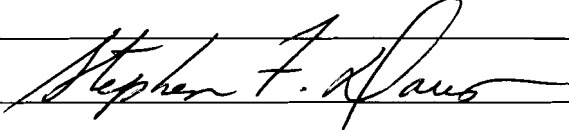


AN ABSTRACT OF THE THESIS OF

Stephanie Lynn Weyers for the Master of Science

in Psychology presented on April 3, 2001

Title: An Examination of Personality Patterns And Criminal Thinking Styles In Offenders

Abstract approved: 

Criminal behavior, why it occurs, and how to prevent it are questions constantly asked by professionals responsible for working with offenders. Variables associated with offenders may give professionals answers to why an offender commits crimes. Previous research has focused on the role of personality traits unique to offenders. Personality traits affect the way individuals interact with others. The interpersonal circle, which was created to identify relationship styles, can be used to learn more about criminal offenders. Additional lines of research have examined criminal thinking styles present in offenders. Focusing on the association between personality traits and cognitive thinking styles appears to be a further method of learning more about offenders. This study used the Psychological Inventory of Criminal Thinking Styles (PICTS), Weinberger Adjustment Inventory (WAI), Sexual Sensation Seeking scale (SSS), and the Sexual Compulsivity Scale (SCS) to examine the relation between personality traits and criminal thinking styles. A sample of 142 men were drawn from a state psychiatric hospital. They were administered the questionnaires which identified personality traits and criminal thinking styles they possessed. Pearson Product Moment correlations were calculated for all pairs of measures. Results indicated several significant correlations. The WAI subscale Consideration of Others negatively associated with six of the PICTS scales. Responsibility negatively correlated with nine of the PICTS scales. Impulse control negatively associated with nine PICTS scales. The WAI subscale Suppression of Aggression resulted in

nine negative correlations. The SSS was positively correlated with seven of the PICTS scales. The SCS yielded seven positive correlations with PICTS scales. These associations provide knowledge about offenders that could be used to develop treatment programs that specifically address characteristics of the offenders. For example, offenders who are able to control impulsive behaviors, suppress their aggression, act responsibly, and take others into consideration possess fewer criminal thinking styles.

**AN EXAMINATION OF PERSONALITY PATTERNS AND  
CRIMINAL THINKING STYLES IN OFFENDERS**

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**A Thesis**

**Presented to**

**the Department of Psychology and Special Education**

**EMPORIA STATE UNIVERSITY**

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**In Partial Fulfillment**

**of the Requirements for the Degree**

**Master of Science**

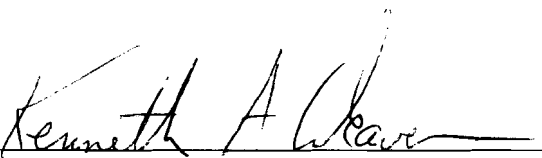
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**by**

**Stephanie Lynn Weyers**

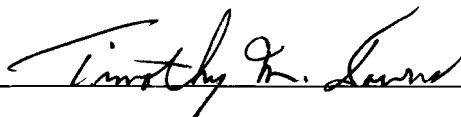
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Approved by the Department of Psychology  
and Special Education



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Approved by the Graduate Council

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## CHAPTER 1

### INTRODUCTION

Understanding criminals and why they commit the crimes they do is something that has confused researchers and professionals for years. Mental health professionals, lawyers, law enforcement officers, judges, and countless others strive everyday to comprehend the reasons for criminal behaviors. However, there are numerous variables to consider in learning more about criminals and their behavior. Some sociological theorists argue that environmental factors such as socioeconomic status and unemployment contribute to criminal behavior (Taylor, Walton, & Young, 1973). However, Eysenck (1998) noted that sociological theories are not framed in a testable fashion. Another argument proposed that environmental factors are filtered through a person's psychological attributes, such as personality and intelligence. The way a person perceives these factors leads to criminal behavior (Eysenck, 1998).

Personality traits and cognitive thinking errors are two variables that help the understanding of criminal behavior. Studies that further the knowledge of the personality traits and cognitive thinking errors that criminals possess are beneficial for everyone affected by criminal behavior. Studies that investigate characteristics unique to criminal populations present an opportunity for professionals who work with these populations to maximize their effectiveness.

#### Personality Traits

Researchers view individual personality traits as a central component in understanding behavior patterns. Personality traits relate to our functioning during particular states of mind and those states that are more stable over time. Certain personality traits, including sensation seeking, are stable throughout a person's life (Davis & Palladino, 2000). Identifying stable personality traits a person possesses allows researchers to learn more about these individuals.



Specifically, Costa and McCrae (1985) have identified Neuroticism (N), Extraversion (E), Openness (O), Agreeableness (A), and Conscientiousness (C) as personality dimensions central to human functioning. Costa and McCrae categorized several personality traits in these five general dimensions. Numerous studies have been conducted to investigate the uses of the Costa and McCrae five-factor model. Researchers (e.g., Soldz, Budman, Demby, & Merry, 1995; Widiger & Lynam, 1998) frequently call the Costa and McCrae model the **Big Five**. Costa and McCrae (1990) noted that variations of the Big Five personality traits are identifiable in persons with personality disorders. Aspects of the five-factor model have been found to relate to criminal behavior. Specifically, Heaven (1996) found sensation seeking, one facet of the extraversion factor, was associated with criminal behaviors. Sensation seeking refers to individuals who are characterized as adventurous and impulsive and act rashly without caution (Widiger & Lynam, 1998).

Researchers have also found that personality is important in studying pathological populations such as criminal offenders. For example, Blackburn (1996), using the Millon Clinical Multiaxial Inventory (MCMI); (Millon, 1983), identified four clusters of patterns that indicated primary psychopathy (narcissistic, antisocial, histrionic, and paranoid), secondary psychopathy (passive-aggressive, avoidant, schizoid, paranoid, antisocial, dependent, and borderline), controlled personality (compulsive and dependent), and inhibited personality (avoidant, schizoid, dependent, and schizotypal). Other studies in which the MCMI was used to identify personality disorders present in offenders suggest that certain traits exist within each disorder (Blackburn & Coid, 1999). In other words, offenders diagnosed with a particular personality disorder share common traits.

In addition, other analyses of antisocial populations using the Special Hospitals Assessment of Personality and Socialisation (SHAPS) scale (Blackburn,

1998b), which measures variables (e.g., impulsive behaviors and hostile attitudes in interpersonal relations) associated with deviant personalities, suggest that the levels of neuroticism and extraversion in mentally disordered offenders explains the main differences in the population (Blackburn, 1998b). Soldz, et al. (1995) found that another personality trait, defensiveness, relates to the Big Five. Defensiveness, as measured by scores on the Defense Style Questionnaire refers to psychological processes or the tendency to use certain defenses (Soldz et al., 1995). For example, an immature defense style is negatively predictive of agreeableness and conscientiousness (Soldz et al., 1995). These studies have provided useful information for understanding how criminal populations differ from other populations.

