

CRIMXIEDITIONS

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(SPAIN)



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CRUZ (MÉXICO)**



TÂNIA KONVALINA-SIMAS
(PORTUGAL)



JUAN ENRIQUE SOTO CASTRO
(SPAIN)

Director greetings to the readers:

Dear readers,

I welcome you to CRIM XXI, the first International Journal that publishes and freely distributes interviews on Criminal Profiling and applied Criminology,, both in Spanish and in English. Pau Jordan and Nathalie Rademaker, criminologists in the province of Alicante (Spain), provide us with each issue, the unparalleled opportunity to learn from firsthand the work of experts in national and foreign Profiling in even numbers of the Journal, and professionals working in Applied Criminology, on the odd numbers.

Yes 'applied' Criminology. I use that adjective because the aim of the Journal is to let the criminologists, profilers and practitioners or students of these or other forensic sciences know the real work that's done on the streets, of the experts that made it out of the classrooms of universities and training institutes.

It is not just another publication where people are interviewed based on a friendship relationship, sympathy or popularity, but on the contrary, subjects are chosen from among those who struggle every day in this field, working to bring the Profiling and Criminology into reality of oursociety, and not just in books or classrooms.

Félix Ríos

Criminologist and Profiler. Director of CRIM XXI

Justo López Díaz

(Spain)

Responsible of the Department of Criminology in Benidorm (Alicante, Spain) and precursor of various pioneering projects at regional, national and international level. We highlight the following from his professional curriculum:

- Degree in Criminology from the University of Alicante and Murcia
- University Expert in Private Detective from the University of Alicante
- Master-Expert in Drug Addiction
- Degree in Vial Education for Teachers from the UNED
- Professor of Criminology for Training Centers, Update and Personal Training of the Private Security
- Professional Specialist Degree in Police Science from the University of Valencia. Has been a member of military and the Security Forces.
- Has attended numerous Congresses, Conferences, Seminars and Criminology courses.

'...the news is not that Benidorm was the first Town Hall in Spain to employ a Criminologist, the news would be why not other spanish City Halls employ more criminologists in their towns?'



January 2015, we meet Justo Lopez Diaz and the Psychologist Tamara James at the Social Center 'La Torre-ta' (Benidorm, Spain). They welcome us in the office with enthusiasm and professionalism.

What is Criminology for you? Criminology is an exciting science. In human History, crime has always existed, causing not only curiosity and intrigue, but also fascination about its motivation and concern for its results.

To me Criminology goes beyond the definitions we all know about it. Its study affects the very essence of our nature, there's no doubt that social deviance is a part of the human species. So Criminology is the experience of the humanity against crime, in order to meet the victim, treat the offender and try to articulate the necessary mechanisms to prevent crime.



In the office, appearing in the image: Pau Jordán, Nathalie Rademaker, Justo López and Tamara James

What motivated you to become a Criminologist? I started studying Criminology in 1992 at the University of Alicante, I still keep good memories of teachers and classmates. I worked by that time in the Security Forces, in my more than twenty year of career I could apply my knowledge and experience on several occasions. I become graduated at the University of Murcia in 2007, in the first group of Criminologists with a professional training in Spain. I have witnessed the evolution and recognition of Criminology in Spain from the initial Private Degree into the current Official Degree. The opportunity came to me when the City Hall of Benidorm (Alicante, Spain) convened a public workstation in 2010. It was a personal and professional challenge, leaving behind years of work and studies. I trained for the position to the first public competition as a Criminologist Officer in our country and that was a great responsibility, the result you already know. The main motivation that led me to study Criminology was an innate vocation and my desire to improve myself.

How well settled is your profession in your country? Is it possible to practice it easily? In Spain, Criminology is a miracle career and there exists a great academic demand of it. Famous TV series like CSI or Criminal Minds have hindered, in one hand, the research work of the Security Forces because they provide accurate data on many current research techniques but, in the other hand, they have increased the number of students interested and enrolled in Criminology. Most Spanish public and private universities offer studies in Criminology and I know that the cut-off mark to get into it is quite high. However, these students soon discovered that what these series show is actually criminalistics, only a small part of the Criminology. At the end of their completed studies, they discover that there is no professional way, except private research or public Convene Positions in Prisons, Security Forces, Prosecutor or Judiciary.

