

Forensic Cognition: Theory, Research and Practice

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What sort of thinking occurs in people who sexually molest children, rape adults, or commit acts of violence? Do these people think their actions are legitimate in some instances or do they know their actions are wrong but choose to offend nonetheless? Cognition, or thinking, is recognized as being a key component underlying the way people think and behave. Researchers and practitioners have spent endless time and resources investigating offenders' cognition, to shed light on offenders' antisocial behaviours. In this strongly research-based course, you will learn about some of the influential theories that have been developed to help explain offenders' antisocial actions, the latest cutting edge research designed to help understand why people offend, and widely used treatment programmes designed to alter cognitive characteristics associated with offending in order to reduce recidivism. This course will not be limited to offenders' cognition, however. You will also learn about fascinating social-cognitive phenomena associated with child and adult eyewitness testimony, and how memory can play havoc with the criminal justice system.

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