Less pathological personality traits such as anger, hostility, and impulsiveness are related to criminal behavior. General categories that encompass these traits were created. Considerable research on the individual attributes associated with criminal behavior suggests that criminal offenders are most likely to possess particular personality characteristics that are conducive to crime (Gottfredson & Hirschi, 1990). In other words, particular personality traits contribute to the offenders' inclination to commit crime. For example, Gottfredson and Hirschi (1990) suggested that low self-control is a common feature among persons who commit crimes. Low self-control relates to a need for immediate gratification and an inability to resist that gratification.

Criminal populations often do whatever is necessary to achieve the satisfaction desired, even if it means harming another individual. Walters (1997) and Weinberger (1996) implicated additional personality traits, such as irresponsibility, lack of consideration of others, inability to suppress aggression, self-indulgence, interpersonal intrusiveness, and social rule-breaking tendencies, as causal factors in criminal behavior. Personality characteristics that are most likely

to be associated with how people interact with each other or our interpersonal styles may be centrally important in differentiating criminals from noncriminals.

### Interpersonal Relationships in Criminal Offenders

Concurrently, researchers (e.g., Blackburn, 1998a) have initiated projects that seek to differentiate interpersonal relationship styles among offenders. Criminal offenders are often able to manipulate their victims into believing that they are honest and trustworthy people, when in fact, this manipulation is a part of a completely different interpersonal style. The offenders are hiding their true interpersonal interaction styles in order to gain the confidence of the victim to facilitate the ease of the crime. Identification of an offender's true interpersonal styles gives professionals a clearer picture of the offender.

Blackburn (1998a) identified assertiveness, defiance, hostility, aggression, and adversarial or antiauthority attitudes as ways of classifying social interactions among criminal offenders. He proposed the interpersonal circle model (see Appendix A), that presents these interpersonal variables in two dimensions: (a) power or control in social interactions (dominant versus submissive) and (b) type of affiliation (hostile versus nurturant). The interpersonal circle creates a foundation for identifying variations in personality and a way to describe styles of interaction. Blackburn (1998a) plotted characteristics of any dyadic interaction on the interpersonal circle and explained the results by using the quadrants in which they fall. For example, a person who dominates interactions with others and is coercive would lie in the hostile-dominant quadrant.

Blackburn (1998a) proposed that criminality is associated with the hostile-dominant quadrant of the interpersonal circle, as evidenced by ratings on items such as "blames others," "impulsive," and "threatens others with violence." The interpersonal circle encompasses several of the dimensions proposed by Costa and McCrae (1985). More specifically, the Big Five dimension of agreeableness

coincides with the coercive-compliant axis and extraversion relates to the gregarious-withdrawn axis (Blackburn, 1998a). Assertiveness implies dominance and aggression, and adversarial attitudes reflect the agreeableness-antagonism dimension, corresponding with a coercive interpersonal style (Blackburn, 1998a). These interaction styles may be related to the cognitions or thinking processes of the offenders, a component that plays a key role in criminal behavior.

### Cognitive Thinking Errors

In addition to examining criminal behavior and personality, research also has focused on the effect of cognitive distortions or thinking errors. Cognitive style includes the way individuals perceive, organize, and understand their life experiences (Beautrais, Joyce, & Mulder, 1999). Samenow (1984) suggests that criminals may simply process stimuli differently, by virtue of a set of distortions that become pervasive. Yochelson and Samenow (1976) postulated 52 of these thinking errors that are more common to criminals, including such problems as: taking the victim's stance, failure to consider injury to others, superoptimism, and a lack of time perspective. Other researchers have examined and modified the original 52 thinking errors to further explain criminal thinking. Walters and White (1989) reduced the number of thinking errors to 8 and constructed a scale, the Psychological Inventory of Criminal Thinking Styles (PICTS), to measure criminal thinking styles.

Attachment theories have also shown that an individual's expectancies contribute to thinking errors. More specifically, interactions occur in a way that confirms expectancies of the individual (Blackburn, 1998b). For example, aggressive individuals expect other people to interact with them in an aggressive manner so the individual exhibits behaviors that produce these reactions. These expectations are a result of errors in thinking or a belief that a person will act in a certain way before the person reacts.

## Rationale for the Present Research

Researchers explored the concept that cognitive styles are related to personality traits. For example, Beautrais et al. (1999) found clear associations between personality traits and cognitive styles when determining suicidal risk. In addition, Riding and Wigley (1997) concluded that personality traits and cognitive styles make significant contributions to behavior. Furthermore, Zhang (2000) found an association between personality traits and cognitive styles using a measure of self-government. It stands to reason that an examination of personality traits and cognitive styles or thinking errors in offenders would result in an increased understanding of why offenders commit crimes.

Criminals are one of the least understood yet, one of the most researched populations. Comprehending why criminals commit crimes is central to the safety of every man, woman, and child. The current study examined the personality traits and thinking styles that criminal offenders possess. Identifying personality traits and cognitive thinking styles present in offenders gives professionals a more complete understanding of the offender. In turn, this knowledge and understanding can be used in several ways. For example, determining stable personality traits and thinking styles that criminals possess would give professionals responsible for working with criminal offenders the ability to treat them in a more effective manner. Several researchers have addressed the relation between personality attributes and thinking errors to devise treatment options (Walters & White, 1989).

Walters and White (1989) suggested that treatment should not only stop the reinforcement provided by thinking errors but should also be directed at the belief system of the criminal. Criminals' belief systems are a part of their thinking style, and beliefs are related to personality attributes that offenders possess. Thus, addressing the belief system of the offender in treatment will be more effective than

simply directing treatment at the crime. Similarly, Templeman and Wollersheim (1979) have based their treatment methodology for psychopaths on the assumption that it will be more effective if treatment operates within the patient's own framework (i.e., the patient's own way of thinking about things and the traits he/she possesses).

Furthermore, a more complete test of Blackburn's (1998a) theory could prove useful in furthering methods of differentiating interpersonal styles among offenders. Blackburn (1998a) created the interpersonal circle that encompasses several interpersonal variables in two dimensions: (a) dominant versus submissive and (b) hostile versus nurturant. In addition, Blackburn (1998a) proposed that criminal interactions are associated with the hostile-dominant quadrant of the interpersonal circle.

### Hypotheses

This study explored the relation between certain personality patterns often associated with the criminal thinking styles. The following hypotheses are investigated:

1. Personality traits are related to cognitions of criminal offenders and interact to produce criminal behavior. The Weinberger Adjustment Inventory (WAI) subscales (Responsibility, Consideration of Others, Impulse Control, and Suppression of Aggression) correspond to the Submissive-Nurturant sector of the interpersonal circle. These scales will be negatively associated with scores on the PICTS. This hypothesis is in accord with theory and data.
2. Sexual behaviors and the desire for sexual contact is part of an individual's makeup. Cognitive styles include beliefs about what type and amount of sexual contact is appropriate or desired. Therefore, the scores on the Sexual Sensation Seeking Scale (SSS; Kalichman & Rompa, 1995) and Sexual Compulsivity Scale

(SCS; Kalichman & Rompa, 1995) are representative of the Dominant-Hostile sector and will, therefore be positively correlated with the scores on the PICTS.

