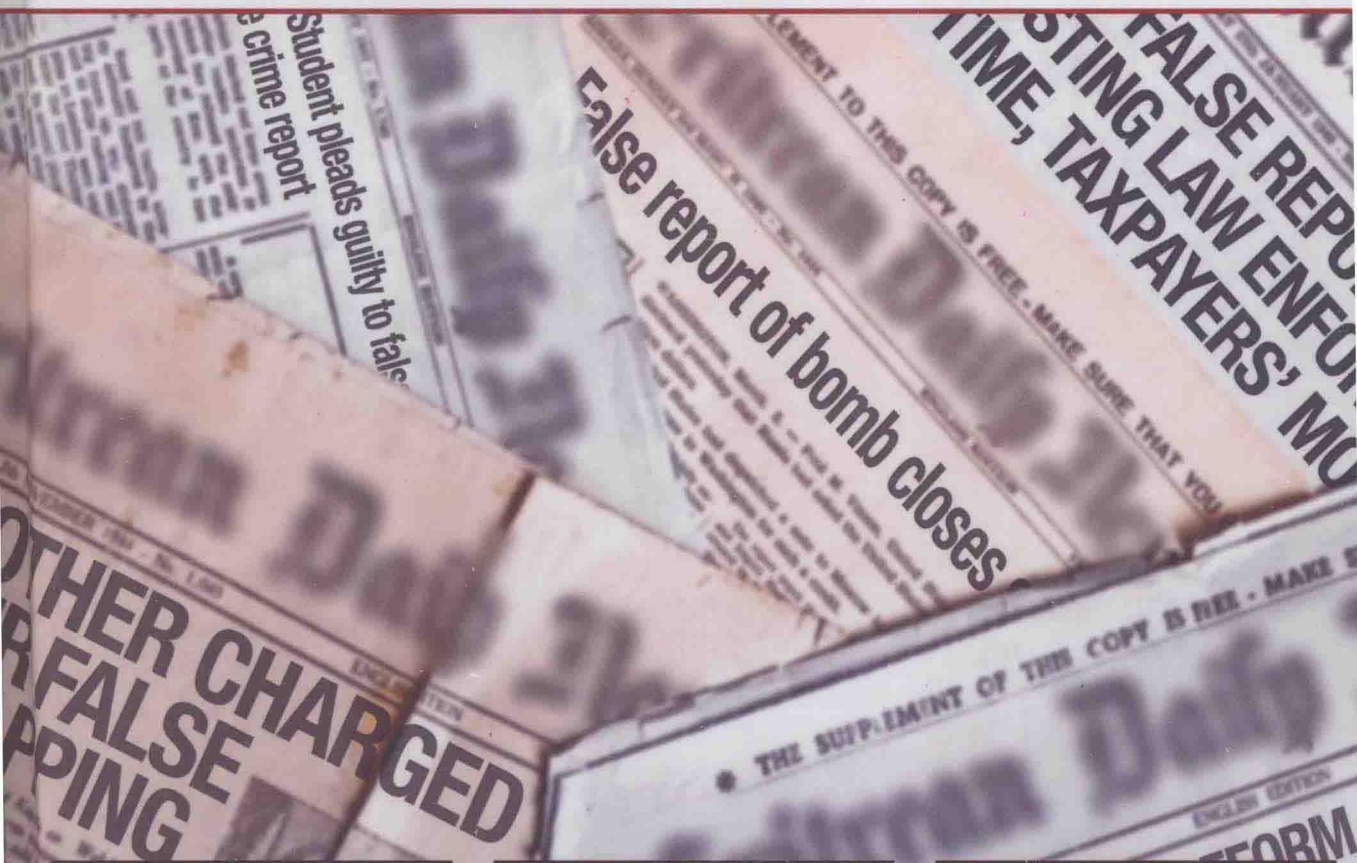


# FALSE ALLEGATIONS

INVESTIGATIVE AND FORENSIC ISSUES IN FRAUDULENT REPORTS OF CRIME



Edited by

Brent E. Turvey | John O. Savino |

Aurelio Coronado Mares



# False Allegations

## Investigative and Forensic Issues in Fraudulent Reports of Crime

**Edited by**

**Brent E. Turvey, PhD**

Forensic Solutions, LLC; and  
The Forensic Criminology Institute  
Sitka, Alaska

