

Tactical Webinar Series 2024

Webinar 5 - Decoding Crime: Profiling Secrets and Modus Operandi Unveiled

Dawn Reeby

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12-Part Tactical Series Webinars

- ✓ January 11th @ 1300 ET - Introduction to Tactical Crime Analysis - Jennifer Zawitz
- ✓ February 8th @ 1400 ET - Data Management - Christopher Bruce
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Slide 2 | IACA | 9218 Metcalf Ave #364 | Overland Park, KS 66212 | iaca.net | 1.800.608.3419

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Keynote Speaker | Best Selling Author | Certified Trainer | Subject Matter Expert | Private Coach | Nature Lover | Joy Catalyst

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Characteristics of Crime Patterns

Question	Sub-questions
Who?	Offender and victim/target characteristics
How?	Modus operandi, signature
Why?	Causal factors, motivations, correlates



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Offender Characteristics

HARD	SOFT
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• DNA/Fingerprints• Sex• Age• Race/Ethnicity• Nationality• Scars/Tattoos• Height• Weight	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Clothing• Facial Hair• Hair Color• Hair Style• Vehicle• Residence• Occupation• Lifestyle• Build



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Understanding Level of Organization

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Offender - Disorganized

- Low Intelligence
- Impulsive Behavior
- Poor Social Skills
- Limited Criminal History
- Messy Crime Scenes
- Lack of Victim Selection
- Sexual Dysfunction
- Low Threshold for Violence
- Minimal Planning
- High Risk of Capture

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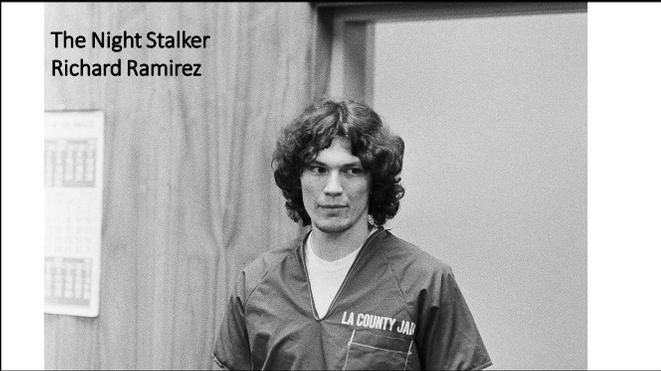


Offender - Disorganized

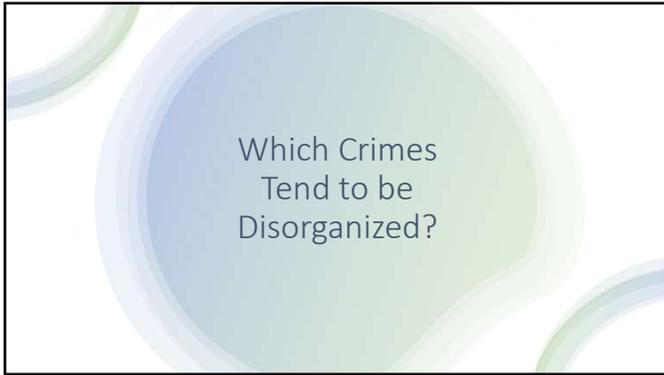
- Spur-of-the-Moment Assaults
- Property Crimes (e.g., vandalism, petty theft)
- Sexual Assault
- Robberies (often with violence)
- Domestic Violence
- Crimes of Passion
- Substance-Related Crimes (e.g., drug possession)
- Property Damage (e.g., vandalism, graffiti)
- Disturbances and Public Disorder Offenses (e.g., disorderly conduct)

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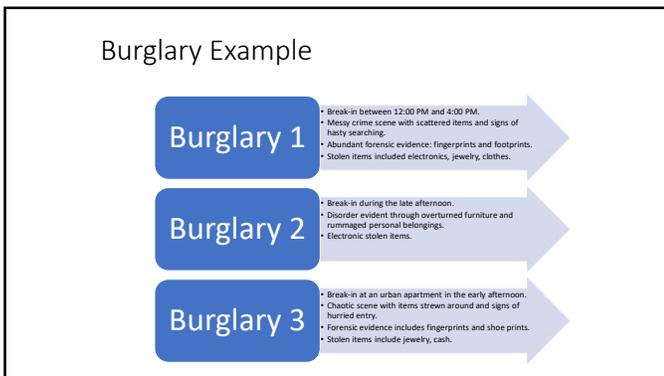
The Night Stalker
Richard Ramirez



