

Juvenile Interrogations: The Influence of a Crime's Immorality, Moral Character
Judgements, and Acknowledgement of Juveniles' Immaturity and Suggestibility

by

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this research was to investigate the effect of the type of crime (namely, its perceived immorality) a juvenile is suspected of on how juvenile suspects are perceived (in terms of moral character, immaturity, and suggestibility) and, in turn, interrogated. I expected act-person dissociation to influence that effect. To that end, perceptions of crime (i.e., immorality, seriousness) were also investigated. The study was first conducted with law enforcement officers ($n = 55$), then replicated with laypeople ($n = 171$). Participants were randomly assigned to one of three crime conditions: robbery, sexual assault, and murder. In each condition, participants read a probable cause statement involving a 15-year-old suspect. There were several key findings: (1) Murder was the most serious crime, whereas robbery and sexual assault were more immoral. (2) Act-person dissociation did not occur. (3) Participants were more likely to endorse the use of psychologically coercive tactics on the juvenile suspected of sexual assault than the juvenile suspected of murder. (4) The more favorably participants perceived a juvenile's moral character, the less likely they were to endorse the use of psychologically coercive interrogation tactics. (4) Participants who more strongly agreed that juveniles are more immature and suggestible than adults were less likely to endorse the use of psychologically coercive tactics, more likely to endorse the use of tactics that encourage compliance with interrogators, and more likely to adhere to the PEACE model of juvenile interrogations. The implications and limitations of these findings are discussed, along with potential directions for future research.

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

In 1996, Nathaniel Hatchett was accused of sexually assaulting, carjacking, kidnapping, and robbing a woman (Bluhm Legal Clinic, 2018; National Registry of Exonerations, 2020). Despite being innocent, and established as such by DNA evidence, Hatchett falsely confessed and was wrongfully convicted. When describing why he falsely confessed, he said that “[the interrogators] kept telling me what to say, and I got confused... I was 17, and scared, and I didn't know what to think... I just told them what they wanted to hear” (Bluhm Legal Clinic, 2018). Unfortunately, Hatchett’s experiences are far from unique.

Many juveniles (i.e., people under the age of 18) have falsely confessed to crimes after being subjected to psychologically coercive and, at times, physically coercive interrogation practices. Of the 2,754 people who have been exonerated from their wrongful convictions in the United States (National Registry of Exonerations, 2021c), 336 were wrongfully convicted after giving a false confession, 85 of which were given by juvenile suspects (or 108, if 18-year-olds are included; National Registry of Exonerations, 2021a). In other words, 25% to 32% of exonerees falsely confessed when they were juveniles. Given that only 8% of arrestees are juveniles (United States D.O.J., 2016), it is clear they are overrepresented in the false confessor population (see also, Drizin & Leo, 2004).

The overrepresentation of juveniles in the false confessor population stems from the fact that they are more likely to falsely confess than adults (e.g., Redlich & Goodman, 2003). Research on psychological development has identified three main reasons why juveniles are more likely to falsely confess: immaturity, suggestibility, and the exploitation of those characteristics via psychologically coercive interrogation practices.

An abundance of research demonstrates the many ways in which juveniles are less mature than adults.

Immaturity and Suggestibility

Juveniles have underdeveloped decision-making skills. Indeed, they are unable to make adult-like risk-benefit analyses (Halpern-Felsher & Cauffman, 2001) or adult-like moral judgements (i.e., distinguishing right from wrong; Cauffman & Steinberg, 2000; Palucka, 1998; Romeral et al., 2018). Some believe that juveniles are unable to adequately participate in criminal proceedings due to their inability to appreciate their rights, the consequences of their actions, or the importance of future-oriented decisions (e.g., Grisso, 1997; Steinberg et al., 2009; Zelle et al., 2015).

Juveniles are also more suggestible than adults (e.g., Richardson et al., 1995). To be suggestible is to easily comply with the suggestions of an authority figure, like an interrogator (Singh & Gudjonsson, 1992). For example, an interrogator may tell a suspect that there is no way another person could have committed a crime and a suggestible suspect will internalize that statement and, consequently, alter their account of their (potentially non-existent) criminal involvement (see Ofshe, 1989, 1992; Singh & Gudjonsson, 1992). Studies have shown that the more suggestible a person is, the more likely they are to falsely confess (Redlich & Goodman, 2003; Richardson et al., 1995).

Given this information, it is clear that juveniles' suggestible nature render them unable to understand that a false confession is never the best option or resist pressure from authority figures. Despite being aware of these developmental limitations, officers tend to endorse the use of the same interrogation practices on juveniles as they would adults (Cleary & Warner, 2016; Meyers & Reppucci, 2007; Redlich et al., 2004; Reppucci et al., 2010).

Interrogation Practices

The most common interrogation method that officers are formally trained on is the Reid technique (Cleary & Warner, 2016). The Reid technique is an accusatory method that involves using psychologically coercive tactics to convince a suspect to confess to a crime they are suspected of committing or being involved in. They do this by minimizing the suspect's resistance to confession, neutralizing their guilt, and providing incentives for confession (Inbau et al, 1986; Kassin, 1997). The tactics used to do those things can be classified as either minimization or maximization.

Minimization refers to tactics that help the suspect morally disengage from their accused crime (e.g., sympathizing with the suspect, normalizing the deviant behavior), which in turn neutralizes their potential guilt and increases the likelihood of confession (Feld, 2012). Or, at worst, it convinces the juvenile that there would be no harm done, and no shame endowed, by confessing to a crime they did not commit. Minimization methods take advantage of a juvenile's naivety and inability to make mature judgements.

Maximization, on the other hand, refers to tactics like presenting real or fabricated evidence to a suspect, casting true or false accusations, and overriding objections. The goal is to convince the suspect that they are undoubtedly guilty and that anything other than an admission of guilt would be pointless (Feld, 2012). Maximization techniques aim to decrease the suspect's confidence in either their fabricated alibi or their actual innocence. These techniques are particularly inappropriate for juveniles because their memories are highly susceptible to reformation when they are confronted with contradictory information by an authority figure, like an interrogator (see Richardson et al., 2005; see also Henkel & Coffman, 2004).

Despite the Reid technique being the interrogation method that officers are most commonly trained on, it is not the only interrogation method. In fact, the overwhelming majority (91%) of officers are not formally trained to do interrogations (Cleary & Warner,

2016). Rather, most are given informal on-the-job training that blends aspects of the Reid technique with aspects of other non-accusatory techniques like the PEACE model. Unlike the Reid technique, the PEACE model does not have suggested interrogation tactics like minimization or maximization. Rather, the PEACE model is essentially a plan of action, designed to ethically and reliably gather information from juvenile suspects.

There are five stages in the PEACE model (Snook et al., 2014): (1) **p**lanning and preparation, (2) **e**ngaging and explaining, (3) **a**ccount attainment, (4) **c**losing, and (5) **e**valuation. In the first stage, officers gather information and form hypotheses about a suspect's involvement in a crime and create an interrogation plan, prior to the actual interrogation. In the second stage, officers build rapport with the suspect, explain what will occur during an interrogation (e.g., note-taking), ensure that the suspect understands the process and purpose of the interrogation, and ensure that the suspect understands what is expected of them behavior-wise. In the third stage, three things occur: 1) the officer poses a “yes or no” question about whether or not they committed the crime, 2) the officer asks for a full account of the suspect’s alibi or involvement and the officer does not interrupt, and 3) once the full account is given, officers ask clarification questions and bring up any unmentioned topics that the officer previously planned to discuss. Importantly, officers are discouraged from making inferences about a suspect’s guilt or innocence — hence the PEACE model being a non-accusatory method. In the fourth stage, the officer closes the interrogation by summarizing the main points of the suspect’s account and allowing the suspect to change any aspect of their account. In the fifth and final stage, the officer is encouraged to conduct a self-evaluation of their interrogation performance and to evaluate the value and consistency of the information gathered to a given investigation.

Officers that follow the PEACE model do not psychologically coerce a suspect in the same way as an officer who uses the Reid technique. In addition to being less psychologically coercive than the Reid technique, the PEACE model trumps in terms of efficacy. Indeed, the PEACE model has been shown to produce less false confessions than the Reid technique (Meissner et al., 2012).

Crime Seriousness

Although there are several known influencing factors on interrogation practices (e.g., the interrogators career experiences [Meyer & Reppucci, 2007; Reppucci et al., 2010], a suspect's attitude [Cicourel, 1995; Clark & Sykes, 1974; Emerson, 1974]), the seriousness of the crime an interrogated individual is suspected of committing is often thought to be the most important factor. Despite the importance of the seriousness of a crime, no standard definition of crime seriousness has been established by criminologists or psychologists. However, many scholars agree that crime seriousness has at least two dimensions (Adriaenssen et al., 2020; Rosenmerkel, 2001; Warr, 1989): consequential harm (i.e., injury or damage to people or property) and moral wrongness. This stance is problematic because perceptions of harm and perceptions of moral wrongness are orthogonal constructs, as is indicated by the fact that people often do not consider harmful acts – like unethical animal experimentation and torturous military interrogations (Piazza et al, 2013) – to be morally wrong; moreover, perceptions of the harmfulness and the moral wrongness of crimes do not align (Adriaenssen et al., 2020). For these reasons, in the present research, the seriousness of a crime is defined entirely by its degree of consequential harm.

It is well documented that as the seriousness of a crime increases, officers feel pressured by the victim(s), the victim's family, and the public to solve a crime (Gross, 1996; Gross et al, 2005, 2020; White, 2001). Consequently, officers may be driven to

quickly elicit a confession from suspects by using psychologically coercive Reid-like when a crime is very serious. This idea is supported by a recent report on official misconduct in wrongful conviction cases which found that most interrogation misconduct and, unsurprisingly, most false confessions occurred in murder cases (Gross et al., 2020). Because murder is such a serious, and often high-profile crime, officers may be subjected to greater pressure to solve them. In turn, they may use more psychologically coercive interrogation practices to more easily elicit a confession.

However, the idea that most interrogation misconduct occurs in murder cases may need to be taken with a grain of salt. Wrongful conviction data may be skewed toward murder cases because murder cases are more likely to be investigated for potential wrongful convictions and they are the most likely to lead to convictions. Consequently, murder cases are likely overrepresented in wrongful conviction data. As such, wrongful conviction data may not be the best source of information on interrogator misconduct by crime type. Indeed, there is reason to believe that the seriousness of a crime may not be the best predictor of the psychological coerciveness of interrogation practices. A better predictor of interrogation techniques may be the immorality of a crime.

Crime Immorality

Any operationalization of an act's immorality, or moral wrongness, is very contentious. Indeed, some psychologists believe that there is only one factor that determines an act's immorality; usually, that factor is consequential harm (Piazza & Sousa, 2019). This belief is problematic because it overlaps with the present research's operationalization of an act's seriousness. If we assume that an act's immorality and seriousness are mostly orthogonal constructs, it follows that they cannot share a definition.

The notion that consequential harm is not a major factor in how an act's immorality is perceived is supported by research pertaining to moral foundations theory. Indeed, studies have shown that the degree of consequential harm is only one of five distinct influencing factors on perceptions of immorality; the other factors being injustice, disloyalty, disrespect, and impurity/disgustingness (see Piazza & Sousa, 2019). It is likely that harm is the least important factor in perceptions of immorality. In a series of studies, Piazza and colleagues (2019) established that perceived degree of an act's injustice is the strongest predictor of perceptions of an act's immorality, followed closely by perceptions of impurity or disgustingness. Perceptions of an act's harm had the smallest impact on perceptions of an act's immorality whereas the other factors (disloyalty, disrespect) had no impact.

An unjust act is one that is selfish: the act must either prioritize the actors needs/desires over another person or indicate inappropriate partiality (Piazza et al., 2019). Under this operationalization, most crimes committed against people are similarly unjust because they prioritize the needs/desires of offenders over victims. In contrast, there is likely more variance in the disgustingness of crimes against people.

A (morally) disgusting act is one that elicits disgust by violating cultural standards of purity or sanctity (Haidt, 2012). Sex-related crimes are more likely to violate those standards than non-sex-related crimes. Studies have shown that people who commit sex-related crimes are seen as more disgusting, less trustworthy (Gresley, 2014; Kernsmith et al., 2009), and more morally outrageous (Mancini et al., 2016; Spencer, 2009) than people who commit non-sex-related violent crimes. Importantly, disgust is a moral emotion closely linked with punitive behaviors (Capenstany & Harris, 2014; Inbar & Pizarro, 2009; Oltanuji & Puncochar, 2016; Salerno, 2017). It follows that people suspected of crimes that evoke the most disgust (i.e., sex-related crimes) would be

treated the most punitively (e.g., be subjected to the most psychologically coercive interrogation practices). The tendency for people to be more punitive toward people who commit more immoral acts may be demonstrated in research related to act-person dissociation.

Act-Person Dissociation

Act-person dissociation is the tendency to give incongruent ratings of an act's seriousness and a person's *moral character* (i.e., presence and strength of culturally defined virtues such as honesty, empathy, and generally pro-social attitudes; Kohlberg, 1964; Tannenbaum et al., 2011; Uhlmann et al, 2013; Uhlmann et al, 2014; Uhlmann & Zhu, 2014). For example, Tannenbaum and colleagues (2011) found that people considered violence toward a human to be more serious than violence toward an animal while simultaneously considering an animal abuser to have a worse moral character than a domestic abuser. A plausible explanation for this phenomenon may be that people considered animal abuse to be more immoral than domestic abuse and, in turn, the animal abuser was considered to have a worse moral character than the domestic abuser. In other words, I theorize that act-person dissociation may be better described as the tendency for people to base their perceptions of a person's moral character on the immorality of their acts rather than the seriousness of their acts.

In the context of interrogations, act-person disassociation could manifest itself as follows: a suspect accused of sexually assaulting their neighbor is seen as committing a more immoral crime than a suspect accused of murder and, consequently, they are considered to have a worse moral character than a suspect accused of - despite the latter being considered the more serious crime. Currently, there is no empirical support nor negation for this possibility. It is important to investigate this matter because perceptions of moral character influences how people treat each other (e.g., Pizarro &

Tannenbaum, 2012). If a person is considered to be bad (i.e., having a poor moral character) they are going to be treated less favorably than a person who is considered to be good. Potentially, immoral crimes may predict worse perceptions of a juvenile suspect's moral character which, in turn, would predict psychologically coercive interrogation practices.

The immorality of a crime may also better predict an officer's willingness to acknowledge a juvenile's developmental limitations (compared to the seriousness of a crime). Typically, children are regarded as innocent and lacking the intellectual or emotional capacity to commit seriously immoral crimes (e.g., Cunningham, 2006; James & Jenks, 1996). Juveniles who are suspected of immoral crimes (e.g., sexual assault) violate that assumption and, consequently, may be considered more adult-like than juveniles who are suspected of less immoral crimes like joyriding or shoplifting. It is likely that the more adult-like an officer considers a juvenile to be, the more psychologically coercive their interrogation practices will be because they assume that an adult-like juvenile can handle the pressure of interrogation tactics that were designed for adults. Indeed, Reppucci and colleagues (2010) found that the more likely an officer was to acknowledge some developmental limitations (i.e., view the juvenile as less adult-like), the less likely they were to endorse the use of psychologically coercive interrogation practices on juveniles.

The idea that the more immoral the crime, the more adult-like the juvenile is perceived and, consequently, the more psychologically coercive the interrogation practices are, is supported by the fact that most wrongful convictions that stem from juvenile false confessions occur in cases where the juvenile is tried as an adult for violent (often sex-related) crimes, even when the juvenile is as young as 11 years old (Gross &

Shaffer, 2012; Gross et al., 2005; National Registry of Exonerations, 2021a; Tepfer et al., 2010).

Aims of Current Research

To gain a better understanding of the factors that may influence interrogation practices, the current thesis aimed to investigate three hypotheses pertaining to the perceptions of juvenile suspects' moral character and developmental immaturity and suggestibility as they are influenced by the type of crime a juvenile is suspected of committing. It is important to investigate these matters because if certain types of crimes automatically bias an officer's perceptions of a juvenile suspect in a way that encourages the use of psychologically coercive interrogation practices, which are likely to elicit false confessions, officers should be made aware of this bias. With this information, they can actively prevent their interrogation practices from being negatively influenced by the type of crime a juvenile is suspected of committing. These matters are also important because they may provide valuable insight into where wrongful conviction investigation efforts should be directed. The present study will help determine if wrongful conviction investigations should continue to be focused primarily on murder cases or if they should expand their focus to other types of crimes.

Hypothesis 1. The first hypothesis was that juvenile interrogation practices would vary by the type of crime a juvenile was suspected of committing. More specifically, I hypothesized that a juvenile suspected of sexual assault would be subjected to more psychologically coercive (i.e., Reid-like) interrogation practices than a juvenile suspected of murder, and a juvenile suspected of robbery would be subjected to the least psychologically coercive interrogation practices.

Sexual assault was expected to be associated with the most psychologically coercive interrogation practices because I assumed it would be considered more immoral

than murder or robbery and, consequently, associated with the least favorable perceptions of juveniles' moral character, maturity, and suggestibility (due to act-person dissociation). Robbery was expected to be associated with the least psychologically coercive interrogation practices because the literature suggests that sexual assault and murder or both considered to be more serious and immoral than robbery (e.g., Gresley, 2014; Kernsmith et al., 2009; Mancini et al., 2016; Warr, 1994.) and they are more likely to lead to wrongful convictions than robbery (Gross et al., 2020). As such, there is no evidence to suggest that juveniles suspected robbery are subjected to more psychologically coercive interrogation practices than juveniles suspected of sexual assault and murder.

Assumptions. Because each of the hypotheses are reliant on the occurrence of act-person dissociation, I conducted analyses to determine if my assumptions of how crimes are perceived (in terms of seriousness and morality) were met. There were three assumptions: (1) murder is the most serious crime; (2) sexual assault is the most immoral crime; (3) the juvenile suspected of the most immoral crime would be considered to have the worst moral character.

Hypotheses 2 and 3. Another aim of the present research was to investigate the underlying mechanisms of the relationship between the type of crime a juvenile is suspected of and interrogation practices. More specifically, I sought evidence to support the existence of the following causal chain: exposure to information regarding a highly immoral crime would automatically and negatively bias the interrogators' perceptions of the juvenile suspects and, in turn, lead to more coercive interrogation practices. To this end, I tested two mediation models.

In one model, perceptions of juveniles' moral character were expected to mediate the relationship between the type of crime a juvenile was suspected of and interrogation

practices (Hypothesis 2). Specifically, the most immoral crime (i.e., sexual assault) was expected to predict the most negative perceptions of a juvenile suspect's moral character which, in turn, would predict the most psychologically coercive interrogation practices. In the second model, the extent to which an officer acknowledges the developmental limitations of the suspect was expected to mediate the relationship between the type of crime a juvenile was suspected of and interrogation practices (Hypothesis 3). Specifically, the most immoral crime was expected to predict the least acknowledgement of the juvenile suspect's developmental limitations, due to their incompatibility with the archetypal image of children (e.g., Cunningham, 2006; James & Jenks, 1996); which, in turn, would predict more psychologically coercive interrogation practices.

