Research & Innovation

criminal behaviour

PSYCHOLOGY AT KENT
Contents

About the Centre .............................................. 1
Our history
What we do
Funding bodies

Meet the Team ................................................. 2

Honorary & Affiliated Members .............................. 3
Internal
External

The Masters ...................................................... 4
Training
The aims
Entry requirements

Centre Research .............................................. 5

Consultancy and Training .................................... 5

Publications .................................................... 6
Selected Books
Selected Book Chapters
Selected Journal Articles
Forensic Psychology research at Kent and all forensic-related teaching operates through our newly established Centre of Research and Education in Forensic Psychology or CORE-FP as it is more informally referred to.

The main aim of the centre is to conduct high impact psychological research to:

1. further understand key forensic issues of social significance, and
2. lead to cutting edge teaching and research opportunities for post graduate students.

Forensic psychology is an extremely popular and modern branch of psychology that seeks to understand the psychological processes underlying offending behaviour, (including group processes), the reduction and supervision of offending behaviour (i.e., rehabilitation, treatment, and management of community risk), victim responses to offending, the mechanisms underlying the criminal justice system more generally (i.e., jury decision making and the courts), and attitudes to offenders and offender reintegration in society.

Areas of forensic psychology research that we are currently working on as a Centre include: bullying in prisons, prison gang behaviour, jury decision-making, child sexual offending, rape, rape proclivity, female sexual offending, theories of offender rehabilitation, firesetting, sexual harassment, violence, aggression and alcohol, and the infrahumanisation of offenders. Other areas of research include social cognition, social and moral emotion, and group process theory; all of which are applied to the study of offending behaviour or court process issues.

Forensic psychology research at the Centre is funded by various national and international sources which include:

- The British Academy
- Economic and Social Research Council
- Home Office
- The Leverhulme Trust
- Ministry of Justice
- The Nuffield Foundation

There is a long tradition within the School of research in the area of criminal justice and legal psychology. Currently, numerous members of the School are actively involved in forensic research and consultancy, and several PhD students are currently conducting research under their supervision.

Undergraduate students in the School have for the past 15 years or so carried out projects in local prisons, Young Offender Institutions, Regional Secure Units (RSUs), Special Hospitals and police constabularies. Relations with practising forensic psychologists in the area are very good, largely as a consequence of the collaborative work our contacts have engendered.
Meet the Team
experts in the field

DR THERESA GANNON
Director of the Centre
Psychological characteristics and rehabilitation of offenders (male and female sexual offenders, firesetters), cognitive and social-cognitive explanations of offending.

DR JANE WOOD
Deputy Director of the Centre
Psychological characteristics of gang members, rehabilitation of prolific offenders, bullying in schools and prisons.

DR EMMA ALLEYNE
Psychological characteristics of street gang membership; socio-cognitive theories and models that help to explain gang membership and criminal behaviour; psychopathology and clinical treatment of firesetters.

DR CAOILTE Ó CIARDHA
Cognition in offending behaviour; theories of adult firesetting; treatment needs and the evaluation of treatment for firesetters; indirect methods of assessing offence-supportive cognitions in sexual offenders, firesetters and other offending individuals.

DR EDUARDO VASQUEZ
General aggression and violence. Intergroup aggression, gang-related aggression. Alcohol and aggression; alcohol and intergroup relations.

DR AFRODITI PINA
Coping with sexual harassment; antecedents, emotions, behavioural responses and psychological and practical consequences of women’s experiences of sexual harassment; the effects of rape-related beliefs on lay people’s perceptions of victims of rape and appropriate sentencing; the effects of sexual objectification on women.

DR TENDAYI VIKI
Social and cognitive factors involved in the perception and evaluation of corporate crime; moral disengagement in white-collar crime, online social networking and perceptions of crime; dehumanization of offenders, public attitudes towards the police and policing.
Honorary & Affiliated Members

**Internal**

Dr Markus Bindemann  
Person Memory and Eyewitness Identification

Dr Roger Giner-Sorolla  
Legal Decision Making

Professor Geoffrey Stephenson  
Emeritus Professor  
Social Psychology and Law

Professor Richard Crisp  
Psychology of Social and Cultural Diversity

Professor Robert Johnston  
Cognitive Processes Underlying Face and Object Processing

Dr Robbie Sutton  
Human Need for Justice

**External**

Professor Bruce Bartholow  
Honorary Professor in Forensic Psychology, University of Missouri  
Social Cognition, Aggression, Alcohol, Risk-Taking

Professor Brad Bushman  
Honorary Professor in Forensic Psychology, Ohio State University  
Aggression, Violence Media Effects

Professor Bill Marshall  
Honorary Professor in Forensic Psychology, Rockwood Psychological Services  
Sexual Offending, Sexual Offender Treatment, Sexual Offender Cognition

Professor Tony Ward  
Honorary Professor in Forensic Psychology, Deakin University  
Sexual Offending, Human Rights and Offending, Offence Desistance, Offender Cognition

Dr Rebekah Doley  
Honorary Lecturer in Forensic Psychology, Doley Psychology Services  
Firesetting and Arson

Dr Lona Lockerbie  
Honorary Lecturer in Forensic Psychology  
Female Offenders, Mental Disorder

Dr Anne Sheeran  
Honorary Lecturer in Forensic Psychology  
Firesetting and Arson, Learning Disability and Offending

Dr Jo Thakker  
Honorary Lecturer in Forensic Psychology, The University of Waikato  
Sexual Offending, Clinical Psychology
The Masters

The MSc in Forensic Psychology programme was introduced in October 1995, and teaching on the core forensic modules on the programme is enhanced by the contributions of several honorary teaching staff, all of whom are Chartered Forensic Psychologists working in applied settings (e.g. in Special Hospitals, RSUs and prisons). Recent research projects undertaken have included:

- an evaluation of the relapse prevention module of the Prison Service Sex Offender Treatment Programme
- an investigation of the incidence of sexual and physical abuse in the backgrounds of sex offenders with learning disabilities
- an investigation into non-verbal cues to lying in police interrogations
- an examination of organisational and psychological factors related to the treatment of offenders in a Maltese prison
- a study of the incidence of ADHD indicators in a young offender population
- a comparison of socio-demographic and psychological factors related to women who do, and do not self-harm in a Special Hospital
- a study of the incidence of PTSD indicators in the prison population of the Channel Islands.

