

Title:

A Geospatial Analysis of the Crime Commission Process of Sexual Murderers

Authors:

Jonathan James (University of Montreal) & Eric Beauregard (Simon Fraser University).

Abstract:

While there are numerous empirical studies on sexual murderers (see James & Proulx, 2014), little attention has been given to the geospatial analysis of their sexual homicides. Thus, unlike most other types of criminals, sexual murderers journey longer distances during the commission of their crimes (Martineau & Beauregard, 2015). Although the purposes of their mobility is not clearly established (ex.: avoid police detection, carry out a specific sexual ritual), it has been suggested that criminals who premeditated their crimes, or had deviant sexual fantasies (Davies & Dale, 1995; Hazelwood & Warren, 1990) – which are the typical characteristics of serial sexual murderers (*SSM*; James & Proulx, 2014, 2015), travel greater distances. The aim of this study is to verify the hypothesis that geospatial sequence of *SSMs*' crimes differs from those of nonserial sexual murderers (*NSMs*) in terms of distances and multiplicity of locations (contact scene, attack scene, murder scene, body dump site). Informations of 110 sexual murderers (*SSMs* = 25, *NSMs* = 85) having committed a total of 174 homicides in France between 1960 and 2013 will be analyzed (Chi², ANOVA). Geospatial (e.g., places of crime, places of residence, anchor points, indoor/ outdoor locations, vehicle involvement), situational (e.g., time of day, accomplice, routine activities), and victimologic variables (e.g., genre and age of the victim, level of risk, victim/offender relationship) will be analyzed in order to consider all the dimensions that can influence criminal mobility (Rossmo, Lu, & Fang, 2011). Results will help to improve investigation techniques in sexual homicide cases such as identify priority areas of inquiry, prioritize police interrogation of suspects, perform comparative analysis of sexual homicide unsolved cases in order to identify series.

Jonathan James, PhD Candidate
School of Criminology
University of Montreal
PO 6128, Downtown Branch
Montreal, Quebec H3C 3J7 Canada
514-582-2987
jonathan.james@umontreal.ca

Eric Beauregard, PhD
Assistant Professor
School of Criminology
Simon Fraser University
8888 University Drive
Burnaby, British Columbia V5A 1S6 Canada
e.beaureg@sfu.ca