Each of these hypotheses were first investigated with law enforcement officers because they are the most relevant population. Due to recruiting too few law enforcement officers, the hypotheses were then investigated with laypeople. For the most part, the hypothesized cognitive processes should be relevant regardless of profession. Indeed, laypeople perceive and treat people differently based on the type of crime they are associated with (e.g., Applegate & Davis, 2006; Kernsmith et al., 2009); act-person dissociation was first observed in laypeople (e.g., Tannenbaum et al., 2011); laypeople are aware that some interrogation tactics are more psychologically coercive than others (e.g., Mindthoff et al., 2018) and that juveniles are more likely than adults to give false confessions in response to more psychologically coercive tactics (e.g., Mindthoff et al., 2018; see Grove & Kukucka, 2020, for an exception).

CHAPTER 2

STUDY 1: METHODS

Participants

Active, English-speaking, law enforcement officers in the United States were eligible to participate in the study. An a priori power analysis was conducted to determine the minimum sample size necessary to detect small to moderately sized main and interaction effects ($\leq .30$) with at least 80% power. The analysis indicated that at least 90 participants were necessary. One hundred and three eligible participants were recruited. After removing participants that did not complete the survey ($n = 48$), there were 55 participants. On average, the participants were around 30 years old ($M = 29.65$; $SD = 5.41$), White ($n = 45$), male ($n = 53$), patrol officers ($n = 35$) employed at police departments in urban areas ($n = 30$) for around 5 years ($M = 5.04$, $SD = 3.10$). See Table 1 for detailed demographic information and correlations between the demographic, predictor, and outcome variables

Table 1

Study 1: Means (M), Standard Deviations (SD), and Correlations

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1 Age <i>M</i> = 26.29, <i>SD</i> = 5.41	-												
2 Race White (<i>n</i> = 45) Mixed Race (<i>n</i> = 45) Latino (<i>n</i> = 4) Black (<i>n</i> = 1) Indigenous American (<i>n</i> = 1) Middle Eastern (<i>n</i> = 1)	-.16	-											
3 Rank Patrol Officer (<i>n</i> = 35) Deputy Sheriff (<i>n</i> = 12) Investigator (<i>n</i> = 6) Corporal (<i>n</i> = 1) Sheriff (<i>n</i> = 1)	.01	-.02	-										
4 Experience <i>M</i> = 5.04, <i>SD</i> = 3.10	.65***	-.12	.02	-									
5 Location Urban (<i>n</i> = 30) Suburban (<i>n</i> = 16) Rural (<i>n</i> = 9)	.17	.09	.09	.29*	-								
6 Crime Condition Murder (<i>n</i> = 22) Robbery (<i>n</i> = 18) Sexual Assault (<i>n</i> = 15)	.05	-.08	-.11	-.15	.04	-							
7 Crime Seriousness <i>M</i> = 590.30, <i>SD</i> = 13,66	.09	.08	-.17	.03	.10	.56***	-						
8 Psychological Coercion <i>M</i> = 4.26, <i>SD</i> = .45	-.07	.05	.01	-.09	.01	-.12	-.09	-					
9 Compliance Endorsement <i>M</i> = 4.64, <i>SD</i> = .17	-.18	.00	-.02	-.24 [†]	-.20	-.09	.11	.35**	-				
10 PEACE <i>M</i> = 6.03, <i>SD</i> = .13	.22	.10	.00	0.06	-.12	-.10	-.11	.01	.15	-			
11 Positive Moral Character <i>M</i> = 26.04, <i>SD</i> = 21.33	.29***	-.01	.01	.18	-.08	-.06	-.11	-.03	-.46***	.07	-		
12 Negative Moral Character <i>M</i> = 51.41, <i>SD</i> = 24.24	-.09	.01	.06	-.26 [†]	-.08	-.22	-.06	.14	.33*	.23	-.06	-	
13 Suggestibility <i>M</i> = 4.49, <i>SD</i> = .93	-.09	-.10	.00	.08	.15	-.09	-.09	-.17	.13	-.01	-.25	.06	-
14 Immaturity <i>M</i> = 4.72, <i>SD</i> = .62	-.10	-.07	.08	-.07	.15	.16	.04	.02	.02	-.33*	-.11	-.07	.42***

Note. [†]*p* < .10, **p* < .05, ***p* < .01, ****p* < .001

^aGender was excluded because there were no significant or marginally significant correlations.

Procedure

Recruitment. IRB approval was obtained prior to conducting the study (see Appendix A). The study was conducted via Qualtrics, an online surveying platform. A link to the survey was posted on two subreddits (forums on [Reddit.com](https://www.reddit.com)): *r/LEO* and *r/protectandserve*. Those subreddits are digital hubs for law enforcement officers; *r/LEO* is exclusively accessible to verified law enforcement officers, while *r/protectandserve* is available to verified law enforcement officers as well as law enforcement enthusiasts.

To be verified, law enforcement officers must send photos of their police department issued identification card to the moderators (i.e., content regulators) of *r/LEO* and *r/protectandserve*. In *r/protectandserve*, there is a general forum for law enforcement officers and enthusiasts to mingle as well as a private chat room that is exclusively available to verified law enforcement officers. In the present study, 26 participants were verified law enforcement officers (i.e., from *r/LEO* or *r/protectandserve*'s private chat room) and 33 participants were unverified law enforcement officers (i.e., from *r/protectandserve*'s general forum).

Experimental Design. Once participants accessed the survey, they were asked to provide preliminary information: informed consent, demographics (age, gender, sexual orientation, race/ethnicity, rank, years of experience as a law enforcement officer), and location (urban, suburban, or rural). Participants were then randomly assigned to one of three conditions: robbery, sexual assault, or murder. In each condition, they read a probable cause statement about a crime for which a 15-year-old male was suspected. All of the probable cause statements are modified versions of the publicly available statement from the ongoing Tyrone Harvin murder case (Prudente, 2018).

In each statement, a detective recounts their investigation up to the point of arrest. In the *robbery condition*, an officer was dispatched to an apartment after a neighbor called 911 because they heard loud noises. After the police and medical assistance gained access to the apartment, they found the battered and unconscious victim (a 22-year-old female) and took her to the hospital. At the hospital, the detective spoke with the victim's roommate and learned that several items had been stolen from the victim: a laptop and purse, which the roommate believed held at least \$500 cash and a debit card. The detective also spoke with a doctor, who said the victim had suffered blunt force trauma to the head. After a search and seizure warrant was obtained, the apartment was searched, and several pieces of evidence were obtained: blood samples and a broken lamp with blood on it. In the final two sentences of the statement, it is stated that suspect did not admit to any part of the crime and that DNA testing was pending. All of this information is held constant in the sexual assault and murder conditions. However, in each of those conditions, an additional paragraph is included. In the *sexual assault* condition, the additional paragraph states that a forensic nurse found evidence of sexual assault on the victim's body. In the *murder* condition, the additional paragraph states that a medical examiner informed the detective of the victim's death, which was caused by blunt force trauma to the head. See Appendix B for each of the full probable cause statements.

It is important to emphasize that, although each of the conditions are referred to as singular criminal acts, none of the conditions' probable cause statements describe a singular criminal act. Rather, the robbery probable cause statement describes a battery (i.e., non-sexual physical assault) and a robbery; the *sexual assault* probable cause statement describes a battery, robbery, and sexual assault; the *murder* probable cause statement describes a battery, robbery, and murder. For the sake of brevity, each crime

condition is referred to as their single differentiating crime throughout the present research.

After reading their assigned probable cause statement, participants answered an attention check and a manipulation check. Then, they completed the measures pertaining to interrogation practices, moral character evaluations, developmental knowledge acknowledgement (Meyers & Reppucci, 2007; Reppucci et al., 2010), and perceptions of different crimes. The presentation of those measures was randomized so as to avoid potential order effects. To prevent the participants from guessing the purpose of the study prior to completion, unrelated questions were asked in between each task. Once they completed all of the tasks, they were debriefed, thanked for their time, and offered the opportunity to enter a lottery for one of three \$100 Amazon gift cards.

Measures

Overview. In this section, the purpose and construction of the measures are described. For multi-item measures expectations of dimensionality (i.e., the number of constructs a measure assesses) are stated and tested with confirmatory factor analyses (CFAs). When expectations of dimensionality were not met, additional CFAs were conducted for clarification. Those CFAs were informed by exploratory factor analyses (EFAs; factors were extracted with principal axis factoring and rotated with Kaiser's Varimax Normalization). When the results of the CFAs and EFAs suggested that a measure contained multiple orthogonal factors, they were split into separate scales. The construction and interpretation of some scales were also informed by the reliability analyses (which were guided by the results of the CFAs and EFAs).

If the measure was unidimensional, the omega reliability coefficient for unidimensional measures (ω_u) was reported. If the measure was multidimensional, the omega reliability coefficient for multidimensional measures (ω_h) was reported.

Cronbach's alpha is also reported because it is the reliability coefficient people are most familiar with; however, none of the measures in the present study meet the conditions for Cronbach's alpha (see Flora, 2020). As such, in the present study, Cronbach's alpha is never the most accurate measure of reliability. The construction of each measure was based on the results of the factor and reliability analyses.

Attention Check. To determine if participants noticed that the suspect was 15 years old, they responded to the following multiple-choice question: *How old is the suspect?* None of the participants who completed the survey failed the attention check.

Manipulation Check. To determine if participants noticed the crime mentioned in the probable cause statement, they responded to the following multiple-choice question: *What type of crime was presented in the statement?* None of the participants who completed the survey failed the manipulation check.

Crime Seriousness. There were two measures of participants' perceptions of crime seriousness. The primary measure was a single question (*How serious is the crime?*) presented after the probable cause statement and the attention and manipulation checks. Participants responded on a sliding scale from 0 (*Not at All Serious*) to 100 (*Extremely Serious*).

Normality. The sliding scale measure of crime seriousness was non-normally distributed ($W[55] = .74, p < .001$; *Skewness* = -1.40, *SE* = .32; *Kurtosis* = 1.07, *SE* = .63), despite there being no significant outliers or extreme skewness or kurtosis. This measure was not transformed because its non-normality was extremely minor.

To account for the possibility of a ceiling effect occurring across conditions, a secondary measure of perceptions of crime seriousness was presented toward the end of the survey. The measure was a rank ordering task, for which participants were given the following instructions: *Please rank the following crimes from least (1) to most (3)*

SERIOUS. Because participants did not read each probable cause statement, they were asked to rank more general crimes: first-degree robbery, first-degree rape, and first-degree murder.

Crime Immorality. To measure perceptions of crime immorality, participants completed a single rank ordering task toward the end of the study. Participants were given the following instructions: *Please rank the following crimes from least (1) to most (3) IMMORAL*. Because participants did not read each probable cause statement, they ranked more general crimes: first-degree robbery, first-degree rape, and first-degree murder. This was presented toward the end of the survey in order to avoid confounding their responses to the other measures. A sliding scale measure was not used to measure the participants' perceptions of the crimes described in the probable cause statement so as to avoid order effects.

Interrogation Practices. To observe interrogation practices, participants completed the interrogation tactics scale (ITS), which contained 14 items. Seven items were based on Reid techniques (e.g., false evidence ploys, moral disengagement assistance, using leading/incriminating questions) and seven items were based on the PEACE model (e.g., allowing uninterrupted storytelling, verbally summarizing the story, asking for clarification). The creation of the Reid-items was informed by Leo's (1996) study on interrogation practices. Leo observed interrogations and recorded which techniques were used, how frequently they were used, and the order that they were typically used in. The Reid-items were modeled after the seven most frequently used tactics. Each PEACE item is a step in the PEACE model. Participants rated the likelihood that they would use each interrogation tactic on a 7-point Likert-like scale (1 = *Extremely Unlikely*, 7 = *Extremely Likely*). The PEACE items were intended to be reverse-coded so

that higher scores on the PEACE items would indicate a lower likelihood of complying with the PEACE model.

The ITS was expected to be unidimensional in that, once all of the items were averaged together, higher scores on the ITS would reflect increasingly Reid-like interrogation practices. However, a CFA found that the ITS had poor unidimensional model fit, $\chi^2 [77, n = 55] = 130.15, p < .001, CFI = .45, TLI = .35, RMSEA = .11, 90\% CI = .09, .12$.

An EFA was conducted to examine the measure's multidimensionality. The items rotated into four factors (see Table 2 for details): a psychological coercion factor, for which higher scores indicate a higher likelihood of using the most obviously psychologically coercive tactics (e.g., false evidence ploys, moral justification of offense; see Mindthoff, 2018); a compliance endorsement factor, for which higher scores indicate a higher likelihood of encouraging a suspect to confess and to cooperate with an interrogator; an account attainment factor, for which higher scores indicate a lower likelihood of allowing the suspect to give a full unencumbered/untainted account of their (allegedly non-existent) criminal involvement; and an unclear factor, for which there is no obvious interpretation. The extremely low eigenvalue condition number (.27) of these factors suggests they are highly independent of one another (eigenvalue condition numbers less than 10 are low; see Belsley et al, 1980). However, another CFA was conducted to determine if the ITS could function as a single multidimensional scale. The ITS had poor multidimensional model fit, $\chi^2 (63, n = 55) = 90.26, p = .014, CFI = .72, TLI = .59, RMSEA = .09, 90\% CI = .04, .12$. As such, the ITS could not function as a single multidimensional scale. Consequently, the factors in the ITS were split into separate scales.

Table 2

Exploratory Factor Analysis of Interrogation Tactic Scale

Items	Factor 1	Factor 2	Factor 3	Factor 4
<i>Psychological Coercion</i>				
Suggest that what the suspect is suspected of is either justified or reasonable. (Min)	.70			
Minimize the severity of the offense. (Min)	.56			
Suggest to the suspect that there is incriminating evidence against them, even when there isn't. (Max)	.50			
Avoid inferences about a suspect's guilt or innocence. (P)	.50	.33	.31	
Contradict the suspects' denial of guilt throughout the interrogation. (Max)	.36			-.52
<i>Account Attainment/PEACE</i>				
Ask the suspect to give a detailed description of their involvement with a crime (or lack thereof). (P)		.70		
Allow a suspect to correct or adjust their statements. (P)		.54		
Allow the suspect to give their account uninterrupted. (P)		.51		
<i>Compliance Endorsement</i>				
Emphasize the importance of cooperating with the authorities. (Max)			.88	
Imply to the suspect that it would be in their best interest to confess. (Max)		.42	.49	
Emphasize the interrogator's expertise. (Max)			.42	
<i>Unclear</i>				
Ask yes or no questions about their involvement in the suspected crime. (P)				.50
Explain the process and purpose of the interrogation to the suspect before beginning. (P)				.37
Summarize a suspect's account. (P)				.30

Note. Factors extracted with principal axis factoring and rotated with Kaiser's Normalization Varimax. Factors converged in 11 iterations. KMO = .519; Sphericity: $\chi^2(91) = 165.81, p < .001$; Determinate = .033.

^a(Min) = Minimization Reid tactic. ^b(Max) = Maximization Reid tactic. ^c(P) = PEACE technique

Of all the factors in the ITS, only the *psychological coercion* factor ($\omega_{h-ss} = .64$; $\omega_u = .65$; $\alpha = .59$) and the *compliance endorsement* factor ($\omega_{h-ss} = .61$; $\omega_u = .55$; $\alpha = .52$)

accounted for a substantial amount of systematic variance in responses, over and above the variance accounted for by the overarching ITS.¹ Those factors were turned into separate unidimensional scales. The *account attainment* scale had relatively decent reliability when evaluated as a unidimensional construct ($\omega_u = .58$; $\alpha = .57$), but the factor fails to account for a substantial amount of systematic variance over and above the overarching ITS ($\omega_{h-ss} = .19$). For that reason, the account attainment factor could be considered a short form of the ITS, rather than an assessment of a unique and independent construct (see Flora, 2020). However, it is likely that these items loaded onto their own factor as an artifact of their wording—each item in the factor are reverse-coded PEACE items. As such, the account attainment factor could be also considered a short form of the PEACE items. For these reasons, the account attainment factor was re-conceptualized as a PEACE scale. Although the items in the PEACE scale were reverse-coded for the sake of the EFAs and CFAs, they were not reverse-coded in all further analyses. In other words, higher PEACE scale scores indicate a higher likelihood of using PEACE techniques. The unclear factor was excluded from all further analyses due to its ambiguous interpretation and its low reliability ($\omega_{h-ss} = .28$; $\omega_u = .33$; $\alpha = .33$).

Normality. Three scales were derived from the ITS items: a psychological coercion scale, a compliance endorsement scale, and a PEACE scale. The psychological coercion scale and the compliance endorsement scale were normally distributed, but the PEACE scale was non-normally distributed ($W[55] = .87, p < .001$; *Skewness* = -1.27, *SE* = .32; *Kurtosis* = 1.61, *SE* = .63), despite not being overly ($> |2|$) kurtotic, skewed, or

¹ The ω_{h-ss} is the amount of unique non-random variance accounted for by a factor within a scale. If the ω_{h-ss} is substantially lower than the ω_u , most of the variance within the factor can be attributed to the overall scale. If the ω_{h-ss} is greater than or equal to ω_u , the factor accounts for unique non-random variance that cannot be attributed to the overall scale. That means the factor is not merely a short form of the overall scale, but an assessment of a unique construct (see Flora, 2020).

containing significant outliers (> 3 SDs from average). The PEACE scale was not transformed because its non-normality was extremely minor.

Moral Character Evaluation. To measure perceptions of a juvenile suspect's moral character, the moral character evaluation (MCE) was created. The items in the MCE were based on Goodwin and colleagues' (2014) studies on moral character and person perceptions. They found that certain qualities (trustworthiness, fairness, courage, integrity, honesty, responsibility) are highly and uniquely related to perceptions of moral character. Moreover, moral character evaluations were more strongly predictive of overall person perceptions than other characteristics (e.g., warmth), particularly when the information available about the person is scant, like in an obituary (Goodwin et al., 2014) or a probable cause statement. In order to purely measure moral character, only characteristics identified by Goodwin and colleagues as being unique to moral character evaluations are included in the MCE. There was a total of nine items in the MCE. Participants rated the juveniles' trustworthiness, fairness, courageousness, integrity, responsibility, honesty, deceitfulness, irresponsibility, and unreliability on 100-point Likert scales (0 = *Not at All*, 100 = *Extremely*). The final three characteristics were reverse-coded because they are negatively valanced.

The MCE was expected to be unidimensional in that, once all of the items were averaged together, higher scores would reflect more favorable evaluations of the juvenile suspects' moral character. A CFA found that the MCE had poor unidimensional model fit, $\chi^2 [27, n = 55] = 91.59, p < .001, CFI = .81, TLI = .75, RMSEA = .21, 90\% CI = .16, .26$. An EFA was conducted to examine the measure's multidimensionality. The items rotated into two factors: a *negative moral characteristics* factor and a *positive moral characteristics* factor (see Table 3 for details). The low eigenvalue condition number (7.11) of the items suggested that those factors were independent of each other and

should be in separate scales. However, another CFA was conducted to determine if the MCE could function as a single multidimensional scale.

Table 3

Exploratory Factor Analysis of Moral Character Evaluation

	Factor 1	Factor 2
<i>Positive MCE</i>		
Integrity	.95	
Trustworthiness	.89	
Courageousness	.88	
Honesty	.87	
Fairness	.74	
Responsible	.68	
<i>Negative MCE</i>		
Deceitful (R)		.91
Irresponsible (R)		.77
Unreliable (R)		.53

Note. Factors extracted with principal axis factoring and rotated with Kaiser's Normalization Varimax. Factors converged in 3 iterations. KMO = .804; Sphericity: $\chi^2(36) = 346.73, p < .001$; Determinate = .001.

