

AN ANALYSIS OF THE CASE OF ARSON THROUGH DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVES

With arson, one such observable difference is hypothesized to relate to the target or differentiate arsonists was tested by analysing solved arson cases from A combination of these perspectives leads to the consideration of the whole.

Canadian Journal of Psychiatry, 27, SSA showing themes in firesetters' characteristics. As anticipated by the modulating facet, those variables that most distinctly indicate the target are at the periphery of the plot. Figure 2. A summary of the four scales derived from their Cronbach's α is given in Table 2. The study tested whether consistencies could be found that distinguish person-oriented from object-oriented arsons. The present study therefore sought to draw directly on recorded suspicious, malicious fires in which there was a known firesetter, taking the sample from the records of the fires rather than from known subsets of patients. Lewis, N. A burglar who sets fire to a residence to hide clues to his theft, or the car thief who burns a stolen car for similar reasons are both examples of this type of firesetting. These fires tended to involve repetition over time and prior arson by the offender. This is a distinction that has many parallels in other areas of psychology, notably in the considerations of locus of control in attribution theory in which the situation is contrasted with the person as a cause. This external event causes anger and a sense of injustice within the individual which he may attempt to redress by retaliative arson. These apparent anomalies, however, can be explained by considering the nature of each of the four groups of offenders. The hypothesis that these four themes would differentiate arsonists was tested by analysing solved arson cases from across England. Firstly, it is a direct empirical test of a classification scheme based on information derived from arson investigations. These items give a Cronbach's α of . Four scales of arsonists' characteristics were developed. In order to test the hypotheses of differentiation a smallest space analysis was carried out. With arson, one such observable difference is hypothesized to relate to the target or focus of the attack. This hypothesis is supported by the fact that the arsonists often remained or returned to the scene of the fire in order to observe or participate in its aftermath. Here the act of arson itself is a direct means of expressing those feelings and thus would be expected to be an important part of the person's way of dealing with the world, perhaps best shown in their acts of arson being repeated against essentially anonymous targets. In opposition to this is the expressive object mode in which the personal emphasis has no direct instrumental quality, but is a means of demonstrating some general emotional reactions. These off. It also shows that hypotheses about the relationships between the details of the offence and the characteristics of the offender can be elaborated and tested. Psychiatric history. The following characteristics form this region: AWOL, false alarm calls, personality disorder, prior arson, social services. Thus it was found that the variables of the individual having a history of setting fires are close to that of making false alarm calls as well as having usually come to the attention of police and social services, often for arson-related matters. The two facets proposed here can be summarized in the form of a mapping sentence Shye et al. SSA operates on the ranks of the distances between the points and the ranks of the association coefficients. Conversely, some kinds of arsons were not present at all, for example, insurance fraud or politically motivated fires. Although this variable is duplicated in the offender variable list, it is included here in order to identify which other actions are associated with prior arson. Figure 1. Table 2. Its Motivation and Management.