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## Chapter 1 An Introduction to Forensic Psychology

- **What is Forensic Psychology?**
  - Forensic psychology either a narrow or a broad definition
  - Narrow def: focuses on practical application, yet it excludes aspects of the profession.
  - Broad: attempts to include all aspects of the discipline, focusing on practical application as well as the research needed to inform applied practice. (Carl Bartok)
  - Generally, it can be defined as a field of psychology that deals with all aspects of human behavior as they relate to the law or legal system.
- **The roles of a Forensic Psychologist**
  - A. Focus on mental health issues as they apply to the legal system.
  - Qualifications for a license to practice **clinical forensic psychology**.
  - Some issues engage in:
    - ✓ Divorce and child custody mediation- "**best interests**" evaluations
    - ✓ Determinations of insanity and fitness to stand trial
    - ✓ Providing expert testimony in court on questions of a psychological nature
    - ✓ Personnel selection (ex. For law enforcement selection)
    - ✓ Conducting critical incident stress debriefings with police officers
  - B. **Experimental forensic psychologists** engage in research regarding human behavior in relation to the legal system.
    - Possible research areas:
    - Examining the effectiveness of risk assessment strategies
    - Determining what factors influence jury decision making
    - Developing and testing better way to conduct eyewitness line-ups
    - Evaluating offender and victim treatment programs
    - Studying the impact of questioning style on eyewitness memory recall
    - Examining the effect of stress management intervention son police officers
  - C. **Legal Scholar**
    - Nebraska: first institution to develop a joint program in Psychology and law.
- **The relationship between psychology and law**
  - ✓ Haney's (1980) three ways in which psychology and the law can interact:
  - ✓ Psychology and the law
  - The use of psychology to study the operation of the legal system
  - ✓ Psychology in the law
  - The use of psychology within the legal system as it currently operates
  - ✓ Psychology of the law
  - to examine the law itself
- **The history of Forensic Psychology**
  - Dates back the late 1800s
  - Early research in the area centered on eyewitness testimony and suggestibility.
  - Munsterberg's on the witness stand (1908)
  - "father of applied psychology"
    - ◇ Pushed psychology into legal arena
    - ◇ Resistance from legal scholars

- Biggest critic: John Henry Wigmore
  - ◇ Treatise on Evidence
- Varendonck (1911)
  - ◇ Belgian murder trial
  - ◇ Showed inaccurate recall in children (reliability of child witness: suggestion question)
- Timeline on page 11
- **Landmark Court Cases in the United States**
  - ✓ State v. Driver (1921) - first expert witness in the United States
  - ✓ Brown v. Board of Education (1954)- segregation in public schools unconstitutional
  - ✓ Jenkins v. United States (1962) - psychologists should be allowed to provide expert testimony on issues of mental illness
  - ✓ Miranda v. Arizona (1966) - defendants have the right to attorney and against self-incrimination.
  - ✓ Tarasoff v. Regents of the University of California (1976) - Duty to warn.

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- **Theories of Crime: Differential Association**
  - ✓ Edwin Sutherland's 1939 book: "Principles of Criminology"
  - ✓ Environment plays a major role in deciding which norms people learn to violate
  - ✓ People learn criminal behavior, like other behaviors, from their interactions with others, especially in intimate groups (ex. Peer group)
- **Theories of Crime: Strain Theory**
  - ✓ During the 1960's dominated the world of criminology
  - ✓ Roots in the works of Emile Durkheim
  - ✓ Will turn to crime when strained, or when they are unable to achieve the goals of the society, whether power, finance, or some other desirable goal.
- **Theories of Crime: Subculture Theory**
  - ✓ Cohen's 1955 book: "Delinquent Boys"
  - ✓ Frustrated boys trying to achieve middle class standards but are not equipped
  - ✓ Miller's Focal concerns:
    - Trouble - getting into and staying out of
    - Toughness - masculinity, endurance
    - Smartness - street sense
    - Excitement - constant search for thrills
    - Fate - things beyond your control, nothing can be done
    - Autonomy - resentment of authority and rules
- **Theories of Crime: Hans Eysenck's Bio-social theory**
  - ✓ People high on Neuroticism and Extraversion are more likely to become involved in crime (Personality: 5 factors)
- **Court cases involving Admissibility of Expert Testimony**
  - ✓ Frye v. US (1923)- General Acceptance Test
  - ✓ Daubert v. Merrell Dow Pharmaceuticals (1993)- Expert testimony must:
    - 1) Be given by a qualified expert

- 2) Be relevant
- 3) Be reliable (i.e., valid).

Scientific evidence is considered valid if:

- 1) The research has been peer reviewed,
- 2) The research is testable,
- 3) The research has a recognized rate of error, and
- 4) The research adheres to professional standards

- **Psychological Experts in Court**

- ✓ The expert witness has two potential functions:
  - To help the court understand a particular issue and/or
  - To provide an opinion
- ✓ To be considered by a judge or jury, expert testimony must meet specific admissibility criteria (**outlined in Daubert**)
- ✓ **The expert witness:** Psychologists' Roles
  - Person with specialized knowledge and expertise
  - Assist in competency determinations
  - Assist in making reliable DSM diagnoses
  - Advise the court: regarding psychological assessment and diagnosis
  - Assess malingering (i.e., faking symptoms)

- Degrees

- ✓ Bachelor's Degree
- ✓ Master's Degree
- ✓ Doctoral Degree (ph.D., Psy.D.)

## Chapter 2

### **Police Psychology**

- **Police Selection:** the process by which police agencies screen out applicants with undesirable qualities or select in those with desirable qualities.
- **History of policy selection:**
  - Employed since the early 1990s
  - 1917 Stanford- Binet intelligence
  - 1940s, personality tests beginning to be used
  - 1950s psychological and psychiatric screening procedures were standard
  - In the 1960s and 1970s, major changes to the police selection process took place in the U.S.
    - ◇ President's Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Justice - higher education
    - ◇ National Advisory Commission on Criminal Justice Standards and Goals in the US - formal selection process
- **The police Selection Process**
  - Two general stages in the police selection process:
    - 1) Job analysis and
    - 2) Construction and validation
  - Job analysis defines the knowledge, skills, and abilities (KSAs) of a good officer