

uniformly applying strategy and tactics from one hostage situation to another, saying that there are no guarantees that this will be effective even if the situation appears similar. He alerts to the 'external forces' that can impact on process including the political background and to ensure that this is considered in planning tactics of negotiation.

I recommend this book to any professional involved in crisis negotiation but also to those who have an interest in terrorism and the response by the services to serious incidents.

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### **Detecting lies and deceit: Pitfalls and opportunities (second edition)**

*Edited by Aldert Vrij*

Chichester: Wiley, 2008.

#### ***Using science to separate myths from reality in human deception detection***

In a new television series entitled *Lie to Me*, produced by the Fox Broadcasting Company, the lead character Dr Cal Leightman is portrayed as one of the world's foremost experts in human lie detection (see <http://www.fox.com/lietome>). Leightman relies upon facial expressions and involuntary non-verbal behaviours to distinguish truths and lies, suggesting that these methods are highly discriminate and useful in everyday investigative practice. The belief that such cues are valid indicators of deception is not new, but in fact has been promulgated by a variety of commercial training programmes alleging that they can significantly improve a person's ability to identify deception. For example, Reid and Associates (see <http://www.reid.com>) have promoted the Behavioural Analysis Interview™ (BAI) in which investigators are trained to distinguish verbal and non-verbal indicators of truth and deception, while the Laboratory for Scientific Interrogation, Inc. (LSI; see <http://www.lscan.com>) offers training in Scientific Content Analysis (SCAN) - a method that focuses primarily on verbal indicators of deception. The critical question, of course, is whether any of the above approaches are truly effective in distinguishing truth and deception.

In the 2nd edition of his critically acclaimed volume entitled, *Detecting lies and deceit: Pitfalls and opportunities*, Prof. Aldert Vrij (University of Portsmouth) relies upon the latest scientific knowledge to separate myth from reality in the realm of human lie detection. Vrij is, in fact, the world's foremost expert on deception detection, having authored over 300 articles and book chapters on the topic. For those who have read Vrij's (2000) original text, this revised and updated edition is a significant contribution worthy of examination. Vrij's writing is accessible to academic researchers, professional investigators, and lay readers alike, and it is simply a 'must read' for those interested in the truth about lie detection. In the remainder of this review we highlight some of the improvements to this new edition and discuss a few shortcomings.

The first thing that any reader familiar with Vrij's (2000) original text will note is that the 2nd edition is a significant update that includes the latest research findings. The organization of the volume has also improved, with cleaner distinctions between chapters and a more appropriate use of subheadings that help guide the reader through the content. Throughout the text, Vrij has also succeeded in summarizing a comprehensive body of empirical research on lie detection, including both laboratory and field studies. In fact, over 1,000 references are included, a majority involving peer-reviewed research in leading psychological journals, and Vrij's description of the research is crisp, clear, and appropriately critical. One particular aspect of the revised edition that we found useful were the many tables summarizing data from empirical studies conducted on a particular topic, such as the accuracy of lay and professional lie detectors in judging adults versus children (Tables 6.2-6.4), the efficacy of criteria-based content analysis (Table 8.3), and the effects of training on deception detection performance (Appendix 15.1).

In the first half of the book, Vrij concentrates on chapters that lay a foundation of knowledge regarding the social psychology of lying, verbal and nonverbal cues to deception, individuals' beliefs about such cues to deception, and factors that influence lie detection performance. These chapters represent a nice revision to the previous edition, with more recent empirical studies well represented in the discussion. If we had to quibble with Vrij regarding his coverage of this basic research literature, we would likely focus on three issues. First, Vrij's original text appeared more critical of non-verbal cues to deception than the 2nd edition. Given that many commercial training programmes are based upon such cues and that research generally challenges their diagnostic value (see DePaulo *et al.*, 2003; Sporer & Schwandt, 2007), a stronger critique of this approach to deception detection would have seemed appropriate. Second, there is a burgeoning literature on indirect cues to lie detection that seems missing from Vrij's 2nd edition (for a review, see DePaulo & Morris, 2004). Finally, we would have liked to see a more concerted focus on the role of culture in telling lies and detecting deception, as opposed to the occasional section on culture across chapters (for a review, see Bond & Rao, 2004). We are particularly interested in whether research could identify cues that are 'culturally independent', such as detection approaches that rely upon certain fundamental limitations in cognitive capacity, basic physiological responses, or shared emotional responses that transcend culture.