How does this profession affect into your personal life? At the very beginning, this first public workstation created some controversy, it was the first in Spain and it had to wait some time before its recognition. Today, after almost four years of work and results, in the Conferences I do to students of Criminology at the University of Valencia, Alicante and Murcia about the operation of the Department of Criminology of the City Hall of Benidorm, *it is clear that the news was not that Benidorm is the first City in Spain to employ a criminologist, the news would be why not other spanish City Halls employ more criminologists in their towns?* Moreover, I must say that my career is creative, intense, satisfying and rewarding.

What positive and negative aspects would you remark about this profession? As a positive aspect I would highlight the interdisciplinary nature of the studies of Criminology. Its extensive knowledge not only serves the professional career but it will be a very useful tool for our lives. Also the figure of criminologists already begin to be recognized and included in seminars, national and international conferences that are held on topics such as security, justice, domestic violence, juvenile, criminal law, etc. As a negative aspect, I would remark the intrusion of other professionals that over the years have been doing work for which criminologists are better prepared. I'm surprised that there are no social movements to claim the figure of the criminologist in the labor market. Criminologists may be incardinated in the Technical Team of the Prosecutor of minors, in SEAFIS in the Departments or Department of Social Welfare, in the departments of public security, in the Department of Education for educational projects, in the Departments of Planning for urban development, there are many possibilities...

What kind of projects are you currently working on? I'm in charge as a Senior Technical of the Criminology Department of Benidorm from April 2011 with the following skills:

Execution, monitoring and control of persons sentenced to work for Community Benefit; Awareness Workshops (TASEVAL) to convicted punished crimes for road safety; Collaborating with the prosecutors Office of Alicante in psychosocial interviews with juvenile offenders doing social tasks and remedial activities for society resulting from extrajudicial conciliation and mediation processes; Developing with the Magistrate Judge Enrique Javier Ortola Icardo, the project "Education in Justice" of the General Council of the Judiciary (GCJ); Visiting the Courts of Benidorm with primary schoolchildren to witness real judgments; Developing an educational project called "Youth and values" upon which they have hired two criminologists, aimed at schools and institutes of Secondary Education and Highschool; Developing a project of the Council of Europe to prevent child sexual violence; I do conferences on the degree of Criminology at the University of Valencia, Alicante and Murcia; Students from various universities develop practical experience at the Department of Criminology of the City of Benidorm; I am an advisor in the various councils of the City of Benidorm's own matters affecting criminology, as well as in primary and secondary education Benidorm. And all that is emerging every day I attend with satisfaction.

What projects have you planned for future? I have planned to develop the "family meeting" project for couples in conflict who have to share the custody of their children. We are developing a Project 'Justice of Peace Education'. It is a preventive tool to encourage the the development of freedom, dialogue and consensus, promoting restorative justice experiences based on repairing the damage as resolution procedure conflict situations between students.

What advice would you give to students or people who are interested to set out on this field? To students who have not yet decided their academic future I would tell them to value their decision to study Criminology, because they will spend years of their life in a training that has no employment security, however, there are universities offering a double Degree of Law and Criminology, which is a very interesting option. To students who are already studying Criminology, encourage them to knock on all doors and present projects, I would tell them to be tenacious, creative and persuasive. I would say they have to defend the profession and that nobody will knock on the doors of their house offering anything, they

have to meet with politicians, businessmen, social partners, they have to find their place in the world labor and as Alan Kay said: "The best way to predict the future is to invent it".