**Det. John O. Savino (Retired)**

Manhattan Special Victim Squad  
New York City Police Department, New York

**Mtro. Aurelio Coronado Mares**

Forensic Psychologist, Ciencia Aplicada; and  
The Forensic Criminology Institute  
Aguascalientes, Mexico



**ACADEMIC PRESS**

An imprint of Elsevier

Academic Press is an imprint of Elsevier  
125 London Wall, London EC2Y 5AS, United Kingdom  
525 B Street, Suite 1800, San Diego, CA 92101-4495, United States  
50 Hampshire Street, 5th Floor, Cambridge, MA 02139, United States  
The Boulevard, Langford Lane, Kidlington, Oxford OX5 1GB, United Kingdom

Copyright © 2018 Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, or any information storage and retrieval system, without permission in writing from the publisher. Details on how to seek permission, further information about the Publisher's permissions policies and our arrangements with organizations such as the Copyright Clearance Center and the Copyright Licensing Agency, can be found at our website: [www.elsevier.com/permissions](http://www.elsevier.com/permissions).

This book and the individual contributions contained in it are protected under copyright by the Publisher (other than as may be noted herein).

### Notices

Knowledge and best practice in this field are constantly changing. As new research and experience broaden our understanding, changes in research methods, professional practices, or medical treatment may become necessary.

Practitioners and researchers must always rely on their own experience and knowledge in evaluating and using any information, methods, compounds, or experiments described herein. In using such information or methods they should be mindful of their own safety and the safety of others, including parties for whom they have a professional responsibility.

To the fullest extent of the law, neither the Publisher nor the authors, contributors, or editors, assume any liability for any injury and/or damage to persons or property as a matter of products liability, negligence or otherwise, or from any use or operation of any methods, products, instructions, or ideas contained in the material herein.

### Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

A catalog record for this book is available from the Library of Congress

### British Library Cataloguing-in-Publication Data

A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library

ISBN: 978-0-12-801250-5

For information on all Academic Press publications visit our website at  
<https://www.elsevier.com/books-and-journals>



Working together  
to grow libraries in  
developing countries

[www.elsevier.com](http://www.elsevier.com) • [www.bookaid.org](http://www.bookaid.org)

*Publisher:* Sara Tenney

*Acquisition Editor:* Elizabeth Brown

*Editorial Project Manager:* Joslyn Chaiprasert-Paguio

*Production Project Manager:* Lisa Jones

*Designer:* Matthew Limbert

Typeset by TNQ Books and Journals

# False Allegations

# List of Contributors

**Aurelio Coronado Mares, MS**

Ciencia Aplicada &  
The Forensic Criminology Institute  
Aguascalientes, Mexico

**W. Stan Crowder, PhD**

Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice  
Kennesaw State University  
Marietta, Georgia

**Jodi Freeman, MCrim**

Forensic Solutions, LLC &  
The Forensic Criminology Institute  
Sitka, Alaska

**Michael McGrath, MD**

Forensic Psychiatrist  
Unity Health System  
Rochester, New York

**Det. John O. Savino (ret.)**

Manhattan Special Victim Squad,  
New York City Police Department, New York

**Brent E. Turvey, PhD**

Forensic Solutions, LLC, &  
The Forensic Criminology Institute  
Sitka, Alaska

# Editor Biographies

## **Brent E. Turvey, PhD**

Since 1996, Brent has performed casework as a forensic scientist, criminologist, crime reconstructionist, and/or criminal profiler for law enforcement agencies and attorney clients all over the world. This includes case consults and expert forensic testimony in both criminal and civil matters. His casework involves sexual assaults, false allegations, serial rapes and homicides, mass homicides, sexual homicides, domestic homicides, staged crime scenes. It also includes a femicide caseload in Latin America and the implementation of the "United Nations Model Protocol for Femicide Investigation," with The Forensic Criminology Institute. He has worked for government agencies and universities in the United States, China, Korea, Singapore, Colombia, Brazil, Mexico, Spain, Guatemala, Ecuador, Portugal, Australia, and Scotland.

