

pronouncements about Satanism, as they are aware, very few of the more serious allegations of satanic abuse have actually been proved. There is a detailed and harrowing description of what is meant to happen to ritually abused children, but it is unclear how often this type of abuse has actually taken place. Indeed, such evidence as they do produce suggests that Satanism among young people is very much a minority interest. In one sample, only 10 out of 157 adolescents in private psychiatric hospital had any interest in Satanism, although it is perhaps significant that all of these were unusually prone to identity disorders, alcohol abuse and hallucinogen abuse. There is, above all, little evidence that adolescents dabbling in Satanism have much by way of a view of it as a religion or an intellectual system: listening to heavy metal music may be another sign of teenage dreadfulness, but it is hardly a threat to the social or moral fabric.

There is, as the authors make clear, a real problem under all this: how, especially as society becomes more fragmented, do we cope with the concept of evil now that we have decided we are clever enough to do without organized religion? In so far as Palermo and Del Re offer a consistent explanation for juvenile interest in Satanism, they argue that it is connected with a desire by confused and often inadequate young people to find some sort of certainty, a sense of belonging (for those who do join cults), and a sense of empowerment. In the concluding pages of this book it is argued that tales of satanic abuse and organized Satanism have been greatly exaggerated, but that sexual abuse of children, in general, which is a sign of the moral decay and dysfunction of the family. 'A reinterpretation of symbolic meanings and motivations behind facts', we are informed in the closing sentence, 'seems to be the best approach in order to reach an objective appraisal of what is claimed to be satanic abuse' (173). This may be correct, but the process would be facilitated if the facts were properly verified and put in some sort of logical order.

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**Book Review starts here:**

Paul Mullen, Michele Pathé and Rosemary Purcell, *Stalkers and Their Victims*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2000, £24.95 (p/b), 310 pp.

'This greatest of misfortunes, not being able to be alone', a quote from Jean de la Bruyère (1645–96), thoughtfully opens a book which engagingly

embraces the psychological depth, behavioral complexity and historical reach of its topic: the stalking of one person by another.

Paul Mullen, Michele Pathé and Rosemary Purcell, distinguished researchers at the Victorian Institute of Forensic Mental Health, have produced the definitive textbook to date on a behavior they define as 'those repeated acts, experienced as unpleasantly intrusive, which create apprehension and can be understood by a reasonable fellow citizen . . . to be grounds for becoming fearful' (9–10). The defining of the construct of stalking and its epidemiology – lifetime risk, for instance, of being a stalking victim for women ranges from 8% to 15% in America and Australia – leads into the heart of their book: a new typology. In my view this is the best of several typologies which have received attention since the research of Zona *et al.* (1993) at the Los Angeles Police Department Threat Management Unit. Mullen's typology works for three reasons: it is comprehensive; it has withstood initial validation tests; and it uses plain language that suggests many stalking motivations. The rejected, the resentful, the sexually predatory, the socially incompetent and the intimacy-seeking stalkers are their five types, and appear to cover the range of stalkers who present in both criminal and mental health settings.

There are two significant problems, however, with their typology. First, they omit any interjudge reliability data in the book, a striking defect which was also apparent in their introduction of this typology a year earlier (Mullen *et al.*, 1999). There is no validity in science without first establishing reliability, and given the absence of presenting data on agreement of assignment of subjects to their various stalking groups, their attempts to validate are scientifically precipitous.

The second problem is their predatory stalking group. These are individuals who stalk to sexually attack and 'seem to derive excitement from the surreptitious observation of their victim' (98). At first glance, this group appears to address a problem that has dogged other researchers: how to account for subjects who are primarily sexually motivated and stalk their victims beforehand. But a closer look reveals that the induction of fear in the victim during stalking, an essential element in many stalking laws and a component of their own definition of stalking, is not included in their predatory group descriptor. It therefore opens the typological door to all sexual offenders who are planned and organized in their pursuits. The question then becomes: What *isn't* stalking in the realm of habitual criminality? The construct of stalking risks becoming diluted and vague. I would argue that the induction of fear in the victim (necessitating an awareness that stalking is occurring) should be an essential element in all stalking typologies and explicitly mentioned within the behavioural definition of any subgroup of stalkers.

