



Edited by

Devon L. L. Polaschek, Andrew Day, Clive R. Hollin

THE WILEY INTERNATIONAL HANDBOOK OF

Correctional Psychology

WILEY Blackwell

The Wiley International Handbook
of Correctional Psychology

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**Devon L. L. Polaschek, Andrew Day,
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*To Harry Love and Paul Gendreau for their distinct
contributions to correctional psychology in Aotearoa/
New Zealand (DLLP)*

*To Kevin Howells, the spiritual leader of correctional
psychology in Australia (AD)*

To James McGuire, psychologist extraordinaire (CRH)

*The contributions to the book represent creative and
systematic work that was undertaken to increase the stock
of knowledge on this topic.*

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About the Editors

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Simon Davies completed his LLB and BSc (psychology and criminology) at Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand, in 2012, where he is currently a PhD student completing his post-graduate diploma in clinical psychology. His PhD research examines the predictive validity of risk assessments conducted by probation officers with high-risk men on parole. Previously his research has examined the skills and techniques used by probation officers during supervision to help reduce recidivism, and the effectiveness of parole supervision. His broader research interests include risk assessment, community supervision, reintegration, and application of the scientific method to all aspects of the criminal justice system.

Sara Del Principel has an MA in Criminology, Law, and Society from George Mason University, during which she worked as a Graduate Research Assistant for the Center for Advancing Correctional Excellence (ACE!) on various research projects aimed at utilizing evidence-based practices to enhance the field of corrections and maximize the positive reentry of individuals on probation. Since completing her MA, Ms. Del Principe has worked as a Crime Analyst with two local police departments.

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Paul Gendreau, OC, PhD, trained at University of Ottawa and Queen's University, Ontario, Canada. After working at Kingston Penitentiary, Ontario, from 1961, he held a series of academic appointments at Canadian universities, and remains an Emeritus Professor at the University of New Brunswick. He has published extensively on "what works" with offenders, program implementation, effects of prison life, and the use of statistics in knowledge cumulation. In 2007, Dr. Gendreau was appointed an Officer of the Order of Canada "for achievement and merit of a high degree, especially service to Canada or to humanity at large."

Claire Goggin holds a PhD in psychology from the University of New Brunswick, Canada, and is now an Assistant Professor at St. Thomas University, New Brunswick. Her research interests include correctional program evaluation, the effects of imprisonment; empirical research methodologies and statistics, particularly meta-analysis; and knowledge cumulation and transfer. Recent projects include an examination of inscription practices in selected scientific disciplines; a meta-analysis of the effects of imprisonment on offender recidivism and emotional wellbeing; an examination of the relationship between rates of homicide and capital punishment in Canada between 1920 and 1949; and a prospective study of the socialization process among police officers.

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Sanja Klein, BSc, received her bachelor degree in psychology from the Justus-Liebig-University in Giessen, Germany, where she is currently a graduate student, majoring in clinical psychology. She has been working closely with Professor Hodgins for 4 years and has completed research internships at University College London, UK, and Charité Berlin, Germany.

Gabrielle Klepfisz completed a bachelor's degree in psychology at Monash University, Australia, in addition to her fourth-year honors, during which she investigated violent offender treatment change. She has continued this research as a doctoral candidate in the Doctor of Psychology (Clinical and Forensic) at Swinburne University of Technology. Ms. Klepfisz has worked as a research assistant both in Australia and in Canada. She has gained clinical experience working with individuals in community and inpatient forensic settings as well as with various mental health concerns, including psychosis, depression and suicidality, anger, social and generalized anxiety, obsessive compulsive disorder, hoarding disorder, and past sexual/physical abuse.

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Mark E. Oliver, PhD, is a Full Professor and Registered Doctoral Psychologist at the University of Saskatchewan, in Saskatoon, Canada, where he is involved in program administration, graduate and undergraduate teaching, research, and clinical training. Mark's research interests

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Nick J. Wilson has been working as a Clinical Psychologist for the New Zealand Department of Corrections for the past 18 years, and is currently Principal Adviser, Psychological Research, with responsibility for the provision of specialist training, expert witness testimony, and research in the area of risk assessment and offender management and treatment (i.e., development of the Dynamic Risk Assessment Offender Re-entry (DRAOR) and Structured Dynamic Assessment Case-Management-21 (SDAC-21) tools). Dr. Wilson has a long-standing interest in criminal psychopathy and personality disorder, its assessment and treatment, and has conducted research and provided clinical services and training in this area since 2000.