Tânia Konvalina-Simas

(Portugal)

We highlight the following from her professional curriculum:

- She is Trained Clinical Psychologist and Psychodynamic Psychotherapist
- Trained in Forensic Sciences
- Working on her PhD in Criminology
- She currently works as an assistant lecturer on a Criminology Graduate Degree in Portugal (ISMAI)
- Is part of the UICCC (Criminology and Behavioral Sciences Research Unit) and her research focus is on psychopathy, deviant behavior and serial crime.
- She develops workshops and seminars on Criminal Profiling
- She also works as a Forensic Criminology consultant.

'...everyone and anyone is capable of the most breathtaking acts of beauty and love as much as the most abhorrent and repugnant deeds'



After contacting Tania, she immediately accepted to be interviewed, and gave us a quick and enthusiastic response. Throughout this interview we are able to get closer to discover a unique perception of the world in which she is immersed and a different point of view of human behavior.

What is criminology for you? If I were to answer strictly by the book, Criminology is the scientific study of crime as social phenomena and of all its manifestations. According to Reid (2003) this includes criminals, criminal behaviour and crime regulation. However I believe in a more expansive view. Criminology is a behavioural science, an applied science, a science of social control and a place of intersection between fields as diverse as biology, genetics, anthropology, physiology, medicine, psychiatry, economy, law, political sciences and many others. Crime, defined as the quintessential by-product of social living, is the type of be-

haviour which requires the most holistic approach possible because it is so very diverse and sensitive, culturally, historically, ontologically, anthropologically, and so on.

What motivated you to become a criminologist? I realised very early on in my life that human beings, despite their individuality, are all made up of the same components and yet we are able of the most awesome diversity in terms of behaviour and character. And this accounts for how unpredictable and fascinating human beings are. This led me to understand that deviance, abnormality or crime, are an implicit aspect of being human and that we are all susceptible to experiencing/demonstrating these facets because we must live together. What I am saying is that everyone and anyone is capable of the most breathtaking acts of beauty and love as much as the most abhorrent and repugnant deeds. I am moved by a profound curiosity to understand which dots connect to take someone down a path of destructiveness, meanness, cruelty, misanthropism and if there is a way of preventing this, or, at least, channelling such impulses more constructively. For example, we are all embryonic murderers in so far as, sociobiologically, we have it in us, but what actualizes this ability? What are the triggers, where are the dangers, what is the connection to what we call 'evil'. I'm deeply driven by a need to understand human deviance, which, really, is my own deviance, of course. But I am also wanting to know if, as a species, it is possible, or even desirable, to evolve to a point where dualities such as good-bad, right-wrong, moral-amoral become obsolete and therefore extinct, thus opening up new frontiers or boundaries in which behaviour will be expressed in proximal living.

How well settled is your profession in your country? Is it possible to practice every day? Sadly it is at a very early stage. Right now we are going through what the psychologists went through in Portugal 30 years ago. First we have struggled to epistemologically and academically separate from sociology (it was philosophy for the psychologists), then we jumped on a wave of revivalism with the CSI phenomena and after making it back to academic circles as a recognized field in itself, we are now fighting for our place in the professional world. This struggle is not just one of "criminologists against the world". We are still very much caught up in the classic ideological split between theoretical or academic criminologists and the so-called 'professional criminologists'. The first are still frowning upon the second and the second are stubbornly rejecting academic circumspection which ultimately is also not to their advantage. Ideally, and Brent Turvey often talks about this, what should exist, in all sciences really, are what he calls practicing theorists. Individuals who are engaged in practicing what they teach and teaching the experiences they gain from their practice: a dialectic model of knowledge and of developing a professional and ethical practice. We are at a point where, if you are not an academic and a researcher, finding work is still extremely challenging; mostly due to the fact that the jobs which should be carried out by criminologists are being done by other social scientists.

How is a criminologist's life? This depends very much on what kind of criminologist one is or, better put, what kind of criminology one practices. I am a forensic criminologist so this entails a very practical, sceptical and pragmatic take on behaviour and crime, and criminal proceedings as well as its investigation. I would say that forensic criminology is a very "hands on" type of criminology, one gets very involved in a process, in a case, with a clear goal or objectives and one has to see them through in order to get the job done. Obviously

this can be harder or easier depending on the case or situation and /or how it develops in terms of the evidence.

