

SECOND EDITION

INTRODUCTION *to*

FORENSIC
PSYCHOLOGY

Research and Application

CURT R. BARTOL ■ ANNE M. BARTOL



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Los Angeles • London • New Delhi • Singapore

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PSYCHOLOGY

Dedicated to Shannon

Sunnier than the sun, brighter than the stars, deeper than the sea

Preface



This text is designed to be a core text in courses in forensic psychology, including those enrolling criminal justice majors and social work majors. However, the book is also addressed to general readers and mental health professionals seeking a basic overview of the field. Although many people associate forensic psychology with criminal profiling, crime scene investigations, and serial murder, the field is much broader in scope. In fact, forensic psychology is an engaging yet difficult field to survey because of its topical diversity, wide range of application, and very rapid growth. For our purposes, forensic psychology will refer *broadly* to the production and application of psychological knowledge and research findings to the civil and criminal justice systems. The book is organized around five major subareas of the field: (1) police psychology, (2) psychology and law or legal psychology, (3) the psychology of crime and delinquency, (4) victimology and victim services, and (5) correctional psychology (including institutional and community corrections for both adults and juveniles). Victimology and victim services represent the newest areas in which forensic psychologists are beginning to participate in increasing numbers.

The text concentrates on the *application* side of the field, focusing on research-based forensic practice. Throughout the book, we emphasize the professional application of psychological knowledge, concepts, and principles to both the civil and criminal justice systems. The topics included in the text are largely dictated by what forensic psychologists and psychologists practicing in forensic settings do on a day-to-day basis. Consequently, we cover such subjects as threat assessment for schools, child custody evaluations, competency evaluations of criminal defendants and of the elderly, counseling services to victims of crime, death notification procedures, screening and selection of law enforcement applicants, the assessment of posttraumatic stress disorder, and the delivery and evaluation of intervention and treatment programs for juvenile and adult offenders. The practice of forensic psychology involves investigations, research studies, assessments, consultation, the design and implementation of treatment programs, and expert courtroom testimony.

One of the major goals of the text is to expose readers to the many careers related to forensic psychology. From our years of teaching, it has become apparent that an overriding concern of many students is to discover what kinds of employment opportunities are available in their chosen major or favorite subject area. In an effort to answer some of these questions, most chapters contain boxed features that provide examples of the various careers in forensic psychology or include samples of employment ads that describe the educational and other requirements for the various

positions. The first chapter is especially focused on the career base of forensic psychology. Because students are often drawn to the word *forensic* without realizing the many branches of practice contained within the label, the chapter first covers the forensic sciences *in general*. It then moves on to the various levels of graduate training, internships, and fellowships relevant to forensic *psychology*. It will become very clear to aspiring forensic psychologists at the outset that they will have to pursue several years of graduate education (perhaps even postdoctoral training) and, in many cases, certification and licensure to practice. However, we also wish to emphasize that forensic psychology can be an enormously rewarding career filled with the personal satisfaction of knowing that one can make a difference in the lives of others.

Another major goal of the text is to emphasize the multicultural perspective that is an integral part of the day-to-day work of forensic psychologists. Well-trained forensic psychologists recognize that ethnic and racial sensitivity is critical to successful practice, and they know they must be constantly vigilant to the injustices that can result from a monocultural perspective. Therefore, throughout the book, we have tried to pay careful attention to the issue of cultural diversity, as well as to relevant issues involving mental and physical disabilities, sexual orientation, and gender discrimination.

Numerous topics in this book deserve far more attention than we have been able to give them here; other topics relevant to forensic practice are left uncovered. We have not reviewed extensively the empirical research or covered the legal and clinical ground that would be expected in a more advanced text. Nevertheless, we hope that this introductory material will prompt readers to explore topics of interest in more depth. The text should serve as an overview of the field of forensic psychology and an invitation to learn more about this very attractive and exciting career option.

Some features of the text should make it relatively accessible, even to readers without extensive background in psychology. Key terms appear in boldface in the text narrative (their definitions can be found in the glossary), and lists of key concepts and review questions appear at the end of each chapter. Every chapter begins with a list of objectives to help students obtain a sense of what is ahead. The text includes extensive references that will aid readers to find more material on the subject areas covered. Material in boxes not only provides more information about career options but also should prompt discussion on contemporary issues relevant to the practice of forensic psychology. For example, there are boxes relating to physician-assisted suicide, the mentally ill and homeless, sexual harassment, school shootings, expert testimony, and cognitive-behavioral treatment. Some boxes highlight decisions of the U.S. Supreme Court that are relevant to the practice of forensic psychology.

The second edition includes a number of changes, many of which were made at the recommendation of peer reviewers. The only structural change was a slight shift of chapters, with court-related chapters (Chapters 4, 5, and 6) moved up to follow the chapters on police and investigative psychology (Chapters 2 and 3). As mentioned above, we also added objectives at the beginning of each chapter. Review questions, some of which have been modified, now appear at the end of each chapter rather than at the end of the book as they did in the first edition.

The chapter on criminal behavior now includes more developmental and biological material, reflecting contemporary research interests, and less biologically based historical content, much of which is now irrelevant and out-of-date. We have also deleted much of the material on the Uniform Crime Reports (UCR), preserving only enough to provide students with a basic understanding of this FBI program. In the policing chapter, we have de-emphasized the first—and now antiquated—trend in police psychology. In addition to these changes, a number of topics have been either expanded or added. These include date rape, especially pertaining to college students; the relationship between mental disorders and crime and violence; sexual deviance; death penalty mitigation; restorative justice initiatives; arson and typologies of juvenile firesetters; sexual harassment; and criminal sentencing.

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Between the appearance of the first and second edition of this text, we have experienced many good changes. Fortunately, the most important constant in our lives continues to be the joy and contentment we get from our immediate family: Gina, Ian, Soraya, Jim, Kai, Madeleine, Darya, and Shannon. Once again, we acknowledge their love, encouragement, and fun-loving spirit.

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