

CRIMXXEDITIONS

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**ANDRÉS
SOTOCA**

&

**BRENT
TURVEY**

GREETINGS FROM THE DIRECTOR TO OUR READERS:

Once again in this issue we are talking about Criminal Profiling, but this time with two of the greatest in national and international Criminology. On the one hand, Captain Andrés Sotoca, head of the SACD, the service of the 'Guardia Civil' namesake of the SAC of the National Police which is runned by our beloved fellow Inspector Soto. On the other hand, we have the always controversial Turvey, who represents the training in profiling especially in America, where, as you can see in the interview, he defends a profiling method that is not alligned with the FBI.

I think it's an excellent opportunity to compare two parallel styles of work but essentially similar as well as to learn more about the personality of these two profilers of our todays Criminology.

Félix MacGrier Ríos

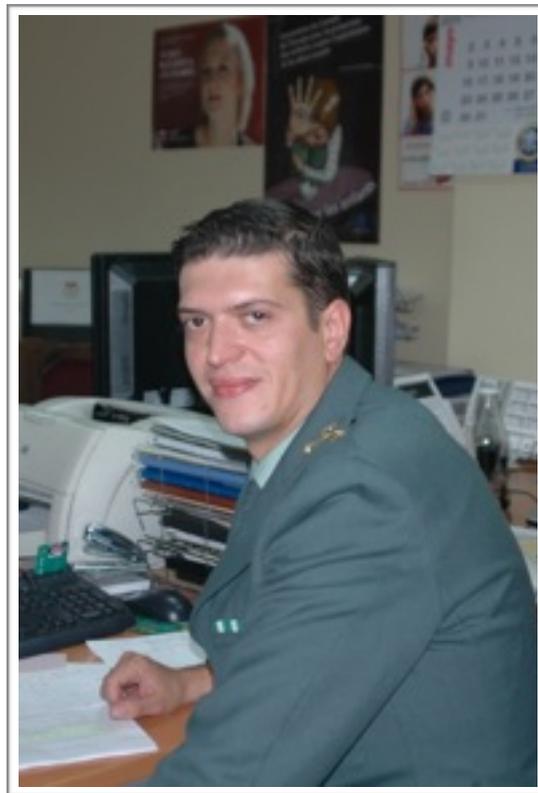
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ANDRÉS SOTOCA

(Spain)

Captain of the 'Guardia Civil'. Chief of the Criminal Behaviour Analysis Section from the Technical Unit of the Judicial Police at the 'Guardia Civil'. Doctor in Psychology, 'Universidad Complutense of Madrid'. PhD in Clinical Psychology, Forensic and Legal.

- Member of the Forensic Institute of Sciences of the 'Universidad Autónoma of Madrid'.
- Professor of the Master in Forensic Science at the 'Universidad Autónoma of Madrid'. Module Coordinator of criminal profiling. Professor of the Master in Analysis and Criminal Investigation of the On distance University of Madrid. Subject of criminal profiling.
- Participation in various research projects: development of criminological profile of the consumer of child pornography, of the Spanish forest arson, sex offenders in Spain, etc.
- Trainer of the 'Guardia Civil' in different topics related to the police investigation: homicide, sexual offenses, human trafficking, etc.
- Expert reviewer and member of the editorial board at scientific journals such as 'Anuario de Psicología Jurídica' or 'Behavior & Law Journal'.



What is Criminal Profiling for you?

There are different definitions of profiling, I especially like the one from Canter which defines it as the process of predicting the characteristics of an offender based on his behavior during the commission of one or more crimes. I like this definition for two reasons, first

because it puts the focus on behavior as the main source of information and on the other side because it also supports profiling in unique case crimes. Although it is true that it is easier to develop a profile of serial crime because it's possible to establish patterns, also inferences about possible features of the author can be performed with a single crime.

... "Behavior analysts tend to overestimate the importance of internal factors and the experience teaches you that many of the author's responses are improvised, resulting from the situation in which they are involved"

At what point did you get interested in criminal profiling? What motivated you to become an analyst of criminal behavior?

I was almost since always interested. My two vocations were psychology and the police work in the 'Guardia Civil' (Civil Guard). Working as a behavior analyst combines my two passions.

What kind of methodology do you follow to establish a profile?

Like most Units and Sections of Behavior Analysis in the world we follow an integrated methodology.

Based on the study and analysis of police information developed by the FBI we have been including contributions from other authors, especially the ones from Turvey. Thus, all the police, criminalistics and forensic information (statements, reports of ocular inspection, autopsy, etc.) we organize around 4 main sources of information on the conduct of the author (psychological evidence):

1. Crime scene: to try to establish a hypothesis about the interaction 'perpetrator-victim'. In the case of a homicide we pay attention to the murder weapon, type and amount of wounds, etc. In sexual assault an extensive interview with the victim is

made in order to detail how the interaction was from the approach of the author to the escape. In this way we reject the responses of the criminal by specifying the situation that's attributable to his personality and motivation, which then derive the characteristics of the profile. We also categorize the scene in primary/secondary, organized/disorganized, etc. Although this last classification has its limitations but it remains a first interesting approach. We have a protocol of questions and try to answer them in the light of the evidence from the scene.

