

**Criminal profiling models.
Comparative and methodological issues**

Abstract

The subject of the doctoral dissertation is the analysis of criminal profiling methodology. Criminal profiling is an investigative technique supporting police efforts aimed at identifying crime perpetrators. It focuses on drawing conclusions about the perpetrator's characteristics such as personality traits, behavioral patterns, motivational processes etc. Although criminal profiling is widely applied by law enforcement in English-speaking countries, it is still facing the issue of insufficient scientific grounds to support its claims. Numerous attempts to introduce such evidence in court, especially in circumstantial criminal cases, have been noted around the world. However, the majority of the profiles has not been admitted as evidence and was subsequently rejected by appellate courts (based on the Frye standard or the Daubert standard in the USA).

Criminal profiling of unknown crime perpetrators, applied especially in the case of serial killings, sexual assaults and arsons, consists of a number of steps taken in order to identify the traits of the unknown perpetrator based on the analysis of crime scene data, characteristics of the victim and the knowledge about similar offenses committed previously. In recent years the general public has become aware of the existence of profiling largely due to the media, which has used the sensational quality of crime to present profilers as experts able to solve even the most complicated criminal cases with an accuracy nearing 100%. The reality of criminal profiling is radically different; according to research the technique is imperfect both from a methodological, as well as practical standpoint. However, even though profiling seems controversial and problematic it is used worldwide as an investigation-supporting technique. In this context the purpose of a criminal profile is to supply the investigators with information about the perpetrator, which could help in establishing his identity and apprehending him. The profile itself does not allow for individual identification but rather serves as a description of a type of a person who could commit a given offence. Because of that and in connection with its uncertain scientific status, criminal profiling is rarely used in court case settings.

The doctoral dissertation consists of nine chapters. The first chapter contains an analysis of the term *criminal profiling*, describes its evolution, development and provides an overview

of ideas about psychological, criminological and criminal profiling. It also showcases the functions and purposes served by contemporary criminal profiles. The following five chapters present different models of criminal profiling applied in the USA, Canada, Great Britain and Poland. These chapters also include analyses of selected criminal profiles of crime perpetrators along with an assessment of their effectiveness. Accordingly, the second and third chapters tackle the criminal profiling model used by the FBI. The fourth chapter is concerned with issues related to investigative psychology promoted by Professor David Canter in Great Britain. The following chapter contains a reflection on behavioral evidence analysis proposed by Brent Turvey as model of criminal profiling in the USA. The sixth chapter raises the issue of psychological profiling of unknown perpetrators of offences conducted at the Sehn Institute of Forensic Research in Kraków. The seventh chapter deals with geographic profiling used by the Canadian police in Vancouver. The following two chapters are an attempt at determining the legal status of criminal profiles and contain a comparative analysis of criminal profiling evidence admissibility in criminal cases in Anglophone and Polish legal systems. The deliberations will be concluded with a summary of the results of conducted analyses and final scientific conclusions.

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