He is also the author of multiple peer-reviewed articles and textbooks on subjects relating to criminal profiling, forensic criminology, forensic victimology, forensic science and investigations, criminal investigation, criminal justice ethics, miscarriages of justice, and law enforcement corruption.

Brent holds a PhD in criminology, an MS in forensic science, and a BS in psychology. He is a Diplomat of the Academy of Behavioral Profiling in the International Association of Forensic Criminologists, and a Professor of Forensic Criminology in the Forensic Psychology Masters Program at Cienca Aplicada. He also currently serves as The Director of the Forensic Criminology Institute.

## **Aurelio Coronado Mares, MS**

Aurelio is a forensic psychologist who specializes in the psychological evaluation of detainees who have suffered torture and other human rights violations at the hands of government agents, as prescribed in international Istanbul Protocols. This includes evaluating the effects of those who have suffered; the

psychosocial dynamics; and the variables involved in the testimony or confessions obtained under related interrogations. He has lectured on this and related subjects throughout Latin America and the United States, often at the request of the Supreme Court of Mexico.

His work involves research, case examination, expert forensic testimony, and teaching through a private collective of forensic psychologists, Cienca Aplicada, which offers a fully accredited masters program in forensic psychology.

Currently, he serves as the Director of the program, and is working on the development of protocols for the evaluation of torture with the National Board of Forensic Psychology in Mexico.

Aurelio holds a Masters Degree in forensic science and Bachelors Degree in psychology, and is completing his PhD. He is also a Diplomat of the Academy of Behavioral Profiling in the International Association of Forensic Criminologists. He currently serves as the President of the College of Psychologists (in Aguascalientes).

### **Det. John O. Savino (ret.)**

Det. Savino joined the New York City Police Department (NYPD) on January 26, 1982, and was promoted as Detective in 1989. In a career that has spanned more than three decades, Det. Savino became one of the best sex crime investigators New York City had to offer. His career has included all aspects of law enforcement, beginning with a short assignment as a uniformed police officer and his quick advancement to the Organized Crime Control Bureau in 1986. Det. Savino began developing his investigative skills while assigned to the Manhattan North Narcotics Division. This assignment helped develop his ability to interact with people from all walks of life. Further experiences as an "undercover" officer helped him develop the ability to gain the confidence and trust of individuals he purchased narcotics from.

Eventually, he was assigned to the NYPD's Manhattan Special Victims Squad (MSVS), where he investigated thousands of reports of sexual assault and child abuse in the Borough of Manhattan for almost 20 years. While assigned to the MSVS, he rose to the prestigious rank of Detective 1st Grade. Det. Savino investigated thousands of reports of rape and sexual assault, and he was also responsible for running some of the most high-profile and notorious sex crimes that occurred in Manhattan during his tenure.

Det. Savino was also chosen to rewrite the policy used for investigating sexual assaults by the NYPD and was tasked with creating a training manual for newly assigned detectives to the Manhattan Special Victims Squad. While assigned to the MSVS, he began lecturing at training classes held for rape advocates and

emergency room personnel after he saw a need to bridge the gap between medical personnel and the police. He also created training material and provided training for uniformed officers and first responders on the proper response to a sexual assault, and how to interact with a sexual assault victim, and properly preserve the crime scene.