*(R) = Reverse-coded for the EFA

The CFA found that the MCE had a satisfactory multidimensional model fit $\chi^2 [18, n = 55] = 24.87, p = .129, CFI = .98, TLI = .96, RMSEA = .08, 90\% CI = .00, .16$. As such, an omega-hierarchical coefficient ($\omega_h = .29$) is the best assessment of the MCE's reliability, rather than Cronbach's alpha ($\alpha = .81$). The low omega-hierarchical coefficient and the low eigenvalue condition number suggests that the MCE cannot function as a single multidimensional scale. The MCE was separated into two scales: the positive-MCE ($\omega_u = .93; \omega_{h-ss} = .55; \alpha = .93$) and the negative-MCE ($\omega_u = .80; \omega_{h-ss} = .81; \alpha = .77$).

Although the items in the negative-MCE were reverse-coded for the sake of the EFAs and

CFAs, they were not reverse-coded in all further analyses. In other words, higher negative-MCE scores indicate more negative perceptions of the juveniles' moral character.

Normality. A Shapiro-Wilk test found that the positive-MCE ($W [55] = .87, p < .001$; $Skewness = .10, SE = .32$; $Kurtosis = -1.47, SE = .63$) and the negative-MCE ($W [55] = .93, p = .003$; $Skewness = -.54, SE = .32$; $Kurtosis = -.01, SE = .63$) were non-normally distributed, despite neither being overly kurtotic, skewed, or containing significant outliers. Neither measure was transformed because their abnormality was extremely minor.

Acknowledgement of Developmental Limitations. To measure the extent to which participant's acknowledge the developmental limitations of juveniles, I used several items from the versions of the Developmental Knowledge Survey (DKS) that pertain to the developmental limitations of adolescents aged 14 - 17 (Meyers and Reppucci, 2007; Reppucci et al., 2010). Although the DKS was designed to measure general knowledge of juveniles' developmental limitations, Reppucci and colleagues (2010) identified two factors via CFAs: suggestibility and psychosocial immaturity (i.e., social and decision-making skills). There were 26 items in the DKS from 2010, and 20 items in the DKS from 2007. Unfortunately, neither of the full DKSs are available, so only 11 items are included in the present study. Given the limited number of items, and the theoretical overlap between the two constructs, the 11 items was expected to comprise a single multidimensional measure of the extent to which participant's acknowledge the developmental limitations of juveniles.

Four of the items pertain to suggestibility (*Youths will say untruthful things if they feel pressured by adults to do so*; *Youths will say untruthful things to please adults*; *Youths will say untruthful things if they feel pressured by parents to do so*;

Youths will often repeat things adults say), and seven items pertain to psychosocial immaturity (*Youth are intimidated by adult authority figures; Youth are more easily influenced by their peers than adults; Compared to adults, youth are more concerned with immediate outcomes than with future outcomes; Youth are frequently unaware of the long-term consequences of their actions; Youth are more impulsive than adults; Adults use better judgement than youth; Youth are more competent in their decision-making than adults*). Participants rated their responses to each item on 6-point Likert scales (1 = *Strongly Disagree*, 6 = *Strongly Agree*). Each participant's DKS score was calculated by averaging the response to each of the scale items together. The higher one's score, the greater their acknowledgement of developmental limitations.

Prior to giving their responses, participants read the following directions: *As they relate to 14 – 17-year-olds (like the suspect), please respond to the following statements*. This is notable because Meyers, Reppucci, and Kostelnik (2007, 2010) believed participants tended to think about adolescents outside of interrogation contexts when responding to the DKS. To prevent that from happening, I included the phrase “like the suspect”, to encourage the participants to think about the juvenile they read about in the probable cause statement.

A CFA was conducted to determine if the DKS was indeed multidimensional. The DKS fit a multidimensional model very well, $\chi^2 [33, n = 55] = 26.78, p = .77, CFI = 1.00, TLI = 1.05, RMSEA = .00, 90\% CI = .00, .07$. However, as a multidimensional measure, the DKS had questionable reliability ($\omega_h = .60; \alpha = .78$). Exploratory reliability analyses indicated that the reliability would not be improved by removing items. Moreover, the extremely low eigenvalue condition number (.68) of the items within the DKS suggests

the factors are highly independent of one another and should be separate scales.² The suggestibility factor could be considered a highly reliable ($\omega_u = .92$; $\omega_{h-ss} = .16$; $\alpha = .91$) short form of the DKS. The immaturity factor's reliability coefficients ($\omega_{h-ss} = .43$; $\omega_u = .63$; $\alpha = .62$) suggest that the majority of the systematic variance detected by the immaturity factor could not be attributed entirely to the overarching DKS. In other words, the immaturity factor assessed an independent and unique construct. For these reasons, the DKS was split into two scales: an *immaturity-DKS* and a *suggestibility-DKS*.

Normality. The immaturity-DKS was normally distributed but the suggestibility-DKS was abnormally distributed ($W[55] = .89$, $p < .001$; *Skewness* = -1.30, $SE = .32$; *Kurtosis* = 3.33, $SE = .63$), despite there being no excessive kurtosis, skewness, or significant outliers. The measure was not transformed because its non-normality was extremely minor.

² Because the acceptability of the overall multidimensional DKS's reliability is debatable, the DKS-related hypotheses were also tested with an overall DKS scale, the results of which are reported in later footnotes. However, I stand by splitting the DKS into two scales, because of the low eigenvalue condition number and the improved omega coefficients (ω_u).

CHAPTER 3

STUDY 1: RESULTS

Covariate Identification

Demographic variables that are typically considered to be potential covariates (gender, age, race, sexual orientation) were examined in the present study, along with three unique variables: location, rank, and years of experience in law enforcement. Location was also considered to be a potential covariate due to potential differences in perceptions and treatment of crime and offenders in different areas (e.g., Klinger, 1997; O'Shea, 1999; Sobol, 2010). Rank and years of experience were considered to be potential covariates because studies have found them to be significantly associated with interrogation practices and perceptions of suspects. Higher ranking officers (specifically, the more likely they are to be detectives/investigators) and those with more years of experience are more likely to endorse the use of Reid tactics (Kassin et al., 2007; Kostelnik & Reppucci, 2009) and the less likely to acknowledge the ability of Reid tactics to elicit false confessions (Meyers & Reppucci, 2007; Reppucci et al., 2007).

Covariates were identified by regressing each of the predictor and outcome variables onto gender, age, sexual orientation, race, location, rank, and years of experience in a series of simple regressions (or Bayesian regressions, when the outcome was ordinal). Sexual orientation (0 = heterosexual, 1 = not heterosexual), race (0 = White, 1 = Person of Color), and rank (0 = patrol officer, 1 = higher ranking officer) were turned into dichotomous variables, due to low response variance (see Table 1). Location was split into two dummy coded variables (0 = not urban [suburban] location, 1 = urban [suburban] location). A dummy coded variable was not created for rural participants. Demographic variables that accounted for a significant amount of variance in predictor or outcome variables, over and above the other demographic variables, were flagged as

covariates. No covariates were identified for the crime condition, positive-MCE, negative-MCE, suggestibility-DKS, immaturity-DKS, the psychological coercion scale, the compliance endorsement scale, or the seriousness/immorality rankings. However, the participant's age accounted for a significant amount of variance in the PEACE scale, $b = .08$, $SE = .03$, $t = 2.59$, $p = .013$; the older the participant, the more likely they were to endorse the use of PEACE techniques. Thus, the participants age was included as a covariate in all analyses involving the PEACE scale.

Testing Assumptions of Act-Person Dissociation

The hypotheses in this study are predicated on the occurrence of act-person dissociation. To determine if participants committed act-person dissociation, three assumptions were tested: (1) murder is considered to be more serious than sexual assault and robbery; (2) sexual assault is considered to be more immoral than murder and robbery; (3) participants would evaluate the juvenile suspected of sexual assault more negatively than the juveniles suspected of murder and robbery.

Assumption #1: Murder is considered the most serious crime. To test this assumption, a one-way ANOVA³ with planned simple contrasts and Bonferroni post hoc comparisons was conducted. The crime condition was entered as the fixed factor and perceived crime seriousness was entered as the outcome variable. The crime condition was significantly related to perceptions of crime seriousness, $F(2, 52) = 12.24$, $p < .001$, $\eta^2 = .320$, $\beta = .994$. Planned simple contrasts found that robbery ($M = 80.00$, $SD = 14.75$) was considered to be significantly different from murder ($M = 91.95$, $SD = 13.66$), $CE = -17.96$, $SE = 3.65$, $p < .001$, $95\% CI = -25.28, -10.63$, but sexual assault ($M = 91.67$, $SD = 10.77$) was not significantly different from than murder, $CE = -6.29$, $SE = 3.85$, $p =$

³ Similar results were achieved with related-samples Wilcoxon signed rank tests which compared the ordinal rankings of first-degree robbery, first-degree rape, and first-degree murder from least (1) to most (3) serious.

.108, 95% *CI* = -14.00, 1.43. A Bonferroni post hoc comparison further found that robbery was significantly less serious than sexual assault, *MD* = -11.67, *SE* = 4.01, *p* = .016, 95% *CI* = -21.60, -1.74. In short, the first assumption was met: Murder was considered to be the most serious and robbery was considered to be the least serious. However, contrary to expectations, murder and sexual assault were considered to be equally serious.

Assumption #2: Sexual assault is considered the most immoral crime.

To determine if participants' rankings of the immorality of first-degree murder, first-degree rape, and first-degree robbery were significantly different from each other, related-samples Wilcoxon signed rank tests were conducted. There were no significant differences between the immorality rankings of sexual assault (*M* = 2.04, *SD* = .51), murder (*M* = 1.87, *SD* = .86), or robbery (*M* = 2.09, *SD* = 1.01), *Z*s < 1.01, *p*s ≥ .225. The second assumption was not met. However, the mean differences suggest that rape and robbery are considered to be equally immoral, and both are slightly more immoral than murder.

Assumption #3: The sexual assault suspect would be evaluated the least favorably. Although there were no significant differences in perceptions of crime immorality, mean differences suggest that sexual assault and robbery are considered to be more immoral than murder. As such, one could expect the sexual assault condition and the robbery condition to predict worse MCEs than the murder condition. To test this assumption, several one-way ANOVAs were conducted with the type of crime as the fixed factor and the MCEs as the outcome variables (in separate ANOVAs). The type of crime did not predict positive-MCEs ($F[2, 52] = .09, p = .913, \eta^2 = .003, \beta = .063$) or negative MCEs ($F[2, 52] = 1.63, p = .205, \eta^2 = .059, \beta = .329$). Because the relationship between

the type of suspected crime and perceptions of moral character are central to this thesis, I examined the trends of the mean differences despite insignificant main effects.

The trends somewhat contradict my expectations: The juvenile suspected of murder was considered to have the least positive moral character and the juvenile suspected of robbery was considered to have the most positive moral character. Oddly, the juvenile suspected of robbery was also considered to have the most negative moral character. The juvenile suspected of sexual assault and the juvenile suspected of murder were considered to have equally negative moral characters. See Table 4 for these means. Ultimately, these mean differences offer no insight into which crimes were associated with the worst MCEs.

In an attempt to understand the meaning of these data, an overall MCE scale was created by combining the positive and (reverse-coded) negatively valanced moral characteristics. The mean differences of the overall MCEs by the crime condition was not significant, $F(2, 52) = .14, p = .871, \eta^2 = .005, \beta = .070$; however, the mean differences suggest that the juvenile suspected of robbery ($M = -1.47, SD = 18.76$) was considered to have the worst moral character, the juvenile suspected of sexual assault ($M = 1.46, SD = 18.76$) was considered to have the best moral character, and the juvenile suspected of murder was between the two ($M = .76, SD = 14.98$).

Table 4

Mean Differences of Moral Character Evaluations by Crime

	Law Enforcement Officer				Laypeople			
	Positive MCE		Negative MCE		Positive MCE		Negative MCE	
	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>
Robbery	27.69	21.79	59.78	20.02	34.89	24.89	59.21	22.92
Sexual Assault	25.96	21.69	47.53	20.35	40.50	24.85	60.42	21.32
Murder	24.75	21.63	47.21	28.65	31.41	21.21	62.62	21.42

Note. The Law Enforcement Officer section pertains to Study 1. The Laypeople section pertains to Study 2.

Did act-person dissociation occur? Tentative evidence of act-person dissociation was found. The juvenile suspected of the least serious, but more immoral, act (i.e., robbery) was considered to have a worse moral character than the juvenile suspected of the most serious, but less immoral, act (i.e., murder). However, most of those findings were not significant.

Testing Hypotheses

H₁: Was the juvenile suspected of sexual assault more likely to be subjected to Reid-like interrogation practices? The first hypothesis was that participants would be the most likely to endorse Reid-like interrogation practices when the juvenile was suspected of the most immoral crime (i.e., hypothesized to be sexual assault; also, see Assumption #2). To test this hypothesis, several one-way AN(C)OVAs with planned simple contrasts and Bonferroni post hoc comparisons were conducted. The crime condition was entered as the predictor and the psychological coercion scale, compliance endorsement scale, and the PEACE scale (with age entered as a covariate) were entered as outcome variables. The first hypothesis was not supported.

The crime condition was not significantly related to the psychological coercion scale, compliance endorsement scale, or the PEACE⁴ scale, $F_s \geq .43$, $p_s \geq .267$, $\eta^2 \leq .051$, $\beta \leq .279$. Because the relationship between the type of crime and interrogation practices is central to this thesis, the trends of the mean differences were examined. One planned simple contrast revealed that participants were marginally more likely to endorse the use of psychologically coercive tactics on the juvenile suspected of sexual assault ($M = 4.80$, $SD = .61$) than the juvenile suspected of murder ($M = 4.27$, $SD = .76$), $CE = .53$, $SE = .27$, $p = .055$, $95\% CI = -.01, 1.07$. Although not significant, participants were slightly more likely to endorse the use of psychologically coercive tactics on the juvenile suspected of robbery ($M = 4.48$, $SD = .61$) than the juvenile suspected of murder. These findings meet expectations; the more immoral crimes were related to more psychologically coercive tactics than the most serious crime. There were no other notable findings (see Table 5 for mean differences in the other ITSs).

Table 5

Mean Differences of Interrogation Practices by Crime

	Law Enforcement Officer						Laypeople					
	Psychological Coercion		Compliance Endorsement		PEACE		Psychological Coercion		Compliance Endorsement		PEACE	
	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>
Robbery	4.48	.61	4.67	1.67	2.06	1.15	4.21	1.21	5.15	1.21	5.51	.97
Sexual Assault	4.80	.61	4.91	1.23	2.07	.88	4.28	1.12	5.30	1.06	5.43	.80
Murder	4.27	.76	4.42	1.31	1.83	.83	3.77	1.21	5.02	1.21	5.62	.96

Note. The Law Enforcement Officer section pertains to Study 1 and the Laypeople section pertains to Study 2.

⁴ The relationship between crime condition and PEACE scale scores was also insignificant without covariates.

H₂: Are positive and negative MCEs mediators? The second hypothesis was that the most immoral crime (i.e., hypothesized to be sexual assault; also, see Assumption #2) would predict the least favorable MCEs (i.e., least positive/most negative) which, in turn, would predict the most Reid-like interrogation practices. To test this hypothesis, three mediation analyses were conducted in Hayes' (2018) PROCESS Model 4. Crime condition was entered as the indicator (1 = sexual assault [reference], 2 = robbery, 3 = murder) and the positive-MCE and negative-MCE were entered as mediators. In separate analyses, the psychological coercion scale, compliance endorsement scale, and the PEACE scale (with age entered as a covariate) were entered as the outcome variables. Potential interactions between the crime condition and the mediators were probed with post hoc PROCESS analyses, but none were found. To calculate the confidence intervals of the indirect effects, bootstrapping procedures were used (5,000 bias corrected samples). The significance of all findings was confirmed with 95% confidence intervals that did not include zero.

The second hypothesis was not supported. Neither positive-MCEs nor the negative-MCEs mediated the relationship between the crime condition and the compliance endorsement scale, the PEACE⁵ scale, or the psychological coercion scale. However, the PROCESS analyses revealed noteworthy information. Specifically, when the juvenile was rated higher on positive moral characteristics, participants were significantly less likely to endorse the use of compliance endorsement tactics, $b = -.03$, $SE = .01$, $t = -3.77$, $p < .001$. Additionally, when the juvenile was rated higher on negative moral characteristics, participants were significantly more likely to endorse the use of compliance endorsement tactics, $b = .02$, $SE = .01$, $t = 2.55$, $p = .014$; and marginally

⁵ The MCEs also did not mediate the relationship between the crime condition and PEACE when the covariate was excluded.

more likely to endorse the use of PEACE⁶ techniques, $b = .01$, $SE = .01$, $t = 1.76$, $p = .085$. Finally, when the juvenile was suspected of murder, participants were marginally less likely to endorse the use of psychologically coercive tactics than they would with the juvenile suspected of sexual assault, with and without controlling for perceptions of the juveniles' moral character, c' : $b = -.53$, $SE = .27$, $t = -1.95$, $p = .057$; c : $b = -.53$, $SE = .27$, $t = -1.96$, $p = .055$.

H₃: Are immaturity and suggestibility acknowledgment mediators?

The third hypothesis was that the most immoral crime (i.e., hypothesized to be sexual assault; also, see Assumption #2) would predict the least acknowledgement of developmental limitations which, in turn, would predict more Reid-like interrogation practices. PROCESS Model 4 was used to test this hypothesis. The suggestibility and immaturity-DKSs were entered as the mediators. Potential interactions between the crime condition and the mediators were probed with post hoc PROCESS analyses. Because the post hoc analyses found a significant interaction, Model 1 moderation analyses in Hayes' (2018) PROCESS were conducted for clarification. The significance of all findings was confirmed with 95% confidence intervals that did not include zero.

The third hypothesis was not supported. Neither the immaturity-DKS nor the suggestibility-DKS mediated the relationship between the crime condition and the compliance endorsement scale, the PEACE⁷ scale, or the psychological coercion scale.⁸ However, the PROCESS analyses revealed interesting information.⁹ Specifically, greater

⁶ This relationship is insignificant when the covariate is excluded, $b = .01$, $p = .106$.

⁷ The DKSs also did not mediate the relationship between the crime condition and PEACE when the covariate was excluded.

⁸ The overall DKS was also not a mediator.

⁹ None of the findings detailed below were replicated with the overall DKS. Rather, there were no relationships between the type of suspected crime, the overall DKS, and the ITs.

acknowledgement of the juveniles' immaturity (i.e., higher immaturity-DKS scores) was associated with a lower likelihood of using PEACE techniques, $b = -.57$, $SE = .23$, $t = -2.51$, $p = .016$.¹⁰ Moreover, there was a significant interaction between acknowledgement of immaturity and the type of crime the juveniles were suspected of, on the likelihood of using PEACE techniques, $b = -1.39$, $SE = .62$, $t = -2.23$, $p = .030$.¹¹ See Figure 1 for a depiction of that interaction.