Training

All professional training in Psychology in the UK takes place at postgraduate level, and the minimum training period is the equivalent of three years’ full-time study and supervised experience. The minimum entry requirement for postgraduate training is the BPS Graduate Basis for Chartered Membership. Candidates with a first degree in Psychology must hold an Upper Second (2:1) Class Honours degree.

Professional training in Clinical Psychology and Occupational Psychology is well established, with the necessary academic and experiential components of training integrated into three-year full-time practitioner doctoral programmes. However, professional training in Forensic Psychology in the UK is still in its infancy, with few practitioner doctoral programmes available.

The MSc in Forensic Psychology at Kent is accredited by The British Psychological Society as providing the first (academic) year of professional training for those who wish to qualify as Chartered Forensic Psychologists. Graduates from the programme are then required to gain the equivalent of a further two years’ relevant experience under the supervision of a Chartered Forensic Psychologist before qualifying for Chartered status themselves. You should contact the BPS directly if you have enquiries about the nature of the supervised practice element of qualification.

Please note that only students who pass all elements of the MSc in Forensic Psychology qualify for BPS accreditation.

The aims

The MSc in Forensic Psychology has the following aims:

1. to provide an academic training for Psychology graduates in the application of psychology to issues in criminology and in the criminal justice system;

2. to provide research training in the areas of criminological, legal and forensic psychology;

3. to satisfy the academic component of professional training in forensic psychology.

Entry requirements

First and foremost, applicants are required to hold a Bachelor’s degree which makes them eligible for Graduate Basis for Chartered Membership (GBC) with the British Psychological Society.

An upper second class overall degree classification is also essential.

Satisfactory references and performance in interview are additional requirements.
Centre Research

The Centre of Research and Education in Forensic Psychology strives to be the leader in research that informs practice and policy. The vast range of topics covered by the centre staff is indicative of the centre’s facilitative research culture. As a result, members of the centre team have been the beneficiaries of research funding for new and innovative research.

- Dr. Theresa Gannon was awarded £563,311 from the Economic and Social Research Council to conduct research on the clinical features and treatment needs of firesetters in prison and secure mental health units. The outcome of this research will be the development of a standardised UK treatment programme for firesetters, a programme that currently does not exist.
- Dr. Theresa Gannon, Dr. Jane Wood, Dr. Afroditi Pina, and Dr. Eduardo Vasquez were awarded £324,417 from the Ministry of Justice to evaluate mandated polygraph testing with sexual offenders in the UK. The outcome of this research will be used to decide how sexual offenders in Britain should be supervised in the community, and whether or not polygraph-assisted supervision should be rolled out nationally in the UK.
- Dr. Jane Wood was awarded £101,368 from the Economic and Social Research Council to investigate the influence of state and trait empathy on jurors’ decision-making. The project examined jurors’ judgements of offenders (e.g. responsibility, punishment, and feelings of remorse) before and after group deliberation. The findings of this research could have implications for better practice within court proceedings.

Members of the centre have also received funding from the Kent & Medway Resettlement Programme, Kent Drug and Alcohol Action Team (KDAAT), HM Prison Service, Esmee Fairbairn Foundation, and British Academy.

Consultancy and Training

Our team are leading experts in their areas and provide valuable consultancy, training, and insight though applying their specialist knowledge to real world problems.

Below are areas that we are able to help with. Please make contact using the specified e-mail if you would like more information about consultancy rates and of the services we offer: COREFP@kent.ac.uk

**Court Reports:** We can provide risk assessments and expert testimony for a variety of situations. Particular areas of expertise relate to sexual offending (both male and female-perpetrated), gang-related crime, and arson or firesetting.

**External Academic Supervision:** We can provide academic supervision for a range of research projects in forensic psychology. We supervise research in a range of settings—using a range of methods—and will be happy to discuss you or your organization’s needs.

**Student Consultancy:** We have a number of postgraduate forensic psychology students who are able to offer basic research consultancy at very competitive rates.

**Forensic Chartership (Stage 2) Supervision:** We have HPC registered Chartered Forensic Psychologists who offer a small number of spaces for supervision of students who are working towards Stage 2 of Forensic Chartership.

**Other Direct Consultancy:** We offer consultancy to a whole range of institutions and organizations. If you require advice or knowledge about crime, the psychology of crime, or crime reduction, contact us to see what we can provide.

**Training and Workshops** – From time to time we provide workshops and training on specialist training on the following topics:

- Arson and Firesetting
- Female Sexual Offending
- Gangs and Gang Behaviour
- Sexual Harassment

If you would like to enquire about future training in these areas, or about provision of specialist training in one of these areas at your workplace then please contact us. We do offer some specialist tailor-made workshops for institutions on request.
Publications

Selected Books


Selected Book Chapters


Selected Journal Articles


Selected Journal Articles (continued)


Selected Journal Articles (continued)


