead science, like Latin.



## Mark E. Safarik

(USA)

Mark E. Safarik retired as one of the senior members of the FBI's elite Behavioral Analysis Unit. He was a Supervisory Special Agent in the National Center for Analysis of Violent Crime at the FBI Academy. He has over 30 years in law enforcement, including 23 years with the FBI. He was R. K. Ressler's partner in the *Forensics Behavioral Services International*.

- He has a master's degree in Criminal Justice from *Boston University*. He is on the faculty of *Armed Forces Institute of Pathology* and is a *Vidocq Society Member*. He has conducted research in the sexual assault and homicide of elderly females and was awarded the *Jefferson Medal from the University of Virginia* for his groundbreaking work. He has been published in international journals and in professional textbooks.
- He has reviewed and consulted on thousands of national and international homicide cases and a wide range of violent crimes.
- Nowadays 50% of his time is spent involved in filming and media productions and the balance is in case consultations expert testimony work and lecturing around the country.

*'Robert Ressler has always remained accessible to those who asked for his help and humble in providing it. He had a significant impact in the direction my career has taken me. I followed closely in his footsteps'*



### ***What college career did you attend before entering the FBI?***

I was originally headed toward medicine and in order to keep my hand in the medical field I decided to become a paramedic on an ambulance. That work experience put me in close contact with police when responding to shootings stabbings and other violent crimes. I became very interested in how the police conducted their investigations. This led me to be calm, initially, a reserve police officer where I worked in a marked patrol unit with another

regular police officer and then later applied to become a police officer and was accepted. I worked approximately 3 years as a patrol officer then became a detective ultimately working on violent crimes including homicides and sexual assaults. It was during my time as a violent crime investigator that I came into contact with the FBI's profiling unit when I had two of my homicide cases sent to the FBI for analysis. It was that working relationship with the FBI that may be decide to join the FBI to eventually become a profiler.

***You lived the Profiling from its really early stages... Please tell us, what is for you the Criminal Profiling?***

The early stages of the discipline of criminal profiling really started in the mid-1970s with profilers such as my former partner Robert Ressler, John Douglas, and Roy Hazelwood. By the time I joined the behavioral analysis unit in 1995, much research had taken place looking at serial murder, sexual homicide and mass murder. Originally the process was called criminal profiling because most of the work being done in the behavioral sciences unit involved assessing violent crime cases and linking the information obtained to characteristics of the offender and then those characteristics were assessed in terms of a particular offender. When discussing criminal profiling there must be a discussion and linkage of evidence and behavioral information from the crime scene to the suspect or offender. The process that I engage in, criminal investigative analysis has as one of its products criminal profiling but there are a number of other services that fall under this heading. These include indirect personality assessment, crime scene analysis, investigative suggestions, expert witness testimony, equivocal death evaluation, interview strategy, prosecutive strategy, search warrant considerations and critical incident analyses. Criminal profiling is one of the products that can be provided but it is a misnomer to who Lake criminal profiling to be the same as criminal investigative analysis.

***And how was your introduction to the FBI? How did you become to investigate homicide cases?***

Because of my background working violent crimes is a police detective including homicides and sexual assaults, when I will got into the FBI and received my orders my first office I was sent to an Indian reservation in Wyoming. I was sent there because there was a backlog in a number of cold cases involving different violent crimes including homicide, sexual assault, assaults with deadly weapons, child abuse, incest cases, and other assorted types of violent crimes. These cases had not been worked for a number of years due to the lack of investigators so I was sent there to clear up the backlog of violent crime cases and address any current homicide investigations. After working in the Denver division of the FBI on the wind River Indian Reservation I then transferred to New York City where I was involved in teaching violent crime investigation at a number of police academies throughout lower New York State. From there I went to the Sacramento division where I also worked violent crime cases in became the national center for the analysis of violent crime coordinator for the Sacramento division. It was this role that put me in direct contact with the profilers as their liaison with local law enforcement agencies. I eventually was able to promote into the behavioral analysis unit and at the time I was there I was the only profiler who had been a violent crime investigator prior to becoming a profiler and who had submitted one of their own homicide cases for analysis. Approximately 5 years after I had

been in the unit I actually pulled out one of my old cases that I had submitted is a detective and reviewed that case now as a criminal profiler. No other profiler had been in that position before me.

***Please, tell us about a curious or interesting case that comes to your mind on which you've participated as a profiler.***

I get this question all the time but the fact is that the types of cases that we work in the behavioral analysis unit are all very unique and unusual cases. They all have certain qualities about them that make them stand out from ordinary homicide cases. It's difficult to pinpoint any particular case that I find interesting because all of the cases that I worked on had their own unique aspects and qualities and aberrant behavior associated with them. I have traveled not only around the United States but I have traveled to many international countries to work on unusual violent crime cases from the rape and murder of an 88-year-old nun in Ireland to a dismemberment case in Denmark to a double murder homicide in Rio de Janeiro to a serial murder case in Johannesburg South Africa. I have assisted the investigations of complex violent crime homicides in Russia, Canada, Morocco, Germany, Sweden, South Africa, Brazil, Mexico and Spain. I honestly can't single out a single case where I wouldn't say that it was an interesting or unusual investigation. The fact of the matter is that the cases that would come into our unit in the FBI were made up of those types of cases that's why they were in our unit. The vast majority of homicide cases can generally be worked by the local law enforcement agency investigating the crime. It is only when the agency has determined that they need an additional expertise in their analysis that they call for our assistance.