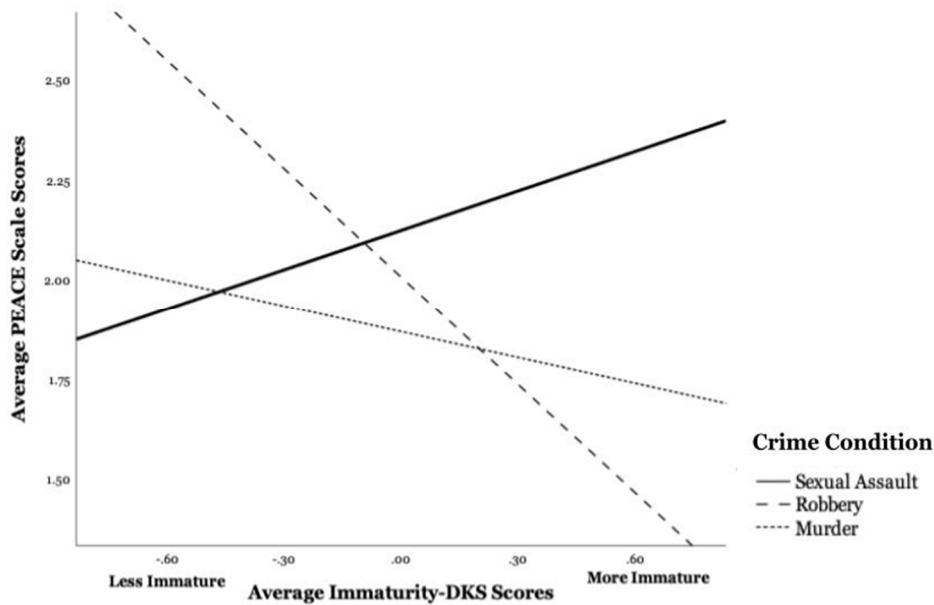


Figure 1. Interaction Between PEACE Technique Usage and Acknowledgement of Juvenile Immaturity by Crime.

Simple slopes analyses¹² found that the relationship between the acknowledgement of immaturity and the use of PEACE techniques were marginally different for the juveniles suspected of robbery and sexual assault when immaturity was acknowledged the least ($b = .75$, $SE = .43$, $t = 1.75$, $p = .087$) and the most ($b = -.98$, $SE =$

¹⁰ This remained significant when the covariate was excluded, $b = -.60$, $SE = .23$, $t = -2.60$, $p = .012$.

¹¹ Without the covariate, the interaction was marginally significant, $b = -1.23$, $SE = .63$, $t = -.84$, $p = .056$.

¹² Without the covariate, there were no significant or marginally significant conditional effects.

.57, $t = -1.73$, $p = .089$). For the juvenile suspected of sexual assault, greater acknowledgment of immaturity was associated with a higher likelihood of using PEACE techniques. For the juvenile suspected of robbery, greater acknowledgment of immaturity was associated with a lower likelihood of using PEACE techniques. For the juvenile suspected of murder, there were no notable changes in the likelihood of using PEACE techniques as a function of immaturity acknowledgement.

CHAPTER 4

STUDY 1: BRIEF DISCUSSION

The purpose of this study was to examine juvenile interrogation practices and to investigate potential psychological underpinnings of those practices. I hypothesized that law enforcement officers would be the most likely to subject the juvenile suspected of sexual assault to the most Reid-like interrogation practices, and that the relationship between the type of crime a juvenile was suspected of and interrogation practices would be mediated by participants' perceptions of the juvenile's moral character, immaturity, and suggestibility. None of those hypotheses were supported. The predicted relationships were, at most, marginally significant. It was possible that all of these findings were non-significant because all of the analyses were underpowered ($< .80$), meaning that the analyses were unlikely to accurately detect an existing effect. The power was likely very low for each of the regressions as well. To determine if these non-significant findings were caused by low power, the study was replicated with a larger sample of laypeople. The second study was approved by the IRB (see Appendix A).

CHAPTER 5
STUDY 2: METHODS

Participants

In order to have similar demographics as the original study eligibility was restricted to English-speaking males in the United States that were at least 21 years old. An a priori power analysis was used to determine the minimum sample size necessary to detect small to moderately sized main and interaction effects ($\leq .20$) with at least 80% power. The analysis indicated that at least 244 participants were necessary. Three-hundred and eighty-six participants were recruited using Amazon's Mechanical Turk. Data was collected via Qualtrics. After removing participants flagged by Qualtrics as bots ($n = 48$) and duplicates ($n = 67$),¹³ and responses from participants that failed the attention check ($n = 62$) and the manipulation check ($n = 33$), that were incomplete ($n = 5$), there were 171 participants. As such, this study fails to completely solve the issue of low statistical power presented in the first study.

Although the study was restricted to males, three participants reported being female. Because there was an extremely high proportion of males to females in this study (168:3), like in the first study (53:2), they were not excluded from the data. The average participant was 36 ($M = 36.85$; $SD = 10.22$) years old, White (63%), employed in urban areas (57%), held neutral sentiments toward law enforcement officers ($M = 57.42$, $SD = 26.51$), did not know any law enforcement officers personally (59%), and engaged in crime related media moderately frequently ($M = 2.59$, $SD = 26.51$). Very few participants (19%) frequently worked with adolescents and children. Of those who did, 17 have

¹³ Qualtrics flagged participants as duplicate responses because they came from the same IP address. However, many of the duplicates do not seem to be identical to other responses. Potentially, the duplicate responses came from different people that share a computer. That possibility cannot be confirmed, so the responses were still excluded.

worked with children of all ages for around eight years ($M = 8.12, SD = 7.10$), three have exclusively worked with children aged zero to 13 for around two years ($M = 1.88, SD = .32$), and 12 have exclusively worked with adolescents aged 14 to 17 for around two years ($M = 1.83, SD = .38$). See Table 6 for detailed demographic information and correlations between the demographics, predictor, and outcome variables.

Table 6

Study 2: Means (M), Standard Deviations (SD), and Correlations

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
1 Age <i>M</i> = 35.85, <i>SD</i> = 10.22	-																
2 Race		-															
White (<i>n</i> = 107)	.21**																
Asian (<i>n</i> = 38)																	
Black (<i>n</i> = 9)																	
Latinx (<i>n</i> = 7)																	
Indigenous (<i>n</i> = 5)																	
Mixed Race (<i>n</i> = 3)																	
Prefer Not (<i>n</i> = 2)																	
3 Sexual Orientation																	
Heterosexual (<i>n</i> = 154)	.08	.10	-														
Bisexual (<i>n</i> = 14)																	
Homosexual (<i>n</i> = 2)																	
Prefer Not (<i>n</i> = 1)																	
4 Work With Adolescents?																	
Yes (<i>n</i> = 20)	.05	-.01	-.05	-													
No (<i>n</i> = 142)																	
5 Location																	
Urban (<i>n</i> = 98)	.04	-.21**	-.02	.21**	-												
Suburban (<i>n</i> = 60)																	
Rural (<i>n</i> = 13)																	
6 Feelings About LEOs																	
<i>M</i> = 57.42, <i>SD</i> = 26.51	.10	.06	-.21**	-.09	-.17*	-											
7 Personally Know LEOs																	
<i>M</i> = 57.42, <i>SD</i> = 26.51	.06	-.16*	.01	-.42***	-.04	.04	-										
Yes (<i>n</i> = 70)																	
8 Relationship with LEO?																	
<i>M</i> = 57.42, <i>SD</i> = 26.51	-.03	-.14	.05	-.39	-.08	.09	.92***	-									
Parole Officer (<i>n</i> = 1)																	
Acquaintance (<i>n</i> = 17)																	
Friend (<i>n</i> = 37)																	
Spouse/Partner (<i>n</i> = 4)																	
Family (<i>n</i> = 10)																	
9 CMES																	
<i>M</i> = 2.59, <i>SD</i> = .88	-.06	.22**	.03	-.31***	-.32***	.18*	.23**	.20**	-								
1 Crime Condition																	
<i>M</i> = 2.59, <i>SD</i> = .88	.02	-.13	-.12	.11	-.13	-.02	-.07	-.05	.13 [†]	-							
0 Murder (<i>n</i> = 65)																	
Robbery (<i>n</i> = 68)																	
Sexual Assault (<i>n</i> = 48)																	
11 Crime Seriousness																	
<i>M</i> = 86.32, <i>SD</i> = 19.97	.04	-	-.14 [†]	.24***	.23**	.06	-.03	-.12	-.17*	.14 [†]	-						
12 Psychological Coercion																	
<i>M</i> = 86.32, <i>SD</i> = 19.97	-.10	.28	.11	-.19**	-.18*	.20**	.08	.09	.28***	-.19*	-.30***	-					
13 Compliance Endorsement																	
<i>M</i> = 4.09, <i>SD</i> = 1.16	-.03	.07	.07	-.05	-.05	.14 [†]	.02	.06	.10	-.11	-.03	.38***	-				
14 PEACE																	
<i>M</i> = 5.16, <i>SD</i> = 1.110	.18*	-.14	.06	.16*	.13	-.15 [†]	-.23***	-.18*	-.16*	.09	.12	-.21**	.17*	-			
15 Positive Moral Character																	
<i>M</i> = 5.82, <i>SD</i> = .90	-.06	.14	-.09	.01	-.07	.07	.00	.03	.25***	-.16*	-.15 [†]	.13 [†]	-.18	.00	-		
16 Negative Moral Character																	
<i>M</i> = 35.68, <i>SD</i> = 28.82	-.04	.01	-.10	.06	-.01	.11	-.01	-.06	-.06	.03	.29***	.00	.22**	-.09	-.48***	-	
17 Suggestibility																	
<i>M</i> = 60.69, <i>SD</i> = 21.42	.09	-.09	.01	.03	-.01	-.11	.07	.05	.02	.06	.06	-.12	.20**	.36***	-.14	.14 [†]	-
1 Imaturity																	
<i>M</i> = 4.68, <i>SD</i> = .78	.18*	-.15	-.13 [†]	.14 [†]	.17*	-.15 [†]	-.17*	-.18*	-.25***	.13 [†]	.14 [†]	-.33***	.15 [†]	.37***	-.22***	-.22***	.51
8																	
<i>M</i> = 4.63, <i>SD</i> = .72																	

Note. [†]*p* < .10. **p* < .05. ***p* < .01. ****p* < .001.

Measures

All of the measures used in the first study were used in the second study, with a few omissions (questions about being a law enforcement officer) and additions.

Crime-Media Engagement. Crime-related media consumption was measured with the crime-engagement media scale (CMES; Mindthoff et al., 2018). Participants rated the frequency of their engagement with four types of crime related media (i.e., true crime series/documentaries, true crime podcasts, true crime TV series, and fictional crime shows) on a 1 (*never*) to 5 (*Always*) scale. The scores were average together such that, higher scores indicate more frequent engagement with crime-media. In a previous study, the CMES had good reliability ($\alpha = .75$; Mindthoff et al., 2018).

Sentiment Toward Law Enforcement Officers. To measure participants' feelings toward law enforcement officers, participants completed the following task on a 0 (*Extremely Negative*) to 100 (*Extremely Positive*) scale: *Please rate your feelings toward law enforcement officers.*

Relationship with Law Enforcement Officers. To determine if participants knew any law enforcement officers personally, participants responded to the following yes or no question: *Do you know any law enforcement officers personally?* If they responded yes, they were then asked to disclose the type of relationship (e.g., family, friend, spouse) they had with the law enforcement officers See Table 6 for details on participants' relationships with law enforcement officers.

Work with Kids. To determine if participants frequently worked with adolescents, they responded to the following yes or no question: *Does your job require you to frequently work with adolescents (aged 14 - 17)?*

Dimensionality, Reliability, & Normality of Multi-Item Measures. Like in the first study, the ITS was split into the psychological coercion scale, compliance

endorsement scale, and the PEACE scale; the MCE was split into the positive-MCE and the negative-MCE; and the DKS¹⁴ was split into the immaturity-DKS and the suggestibility-DKS. Each of those scales, as well as the crime-media engagement scale (CMES), were expected to be unidimensional. CFAs were conducted to confirm their unidimensionality and to compute the reliability coefficients. If they were unidimensional, the omega reliability coefficient for unidimensional measures was reported. If the measure was not unidimensional, EFAs (the same as in Study 1) were used to determine the underlying factors. The results of those EFAs guided CFAs, which confirmed the measures' multidimensionality. The results of those analyses are reported in Appendix C. If the measure was multidimensional, the omega reliability coefficient for multidimensional measures was reported. Cronbach's alpha is also reported for each measure; however, in the present study, it is never a more accurate assessment of reliability than the omega coefficients.

The positive-MCE ($\omega_u = .95$; $\alpha = .95$) and the negative-MCE ($\omega_u = .81$; $\alpha = .81$) were unidimensional and had excellent reliability. The immaturity-DKS ($\omega_h = .77$; $\alpha = .73$) and the suggestibility-DKS ($\omega_u = .83$; $\alpha = .83$) were multidimensional and had good reliability. The compliance endorsement scale ($\omega_u = .59$; $\alpha = .60$) and the PEACE scale ($\omega_u = .41$; $\alpha = .40$) were unidimensional and had poor reliability, given the sample size. The psychological coercion scale was multidimensional and had relatively subpar reliability ($\omega_h = .61$; $\alpha = .65$). The CMES was a unidimensional and had great reliability ($\omega_u = .84$; $\alpha = .83$). All of the measures were normally distributed and there were no significant outliers.

¹⁴ An overall DKS was not created in this study because it did not produce significant results in the first study and its creation was not entirely supported by the reliability analyses or the eigenvalue condition number.

CHAPTER 6

STUDY 2: RESULTS

Covariate Identification

Overview. Like in the first study, gender, age, race, sexual orientation, and location were considered to be potential covariates. However, in the present study, rank and years of experience working in law enforcement were excluded in the present study because they are inapplicable to laypeople. Instead, the frequency of their crime-media engagement, their sentiments toward law enforcement officers, whether or not they know any law enforcement officers personally, and whether or not they frequently work with adolescents aged 14 - 17 were considered to be potential covariates. Frequency of crime-media engagement was included as a covariate because more frequent crime-media engagement was associated with stronger beliefs in the ability of false evidence ploys and contradictions of denials to elicit true confessions (Mindthoff et al., 2018); which, in the present study, could have manifested as a greater likelihood of using those techniques on the juveniles. Sentiment toward law enforcement officers was included as a potential covariate because there is reason to believe that more positive sentiments about law enforcement officers is associated with greater conservatism/republicanism (Brown, 2017), which is associated with more punitive behaviors and beliefs regarding crime and offenders (Silver & Silver, 2017). In the same vein, whether or not they have personal relationships with law enforcement officers was also considered to be a potential covariate. People with more positive sentiments toward law enforcement officers, and personal relationships with law enforcement officers, were expected to be more likely to endorse the use of Reid techniques. Lastly, whether or not they frequently work with adolescents was included as a potential covariate because participants who

work with adolescents may be more aware of their developmental limitations and thus more likely to acknowledge them.

Following the same procedure as the first study, covariates were identified by regressing each of the predictor and outcome variables onto gender, age, sexual orientation, race, location, frequency of crime-media engagement, sentiment toward law enforcement officers, whether or not they personally know law enforcement officers, and whether or not they frequently work with adolescents, in a series of simple regressions (or Bayesian regressions, when the outcome was ordinal). Sexual orientation (0 = heterosexual, 1 = not heterosexual), and race (0 = White, 1 = person of color) were dummy coded. Location was split into two dummy coded variables (0 = not urban [suburban], 1 = urban [suburban]). A dummy coded variable was not created for rural participants. Demographic variables that accounted for a significant amount of variance in predictor or outcome variables, over and above the other potential covariates, were flagged as covariates. Covariates were identified for all predictor and outcome variables, except compliance endorsement, negative-MCE, and the immorality rankings.

Race. Race was included as a covariate in all analyses involving the psychological coercion scale, the positive-MCE, and perceptions of crime seriousness. People of color tended to consider the crimes to be less serious, $b = -8.40$, $SE = 3.33$, $t = -2.52$, $p = .013$; they were more likely to endorse the use of psychologically coercive tactics, $b = .62$, $SE = .20$, $t = 3.27$, $p < .001$; and they also rated the suspect higher on positive moral characteristics, $b = 9.59$, $SE = 4.09$, $t = 2.34$, $p = .020$.

Age. Age was included as a covariate in all analyses involving the PEACE scale and the immaturity-DKS. Older participants were more likely they were to endorse the use of PEACE techniques, $b = .04$, $SE = .01$, $t = 2.09$, $p = .039$. They were also more

likely to acknowledge the developmental immaturity of juveniles, $b = .01$, $SE = .01$, $t = 2.17$, $p = .032$.

Sexual Orientation. Sexual orientation was included as a covariate in all analyses involving the immaturity-DKS. People that were not heterosexual were less likely to acknowledge the developmental immaturity of juveniles, $b = -.39$, $SE = .12$, $t = -2.07$, $p = .040$.

Sentiments Toward Law Enforcement Officers. Participants' sentiments toward law enforcement officers were included as covariates in all analyses involving the psychological coercion scale and the PEACE scale. Participants who regard law enforcement officers more positively were more likely to endorse the use of psychologically coercive tactics, $b = .01$, $SE = .00$, $t = .28$, $p = .024$; and they were less likely to endorse the use of PEACE techniques, $b = -.44$, $SE = .16$, $t = .66$, $p = .006$.

Whether They Work with Adolescents. Whether or not participants frequently work with adolescents was included in all analyses involving perceptions of crime seriousness. The more likely participants were to have frequently worked with adolescents, the less likely they were to consider a crime to be serious, $b = -12.53$, $SE = 4.47$, $t = -2.80$, $p = .006$.

Crime Media Engagement. Participant's frequency of crime-media engagement was included in all analyses involving the positive-MCE. The more frequently they engaged in crime-media, the higher they rated the juveniles on positive moral characteristics, $b = 6.07$, $SE = 2.34$, $t = 2.60$, $p = .010$.

Testing Assumptions of Act-Person Dissociation

Assumption #1: Murder is considered the most serious crime. To test this assumption, a one-way ANCOVA with planned simple contrasts and Bonferroni post hoc comparisons was conducted. The crime condition was entered as the fixed factor,

race and whether or not they work with adolescents were included as covariates, and perceived crime seriousness was entered as the outcome variable. Like in the first study, the crime condition was significantly related to perceptions of crime seriousness,¹⁵ $F(2, 165) = 5.89, p = .003, \eta^2 = .067, \beta = .870$. Planned simple contrasts found that robbery ($M = 76.90, SD = 16.12$) was considered to be significantly less serious than murder¹⁶ ($M = 92.21, SD = 20.40$), $CE = -12.54, SE = 3.68, p = .001, 95\% CI = -19.80, -5.27$; but sexual assault ($M = 85.52, SD = 20.18$) did not significantly differ murder¹⁷, $CE = -4.67, SE = 3.89, p = .170, 95\% CI = -11.36, 2.02$. A Bonferroni post hoc comparison found sexual assault was considered to be marginally more serious than robbery,¹⁸ $MD = 7.87, SE = 3.53, p = .082, 95\% CI = -.69, 16.42$. In short, the first assumption was met: Murder was considered to be the most serious crime and robbery was considered to be the least serious crime. However, sexual assault was not considered to be considered significantly more serious than robbery or less serious than murder. Notably, the mean differences suggest that sexual assault was considered to be less serious than murder and more serious than robbery.

Assumption #2: Sexual assault is considered the most immoral crime. To test this assumption, related-samples Wilcoxon signed rank tests were conducted. Robbery ($M = 2.15, SD = .96$) was significantly more immoral than murder ($M = 1.85, SD = .93; Z = -2.01, p = .044$) and marginally more immoral than rape ($M = 2.04, SD = .51; Z = -1.69, p = .092$). Murder was considered to be marginally less immoral than rape, $Z = 1.85, p = .064$. Like in the first study, these findings suggest that

¹⁵ Without covariates, this relationship was still significant, $F(2, 168) = 8.39, p < .001$.