In 2000, Det. Savino was the first detective in New York State to participate in the "John Doe" DNA indictment of a DNA profile, for a suspect who was responsible for at least 16 sexual assaults since 1997. This case was dubbed the "East Side Rapist" by the New York City press. Det. Savino has been the lead investigator for many successful serial rape and pattern investigations, and has conducted lectures for the New York State Police on proper investigative procedures.

In September of 2001, after terrorist brought down the World Trade Center, Det. Savino was temporally assigned to the New York City Morgue for several months. Working with an elite group of Detectives, he was tasked with attempting to identify victims. His skills, dedication, and attention to details carried over to this assignment and led to the identification of numerous victims of this tragedy.

Since retirement from the NYPD in 2007, Det. Savino has continued his career in law enforcement and is now conducting complex financial and fraud investigations for a large State agency in Florida. For a time he was cross sworn as a federal agent. He has since raised through the ranks in Florida and now serves in a position of command over multiple regions.



# Preface

The structural supports of criminal and civil justice systems are built, in part, on the expectation that law enforcement, government employees, and even ordinary citizens will tell the truth when giving evidence under oath. This includes testimony, written statements, and other forms of legal proclamation. We expect this because the act of taking an oath acknowledges serious legal consequences for any violations. The logic seems sound: if someone knows they will suffer real consequences for lying, then they will be more inclined to tell the truth.

However, as those of us who work in the justice system experience on a daily basis, our expectations and trust regarding oaths are misplaced. People lie, even when they are placed under oath. This includes eyewitnesses, complaining witnesses, experts, scientists, lawyers, federal agents, and police officers. It is delusional and ultimately dishonest to believe or argue otherwise. Yet such beliefs and arguments persist—especially when it is expedient to a professional cause or personal desire.

This is how and why false allegations of crime are sometimes successful. The justice system is designed to allow those who work within it to accept statements from certain witnesses uncritically, as long as they are cloaked in the false tenability of an oath. This gives law enforcement the option of either assigning credibility to criminal complaints or not—meaning they can investigate or not depending on subjective criteria of their own choosing. As will be explored throughout this work, sometimes investigative judgment is sound, and sometimes it is lacking.

This much is true: when investigations are not based on reliable facts and evidence, the results are untrustworthy. When this is exposed in court, it harms the credibility of the investigators involved, and the agencies that they represent. More importantly, injustice is all but guaranteed.

That is where we find ourselves presently, and that is the reason this book has been prepared. Too many investigations are demonstrably political; too many investigators succumb to personal and institutional bias; and too many liars

are getting past what should be a scrupulous investigative screening mechanism. Further discussion is necessary.

## EXPERIENCE TEACHES SKEPTICISM

As a forensic examiner, the author reads up on a dozen or more court cases each month. This includes court transcripts, motions, and judicial decisions relating to both active cases and others of relevance or interest. Clients send case material. Colleagues send case material. The media reports and makes case material available to the public. All of it is saved, read, and considered in subsequent casework and research.

One cannot do this for very long without realizing just how often witnesses make false statements and give false testimony under oath. And without also recognizing the consistent lack of consequences for those who are caught doing it. In other words, people lie in court and in court-related documents on a regular basis. They lie about their education, their relationships, what they did, what they saw, and what they know. And they do so with impunity.

In any justice system, investigators and scientists are charged with gathering facts to establish or contextualize objective truths. Experienced forensic operatives, continuously battered with the falsity of witnesses, learn an important lesson. Nobody can be taken at their word. Not witnesses, supervisors, colleagues, or friends. Nobody.

Experienced operatives consequently learn the most important components of a forensic investigation are well-honed critical thinking skills and a healthy dose of skepticism. As explained in Brookfield (1987), critical thinking requires strict adherence to logical analysis, and the discipline to scrutinize the strengths, weaknesses, and overall rationality of all arguments and assertions. It also requires (p. 6) "continual questioning of assumptions;" (p. 8) "challenging the importance of context;" (p. 9) "imagining and exploring alternatives" and "reflective skepticism;" and (pp. 11–12) "the ability to distinguish bias from reason and fact from opinion." Critical thinking necessitates doubt and proof, no matter the source of data or the strength of assertions about the integrity of findings. This overall mind-set is required for scientific practice, and therefore it is a necessity for the successful completion of any forensic investigation.