***How do you feel about the cases you couldn't resolve or the ones you know 'who might have' committed the crime but you don't have enough evidence to pursue them...***

There are a few cases that I have conducted an analysis on where I clearly understand the dynamics of what is occurring in the homicide. Even understanding those dynamics and understanding what happened, how it took place, and why it unfolded still does not lead me to the offender. Those are frustrating types of cases but it is within the realm of what we have to deal with. Sometimes understanding all of the dynamics in these filing crime cases will point you to a particular type of individual which then points you to a particular individual as the suspect. In other analyses although you have most of the information you simply do not have enough information for developing a suspect. Sometimes the standard for making an arrest requires obtaining physical evidence, eyewitness accounts and other information that will lead to the arrest of a suspect. It is not uncommon for law enforcement agencies to know who would offender is in a particular murder case but the fact of the matter is that there isn't enough forensic or behavioral information that will let the case rise to the level of making an arrest it is the nature of law enforcement and violent crime investigations. This is why we constantly's drive to increase our knowledge and technology related to the collection of evidence in the analysis of particular types of evidence specifically biological evidence like DNA hairs and fibers and other body fluids. The end Billy to analyze certain types of evidence now did not exist 15 or 20 years ago. This is what is remarkable about cold case investigation. Now we can go back and retest evidence using technology we never had

before. But even with new technology and even when we understand the crime sometimes or just simply is not enough evidence to move the case forward to prosecution and that is always frustrating whether you're in the FBI or the local agency investigating the case.

***How well settled is your profession in your country? Is it possible to practice it easily?***

There are many law enforcement agencies need in the United States that have asked for the assistance of the FBI's behavioral analysis unit. It depends on what particular type of assistance the agency is requiring. As I mentioned before there are many different products that can be provided under the umbrella of criminal investigative analysis. Agencies are often very willing to have us assist them in complex serial murder investigations and to offer investigative strategies in other types of violent crime investigations. If you want to start talking about providing expert testimony in court then the issues become a little more refined. We have found strong success in testifying as expert witnesses related to crime and crime scene analysis. It is a narrow area of expertise in which we are able to explain to the court the dynamics of the crime but in doing so we do not link those dynamics to the defendant or to any particular individual. The success in court for testimony is directly related to the limitations that we have imposed on ourselves regarding the discussions of crime and crime scene analysis where we integrate the forensic, physical evidence and behavioral evidence into the story of the crime that the jury can understand.

***What do you think about the diverse profiling training that is offered in your country? Do you believe that to be a good profiler it's preferable to have a training as a criminologist, or as a psychologist?***

I honestly do not believe that you can be a successful and knowledgeable criminal profiler with a background as a criminologist or psychologist. I think having degrees in those particular areas make you valuable as someone that can assist a criminal profiler but both criminologists and psychologists lack the experience in investigating hundreds of homicide cases and that experience is critical to becoming a criminal profiler. There are many universities in the United States that offer forensic science programs but none of them can teach you to become a criminal profiler. Becoming a criminal profiler requires a law enforcement background specifically in the investigation of violent crimes and specifically in the investigation of homicide in sexual assault. A straight academic criminologist can not in my opinion be a successful or knowledgeable criminal profiler I think a criminologist will have a good research background if they have done research but they will not understand the nuances of complex homicide crime scenes unless they have studied worked on and analyzed hundreds of these cases. The problem is that a criminologist would not have accessed as what a psychologist to the entire case files in these homicide cases because of privacy concerns. Law enforcement agencies are not going to open up in my experience there complete case file including crime scene photographs autopsy photographs and protocol to non-law enforcement personnel. As an expert witness a criminologist or psychologist simply does not have the background in violent crime investigation to be able to render an opinion about the dynamics of a complex violent crime. That is to say that they can be useful in providing third party consultative information but as the lead criminal profiler

I would have very little confidence in their training or abilities to analyze these complex unusual homicide cases.

There are no criminal profiler training programs in the United States that do not serve law enforcement specifically. There are individuals in this country who claim to have a forensic background and claim to be a criminal profiler and in fact a couple these individuals have also published books but in my opinion since I have testified against them in court it is clear that they do not have the background or understanding of these violent crime cases to the ineffective profiler. So calling yourself a profiler because you have a forensic science background from a university but without any law enforcement experience in my mind tells me that it is so many words in the wind.