¹⁶ Without covariates, this relationship was still significant, $CE = -15.31, p < .001$.

¹⁷ Without covariates, this relationship was marginally significant, $CE = -6.81, p = .051$.

¹⁸ Without covariates, this relationship was still marginally significant, $MD = 8.50, p = .063$.

robbery and rape were considered to be more immoral than murder, but unlike the first study, robbery was distinctly more immoral than rape. In short, the second assumption was not met: robbery was considered to be the most immoral crime.

Assumption #3: The sexual assault suspect would be evaluated the least favorably. To test this assumption, several one-way ANOVAs were conducted with the type of crime as the predictor, relevant demographic variables included as covariates, and the MCE scales as the outcome variables (in separate ANOVAs). Like in the first study, the type of crime did not predict positive-MCEs ($F [2,165] = 1.37, p = .256, \eta^2 = .016, \beta = .293$) or negative MCEs, $F (2, 168) = 1.63, p = .765, \eta^2 = .003, \beta = .092$.¹⁹ Regardless, I examined the mean differences to see if they followed the expected patterns because these relationships are central to my thesis. Like in the first study, the trends contradict my expectations: On positive moral characteristics, the juvenile suspected of sexual assault received the highest ratings and the juvenile suspected of murder received the lowest ratings. On negative moral characteristics, the juvenile suspected of murder received the highest ratings and the juvenile suspected of robbery received the lowest ratings. See Table 4 for the means. The third assumption was not met: the juvenile suspected of sexual assault was considered to have one of the best moral characters. The juvenile suspected of robbery was also considered to have a better moral character than the juvenile suspected of murder. In other words, the juvenile suspected of murder was considered to have the worst moral character.

Did act-person dissociation occur? Act-person dissociation did not occur. The juvenile suspected of the most serious and least immoral act (i.e., murder) was

¹⁹ Without covariates, these relationships were still insignificant $ps > .126$.

considered to have a worse moral character than the juvenile suspected of the least serious, but more immoral, acts (i.e., robbery and sexual assault).

Testing Hypotheses

H₁: Was the juvenile suspected of sexual assault more likely to be subjected to Reid-like interrogation practices? The first hypothesis was that participants would be the most likely to endorse the use of Reid-like techniques when the juvenile was suspected of the most immoral crime (i.e., sexual assault, see Assumption #2). To test this hypothesis, several one-way AN(C)OVAs with planned simple contrasts and Bonferroni post hoc comparisons were conducted. The crime condition was entered as the predictor and the psychological coercion scale (with race and sentiments toward law enforcement officers entered as covariates), compliance endorsement scale, and the PEACE scale (with age and sentiments toward law enforcement officers entered as a covariates) were entered as outcome variables.

There was a marginally significant²⁰ relationship between the type of suspected crime and the likelihood of using psychologically coercive tactics, $F(2, 165) = 2.48, p = .087, \eta^2 = .023, \beta = .493$. Planned simple contrasts found that participants were significantly more likely to endorse the use of psychologically coercive tactics on the juvenile suspected of sexual assault ($M = 4.28, SD = 1.12$) than the juvenile suspected of murder ($M = 3.77, SD = 1.21$), $CE = .42, SE = .20, p = .033, 95\% CI = .03, .81$. The simple contrasts did not find a significant difference in the likelihood of using psychologically coercive tactics on the juvenile suspected of robbery ($M = 4.21, SD = 1.21$) and the juvenile suspected of murder, $CE = .33, p = .116$; nor did the Bonferroni comparison find

²⁰ This relationship became significant when covariates were not included in the analysis, $F(2, 168) = 3.46, p = .034, \eta^2 = .040, \beta = .642$. Also, both of the simple contrasts were significant. There was a higher likelihood of using psychologically coercive tactics on the juvenile suspected of robbery than the juvenile suspected of murder, $CE = .44, SE = .22, p = .050$. Removing the covariates did not change the other results for H₁.

a significant difference between the juvenile suspected of robbery and the juvenile suspected of sexual assault, $MD = -.09, p = 1.00$.

There were no significant or marginally significant relationships between the type of suspected crime and the likelihood of using compliance endorsement tactics and PEACE techniques, $F_s \leq .99, p_s \geq .371, \eta^2 \leq .012, \beta \leq .222$. Because these relationships are pertinent to my thesis, I examined the mean differences to see if they followed the expected patterns. The pattern of means met expectations with the compliance endorsement scale but not with the PEACE scale (see Table 5 for mean differences). Participants were slightly more likely to endorse the use of compliance endorsement tactics on the juvenile suspected of sexual assault than the juvenile suspected of murder and robbery. Participants were slightly less likely to endorse the use of PEACE techniques on the juvenile suspected of sexual assault than the juvenile suspected of murder and robbery

H₂: Are positive and negative MCEs mediators? The second hypothesis was that the most immoral crime (i.e., sexual assault, see Assumption #2) would predict the least positive/most negative MCEs which, in turn, would predict the most Reid-like interrogation practices. To test this hypothesis, six mediation analyses (1 indicator \times 2 mediators \times 3 outcomes) were conducted in Hayes' (2018) PROCESS Model 4. The mediators were tested in separate analyses to avoid power complications caused by too many predictors and covariates. The crime condition was entered as the indicator (1 = sexual assault [reference], 2 = robbery, 3 = murder) and, in separate analyses, the positive-MCE (with race and CMES entered as covariates) and negative-MCE were entered as mediators. In analyses involving the positive-MCE, race and sentiments toward law enforcement officers were included as covariates. In separate analyses, the psychological coercion scale (with race and sentiments toward law enforcement officers

entered as covariates), compliance endorsement scale, and PEACE scale (with age and sentiments toward law enforcement officers entered as covariates) were entered as the outcome variables. To calculate the confidence intervals of the indirect effects, bootstrapping procedures were used (5,000 bias corrected samples). Potential interactions between the crime condition and the mediators were probed with post hoc PROCESS analyses. Because the post hoc analyses found significant interactions, Model 1 moderation analyses were conducted in Hayes' (2018) PROCESS for clarification. The significance of all findings was confirmed with 95% confidence intervals that did not include zero.

The second hypothesis was not supported. Neither the positive-MCE nor the negative-MCE mediated the relationship between the crime condition and the compliance endorsement scale, the PEACE scale, or the psychological coercion scale²¹. However, the PROCESS analyses revealed noteworthy information about the influences of moral character judgements on the likelihood of using psychologically coercive interrogation practices and compliance endorsement tactics, but not PEACE²² techniques.

Psychological Coercion. The juvenile suspected of murder was less likely to be subjected to psychologically coercive tactics than the juvenile suspected of sexual assault, with and without controlling for the positive-MCE²³ ($c': b = -.37, SE = .20, t = -1.87, p = .063$; $c: b = -.37, SE = .20, t = -1.80, p = .059$) and the negative MCE ($c': b = -.42, SE = .20, t = -2.13, p = .034$; $c: b = -.42, SE = .20, t = -2.14, p = .034$).²⁴ There were

²¹ Without covariates, there was only mediation for compliance endorsement. See Footnote 27 for details.

²² Without covariates, participants were less likely to endorse the use of PEACE techniques on the juvenile suspected of murder than the juvenile suspected of sexual assault, $b = -8.67, SE = 4.28, t = -2.03, p = .044$.

²³ Without covariates, these findings were still marginal $c': p = .059$; $c: p = .063$.

²⁴ Without covariates, these relationships maintained the same significance levels.

also significant interactions between the type of crime the juvenile was suspected of and the negative ($b = .03, SE = .01, t = 2.64, p = .009$) and positive-MCE ($b = -.02, SE = .01, t = -2.35, p = .021$) on the likelihood of using psychologically coercive interrogation practices.²⁵ See Figure 2 for a depiction of both interactions.

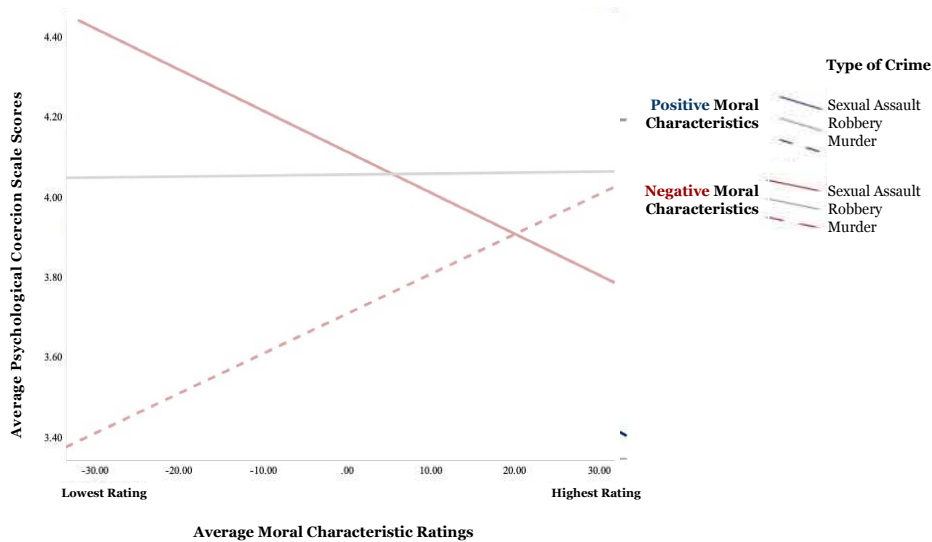


Figure 2. Interactions Between Moral Character Evaluations and Psychologically Coercive Tactic Usage by Crime

Simple slopes analyses²⁶ found that the relationship between the likelihood of using psychologically coercive tactics and the lowest ($b = -.96, SE = .28, t = -3.41, p < .001$) and moderate ($b = -.44, SE = .19, t = -2.55, p = .026$) ratings of negative moral characteristics functioned in significantly different ways for juveniles suspected of sexual assault and murder. For the juvenile suspected of sexual assault, higher ratings of negative moral characteristics were associated with a lower likelihood of using psychologically coercive tactics. For the juvenile suspected of murder, higher ratings of

²⁵ Without covariates, there were no significant interactions.

²⁶ Without covariates, there were no notable changes in the results of the simple slopes analyses.

negative moral characteristics were associated with a greater likelihood of using psychologically coercive tactics.

Simple slopes analyses also found that the relationship between the likelihood of using psychologically coercive tactics and the highest ($b = -.86, SE = .29, t = -2.99, p = .003$) and moderate ($b = -.39, SE = .20, t = -1.98, p = .003$) ratings of positive moral characteristics functioned in significantly different ways for juveniles suspected of sexual assault and murder. For the juvenile suspected of sexual assault, higher ratings of positive moral characteristics were associated with a higher likelihood of using psychologically coercive tactics. For the juvenile suspected of murder, higher ratings of positive moral characteristics were associated with a lower likelihood of using psychologically coercive tactics.

Compliance Endorsement.²⁷ Like in the first study, when the juvenile was rated higher on positive moral characteristics, participants were significantly less likely to endorse the use of compliance endorsement tactics, $b = -.01, SE = .00, t = -3.11, p = .002$. Also, when the juvenile was rated higher on negative moral characteristics, participants were significantly more likely to endorse the use of compliance endorsement tactics, $b = .01, SE = .00, t = 3.01, p = .003$.

H₃: Are the suggestibility and immaturity DKs mediators? The third hypothesis was that that the most immoral crime (i.e., sexual assault; also, see Assumption #2) would predict the least acknowledgement of developmental limitations which, in turn, would predict more Redi-like interrogation practices. PROCESS Model 4 was used to test this hypothesis. To test this hypothesis, six mediation analyses (1

²⁷ Without covariates, the relationship between the crime condition (sexual assault v. murder) and compliance endorsement was mediated by the positive-MCE (**c**: $b = -.28, SE = .20, t = -1.41, p = .470$; **c'**: $b = -.36, SE = .20, t = -1.83, p = .069$; **a**: $b = -8.67, SE = 4.28, t = -2.03, p = .044$; **b**: $b = -.36, SE = .20, t = -2.67, p = .008$; indirect effect: $b = .08, BootSE = .05, 95\% CI = .00, .17$).

indicator × 2 mediators × 3 outcomes) were conducted in Hayes' (2018) PROCESS Model

4. The mediators were tested in separate analyses to avoid power complications caused by too many predictors and covariates. The suggestibility and immaturity-DKSs were entered as the mediators, rather than the positive and negative MCEs. When the immaturity-DKS was the mediator, age and sexual orientation were included as covariates. Potential interactions between the crime condition and the mediators were probed with post hoc PROCESS analyses, but none were significant. To calculate the confidence intervals of the indirect effects, bootstrapping procedures were used (5,000 bias corrected samples). The significance of all findings was confirmed with 95% confidence intervals that did not include zero.

The third hypothesis was not supported. Neither the suggestibility-DKS nor the immaturity-DKS mediated the relationship between the crime condition and the compliance endorsement scale, the PEACE scale, or the psychological coercion scale. However, the PROCESS analyses revealed interesting information.

Psychological Coercion. Greater acknowledgement of juveniles' immaturity was associated with a lower likelihood of using psychologically coercive tactics, $b = -.37$, $SE = .12$, $t = -3.13$, $p = .002$. There were no other notable findings related to the psychological coercion scale.²⁸

Compliance Endorsement.²⁹ Greater acknowledgement of juveniles' immaturity was associated with a higher likelihood of using compliance endorsement tactics, $b = .26$, $SE = .12$, $t = 2.17$, $p = .031$. Also, greater acknowledgement of juveniles'

²⁸ When covariates are excluded, the relationship between the crime condition and the immaturity-DKS became marginal ($b = .22$, $SE = .13$, $t = 1.66$, $p = .099$); the murder suspect was seen as more mature than the sexual assault suspect.

²⁹ Without covariates, the findings described below were replicated.

suggestibility was associated with a higher likelihood of using compliance endorsement tactics, $b = .29$, $SE = .11$, $t = 2.74$, $p = .007$.

PEACE.³⁰ Greater acknowledgement of juveniles' immaturity was associated with a higher likelihood of using PEACE techniques, $b = .43$, $SE = .09$, $t = 4.60$, $p < .001$. Also, greater acknowledgement of juveniles' suggestibility was associated with a higher likelihood of using PEACE techniques, $b = .38$, $SE = .08$, $t = 4.53$, $p < .001$.

³⁰ Without covariates, the findings described below were replicated.

CHAPTER 7

STUDY 2: BRIEF DISCUSSION

The primary purpose of the second study was to re-test the assumptions and hypotheses with a larger sample size and, consequently, sufficient statistical power; however, this was not achieved. Although the power in the second study was higher than in the first study, there was still less than an 80% chance that true effects were accurately detected. Despite the continued low power, support was found for the first hypothesis: The type of crime a juvenile was suspected of influenced the participants' interrogation practices. Indeed, participants were significantly more likely to endorse the use of psychologically coercive interrogation practices on the juvenile suspected of sexual assault than on the juvenile suspected of murder. However, unexpectedly, this relationship was not the product of act-person dissociation. Moreover, the relationship between the type of crime a juvenile was suspected of and participants' interrogation practices was not mediated by moral character evaluations or participants' acknowledgement of juveniles' immaturity and suggestibility.

CHAPTER 8

GENERAL DISCUSSION

Although neither study was sufficiently powered, and the two mediational hypotheses were not supported, many noteworthy findings were produced. Indeed, the present research provides insight into how crimes are perceived, the (ir)relevance of act-person dissociation to crime-related contexts, the influence of the type of crime a juvenile is suspected of, as well as the influence of interrogators' perceptions of juvenile suspects, on interrogation practices. In this chapter, those insights are discussed, suggestions for future research are given, and methodological limitations are described.

Perceptions of Crime

Seriousness. I proposed that perceptions of crime seriousness are based entirely on the degree of harm caused by a crime. As such, I expected participants to consider robbery to be the least serious crime, sexual assault to be moderately serious, and murder to be the most serious. This expectation was partially met. Law enforcement officers and laypeople considered robbery to be the least serious crime and they considered murder and sexual assault to be similarly serious. The fact that murder was not considered to be significantly more serious than sexual assault suggests that perceptions of crime seriousness are not based entirely on the crime's degree of consequential harm. However, a lack of support for the notion that perceptions of crime seriousness are entirely consequentialist does not necessarily support the argument that perceptions of crime seriousness are mostly moralist (see Adriaenssen et al., 2020; Rosenmerkel, 2001; Warr, 1989). Indeed, the present research contradicts that argument as well. The reported perceptions of crime seriousness did not align with the perceived immorality of similar crimes, in either study.

Immorality. I proposed that perceptions of crime immorality are primarily based on the disgustingness of the crime. Prior research has shown that people who commit sex-related crimes are seen as more disgusting (Gresley, 2014; Kernsmith et al., 2009) and more morally outrageous (Mancini et al., 2016; Spencer, 2009) than people who commit non-sex-related violent crimes. As such, I expected participants to consider first-degree robbery to be the least immoral crime, first-degree murder to be moderately immoral, and first-degree rape to be the most immoral. Contrary to my expectations, the present research suggests that robbery is considered to be the most immoral, rape is considered to be moderately immoral, and murder is considered to be the least immoral. Given that sex-related crimes like rape are more morally disgusting than non-sex-related crimes like murder, it follows that rape would be viewed as more immoral than murder. However, it is unclear why robbery is more immoral than rape and murder.

I tentatively theorize that the laypeople in the present research considered robbery to be more immoral than the other crimes because it was committed by a juvenile rather than an adult. However, due to a lack of relevant information, I am unable to justify this theory. Indeed, there seems to be a sizeable gap in the literature pertaining to perceptions of crime: No studies have compared how sexual and non-sexual violent crimes are perceived in terms of immorality and seriousness, while also investigating the influence of the suspect's age on those perceptions. Future research should aim to support or negate my theory by filling that gap in the literature.

Act-Person Dissociation

The assumptions regarding the perceptions of crime were tested and discussed because they were pertinent to the theoretical framework of the main hypotheses: act-person dissociation. I predicted that the juveniles suspected of the most immoral crimes, rather than the most serious crimes, would be evaluated the least favorably. I tested this

assumption by comparing moral character evaluations across crime conditions. There were no significant differences in perceptions of the juveniles' moral character across crime conditions. The tentative evidence for act-person dissociation found in the first study was not found in the second study. As such, the present research does not support the notion that act-person dissociation occurs in evaluations of juvenile suspects. Given that the theoretical framework for the hypotheses was not supported, it is no surprise that neither of the mediational hypotheses were supported.

Crime's Influence on Interrogation Practices

Despite the unsupported theoretical framework, the first hypothesis was supported: Law enforcement officers and laypeople were more likely to endorse the use of psychologically coercive tactics on the juvenile suspected of sexual assault than the juvenile suspected of murder. This finding supports the notion that a crime's immorality may have a larger influence on psychologically coercive interrogation tactic usage than a crime's seriousness. Indeed, if a crime's seriousness was more important than a crime's immorality, law enforcement officers and laypeople would have been equally likely to psychologically coercive tactics on the juveniles suspected of sexual assault and murder because those crimes were considered to be similarly serious. Instead, the crime people considered to be more immoral, sexual assault/rape, was associated with the greatest endorsement of psychologically coercive tactics. Future research on the influence of crime type on various factors that influence behaviors toward suspects, proven offenders, and victims should vary a crime's immorality in addition to, or instead of, a crime's seriousness.

