

Darcy J. Coulter BPsych(Hons), PhD

UNIVERSITY: Melbourne Institute: Applied Economic & Social Research
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RESEARCH INTERESTS:

My current research focuses on the assessment of factors that predict the likelihood of a person re-offending, and how this likelihood may change over time. I examine the use of assessments undertaken by psychologists, case-managers, and other professionals working in the criminal justice system. I am interested in how risk of recidivism and criminogenic needs may be communicated in an easily understandable manner to improve individuals' outcomes and maximise community safety. My research also emphasises the importance of evaluating these risk assessments with a diverse range of people to ensure these tools are appropriate for all people that they are used with.

EDUCATION:

- 2018 – 2022 **Doctor of Philosophy (Psychology)**
Centre for Forensic Behavioural Science, Swinburne University of Technology
Supervised by Dr Caleb D. Lloyd and Dr Justin Trounson
- Thesis title:** *[Addressing Contemporary Issues in Correctional Risk Assessment Through the Dynamic Risk Assessment for Offender Re-entry](#)*
- 2018 – 2020 **Graduate Certificate of Research and Innovation Management**
Swinburne University of Technology
- 2011 – 2015 **Bachelor of Psychology (First Class Honours)**
Deakin University
- Honours thesis title:** *Are the effects of exposure to pre-trial publicity on juror decision-making reduced through explicit pre- and post-exposure warnings?*

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE:

- Oct 2021 – Present **Research Fellow (Level B)** | Melbourne Institute: Applied Economic & Social Research, University of Melbourne
- June 2017 – Oct 2021 **Research Assistant (0.2 FTE)** | Centre for Forensic Behavioural Science Swinburne University of Technology
- May 2016 – June 2017 **Research Assistant (1.0 FTE)** | Centre for Forensic Behavioural Science Swinburne University of Technology

TEACHING EXPERIENCE:

Postgraduate level courses

- Sem 2 – 2020 **Convener** | **Centre for Forensic Behavioural Science**
- Sem 2 – 2021 **Unit:** Advanced Violence Risk Assessment and Management (FBS80004)
- Sem 1 – 2018 **Sessional academic staff** | **Centre for Forensic Behavioural Science**
Unit: Core Skills in Forensic Practice (FBS80001)

PUBLICATIONS:

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

- Coulter, D. J.,** Lloyd, C.D., & Serin, R. C. (2023). Psychometric properties of a risk tool across Indigenous Māori and European samples in Aotearoa New Zealand: Measurement invariance, discrimination, and calibration for predicting criminal recidivism. *Assessment*. Advance online publication.
<https://doi.org/10.1177/10731911231153838>
- Coulter, D. J. &** Lloyd, C.D. (2023). Using a reassessment framework to determine critical case management needs: DRAOR improves on LS/RNR's predictive discrimination of short-term recidivism. *Psychology, Crime and Law*. Advance online publication.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/1068316X.2023.2166506>
- Coulter, D. J.,** Forkan, A. R. M., Kang, Y-B., Trounson, J. S., Anthony, T., Marchetti, E., & Shepherd, S. M. (2023). Culture, strengths, and risk: The language of pre-sentence reports in Indigenous sentencing courts and mainstream courts. *Criminal Justice and Behavior*, 50(1), 76–100. <https://doi.org/10.1177/00938548221131952>
- Coulter, D. J.,** Forkan, A. R. M., Kang, Y-B., Trounson, J. S., Anthony, T., Marchetti, E., & Shepherd, S. M. (2022). Pre-sentence reports for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people: An analysis of language and sentiment. *Trends and Issues in Crime and Criminal Justice* (659). <https://doi.org/10.52922/ti78795>

Coulter, D. J., Lloyd, C. D., & Serin, R. C. (2022). Combining static and dynamic recidivism risk information into the Five-Level Risk and Needs System: A New Zealand example. *Criminal Justice and Behavior*, 49(1), 77–97.

<https://doi.org/10.1177/00938548211033319>

Sivasubramaniam, D., McGuinness, M., **Coulter, D.**, Klettke, B., Nolan, M., & Schuller, R. (2020). Jury decision-making: The impact of engagement and perceived threat on verdict decisions. *Psychiatry, Psychology and Law*, 27(3), 346–365.