Following a series of excellent chapters that elucidate each type with case-vignettes, the authors present sound theory and original research on the

- Menzies, R., Fedoroff, J., Green, C. and Isaacson, K. (1995) 'Prediction of Dangerous Behaviour in Male Erotomania'. *British Journal of Psychiatry* 166: 529-36.
- Mullen, P. and Pathé, M. (1994) 'The Pathological Extensions of Love'. *British Journal of Psychiatry* 165: 614-23.
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- Pathé, M., Mullen, P. and Purcell, R. (1999) 'Stalking: False Claims of Victimization'. *British Journal of Psychiatry* 174: 170-2.
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- Zona, M., Sharma, K. and Lane, J. (1993) 'A Comparative Study of Erotomantic and Obsessional Subjects in a Forensic Sample'. *Journal of Forensic Sciences* 38: 894-903.

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*Journal of Forensic Psychology Practice*, Binghampton, NY: Haworth Press, 2001, 4 issues (1 vol.), \$45 (individual), \$120 (library), 122 pp. per issue

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This new journal is a welcome addition to the rapidly developing forensic field. In his introduction the editor helpfully asserts a key aim of the journal, which is to 'create a journal whose essential focus considerably moves on the debates about fairness, agency, rights, equity, autonomy, due process, responsibility, freedom, well-being, and the like'. This reassertion of the primacy of ethical issues underpinning forensic practice is both salutary and timely.

In terms of the organization and structure of the journal it is divided into four sections: area reviews; full-length articles; practice updates; and contemporary commentaries. Area reviews amount to short literature reviews but, distinctively, with an emphasis on practice-based implications and applications. Full-length articles are peer reviewed scientific papers, again including a focus upon implications for practice. Practice updates are just that. Under the rubric of 'Contemporary Commentaries', papers are invited on controversies and developments within forensic psychology. The journal is aimed at a wide audience of policy-makers, academics and practitioners. However, the practice focus does appear to be a pervasive theme, perhaps unsurprisingly given the title of the journal.

Bruce Arrigo (the editor) begins the first issue of the journal with his paper on graduate training models in forensic psychology. His review paper travels well across the Atlantic. This is worthy of note because in recent years there

'morbid infatuations', same-gender stalking, stalking by proxy, and false victims of stalking. Although many of these findings have appeared in their earlier science articles (Mullen and Pathé, 1994; Pathé, Mullen and Purcell, 1999; Pathé, Mullen and Purcell, 2000), the book is a pleasure to read and highly informative. Their admiration and criticism of others' efforts, including mine, are balanced and thoughtful.

The 'stalking and assault' chapter continues their careful and comprehensive review of others' work, including an important, reformulated reduction of my proposed homicide rate figure through elementary math that had not occurred to me. They also present original threat and assault data on their expanded sample of 168 cases. The only shortcomings I found in this chapter were an absence of false negative and false positive rates concerning threats and subsequent violence – a valuable computation for risk assessment – and an absence of quantitative data concerning their regression analyses.

The book concludes with chapters on prevention, clinical management of victims, legal contours of stalking laws in the USA, Canada, Great Britain and Australia, and risk management of the stalker. All of these chapters are well written, are organized and reflect the state of this behavioral science.

The devil, however, often dwells in the details, and there are some other specific errors in the book which need correcting. The typology is used in the text before it is explained to the reader (47). The Menzies *et al.* (1995) study included subjects in their 'dangerous' group who had only threatened, one of several errors in a highly flawed study which attempted to predict violence among erotomanics. This methodological problem is missed by Professor Mullen and his co-authors (208). And finally, I did not emphasize borderline personality disorder, but rather borderline personality *organization* in an earlier paper (Meloy, 1989), a substantial clinical difference (141).

Notwithstanding these minor glitches, and my earlier, more substantive criticism of their typology, Mullen, Pathé and Purcell have written a creative, compelling, generally scientifically sound work of clinical and forensic importance. As I have noted, stalking is an old behavior, but a new crime (Meloy, 1999). It is now receiving the first-class research attention it deserves, much of which is being done by my esteemed colleagues in Australia.

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