I7   A BRACE Character Profile Analysis of Serial Killer Graham Young

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After attending this presentation, attendees will learn how BRACE can be used to elucidate pathology in the cognitive, behavior, and existential domains of an individual. In particular, the BRACE Character Profile will be used to explore the characteristics of a convicted serial killer.

This presentation will impact the forensic science community by exploring in detail the results of the BRACE analysis of Graham Young.

Graham Young was born on September 7, 1947. He was described as a bright child who had serious difficulties emotionally interacting with others. Although Young was able to approach others, he was a secretive person and tended to interact with others on his own terms. By late childhood, he developed unusual interests in toxicology, especially in the process of dying secondary to poisoning. By the time he reached age 14, Young had also developed other unusual interests associated with death. Young began experimenting with poisoning people with members of his own family. For example, he administered antimony to his father and belladonna to his only sister. Later he began poisoning a classmate after the classmate had fallen out of favor with Young. The non-lethal poisoning of his classmate and his family members led to Young's arrest and confinement in Broadmoor, a forensic hospital, at age 14. He was released from Broadmoor nine years later.

Young's interests soon branched out to include a fascination with Adolph Hitler and the Nazi movement as well as Dracula. After his release from Broadmoor, Young soon found employment in a company that dealt with chemicals. Within a short time, he obtained poisonous chemicals and resumed his activities involving the poisoning of others. He killed two co-workers by thallium poisoning. Authorities arrested him soon after he suggested to others that the cause of their deaths had been thallium. After his arrest, Young acknowledged having killed his two co-workers. In 1972 he was convicted of their homicides. Although Young was never convicted of other homicides, he later acknowledged having killed his stepmother via poisoning when he was age 14. Graham Young died in prison at the age of 42, reportedly from a heart attack.

In this presentation an overview of the life of Graham Young is provided. The main objective of this presentation is to analyze Young using Behavioral Relativity and Cognitive Economics (BRACE), a sophisticated model of human nature based on the basic principles of learning. The BRACE Character Profile is a 75 item 5-point rating scale based on core aspects of human nature, which includes the following: patterns of maladaptive thought, behavior, and motivation. It is an indirect profiling technique designed to profile any known or well conceptualized individual or prototypical type, real or fictional, dead or alive. The ratings are entered into a spreadsheet to automatically generate graphic profiles and correlations with any other character or prototypical type in the database, including the Personality Disorders (as defined by the current edition of the American Psychiatric Association's Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders), and a prototypical 40-point Psychopathy Check List-Revised. The wealth of information available for analysis is applied according to the interests of those obtaining the profile. In the case of Graham Young, the analyst was blinded in answering questions related to empathy, intimacy, flexibility vs. controlling, and diagnostic considerations. The results of the BRACE analysis of Graham Young are explored in detail in this presentation.

Serial Killer, Personality Disorder, Asperger's Disorder