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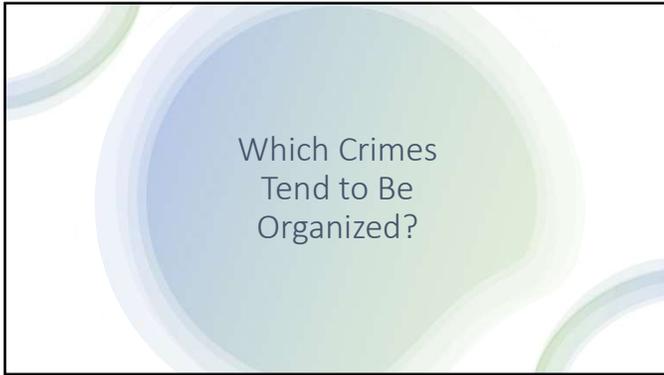
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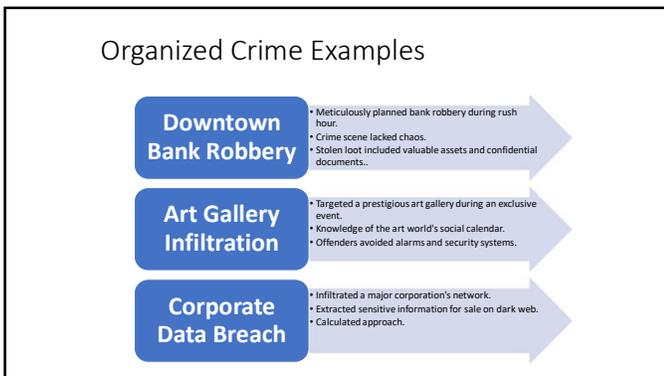
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Identifying Offenders

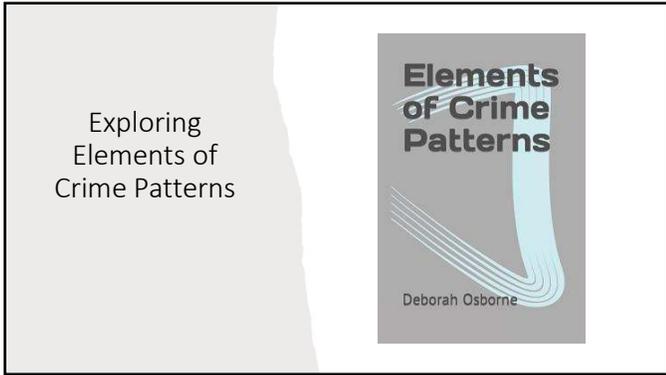
Standard Investigation Techniques	Analytical Techniques
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Database Queries <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • known offenders who have used the same M.O. • known offenders who match suspect description • parole/probation/sex offenders • pawn data • Alerts from other agencies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus on HARD characteristics • Consider SOFT characteristics • What can you infer based on the M.O.? • Geographic profiling • Investigative analysis (traditional profiling)

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Characteristics: Modus Operandi

How	Why
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Location of Entry • Method of Entry • Weapon • Property Stolen • Suspect Actions • Words Spoken • Injury Inflicted • Property Damage • Method of Departure • "Signature" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applies to all other factors • Why this crime? • Why this target? • Why this time? • Why this location? • Why this modus operandi?

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Exploring
Elements of
Crime Patterns

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Thefts from Vehicles

- **Perpetrators:** often drug addicts needing quick cash, sometimes juveniles
- **Victims:** owners of parked cars
- **Locations:** driveways, parking lots, parks, schools, churches, sporting events, concerts, shopping malls/plazas; may target places repeatedly
- **Times:** any time of day, at night when people are sleeping, in weather when people stay inside
- **Entry/Approach Methods:** suspects often approach and flee on foot although other transportation cannot be ruled out
- **Tools:** prying tools, spark plugs to break window, rocks, bricks
- **Vehicles/Transportation Routes:** may break-in cars near routes that provide a quick getaway
- **Stolen Goods:** purse, wallet, laptop, change, coins, GPS, satellite radio, stereo, glove compartment contents (any sort of valuables in vehicle), musical instrument, sporting equipment, gifts
- **Method:** usually a smash and grab - smash a car window and grab any valuables, may pry door or open lock, flees with portable items, may open trunk as well
- **Motive:** quick cash - items that can be sold easily or traded for drugs
- **Query terms:** glove compartment, GPS, car stereo, cut wires, broken window, rock, brick, spark plug, change (coins), broke, lock, lock, smash
- **Suggestions:** know your 6% who commit 60% of the crimes of this type in your area - make a portfolio of these criminals and share it with your agency officers and nearby jurisdictions and help the community in target hardening efforts (via flyers or media or sign postings); surveillance; theft rates should be computed per parking space or vehicle.