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Part I

Correctional Psychology
in Context

I

Correctional Psychology: A Short History and Current Standing

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Correctional psychology is much practiced, but rarely defined. Contemporary correctional systems have employed psychologists for many years now, but it is by no means easy to describe the professional roles of those who work in correctional settings.¹ Additional challenges have arisen that followed the introduction of legislation that defines psychologists as allied health practitioners (Allan, 2013), given that some, if not most, of the work that correctional psychologists do does not fall neatly into the category of a health service. It is also the case that correctional practice does not always closely align with the academic research and teaching of psychology that underpins it (Brodsky, 2007; Clements et al., 2007). And, to complicate matters even further, the term *correctional psychology* has a number of different meanings; it not only refers to professional psychologists who practice in corrections, but also to the wider application of psychology *to* corrections, and the use of psychological research to inform correctional policy and practice. The term is defined, in part, by public and correctional staff perceptions about what psychology is, and its perceived utility in the correctional system, as well as perceptions more generally about the status and utility of science, what causes crime, and what works to reduce it. Unsurprisingly then, correctional psychologists are sometimes uncertain about their professional identity, and may find themselves practicing in environments that are hostile to their ways of working.

This Handbook represents the efforts of many people who have expertise in correctional psychology, and, collectively, their contributions help define what correctional psychology represents in practice, and identify how it can contribute to more effective correctional service delivery. We recognize at the outset the importance of compiling a resource that will inspire and support the next generation of psychologists who want to make a difference, as well as reminding experienced practitioners that this is an exciting and important field.

Today's correctional systems can be understood in terms of their primary role to administer sentences that are handed down by the criminal courts. But although correctional psychology

has sometimes been defined as applying only to convicted offenders (e.g., Morgan, Beer, Fitzgerald, & Mandracchia, 2007), correctional agencies have a secondary mandate to safely contain people who are remanded in various forms of custody while they await trial or sentencing. Correctional psychology has also often been defined primarily in relation to work that occurs in prisons (Biere & Mann, 2017; Gendreau & Goggin, 2013; Magaletta, Patry, Dietz, & Ax, 2007), despite correctional systems in most countries having responsibility for the administration of both custodial and community sentences.

It is also instructive to reflect on what it is that correctional psychologists actually do in practice, even though this varies in emphasis across jurisdictions. In the USA, for example, Dvoskin and Morgan (2010) have proposed that the role typically involves three main activities: (a) the treatment of mentally disordered offenders and the provision of mental health treatment; (b) the rehabilitation of offenders for the purposes of reducing criminal risk and improving community safety; and (c) the smooth and safe running of the correctional system itself. In other Western countries, there are clearer boundaries between those who work with mentally disordered offenders—which remains for the most part the province of mental health systems—and those who work to rehabilitate offenders for risk reduction purposes (Soothill, Rogers, & Dolan, 2008). A further consideration is the extent to which correctional psychologists practice directly with offenders or are responsible more widely for the application of psychology by other parts of the correctional system (e.g., in the selection or training of prison officers or by advising on prisoner management or sentence compliance). Contributions in each of these areas can assist the correctional system to achieve its legislative mandate, which can be best understood in terms of the broad aims of containing, punishing, and reforming offenders, with the main differences between jurisdictions lying largely in the emphasis placed on each (see Table 1.1). Importantly though, all three aims are linked to outcomes that are potentially measurable in terms of human behavior. So, while psychology does not generate all of the knowledge needed for correctional systems to achieve these respective aims, it clearly has something to contribute to each.

We start by providing a brief overview of the history of correctional practice, which serves to remind us of how different systems can be, depending on how human behavior is understood. This approach helps us to position current practice in the broader context of community responses to antisocial behavior and law-breaking, and takes us into the modern era, with its focus on the development of psychological rehabilitation programs.

A Brief History of Correctional Trends

Punishment

In any society, the dominant explanation for the causes of an offender's wrongdoing will play a role in determining how that society deals with the individual offender. One of the oldest explanations for criminal behavior lies in possession by evil spirits and demons. In Christianity at least, this belief in demonic possession sat alongside, not unsurprisingly, a corresponding belief in the omniscient power of God. These twin beliefs formed the basis for the practice of *trial by ordeal*. Given that God would always intervene on behalf of the innocent—the principle of *judicium Dei*, a judgment by God in favor of the guiltless—it was believed that in a trial, which literally threatened life and limb, the innocent would emerge unscathed while the guilty would suffer or die.