2. Modus operandi and signature: we detail what the author functionally did and behaviors that may be related to his/her motivation (for example, the degree of proportionality of the force that was used). With this information we can deduce aspects such as intelligence, criminal records, as well as their ability to control adverse circumstances. We always consider the risk level of the modus operandi.

3. Geographical aspects: although the SACD (Analysis Section of Criminal Behaviour) does not use any specific software to make profiles, we do obviously consider the spatiotemporal aspects of criminal conduct that can guide on the anchor points of the author.

4. Victimology: we use the same protocol as for psychological autopsies. A very detailed study of the victim to deduce aspects of the author. When knowing in depth the victim we can know whether his/her conduct is consistent with the evidence and a possible profile that attracted the aggressor. We also measure the level of risk of the victim.

After analyzing these four aspects, we try to make a reconstruction of the author and the victim's behavior and of the motivation of the author. Knowing *what* and *why* we try to make deductions from the *whom*.

As usual also in other units of behavioral analysis, profile must be accompanied by research lines to offer the operating investigator based on the above analysis.

All of this has to do with the deductive approach but we are also conducting studies with inductive methodology. For example with forest incendiary we have made profiles applying multivariate statistical on more than 1,900 fires that are already clarified in Spain and we have a predictive tool that the investigator can use. Just by filling in a number of variables of the new fire and the system will classify and tell the features that most frequently the authors of such crime tend to have. We are conducting similar studies with murder and sexual assault.

And finally we are developing a profiling side that we have called *indirect profiling*, which consists in knowing the personality of someone in a short time through behavioral and observational indicators, so that police action can be individualized with him. For example in an entrenched.

What is the profile that you have done and that professionally has marked you the most?

A profile that taught me how important situational factors are in the conduct of an aggressor. Behavior analysts tend to overestimate the importance of internal factors and the experience teaches you that many of the author's responses are improvised, resulting from the situation in which they are involved.

Could you share with us how your daily life is as a Criminal Analyst of the 'Guardia Civil'? Could you explain a little more about the unit in which you work?

Our main function is to provide support in behavior analysis to the Judicial Police Units from the Civil Guard throughout the country. So, many days we are travelling anywhere in Spain taking a case. When we are in the office we spend a lot of time preparing the reports and then we refer them to the research unit. And we also conduct studies with different universities to continue validating procedures and techniques in this field.

My Section not only makes profiles, we also understand the behavioral analysis from a holistic point of view: author-victim-witness. Therefore we perform support in many other areas, such as the interview to sensitive-victim's and assessment of the credibility of their testimony, psychological autopsies in cases of deaths with misleading etiology or high risk disappearances, dependency on followers of sectarian groups, etc.

What kind of training do you believe a good Criminal Profiler should get in Spain?

University education in some degree on behavioral sciences: psychology or criminology.

Training and experience in criminal investigation.

Additional training in forensic science: forensic medicine, criminalistics, etc.

Do you think, after the selection process, a criminologist with specific training in forensic science and criminal behavior, could work as a criminal analyst as you do in the Civil Guard?

He/she should first be a Civil Guard and have a Degree in Judicial Police within the institution. And also there should be available a free a vacancy. One of my partners is a criminologist and besides all of this that I just mentioned he is a component of the Analysis Section of Criminal Behaviour (SACD) of the Civil Guard.

Do you think that there is a purpose of unity when it comes to profiling in a case between the Civil Guard and the National Police? Do you keep some kind of meeting coordination with his counterpart in the SAC?

All Sections of Behavioral Analysis worldwide work similarly. Each group has its little nuances but in essence, we consider the same sources of information and a similar methodology, even if we are using different names.

We have a good relationship with our counterparts in the SAC and we have met the National Police on various training activities. So far we have not had any case where we had to work together but there is no problem if we ever have to and the Ministry has adequate coordination mechanisms for it.

What advice would you give to students or people interested in starting in this field?

That besides studying criminology and/or psychology and a further training in forensic sciences, they must train to the get into the State Security Forces if you really want to dedicate to this task. Even if you trained and are a part of the Security Forces it is not guaranteed that you will have this job, because us who belong to these sections are very privileged.



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<http://www.forensic-science.com>

Author of multiple forensic manuals

- Turvey, B. (2011) Criminal Profiling, 4th Ed., London: Elsevier Science

<http://criminalprofiling3.blogspot.com/>

- Turvey B. (2013) Forensic Fraud, San Diego: Elsevier Science

<http://forensicfraud.blogspot.com>

- Savino, J. & Turvey, B. (2011) Rape Investigation Handbook, 2nd Ed, San Diego: Elsevier Science

<http://forensicvictimology.blogspot.com/>

- "... the intermixing of science and politics is a bad combination with a bad history. We must remember the history, and be certain that what we present to the world as knowledge is disinterested and honest."
Crichton, M. (2004) State of Fear, New York: Harper-Collins Publisher; p.638



Dr. Turvey, going back to the past for a moment, What was the first criminal profile that was held in US history?

