

Criminology iv.

The Study of the Psychology of Violence. [1]

- Since the early 1980's Anglo American law enforcers have become aware of a rapid increase in serial killing.
- The recognition arose from retrospectively studying sex crimes and 'motiveless murders'.
- The study is based mostly in American cases. One main opportunity available in the USA is not so available in the UK and other 'western' countries.
- There is a high correlation between sex crime and motiveless murder.
- Criminologist Colin Wilson has pointed out that both are quite recent concepts – he calls the current time 'the age of the sex crime'. He has a quite plausible explanation.
 1. The criminal classes, life was previously too hard for such frivolity; crime was to avoid poverty.
 2. Prudery, especially in the English communities, was extreme between the 19th century and the very recent past.
- Fingerprinting and blood chemistry had revolutionised detection since 1902.
- BUT detection depends upon 'linkage', and the traditional 'reasonable' sort does not help with 'motiveless killing'. Definitely!
- After WW 2, analysts noticed a phenomenon that they called 'boredom killing'. Abraham Maslow suggested a new 'hierarchy of motivation' to address apparently 'motiveless crime'.
 1. If starving, a man needs food.
 2. THEN, shelter,
 3. THEN, emotional satisfaction,
 4. THEN, self-esteem.
- Societies transit these stages too.
- NOW, motive is clearer – one motivation might be 'boredom and resentment'.
- Another might be '...murders that provide revenge and a lifelong career...' [Elliott Leyton – *Compulsive Killers*]. The killer has a definite aim – to prove to himself that he is not a weakling and a loser & take revenge on society.

- Jean Paul Sartre called this ‘magical thinking’.
- Paul Britton, *The Jigsaw Man*, has 4 questions;
 1. What happened?
 2. To whom?
 3. How?
 4. Why? – only then can you start detecting.
- In England, the case of the Yorkshire Ripper made clear the problem of tracking down an apparently ‘random killer’.

This session’s written/ thought exercise in preparation for next week – ‘briefly explain why seemingly motiveless killing might be a modern phenomenon’.

Forensic Entomology is the use of the insects, and their arthropod relatives that inhabit decomposing remains to aid legal investigations. The broad field of forensic entomology is commonly broken down into three general areas: medicolegal, urban, and stored product pests. The medicolegal section focuses on the criminal component of the legal system and deals with the necrophagous (or carrion) feeding insects that typically infest human remains. The urban aspect deals with the insects that affect man and his immediate environment. This area has both criminal and civil components as urban pests may feed on both the living and the dead. The damage caused by their mandibles (or mouthparts) as they feed can produce markings and wounds on the skin that may be misinterpreted as prior abuse. Urban pests are of great economic importance and the forensic entomologist may become involved in civil proceedings over monetary damages. Lastly, stored product insects are commonly found in foodstuffs and the forensic entomologist may serve as an expert witness during both criminal and civil proceedings involving food contamination.