

# Child Eyewitness Testimony In Sexual Abuse Investigations

Psychology and Law - Amina A Memon  
2003-10-31

Psychology and Law shows how psychological research and theory can be used in a legal context. Written with advanced undergraduate students in mind, it focuses upon the pre-trial or investigative phase of the legal process.

Obtaining and assessing witness evidence is a key part of any criminal investigation. Topics include witness accuracy and credibility, covering issues such as assessment of witness credibility, interviewing suspects and witnesses, eyewitness testimony, false beliefs and memory, the role of experts and juries. This second edition has been revised and updated to reflect the large amount of new research in the area, making it the essential guide for all courses with a legal component. Comment on the first edition: "This is an excellent appraisal of the psychology of evidence...it provides thorough, substantial and up-to-date accounts of modern developments." —Denniss Howitt, Loughborough University, UK Written by well known and respected authors Suitable as an introductory, undergraduate text

Interviewing Child Witnesses Under the Memorandum of Good Practice - Graham Davies  
1999

Harassment, Stalking, Victim Personal Statements, Child Sexual Abuse and Eyewitness Testimony. Psychological Commentary Applied to Real Magistrate and Crown Court Cases - Alexander Syder  
2017-02-10

Project Report from the year 2016 in the subject Psychology - Forensic Psychology, Penal System, grade: Pass, University of Lincoln (University of Lincoln), course: MSc Forensic Psychology, language: English, abstract: Real court cases were used for this report, however no names and official dates are disclosed. The court cases in these examples deal with allegations of stalking and harassment as well as child sexual abuse

and involve elements pertaining to Victim Personal Statements and eyewitness testimony. The first court case examined deals with a case of harassment and stalking and the treatment of Victim Personal Statements as well as police interviewing. An overview is given over the current state of psychological research on both aspects of the case; the offences of harassment and stalking, particularly in heterosexual couple relationships, and on the handling of Victim Personal Statements by police. The second court case involves allegations of child sexual abuse, with a great lapse in years between perpetration and prosecution. The case summary is followed by a psychological commentary including research findings on the accuracy of eyewitness testimony and the potential impact of child sexual abuse on the victims of abuse.

**Children's Source Monitoring** - Kim P. Roberts  
2000-06

Papers on how children evaluate sources of information in order to build up a knowledge base.

**Beliefs and Expectancies in Legal Decision Making** - Bradley D. McAuliff  
2016-02-26

Beliefs and expectancies influence our everyday thoughts, feelings, and actions. These attributes make a closer examination of beliefs and expectancies worthwhile in any context, but particularly so within the high-stakes arena of the legal system. Whether the decision maker is a police officer assessing the truthfulness of an alibi, a juror evaluating the accuracy of an eyewitness identification, an attorney arguing a case involving a juvenile offender, or a judge deciding whether to terminate parental rights—these decisions matter and without doubt are influenced by beliefs and expectancies. This volume is comprised of research on beliefs and expectancies regarding alibis, children's behaviour while testifying, eyewitness testimony, confessions, sexual assault victims, judges' decisions in child

protection cases, and attorneys' beliefs about jurors' perceptions of juvenile offender culpability. Areas for future research are identified, and readers are encouraged to discover new ways that beliefs and expectancies operate in the legal system. This book was originally published as a special issue of *Psychology, Crime & Law*.

*International Perspectives on Child Abuse and Children's Testimony* - Bette L. Bottoms  
1996-06-18

Child witnesses pose unique challenges to the legal system, and courtrooms are daunting and alien to children. Timely and truly international in scope, this volume focuses on the techniques and procedures used to accommodate child witnesses in legal systems in countries around the world and on the research investigating the effectiveness and implications of those techniques. Featuring the work of renowned scholars from the international psycholegal community, *International Perspectives on Child Abuse and Children's Testimony* not only provides support for all countries seeking to broaden their approach to child psychology and law but also promotes justice where child protection is virtually unknown. Special emphasis is given to techniques currently in use and under investigation in the United States as well as the U.S. applicability of techniques and procedures used in other countries. At a time when issues surrounding children's testimony are under close scrutiny, *International Perspectives on Child Abuse and Children's Testimony* provides outstanding findings and guidelines for researchers and practitioners in psychology, medicine, criminology/law, social policy, and social work as well as advanced students in these and related fields.