How does this profession affect your personal life? At the risk of sounding a little cliché, I would say that there are two ways in which I suffer most the effects of this kind of work. The first is frustration because there are no guarantees that you will get answers, some answers, any answers, let alone the right answers or answers that will prove to be help full to the process. The second is my psychic life. Every so often something will make its way into a deep part of my mind and give me bad dreams, heartache or simply sadden me deeply that it is so.

What positive and negative aspects would you remark about this profession? The most positive aspect for me is never, ever being bored. It just doesn't happen. I'm busy being fascinated and involved all the time. The most negative aspect would be, for me personally, the fact that I am building my practice at a time when there are still many impediments. I still have to convince most of my countrymen and women that forensic criminology is a thing, let alone, being given the opportunities to demonstrate how it's done and get one with normalizing this profession. Pioneering something can be exhausting, albeit excellent, and challenging, fun.

Could you tell us what kind of projects you are working on? Right now I am busy setting up as a private practitioner both in Portugal and in Brasil. On the other side of the Atlantic receptivity is acutely different. There isn't so much resistance to Anglo-American models and they are desperate for tools to deal with the colossal crime problem. In fact, I am involved in developing training programs in Criminal Profiling and Forensic Criminology in Brasil (São Paulo, Rio de Janeiro and João Pessoa) with the Instituto Paulista de estudos Bioéticos e Jurídicos - IPEBJ, and developing a team of forensic experts (FSI – Forensic Sciences Investigation) aiming at becoming teaching practitioners for this institute. It's a very exciting project and there is excellent reception to the changes we can bring to the system. I am also part of Brent Turvey's profiling team and we have been carrying out training in countries like a Mexico and Guatemala. As a result of this I will be compiling material for a handbook on the types of criminological interventions in forensic criminology. And, as if all this weren't enough, I am planning to complete my PhD in Criminology in the next year which focuses on the legal and ethical implications of the use of the label of 'psychopath' in the Portuguese legal system.

Could you share with us an anecdote or curiosity that you remember? I used to be a real book addict as a young girl and I accidentally discovered my uncle's huge murder mystery book collection during a summer holiday trying to escape my cousin. After that I became lost to the world, looking for all kinds of hideouts to read without interruption. I developed a habit that persisted to this day which is to constantly be looking for clues of what people are up to, where they have been, what they are doing, what are their real motivations. I'm often not very popular. Obviously.

What advice would you give to students or people who are interested in setting out into this field? Firstly, find out what it really entails and if it is for you. Make sure you are not just morbidly projecting unresolved needs or curiosities. Criminology, ultimately, is about finding ways to deal with very serious and pervasive social and individual problems which

are often not resolved instantly. It requires dedication and the belief that some things can be helped, improved and changed in order to make people's lives better. Secondly, mean it, don't just try, commit. Edmund Hillary said that once one is committed then everything else falls into place, colluding with your path. This kind of dedication cannot be forged. Thirdly invest in a broad education because it will give you better tools to work with. Overspecialization is counterproductive, especially when dealing with human behaviour. It is very important to be able to look at one event, phenomena or behaviour from many different perspectives.



Juan Enrique Soto Castro

(Spain)

National Police Chief Inspector, Chief of the Behavioral Analysis from 2010 when it was created. We highlight the following from his professional curriculum:

- PhD in Psychology. Has over 20 years applying the concepts of Psychology to the police investigation and reporting these advances in all kinds of public and private institutions related to Psychology, Criminology, Law, etc.
- He has given lectures, courses, seminars, etc. national and international law enforcement agencies and in universities and institutions about matters of forensic psychology and psychological investigation of crime.
- He has developed methods of psychological investigation of crime, such as VERA Method (Pyramid, 2014), for the development of psychological profiles of unknown assailants; ACTA Method (Behavior Analysis of Texts Anonymous) for analysis of threatening letters prepared by anonymous individuals; or Non-verbal Behavior Matrix for the analysis of this type of behavior.