In other words, experience teaches the forensic investigator that everyone is potential liar—or at the very least a potential source of false information. Therefore, every statement from every source must be corroborated. Moreover, accepting any source at face value, without investigation, is an indication of bias or apathy. If this lesson has not been learned by the investigator, then the quality of their experience must be questioned. When we see our colleagues

relying on their faith in a source as actionable evidence, we shake our heads and wait them to take the inevitable hit.

## FALSE ALLEGATIONS ARE REAL

*False allegations* are accusations regarding crimes that did not take place. In other words, someone has lied about being a victim. As will be discussed in future chapters, the pseudovictim in such cases is actually the offender, as it is a chargeable criminal offense to make a false allegation. Examples, contexts, and motives abound, and more refined definitions are detailed in the chapters that lay ahead. But it is not reasonable to deny that false allegations of every imaginable type of crime can and do occur with predictable reliability. People lie when it is to their advantage, and they will lie about being a victim as easily as anything else (see research compiled in Turvey, 2012).

Specific statistics and frequencies will be discussed as the need arises, but these are generally irrelevant to the objective or scientific investigator when they examine specific cases. That a reasonable possibility exists is enough to make it a necessary consideration. The fact is that false reports are a demonstrable reality, and examples of people being arrested and convicted of related offenses can be found every single day across the United States. One needs to spend only about 10–15 minutes using Google to confirm the existence of such cases as a routine feature of law enforcement press releases (note: many professionals do not keep abreast of even the most basic news or developments related to their chosen disciplines, and this is a mistake because it creates willful blindness to real world of cases and consequence). If one takes the time, they will quickly appreciate that false allegations are a crime; that they happen with predictable frequency; and that their impact on the justice system and on the innocent are very real.

## THE POWER OF A LIE

The power of any lie is equal only to our desire to believe it; specifically, our need and eagerness to believe it. This is the problem with *belief*—which is accepting something as true or correct without proof.

Although we have more connectivity and information at our disposal than ever before in human history via the Internet and social media, human beings are not computers. Our brains do not have unlimited memory storage, and they are also not generally capable of cold and dispassionate arithmetic. We are emotional. We are prone to cognitive distortions. More facts and evidence, therefore, do not necessarily result in more informed conclusions.

When we believe something, or when we need to believe it, our brain actually thinks differently about it. That is to say our thinking is biased and often heavily distorted (Lickerman, 2011). As explained in Mooney (2011):

...when we think we're reasoning, we may instead be rationalizing. Or to use an analogy offered by University of Virginia psychologist Jonathan Haidt: We may think we're being scientists, but we're actually being lawyers. Our "reasoning" is a means to a predetermined end—winning our "case"—and is shot through with biases. They include "confirmation bias," in which we give greater heed to evidence and arguments that bolster our beliefs, and "disconfirmation bias," in which we expend disproportionate energy trying to debunk or refute views and arguments that we find uncongenial.

What this means is that when someone tells us a lie that fits with our needs or beliefs, we are going to dig deep into our memories for confirmatory facts and information. It does not matter how weak or uncertain the supporting information is—we will find it and put it to work for us as though it is legitimate. This is the power of confirmation bias (Nickerson, 1998).

While we are doing this, we will be aware of evidence that contradicts our beliefs. But we will be quite happy to ignore it. Therefore, instead of listening and possibly learning, we will conduct a parallel search of our memory for any information that might tend to dispute (or otherwise combat) this evidence. Failing to find something solid or rational, we may even seek out canned talking points from sources that support our beliefs, which put us at ease, no matter the reliability of the source. Again, we will be aware that we are doing this, which is unsound, but we will not care. We want the comfort of a validating lie.