<https://doi.org/10.1080/13218719.2020.1793819>

Conference Papers and Other Presentations

Coulter, D. J. & Lloyd, C.D. (2022, November). *Using a Reassessment Framework to Determine Critical Case Management Needs: DRAOR Improves on LS/RNR's Predictive Discrimination of Short-term Recidivism* [Paper presentation]. 2022 Australian and New Zealand Society of Criminology Conference: Transforming Criminology for the 2020s and Beyond, Darwin, NT, Australia.

Coulter, D. J., Lloyd, C.D., Serin, R. C. (2022, April). *Understanding how a community case-management tool performs across Māori and European parole samples in Aotearoa New Zealand* [Paper presentation]. Forensic Research Dissemination Seminar, Thomas Embling Hospital, Melbourne, Australia.

Coulter, D. J. (2021, April). *How can we reconcile conflicting features that arise when adopting the Five-Level Risk and Needs System?* Delivered to Common Language Seminar Series, online.

Coulter, D. J. (2020, October). *An Introduction to the Shared Language of the Five-Level Risk and Needs System*. Delivered to Centre for Forensic Behavioural Science, Swinburne University of Technology, online

Coulter, D. J., Lloyd, C.D., Serin, R. C. (2019, May 31). *Combining static, stable, acute, and protective ratings into risk estimates within the standardized five-level framework* [Paper presentation]. Fourth North American Correctional and Criminal Justice Psychology Conference (N4): Evidence & Innovation in Criminal Justice Psychology, Halifax, NS, Canada.

Sivasubramaniam, D., McGuinness, M., **Coulter, D.**, Klettke, B., Nolan, M., & Schuller, R. (November, 2017). *Jury decision-making: The impact of engagement and perceived threat on verdict decisions* [Paper presentation]. Jury Research and Practice Conference, Sydney, NSW, Australia.

Peer- Reviewed Reports

Coulter, D. J., Forkan, A. R. M., Kang, Y-B., Trounson, J. S., & Shepherd, S. M. (2022). *Consideration of culture, strengths and risk in pre-sentence reports* (CRG 04/19-20). Australian Institute of Criminology. https://www.aic.gov.au/sites/default/files/2022-11/crg_0419_20_consideration_of_culture_strengths_and_risk_in_pre-sentence_reports.pdf

GRANTS:

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- 2023 **Early Career Researcher Grant**
University of Melbourne (A\$25,000)
Standardising and improving the accuracy of correctional risk communication.

SCHOLARSHIPS:

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- 2018 – 2021 **Research Training Program Tuition Fee Scholarship**
Australian Government Department of Education (A\$151,600)
- 2018 – 2021 **Research Training Program Stipend**
Australian Government Department of Education (A\$97,069)
- 2018 – 2021 **Catalyst Consortium Scholarship**
Centre for Forensic Behavioural Science, Swinburne University of Technology
(A\$9,000)

AWARDS/COMMENDATIONS:

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- 2023 **Iain Wallace Research Medal** – High Commendation
Swinburne University of Technology
Highly commended nominee for university-wide most outstanding doctoral student award
- 2023 **Dissertation Award** – Shortlisted finalist
American Psychology-Law Society
- 2021 **Outstanding Academic Teacher**
Swinburne University of Technology
Official commendation from Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic)
- 2020 **Outstanding Academic Teacher**
Swinburne University of Technology
Official commendation from Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic)

ACADEMIC VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE:

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- 2014 – 2017 **Research Assistant | Swinburne University of Technology**

ACADEMIC SERVICE:

- 2022 **Member**
Melbourne Institute Seminars and Social Committee
- 2020 **Peer reviewer**
American Psychology – Law Society Virtual Poster Session 2021
- 2022 **Peer reviewer**
American Psychological Association Convention 2022 Division 41
American Psychology – Law Society

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS:

- 2021 – present **Australian and New Zealand Society of Criminology**
Member
- 2021 – present **International Association for Correctional and Forensic Psychology**
Member
- 2022 – present **American Psychology – Law Society**
Member
- 2022 – present **American Psychological Association – Criminal Justice Section**
Member
- 2023 – present **Australian and New Zealand Association of Psychiatry, Psychology and Law**
Member