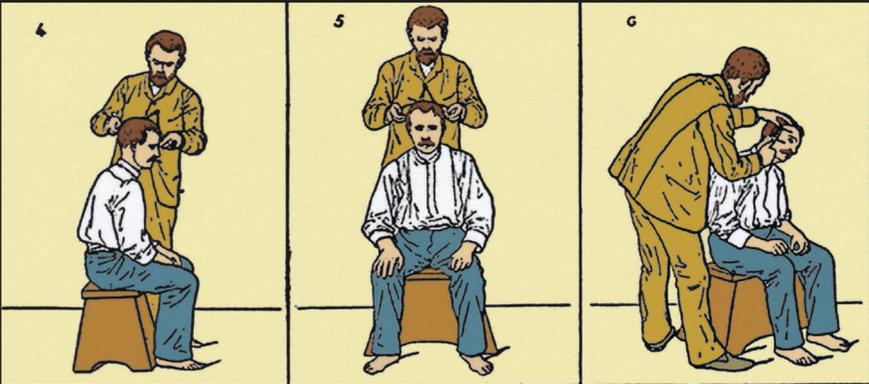
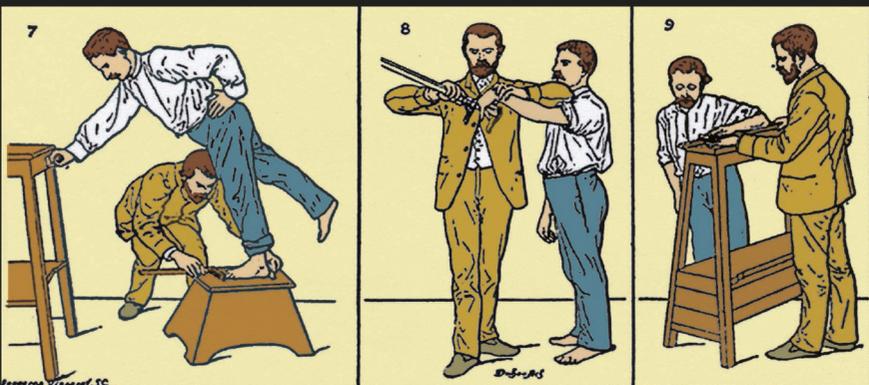




A HISTORY OF THE ASSESSMENT OF SEX OFFENDERS: 1830–2020



D. RICHARD LAWS



A History of the Assessment of Sex Offenders

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BY

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Pacific Behavioural Assessment, Canada



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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Everything exists in some quantity and can therefore be measured.
Edward L. Thorndike (1874–1949)

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Conflict of Interest: The author, D. Richard Laws, has, and continues to benefit financially from several products discussed in the work including the ‘Not Real People (NRP) stimulus set’ and ‘Affinity’. The author was a co-owner of the now-defunct ‘Pacific Psychological Assessment Corp’ which was used as the market vehicle for ‘NRP’. Additionally, the author is the current representative for sales for North America of the product, ‘Affinity’.

Preface

There are three related modes of inquiry that fall under the general rubric of criminal identification, which we might call forensic, archival, and diagnostic (Cole, 2001, p. 305).

- (1) *Forensic identification* seeks to link a specific criminal act to a specific criminal body. Using a physical trace of a body, an impression on an actual body part or remnant, it attempts to establish the presence of a body at the scene of a crime and hence establish authorship of a crime.
- (2) *Archival identification* seeks to link a particular criminal body to itself across space and time. In conjunction with a paper or electronic record, it aims to establish a history of past criminal activities that can be ascribed with confidence to a single body.
- (3) *Diagnostic identification* seeks to read the signs of past or potential criminal behavior in the body itself. On the basis of some biological theory of the etiology of criminality, it endeavors to prevent crimes before they occur by identifying and stigmatizing potentially criminal bodies.

This book is primarily concerned with the first two modes of inquiry. The third mode is well beyond the scope of the present work as well as beyond the imagination of the author.

Reference

Cole, S. A. (2001). *Suspect identities. A history of fingerprinting and criminal identification*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.