The fact that the juvenile suspected of sexual assault was the most likely to be subjected to psychologically coercive tactics lends credence to the notion that wrongful conviction data may be neglectful of sexual assault cases. People who are subjected to

more psychologically coercive tactics are more likely to give a false confession (Meissner et al., 2012) and, as per the present research, sexual assault suspects are more likely to be subjected to psychologically coercive tactics. Given this information, the amount of people who have been suspected of sexual assault, have given a false confession, and were wrongfully convicted is higher than the 9% represented in the National Registry of Exoneration's data (2021b).

Perceptions of Juveniles

Moral Character. Perceptions of the juveniles' moral character did not mediate the relationship between the type of suspected crime and interrogation practices, but they did predict the likelihood of using compliance endorsement tactics in both studies. When law enforcement officers and laypeople evaluated the juveniles' moral character more favorably, they were significantly less likely to endorse the use of compliance endorsement tactics. In other words, when people considered a juvenile to be a good kid, they were less inclined to urge the juvenile to comply with the interrogator and to confess. The findings related to the relationship between perceptions of the juveniles' moral character and the likelihood that law enforcement officers and laypeople endorse compliance endorsement tactics were the only consistent findings between the two studies. In both studies, strange relationships were found between the type of crime a juvenile is suspected of, perceptions of juveniles' moral character, and interrogation practices.

In the first study, law enforcement officers who evaluated the juveniles' moral character more favorably were marginally more likely to endorse the use of PEACE techniques. In other words, when people considered a juvenile to be a bad kid, they were more inclined to endorse the use of more juvenile-friendly tactics. However, this finding was not replicated in the second study. Given that this finding was marginal,

theoretically nonsensical, and was not replicated in the second study, I conclude that moral character evaluations do not predict PEACE technique usage.

In the second study (but not the first study, likely due to low power), laypeople's perceptions of the juveniles' moral character predicted their likelihood of using psychologically coercive tactics, and that relationship was moderated by the type of crime the juvenile was suspected of. As expected, when laypeople gave more favorable evaluations of the murder suspect's moral character (i.e., considered them to be a good kid), they were less likely to endorse the use of psychologically coercive tactics. Unexpectedly, when laypeople gave more favorable evaluations of the sexual assault suspect's moral character, they were more likely to endorse the use of psychologically coercive tactics. Because the second study was slightly underpowered, this finding may merely be spurious. Future research should aim to determine the replicability of this finding and, if it is a replicable phenomenon, investigate potential reasons for why this phenomenon may occur.

Developmental Limitations. Acknowledgement of juveniles' developmental limitations did not mediate the relationship between the type of crime a juvenile was suspected of and interrogation practices in either study; however, in both studies, the extent to which people acknowledged the developmental limitations of the juveniles predicted the likelihood of using PEACE techniques - albeit in conflicting ways.

In the first study, greater acknowledgement of juveniles' immaturity was associated with a lower likelihood of using PEACE techniques; and that relationship was moderated by the type of crime the juvenile was suspected of. Indeed, the more strongly a law enforcement officer agreed that the juvenile suspected of sexual assault was immature, the more likely they to endorse the use of PEACE techniques. On the other

hand, the more strongly a law enforcement officer agreed that the juvenile suspected of robbery was immature, the less likely they would use PEACE techniques.

In the second study, greater acknowledgement of juveniles' immaturity was associated with a higher likelihood of using PEACE techniques and there was no moderation. It is likely that the nature of the relationship between acknowledgement of juveniles' immaturity and PEACE techniques was reversed and non-moderated for laypeople due to the increased statistical power — meaning the finding from the second study is more accurate than the finding from the first study. If this is the case, that relationship meets expectations and aligns with similar findings from previous studies (Meyers & Reppucci, 2007; Reppucci et al., 2010): The more likely a layperson was to acknowledge that juveniles are more immature than adults, the more likely they were to endorse the use of juvenile-friendly PEACE techniques.

Several relationships that were not detected in the first study were found in the second study. First, the more likely laypeople were to acknowledge juveniles' suggestibility, the more likely they were to endorse the use of PEACE techniques. In the same vein, the more likely laypeople were to acknowledge juveniles' immaturity, the less likely they were to endorse the use of psychologically coercive tactics. In other words, the more prone to suggestion juveniles were considered to be, the more likely laypeople were to endorse the use of PEACE techniques and the less likely they were to endorse the use of psychologically coercive tactics. These relationships were expected and are reflected in prior research (Meyers & Reppucci, 2007; Reppucci et al., 2010). Unexpectedly, however, the more likely laypeople were to acknowledge juveniles' immaturity and suggestibility, the more likely they were to endorse the use of compliance endorsement tactics. Potentially, laypeople considered confession and compliance with authorities to be the best course of action for more immature and suggestible juveniles. They may

think it is best for kids to always comply with adults. Law enforcement officers may feel the same way. In fact, there is some evidence to suggest that in actual interrogations, law enforcement officers urge juveniles to confess because doing so can lessen the severity of the punishment they are given (Feld, 2012). Future studies should aim to determine if law enforcement officers urge more immature juveniles to confess out of concern for the juveniles' wellbeing.

Limitations

As previously mentioned, the present research's interpretability is limited by insufficient statistical power. Future research should aim to determine the replicability of the findings presented here with sufficient statistical power. Also, future researchers should aim to do so while overcoming the other major methodological limitations of the present research.

Potential Confound. The results of both studies may be confounded by the implied criminal intent each of the crimes described in the probable cause statements. Indeed, in the present research, it is implied that the juvenile suspected of sexual assault purposefully assaulted the victim during a robbery; whereas it is implied that the juvenile suspected of murder accidentally killed the victim during a robbery (see Appendix B for the probable cause statements). Measures to determine or control the influence of the intent on the participants' responses were not included in the study. As such, we do not know whether the observed factors (e.g., crime type, perceptions of juveniles) played a larger or smaller role in interrogation practices than the implied criminal intent. There was some evidence to suggest that criminal intent did impact the results.

Law enforcement officers and laypeople were slightly more likely to endorse the use of psychologically coercive tactics on the juvenile suspected of robbery than the

juvenile suspected of murder. This strange and unexpected finding may be because the robbery appeared intentional whereas the murder was accidental. Indeed, prior research suggests that intent to cause harm (i.e., accidental or purposeful) predicts moral disgust (Giner-Sorolla & Chapman, 2017) and there is a well-established link between moral disgust and punitive behaviors in criminal justice contexts. The more morally disgusted people are, the more likely they are to try and punish the person who committed a morally disgusting act (Capenstany & Harris, 2014; Inbar & Pizzarro, 2009; Oltanuji & Puncochar, 2016; Salerno, 2017). The intentionality of the robbery may have made the juvenile suspect seem more morally disgusting and, consequently, law enforcement officers and laypeople were driven toward more punitive behaviors, or psychologically coercive interrogation practices. Unfortunately, with the present research, it is impossible to ascertain the validity of this theory. Future research should directly investigate the role of moral disgust in the differential perceptions and treatment of juveniles suspected of various crimes.

Moral Character. The findings related to the relationship between people's perceptions of juveniles' moral character and interrogation practices may be limited by the moral character evaluation measure. The measure was strictly limited to assessing perceptions of a juvenile's moral character. To do so, characteristics that have been shown to exclusively predict perceptions of moral character were used (Goodwin et al., 2014). Consequently, six of the nine characteristics included in the measure were positively valanced. Moreover, the three negatively valanced items (deceitfulness, irresponsibility, unreliability) were not extremely negative.

Because the moral character evaluation required the participants to think of the juvenile suspects in mostly positive terms, some may argue that the participants' perceptions of the juveniles' moral character were not adequately measured. To do so,

the moral character evaluation may have needed to include more overtly negative characteristics such as evilness, cruelty, and disgustingness; people may be more likely to think of suspected criminals in harsher terms. Future research should aim to replicate the present study's findings related to the relationship between people's perceptions of juveniles' moral character and interrogation practices while using more overtly negative characteristics in their measure of perceived moral character.

Developmental Limitations. The findings related to the relationship between people's acknowledgement of juveniles' developmental limitations and interrogation practices may be limited by the immaturity-DKS and the suggestibility-DKS. Indeed, those measures are based on Meyers, Reppucci, and Kostelnik's (2007, 2010) developmental knowledge scale, which was designed to assess people's acknowledgement of the developmental limitations of children and youths' outside of interrogation contexts. However, in the present research, the measure was used to assess people's acknowledgement of the developmental limitations of youths inside of interrogation contexts. To do so, I gave participants the following instructions, prior to completing the immaturity-DKS and suggestibility-DKS: *As they relate to 14 – 17-year-olds (like the suspect), please respond to the following statements.* However, I did not assess whether participants responded to the measures while thinking about the juvenile suspect they read about in the experiment or if they were thinking about youths in general (outside of interrogation contexts). As such, it is not entirely clear whether the responses to the immaturity-DKS and suggestibility-DKS are indicative of the participants' perceptions of the juvenile suspects' immaturity and suggestibility.

Rank-order Confusion. At the end of both studies, participants were given the opportunity to leave open-ended feedback about the survey. Several participants in both studies mentioned being confused by the directions for the rank-order items. They were

directed to rank three different categories of crimes (first-degree robbery, first-degree rape, first-degree murder) from least (1) to most (3) serious or immoral. They stated that the rankings should be from least (3) to most (1). I purposefully did not use the typical least (3) to most (1) format so that participants would have to think a little bit more when ranking the crimes. However, this may have confused participants. The number of participants who misinterpreted the directions and mis-ranked the crimes cannot be determined. Moreover, participants were not directed to rate the immorality of the specific crime they read about in their assigned probable cause statement. As such, it is impossible to say with any degree of certainty that their rankings of those crime categories would match their rankings of the crimes described in the probable cause statements. As such, we do not know if their rankings of crime immorality extend to the specific crimes they read about.

Fortunately, the limitations of the rank-order items are offset by the fact that the law enforcement officers and laypeople also ranked the non-specific categories of crime from least (1) to most (3) serious. In both studies, the rankings of the seriousness of non-specific categories of crime aligned with the responses to the sliding scale measure of the perceived seriousness of the specific crime they read about in their assigned probable cause statement. Indeed, both measures show that robbery is the least serious crime, and that murder and sexual assault were similarly serious. From this, we can infer that the immorality rankings of the non-specific categories of crime would align with their perceptions of the immorality of the specific crime they read about in their assigned probable cause statement.

Self-reports. The present research was conducted entirely online with self-report measures. As such, it was impossible to control the environment the participants were in when they completed the study. Their responses to the self-report measures may

have been different if they were in a controlled environment. Moreover, the use of self-report measures is problematic in and of itself. Indeed, self-reported perceptions and attitudes are not guaranteed to reflect actual behaviors (see Ajzen & Fishbein, 2005), because they are highly sensitive to response biases (e.g., social desirability; see Paulhus & Vazire, 1964) that can be facilitated or mitigated by their context, format, and phrasing (Schwarz, 1999).

Generalizability. The self-reported interrogation practices gathered in the present research may not reflect the interrogation practices of females or higher-ranking law enforcement officers (namely investigators). Of 226 total participants, five (2%) were female and six (3%) were investigators/detectives. This does not align with the demographics of the law enforcement population at large. Of the near 812,000 law enforcement officers in the United States, around 120,000 are female (15%; Data USA, 2019b) and around 152,000 are investigators (19%; Data USA, 2019a). To have a representative sample, more female law enforcement officers and investigators need to be included. It is especially limiting that the majority of the law enforcement officers were patrol officers rather than investigators because investigators are the most likely to conduct sit-down interrogations with juveniles in controlled settings (Feld, 2012). As such, the present study fails to examine the interrogation practices of the people who are the most likely to conduct them.

CHAPTER 9

CONCLUSION

The present research is one of the few studies to investigate the psychological underpinnings of juvenile interrogation practices. Namely, the effect of the type of crime a juvenile is suspected of on how juvenile suspects are perceived (in terms of moral character, immaturity, and suggestibility) and, in turn, interrogated. The findings rendered from this investigation have several noteworthy implications.

First, exonerees convicted as juveniles for sexual assault are likely underrepresented in wrongful conviction data and underserved by conviction integrity units (i.e., groups of lawyers who investigate potential wrongful convictions). Given that the present research indicates that law enforcement officers are the most likely to endorse the use of psychologically coercive tactics on juveniles suspected of sexual assault, rather than murder or robbery, it is likely that juveniles suspected of sexual assault are more likely to falsely confess than other juveniles. As such, cases involving sexual assault may warrant just as much, if not more, investigations into potential wrongful convictions stemming from false confessions as murder cases.

Second, a crime's immorality may be a better predictor of law enforcement officers' (and potentially other criminal justice personnel) behaviors toward juvenile suspects than a crime's seriousness. Indeed, in the present research, the juveniles suspected of the more immoral, but less serious, crimes were subjected to the most psychologically coercive interrogation tactics. As such, a morality-based standard may be equally, if not more appropriate.

Third, the way interrogators perceive a juvenile suspect's moral character, maturity, and suggestibility influences their interrogation practices. When the juvenile is considered to have a good moral character, interrogators are less likely to endorse the

use of Reid techniques. Moreover, interrogators who more strongly agree that juveniles are more immature and suggestible than adults are more likely to adhere to the PEACE model, less likely to endorse the use of overtly psychologically coercive tactics, and more likely to endorse the use of tactics that encourage compliance with interrogators. These findings make it clear that an effort should be made to determine what can be done to increase the likelihood that law enforcement officers will see the juveniles they interrogate for what they are: kids.

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APPENDIX A

IRB APPROVAL FOR STUDY 1 AND 2

Study 1



EXEMPTION GRANTED

[Kristin Mickelson](#)
[NCIAS: Social and Behavioral Sciences, School of \(SSBS\)](#)
607/543-1632
Kristin.Mickelson@asu.edu

Dear [Kristin Mickelson](#):

On 7/10/2020 the ASU IRB reviewed the following protocol:

Type of Review:	Initial Study
Title:	Juvenile Interrogations: The Roles of Crime Type, Moral Character, and Developmental Knowledge.
Investigator:	Kristin Mickelson
IRB ID:	STUDY00012110
Funding:	Name: Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences, New College of (NCIAS)
Grant Title:	
Grant ID:	
Documents Reviewed:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Consent-Faison(D).pdf, Category: Consent Form;• Faison-IRB(B).pdf, Category: IRB Protocol;• Not_A_Sponsored_Project.pdf, Category: Sponsor Attachment;• recruitment_methods_digital_flyer_06-25-2020(B)(1).pdf, Category: Recruitment Materials;• supporting-documents-06-25-2020(C)(1).pdf, Category: Measures (Survey questions/Interview questions /interview guides/focus group questions);

The IRB determined that the protocol is considered exempt (review category 2) pursuant to Federal Regulations 45CFR46 on 7/8/2020.

In conducting this protocol you are required to follow the requirements listed in the INVESTIGATOR MANUAL (HRP-103).

Study 2



EXEMPTION GRANTED

[Kristin Mickelson](#)
[NCIAS: Social and Behavioral Sciences, School of \(SSBS\)](#)
607/543-1632
Kristin.Mickelson@asu.edu

Dear [Kristin Mickelson](#):

On 11/16/2020 the ASU IRB reviewed the following protocol:

Type of Review:	Modification / Update
Title:	Juvenile Interrogations: The Roles of Crime Type, Moral Character, and Developmental Knowledge.
Investigator:	Kristin Mickelson
IRB ID:	STUDY00012110
Funding:	Name: Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences, New College of (NCIAS)
Grant Title:	None
Grant ID:	None
Documents Reviewed:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Consent(Modified).pdf, Category: Consent Form;• Faison-IRB(Modified2).pdf, Category: IRB Protocol;• RecruitmentFlyer_11_03_2020.pdf, Category: Recruitment Materials;• supporting-documents-11-03-2020(Modified).pdf, Category: Measures (Survey questions/Interview questions /interview guides/focus group questions);

The IRB determined that the protocol is considered exempt pursuant to Federal Regulations 45CFR46 (2) Tests, surveys, interviews, or observation on 11/16/2020.

In conducting this protocol you are required to follow the requirements listed in the INVESTIGATOR MANUAL (HRP-103).

If any changes are made to the study, the IRB must be notified at research.integrity@asu.edu to determine if additional reviews/approvals are required.

APPENDIX B
PROBABLE CAUSE STATEMENTS

Robbery Probable Cause Statement

On Saturday, August 29th, 2017, at approximately 1054 hours, detective Ronald Draper received a call from police officer Sawyer regarding a 22 year-old female found alone and unresponsive inside 1824 Bayside Place, Apartment C, Springfield, [State redacted].

After speaking with primary officer Sawyer, detective Ronald Draper learned that Sawyer was dispatched to 1824 Bayside Place, Apartment C, Springfield, [State redacted], for a check on well being. A 911 caller advised that she had become concerned about her neighbor after hearing loud noises. After police gained access to the apartment with assistance of maintenance, medic #4 transported the unconscious victim to the hospital. Officer Sawyer observed that upon arrival at the scene, she observed dried blood on the outside of the door to Apartment C.

While at the hospital, detective Ronald Draper observed a large laceration to the center of the victim's lip and several smaller lacerations in various locations on her face. Dr. Schmidt M.D. advised that the victim also had blunt force trauma to the head, but would recover quickly. While the victim remained unconscious, detective Ronald Draper spoke with the victim's roommate at the hospital. The roommate reported that she was not at the apartment during the incident and that several items were stolen from the victim: a laptop and a purse, which the roommate believed held at least \$500 cash and a debit card.

A search and seizure warrant was executed at 1824 Bayside Place, Apartment C, Springfield, [State redacted]. Multiple items were recovered during the execution of the search warrant that were related to the investigation, including, but not limited to, blood samples and a broken lamp with blood on it. The suspect (a 15 y.o. male) was apprehended a few blocks from the scene of the crime. He does not admit to robbing and physically

assaulting the victim. DNA testing from the crime scene is still pending. All events occurred in Springfield, [State redacted].

Sexual Assault Probable Cause Statement

On Saturday, August 29th, at approximately 1054 hours, detective Ronald Draper received a call from police officer Sawyer regarding a 22 year-old female found alone and unresponsive inside 1824 Bayside Place, Apartment C, Springfield, [State redacted].

After speaking with primary officer Sawyer, detective Ronald Draper learned that Sawyer was dispatched to 1824 Bayside Place, Apartment C, Springfield, [State redacted], for a check on well being. A 911 caller advised that she had become concerned about her neighbor after hearing loud noises. After police gained access to the apartment with assistance of maintenance, medic #4 transported the unconscious victim to the hospital. Officer Sawyer observed that upon arrival at the scene, she observed dried blood on the outside of the door to Apartment C.

While at the hospital, detective Ronald Draper observed a large laceration to the center of the victim's lip and several smaller lacerations in various locations on her face. Dr. Schmidt M.D. advised that the victim also had blunt force trauma to the head, and it appeared that she had been sexually assaulted. While the victim remained unconscious, detective Ronald Draper spoke with the victim's roommate at the hospital. The roommate reported that she was not at the apartment during the incident and that several items were stolen from the victim: a laptop and a purse which the roommate believed held at least \$500 cash and a debit card.

A search and seizure warrant was executed at 1824 Bayside Place, Apartment C, Springfield, [State redacted]. Multiple items were recovered during the execution of the search warrant that were related to the investigation, including, but not limited to, blood samples and a broken lamp with blood on it.

