

Darcy J. Coulter PhD, BPsych(Hons)

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RESEARCH INTERESTS:

My current research interests focus 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 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 assessment tools 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?*

PUBLICATIONS:

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

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>

Manuscripts Under Review

Coulter, D. J., Forkan, A. R. M., Kang, Y-B., Trounson, J. S., Anthony, T., Marchetti, E., & Shepherd, S. M. (2022). *Culture, Strengths, and Risk: The Language of Pre-Sentence Reports in Indigenous Sentencing Courts and Mainstream Courts*. [Manuscript under review]. Centre for Forensic Behavioural Science, Swinburne University of Technology.

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*. [Manuscript under review]. Centre for Forensic Behavioural Science, Swinburne University of Technology.

Coulter, D. J. & Lloyd, C.D. (2022). *Using a Reassessment Framework to Determine Critical Case Management Needs: DRAOR Improves on LS/RNR's Predictive Discrimination of Short-term Recidivism*. [Manuscript under review]. Centre for Forensic Behavioural Science, Swinburne University of Technology.

Coulter, D. J., Lloyd, C.D., & Serin, R. C. (2022). *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*. [Manuscript under review]. Centre for Forensic Behavioural Science, Swinburne University of Technology.

Conference Papers and Other Presentations

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]. Forensicare 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.

Other Publications and Reports

Reports under review

Coulter, D. J., Forkan, A. R. M., Kang, Y-B., Trounson, J. S., Anthony, T., Marchetti, E., & Shepherd, S. M. (under review). *The Consideration of Culture, Strengths and Risk in Pre-Sentence Reports* [Report for Australian Institute of Criminology]. Centre for Forensic Behavioural Science, Swinburne University of Technology.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE:

Oct 2021 – Present **Research Fellow | Melbourne Institute: Applied Economic & Social Research, University of Melbourne**
Australia's pre-eminent economic and social policy research centre
Worked on NHMRC funded project;
Against the odds: Understanding the factors influencing wellbeing among Indigenous youth in the Northern Territory.

June 2017 – Oct 2021 **Research Assistant (casual) | Centre for Forensic Behavioural Science Swinburne University of Technology**
Australasia's leading centre for excellence in forensic behavioural science research.
Work focussed on evaluations of:

- Correctional and forensic risk assessment tools
- Serious violent and sex offender intervention programmes

May 2016 – June 2017 **Research Assistant (full-time) | Centre for Forensic Behavioural Science Swinburne University of Technology**
Australasia's leading centre for excellence in forensic behavioural science research.
Worked on two projects:

- *Enhancing Police Responses to Family Violence* (0.8EFT)
- *Jury Deliberation Project* (0.2EFT)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE:

Postgraduate level courses

Sem 2 – 2020 **Convener | Centre for Forensic Behavioural Science**
– 2021 **Unit:** Advanced Violence Risk Assessment and Management (FBS80004)

Sem 1 – 2018 **Assignment Marker | Centre for Forensic Behavioural Science**
Unit: Core Skills in Forensic Practice (FBS80001)

ACADEMIC VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE:

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

AWARDS, SCHOLARSHIPS, COMMENDATIONS:

2018 – 2021 **Research Training Program Tuition Fee Scholarship**

Australian Government Department of Education

2018 – 2021 **Research Training Program Stipend**

Australian Government Department of Education

2018 – 2021 **Catalyst Consortium Scholarship**

Centre for Forensic Behavioural Science, Swinburne University of Technology

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)

ADDITIONAL SKILLS:

2018 **Dynamic Risk Assessment for Offender Re-entry (DRAOR)**

Certified to use DRAOR case management tool

ACADEMIC SERVICE:

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

2022 – present **Canadian Psychological Association – Criminal Justice Psychology**
Member