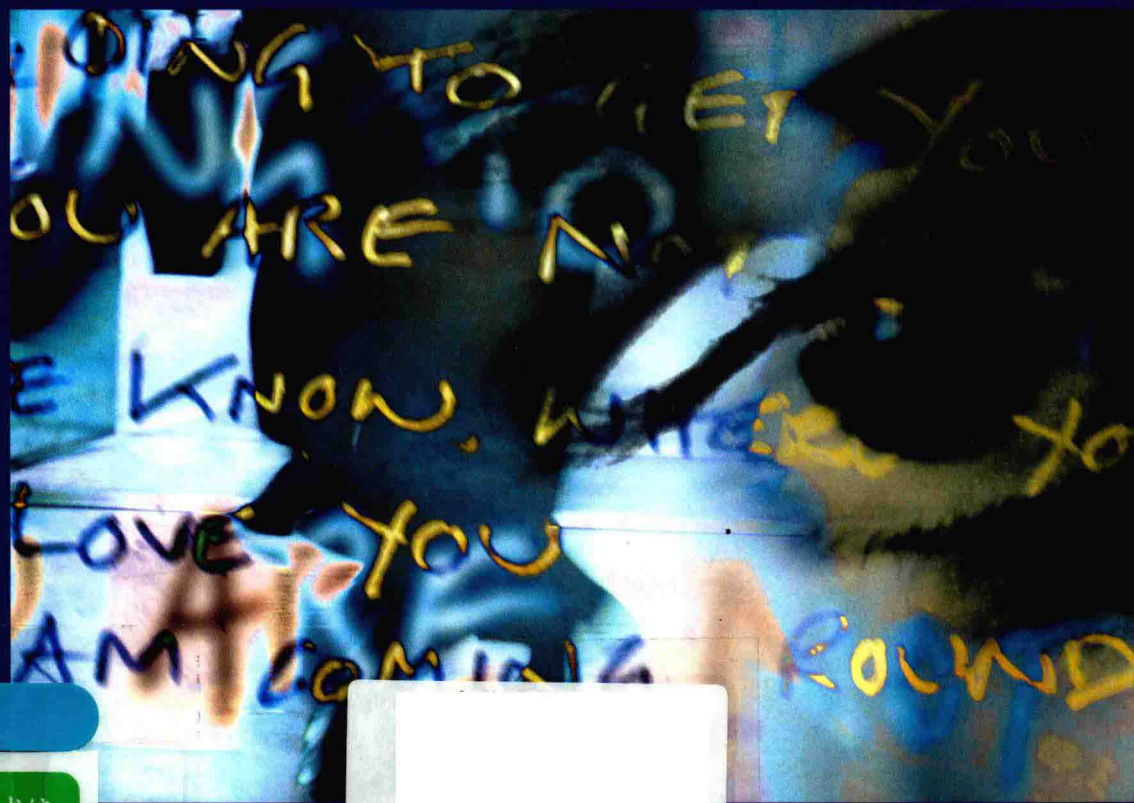


Wiley Series in the Psychology of Crime, Policing and Law

Stalking and Psychosexual Obsession

Psychological Perspectives for
Prevention, Policing and Treatment



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 **WILEY**

Edited by
Julian Boon and Lorraine Sheridan

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University of Leicester, UK



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The Wiley series on the Psychology of Crime, Policing and the Law publishes concise and integrative reviews on important emerging areas of contemporary research. The purpose of the series is not merely to present research findings in a clear and readable form, but also to bring out their implications for both practice and policy. In this way, it is hoped the series will not only be useful to psychologists but also to all those concerned with crime detection and prevention, policing, and the judicial process.