## CHAPTER 2

### METHOD

#### Participants

Participants were 142 men at a state psychiatric hospital. Ages ranged from 18 to 69 ( $M = 33.42$ ,  $SD = 9.60$ ). The sample consisted of 85.2% Caucasian participants, 12% African-American participants, 0.7% Asian-American participants, 0.7% Native American participants, and 0.7% were of other ethnic origin. Educational levels ranged from 1 to 18 years of formal education ( $M = 11.34$ ,  $SD = 2.17$ ). 49.3% were single, 22.5% were married, 24.6% were divorced, and 2.8% were widowed. Participants were incarcerated for a variety of offenses (murder, robbery, theft, sexual assaults, etc.). However, the majority of this sample were sexual offenders.

#### Instruments

Weinberger Adjustment Inventory. The Weinberger Adjustment Inventory (WAI; Weinberger, 1996) is an 84-item Likert-type inventory designed to measure long-term functioning, rather than short-term symptoms. Participants code their responses on a scale with 1 = false, 2 = somewhat false, 3 = not sure, 4 = somewhat true, 5 = true. There are two constructs examined by this inventory: distress and restraint. This study focuses on the restraint construct which consists of 4 subscales: Suppression of Aggression, Impulse Control, Responsibility, and Consideration of Others (see Appendix B). Scores are determined by reverse scoring 52 items. The subscale Suppression of Aggression is calculated by adding items 36, 50, 66, 68, 73, 80, and 84. Impulse Control is comprised of items 8, 19, 48, 54, 57, 63, and 72. The subscale Responsibility is calculated by adding items 20, 49, 55, 56, 60, 67, and 71. The final subscale, Consideration of Others is determined by adding items 4, 26, 47, 51, 59, 65, and 77.



Internal consistency performed on the restraint construct revealed coefficients ranging from .85 to .91 (Weinberger, 1996). Alpha coefficients in adult clinical samples for the restraint subscales ranged from .68 on Consideration of Others to .82 for Suppression of Aggression. Nonclinical adult sample alpha coefficients ranged from .70 on the Responsibility subscale to .76 for Suppression of Aggression (Weinberger, 1996).

Sexual Sensation Seeking. The Sexual Sensation Seeking scale (SSS; Kalichman & Rompa, 1995) is an 11-item Likert-type scale designed to measure the need for varied, complex sexual experiences. Participants code their answers on a scale with 1 = not at all like me and 4 = being very much like me (see Appendix C). The score on the SSS scale is calculated by summing all items on the measure. An internal consistency study produced an alpha coefficient of .75 (Kalichman et al., 1994). Additional research resulted in a discriminant validity coefficient of .56 (Kalichman et al., 1994).

Sexual Compulsivity Scale. The Sexual Compulsivity Scale (SCS; Kalichman & Rompa, 1995) is an 11-item Likert-type scale designed to measure obsessive preoccupations with sexual acts and encounters. Participants code their answers on a scale with 1 = not at all like me and 4 = very much like me (see Appendix D). The score on the SCS is determined by adding all items on the measure. Reliability studies on the SCS revealed an alpha coefficient of .89 (Kalichman et al., 1994). Research regarding discriminant validity of the SCS produced a coefficient of .38 (Kalichman et al., 1994).

Psychological Inventory of Criminal Thinking Styles. The Psychological Inventory of Criminal Thinking Styles (PICTS; Walters, 1995a, 1995b) is an 80-item Likert-type scale designed to measure criminal thinking styles. Participants code their answers on a scale with 1 = disagree and 4 = strongly agree. The PICTS is made up of 8 scales: Mollification, Cutoff, Entitlement, Power Orientation,

Sentimentality, Superoptimism, Cognitive Indolence, and Discontinuity. It also contains two validity scales: Confusion and Defensiveness (see Appendix E). Scores on the subscales are determined by reverse scoring items 48, 55, 69, 3, 10, 32, 58, and 72. The Mollification subscale is calculated by summing items 2, 8, 14, 17, 35, 45, 53, and 71. Cutoff is determined by adding items 6, 20, 31, 40, 57, 64, 70, and 7. The Entitlement subscale is comprised of adding items 1, 12, 28, 33, 38, 65, 73, and 80. Power Orientation is made up of items 9, 18, 24, 34, 41, 49, 66, and 75. The subscale Sentimentality is determined by summing items 15, 19, 25, 37, 50, 56, 67, and 77. Superoptimism is comprised of items 5, 13, 22, 29, 44, 52, 61, and 76. The Cognitive Indolence subscale is calculated by adding items 16, 23, 30, 43, 51, 54, 63, and 74. Discontinuity is comprised of items 4, 26, 36, 47, 59, 62, 68, and 78. The validity scale - Confusion is determined by summing items 3, 11, 27, 39, 48, 55, and 60. Defensiveness is calculated by adding items 7, 10, 21, 32, 42, 46, and 58.

Internal consistency studies performed using coefficient alpha produced coefficients ranging from .36 on the validity scale - Defensiveness to .79 on Discontinuity (Walters, 1995a). Test-retest reliability coefficients at 2 weeks ranged from .47 on the validity scale - Defensiveness to .85 on Discontinuity (Walters, 1995a). Twelve-week test-retest reliability coefficients fell between .42 on the validity scale - Defensiveness and .86 on the Power Orientation scale (Walters, Elliott, & Miscoll, 1998).

### Procedure

The researcher approached all patients currently residing on the Forensic Unit of the Lincoln Regional Center and asked them to participate in the study. In addition, the intake psychologist asked new patients admitted between November, 1996 and July, 1999 to complete the measures as a part of the intake process. Informed consent was obtained from each participant as a part of routine treatment

and program evaluation. According to the Lincoln Regional Center policies, a signed informed consent is not required. The policy states an individual's participation in the study constitutes informed consent.

Demographic information was gathered from each participant's file. The researcher obtained permission from the Lincoln Regional Center to examine each participating inmate's file as a part of routine program evaluation. Each participant completed the Weinberger Adjustment Inventory, Sexual Sensation Seeking Scale, Sexual Compulsivity Scale, and the Psychological Inventory of Criminal Thinking Styles. The researcher assigned each participant a number and data were kept in a locked file cabinet in order to insure confidentiality. Participants completed the measures in one session. However, participants completed the testing in additional sessions, if necessary. Additional sessions occurred on less than 10 occasions.



