Abstract

Serial murder attracts a lot of layman and scholarly interest alike. Disproportionate majority of scholarly literature in Czech Republic delves into its psychological aspects and offender profiling. Much smaller portion of literature focuses on other specifics of its investigation.

This thesis aims to describe specific problems in the area of investigation and possible solutions to those problems. With regards to the state of Czech and foreign scholarly sources on the topic, literature from English-speaking countries is utilized extensively. When possible and suitable, the output of foreign research is transefered into Czech conditions or a comparison is made. Thesis is continuosly bolstered with case summaries that help to demonstrate topics at hand in practice. The cases chosen are primarily from Czech Republic (or Czechoslovakia, respectively) if available.

First chapter focuses on defining serial murder in relation to certain specifics, that are typical for serial murder, even if they don't occur every time.

Second chapter focuses on problematics of identifying serial murder with extra focus on situations where physical evidence unequivocally connecting murders into a series isn't available. This chapter also delves into „linkage analysis" as a special application of behavioral analysis.

Third chapter is dedicated to additional problems stemming from serial murder signature characteristics. Those are „information overload" and „linkage blindness". First part of this chapter deals with information systems that are available to Police of the Czech Republic and evaluation of their usability and benefits they bring to serial murder investigations. Those systems are Evidence trestního řízení (ETŘ) and Kriminalisticky sledovaná událost (KSU). This chapter also includes ViCLAS (Violent Crime Linkage Analysis System), that has been available to Czech Police until recently, for comparison.