'Performing criminological psychological profiles requires a multidisciplinary knowledge and only great preparation allows you to face this task with some warranty'



We contacted Juan Enrique Soto Castro, and what caught our attention is his haste and interest in providing us very detailed answers. We feel fortunate to share with you the trajectory of our national expert on Criminal Profiling.

What is Criminal Profiling for you? It is primarily a police investigation tool designed to restrict the number of suspects and permitting, thereby, faster identification and arrest the perpetrator of a particular offense or offenses. It aims to provide a list of characteristics of the alleged perpetrator of a crime, characteristics related to their psychological, motivational, behavioral, social sphere, and everything that would distinguish him somehow. Necessarily, the profile must be accompanied by a series of operating type of suggestions so that re-

searchers can test the profile, as this alone will hardly be specific enough to know where and when to seek the unknown assailant. In my professional experience I can find more difficulties in these suggestions than in the preparation of the profile. Keep in mind that the police

investigator is not so much interested in knowing how the unknown author of a crime is, but where to find him that is the main need that must be answered.

What motivated you to become a Criminal Profiler? I was already a psychologist when I entered into the National Police over twenty years ago. In fact, my first destination was a Homicide Group, after six months I was appointed head in charge of this group. From those first moments I could see clearly that the concepts of psychology could be applied directly to the police investigation of violent crimes. Since then I'm still continuing preparing myself for it because, despite the elapsed time and experiences in dozens and dozens of cases, I think there is still much to learn. I think it was more an encounter than a vocation.

What kind of methodology do you follow to establish a profile? We use the VERA Method (Pirámide, 2014), prepared by me and that was my doctoral thesis on the idea of getting a scientifically validated method that could be transmitted and used by properly trained behavior analysts. Its use is consistent in all cases of unknown aggressors of whom we need to develop a profile and it's giving very good results.

How well settled is your profession in your country? Is it possible to practice it easily? The implementation is very recent. In the Civil Guard there is a group dedicated to this work for more than eighteen years ago and in the National Police I am proud to lead a group of behavior analysts since its inception, nearly five years ago. The word "easy" doesn't fit with this work. Being a behavior analyst in any of the Security Forces means, first, gain access to them and then, once in them, find and walk the hard road that leads to logging in and practice it in this specialty. Nothing guarantees so. From other positions outside the police it's even more complicated because it will be difficult to make good profiles if you don't have the first-hand information about the crime to investigate. Creating profiles with reference information makes its rigor and effectiveness much more complicated.

Do you think that in Spain there are many profilers who deceive? In other words, can you really make a good criminal profile without having practiced in real cases (beyond the analysis of information in the press)?

It is very difficult making rigorous profiles only with the information available in the press because when the data has been published, it is very possible that they have been transformed. This kind of analysis absolutely needs all the information of the case. The filtrate for the profile should be done by a conduct analyst. In the media all the data is not published, only the information that's considered relevant from a media point of view, so the logical analysis using only that information has already got significant shortcomings. If we want to offer a serious, rigorous and responsible work from Criminology, necessarily involves making Profiles based on information, all the information which is in the case, not with the information that the media has selected for its publication. This is usually relevant information, of course, but not all information will be there, the logical will not be rigorous and the assumptions resulting from it either.

What kind of training do you think a profiler should have? Do you agree that a person can be trained on profiling without having any previous practical or teorical training in Forensic Sciences or the Behavioral Science? Everyone who is interested in a subject has every right to receive the information they want, of course. Anyone who's really

interested will realize that if you want to engage in Criminology, you must make a huge effort in training in Forensic Science and Behavioral Science.

