

Version anglaise :

Title: Understanding decision-making regarding crime scene investigation: The need for a multidisciplinary approach

Keywords: Decision-making; Forensic science; Crime scene examiners; Criminology

Abstract:

Crime scene investigators (or crime scene examiners) are key players in the deployment of forensic resources. Possessing important decision-making power over the material traces that will be search, collect and analyzed, they represent the gateway through which forensic science fits into the judicial process. Nevertheless, while the scientific and professional communities of the judicial environment are generally focused on forensic analyzes in the laboratory and on the opinion of the forensic expert at the Court, the crime scene investigation process remains an object of study mostly marginal. In order to promote the development of practices and training in this field, it is proposed to shed light on the decision-making processes specific to the search for traces by crime scene investigators. To do so, it seems essential to combine paradigms, theories and methodologies specific to a range of scientific disciplines in order to consider both the complexity of decision-making and underlying reasoning and the particular position of the crime scene investigator – i.e. at the intersection between the roles of police officer and forensic scientist. The purpose of this presentation is thus to highlight the plus value of an approach integrating notions of forensic science, criminology, psychology and some other disciplines into the study of the crime scene investigation.