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Mass media has a significant and long-lasting effect on public perceptions and beliefs about crime and criminals. The public's use of media representations of current issues as their primary source of information becomes problematic when criminal justice policy is influenced by these representations. This study examines the portrayal of notorious gangsters Jarrod, Jonathan, and Jamie Bacon by news media in Metro Vancouver.

METHODS
We analyzed all articles mentioning the Bacon family published in the Vancouver Sun between January 2004 and December 2015 (n = 401). Specifically, we explore the media's depiction of the Bacons through a thematic content analysis and a key-word analysis using a corpora comparison with a set of reference articles.

THE FACE OF GANG VIOLENCE
We argue that the Bacon brothers became the face of gang violence in Metro Vancouver, not necessarily because they were important players in the gang scene, but rather because they provided the media with a familiar anchor point for explaining the origins of gang violence. The popular theme of crime families provided a narrative that proved useful in a context where the local police and the court were also trying to adapt to the emerging reality of violent gang conflict (Gravel, Wong, & Simpson, in press).

Our analyses suggest that the media described the Bacons as a sophisticated, dangerous crime family who posed a serious safety risk to the public. Jamie, Jarrod and Jonathan were consistently referred to as a single unit ("The Bacon Brothers"); even when irrelevant to the focus of the article, the reporter would often tie in all brothers or other family members. It certainly contributed to the mystique surrounding the Bacons that the brothers hail from a white, middle-class, supportive family.

MEDIA’S INFLUENCE ON THE PUBLIC & POLICE
Given that much social knowledge is constructed using information from the media, the presentation and focus on the Bacon brothers by a prominent Vancouver newspaper is likely to have had considerable influence on the public's perception of gang violence in BC. The media favored the construction of the Bacons as sophisticated and dangerous gangsters who were leading an upswing in gang violence, putting the public at heightened risk. The fascination by the media may well have influenced the responses by the police and the public, which influenced the story in a cyclical process. For example, the response to this recurring focus was public fear and the police reacting by issuing warnings regarding danger to those associating with the Bacons as well as to bystanders who happened to be in their vicinity - contributing to the public fear of gang violence and further sensationalizing the story.

We are in no way suggesting that the police or the courts purposefully misdirected the public and the media. However, we do contend that the image of the downfall of a crime family serves as a cautionary tale that the glamorous lifestyle youths may see in gangs will never save gangsters from their inevitable demise—if not by death, certainly at the hand of the law. This image is both a satisfying parable for the public as well as a useful example for police to call on whenever additional resources are deemed necessary to contend with gangs.
BACKGROUND

Cold is a central feature of environments at higher latitudes and elevations. Consequently, cold-induced taphonomic (from death until discovery) changes are relevant in many forensic contexts. Microscopic bone cracking can be a response to cold and different conditions could alter the types of cracks found.

METHODS

Fifty-two lamb bone segments were used to assess the impact of stable freeze, freeze-thaw cycles, freeze-drying plus freeze-thaw cycles and flash-freezing on microstructural cracking of bone in a series of controlled exposure experiments. For each bone segment, three thin sections were examined under a light microscope, and the types and frequencies of cracking damage were documented.

EFFECTS OF COLD EXPOSURE ON BONES

Cold exposure caused two types of microscopic cracking. Transverse cracks (Fig. 1) occurred in all treatments, whereas osteonal cracks (Fig. 2) were restricted to rapid freezing treatments. Type of cold exposure had a statistically significant effect on both the total number of cracks and each type of crack observed.

SKELETAL MICROCRACKING AS A TAPHONOMIC INDICATOR

These results indicate skeletal microcracking could be used as a taphonomic indicator of post-mortem (after death) exposure to sub-zero temperatures. The type and prevalence of this damage could be used to distinguish between different types of cold exposure in forensic investigations of skeletal remains.


Chantal Turpin
PhD Student
cturpin@sfu.ca

Fig. 1. A transverse crack as visualized at 50x magnification. The crack originates from the interior margin, is irregular in direction along its length, and crosses several microstructural layers within the cortical bone.