**Child Witnesses in Twentieth Century Australian Courtrooms** - Robyn Blewer  
2021-04-15

This book considers the law, policy and procedure for child witnesses in Australian criminal courts across the twentieth century. It uses the stories and experiences of over 200 children, in many cases using their own words from press reports, to highlight how the relevant law was - or was not - applied throughout this period. The law was sympathetic to the plight of child witnesses and exhibited a significant

degree of pragmatism to receive the evidence of children but was equally fearful of innocent men being wrongly convicted. The book highlights the impact 'safeguards' like corroboration and closed court rules had on the outcome of many cases and the extent to which fear - of children, of lies (or the truth) and of reform - influenced the criminal justice process. Over a century of children giving evidence in court it is 'clear that the more things changed, the more they stayed the same'.

*The Suggestibility of Children's Recollections* - John Doris 1991-01-01

This work addresses issues relevant to the reliability of children's testimony. Increasing concern over the investigation and adjudication of child sexual abuse cases has raised questions about the reliability of children's eyewitness accounts and the function of child memory over time.

**Children as Witnesses** - Helen R. Dent  
1992-07-14

An international panel of distinguished experts present the latest and most useful developments in child witness research and practice that are designed to address actual problems arising from the operation of the current legal system. All the contributors bring a clear applied focus to their respective chapters. The relevant legal context is provided by specialists who have written accessible summaries of the legal status of children's evidence in the countries represented including the U.S., Canada, Germany and the U.K.

Team Investigation of Child Sexual Abuse - Donna Pence 1994-09-13

As child sexual abuse investigation and intervention in the United States has evolved over the past decade, it has become clear that no single discipline or agency can meet the needs of abused children and their families. Coordinated investigative teams, involving an alliance between a wide range of professionals - such as criminal justice professionals, social workers, medical practitioners and mental health clinicians - are needed for fact-finding, child protection and criminal prosecution. This practical book focuses on how to design, develop, operate and maintain effective teams. It begins with examinations of how to build teams and the roles and responsibilities of the

professionals involved. Investigative interviewing

**Evidence-based Investigative Interviewing -**

Jason J. Dickinson 2019-02-21

For as long as we have been researching human memory, psychologists have been investigating how people remember and forget. This research is regularly drawn upon in our legal systems. Historically, we have relied upon eyewitness memory to help judge responsibility and adjudicate truth, but memory is malleable, prone to error, and susceptible to bias. Even confident eyewitnesses make mistakes, and even accurate witnesses sometimes find their testimony subjected to harsh scrutiny. Emerging from this environment, the Cognitive Interview (CI) became a means of assisting cooperative witnesses with recalling more information without sacrificing accuracy. First used by police interviewing adult witnesses, it is now used with many populations in many contexts, including public health, accident reconstruction, and the interrogation of terror suspects. Evidence-Based Investigative Interviewing reviews the application of cognitive research to investigative interviewing, revealing how principles of cognition, memory, and social dynamics may increase the accuracy of eyewitness testimony. It provides evidence-based applications for investigators beyond the forensic domain in areas such as eyewitness identification, detecting deception, and interviewing children. Drawing together the work of thirty-three authors across both the academic and practice communities, this comprehensive collection is essential reading for researchers in psychology, forensics, and disciplines such as epidemiology and gerontology.

*Child Witnesses* - Lucy S. McGough 1994-01-01

Children are frequently called to testify in court in criminal prosecutions, divorce and child custody hearings, dependency abuse proceedings, and other disputes. But is their testimony reliable? This book carefully assesses research on the cognitive capabilities of children as well as the emotional, social, and moral influences that might affect children's potential reliability, and it recommends reforms in American legal processes that will protect child witnesses from trauma and ensure accurate testimony. Lucy S. McGough, a specialist in

family law, examines the known developmental facts on perception, memory, and reporting that affect children's ability to serve as trial witnesses. She also analyzes many actual trials, including the McMartin Pre-School prosecution in California, the Morgan-Forrest custody and visitation controversy, and the five U.S. Supreme Court child sexual abuse cases, assessing how a child witness may be more prone to memory-fade, suggestibility, or fantasy than an adult witness. McGough also examines the legal processes and rules of evidence that affect how eyewitness accounts by children are received: trial processes for evaluating the credibility of witnesses; the hearsay rule and its exceptions; the Constitution's confrontation clause; and the use and abuse of expert witnesses. And she presents a proposal for the early videotaping of a child's eyewitness account in order to minimize the most serious potential reliability risks posed by child witnesses. The product of ten years of research and investigation, this book should help remedy the failure of American law to take into account all that we now know about the fragility of children's memories.

