

An abstract, high-contrast painting of a human face. The face is composed of bold, thick black outlines and filled with vibrant, clashing colors like yellow, green, blue, red, and orange. The eyes are large and expressive, with one eye looking directly forward and the other slightly averted. The mouth is open, showing a pink tongue. The background is a mix of warm, textured colors like orange, yellow, and red, with some dark, dripping paint effects on the right side.

# Police and Profiling in the United States

## Applying Theory to Criminal Investigations

 CRC Press  
Taylor & Francis Group

Lauren M. Barrow, PhD  
Ronald A. Rufo, EdD  
Saul Arambula, EdD



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*My work on this text is dedicated to the campaign against crime and evil. May we all continue to work toward the transfer of knowledge from the academic and research world to those charged with effecting justice.*

**—Lauren M. Barrow, PhD**

*It is with great pleasure that I dedicate this book to my dear wife, Debbie, who has stood by my side and supported me in writing this book on criminal profiling. She has always been my inspiration and motivation to follow my dreams.*

**—Ronald Rufo, EdD**

*This book is dedicated to my loving wife, Bricia, and my wonderful children, Nicole, Nicholas, and Kayla. “Dada” loves you.*

**—Saul Arambula, EdD**





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# Contents

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<b>Preface</b>	<b>xiii</b>
<b>Acknowledgments</b>	<b>xvii</b>
<b>About the Authors</b>	<b>xix</b>
<b>1 Introduction</b>	<b>1</b>
Chapter Goals	1
Key Words	1
Introduction to Criminal Profiling	1
Disciplinary Contributions to Criminal Profiling	3
Psychiatry	3
Forensics	6
Criminology	7
Leaders in Criminal Profiling	7
Notable FBI Profilers	8
FBI Behavioral Science Unit	9
References	12
<b>2 Theoretical Foundations</b>	<b>13</b>
Chapter Goals	13
Key Words	13
Introduction	14
Historical Evolution	15
Ancient Era	15
Medieval Age (476–1500)	16
Renaissance Period (14th–16/17th Century)	17
Enlightenment Period (18th Century)	17
Classicalism	18
Marchese de Beccaria	18
Neoclassicalism	20
Rational Choice Theory	20
Positivism	21
Determinism	21
Criminological Theory	22
Biological Theories	22

	Psychological Theories	24
	Sociological Theories	29
	References	33
<b>3</b>	<b>Logic and Reasoning Practices</b>	<b>37</b>
	Chapter Goals	37
	Key Words	37
	Introduction to Logic	38
	Fallacies	39
	Informal Fallacies	39
	Inconsistency	40
	<i>Petitio Principii</i>	40
	<i>Non Sequitur</i>	40
	Fallacies of Ambiguity	41
	Formal Fallacies	41
	Deductive and Inductive Logic	42
	Inductive Reasoning	44
	Deductive Reasoning	45
	Abductive Reasoning	45
	Logic in Criminal Justice	46
	References	47
<b>4</b>	<b>Childhood Indicators</b>	<b>49</b>
	Chapter Goals	49
	Key Words	49
	Introduction	50
	Historical Factors	50
	Child Discipline	50
	Theory	53
	Biological School	54
	Psychological Determinants	56
	Cycle of Violence Hypothesis	56
	Sociological Determinants	57
	Peer Relationships	57
	Bullying and Cyberbullying	58
	References	64
<b>5</b>	<b>Motives and Criminal Typologies</b>	<b>67</b>
	Chapter Goals	67
	Key Words	67
	Introduction	68

Motive	69
Belief–Desire–Intention (BDI)	70
Inference to the Best Explanation (IBE)	71
Motive Perspectives	72
Environmental Reconstruction	72
Individual Reconstruction	73
Determining Motive	74
Triggers	74
Intent	75
Criminal Typologies	75
Criminal Event Typologies	76
Criminal Offender Typologies	77
Individual Characteristics	78
Sociological Factors	79
Crime Scene Characteristics	81
References	83
<b>6 Sexually Based Offenses and Motivated Crimes</b>	<b>85</b>
Chapter Goals	85
Key Words	85
Child and Sexual Abuse and Its Effects	86
Child Abuse	86
Child Sexual Abuse	86
Child Pornography	89
Sexual Violence	90
Cycle of Violence or Abuse	90
Characteristics and Offender Patterns	91
Narcissistic Traits and Personality	91
Paraphilia	91
Sexual Perversion	92
Cybercrimes and the Internet	92
Sexual Addiction	95
Behaviors Associated with Sexual Addiction	96
Sexually Violent Persons	97
Voyeurism (Peeping Toms)	97
Stalking	98
Love Stalkers	99
References	100
<b>7 Serial and Rage Killers</b>	<b>101</b>
Chapter Goals	101
Key Words	101