Fig. 2. A bisecting osteon crack at 100x magnification. The crack originates within the Haversian canal system, is linear and bidirectional, and does not exit the osteonal structure boundary.
BACKGROUND

With the advent of a fourth decade of controversies in the field of partner violence (PV), the Journal of Family Violence prepared a special issue titled “Current Controversies over Gender Differences in Perpetration of Physical Partner Violence.” It is believed that the controversy has shifted and is not the same today as it was in the 1980s. Also, the controversy appears to impede the development of the field. The purpose of the special issue is to put forth an array of perspectives on present-day aspects and issues of the controversy, including implications, proposed solutions and possible consequences for the development of the field of PV.

APPLYING A VIOLENT EVENTS PERSPECTIVE

This paper identifies the controversy as focusing on the individual partners and asking, “Who is more violent?” and “Who needs more help?” Search for the answers to these questions has created a powerful victim-offender binary and the corresponding schism in the PV literature between those who argue that men are predominant perpetrators of violence against women (feminist scholarship) and those who argue that bidirectionality is a prevalent type of violence in intimate relationships (family violence perspective). Neither model alone seems sufficient for understanding the heterogeneity of PV. Research demonstrates that both men and women can become victims of PV and that both initiate and perpetrate PV, however, not exactly at the same or symmetrical level. Moreover, studies have identified different types of PV that cannot be solely described by either of these models.

As this paper argues, application of a violent events perspective (VEP) and the related concepts to PV, e.g., escalation, helps shift the focus away from the prevalence of violence perpetrated by individual men and women in their relationships to the interaction between the intimate partners in a violent situation instead. Given the complex nature of intimate relationships and intertwining roles, behaviours, and emotions of both partners in these relationships, examining the couple’s interaction rather than the disconnected behaviours of individual men or women can provide a deeper understanding of and new insights into the process of violence between intimate partners. Moreover, the proposed approach enhances our understanding of the patterns of violent dynamics, including men’s and women’s roles in the evolution of a violent situation, and also the risk factors that are closely associated with different types of violent dynamics. Figure 1 outlines the conceptual representation of a VEP applied to partner violence. It shows that in the heart of the violent event lies interaction, which is embedded in a specific situation, and both are functions of broader individual, relationship and social factors.

QUESTIONING A “ONE SIZE FITS ALL” APPROACH

The way in which PV is conceptualized is inherently significant for designing policies to address the perpetration of violence between intimate partners. Arguably, any theory that dichotomizes victimization and perpetration is likely to lead to a response that is similarly dichotomized. Findings based on a VEP question a ‘one size fits all’ approach to address such a complex and multidimensional phenomenon as PV and suggest carefully tailored interventions for different types of violent.

Fig. 1. Conceptual representation of a violent event perspective.

Public transportation systems play a pivotal role in the development and sustainability of crime throughout large metropolitan cities. Past research has argued that mass forms of public transit systems tend to attract and generate crime due to their standardized spatial and temporal settings that can exceed the physical boundaries of a station and impact the nearby environment (Brantingham, Brantingham, and Wong, 1991). Offenders are drawn to commit crime based on a system’s ability to triangulate opportunities and targets with little to no security and/or passenger interventions.

The aim of the current study is to determine whether neighbourhoods around the O-Train stations in the City of Ottawa, measured using dissemination areas, demonstrated higher levels of reported crime after controlling for several socio-economic and socio-demographic factors. The analyses utilized local Moran’s I to demonstrate the spatial relationship between crime rates and public transportation. Local Moran’s I assess the local variation of spatial autocorrelation to determine whether spatial clustering occurs at the local level for each spatial unit under analysis.

**DIFFERING IMPACT ACROSS CRIME TYPES**

Exploration of Ottawa’s five O-Train stations across two offence types (commercial burglary and theft of vehicle) showed high levels of crime clustering in those areas with an O-Train station located within it or nearby. However, the impact is not the same across all crime types. After considering their High-High local crime clusters, robbery, in particular, was not a problem for the O-Train, and commercial burglary was not statistically related to the O-Train stations; however, theft of vehicle High-High local crime clusters were statistically related to O-Train stations, and with a high magnitude.