The Behavioral Analyze Unit of the FBI, pioneer in the 60's-70's in Criminal Profiling, was driven among others by Robert K. Ressler, which as you know had studied Criminology previously entering the Army and later at the FBI. Do you think a cop formed in Criminology today can be as valid to join the SAC as a police formed in Psychology? At the end of the day it would be someone with more specific training in criminal conduct and Forensic Sciences, do you think so? Of course, a Criminologist can be a part of the SAC. But their inclusion will depend on the quality of their training and their experience as a researcher and skills to the logical manage of information that's available in a case. The same applies to graduates in Psychology. The title itself does not guarantee you to become part of the SAC. Fortunately current members and candidates have enviable curriculum in forensic science and behavior. However, it is also important to note that the science of psychology studies human behavior in general and the SAC does not only analyze criminal behavior. The basis of behavior, its foundations, its principles, its basic processes must be mastered if you want to be a behavioral analyst. If you also analyze the criminal behavior, any criminological training will be a quality in your profile as a candidate. Many students are already aware of this and study double degrees or both grades, Criminology and Psychology, because they know that their training is much more complete and increases your chances to exercise their passion and live it.

If it serves to illustrate this, I'm actually coursing Neurosciences, because to analyze human behavior, surely one of the most complex phenomena we face as scientists, there are only a few branches of science that aren't indispensable for us. We should leave this fictitious dichotomy between Criminology and Psychology to be a criminal profiler. The most important thing is to have a training as wide as possible to allow us to deal judiciously studying human behavior in the criminal area, where we will analyze not only the offender but also the victims, witnesses, suspects, humans all interacting with each other and where the basic processes of individual behavior, coupled with the indissoluble social facet of people, will be the basis for a rigorous, responsible and professional analysis. If we really thought that having a training in Criminology and Psychology was enough to make profiles of unknown aggressors that would allow law enforcement to identify and apprehend criminals, profiling would be a fully introduced investigation tool in the police. Unfortunately it is not like that, and there remains much to do, so much to learn and much to develop as analysts.

Do you think there is unity of criteria when profiling a case between the Civil Guard and the CNP? Do you keep some kind of coordination meeting with his counterpart in the SACD? I don't know how the Civil Guard realizes their profiling. There is no coordination while we do not share the investigation of any case. But if it would be the case, im sure that it would be really productive if there's coordination because relations between the two sections are very fluid and nearby.

Profiling Reports in other countries like the US are usually provided as expert reports to judicial proceedings, both at the investigation stage as at the trial phase. However, reports of SAC are internal, and you suggest that they aren't incorporated into the police inquiries that are taught in a case. Do you think contribute them to the

judicial procedure can help establish such issues as the motive of the crime, its premeditation, ambush, etc.?

Behavior analysis as the SAC was designed as a tool for police investigation. Our goal was and still is to facilitate the work for researchers to achieve detecting, collecting and analyzing physical evidence, which are finally supporting the accusation. However, more and more are the cases which contain these analyzes and are incorporated directly to the judicial process in order to strengthen certain points of the investigation. Indeed, already the prosecutors themselves and judges require our analysis, which are immediately incorporated in the summaries.

Do you think Profiling is only applicable to blood or sexual crime, or also to other types of crimes such as, for example, robbery, fraud, etc.? In my opinion, its application is possible to any criminal activity involving interaction between humans. It is mainly used in violent crimes because of the circumstances resulting to this type of cases for which the operating investigators request it.

How is a profiler's daily life? You could summarize that it's exciting, but not always. No two cases are alike and introducing into each of them is an intellectual and emotional challenge of great intensity. It is true that the work material is hard. At the end of the day, we analyze behaviors that involve suffering and murdering people. Trying to detect and manage these behaviors logically and psychologically is an important mental effort, making any advance, however small, has got a major impact on personal and professional satisfaction. As well, if the analyst's work contributes to the investigation of a case, that satisfaction is difficult to explain. I can say that no two days are the same at work, but it's a job, unless certain times, which it is done in the privacy of an office, in front of a notebook and a computer, alone with the suffering of another person and other behaviors that provoked it. It can be very hard.