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Car Jacking (Robbery)

- **Perpetrators:** Suspects in need of transportation, gang members.
- **Victims:** Innocent persons, sometimes related to drug activities.
- **Locations:** Urban areas, intersections, gas stations, parking lots.
- **Times:** Various times of day.
- **Entry/Approach Methods:** Bumping cars, hiding, attacking.
- **Weapons:** Often involve guns.
- **Stolen Goods:** Vehicles, sometimes personal belongings.
- **Motive:** Obtain a vehicle, power, escape, or commit other crimes.
- **Method:** Often violent, may involve kidnapping, sexual assault, or murder.
- **Query Terms:** vehicle, car, robbery, carjacked, carjacking, etc.
- **Suggestions:** Track all carjackings, query databases, and known carjackers.

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Bank Robberies

- **Perpetrators:** Variety, from inexperienced to professional, alone or in teams.
- **Victims:** Financial institutions, banks, credit unions.
- **Locations:** Inside banks, ATMs.
- **Times:** Vary, but often follow patterns.
- **Entry/Approach Methods:** Staking out, targeting banks with easy escape routes.
- **Weapons:** Notes with threats, sometimes guns.
- **Stolen Goods:** Cash, often with dye-packs.
- **Method:** May case banks, wear disguises, force victims, jump over counters.
- **Motive:** Cash.
- **Query Terms:** bank, credit union, safe, alarm, vault, etc.
- **Suggestions:** Map all banks, track known bank robbers, learn prevention techniques.

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Associations & Link Analysis - Example



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Databases of Suspects

- Previously arrested
- Previously suspected
- Probation/Parole
- Sex Offender Registry



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Victim Characteristics

People	Businesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Physical characteristics Political status Social status Relationship to offender Group affiliations Routine activities Activities before/after the crime Social media presence 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Business type Physical location Clientele Security measures



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Cognitive Bias

- Types of Biases
- Confirmation Bias
- Availability Heuristic
- Anchoring bias
- Hindsight bias

Solutions

- Awareness
- Diverse Perspectives
- Structured Decision-Making
- Blind Analysis



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Check List

Factors to Consider When Analyzing a Crime Pattern

<p>What Factors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Incident Nature (Crimes against Persons/Property/Society) Incident Types <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Typological Sub-Categorization Number of Incidents in Pattern <p>Who Factors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of Offenders Offender Characteristics Physical <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sex Race/Ethnicity/Nationality Height Weight Build Other Physical Characteristics Clothing Property Carried Social/Economic/Political <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Occupation Education Income Level Vehicle <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make & Model Year Body Style Color License/Not Stolen Activity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pre-Crime Activity Post-Crime Activity 	<p>Psychological</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Intent Motivation <p>Victim Characteristics (Primarily for Violent Crimes)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Physical <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sex Age Race/Ethnicity/Nationality Height Weight Build Other Physical Characteristics Clothing Property Carried Social/Economic/Political <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Occupation Education Income Level Political Affiliation Organizational Affiliations/Activity Pre-Crime Activity Post-Crime Activity Business/Property Characteristics (Primarily for Property Crimes) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Industry Location of Entry Logos/Signs Physical Appearance Physical Size Structure Location of Parts Political Affiliation Social/Political Activity 	<p>Where Factors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Geographic Location <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Address Location Type Environment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lighting Degree of Seclusion Geographic Proximity to Other Locations/Events Proximity Route/Navigation Direction of Travel/Flight Geographic Progression of Pattern When Factors Time of Day Day of Week Type of Day (weekdays, weekend, holiday, etc.) Week of Month Month of Year Temporal proximity to other events Direct/Indirect Links How Factors Actions Essential to Incident to Crime Commission <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Location of Entry Method of Entry Weapon Used Property Stolen Means/Species Property Damaged Property Damages Inflicted Signature Actions Not Essential to Crime Commission (Signatures)
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Resource Links

- <https://www.iaca.net/tactical-series-webinars>
- <https://www.iaca.net/training>
- dawn@excellenceinanalytics.com
- 12 Week Pattern Analysis Course (IACA)



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