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Douglas LePard has been a member of the Vancouver Police Department for 20 years and is currently the Inspector in charge of the Planning and Research Section. In 1996, as a Detective in the Major Crime Section, he created the VPD's Criminal Harassment Unit to investigate stalking cases, the first operational anti-stalking unit in Canada. He was promoted to Detective-Sergeant in charge, and personally investigated or supervised the investigation of hundreds of stalking cases until he was promoted out of the unit in 2000. Doug is married with two children, and holds a BA in Criminology from Simon Fraser University.

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Foreword

In July 1999 the Suzy Lamplugh Trust sent out media information warning of the danger of stalking following the publication of research findings. The Trust “welcomed the publication of stalking research of the University of Leicester which shows how devastating stalking and harassment can be for victims”. The University had analysed over 80 questionnaires collated by the Suzy Lamplugh Trust over the past few years from stalking victims. The Trust reported that the research “showed that stalking could happen to all sorts of people, both male and female, in all walks of life. It is excellent research which will further our understanding of why stalkers behave in the way they do”.

The Trust went on to say that we had campaigned for several years for a change in the law to give the police more powers to combat stalking, and continued to run conferences and seminars on the subject. We believe that the law has already been effective in preventing death and serious injury to stalking victims.

I continued, “Stalking is often committed by someone known to the victim. In most cases the situation gets more dangerous and more violent as the stalker becomes increasingly desperate to be noticed. We urge people to go to the police straight away. Since the introduction of the Protection from Harassment Act, last June, the police have much greater powers to deal with stalkers”.

I spoke from the heart. By this time I knew that had I been aware of the potential dangers of a stalker, I might have been able to save my daughter, Suzy. I also knew that I could not help her now. However, I was convinced that action must be taken to help others.

Since that time I have been waiting for this book, which contains the wisdom of everyone one could wish to read. The authors are the world experts on all angles of stalking. No one should miss this splendid, authoritative as well as readable book, which is designed to help those in need, be they potential victims, police, lawyers, academic, journalists and of course those who care.

I had just dismissed the man as yet another suitor chasing a very lovely, lively girl who sat in the window of a Fulham estate agency, a position

designed to attract new business and potential male clients. It never occurred to any of us to consider this man to be an active threat to Suzy, even when she suddenly went missing during one beautiful summer working day after showing a client round a house. Even when we were beginning to have to accept that Suzy had been murdered, we never considered that a man who appeared to be chasing her as a potential boyfriend might be the man who could have killed her.

Suzy had such a wide and interesting group of friends who were all not only working hard but also enthusiastically enjoying themselves—windsurfing, ski-ing and tennis all played prominent roles in their daily activities. These young people were streetwise and confident. Danger did not appear to lurk at their heels. It took some time to recall this “outsider” and to tell the police, realising by then that any detail might count.

Even then I was very cautious when encouraged to add a new project to the increasing work being undertaken by the Trust specialising in personal safety which we had set up in Suzy’s name. Our aim was to enable everyone to lead safer lives through research and positive informed action, training, education, practical resources, raising awareness of issues and campaigning for changes in the law when necessary. Was this apparently new idea of stalking really a personal safety issue?

From 1995 onwards, the Trust became increasingly aware of the problems suffered by victims of “stalkers” through calls from people desperate for help. There appeared to be no pattern and few answers, and only anecdotal knowledge. Research has always been my baseline. Is the problem real? How many people are affected? There were a few celebrity cases—were ordinary people also at risk?

It was the contact made by two dedicated officers from Hampshire Constabulary who were in charge of the Tracey Morgan case that convinced me that the present law was quite inadequate in many cases to deal with the scale of the problem. It was these two officers and Tracey herself who encouraged the Trust as an “independent body” to launch a campaign to call for specific anti-stalking laws.

I was sceptical. We sat by the Thames and these two police officers, D.S. Linda Dawson and Ian Smith, highlighted the interest in the case. As we talked on that sunny, breezy day and I listened to the harassment which Tracey Morgan had been forced to endure, I suddenly felt icy cold. I remembered that Suzy had referred to her pursuer as “scary” and I realised that she must have been a victim of “stalking”, and that this behaviour, this cold, obsessive form of torture, could become deadly. I knew then that I might have been able to save my daughter had I been aware.