This is why we are so eager to believe certain false allegations: if they fit with our personal biases and belief systems, we are more likely to believe and repeat them. Not convinced?

Consider the phenomenon of *fake news* with respect to social media, and why many are fooled into thinking phony media accounts are true, as discussed in Akpan (2016):

On Sunday afternoon, a 28-year-old man walked into a Washington, D.C. ping-pong bar and pizzeria. He was carrying an AR-15 assault rifle – hardly standard-issue hardware for a round of table tennis. He fired one or more shots, as people fled Comet Ping Pong, before surrendering to police officers. No one was injured.

Edgar Maddison Welch told police he had traveled from his home in Salisbury, N.C. to the nation's capital to investigate a pre-election conspiracy theory, wherein Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton allegedly led a child-trafficking ring out of Comet Ping Pong.

A false claim started by, you guessed it, fake news.

Fake news, once confined to satire or the fringe bowels of the internet, has quickly become a contender for the most influential phrase of the year. Following Donald Trump's surprise election, story after story has questioned the role that fake news played in swaying voters — and for good reason. A BuzzFeed analysis found fake election news outperformed total engagement on Facebook when compared to the most popular election stories from 19 major news outlet combined...

Fake news comes in many flavors, like satire or intentional hoaxes, but computer scientist Filippo Menczer said sensational news and social media campaigns filled with mistruths — like the PizzaGate story — started to surge on the internet around 2010. "That is the first time that we started studying it actively, and at that time, we found several cases of websites that were publishing completely fake and fabricated news, purely for political propaganda," said Menczer, who designs algorithms to track political messaging as director of Indiana University's Center for Complex Networks and Systems Research.

Menczer recalled an example that occurred in 2010 during the special election to fill the vacancy created by the death of Massachusetts Senator Ted Kennedy. Researchers at Wellesley College found that, in the hours before the election, a Republican group from Iowa used thousands of Twitter bots to spread misinformation about the Democratic candidate Martha Coakley. At the time, search engines prioritized "real-time information" from social media platforms, so these fake posts topped search results just as people headed to the polls.

...here's where problem lies with fake news and the human mind. Our brains have a finite capacity for processing information and for remembering, so our minds make value judgments about what to keep. Humor tips the scales in favor of being remembered and recalled, even when counterarguments are strong.

"The special sauce of humor is that you might get people to entertain ideas of constructs that they otherwise might reject out of hand," she said, and this powerful mode of persuasion extends to sensational fake news as well. "When you have exposure to fake news or satire, or any content at all, as soon as those constructs have been accessed and brought into working memory, they are there. You can't un-think them."

...These days, the trouble arises from people being unable to recognize irony in online satire, Young said. She offered the example of a recent Change.org petition — Allow Open Carry of Firearms at the Quicken Loans Arena during the RNC Convention in July. The petition was written as if real, and news outlets like USA Today assumed as much, but its gun control-supporting author was actually trying to portray what he viewed as hypocrisy from conservative politicians. [communications psychologist Dannagal] Young argued spoken

irony — think John Oliver — creates less confusion because its easier to recognize the tones of intent.

Even social media posts from the Office of the President of the United States (POTUS) can no longer be trusted. In the “postfact era” of “alt-facts” created by Donald Trump and his administration, there is an established propensity for making false statements to the public and press, and sharing demonstrably fake news stories from the POTUS Twitter account (see Gaul, 2017; Kessler, 2017; Marcus, 2016). As reported in Kharpal (2017):

President Donald Trump and his administration’s undermining of facts and truth is “disturbing,” Nobel Prize-winning economist Joseph Stiglitz said on Monday. Speaking at the World Government Summit in Dubai, Stiglitz addressed a number of topics including U.S. tax policy, globalization and inequality. But in the process of speaking about the new U.S. administration, Stiglitz expressed dismay at what he described as the “undermining of the basis of a common agreement about what is truth.”