***Please tell us about your most recent projects (We've seen your working a lot on television series and that you have a new Cold Case Homicide show in Sweden, and a new Unsolved Homicide Show in Denmark)***

Over the last three years I have been doing a lot more work in the media. Even when I was in the FBI I had done shows like new detectives, the discovery channel, forensic files, and to different dateline episodes. In 2011 my original TV series Killer Instinct which have been produced by NBC came out on the Cloo channel. Killer Instinct is now in reruns on US TV stations as well as in Europe on CBS reality. I have a new cold case homicide show that I filmed the last year in Sweden which begins airing on April 13, 2015. I worked with the seasoned investigator from the Swedish national police and we were working on unsolved cases of the Swedish national police in an effort to help them resolve these cases. We were quite successful in identifying particular suspects in 75% of the cases we looked at. As a result of the Swedish television series Denmark also wanted to do a cold case homicide show so I begin filming that in early 2015. The format will be very similar to the Swedish unsolved homicide case show. I'm also in talks now with NBC to be a part of a new series that is in development and would begin filming later this summer. So in some rare would say that probably 50% of my time is spent involved in filming and media productions and the balance is in case consultations expert testimony work and lecturing around the country.

***How is a profiler's daily life? Describe us what you actually do when it comes to a day of work.***

Unlike the television show criminal minds, my daily activity especially when working on homicide cases is fairly boring. I think it's important to understand when you're doing this type of analysis you have to do a micro-review of all of the information attendant to the homicide especially that information related to the initial crime scene investigation. So I am doing a complete and thorough review of all the initial investigative reports, crime scene photographs, sketches and diagrams of the crime, reviews of any physical evidence that had been collected, reviewing any tests that have been conducted on that evidence that had been collected, review of the autopsy report and autopsy photographs as well as any interviews that were conducted with eyewitnesses or persons who had direct knowledge related to the initial crime or crime scene. This could include the suspect if the suspect places themselves at the crime or crime scene in a way that puts them as a witness in which they establish some sort of time criteria. If it is important for me to visit the crime scene in

order to understand the relationship of of locations to one another I would certainly avail myself of that ability. Often times I do not need to visit the crime scene in order to understand in complete detail the dynamics of the crime. This is usually because the investigating agency has prepared a very thorough and exhaustive documentation of the crime and crime scene through reports and photographs. So what I actually do is sit at a desk reviewing large amounts of documents and photographs which then form the basis for writing my expert report.

***How does this profession affect into your personal life? What positive and negative aspects would you remark about this profession?***

This is an important question because the ability to do this type of work requires the profiler to be able to emotionally dissociate themselves from the gravity of the brutality of the homicide. You cannot be effective if you allow emotion to cloud or color your judgement.

***In Spain the labor as a Criminologist is not yet very well known... What advice would you give to students in Spain who are interested to set out on this field? And what advice would you give to our government to empower the importance of the criminologists and the Criminal Profilers?***

As I have said, I think the roles of criminologists are different from the role of a criminal profiler. I think a profiler needs to have a strong police investigative background and extensive experience in violent crimes particularly homicide and sexual assault. I think the roles are complementary and to be most effective they would work together but I do not think that the Spanish Police have any such units set up within their different agencies. It is then left to the criminologists to take on the profiler role which I do not think is a good fit. Criminologists have a much greater research role. The criminal profiler is working to assist law enforcement agencies to help solve their cases by providing assistance within the investigation.

***You worked with Robert Ressler in the FBI... How was Robert while working? What virtues did he have as a researcher?***

Even 22 years after his retirement from the FBI's Behavioral Analysis Unit, one of the founding fathers of modern criminal profiling and behavioral analysis, Robert Ressler, still found himself in demand around the world for his knowledge and expertise in analyzing and interpreting the most complex and unusual of violent criminals and their crimes. As Robert's partner before his death in 2013, I knew firsthand that hardly a day that passed where we did not receive an email, letter, or telephone call seeking Robert's help to solve an extremely difficult homicide case or imploring him to lecture at some well-known University around the world. There was always an audience anxious to learn from one of the pioneers in criminal behavioral analysis who had the foresight and research acumen to understand that there was much that we, as a society, could learn from the most violent of offenders, the serial killer. Robert's exemplary career paved the way for law enforcement agencies around the world to organize and develop their own profiling units.

Robert Ressler has been given credit for coining the term serial killer in its modern iteration, credit that he well deserves. In his long FBI career, Robert worked tirelessly to

push the boundaries of his research into violent criminal behavior in order to understand the psychological and behavioral attributes and crime scene dynamics of serial killers, mass murderers, and sexual murder. He shared that knowledge through the publication of numerous articles and books that have assisted law enforcement agencies around the world in helping to solve their previously unsolved cases. Robert's life work has also helped to soften the sharp edges of the traumatic wounds left in the lives of the families of so many of the men, women, and children who fell victim to these violent offenders. He remains a hero, mentor, teacher, and problem solver to tens of thousands who have learned from his research and followed in his footsteps.

Despite his well-deserved reputation and fame Robert has always remained accessible to those who asked for his help and humble in providing it. He had a significant impact in the direction my career has taken me. I followed closely in his footsteps. The truth however, is that his footsteps are exceptionally large indeed. I doubt that anyone will ever be able to fill them.

He was the consummate researcher, always pushing the boundaries of what the FBI would let him do and what he knew he needed to do understand the complexities of these vary dangerous individuals who predated on innocent victims over and over without conscience.



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