Table 2

**Intercorrelations Between Psychological Inventory of Criminal Thinking Styles Scales and Weinberger Adjustment Inventory Subscales**

| PICTS | <u>WAI Subscales</u> |             |         |             |         |             |        |             |
|-------|----------------------|-------------|---------|-------------|---------|-------------|--------|-------------|
|       | SA                   | Effect Size | IC      | Effect Size | R       | Effect Size | CO     | Effect Size |
| Mo    | -.37***              | .14         | -.46*** | .21         | -.53*** | .28         | -.17*  | .03         |
| Co    | -.55***              | .30         | -.54*** | .29         | -.57*** | .32         | -.24** | .06         |
| En    | -.36***              | .13         | -.44*** | .19         | -.44*** | .19         | -.18*  | .03         |
| Po    | -.37***              | .14         | -.36*** | .13         | -.40*** | .16         | -.25** | .06         |
| Sn    | -.25**               | .06         | -.39*** | .15         | -.40*** | .16         | -.10   | .01         |
| So    | -.36***              | .13         | -.38*** | .14         | -.40*** | .16         | -.11   | .01         |
| Ci    | -.44***              | .19         | -.59*** | .35         | -.57*** | .37         | -.17*  | .03         |
| Ds    | -.39***              | .15         | -.60*** | .36         | -.57*** | .32         | -.22** | .05         |
| Cf    | -.28***              | .08         | -.31*** | .10         | -.29*** | .08         | -.09   | .01         |
| Df    | .16*                 | .03         | .12     | .01         | .12     | .01         | .12    | .01         |

\* $p < .05$

\*\* $p < .01$

\*\*\* $p < .001$

Note.

PICTS Scales

Mo - Mollification

Co - Cutoff

En - Entitlement

Po - Power Orientation

Sn - Sentimentality

So - Superoptimism

Ci - Cognitive Indolence

Ds - Discontinuity

Validity: Cf - Confusion

Df - Defensiveness

WAI Subscales

SA - Suppression of Aggression

IC - Impulse Control

R - Responsibility

CO - Consideration of Others

Table 3

**Intercorrelations Between Psychological Inventory of Criminal Thinking Styles Scales and Sexual Sensation Seeking and Sexual Compulsivity Scale**

| PICTS Scales | SSS    | Effect Size | SCS    | Effect Size |
|--------------|--------|-------------|--------|-------------|
| Mo           | .27*** | .07         | .25**  | .06         |
| Co           | .36*** | .13         | .36*** | .13         |
| En           | .33*** | .11         | .30*** | .09         |
| Po           | .36*** | .13         | .46*** | .21         |
| Sn           | .16*   | .03         | .15    | .02         |
| So           | .26*** | .07         | .35*** | .12         |
| Ci           | .32*** | .10         | .35*** | .12         |
| Ds           | .23**  | .05         | .29*** | .08         |
| Cf           | .01    | .00         | -.01   | .00         |
| Df           | -.08   | .00         | -.20** | .04         |

\* $p < .05$

\*\* $p < .01$

\*\*\* $p < .001$

Note.

PICTS Scales

Mo - Mollification

Co - Cutoff

En - Entitlement

Po - Power Orientation

Sn - Sentimentality

So - Superoptimism

Ci - Cognitive Indolence

Ds - Discontinuity

Validity: Cf - Confusion

Df - Defensiveness

SSS - Sexual Sensation Seeking

SCS - Sexual Compulsivity Scale

responsibility found in offenders is also characterized by an overestimation of the likelihood that they will avoid consequences for criminal behavior, focusing on social injustice, exhibiting an attitude of ownership, performing good deeds to make up for past crimes, and having disorganized thought processes.

The Suppression of Aggression subscale showed significant correlations with Mollification, Entitlement, Power Orientation, Sentimentality, Superoptimism, Cognitive Indolence, Discontinuity, Cutoff, and the validity scales - Confusion and Defensiveness. An inability to suppress aggression is related to blaming the victim, an inability to identify needs and wants, overestimating the likelihood of avoiding consequences of criminal behavior, and easily accepting personal desires.

The Impulse Control subscale revealed significant correlations with Superoptimism, Cognitive Indolence, Discontinuity, Mollification, Entitlement, Power Orientation, Sentimentality, Cutoff, and validity scale - Confusion. Offenders who overestimate the likelihood that they will avoid consequences for their crimes, use short cuts to solve problems, possess disorganized thought processes that lead to inadequate self-discipline, blame their victims, and complete good deeds to make up for past crimes are not able to control their impulses.

#### PICTS and SCS Correlations

The SCS showed significant correlations with PICTS scales Superoptimism, Cognitive Indolence, Discontinuity, Mollification, Entitlement, Power Orientation, Cutoff, and validity scale - Defensiveness. Offenders who are obsessed with sexual encounters also tend to overestimate their ability to avoid consequences for criminal behavior, accept their personal desires easily, have thought processes that lead to inadequate self-discipline, blame their victims, and appear outwardly aggressive so they can manipulate others.

### PICTS and SSS Correlations

The SSS revealed significant correlations with PICTS scales Superoptimism, Sentimentality, Cognitive Indolence, Discontinuity, Mollification, Cutoff, Entitlement, and Power Orientation. A need for varied, complex sexual experiences is related to overestimating the likelihood of avoiding consequences for crimes, using short cuts in solving problems, having disorganized thought processes leading to inadequate self-discipline, blaming the victim, quickly terminating anxiety, and misidentifying needs and wants.



## CHAPTER 4

### DISCUSSION

The purpose of this study was to examine the relation between personality traits and cognitive thinking styles. Responses of 142 men incarcerated at a state psychiatric hospital were analyzed to determine this relation. Participants completed the Psychological Inventory of Criminal Thinking Styles (PICTS), Weinberger Adjustment Inventory (WAI), Sexual Sensation Seeking scale (SSS), and Sexual Compulsivity Scale (SCS).

#### Support for Research Hypotheses

The first hypothesis stated that personality traits are related to cognitions of criminal offenders and interact to produce criminal behavior. The Weinberger Adjustment Inventory (WAI) subscales (Responsibility, Consideration of Others, Impulse Control, and Suppression of Aggression) correspond to the Submissive-Nurturant sector of the interpersonal circle. These scales would be negatively associated with scores on the PICTS. This hypothesis was supported. The WAI subscale Responsibility was negatively correlated with nine scales on the PICTS. Consideration of Others was negatively associated with six PICTS scales. Suppression of Aggression resulted in ten negative correlations. The WAI subscale Impulse Control was negatively correlated with nine PICTS scales. The personality traits Consideration of Others, Suppression of Aggression, Impulse Control, and Responsibility included on the Weinberger Adjustment Inventory are characteristic of the Submissive-Nurturant sector. Therefore, offenders who are able to control impulsive behaviors, suppress their aggression, act responsibly, and take other people into consideration possess fewer criminal thinking styles as measures by the PICTS.

The second hypothesis stated that sexual behaviors and the desire for sexual contact is part of an individual's makeup. Cognitive styles include beliefs

about what type and amount of sexual contact is appropriate or desired. Therefore, the scores on the Sexual Sensation Seeking scale (SSS) and Sexual Compulsivity Scale (SCS) are representative of the Dominant-Hostile sector and would positively correlate with scores on the PICTS. This hypothesis was supported. The SSS was positively correlated with eight of the PICTS scales. Likewise, the SCS yielded eight positive correlations with PICTS scales. These traits are representative of Dominant-Hostile actions, therefore, offenders who are preoccupied with sexual acts and feel they need complex sexual experiences also possess more cognitive thinking errors.