Introduction	101
Types of Murder	102
Mass Murder	102
Spree Killing	103
Serial Murder	105
Basic Demographic Profile	105
Gender	105
Race	105
Age	106
Intelligence Quotient	106
Past Profile	106
MacDonald Triad	106
Prior Criminal History	115
Prior Psychiatric History	116
Types	118
Visionaries	118
Missionaries	118
Hedonists	118
Power Control Killers	119
Motivations	119
Causality	120
Causes of Sexual Violence	122
References	122

## **8 Hero Complex Killers 125**

Chapter Goals	125
Key Words	125
Introduction	125
Medical Murder	126
Primary Care Providers	128
Gender Differences	132
Public Service	134
Firefighter Arson	134
Law Enforcement	136
Military	137
References	138

## **9 Crime Scene Indicators and Investigations 141**

Chapter Goals	141
Key Words	141
Crime Scene	141
First Officer on the Scene (Preliminary Investigator)	142

Assessment of the Scene	143
Collection of Data	143
Chain of Custody	145
Locard Principle and Trace Evidence	146
CSA vs. CST vs. CSP?	146
Crime Scene Processing (CSP)	147
Crime Scene Technicians (CSTs)	148
Criminalists	149
Crime Scene Analysis (CSA)	149
Criminal Investigative Analysis: The Future of Psychological Profiling	151
References	153
<b>10 Geographic Profiling</b>	<b>155</b>
Chapter Goals	155
Key Words	155
Geographic Profiling	155
Distance Decay Theory	159
Bayesian Method of Estimation	160
Predictive Policing	161
CGT, GIS, COMPSTAT, CEWS, Blue CRUSH, and MAPS	162
Criminal Geographic Targeting (CGT)	162
Geographic Information System (GIS)	163
Computer Statistics (COMPSTAT)	163
Crime Early Warning System (CEWS)	164
Crime Reduction Utilizing Statistical History (Blue CRUSH)	165
Methodology for Evaluating Geographic Profiling Software (MAPS)	165
Rational Choice Theory in the 21st Century	166
Routine Activity Theory in the 21st Century	167
Social Disorganization Theory	168
Sampson and Groves (1989)	168
Environmental Criminology	169
Environmental Criminology Theory	169
Broken Windows Theory	169
References	173
<b>11 Victim Selection Characteristics</b>	<b>175</b>
Chapter Goals	175
Key Words	175
Introduction	175
Lifestyle Theory	179

Routine Activities Theory	179
Medical Conditions	181
Personality	181
Leisure Activities	182
Routine Activities	182
References	182
<b>12 Conclusion</b>	<b>183</b>
Introduction	183
Research Methodology	183
Crime Scene-Based Approaches	184
Geographic Profiling	184
Investigative Psychology	186
Psychology-Based Approaches	186
Organized vs. Disorganized	187
Criminal Investigative Analysis	187
Behavioral Evidence Analysis	187
References	188
<b>Appendix: Profiles of Notorious Serial Killers</b>	<b>191</b>

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# Preface

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On Friday, December 14, 2012, 20-year-old Adam Lanza shot his mother, Nancy, five times in the face and then drove five miles to Sandy Hook Elementary School, where he proceeded to massacre 20 children (ages six to nine) and 6 adults who were working at the school that day. This is one of the worst mass shootings in United States history due to the young innocence of most of the victims.

Following any mass shooting, the news media engages in a frenzied attempt to identify a legitimate motive—if only to provide some level of comfort to the public. Police officers, detectives, profilers, and mental health professionals explore the facts of the case and search the killer’s past history and behavior to formulate a possible motive, assigning their own human interpretation to each item found. The speculation of a motive and the promotion of violence often include elements of a troubled childhood for the killer. This case was no different. Law enforcement gathered detailed facts about Lanza’s lifestyle, which unfortunately mirrored that of many other mass shooters. Adam Lanza was a loner, considered awkward in social settings, and had formed grievances against others—possibly the result of having suffered ill-treatment at the hand of others (bullying).