In 1995 the Trust led the campaign for a new law. The Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) and in particular A.C.C. Maria Wallis were most supportive and undertook a useful survey of each force. The Police Federation confirmed that it was backing the campaign in early 1996.

The result of their debate was 100% unanimity in favour of pushing this policy.

In March 1997 the Trust called a meeting with representatives from prisons, the police, probation, experts on stalking psychology and victims of stalking, to discuss the potential problems which might arise when stalkers were placed in custody, such as stalking from prison by phone or through other prisoners being released.

The Protection from Harassment Act was introduced to the House of Commons on Monday, 16 June 1997. Further sections, dealing with the way in which a civil injunction is dealt with if breached, came into effect in September 1998.

However, the Trust has remained concerned that the Protection from Harassment Act is still not being fully implemented or proving useful enough to those who need it, the victims. We are therefore delighted—and somewhat relieved—that this book has been so well researched and edited by the two people most deeply involved with research in the UK.

We recommend that it is read by everyone who cares. After all, it appears that none of us is immune from this indiscriminate, destructive crime.

DIANA LAMPLUGH, OBE

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Series Preface

The Wiley Series on the Psychology of Crime, Policing and the Law publishes integrative reviews of important emerging areas of contemporary research. The purpose of the series is not merely to present research findings in a clear and readable form, but also to bring out their implications for both practice and policy. In this way, it is hoped that the series will not only be useful to psychologists, but also to all those concerned with crime detection and prevention, policing and the judicial process.

As the editors of the current volume remind us, the legal recognition of stalking—systematic harassment and intimidation directed at one individual by another—has only recently been recognised as a distinct form of criminality. One of the important features of stalking as a crime is that its appearance sometimes presages even more serious criminal acts against the victim, including physical violence and murder. For instance in September 2001, a former British naval officer, Anthony Hurdle, was sentenced to life imprisonment for attempted murder. His partner at the time had broken off her relationship with him after discovering that he had a history of stalking offences against other women. She in turn was then stalked by Hurdle for several months before suffering a horrific attack at his hands in her own home. Predicting when such escalation will occur and how to snuff out the behaviour before it takes place is a challenge to all forensic psychologists and psychiatrists, police officers, lawyers and criminologists who are drawn to this problem.

Stalking and Psychosexual Obsession: Psychological Perspectives for Prevention, Policing and Treatment provides the first comprehensive treatment of the topic, examining not simply the prevalence of stalking and the nature of the stalkers themselves, but also what can be done, through police action and the courts, to combat the activity in its many forms. Sadly, governments have often legislated in haste, without a full appreciation of the range of activities undertaken by stalkers or the scope of the problem. Likewise, beyond sensationalised accounts of individuals who have stalked celebrities, little is known about the personality and background of the men and women who become stalkers. This important book also looks

at the victims of stalking and the new phenomenon of cyberstalking: the harassment of victims through the Internet and electronic mail. Its very ubiquity in Western societies (we know little of stalking in other cultures) may owe something to the ease of communication between individuals that we prize today.

The editors, Julian Boon and Lorraine Sheridan, are well placed to collate an authoritative and multifaceted view of research and practice. Julian Boon is an academic and chartered forensic psychologist, and is also one of the handful of Home Office accredited offender profilers in the United Kingdom. His wide-ranging involvement in high-profile cases has given him first-hand experience, both of stalkers and other sexual obsessives and their victims. Lorraine Sheridan has carried out the first systematic studies of the nature and incidence of stalking in the United Kingdom and has published widely on the topic as well as advising government agencies and charities on anti-stalking measures. Their reputations have ensured that this book brings together some of the foremost authorities on stalking and sexual obsession in Europe, Australia and North America to provide an up-to-the-minute and authoritative account of this ubiquitous, malign, but poorly understood activity.

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