

BOOK REVIEW

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Review of: *Practical Aspects of Rape Investigation: A Multidisciplinary Approach*, 3rd Ed.

REFERENCE: Hazelwood RR, Burgess AW. *Practical aspects of rape investigation: multidisciplinary approach*, 3rd ed. CRC Press, Boca Raton, FL, 2001, 517 pp.

This text is divided into four sections. The first four chapters deal with the victim—describing the victim's perspective, rape trauma syndrome, crisis care for the victim, and include a review of contemporary issues and a new chapter on victims in nursing homes. The next ten chapters discuss the investigation of rape and sexual assault, focusing on classifying the rape and profiling the behavior of the offender, including a discussion of false confessions. The third section consists of three chapters describing the recognition and collection of forensic evidence, the forensic medical examination of the victim, and the prosecutor's presentation of the case in court. The fourth section consists of six chapters on special populations, including juvenile and female offenders and sexual predators in nursing homes. The stated aim of this 3rd edition is to present current research findings, new forensic techniques, and recent data about special populations of victims and offenders.

The editors and contributors to this book are well known for their expertise in various aspects of rape and sexual assault investigation. The landmark studies described by Hazelwood and Burgess have contributed greatly to the understanding of rape trauma syndrome and established guideposts for classification of sexual crimes and profiling their perpetrators. This work has been a major influence on the modern approach of law enforcement and medical professionals to the investigation of sexual crime.

The authors emphasize the need for all professionals involved in a sexual assault investigation (police, rape crisis advocates, medical personnel) to work as a team. The broad, multidisciplinary nature of the material presented in the text underscores the team approach. The chapters on victim care services and the forensic examination of sexual assault victims include sample examination and interview checklists and other specific practical guidance.

The discussion of "contemporary" issues in the first chapter could have addressed additional topics. For example, there is no discussion of "date rape" drugs, which have become an investigative issue in modern times, or of the revolutionary impact of DNA typing on the investigation of rape cases. The use of DNA for post conviction exoneration of rape suspects and the solution of "cold cases" after

long periods of time are both new developments with profound implications for the rape victim, as well as for the investigator and prosecutor.

Although the first section covers the adult victim of rape and sexual assault in great detail, there is little information provided throughout this text on crisis intervention, interviewing techniques, evidence recovery, and mental health concerns relating to the child victim of sexual abuse. This is perhaps the book's greatest omission.

The chapter on false rape allegations contains useful information on the motivations behind false accusations. However, it would have been appropriate in this context to include also some discussion of the vagaries of eyewitness identifications, "recovered memory" and hypnosis. Also, the authors inexplicably describe the notorious New York case of Tawana Brawley as having occurred in Chicago.

There are two chapters by Spaulding and Bigbee on physical evidence in sexual assault cases. These chapters contain detailed descriptions of various types of evidence and methods for their recovery, albeit presented in a sometimes difficult to read style. The references to ABO and other conventional serology testing in these chapters are a bit dated, as is the focus on RFLP in the description of DNA testing. Although the authors briefly describe PCR technology, they do not stress the vulnerability of the PCR to contamination through improper handling of evidence, nor do they delineate clearly its great utility for small, old and/or degraded evidence from a myriad of tissue sources. For example, they state (page 316) that penile swabbing is generally indicated only when blood is present, ignoring the great value (and high likelihood) of finding vaginal epithelial cell DNA transferred from the victim to the suspect's penis. The text makes no mention of the CODIS database or the PCR-based STR profiling which is now the national standard. These omissions are unfortunate, as DNA technology has major implications for the successful investigation of sexual assault cases (especially old and cold cases) because of its potential to identify suspects via the DNA database.

Despite the relatively minor concerns discussed above, this book contains a wealth of authoritative background information and practical suggestions for all professionals engaged in the multidisciplinary investigation of rape and sexual assault cases.

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