### Associated Findings

Results of the present study corroborated findings that particular personality traits are found in criminal offenders (Blackburn, 1996; Heaven, 1996). Furthermore, the present study validated findings that offenders are most likely to possess particular personality characteristics that are conducive to crime, such as low self-control (Gottfredson & Hirschi, 1990). The present study corroborated findings by Walters and White (1996) that irresponsibility, lack of consideration of others, inability to suppress aggression, self-indulgence, interpersonal intrusiveness, and social rule-breaking tendencies are related to criminal behavior.

Blackburn's (1998a) interpersonal circle encompasses several variables related to styles of interaction. The present study served to further identify variables found within two of the quadrants of the interpersonal circle. The results of the present study confirmed previous studies that found an association between cognitive thinking styles and personality traits (Riding & Wigley, 1997; Zhang, 2000). Therefore, treatment that stops reinforcement provided by thinking errors and addresses the belief system and traits an offender possesses will be more effective than simply directing treatment at the crime (Templeman & Wollersheim, 1979).

The present study revealed some unexpected correlations. For example, the Psychological Inventory of Criminal Thinking Styles (PICTS) Defensiveness scale positively correlated with the Weinberger Adjustment Inventory's (WAI) Suppression of Aggression subscale. In addition, Defensiveness did not reveal significant correlations with any of the other WAI subscales. This result could indicate that offenders who possess a defensive cognitive thinking style are more likely to suppress their aggression. The WAI's Consideration of Others subscale did not reveal significant correlations with PICTS scales - Sentimentality, Superoptimism, or the validity scales Confusion and Defensiveness. This result suggests that there is no relation between consideration of others and performing good deeds in order to make up for past crimes and overestimating the likelihood of avoiding the consequences of criminal behavior.

The PICTS Sentimentality scale did not reveal a significant correlation with SCS. Therefore, there is no relation between a preoccupation with sexual encounters and performing good deeds to make up for past crimes. In addition, there was no significant association between the PICTS Confusion scale and SSS or SCS.

### General Conclusions

The present study confirmed that personality traits and cognitive thinking styles are related. The identification of personality traits and cognitive styles found in offenders gives professionals working with these individuals a broader understanding of the offenders. In addition, the results of the present study further research that strives to reduce the amount of crime. The study provides additional knowledge about general characteristics that interact within an offender possibly resulting in a tendency to commit crime. Therefore, professionals responsible for working with offenders can use the information provided by the current study to have a clearer impression of what factors contribute to an offender's actions. It

stands to reason that this knowledge can be used in a variety of ways. For example, as stated previously, mental health professionals can use this information to formulate treatment options in order to be more effective in reducing the crime rates.

### Limitations

There were several limitations to this study. First, this study was not a complete test of Blackburn's (1998a) theory. Replications of this study could include personality traits that mapped onto each sector of the interpersonal circle. For example, certain types of crimes may be more prevalent in individuals who fall in the hostile-submissive or the nurturant-submissive quadrants (see Appendix A). Second, the participants drawn for this study were all men. Further studies on female populations may be useful in comparing personality traits and cognitive thinking styles present in male and female offenders. Studies that utilize juvenile offenders may be useful in determining ways to prevent adolescent offenders from continuing along a destructive course. The present study used four WAI subscales. Additional research that includes all the WAI subscales would prove useful in furthering the knowledge of characteristics offenders possess.

The population in the present study consisted of mentally ill offenders. Further research on nonmentally ill offenders could be used for comparison purposes to differentiate personality attributes that may be due in part to the mental illness. In addition, the current participants were primarily sex offenders. Additional studies should be done on nonsexual offenders in order to further differentiate interpersonal styles among other types of offenders.

### Implication

This study supported the idea that personality traits and cognitive thinking styles are related. If professionals can identify personality traits and cognitive thinking errors that are present, then they will have the potential to formulate

treatment programs that address these characteristics. Walters and White (1989) suggested that treatment should not only stop the reinforcement provided by thinking errors but should also be directed at the belief system of the criminal. The present study provided further information useful in the treatment process.

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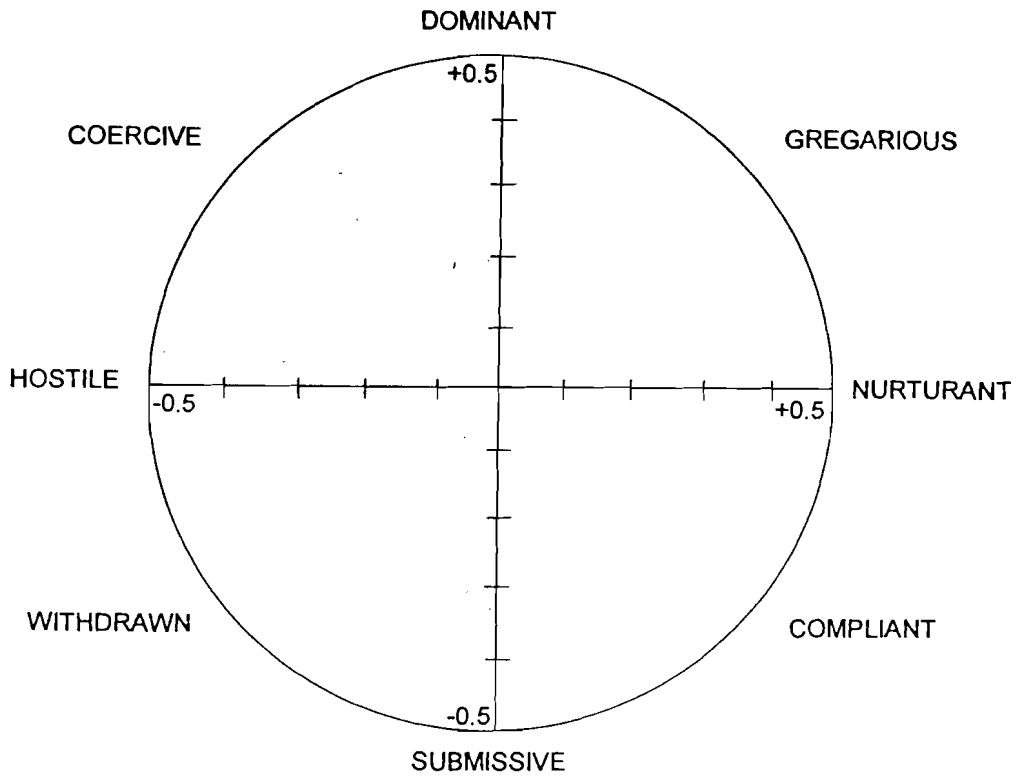
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**APPENDIX A**  
**Interpersonal Circle**



**APPENDIX B****Weinberger Adjustment Inventory**

## Weinberger Adjustment Inventory

The purpose of these questions is to understand what you are usually like or what you have usually felt, not just during the past few weeks but over the past year or more.

Please read each sentence carefully and circle the number that best describes you. For each sentence in Part I, decide whether it is: (1) false or mostly false for you; (2) somewhat false, (i.e., more false than true); (4) somewhat true (i.e., more true than false); or (5) true or mostly true for you. If you can't really say it's more true or more false, circle (3) not sure.