On Sunday, August 30th, at 0437 hours, Detective Ronald Draper received a call from forensic nurse Ashley Pope who had conducted a rape kit on the victim. Nurse Pope stated that the results of the kit indicated the victim was sexually assaulted. The suspect (a 15 y.o. male) was apprehended a few blocks from the scene of the crime. He does not admit to robbing, physically assaulting, and sexually assaulting the victim. DNA testing is still pending. All events occurred in Springfield, [State redacted].

Murder Probable Cause Statement

On Saturday, August 29th, 2017, at approximately 1054 hours, detective Ronald Draper received a call from police officer Sawyer regarding a 22 year-old female found alone and unresponsive inside 1824 Bayside Place, Apartment C, Springfield, [State redacted].

After speaking with primary officer Sawyer, detective Ronald Draper learned that Sawyer was dispatched to 1824 Bayside Place, Apartment C, Springfield, [State redacted], for a check on well being. A 911 caller advised that she had become concerned about her neighbor after hearing loud noises. After police gained access to the apartment with assistance of maintenance, medic #4 transported the unconscious victim to the hospital. Officer Sawyer observed that upon arrival at the scene, she observed dried blood on the outside of the door to Apartment C.

While at the hospital, detective Ronald Draper observed a large laceration to the center of the victim's lip and several smaller lacerations in various locations on her face. Dr. Schmidt M.D. advised that the victim also had blunt force trauma to the head, and was unlikely to survive. While the victim remained unconscious, detective Ronald Draper spoke with the victim's roommate at the hospital. The roommate reported that she was not at the apartment during the incident and that several items were stolen from the victim: a laptop and a purse which the roommate believed held at least \$500 cash and a debit card.

A search and seizure warrant was executed at 1824 Bayside Place, Apartment C, Springfield, [State redacted]. Multiple items were recovered during the execution of the search warrant that were related to the investigation, including, but not limited to, blood samples and a broken lamp with blood on it.

On Sunday, August 30th, at 0437 hours detective Ronald Draper received a call from Dr. Schmidt M.D. advising that the victim had been pronounced deceased at 0433 hours. On Sunday August 30th, at 0830 hours, detective Ronald Draper attended the autopsy of the victim at the office of the Chief Medical Examiner. Dr. Nguyen M.D. ruled the victim's manner of death to be blunt force trauma to the head. The suspect (a 15 y.o. male) was apprehended a few blocks from the scene of the crime. He does not admit to robbing, physically assaulting, and murdering the victim. DNA testing from the crime scene is still pending. All events occurred in Springfield, [State redacted].

APPENDIX C

STUDY 2: RESULTS OF DIMENSIONALITY, RELIABILITY, AND NORMALITY

TESTING

Positive-MCE

The positive-MCE had a good unidimensional model fit, $\chi^2 [9, n = 171] = 10.64, p = .30, CFI = 1.00, TLI = 1.00, RMSEA = .03, 90\% CI = .00, .09$; and great reliability ($\omega_u = .95; \alpha = .95$).

Negative-MCE

The negative-MCE had a good unidimensional model fit, $\chi^2 [3, n = 171] = 167.13, p < .001, CFI = 1.00, TLI = 1.00, RMSEA = .00, 90\% CI = .00, .00$; and great reliability ($\omega_u = .81; \alpha = .81$).

Maturity-DKS

The maturity-DKS had a poor unidimensional model fit, $\chi^2 [14, n = 171] = 38.93, p < .001, CFI = .90, TLI = .85, RMSEA = .10, 90\% CI = .07, .14$. For the sake of computing the most accurate reliability coefficient for the measure, the maturity-DKS's multidimensionality was explored. An EFA suggested that there were two theoretically nonsensical factors within this measure. When those factors were accounted for, the maturity-DKS had a good multidimensional model fit, $\chi^2 [7, n = 171] = 6.473, p = .486, CFI = 1.00, TLI = 1.00, RMSEA = .00, 90\% CI = .00, .09$; and good reliability ($\omega_h = .77; \alpha = .73$).

Suggestibility-DKS

The suggestibility-DKS had a somewhat poor unidimensional model fit, $\chi^2 [2, n = 171] = 8.86, p = .012, CFI = .97, TLI = .92, RMSEA = .14, 90\% CI = .06, .24$; However, a EFA did not suggest there was multidimensionality (the items rotated into one factor). As such, an omega reliability coefficient for unidimensional measures was calculated ($\omega_u = .83; \alpha = .83$).

Compliance Endorsement

The compliance endorsement scale had a good unidimensional model fit, $\chi^2 [3, n = 171] = 46.17, p < .001, CFI = 1.00, TLI = 1.00, RMSEA = .00, 90\% CI = .00, .00$; however, given the sample size, the reliability was subpar ($\omega_u = .59; \alpha = .60$).

Psychological Coercion.

Psychological Coercion

The psychological coercion scale had a poor unidimensional model fit, $\chi^2 [5, n = 171] = 19.48, p = .002, CFI = .92, TLI = .84, RMSEA = .13, 90\% CI = .07, .19$. For the sake of computing the most accurate reliability coefficient for the measure, the psychological coercion scale's multidimensionality was explored. An EFA suggested that there were two theoretically nonsensical factors within this measure. When those factors were accounted for, the psychological coercion scale had a good multidimensional model fit, $\chi^2 [10, n = 171] = 188.53, p < .001, CFI = .96, TLI = 1.00, RMSEA = .00, 90\% CI = .00, .00$. However, given the sample size, the reliability was subpar ($\omega_h = .61; \alpha = .65$).

PEACE

The CMES had a good unidimensional model fit, $\chi^2 [3, n = 171] = 16.01, p = .001, CFI = 1.00, TLI = 1.00, RMSEA = .00, 90\% CI = .00, .20$; but, given the sample size it was very unreliable ($\omega_u = .41; \alpha = .40$). In other words, the measure is unable to distinguish between random and non-random variance and is unlikely to produce replicable findings. As such, it was excluded from all further analyses.

CMES

The CMES had a good unidimensional model fit, $\chi^2 [2, n = 171] = 8.03, p = .08, CFI = .98, TLI = .94, RMSEA = .13, 90\% CI = .03, .24$. It also had excellent reliability ($\omega_u = .84; \alpha = .83$).

Normality

Although all of the variables were found to be significantly abnormally distributed (Shapiro-Wilk (171) $\leq .983$, $p \leq .034$); however, none of the skew kurtosis statistics indicated extreme ($> |2|$) abnormality and there were no significant outliers (> 3 SDs from average). As such, the variables were considered to be approximately normal.

APPENDIX D

STUDY 1: QUALTRICS SURVEY



Informed Consent

Consent Form

We are a group of faculty at Arizona State University who are conducting research on interrogation practices, police officer burnout, and interdepartmental interactions. We are inviting your participation, which will involve completing an online survey regarding a brief version of a probable cause statement, interrogation practices, officer burnout, and interdepartmental interactions. It will take less than 5 minutes to read the probable cause statement and 15 - 35 minutes to answer all of the questions. As such, it will take around 20 - 40 minutes to complete the entire study.

You have the right to not answer any question and to stop participating at any time. Your participation in this study is voluntary. If you choose not to participate or to withdraw from the study, there will be no penalty. If you choose to participate, you can enter a lottery for ONE of three \$100 Amazon gift cards upon completing the study and passing the attention checks. To participate, you must be at least 18 years old, an active police officer, English-speaking, and living in the United States.

Your participation will help advance the public's understanding of interrogation practices and factors that influence officer proneness for burnout. There are no significant risks involved with participating in this study. However, you may experience some discomfort from reading a probable cause statement from a serious criminal case. A link to a website (copline.org) dedicated to helping officers cope with stressful

situations will be included at the end of the survey. If you experience any discomfort, please visit that website or call the Copline hotline (1-800-267-5463).

Precautions will be taken to keep your responses as confidential and anonymous as possible. Data will be stored on encrypted ASU secure servers. The files will be password protected. To participate in a lottery for the \$100 Amazon gift card, you will be redirected to a second survey where you will enter your email address. The second survey will not be connected with your first survey in any way. The data will be anonymized such that an email address from the second survey cannot be linked to specific data from the first survey. From the second survey, three winners will be randomly selected by the surveying platform (Qualtrics). We will distribute the \$100 Amazon gift cards to the winners via email. Only the winners will need to report their emails. After the winners are selected and rewards are distributed, the secondary survey and the emails gathered by it will be permanently deleted. The results of this study may be used in reports, presentations, or publications. Your name will not be used. The results will only be shared in the summary/statistical form.

If you have any questions concerning the research study, please contact the Principal Investigator: Dr. Mickelson at InterrogationResearchers@asu.edu. If you have any questions about your rights as a subject/participant in this research, or if you feel you have been placed at risk, you can contact the Chair of the Human Subjects Institutional Review Board, through the ASU Office of Research Integrity and Assurance, at (480) 965-6788. Please let me know if you wish to be part of the study.

By selecting “ I AGREE” below, you are agreeing to be a part of the study.

I AGREE

Have you received \$600 or more in the past year for participating in research conducted at ASU? If so, please specify the amount in USD.

- No
- Yes

If you selected yes to the last question, and reported receiving \$600 or more, then you are not eligible to participate in the lottery. However, you can still complete the study.

Demographics

Please respond to the following questions about yourself.

What is your gender identity?

- Male
- Female
- Other

Prefer not to answer

What is your sexual orientation?

- Heterosexual
- Homosexual
- Bisexual
- Asexual
- Other
- Prefer not to answer

How old are you?

What is your race/ethnicity? Check all that apply.

- White (non-Hispanic/Latinx)
- Black or African American
- American Indian or Alaska Native
- Asian
- Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander

- Latinx or Hispanic
- Middle Eastern or North African
- Prefer not to answer

Which job title best corresponds to your job title or primary duties?

- Police/Patrol Officer
- Detective/Investigator
- Corporal
- Lieutenant
- Sergeant
- Captain
- Deputy Sheriff
- Chief of Police

How many years have you been a law enforcement officer?

0 5 10 15 20 25 30 35 40 45 50

Please use the slider.

Which word best describes the location where you work?

- Urban
- Suburban
- Rural

Attention Check Warning

As you take the survey, you will be asked to respond to a few attention checks. If you fail the attention checks, you will NOT be eligible for the lottery.

Experiment Instructions

Please read the following statement. Pay close attention to all of the given information.

Experiment

On Saturday, August 29th, 2017, at approximately 1054 hours, detective Ronald Draper received a call from police officer Sawyer regarding a 22 year-old female found alone and unresponsive inside 1824 Bayside Place, Apartment C, Springfield, [State redacted].

After speaking with primary officer Sawyer, detective Ronald Draper learned that Sawyer was dispatched to 1824 Bayside Place, Apartment C, Springfield, [State redacted], for a check on well being. A 911 caller advised that she had become concerned about her neighbor after hearing loud noises. After police gained access to the apartment with assistance of maintenance, medic #4 transported the unconscious victim to the hospital. Officer Sawyer observed that upon arrival at the scene, she observed dried blood on the outside of the door to Apartment C.

While at the hospital, detective Ronald Draper observed a large laceration to the center of the victim's lip and several smaller lacerations in various locations on her face. Dr. Schmidt M.D. advised that the victim also had blunt force trauma to the head, but would recover quickly. While the victim remained unconscious, detective Ronald Draper spoke with the victim's roommate at the hospital. The roommate reported that she was not at the apartment during the incident and that several items were stolen from the victim: a laptop and a purse, which the roommate believed held at least \$500 cash and a debit card.

A search and seizure warrant was executed at 1824 Bayside Place, Apartment C, Springfield, [State redacted]. Multiple items were recovered during the execution of the search warrant that were related to the investigation, including, but not limited to, blood samples and a broken lamp with blood on it. The suspect (**a 15 y.o. male**) was apprehended a few blocks from the scene of the crime. **He does not admit to robbing and physically assaulting the victim.** DNA testing from the crime scene is still pending. All events occurred in Springfield, [State redacted].

On Saturday, August 29th, 2017, at approximately 1054 hours, detective Ronald Draper received a call from police officer Sawyer regarding a 22 year-old female found alone and unresponsive inside 1824 Bayside Place, Apartment C, Springfield, [State redacted].

After speaking with primary officer Sawyer, detective Ronald Draper learned that Sawyer was dispatched to 1824 Bayside Place, Apartment C, Springfield, [State redacted], for a check on well being. A 911 caller advised that she had become concerned about her neighbor after hearing loud noises. After police gained access to the apartment with assistance of maintenance, medic #4 transported the unconscious victim to the hospital. Officer Sawyer observed that upon arrival at the scene, she observed dried blood on the outside of the door to Apartment C.

While at the hospital, detective Ronald Draper observed a large laceration to the center of the victim's lip and several smaller lacerations in various locations on her face. Dr. Schmidt M.D. advised that the victim also had blunt force trauma to the head, and was unlikely to survive. While the victim remained unconscious, detective Ronald Draper spoke with the victim's roommate at the hospital. The roommate reported that she was not at the apartment during the incident and that several items were stolen from the victim: a laptop and a purse which the roommate believed held at least \$500 cash and a debit card.

A search and seizure warrant was executed at 1824 Bayside Place, Apartment C, Springfield, [State redacted]. Multiple items were recovered during the execution of the search warrant that were related to the investigation, including, but not limited to, blood samples and a broken lamp with blood on it.

On Sunday, August 30th, at 0437 hours detective Ronald Draper received a call from Dr. Schmidt M.D. advising that the victim had been pronounced deceased at 0433 hours. On Sunday August 30th, at 0830 hours, detective Ronald Draper attended the autopsy of the victim at the office of the Chief Medical Examiner. Dr. Nguyen M.D. ruled the victim's manner of death to be blunt force trauma to the head. The suspect (**a 15 y.o. male**) was apprehended a few blocks from the scene of the crime. **He does not admit to robbing, physically assaulting, and murdering the victim.** DNA testing from the crime scene is still pending. All events occurred in Springfield, [State redacted].

On Saturday, August 29th, at approximately 1054 hours, detective Ronald Draper received a call from police officer Sawyer regarding a 22 year-old female found alone and unresponsive inside 1824 Bayside Place, Apartment C, Springfield, [State redacted].

After speaking with primary officer Sawyer, detective Ronald Draper learned that Sawyer was dispatched to 1824 Bayside Place, Apartment C, Springfield, [State redacted], for a check on well being. A 911 caller advised that she had become concerned about her neighbor after hearing loud noises. After police gained access to the apartment with assistance of maintenance, medic #4 transported the unconscious victim to the hospital. Officer Sawyer observed that upon arrival at the scene, she observed dried blood on the outside of the door to Apartment C.

While at the hospital, detective Ronald Draper observed a large laceration to the center of the victim's lip and several smaller lacerations in various locations on her face. Dr. Schmidt M.D. advised that the victim also had blunt force trauma to the head, and it

appeared that she had been sexually assaulted. While the victim remained unconscious, detective Ronald Draper spoke with the victim's roommate at the hospital. The roommate reported that she was not at the apartment during the incident and that several items were stolen from the victim: a laptop and a purse which the roommate believed held at least \$500 cash and a debit card.

A search and seizure warrant was executed at 1824 Bayside Place, Apartment C, Springfield, [State redacted]. Multiple items were recovered during the execution of the search warrant that were related to the investigation, including, but not limited to, blood samples and a broken lamp with blood on it.

On Sunday, August 30th, at 0437 hours, Detective Ronald Draper received a call from forensic nurse Ashley Pope who had conducted a rape kit on the victim. Nurse Pope stated that the results of the kit indicated the victim was sexually assaulted. The suspect (**a 15 y.o. male**) was apprehended a few blocks from the scene of the crime. **He does not admit to robbing, physically assaulting, and sexually assaulting the victim.** DNA testing is still pending. All events occurred in Springfield, [State redacted].

Attention Checks

How old is the suspect?

8

- 15
- 27
- 33

What type of crime was presented in the statement?

- Identity Theft
- Arson
- Public Indecency
- Murder

What type of crime was presented in the statement?

- Robbery
- Arson
- Identity Theft
- Public Indecency

What type of crime was presented in the statement?

- Identity Theft
- Arson
- Sexual Assault
- Public Indecency

Serious Slider

This question is answered using a slider that by default is at 0. If you want your response to be 0, you must click on the slider tab to record your response.

Not Serious At All Extremely Serious

0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100

How serious is the crime?

Moral Character Evaluation

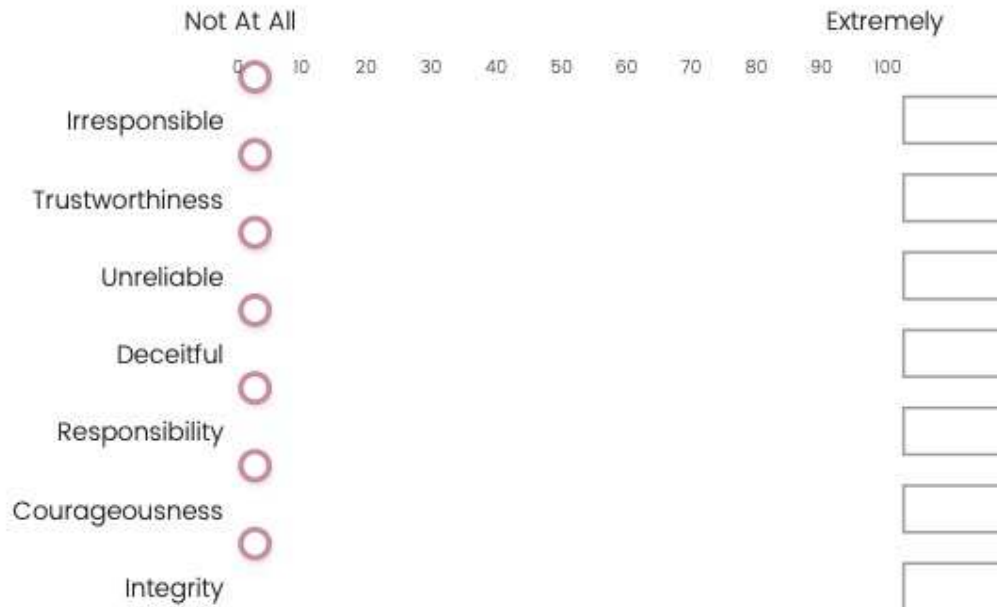
Please rate the suspect on the following characteristics. If you want your response to be 0, you must click on the slider tab to record your response.

Not At All Extremely

0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100

Honesty

Fairness



Intuitive Deception Detection Confidence

Keep in mind that the suspect denies all allegations against them. Please respond to the following statements in terms of how confident you are in their validity.

	Not Confident At All	Moderately Not Confident	Somewhat Not Confident	Neither	Somewhat Confident	Moderately Confident	Extremely Confident
The suspect is lying.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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The suspect is telling the truth.

<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Not Confident At All	Moderately Not Confident	Somewhat Not Confident	Neither	Somewhat Confident	Moderately Confident	Extremely Confident	

How confident are you in your ability to identify lies?

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
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Developmental Knowledge Survey

As they relate to 14 - 17 year olds (like the suspect), please respond to the following statements.

