What is criminal profiling?

- Construction of a psychological, behavioral and demographic profile of the type of person likely to have committed the crime

- Usually applied to serial crimes (serial murders, serial rapes...)
First documented case

- New York City 1950’s
- “Mad Bomber”
- Psychiatrist James Brussell constructs a profile:
  - White male, 40’s - 50’s
  - Lives with aunt or sister
  - Hates father, loves mother
  - Will wear double-breasted suit when apprehended
“Father of profiling”

John Douglas

- 25 years with the FBI, Investigative Support Unit
- Developed profiling techniques now taught in the FBI’s Behavioral Science Unit
- Consulted on Atlanta child murders, Green River killer, Unabomber
What to look for

- **Signature**
  - Signature - something done to fulfill or satisfy the offenders emotional state
  - Not the same as Modus Operandi

- **Modus Operandi** - what is needed to complete the crime
What to look for

- State of the crime scene
  - Gives clues about the type of offender
    - Age
    - Race
    - Motive
Organized vs. Disorganized

Organized crime scene:
- Body is hidden
- Weapon is removed from scene
- Appears to be well-planned
- The victim is specifically targeted
- Restraints often used
- Aggression takes place before death
Organized vs. Disorganized

- **Disorganized:**
  - Body not hidden
  - Weapon is present
  - Appears to be spontaneous
  - Victim may be an acquaintance
  - Aggression or sex post-mortem
What does it all mean?

- Organized crime scene suggests an offender:
  - Average or above average IQ
  - Employed, usually quite skilled
  - Socially competent
  - Uses alcohol in commission of crime
  - Uses car to drive to crime scene/hunt for victim
  - Obsessed with media coverage of his crimes
What does it all mean?

- Disorganized crime scene suggests an offender:
  - Below average IQ
  - Unstable employment record, unskilled
  - Socially isolated
  - Lives close to crime scene
  - Strict discipline as a child
  - Extremely anxious
Criminal Profiling

- **Statistics from FBI (1981)**
  - 88 cases solved using profiling out of 192
  - 17% of these cases were solved by profiling ALONE

- **Canada & Profiling**
  - VICLAS (violent crime linkage analysis)
    - Computer matches crimes with similar characteristics
Canada & Profiling

- New technique developed by Canadians: Geographic profiling
  - Determine offender’s location by studying the location of the crime scenes
  - Computer program generates offender’s most likely location & possible future target areas
Serial Killers
Definition of a Serial Killer

- Murder of three or more persons
- Involves a distinctive “cooling off” period
  - Can be days to months to years

- Differs from **Mass Murder** (3+ persons killed together) & **Spree Killing** (3+ persons killed in short period of time at different locations)
Typical serial killer

- White male
- Late 20’s to early 30’s
- Kills within his own race
- Method of murder is “hands on” (strangulation or stabbing)
- Victims selected because they share specific characteristics (for example, Ted Bundy chose young women with long hair, parted in the middle)
The Lust Murderer: subtype of a serial killer

- Sadistic and brutal crime
- Committed almost exclusively against women
- Two types of offenders:
  - Organized Nonsocial
  - Disorganized Asocial
Organized Nonsocial

- Indifferent to the well-being of others
- Self-centered and narcissistic
- Manipulative and cunning
- Lives away from crime scene
- Crime appears controlled, methodical
- Pre and post-mortem mutilation and torture
Organized Nonsocial

- Evidence of necrophilia
- Returns to crime scene to see status of investigation
- Wants his crime to outrage the community; feels he is “getting even” with society
Disorganized Asocial

- Described by others as a “loner”
- Inexperienced in relationships, unable to socialize
- Crime is committed in a frenzied manner
- Lives close to crime scene because he feels safe and secure in his own neighborhood
- Weapon of opportunity - demonstrates lack of plan
Disorganized Asocial

- Post-mortem mutilation
  - Biting or slashing

- Insertion of foreign objects
  - “an inquisitive child with a new toy”
  - Exploring how body works

- Returns to crime scene often to continue mutilation
Profiling a Serial Killer: “The Trailside Killer”

- San Francisco Mount Tamalpais August 1979
  - Edda Kane (44 years) found dead
  - Facedown, kneeling position
  - Single gunshot wound to back of head
  - No evidence of sexual assault
  - No robbery
Trailside Killer

- March 1980
  - Barbara Schwartz (23 years)
  - Stabbed in chest
  - Naked, kneeling position

- October 1980
  - Anne Alderson (26 years)
  - Shot in head
  - BUT: not naked, not kneeling
Trailside Killer

- November 1980
  - Shauna May (25 years)
  - Found in a shallow grave NEXT TO Diana O’Connell (22 years) who had been missing for one month
  - Both shot in head
Trailside Killer

- Same day: two more bodies
  - Richard Stowers (19 years) and fiancee Cynthia Moreland (18 years)
  - Determined to have been killed the same weekend as Anne Alderson in mid-October
Trailside Killer

- March 1981
  - Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park
  - Ellen Marie Hansen (20) & Steven Haertle
  - Threatened to rape Ellen, shot & killed her when she protested
  - Steven was shot but survived
  - Able to give a description of the man
Crime scenes in secluded areas only accessible by foot: *Killer was comfortable in area, a local*

Victims attacked from rear in blitz-style attack: *Killer was asocial, not able to charm victims with conversation. Blitz-style attack was the only way he could control victims*
Trailside Killer: Constructing a profile

- Victims ranged in ages and appearance: *Killer didn’t know victims. He is acting out a fantasy*
- Victims were white: *Killer is white*
- Able to evade police: *Low to mid 30’s*
- *Probably spent time in jail, possibly attempted rape*
- *Blue-collar work*
Trailside Killer: Constructing a profile

- Very intelligent
- Not random act - precipitating stressor
- History of bed-wetting, fire-starting and/or cruelty to animals (as a child)
- **SPEECH IMPEDIMENT**
  - Secluded, didn’t want to be seen
  - Relied on over-powering victim
  - Indicates a disability, but unlikely physical because was able to control victim
Trailside Killer Caught

- David Carpenter
  - White male, 50 (*profile of age incorrect)
  - Industrial arts teacher
  - History of attacking women and served jail time
  - Domineering and abusive mother
  - Bed-wetting & cruelty to animals as a child
  - SEVERE STUTTER