The truth is that regardless of what the professionals, whether in criminal justice or mental health, assume, we can never know for sure what triggered Lanza’s actions that day, or what he believed he was accomplishing in taking those actions. The manner in which he gained access to the building (shooting out the front window) suggests that he knew his actions were wrong, but beyond that, little more can be definitively known.

Almost immediately after the massacre, stories hypothesizing a motive began to hit the airwaves. The reasons as to why these reports occur are many, understandable, and unimportant because as long as professionals in the field ethically carry out their professional duties, the answers that so many seek in times of trouble will eventually emerge. On December 14th, the very day of the event, a former FBI profiler often interviewed by law enforcement said that “anyone who kills their own mother is capable of doing anything.” He added, “What did his mother do? She was a kindergarten teacher. She had children that loved her and she loved them. . . . When he shot his mother and turned on those children, those children were part of his mother and she was part of them. He killed what his mother loved.” This story accomplished

what it was intended to do. It gave the masses an answer and an explanation to the burning question of *why*? The problem is that he was wrong. To date, no relationship between Nancy Lanza and Sandy Hook Elementary School has been identified.

The bigger problem is that the profiler made his statements as a representative of the profession. The use of his FBI status was intended to lend credibility to his statements, when in reality, it simply undermined the profession, its contributions, and its value . . . but only to those paying close attention. He provided insight and answers—though incorrect—to those who needed it at the moment they wanted it. To his professional colleagues, he simply added to the long list of incorrect, inaccurate, unscientific, and unconfirmed profiles. Fortunately, he was not the only former profiler consulted in the days that followed. Mary Ellen O'Toole, author of *Dangerous Instincts*, was also interviewed, although her responses provided less concrete answers. Almost as a mantra, she counseled patience to allow the professionals the time for due diligence; she resisted providing absolute answers, citing the vast amount of unknown information (i.e., the computer and cell phone content, the relationship to the school); and she educated people when she spoke of the definition of psychopathy, the legal considerations of right and wrong, and the intricate nature of classifying certain behaviors from the crime scene. To be sure, her interviews did not leave the viewers with a better sense of understanding and did not have the selling power (read: comfort value) of the previous interviews, but the long-term gain of quantifiable and reliable information far outweighs the quick, and often inaccurate, reporting that plagues the field to date.

This text seeks to undo decades of inaccurate and unreliable evidence by presenting the reader with information that is useful in conducting investigations and preparing cases for court. After all, in situations such as the one above, in which the offender kills him or herself as part of the crime, the true motive will never be known. Even if a note is left, it can only explain part of the mental process (the planning), but not the trigger that initiated the action. Even in situations where the offender is still alive, it is virtually impossible to completely identify a motive, given the vast amount of inputs, interventions, and potential outputs. The best one can do is construct a story that meets the standard of “beyond a reasonable doubt,” and the purpose for that is in court.

This book was written for use as both a university textbook and a police training text. It was written by an academician and a practitioner with eyes for offering dual perspectives with respect to criminal profiling, identifying serial offender traits and characteristics, and identifying reasoning behind criminal profiling theories. This book also focuses on the importance of crime scene investigation, inductive and deductive reasoning, and future developments in the field. It promises to be a valuable part of the occupational library



for law enforcement and criminal justice professionals alike. It is suitable for awareness training for police academies and detectives. Although the text is written as a college textbook, anyone with an interest in the fascinating world of criminal profiling will find it interesting, as it offers a twist different from other criminal profiling books.

Students taking the previously mentioned courses may be working toward a bachelor's degree or a master's degree, majoring in criminal justice, criminology, or crime scene investigation. Changes in this field are constant due to the advancement of technology. It is both authors' goal to address these changes and enhance awareness. The primary purpose of this book is to serve as a comprehensive and readable textbook for a one-semester course that deals with criminal profiling techniques and theories. This book can become a permanent part of any law enforcement or criminal justice professional's vocational library.



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# Acknowledgments

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This book would not have been possible without the help of many dedicated and caring friends, who are special to me in so many ways. I thank my coauthor, Lauren Barrow, for her dedication and commitment to criminal profiling and the entire criminal justice field. She has tremendous insight and knowledge and it was a pleasure working on this book with her. To Linda Dumke, a dear friend and remarkable editor, thank you.