### Part I

---

1. I enjoy most of the things I do during the week.  

|   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
2. There have been times when I said I would do one thing but did something else.  

|   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
3. I often feel that nobody really cares about me the way I want them to.  

|   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
4. Doing things to help other people is more important to me than almost anything else.  

|   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
5. I spend a lot of time thinking about things that might go wrong.  

|   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
6. There are times when I'm not very proud of how well I've done something.  

|   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
7. No matter what I'm doing, I usually have a good time.  

|   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
8. I'm the kind of person who will try anything once, even if it's not that safe.  

|   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
9. I'm not very sure of myself.  

|   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
10. Some things have happened this year that I felt unhappy about at the time.  

|   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
11. Once in a while, I don't do something that someone asked me to do.  

|   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
12. I can remember a time when I was so angry at someone that I felt like hurting them.  

|   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
13. I am answering these questions truthfully.  

|   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
14. In recent years, there have been a lot of times when I've felt unhappy or down about things.  

|   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
15. I usually think of myself as a happy person.  

|   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|---|---|---|---|---|

16. I have done some things that weren't right and felt sorry about it later.  
1                      2                      3                      4                      5
17. I usually don't let things upset me too much.  
1                      2                      3                      4                      5
18. I can think of times when I did not feel very good about myself.  
1                      2                      3                      4                      5
19. I should try harder to control myself when I'm having fun.  
1                      2                      3                      4                      5
20. I do things that are against the law more often than most people.  
1                      2                      3                      4                      5
21. I really don't like myself very much.  
1                      2                      3                      4                      5
22. I usually have a great time when I do things with other people.  
1                      2                      3                      4                      5
23. When I try something for the first time, I am always sure that I will be good  
at it.  
1                      2                      3                      4                      5
24. I never feel sad about things that happen to me.  
1                      2                      3                      4                      5
25. I never act like I know more about something than I really do.  
1                      2                      3                      4                      5
26. I often go out of my way to do things for other people.  
1                      2                      3                      4                      5
27. I sometimes feel so bad about myself that I wish I were somebody else.  
1                      2                      3                      4                      5
28. I'm the kind of person who smiles and laughs a lot.  
1                      2                      3                      4                      5
29. Once in a while, I say bad things about people that I would not say in front  
of them.  
1                      2                      3                      4                      5
30. Once in a while, I break a promise I've made.  
1                      2                      3                      4                      5
31. Once in a while, I get upset about something that I later see was not that  
important.  
1                      2                      3                      4                      5
32. Everyone makes mistakes at least once in a while.  
1                      2                      3                      4                      5
33. Most of the time, I really don't worry about things very much.  
1                      2                      3                      4                      5
34. I'm the kind of person who has a lot of fun.  
1                      2                      3                      4                      5
35. I often feel like not trying any more because I can't seem to make things  
better.  
1                      2                      3                      4                      5

36. People who get me angry better watch out.  
1                      2                      3                      4                      5
37. There have been times when I did not finish something because I spent too much time “goofing off.”  
1                      2                      3                      4                      5
38. I worry too much about things that aren’t important.  
1                      2                      3                      4                      5
39. There have been times when I didn’t let people know about something I did wrong.  
1                      2                      3                      4                      5
40. I am never unkind to people I don’t like.  
1                      2                      3                      4                      5
41. I sometimes give up doing something because I don’t think I’m very good at it.  
1                      2                      3                      4                      5
42. I often feel sad or unhappy.  
1                      2                      3                      4                      5
43. Once in a while, I say things that are not completely true.  
1                      2                      3                      4                      5
44. I usually feel I’m the kind of person I want to be.  
1                      2                      3                      4                      5
45. I have never met anyone younger than I am.  
1                      2                      3                      4                      5

The questions in Part II relate to how often you think, feel, or act a certain way. Again, we want to know what is usual for you even if it hasn't happened in the past couple of days or last few weeks. After you read each sentence carefully, please circle how often it is true: (1) almost never or never, (2) not often, (3) sometimes, or an average amount, (4) often, or (5) almost always or always.

## Part II

---

46. I feel I can do things as well as other people can.  
 1                      2                      3                      4                      5
47. I think about other people's feelings before I do something they might not like.  
 1                      2                      3                      4                      5
48. I do things without giving them enough thought.  
 1                      2                      3                      4                      5
49. When I have the chance, I take things I want that don't really belong to me.  
 1                      2                      3                      4                      5
50. If someone tries to hurt me, I make sure I get even with them.  
 1                      2                      3                      4                      5
51. I enjoy doing things for other people, even when I don't receive anything in return.  
 1                      2                      3                      4                      5
52. I feel afraid if I think someone might hurt me.  
 1                      2                      3                      4                      5
53. I get into such a bad mood that I feel like just sitting around and doing nothing.  
 1                      2                      3                      4                      5
54. I become "wild and crazy" and do things other people might not like.  
 1                      2                      3                      4                      5
55. I do things that are really not fair to people I don't care about.  
 1                      2                      3                      4                      5
56. I will cheat on something if I know no one will find out.  
 1                      2                      3                      4                      5
57. When I'm doing something for fun (for example, partying, acting silly), I tend to get carried away and go too far.  
 1                      2                      3                      4                      5
58. I feel very happy.  
 1                      2                      3                      4                      5
59. I make sure that doing what I want will not cause problems for other people.  
 1                      2                      3                      4                      5
60. I break laws and rules I don't agree with.  
 1                      2                      3                      4                      5
61. I feel at least a little upset when people point out things I have done wrong.  
 1                      2                      3                      4                      5
62. I feel that I am a special or important person.  
 1                      2                      3                      4                      5

63. I like to do new and different things that many people would consider weird or not really safe.  
 1                      2                      3                      4                      5
64. I get nervous when I know I need to do my best (on a job, team, etc.).  
 1                      2                      3                      4                      5
65. Before I do something, I think about how it will affect the people around me.  
 1                      2                      3                      4                      5
66. If someone does something, I really don't like, I yell at them about it.  
 1                      2                      3                      4                      5
67. People can depend on me to do what I know I should.  
 1                      2                      3                      4                      5
68. I lose my temper and "let people have it" when I'm angry.  
 1                      2                      3                      4                      5
69. I feel so down and unhappy that nothing makes me feel much better.  
 1                      2                      3                      4                      5
70. In recent years, I have felt more nervous or worried about things than I have needed to.  
 1                      2                      3                      4                      5
71. I do things that I know really aren't right.  
 1                      2                      3                      4                      5
72. I say the first thing that comes into my mind without thinking enough about it.  
 1                      2                      3                      4                      5
73. I pick on people I don't like.  
 1                      2                      3                      4                      5
74. I feel afraid something terrible might happen to me or somebody I care about.  
 1                      2                      3                      4                      5
75. I feel a little down when I don't do as well as I thought I would.  
 1                      2                      3                      4                      5
76. If people I like do things without asking me to join them, I feel a little left out.  
 1                      2                      3                      4                      5
77. I try very hard not to hurt other people's feelings.  
 1                      2                      3                      4                      5
78. I feel nervous or afraid that things won't work out the way I would like them to.  
 1                      2                      3                      4                      5
79. I stop and think things through before I act.  
 1                      2                      3                      4                      5
80. I say something mean to someone who has upset me.  
 1                      2                      3                      4                      5
81. I make sure I stay out of trouble.  
 1                      2                      3                      4                      5
82. I feel lonely.  
 1                      2                      3                      4                      5
83. I feel that I am really good at things I try to do.  
 1                      2                      3                      4                      5



