

Abstract

The Issue of an Offender's Personality in Criminology

Serial killers

The cardinal topic of this diploma thesis is an analysis of an offender's personality and the major focus is given on serial killers. Although the serial killer's personality is the main topic of the thesis, a significant part deals with a criminological, forensic psychological and legal theory, involving the explanation of the relevant legal terms.

This diploma thesis aims to provide the reader a comprehensive overview of serial killers. The main goal of the thesis is not only to offer probable profile of the serial killer, but to introduce Czech and foreign expert findings into the context with the Czech law and jurisprudence as well. Also, the thesis aims to help the reader to perceive differences among serial killers, mass killers and spree killers, as these multiple killers are often confused. I present some real cases for better illustration of the issue. From the huge amount of serial killers, I have chosen the most interesting or the most recent ones.

In the first chapter I explain the term offender. I distinguish the legal and criminological point of view. The cardinal topic of the second chapter is the offender's personality. The first part of this chapter is focused psychologically, nevertheless in the introduction I emphasize the importance of the offender's personality analysis in the criminal law. Next, I clarify legal institutes related to the issue, such as the protective treatment, security detention, criminal recidivism or criminal complicity. The third chapter deals with the felony murder. I provide the legal definition including the legal-theoretical interpretation. Afterwards, I show significant contrasts between the male, female and underage offender. At the conclusion of this chapter I describe difference between the serial murder, mass murder and spree murder, and subsequently differences between the murder with the only one victim and the serial killer. In the last chapter I analyse serial killers themselves. I explain what the distinctions between male and female serial killer are, and I introduce some of typologies as well. The last part deals with sexual serial killers, their motivation, profile and profile of the victim.

Keywords: *offender's personality, serial killer, felony murder*