The findings of the current research highlight the importance of considering the criminal implications of the presence and operation of mass public transit systems. Strategic planning may be included in preparation for handling mass populations of commuters, which include both victims and offenders. More policing must be deployed routinely to patrol O-Train stations and nearby areas to deter motivated offenders from seeking out vulnerable targets, such as vehicles left for the day by individuals commuting to work or school using the O-Train.

As demonstrated in previous literature, there is a continual need to study the relationship between offender mobility and mass forms of public transportation. Various land uses, general crime rates, and strategic planning need to be taken into consideration when implementing routes for commuters travelling to and from work, school and home.
BACKGROUND

Our study started off with a rather simple question: How do inmates organize themselves, socially, inside prison walls? In trying to answer this question, we dug into a rather complex social world, one that seemed to have been neglected by scholars in the era of mass incarceration, in the US.

We entered a Pennsylvania prison to study a “good behavior” unit, in which 205 inmates lived together. We met with 70% of them, showed each a roster of all other inmates and asked them who they “got along with”. More than 98% of the inmates we met reported getting along with at least one other inmate. In fact, most named between 3 and 4 inmates who they got along with. Using the answer to this question, we were able to reproduce the friendship network of inmates in this study (Fig. 1).

DO PRISON NETWORKS DIFFER FROM SCHOOL NETWORKS?

For us, an important question was, how much do these networks differ from what we can observe outside of prison walls? What we found in the PINS study is that, structurally, there were surprisingly little differences between our prison networks and friendship networks in school settings. For example, schools that showed the kind of racial heterogeneity that we had in this unit showed similar preferences for same race friendships (Fig. 2).

NO HARD RACIAL OR RELIGIOUS BOUNDARIES

Importantly, we found that the unit does not have hard racial or religious boundaries (Fig. 3). For instance, only one of the subgroups we uncovered was racially homogenous (group 7, left side of the graph). Although a majority race emerged from most subgroups, inmates showed a tendency for mixed race groups, with a few powerful inmates (“old heads” – relatively older, respected, experienced inmates) acting as brokers between subgroups (and at the same time, between racial groups).

Yet, the important finding is not so much that most subgroups tended to form around old heads, but that old heads across subgroups worked together in incorporating inmates of all socio-demographics. Under the right conditions, self-organizing inmate society can foster social integration reminiscent of other social settings.
BACKGROUND

This paper is the first in a series of work that I am doing in collaboration with my colleagues in Saudi Arabia: Drs. Essam Shaalan, Zeinab El-Moaty and Salaheldin Abdelsalam from King Faisal University (KFU) in Saudi Arabia, and Aswan University in Egypt.

Insects colonize carrion in a predictable sequence so a thorough understanding of insect ecosystems and the ecological interactions between the carrion and its colonizing fauna allow a forensic entomologist to interpret the fauna at the time of discovery and estimate the minimum elapsed time of insect colonization and therefore, infer elapsed time since death. This is extremely important in a homicide investigation.

ESTABLISHING REGIONALLY & SEASONALLY APPROPRIATE DATABASES

In order for forensic entomologists to be able to analyze insect evidence from a crime scene, regionally and seasonally appropriate databases have to be established because insect succession is very dependent on geographic region and season. Data generated in one biogeoclimatic zone cannot be applied in another zone, which is why much of my earlier work involved developing databases for many biogeoclimatic zones across Canada. Until the present work, no such studies had been conducted in Saudi Arabia, greatly limiting the use of forensic entomology in that country.

DIFFERENT PATTERN OF INSECT COLONIZATION

The present work involved examining the insect succession and carrion ecology of a number of animal carcasses over four seasons. Forensic entomology typically involves utilizing pig carcasses, but due to cultural and religious issues, such carcasses were replaced with rabbit carcasses (Fig. 1).

Carcasses were placed outside in a date palm farm in the Al-Ahsaa Oasis in the Eastern Province of Saudi Arabia, in each of four seasons. Al-Ahsaa is the largest oasis in the world. Carcasses were monitored daily and insects collected and raised to adulthood for identification.

In general, a very different pattern of insect colonization was recorded in comparison with western research and these data provide base information on insect colonization and carcass decomposition in this area of the world.

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