84. When someone tries to start a fight with me, I fight back.

1

2

3

4

5

APPENDIX C  
Sexual Sensation Seeking

## Sexual Sensation Seeking

1. I like wild “uninhibited” sexual encounters.

|                    |   |   |                   |
|--------------------|---|---|-------------------|
| 1                  | 2 | 3 | 4                 |
| Not at all like me |   |   | Very much like me |

2. The physical sensations are the most important thing about having sex.

|                    |   |   |                   |
|--------------------|---|---|-------------------|
| 1                  | 2 | 3 | 4                 |
| Not at all like me |   |   | Very much like me |

3. I enjoy the sensation of intercourse without a condom.

|                    |   |   |                   |
|--------------------|---|---|-------------------|
| 1                  | 2 | 3 | 4                 |
| Not at all like me |   |   | Very much like me |

4. My sexual partners probably think I am a “risk taker.”

|                    |   |   |                   |
|--------------------|---|---|-------------------|
| 1                  | 2 | 3 | 4                 |
| Not at all like me |   |   | Very much like me |

5. When it come to sex, physical attraction is more important to me than how well I know the person.

|                    |   |   |                   |
|--------------------|---|---|-------------------|
| 1                  | 2 | 3 | 4                 |
| Not at all like me |   |   | Very much like me |

6. I enjoy the company of “sensual” people.

|                    |   |   |                   |
|--------------------|---|---|-------------------|
| 1                  | 2 | 3 | 4                 |
| Not at all like me |   |   | Very much like me |

7. I enjoy watching “X-rated” videos.

|                    |   |   |                   |
|--------------------|---|---|-------------------|
| 1                  | 2 | 3 | 4                 |
| Not at all like me |   |   | Very much like me |

8. I have said things that were not exactly true to get a person to have sex with me.

|                    |   |   |                   |
|--------------------|---|---|-------------------|
| 1                  | 2 | 3 | 4                 |
| Not at all like me |   |   | Very much like me |

9. I am interested in trying out new sexual experiences.

|                    |   |   |                   |
|--------------------|---|---|-------------------|
| 1                  | 2 | 3 | 4                 |
| Not at all like me |   |   | Very much like me |

10. I feel like exploring my sexuality.

|                    |   |   |                   |
|--------------------|---|---|-------------------|
| 1                  | 2 | 3 | 4                 |
| Not at all like me |   |   | Very much like me |

11. I like to have new and exciting sexual experiences and sensations.

|                    |   |   |                   |
|--------------------|---|---|-------------------|
| 1                  | 2 | 3 | 4                 |
| Not at all like me |   |   | Very much like me |

APPENDIX D  
Sexual Compulsivity Scale

### Sexual Compulsivity Scale

1. My sexual appetite has gotten in the way of my relationships.

|                    |   |   |                   |
|--------------------|---|---|-------------------|
| 1                  | 2 | 3 | 4                 |
| Not at all like me |   |   | Very much like me |

2. My sexual thoughts and behaviors are causing problems in my life.

|                    |   |   |                   |
|--------------------|---|---|-------------------|
| 1                  | 2 | 3 | 4                 |
| Not at all like me |   |   | Very much like me |

3. My desires to have sex have disrupted my daily life.

|                    |   |   |                   |
|--------------------|---|---|-------------------|
| 1                  | 2 | 3 | 4                 |
| Not at all like me |   |   | Very much like me |

4. I sometimes fail to meet my commitments and responsibilities because of my sexual behaviors.

|                    |   |   |                   |
|--------------------|---|---|-------------------|
| 1                  | 2 | 3 | 4                 |
| Not at all like me |   |   | Very much like me |

5. I sometimes get so horny I could lose control.

|                    |   |   |                   |
|--------------------|---|---|-------------------|
| 1                  | 2 | 3 | 4                 |
| Not at all like me |   |   | Very much like me |

6. I find myself thinking about sex while at work.

|                    |   |   |                   |
|--------------------|---|---|-------------------|
| 1                  | 2 | 3 | 4                 |
| Not at all like me |   |   | Very much like me |

7. I feel my sexual thoughts and feelings are stronger than I am.

|                    |   |   |                   |
|--------------------|---|---|-------------------|
| 1                  | 2 | 3 | 4                 |
| Not at all like me |   |   | Very much like me |

8. I have to struggle to control my sexual thoughts and behavior.

|                    |   |   |                   |
|--------------------|---|---|-------------------|
| 1                  | 2 | 3 | 4                 |
| Not at all like me |   |   | Very much like me |

9. I think about sex more times than I would like to.

|                    |   |   |                   |
|--------------------|---|---|-------------------|
| 1                  | 2 | 3 | 4                 |
| Not at all like me |   |   | Very much like me |

10. It has been difficult for me to find sex partners who desire having sex as much as I want to do.

|                    |   |   |                   |
|--------------------|---|---|-------------------|
| 1                  | 2 | 3 | 4                 |
| Not at all like me |   |   | Very much like me |

**APPENDIX E****Psychological Inventory of Criminal Thinking Styles**

## Psychological Inventory of Criminal Thinking Styles

Directions: The following items, if answered honestly, are designed to help you better understand your thinking and behavior. Please take the time to complete each of the 80 items on this inventory using the following four-point scale defined below:

4 = strongly agree

3 = agree

2 = uncertain

1 = disagree

- |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. I will allow nothing to get in the way of me getting what I want.  | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| 2. I find myself blaming society and external circumstances for the problems I have   | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| 3. My mind is free of any serious psychological problems or difficulties.   | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| 4. Even though I may start out with the best of intentions I have trouble remaining focused and staying “on track”.                                     | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| 5. There is nothing I can’t do if I try hard enough.  | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| 6. When pressured by life’s problems I have said “the hell with it” and followed this up by using drugs or engaging in crime.                           | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| 7. I see no reason to change my behavior at this point in my life.  | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| 8. I have found myself blaming several of my adult male victims by saying things like “they deserved what they got” or “they should have known better”. | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| 9. One of the first things I consider in sizing up another person is whether they look strong or weak.  | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| 10. I occasionally think of things too horrible to talk about.  | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| 11. I am afraid of losing my mind.  | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| 12. The way I look at it, I’ve paid my dues and am therefore justified in taking what I want.   | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| 13. The more I got away with crime the more I thought there was no way the police or authorities would ever catch up with me.                           | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |

