Shannon Vettor, PhD

Lecturer, Faculty of Social Science and Humanities at University of Ontario Institute of Technology
Oshawa, ON, CA

Examining offender characteristics and behaviours to aid in criminal investigations and reduce victimization

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Restorative justice is a philosophy that encourages meaningful communication between victims and offenders; and promotes offender accountability, while creating safer and healthier communities. Shannon Vettor, PhD, Lecturer in the Faculty of Social Science and Humanities, largely bases her teaching and research on this collaborative approach aimed at reducing victimization in Canada, and other parts of the world. Understanding the characteristics and behaviours that lead to violent and sexual offending can help the criminal justice system provide better support and rehabilitation to prevent reoffending and further potential victimization. Fascinated by human beings' darker behaviours such as violent offending and abnormal psychology, Dr. Vettor earned her Honours Bachelor of Science with a Double Major in Psychology, and Crime and Deviance from the University of Toronto. An opportunity to learn from one of the world's leading psychology experts spurred her move to England to complete her Master of Science in Psychology and Investigation at the University of Liverpool. She received her Doctorate in Forensic Psychology from the University of Birmingham. Her doctoral research examined ways to analyze the criminal behaviours of sexual offenders, rapists and sexual murderers. She joined UOIT in 2013 and continues to focus on offender profiling to determine whether a perpetrated crime can uncover specific characteristics or behaviours that could assist law enforcement investigations in soliciting a suspect or suspect prioritization. During her doctoral studies, Dr. Vettor also worked with the group Circles of Support and Accountability to help reintegrate sex offenders who had completed time served in prison to reintegrate and become contributing members of society. Her research aimed to understand what might lead them to reoffend, and hold them accountable for dangerous behaviours. A global advocate for the prevention of child maltreatment, Dr. Vettor previously collaborated with the World Health Organization to develop training and information materials for individuals who work in the area of child and family psychology to help reduce physical and sexual abuse of children. European institutions have adopted these materials as part of their education programs. At UOIT, she brings her real-world experience to the classroom, challenging students' critical-thinking skills, and encouraging opposite viewpoint discussion and debate.

Corrections, Education/Learning, Law Enforcement, Public Safety

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Forensic Psychology, Offender Profiling, Restorative Justice, Sexual Victimization

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University of Toronto Department of Medicine

Rapists and Sexual Murderers: Combined Pathways to Offending
2011 Annual Meeting of the American Psychology-Law Society/4th International Congress on Psychology and Law

Routine Activities and Rational Choice: Towards an Integrated Theory of Offender Profiling
Poster Presentation, 2011 Annual Meeting of the American Psychology-Law Society/4th International Congress on Psychology and Law

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University of Birmingham
PhD Forensic Psychology

University of Liverpool
MSc Psychology and Investigation

University of Toronto
Honours BSc Double Major in Psychology, and Crime and Deviance

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