One of the first published texts that offered explicit instruction on the subject and practice of profiling criminal behavior is the Malleus Maleficarum (The Witches' Hammer). Two Dominican monks, Henry Kramer and James

Sprengrer, professors of theology of the Order of Friars Preachers, originally published this work around 1486. Written in Latin, it was intended as a rationale and guide for those involved with the Inquisition (namely the authors), to assist in the identification, prosecution, and punishment of witches on behalf of the Catholic Church.

This ideas in the book formed the basis for a “diagnosis” of Witchcraft offered by Dr. Thomas Oakes in relation to the case of Goodwife Anne Glover. As a result of this accusation the trial that followed, she was convicted of witchcraft and hung in 1688. That case was profiled in another book by Reverend Cotton Mather, titled *Memorable Providences, Relating to Witchcrafts and Possessions* (Mather, 1689). He went on to give expert testimony in court during the Salem Witch Trials (1692).

These event have forever linked criminal profiling with not only sensationalism, but wrongful convictions and wrongful executions in the United States - all sanctioned by both the church and U.S. Courts.

...‘The level of damage caused by unethical and incompetent profilers is incalculable’

How and when did you start in offender profiling?

I began studying criminal profiling in 1991, approximately. I did independent study classes at Portland State University in Forensic Psychology under Dr. Thomas Kinderman and interviewed serial murderers in prison with the help of Dr. Gary Perstein. In graduate school, at the University of New Haven, I studied criminal profiling techniques under Max Thiel, a retired FBI profiler working in there Forensic Science Department.

Dr. Turvey, Do you think you can now affirm that everything is "invented" in the methodology in the field of criminal profiling? Scientifically speaking, Has it reached its limit?

Not even close. So much more scientific study is needed. And what we know changes every time a new case is worked. Profiling is not like that because crime and psychology are not like that. For example, the area of victimology is barely understood by most for lack of solid research.

Anyone making this kind of claim has no idea what science is, what criminology is, or how any of it works.

What development has been and is the criminal investigation, under a legal and political factor, faced with the identification of the "enemy"?

I'm not sure what is being asked. But I can say that criminal profilers must deal with the examination of facts and evidence, not with the identification of enemies or evil. Those who speak in such terms are not scientists, rather they are expressing their own bias and ignorance.

What do you think about profiling carried out by the FBI and the method used?

It is not scientific, it has never been used to solve a single case, and those involved in its use are often also found to be giving false testimony about their education, training, and experience. Very often, they are also subsequently not able to testify in court. The courts have ruled, time and time again, that FBI profiling methodology is not reliable for courtroom purposes.

In your opinion, Do you think the criminal profile can reach to stigmatize an individual or a particular population?

That is often the very purpose of an inductive or nomothetic criminal profile. Rarely does a profile referring to a group of offenders have investigative value. This harkens back to blood libel, the persecution of witches, and the identification of Jews... all done with non-inductive criminal profiling.

TV series, with great international audience, dealing with criminal investigation and this profiling technique, Do you think that it contributed in a positive way or ,conversely, It have been caused biases?

They have raised both interest and ignorance. So they are constructive and destructive all at once. They create a reality that does not exist, and suggest abilities that are not possible, rewarding those who would fraudulently claim otherwise.

To make a good criminal profile it takes many years of experience in the field. What level of damage causes mala praxis in the police and/or in judicial sphere?

The level of damage caused by unethical and incompetent profilers is incalculable. They can cause wrongful convictions, allowing true offenders to keep committing crimes. Profiles that identify the wrong person ensure that real criminals stay on the street and that victims continue to be harmed - often in cases involving rape and murder. This is a well documented problem.

Dr. Turvey, Would you please give some useful advice to our readers as to the realization of a good criminal profile?

A competent criminal profile will be written down; it will have a date and signature of the examiner; it will explain findings clearly; it will discuss limitations; and it will be case specific, identifying the evidence examined. It will also have a reference section. An incompetent profile will be missing these things, and it will name the person responsible for the crime.

Which profilers do you consider as a worldwide currently the best in the field? Do you know any Spanish profiler and what opinion do you have about them?

The most competent and ethical criminal profilers that I know are:

Manuel Esparza (Juarez, MX), Aurelio Coronado (Aguascalientes, MX), Hector Hawley (Juarez, MX), Dr. Changwon Pyo (Korea), Jodi Freeman (Canada), and Dr. Stan Crowder (USA).

These individuals are all certified by the Academy of Behavioral Profiling/ International Association of Forensic Criminologists. Therefore, they have had their work evaluated, examined and tested scientifically.

Anyone that does not hold or has not kept this certification should not be regarded as a legitimate or professional criminal profiler.

Thanks for your time and dedication!

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