“You saw in the Trump administration we have alternative facts. It used to be that we could have a discussion and you agree on facts, but you disagree on interpretation,” Stiglitz told the audience.

Now we have an administration that says we have alternative facts. It’s going to be very very difficult to reach a consensus on the way forward if you’re questioning theory, you’re questioning facts.

The term “alternative facts” was coined by Trump adviser Kellyanne Conway after press secretary Sean Spicer inaccurately described the inauguration crowd as “the largest ever”. President Trump’s administration has come under attack for a number of unfounded claims it has made. “[The] irony is you have the United States which has been viewed as the center of science ... and you have a president and administration that is questioning science,” Stiglitz said.

...Trump is known to be a climate change skeptic. Last month, he asked the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to take down climate change pages from its website. And in 2012, Trump said on Twitter that climate change was a hoax “created by and for the Chinese”.

Another term that was prominent through the U.S. election campaign and into Trump’s short time in office is “fake news”. Generally, it refers to hoax or fabricated stories, made easier by the fact that publishing online has become easy.

This also includes false allegations regarding voter fraud during the 2016 election which President Trump believes robbed him of the popular vote allegations which continue to be repeated by Mr. Trump and his spokespersons, despite having been disproved time and again (Borchers, 2017; Huppke, 2017).

To further contextualize the problem of “alt-facts” and “fake news,” the authors would ask the following: how many readers know friends or relatives who, in

the past 6 months, have reposted or responded to satirical news accounts on social media as though they were real when quite obviously they were not? How many know friends or relatives who have posted fake news or false information on social media that was not satirical—because it fits with a personal religious or political belief—only have themselves embarrassed by the truth coming out shortly thereafter? Now ask how many continued to believe the fake news reports, even after they were proved to have been duped. It is a sobering reality.<sup>1</sup>

This problem has been the subject of much research. One such study is discussed in Wood (2012):

Researchers at The University of Western Australia — who noted several instances of misinformation, such as childhood vaccines cause autism, global warming is a hoax, or President Barack Obama was not born in the United States — say that rejecting information requires more cognitive effort than simply accepting that the message is true.

The new study, led by psychologists Drs. Stephan Lewandowsky and Ulrich Ecker, highlights the cognitive factors that make certain pieces of misinformation “stick” and identifies several strategies for “setting the record straight.”

Misinformation is especially likely to stick when it conforms to our pre-existing political, religious, or social point of view, according to the researchers. Because of this, ideology and personal worldviews can be especially difficult obstacles to overcome.

The report notes that efforts to retract misinformation often backfire and actually lead to the strengthening of an erroneous belief. “This persistence of misinformation has fairly alarming implications in a democracy because people may base decisions on information that, at some level, they know to be false,” Lewandowsky said.

Bottom line: people will fight to protect their personal beliefs even in the face of incontrovertible evidence. This means expedient lies may not be tested or otherwise questioned. The only way to prevent acceptance of a potential lie is to be skeptical of all information and sources. Question and test everything. This is not a new or radical notion. This simply means following the established mandates of scientific inquiry.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Fake quotes and new stories abound on social media. The objective investigator is skeptical of every report and report, seeking validations and confirmations before throwing any support behind them. For some interesting examples false attributions to famous figures, see Smith (2016).

<sup>2</sup> As explained in Turvey (2013) information that comes from examining events or problems through the lenses of analytical logic and the scientific method is necessarily less fallible than, and distinct from, common knowledge or mere observation (Judson, 2004; Popper, 2002; Ross, 1964).