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Slightly Disagree	Slightly Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
Youth are more <i>competent</i> in their decision-making than adults.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Youth are frequently <i>unaware of the long-term consequences</i> of their actions.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Youth are more <i>impulsive</i> than adults.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Slightly Disagree	Slightly Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
Youth are more easily <i>influenced by their peers</i> than adults.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Youth are <i>intimidated</i> by adult authority figures.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Compared to adults, youth are more concerned with <i>immediate outcomes</i> than with future outcomes.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Adults use better <i>judgement</i> than youth.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

As they relate to 14 – 17 year olds (like the suspect), please respond to the following statements.

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Slightly Disagree	Slightly Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
Youths will say untruthful things to <i>please</i> adults.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Youths will say untruthful things if they feel <i>pressured by parents</i> to do so.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Slightly Disagree	Slightly Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
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Youths will say untruthful things if they feel *pressured* by adults to do so.

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
-----------------------	-----------------------	-----------------------	-----------------------	-----------------------	-----------------------	-----------------------

Youths will often *repeat* things adults say.

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
-----------------------	-----------------------	-----------------------	-----------------------	-----------------------	-----------------------	-----------------------

Interrogation Tactics Scale

Imagine you are interrogating the suspect mentioned in the probable cause statement. How likely would you be to do each of the following things in that interrogation?

Extremely Unlikely	Moderately Unlikely	Slightly Unlikely	Equally Likely/Unlikely	Slightly Likely	Moderately Likely	Extrem Likel
-----------------------	------------------------	----------------------	----------------------------	--------------------	----------------------	-----------------

Explain the process and purpose of the interrogation

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
-----------------------	-----------------------	-----------------------	-----------------------	-----------------------	-----------------------	-----------------------	-----------------------

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to the suspect before beginning.

Extremely Unlikely Moderately Unlikely Slightly Unlikely Equally Likely/Unlikely Slightly Likely Moderately Likely Extrem Likel

Ask the suspect to give a detailed description of their involvement with a crime (or lack thereof).

Avoid inferences about a suspect's guilt or innocence.

Ask yes or no questions about their involvement in the suspected crime.

Minimize the severity of the offense.

Extremely Unlikely Moderately Unlikely Slightly Unlikely Equally Likely/Unlikely Slightly Likely Moderately Likely Extrem Likel

Suggest to the suspect that there is incriminating evidence

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against them, even when there isn't.

Extremely Unlikely

Moderately Unlikely

Slightly Unlikely

Equally Likely/Unlikely

Slightly Likely

Moderately Likely

Extremely Likely

Suggest that what the suspect is suspected of is either justified or reasonable.

Emphasize the importance of cooperating with the authorities.

Imply to the suspect that it would be in their best interest to confess.

Emphasize the interrogators expertise.

Extremely Unlikely

Moderately Unlikely

Slightly Unlikely

Equally Likely/Unlikely

Slightly Likely

Moderately Likely

Extremely Likely

Summarize a suspect's account.

Please select Slightly Likely.

Allow the suspect to give their

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give their account uninterrupted.

Extremely Unlikely

Moderately Unlikely

Slightly Unlikely

Equally Likely/Unlikely

Slightly Likely

Moderately Likely

Extremely Likely

Allow a suspect to correct or adjust their statements.

Contradict the suspects' denial of guilt throughout the interrogation.

Immorality Ranking

Please rank the following crimes from least (1) to most (3) **IMMORAL**. To rank them, click and drag each item.

First Degree Robbery

First Degree Rape

First Degree Murder

Gender Expression

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Please respond to the following questions.

A person's appearance, style, or dress may affect the way people think of them. On average, how do you think people would describe **YOUR** appearance, style, or dress?

- Very Feminine
- Mostly Feminine
- Somewhat Feminine
- Equally Feminine and Masculine
- Somewhat Masculine
- Mostly Masculine
- Very Masculine

A person's mannerisms (such as the way they walk or talk) may affect the way people think of them. On average, how do you think people would describe **YOUR** mannerisms?

- Very Feminine
- Mostly Feminine
- Somewhat Feminine
- Equally Feminine and Masculine
- Somewhat Masculine
- Mostly Masculine

Very Masculine

Burnout

Please use the following scale to answer the following question: When you think about your work overall, how often do you feel the following?

	Never	Almost Never	Rarely	Sometimes	Often	Very Often	Always
Tired	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Disappointed with people	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Hopeless	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Trapped	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Helpless	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Depressed	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Physically weak/sickly	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Worthless/Like a failure	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Difficulties sleeping	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
"I've had it"	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Camraderie

Please respond to the following questions about yourself.

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
I can confide in people at work.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I socialize with coworkers outside of the workplace.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I feel I can trust many coworkers a great deal.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I have formed strong friendships at work.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I do not feel that anyone I work with is a true friend.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Being able to see my coworkers is one reason why I look forward to my job.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Brief Perceived Discrimination

Please respond to the following questions.

I feel that I am less likely to get chosen for certain assignments because of "who I am" (e.g., race, gender, sexual orientation, physical characteristics).

- Strongly Disagree
- Disagree
- Somewhat Disagree
- Neither Agree nor Disagree
- Somewhat Agree
- Agree
- Strongly Agree

Which characteristic do you think is **most** responsible for being **less** likely to get chosen for certain assignments?

- Race
- Gender
- Sexual Orientation
- Physical Characteristics

Please respond to the following statements.

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Somewhat Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
Media reports of alleged police wrongdoing are biased against us.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Compared to my peers (same rank), I find that I am likely to be more criticized for my mistakes.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Within the department, gender related jokes are often made in my presence.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Within the department, race related jokes are often made in my presence.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Somewhat Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
When I am assertive or question the way things are done, I am considered militant.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Please select Agree.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Serious Ranking

Please rank the following crimes from least (1) to most (3) **SERIOUS**. To rank them, click and drag each item.

First Degree Robbery

First Degree Murder

First Degree Rape

Qualitative

Would you like to leave any feedback about this study?

Are there any specific policing-related topics that you would like psychology researchers to investigate?

Raffle Entry Text

Thank you so much for participating in this study! Would you like to participate in a lottery for a chance to win an \$100 Amazon gift card? If you select yes, you will be randomly redirected to one of two places: a winning page or a losing page.

- No
 Yes

Thank you so much for participating in this study!
Unfortunately, you did not answer the attention checks correctly. Consequently, you are not eligible to participate in the lottery.

Thank you so much for participating in this study!
Unfortunately, you are not eligible for the lottery because you are already receiving at least \$600 from ASU for research purposes.

Copline

If participating in this study has caused you undue stress, or you just want to vent about things with a fellow cop, you may want to visit <https://www.copline.org/> or call their hotline at 1-800-267-5463.

If you would like to visit <https://www.copline.org/>, select the 'yes' option below. You will be redirected to the website. If you do want to visit the website, you may exit the survey at this time.

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Yes

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APPENDIX E

STUDY 2: QUALTRICS SURVEY



Informed Consent

Consent Form

We are a group of faculty at Arizona State University who are conducting research on interrogation practices. We are inviting your participation, which will involve completing an online survey regarding a brief version of a probable cause statement and interrogation practices. You will have to pretend to be a law enforcement officer while taking this survey. It will take less than 5 minutes to read the probable cause statement and 15 - 35 minutes to answer all of the questions. As such, it will take around 20 - 40 minutes to complete the entire study.

You have the right to not answer any question and to stop participating at any time. Your participation in this study is voluntary. If you choose not to participate or to withdraw from the study, there will be no penalty. If you choose to participate, and you answer all of the attention checks correctly, you will be compensated \$1.15 via Amazon Mechanical Turk. To participate, you must be at least 21 years old, English-speaking, and living in the United States.

Your participation will help advance the public's understanding of interrogation practices. There are no significant risks involved with participating in this study. However, you may experience some discomfort from reading a brief probable cause statement from a serious fictional criminal case. If you experience any undue stress from taking this survey you can visit the National Alliance and Mental Health (NAMI) Helpline

at <https://www.nami.org/help> or you can call 1-800-950-NAMI (6264). At the end of the survey, you will be given the option to be directed to the website.

Precautions will be taken to keep your responses as confidential and anonymous as possible. Data will be stored on encrypted ASU secure servers. The files will be password protected. The results of this study may be used in reports, presentations, or publications. Your name will not be used. The results will only be shared in summary/statistical form.

If you have any questions concerning the research study, please contact the Principal Investigator: Dr. Mickelson at InterrogationResearchers@asu.edu. If you have any questions about your rights as a subject/participant in this research, or if you feel you have been placed at risk, you can contact the Chair of the Human Subjects Institutional Review Board, through the ASU Office of Research Integrity and Assurance, at (480) 965-6788. Please let me know if you wish to be part of the study.

By selecting “ I AGREE” below, you are agreeing to be a part of the study.

I AGREE

Demographics

Please respond to the following questions about yourself.

What is your gender identity?

- Male
- Female
- Other
- Prefer not to answer

What is your sexual orientation?

- Heterosexual
- Homosexual
- Bisexual
- Asexual
- Other
- Prefer not to answer

How old are you?

What is your race/ethnicity? Check all that apply.

- White (non-Hispanic/Latinx)
- Black or African American
- American Indian or Alaska Native
- Asian
- Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander
- Latinx or Hispanic
- Middle Eastern or North African
- Prefer not to answer

What is your primary profession/job?

How many years have you been working in this profession?

0 5 10 15 20 25 30 35 40 45 50

Click and slide the tab.

Does your job require you to frequently work with children (aged 0 - 13)?

- Yes

Do you know any law enforcement officers personally?

- Yes
 No

What is your relationship with the law enforcement officer(s) you know? Select all that apply.

- Work Colleague
 Acquaintance (not work related)
 Friend
 Romantic Partner
 Spouse
 Family Member. Please state the relationship (Sibling, Offspring, Parent, Cousin, Aunt, Uncle, or Grandparent).
 Other (please explain)

Attention Check Warning

As you take the survey, you will be asked to respond to a few attention checks. If you fail the attention checks, you will NOT be eligible for compensation.

Experiment Instructions

Please read the following statement. Pay close attention to all of the given information.

Experiment

On Saturday, August 29th, 2017, at approximately 1054 hours, detective Ronald Draper received a call from police officer Sawyer regarding a 22 year-old female found alone and unresponsive inside 1824 Bayside Place, Apartment C, Springfield, [State redacted].

After speaking with primary officer Sawyer, detective Ronald Draper learned that Sawyer was dispatched to 1824 Bayside Place, Apartment C, Springfield, [State redacted], for a check on well being. A 911 caller advised that she had become concerned about her neighbor after hearing loud noises. After police gained access to the apartment with assistance of maintenance, medic #4 transported the unconscious victim to the hospital. Officer Sawyer observed that upon arrival at the scene, she observed dried blood on the outside of the door to Apartment C.

While at the hospital, detective Ronald Draper observed a large laceration to the center of the victim's lip and several smaller lacerations in various locations on her face. Dr.

Schmidt M.D. advised that the victim also had blunt force trauma to the head, but would recover quickly. While the victim remained unconscious, detective Ronald Draper spoke with the victim's roommate at the hospital. The roommate reported that she was not at the apartment during the incident and that several items were stolen from the victim: a laptop and a purse, which the roommate believed held at least \$500 cash and a debit card.

A search and seizure warrant was executed at 1824 Bayside Place, Apartment C, Springfield, [State redacted]. Multiple items were recovered during the execution of the search warrant that were related to the investigation, including, but not limited to, blood samples and a broken lamp with blood on it. The suspect (**a 15 y.o. male**) was apprehended a few blocks from the scene of the crime. **He does not admit to robbing and physically assaulting the victim.** DNA testing from the crime scene is still pending. All events occurred in Springfield, [State redacted].

On Saturday, August 29th, 2017, at approximately 1054 hours, detective Ronald Draper received a call from police officer Sawyer regarding a 22 year-old female found alone and unresponsive inside 1824 Bayside Place, Apartment C, Springfield, [State redacted].

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outside of the door to Apartment C.

While at the hospital, detective Ronald Draper observed a large laceration to the center of the victim's lip and several smaller lacerations in various locations on her face. Dr. Schmidt M.D. advised that the victim also had blunt force trauma to the head, and was unlikely to survive. While the victim remained unconscious, detective Ronald Draper spoke with the victim's roommate at the hospital. The roommate reported that she was not at the apartment during the incident and that several items were stolen from the victim: a laptop and a purse which the roommate believed held at least \$500 cash and a debit card.

A search and seizure warrant was executed at 1824 Bayside Place, Apartment C, Springfield, [State redacted]. Multiple items were recovered during the execution of the search warrant that were related to the investigation, including, but not limited to, blood samples and a broken lamp with blood on it.

On Sunday, August 30th, at 0437 hours detective Ronald Draper received a call from Dr. Schmidt M.D. advising that the victim had been pronounced deceased at 0433 hours. On Sunday August 30th, at 0830 hours, detective Ronald Draper attended the autopsy of the victim at the office of the Chief Medical Examiner. Dr. Nguyen M.D. ruled the victim's manner of death to be blunt force trauma to the head. The suspect (**a 15 y.o. male**) was apprehended a few blocks from the scene of the crime. **He does not admit to robbing, physically assaulting, and murdering the victim.** DNA testing from the crime scene is still pending. All events occurred in Springfield, [State redacted].

On Saturday, August 29th, at approximately 1054 hours, detective Ronald Draper received a call from police officer Sawyer regarding a 22 year-old female found alone and unresponsive inside 1824 Bayside Place, Apartment C, Springfield, [State redacted].

After speaking with primary officer Sawyer, detective Ronald Draper learned that Sawyer was dispatched to 1824 Bayside Place, Apartment C, Springfield, [State redacted], for a check on well being. A 911 caller advised that she had become concerned about her neighbor after hearing loud noises. After police gained access to the apartment with assistance of maintenance, medic #4 transported the unconscious victim to the hospital. Officer Sawyer observed that upon arrival at the scene, she observed dried blood on the outside of the door to Apartment C.

While at the hospital, detective Ronald Draper observed a large laceration to the center of the victim's lip and several smaller lacerations in various locations on her face. Dr. Schmidt M.D. advised that the victim also had blunt force trauma to the head, and it appeared that she had been sexually assaulted. While the victim remained unconscious, detective Ronald Draper spoke with the victim's roommate at the hospital. The roommate reported that she was not at the apartment during the incident and that several items were stolen from the victim: a laptop and a purse which the roommate believed held at least \$500 cash and a debit card.

A search and seizure warrant was executed at 1824 Bayside Place, Apartment C, Springfield, [State redacted]. Multiple items were recovered during the execution of the search warrant that were related to the investigation, including, but not limited to, blood samples and a broken lamp with blood on it.

On Sunday, August 30th, at 0437 hours, Detective Ronald Draper received a call from forensic nurse Ashley Pope who had conducted a rape kit on the victim. Nurse Pope stated that the results of the kit indicated the victim was sexually assaulted. The suspect (**a 15 y.o. male**) was apprehended a few blocks from the scene of the crime. **He does not admit to robbing, physically assaulting, and sexually assaulting the victim.** DNA testing is still pending. All events occurred in Springfield, [State redacted].

Attention Checks

How old is the suspect?

- 8
- 15
- 27
- 33

What type of crime was presented in the statement?

- Identity Theft
- Arson
- Public Indecency
- Murder



Intuitive Deception Detection Confidence

Keep in mind that the suspect denies all allegations against them. Please respond to the following statements in terms of how confident you are in their validity.

	Not Confident At All	Moderately Not Confident	Somewhat Not Confident	Neither	Somewhat Confident	Moderately Confident	Extremely Confident
The suspect is lying.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The suspect is telling the truth.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
How confident are you in your	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

ability to identify lies?	Not Confident At All	Moderately Not Confident	Somewhat Not Confident	Neither	Somewhat Confident	Moderately Confident	Extremely Confident
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Developmental Knowledge Survey

**As they relate to 14 – 17 year olds (like the suspect),
please respond to the following statements.**

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Slightly Disagree	Slightly Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
Youth are <i>intimidated</i> by adult authority figures.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Compared to adults, youth are more concerned with <i>immediate</i> <i>outcomes</i> than with future outcomes.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Youth are more easily <i>influenced by</i> <i>their peers</i> than adults.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Adults use better <i>judgement</i> than youth.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Youth are more <i>impulsive</i> than adults.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Slightly Disagree	Slightly Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
Youth are more <i>competent</i> in their decision-making than adults.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Youth are frequently <i>unaware of the long-term consequences</i> of their actions.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

As they relate to 14 - 17 year olds (like the suspect), please respond to the following statements.

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Slightly Disagree	Slightly Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
Youths will say untruthful things to <i>please</i> adults.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Youths will often <i>repeat</i> things adults say.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Youths will say untruthful things if they feel <i>pressured by parents</i> to do so.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Youths will say untruthful things if they feel <i>pressured by adults</i> to do so.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Interrogation Tactics Scale

Imagine you are a law enforcement officer interrogating the suspect mentioned in the probable cause statement. How likely would you be to do each of the following things in that interrogation?

	Extremely Unlikely	Moderately Unlikely	Slightly Unlikely	Equally Likely/Unlikely	Slightly Likely	Moderately Likely	Extremely Likely
Explain the process and purpose of the interrogation to the suspect before beginning.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Avoid inferences about a suspect's guilt or innocence.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Summarize a suspect's account.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Ask the suspect to give a detailed description of	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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their involvement with a crime (or lack thereof).

Extremely Unlikely Moderately Unlikely Slightly Unlikely Equally Likely/Unlikely Slightly Likely Moderately Likely Extrem Likel

Contradict the suspects' denial of guilt throughout the interrogation.

Extremely Unlikely Moderately Unlikely Slightly Unlikely Equally Likely/Unlikely Slightly Likely Moderately Likely Extrem Likel

Suggest to the suspect that there is incriminating evidence against them, even when there isn't.

Ask yes or no questions about their involvement in the suspected crime.

Minimize the severity of the offense.

Allow the suspect to give their account uninterrupted.

	Extremely Unlikely	Moderately Unlikely	Slightly Unlikely	Equally Likely/Unlikely	Slightly Likely	Moderately Likely	Extremely Likely
Emphasize the interrogators expertise.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Allow a suspect to correct or adjust their statements.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Emphasize the importance of cooperating with the authorities.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Imply to the suspect that it would be in their best interest to confess.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Suggest that what the suspect is suspected of is either justified or reasonable.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Immorality Ranking

Please rank the following crimes from least (1) to most (3) IMMORAL. To rank them, click and drag each item.

First Degree Rape

First Degree Robbery

First Degree Murder

Serious Ranking

Please rank the following crimes from least (1) to most (3) SERIOUS. To rank them, click and drag each item.

First Degree Murder

First Degree Rape

First Degree Robbery

Crime-Media Engagement Scale

How often do you watch or listen to the following things:

	Never	Rarely	Sometimes	Very Often	Always
True Crime TV Shows	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
True Crime Podcasts	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Fictional Crime Shows	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
True Crime Documentaries	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Qualitative

Would you like to leave any feedback about this study?

Compensation-Yes

Thank you so much for participating in this study! You answered the attention checks correctly so you are eligible for compensation! Here is your unique survey completion code: $\$ \{e://Field/Random\%20ID\}$

Once you have copied that code in pasted it into MTurk, please click the next button on this survey in order to submit your response to this survey.

Compensation-No

If you received a unique survey completion code, please ignore the following message and go to the next page.

If you did not receive a unique survey completion code, you did not respond to the attention checks correctly. Consequently, you are not eligible for compensation. Please go to the next page.

NAMI

Have you experienced any undue stress from taking this survey? If yes, would you like to be redirected to the NAMI Helpline? If you select yes, you will automatically be redirected to the NAMI Helpline website.

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Yes

No

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