How does this profession affect into your personal life? This question is linked to the previous one. Efforts are needed to disconnect, to get away from the emotional consequences of dealing with such harmful everyday human behaviors. A healthy lifestyle is a priority and, above all, having activities to emotionally ventilate and download all these intense emotions. It is inevitable to take concerns, but we must do our best to leave them outside our door. It is not appropriate or healthy to be constantly thinking about it, no matter how exciting this profession can be. I do not agree with those cinematic metaphors that the criminological literature has offered us occasionally, like getting swallowed into the depths by it or looking into the eyes of the monster, but it is also true that, like many other professions, it is easy to burn oneself.

What positive and negative aspects would you remark about this profession? As a positive aspect I would say it's a tool for police investigation that involves extra methods to identify and arrest criminals, especially the violent ones, so that means the prevention of new crimes or the assumption of criminal responsibility by the committed crimes, thus complying with the law and providing a public service of the highest order. In a way, prevent any fact means avoiding any suffering of people and that's always a great satisfaction. Another positive aspect is to find specialists who share the same passion and whose motivation for greater effectiveness in the methods always increase itself. As a negative aspect I would

remark is the fact that there is still much to convince about criminal profiling, it's a rigorous and effective tool, when it's done with responsibility. The fact that there are many "pseudo - experts" does not help. Criminologists have much to say about it, advocating that the methodological rigor and professionalism are the guides of this profession, rather than giving simple opinions based on indirect information, just to provide the name of the supposed criminal.

Could you share with us an anecdote or curiosity that you remind? Each case is unique, as I said. In many of them it is difficult to quantify the contribution of the behavior analyst to resolve the case. But when this contribution becomes crucial for the elucidation of a crime, satisfaction is higher. I was requested to collaborate in a case of an operating group. They had been investigating a homicide for more than a year and, although there were numerous avenues of research and had been used thousands of hours in their inquiries, all led to dead ends. Behavior analysis showed them that they should find no murderer because everything had been fabricated by the victim himself, who had simulated a murder to hide his own suicide. All his life he had lied to everyone around him and kept doing it even when decided to end his own life. The good news was that it could be verified, so there was no doubt left. Cases like these motivate the analysts and police investigators a lot convincing that criminal profiling has much to contribute to the police investigation.

What advice would you give to students or people who are interested to set out on this field? There is still much to be done in this field. There is so much more work ahead. A few have opened a way that future criminologists have to settle. We left them with the most difficult part. My main advice to them it is to prepare it thoroughly and never stop. Performing criminological psychological profiles requires multidisciplinary knowledge and only great preparation allows you to face this task with some warranty. This involves studying, reading, generating methods and test them, questioning everything and test it but always with rigor. This feature, rigor, must be absolutely internalized. Apart from criminologists, you must be scientists. Criticize everything, be curious, ambitious (scientifically speaking) and not be afraid to fail.



Pedro Alfredo Velazco Cruz

(México)

Forensic Analyst and a Criminal Profiler. He has extensive work experience, and multiple university links.

We highlight the following from his professional curriculum:

- He holds a degree in Psychology by the Superior School of Psychology of Juárez City.
- Master in Criminal Investigation from the University of the West Extension Antonio Beristain, Guatemala City.
- Founder of the Mexican Academy of Forensic Scientists (AMIF) in Ciudad Juárez, Chihuahua México.
- He works as a trainer, consultant and support in cases of criminal research through the International Criminal Profilers Society.
- He is a founder-partner and member of several organizations related to Criminal Profiling and Forensic Sciences.
- Author of several books and numerous articles on Criminal Profiling.

'Criminal Profiling is a scientific application and doesn't have a title of personal property as they want to impose, it belongs to science and real scientists'



We count with Velazco Alfredo Pedro Cruz, Behavioral Analyst and Criminal Profiler, recognized for his great contributions to Forensic Sciences. Here you will find a person who emphasizes in searching constantly for the uniformity and professionalization of Criminal Investigation.

What is Criminal Profiling for you? Criminal Profiling for me is a specialty of Criminology that helps in the analysis of the crime scene and aims to make a reconstruction of manifested behavior and identify important elements in the case of research, such as the modus operandi, the sign in behavior, Victimology and motivation.