In the second half of the 2nd edition, Vrij focuses his attention on popular 'tools' of credibility assessment, including Statement Validity Assessment, Reality Monitoring, and the polygraph. New to this volume (and a significant addition we might add) are chapters focusing on Reid's BAI, LSI's SCAN technique, and novel physiological approaches involving functional magnetic resonance imaging and event related brain potentials. We applaud Vrij for including a scientific evaluation of these approaches – many of which are being sold commercially to local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies. While Vrij could not possibly critique every available deception detection tool, some coverage of other popular detection approaches might have been useful, including a discussion of Stan Walter's Kinesic Interviewing (see <http://www.kinesic.com>) and a more complete critique of Paul Ekman's research on micro expressions (Ekman & O'Sullivan, 2006; see <http://www.paulekman.com>). Investigators and criminal justice agencies are beginning to rely upon the research community for identifying diagnostic approaches to credibility assessment, and we are confident that readers will find Vrij's current treatment of popular approaches to be quite useful in this regard.

In closing, we are pleased to endorse Vrij's 2nd edition as a valued contribution to the deception detection literature. Despite the few shortcomings noted above, Vrij has offered an invaluable review and assessment of current research that is certain to solidify his place as the leading expert on credibility assessment. The text is highly accessible and will undoubtedly prove useful both as a primer on the science of lie detection for academics and professionals, and as a primary text for graduate courses on credibility assessment. In our view, however, the volume's most valued quality is its use of science to separate myth from reality in the arena of human lie detection.

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### **Assessing risk in sex offenders: A practitioners guide (1st edition)**

By Leam A. Craig, Kevin D. Browne and Anthony R. Beech

Chichester: Wiley-Blackwell, 2008. pp. 249. ISBN: 978-0-470-01897-2

This book includes a wealth of information on sexual offending, risk factors, risk assessment approaches and policies and practice strategies. Written by three leading contributors to this field, this book would undoubtedly be an excellent resource for practitioners and students alike.

The text is divided into five sections with the first examining the background, developmental framework, and predictive accuracy of risk assessment methodologies. This section introduces the reader to the area of sexual offending by including an excellent summary of the descriptions, typologies, and statistics relating to various sexual offender subgroups. Also included are descriptions of multi-factorial theories of sexual offending and discussion of the key concepts of treatment programmes targeted at sexual offending and their effectiveness. The development of offending behaviour and the use of behavioural frameworks are also discussed, which carefully illustrate how sexual offending can be understood in terms of antecedents, behaviours, and consequences and includes a helpful description of the 'functional analysis' process. The last chapter within this section focuses upon the methodological considerations in measuring predictive accuracy highlighting limitations of such tools, recommendations for their use and a summary of the development of actuarial risk assessment.

Sections 2 and 3 consider in turn static and dynamic risk factors associated with sexual offending and recidivism. They give a comprehensive review of risk assessments analysing their strengths and weaknesses and provide a helpful chapter on treatment and sexual recidivism based on the 'what works' principles as well as presenting research on the effectiveness of such treatment programmes.

Section 4 concerns the structuring of risk assessment, drawing upon some of the concepts within previous chapters. It focuses on aetiology and risk and includes discussion on the future of risk assessment including the authors' proposed risk-aetiological model. The advantage of this model is that it would take into account much of the previous research and risk factors that been found to heighten an individual's risk of sexual offending and combine it into one assessment method.

The final section focuses upon policy and practice and includes a chapter on the implementation of risk management policies and strategies to safely manage those who sexually offend. It considers how current risk assessment may be improved as well as how strength based approaches and positive psychology may contribute to the assessment of risk.

This text provides the reader with a wealth of knowledge of up-to-date research and practice in the area of risk assessment and sexual offending. It provides empirical evidence and helps the reader to consider the clinical skills needed to assess risk within the complex area of sexual offending. For students this book would be a comprehensive introduction to the range of issues associated with sexual offending and risk assessment. For those more experienced in the area, it is likely that this book may encourage practitioners to reflect and develop their own risk assessment strategies for individuals who sexually offend.

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