And I thank Ron Rufo for his steady and reliable spirit. His tenacious desire to bring real-life experiences into the academic dialogue ultimately benefits his readers and the field, and his desire to share the “feet on the street” experience is awesome. His patience with my constant editing and reediting is also deeply appreciated!

To Drs. Cliff Roberson, Frank Smallenger, Paul Ruffolo, and Laurence Simon, four very inspirational authors and scholars in the criminal justice field, we both thank you for your guidance, friendship, and encouragement throughout the years.

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## About the Authors

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**Lauren M. Barrow, PhD**, is currently an assistant professor of criminal justice at Chestnut Hill College in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. She is a 2007 graduate of CUNY Graduate Center, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, and a former adjunct instructor at Monmouth University, New Jersey, in both the undergraduate and graduate programs. She was formerly an online instructor with the master's program at Kaplan University. As a generalist, Dr. Barrow teaches a wide range of criminal justice courses—including drug use and abuse, organizational behavior, criminal ethics, criminology, victimology, juvenile justice, and homeland security. She was a founding member of the New Jersey Alliance for Crime Victims with Developmental Disabilities. She has conducted innovative research in the d/Deaf community pertaining to their risk of victimization and previously authored a book titled *Criminal Victimization of the Deaf*, published by LFB Scholarly Publishing, LLC in 2008. Dr. Barrow has been instructing undergraduate and graduate students, both in class and online, for over 10 years.

**Ronald A. Rufo, EdD**, has been a Chicago police officer for the past 18 years. He has spent most of his career as a crime prevention speaker in the Preventive Programs Unit and has given hundreds of presentations on profiling offenders, crime investigation, and street safety. Dr. Rufo has taught many classes in crime scene investigation, police procedure, and policies. He has been instrumental as a team leader in the Chicago Police Department Peer Support Group as a compassionate and caring person, especially in the tragic deaths of officers killed in the line of duty. He has received numerous awards, commendations, honorable mentions, and letters of appreciation in serving the citizens of Chicago.

Dr. Rufo received his bachelor of arts degree in criminal social justice from Lewis University in Romeoville, Illinois; he graduated with highest honors and as a scholar of the university in 2000. He was awarded his master of arts degree in organizational leadership from Lewis University in 2002 and graduated with his doctoral degree from Argosy University, Chicago, in 2007. His dissertation was titled “An Investigation of Online Predation of Minors by Convicted Male Offenders.” Dr. Rufo's first book, *Sexual Predators amongst Us*, was published by CRC Press/Taylor & Francis in 2011. He has also contributed to the book *Terrorism and Property Management*.

Dr. Rufo is currently an adjunct professor at Kaplan University and also teaches at the City Colleges of Chicago.

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Dr. Arambula earned his bachelor of arts in criminal justice and psychology from the University of Illinois at Chicago. He earned a master of public administration from the Illinois Institute of Technology (Chicago) in 2005 and a doctoral degree in organizational leadership from the Illinois School of Professional Psychology in 2010. His dissertation was titled "Prisoner Reentry: An Exploratory Examination of the Effects That Collateral Sanctions Have on the Reintegration Process as Perceived by Convicted Felons." He graduated with highest honors.

Dr. Arambula is currently working in the Criminal Registration Unit of the Chicago Police Department. He is tasked with the interviewing and registering of convicted murderers, sex offenders, and arsonists. Dr. Arambula continues to work on numerous crime-related research ventures. He has a special interest in teaching.

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# Introduction

# 1

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...the unknown suspect as a “Male, former employee of Consolidated Edison, injured on the job and rendered chronically ill, paranoid, middle-aged, neat and meticulous persona, foreign background, some formal education, unmarried, living alone or with female ‘mother-like’ relative.”

—Brussel (1968)

## Chapter Goals

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- To establish historical basis for understanding criminal profiling
- To introduce theoretical knowledge and empirical evidence necessary to merge practical experience with statistically sound practices
- To identify the fathers of criminal profiling
- To discuss the main disciplines from which criminal profiling evolves

## Key Words

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BAU  
BSU  
Criminal profiling  
Criminology  
James A. Brussel  
Leakage  
NCAVC  
Victimologist

## Introduction to Criminal Profiling

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Early criminologists theorized that criminal psychology could be identified by physical characteristics, and early practitioners made the connection between crime scenes and offender personality and psychological makeup. The field of criminology emerged in the late 1700s and early 1800s with the