14. I believe that breaking the law is no big deal as long as you don't physically hurt someone.  
4                      3                      2                      1
15. I have helped out friends and family with money acquired illegally.  
4                      3                      2                      1
16. I am uncritical of my thoughts and ideas to the point that I ignore the problems and difficulties associated with these plans until it is too late.  
4                      3                      2                      1
17. It is unfair that I have been imprisoned for my crimes when bank presidents, lawyers, and politicians get away with all sorts of illegal and unethical behavior every day.  
4                      3                      2                      1
18. I find myself arguing with others over relatively trivial matters.  
4                      3                      2                      1
19. I can honestly say that the welfare of my victims was something I took into account when I committed my crimes.  
4                      3                      2                      1
20. When frustrated I find myself saying "fuck it" and then engaging in some irresponsible or irrational act.  
4                      3                      2                      1
21. I have many fewer problems than other people.  
4                      3                      2                      1
22. Even when I got caught for a crime I would convince myself that there was no way they would convict me or send me to prison.  
4                      3                      2                      1
23. I find myself taking shortcuts, even if I know these shortcuts will interfere with my ability to achieve certain long-term goals.  
4                      3                      2                      1
24. When not in control of a situation I feel weak and helpless and experience a desire to exert power over others.  
4                      3                      2                      1
25. Despite the criminal life I have led, deep down I am basically a good person.  
4                      3                      2                      1
26. I will frequently start an activity, project, or job but then never finish it.  
4                      3                      2                      1
27. I regularly hear voices and see visions which others do not hear or see.  
4                      3                      2                      1
28. When it's all said and done, society owes me.  
4                      3                      2                      1
29. I have said to myself more than once that if it wasn't for someone "snitching" on me I would have never gotten caught.  
4                      3                      2                      1
30. I tend to let things go which should probably be attended to, based on my belief that they will work themselves out.  
4                      3                      2                      1



31. I have used alcohol or drugs to eliminate fear or apprehension before committing a crime.  
4                      3                      2                      1
32. I have made mistakes in life.  
4                      3                      2                      1
33. On the streets I would tell myself I needed to rob or steal in order to continue living the life I had coming.  
4                      3                      2                      1
34. I like to be on center stage in my relationships and conversations with others, controlling things as much as possible.  
4                      3                      2                      1
35. When questioned about my motives for engaging in crime, I have justified my behavior by pointing out how hard my life has been.  
4                      3                      2                      1
36. I have trouble following through on good initial intentions.  
4                      3                      2                      1
37. I find myself expressing tender feelings toward animals or little children in order to make myself feel better after committing a crime or engaging in irresponsible behavior.  
4                      3                      2                      1
38. There have been times in my life when I felt I was above the law.  
4                      3                      2                      1
39. It seems that I have trouble concentrating on the simplest of tasks.  
4                      3                      2                      1
40. I tend to act impulsively under stress.  
4                      3                      2                      1
41. Why should I be made to appear worthless in front of friends and family when it is so easy to take from others.  
4                      3                      2                      1
42. I have never had any regrets about living a life of crime.  
4                      3                      2                      1
43. I tend to put off until tomorrow what should have been done today.  
4                      3                      2                      1
44. Although I have always realized that I might get caught for a crime, I would tell myself that there was “no way they would catch my this time”.  
4                      3                      2                      1
45. I have justified selling drugs, burglarizing homes, or robbing banks by telling myself that if I didn’t do it someone else would.  
4                      3                      2                      1
46. I make it a point to read the financial section of the newspaper before turning to the sports page or entertainment section.  
4                      3                      2                      1
47. People have difficulty understanding me because I tend to jump around from subject to subject when talking.  
4                      3                      2                      1

48. I get at least four to five hours of sleep most nights.  
4                      3                      2                      1
49. Nobody tells me what to do and if they try I will respond with intimidation, threats, or I might even get physically aggressive.  
4                      3                      2                      1
50. When I commit a crime or act irresponsibly I will perform a "good deed" or do something nice for someone as a way of making up for the harm I have caused.  
4                      3                      2                      1
51. I have difficulty critically evaluating my thoughts, ideas, and plans.  
4                      3                      2                      1
52. Nobody before or after can do it better than me because I am stronger, smarter, or slicker than most people.  
4                      3                      2                      1
53. I have rationalized my irresponsible actions with such statements as "everybody else is doing it so why shouldn't I".  
4                      3                      2                      1
54. If challenged I will sometimes go along by saying "yeah, you're right," even when I know the other person is wrong, because it's easier than arguing with them about it.  
4                      3                      2                      1
55. I am not seriously mentally ill.  
4                      3                      2                      1
56. The way I look at it I'm not really a criminal because I never intended to hurt anyone.  
4                      3                      2                      1
57. I still find myself saying "the hell with working a regular job, I'll just take it".  
4                      3                      2                      1
58. I sometimes wish I could take back certain things I have said or done.  
4                      3                      2                      1
59. Looking back over my life I can see now that I lacked direction and consistency of purpose.  
4                      3                      2                      1
60. Strange odors, for which there is no explanation, come to me for no apparent reason.  
4                      3                      2                      1
61. When on the streets I believed I could use drugs and avoid the negative consequences (addiction, compulsive use) that I observed in others.  
4                      3                      2                      1
62. I tend to be rather easily sidetracked so that I rarely finish what I start.  
4                      3                      2                      1
63. If there is a short-cut or easy way around something I will find it.  
4                      3                      2                      1
64. I have trouble controlling my angry feelings.  
4                      3                      2                      1

65. I believe that I am a special person and that my situation deserves special consideration.  
4 3 2 1
66. There is nothing worse than being seen as weak or helpless.  
4 3 2 1
67. I view the positive things I have done for others as making up for the negative things.  
4 3 2 1
68. Even when I set goals I frequently do not obtain them because I am distracted by events going on around me.  
4 3 2 1
69. I have never "blacked out" except perhaps when I was drunk or using drugs.  
4 3 2 1
70. When frustrated I will throw rational thought to the wind with such statements as "fuck it" or "the hell with it".  
4 3 2 1
71. I have told myself that I would never have had to engage in crime if I had a good job.  
4 3 2 1
72. I can see that my life would be more satisfying if I could learn to make better decisions.  
4 3 2 1
73. There have been times when I have felt entitled to break the law in order to pay for a vacation, new car, or expensive clothing that I told myself I needed.  
4 3 2 1
74. I rarely considered the consequences of my actions when I was in the community.  
4 3 2 1
75. A significant portion of my life on the streets was spent trying to control people and situations.  
4 3 2 1
76. When I first began breaking the law I was very cautious, but as time went by and I didn't get caught I became overconfident and convinced myself that I could do just about anything and get away with it.  
4 3 2 1
77. As I look back on it now, I was a pretty good guy even though I was involved in crime.  
4 3 2 1
78. There have been times when I have made plans to do something with my family and then cancelled these plans so that I could hang out with my friends, use drugs, or commit crimes.  
4 3 2 1
79. I tend to push problems to the side rather than dealing with them.  
4 3 2 1

80. I have used good behavior (abstaining from crime for a period of time) or various situations (fight with a spouse) to give myself permission to commit a crime or engage in other irresponsible activities such as using drugs.

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Stephanie Lynn Weyers  
Signature of Author

May 2, 2001  
Date

An Examination of Personality Patterns  
and Criminal Thinking Styles in Offenders.  
Title of Thesis

Randy Cooper  
Signature of Graduate Office Staff

May 2, 2001  
Date Received

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