What motivated you to become a Criminal Profiler? By studying Psychology one of the topics that interested me most was related to the behavior of human beings who committed criminal behavior, specifically rape and serial killings. A turning point was the subject of Social Psychopathology where I did research (academic) related to the etiology of criminal behavior in cases of serial murderers, and there is when my interest started in directing my profession in the area of Criminal Profiling.

Subsequent to graduating with all that I newly learned from the University I searched to apply to prosecutors in Chihuahua, and evidently the doors were closed to the proposals, it took six years for the proposal to be taken into account by intervening in a murder case and link some violations. No doubt it was the contribution to the arrest of these two assailants what motivated me to design a more ambitious project since 2010, and to until nowadays it's called: Unit of Analysis of Criminal Conduct.

How well settled is your profession in your country? I consider that a major problem in my country is the ignorance and misconceptions around the Criminal Profiler because it's a profession that recently was unknown in its entirety, and in the last three years has already taken a space within Sciences Forensic; however, I still perceive certain features of inadequacy in those who 'call themselves' Profilers or Specialists in the field; we should start questioning them what they call Criminal Profiling and avoid them to teach something that they don't know by themselves. Criminal Profiling, specifically in Ciudad Juárez, already has a specific occurrence in prosecuted cases, and this was given in 2008; I consider that this practice as a forensic specialty has to be taken into account and gives an added value. It's starting to give shape to the Criminal Profiler.

How is a Criminal Profiler's daily life? It is as normal as any professional, an important point that must be addressed is if we separate personal aspects of professionals; we must abide by the principle of separation to ensure an objective analysis.

In the professional field, how is the professional life of a profiler? That would be a good question and the answer is simple, it is based on ethics, accountability, methodology and application of science.

How does this profession affect in your personal life? As I mentioned it doesn't because my philosophy is to separate personal life from my job, the day the profiling affects my personal life, surely I will leave my job; and not just because it would affect my personal life, it would be irresponsible to continue when it's affecting the Science that I represent.

What positive and negative aspects would you point out of this profession? That's a great question; certainly the negatives are lack of interest in investigating some governments or prosecutors; other negative I see is the fact that there are people looking to "eat this" because they literally live from it, and have made this a modus vivendi and perceive the student as a synonym of money; another negative situation is the misconception that this is a personal belonging, Criminal Profiling is a scientific application and doesn't have a title of personal property as they want to impose, it belongs to science and real scientists.

The positives are many; the first is that it has a scientific purpose, and that already worth much; second, it's taking form worldwide, another aspect is that it has broken the idea that it's related to mysticism and fairy tales, a key aspect for this development is searching for the professionalization of the Criminal Profiler.

We know you published articles and books... What your next project? I have written books (3 in total) in collaboration with the university where I currently work as director of graduate studies in Criminal Profiling; and this has been of great interest among the students. Currently I'm working on some projects, a couple of them focusing on aspects of bibliography, another under a new field that's not yet explored in Mexico about Criminal Profiling, and another project that has to do with the approval criteria for professionals in this matter.

Tell us a curious case or a story you remember ... I remember an analysis case I conducted in collaboration with Guatemala, where prosecutors and forensic experts requested a meeting with me, at that time I came to this country as part of a lecture to students of Criminology; however, the government authorities were interested due to the commotion of the population. There were 10 cases related to the death of women in the center of the capital in less than two years. I worked with researchers for a few days (actually only a few days) analysing and making a criminal profile to detect aspects, and linking cases. I left the country back to mine, and three months later they sent me an email thanking me for the support in the case that resulted in the capture of the offender.

What advice would you give to students or people interested in starting in this field? In my opinion, I believe that those who are interested in this profession should start up in researching, in addition to your activity you must be supported by university training and constantly searching and updating methodologies, if you are interested in this field you should avoid mistakes that were already made, and not tolerate or support persons or fraudulent methods because it would be a setback in our field.