**Are Children Reliable Witnesses? -**

Ben F. Cotterill 2022-09-22

"If a child falls victim to a crime, or becomes witness to it, they may well be questioned by the police. Perhaps even tasked with selecting a suspect from a line-up. But how reliable can a child be under such strenuous circumstances? In this book, Dr. Ben Cotterill explores practices and influences that can increase or decrease the accuracy of children's testimonies. Memory mechanisms and general developmental factors behind the capability of child witnesses are outlined, demonstrating their ability to describe or identify. Factors that affect jurors' perception of said children are also looked into in detail. There have been many instances in which poor interviewing practices with children led to false imprisonments. Said occurrences demonstrate how both situational factors and individual differences can potentially compromise children's eyewitness performance. Based upon what we now understand, can recommendations be made, so that, in a court of law, innocence is the key to achieving justice?"

*Legal Issues in Child Abuse and Neglect Practice*

- John E. B. Myers 1998-07-09

This expanded and updated Second Edition of *Legal Issues in Child Abuse and Neglect Practice* offers a state-of-the-art exploration of what role the law can play in bettering the lives of victimized children. While all who work with abused children share the same goals, there often exists a gap in communication between legal and helping professionals that reduces efficacy of cooperative efforts. This new edition continues to provide vital information to non-lawyers on how the legal system in the United States works in child abuse cases.

**Children's Testimony** - Michael E. Lamb  
2011-06-01

The second edition of *Children's Testimony* is a fully up-to-date resource for practitioners and researchers working in forensic contexts and concerned with children's ability to provide reliable testimony about abuse. Written for both practitioners and researchers working in forensic contexts, including investigative interviewers, police officers, lawyers, judges, expert witnesses, and social workers. Explores a range of issues involved with children's testimony and their ability to provide reliable testimony about experienced or witnessed events, including abuse. Avoids jargon and highly technical language. Includes a comprehensive range of contributions from an international group of practitioners and researchers to ensure topicality and relevance.

*Child Eyewitness Testimony in Sexual Abuse Investigations* - Bruce E. Mapes 1995

This book is written for professionals to whom a child may disclose allegations of sexual abuse or who may be responsible for the investigation of children's allegations. It presents a cross-section of relevant research and practical suggestions to guide the forensic investigation. The first part of the book provides an overview of the forensic process and relevant rules of evidence. The second part of the book defines basic competencies and support systems that the forensic investigator should have. The final chapter identifies research needed to improve our understanding of sexual abuse, to improve the assessment process, and to facilitate more efficacious treatment strategies.

**Inaccuracies in Children's Testimony** -  
Letitia C Pallone 2013-03-07

*Inaccuracies in Children's Testimony* combines

the literature on obedience to authority with that on suggestibility to create a third literature. This book examines children's testimony from several perspectives and gives you insightful suggestions for increasing children's abilities to testify accurately about traumatic things that have happened to them. In doing so, you'll learn how to ensure that those who abuse or sexually exploit children are brought to justice while those falsely accused are adequately protected. How children are questioned to learn what they have witnessed is crucial due to the effects the questioning sessions may have on their testimonies--improper questioning may lead to inaccurate answers. This is just one of the many areas of children's testimony covered in *Inaccuracies in Children's Testimony*. In each of the chapters you'll discover new ways for increasing the accuracy and dependability of children's testimony as you read about: factors that affect children's testimonies suggestibility--definition and research, including sources of suggestibility how obedience to authority can explain children's behavior as witnesses children's memory in the courtroom and what they are able to remember how children's involvement in the courts can be problematic free versus prompted recall--which is more accurate and why the "worst" method is often used with children Milgram's theory of obedience to authority tied to children as witnesses review of the literature on the effects of stress, prompting, and imagination on children's recall ideas for future research Experts in the field of legal testimony, legal personnel, child counselors, psychologists, social workers, and faculty and students of related courses will find *Inaccuracies in Children's Testimony* an essential resource for understanding the importance of making the child victim/witness more believable and reliable.

**The Child Witness** - 1984

*Child Forensic Psychology* - Robyn E. Holliday  
2017-09-16

Why would a child invent a memory of something that never happened? How reliable can a memory be when it is recalled years after the event? *Child Forensic Psychology* tackles the controversial questions that lie between forensic

and developmental psychology. By examining the issues that surround children's status as eyewitnesses and victims, the book relates current theory to real-life examples drawn from criminal and family courts. Breaking down the ways in which psychologists deal with these difficult issues, the book will be a vital resource for students and practitioners alike. Key features of Child Forensic Psychology: - Topical case studies, taken from the UK and around the world - Coverage of the very latest theories and research - Unique chapter investigating the

psychology of missing and abducted children  
Written by a collection of leading researchers and practitioners, Child Forensic Psychology is an indispensable guide that shines a light on the psychology of children in the courtroom.

**When the Victim Is a Child** - Debra Whitcomb  
1994-03

Reviews new research on the consequences of child sexual abuse, the capabilities of children as witnesses, and the impact of the court process on child victims. Also analyzes pertinent statutes and case law. 16 charts and tables.

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