## THE PROPAGATION OF FALSE ALLEGATIONS

The problems with respect to approaching and investigating potentially false allegations are manifold.<sup>3</sup> They require an honest discussion focused on investigating evidence, not a political one intended to appease an interest group. Let us start with these basic realities, which facilitate the propagation of false allegations of almost every kind:

1. For many,<sup>4</sup> false allegations are a proven currency. They are spent to achieve a desired result—regardless of whether the allegations are ultimately substantiated. The allegation itself is often sufficient, causing enough harm and reaction to get what the complainants want.
2. Many *pseudovictims* arise out of mental impairment, whether this is the result of alcohol abuse, prescription medication, illegal drug use, or mental illness. Pretending that drunkenness, drugs, and mental illness do not distort perception and the reliability of memory is not acceptable, from a scientific standpoint. Objective and scientific investigators are admonished to acknowledge these limitations, and to do so faithfully. They are not allowed to hide or ignore evidence of such circumstances—though many do.
3. Too many of those in the justice system lack sufficient education and training and are for the most part investigatively illiterate. This means they operate based on beliefs, limited personal experience, and related suspicions (and even superstitions) without concern for investigating or establishing objective or scientific evidence. And as a result they lack the sophistication to know when they are being lied to by witnesses.
4. Too many investigators accept witness statements at face value from those that they like; and devalue or disbelieve witness statements from those that they do not like. This means they make decisions regarding credibility based on personal biases and prejudices. This makes such investigators more susceptible to manipulation by those intent on making false allegations.

Suffice it to say that investigations into criminal allegations are too often not a matter of protocol, but rather a function of an investigator's (in)ability, bias, and belief. The investigator's personal and professional dispositions dictate whether, and how objectively, criminal allegations are investigated. We see

---

<sup>3</sup> As will be explained in Chapter 1, every criminal allegation made must be treated as a potential false allegation, whether it is a report of a stolen car, a burglary, a kidnapping, or a sexual assault. All may be fabricated or lied about by the pseudovictim. In other words, criminal complaints must be investigated objectively to determine whether it is true, false, or a mixture of facts and fabrications.

<sup>4</sup> *Pseudovictim* is a term that means a fake or false victim—someone who is lying about being a victim.



these problems in our casework every day, and we do not see enough concerted or deliberate efforts to mitigate them.

## PURPOSE

The purpose of this textbook is to provide investigators with a reference manual comprised of objective protocols for managing their cases. It will help them to understand the nature and extent of false allegations; to more accurately identify false allegations should they present in casework; and to establish the motives of those who make them. It will also prepare them for the political reality of having to confront and explain false allegations when those around them, including colleagues and supervisors, are steeped in bias, denial, or self-interest.

This is a work crafted from decades of author and contributor experience successfully identifying false allegations, defending against them in court, and prosecuting those who make them in criminal as well as related civil actions. And it is written without specific consideration of professional perspective. In other words, the protocols can be applied whether investigators are investigating a criminal matter, a civil matter, or a mental health concern. It does not have a side to take other than the realization and dissemination of objective evidence. It does not have a social or societal agenda other than justice.

Readers with a social or political agenda, and preexisting belief systems should be warned that, in the words of noted Astrophysicist Neil deGrasse Tyson: “The good thing about science is that it’s true whether or not you believe in it” (Gupta, 2014). That is how a scientific investigation and its resulting evidence works. The results are not subordinate to political needs or personal beliefs. When they are found to be corrupted by these considerations, they may not be referred to as scientific.

**Brent E. Turvey**

## References

- Akpan, N. (December 5, 2016). The very real consequences of fake news stories and why your brain can't ignore them. *PBS Newshour*. Retrieved from <http://www.pbs.org/newshour/updates/real-consequences-fake-news-stories-brain-cant-ignore/>.
- Borchers, C. (February 5, 2017). Trump walks back false voter fraud claim in interview with Bill O'Reilly. *Washington Post*. Retrieved from <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/the-fix/wp/2017/02/05/trump-walks-back-false-voter-fraud-claim-in-interview-with-bill-oreilly/>.
- Brookfield, S. (1987). *Developing critical thinkers*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass.
- Gaul, K. (February 7, 2017). President Trump's facebook page shares a fake news story claiming Kuwait is copying his travel ban. *The London Daily Mail*. Retrieved from <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-4200638/President-Trump-s-Facebook-page-shared-fake-news-story.html>.