



E72 A Case Study: A Comparative Analysis of Common Behavioral Evidence in Three Columbian Cases of Domestic Homicides

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After attending this presentation, attendees will understand how, through a comprehensive process of analysis of the evidence collected at the crime scenes of three domestic homicides, a reconstruction of criminal behavior was made, demonstrating common patterns of behavioral evidence.

This presentation will impact the forensic science community by illustrating how good practices in crime scene processing, and the effective interpretation of the context of the evidence, reveal that crimes can have behavioral evidence in common, as described by the specialized literature in offender profiling.

Case 1: From September 9-12, 2009, body fragments of a female were found in different vacant lots on the outskirts of the city of Ibague, Tolima.

Autopsies Revealed: Blunt force trauma killed the victim; postmortem dismemberment; disembowelment; removal of the uterus and mutilation of the genitals; and the attempted destruction of fingerprints. All these actions sought to avoid identification of the victim and to mislead investigators as to the link between the victim and his aggressor.

Case 2: Occurred on the morning of September 20, 2010, in the town of Mocoa, Putumayo; the deaths of two children were reported and their mother was seriously injured. In the family's house, the bodies of two drowned children were found and their mother had marks of blunt and sharp force trauma. There was no evidence that an external perpetrator had entered the property.

Case 3: On the morning of February 6, 2014, the police of Villa del Rosario, an upscale neighborhood of Cúcuta, received a report of a break-in in an exclusive residential area where a female homeowner was killed. The autopsy revealed that the victim died because of strangulation with a rope and mechanical suffocation caused by the obstruction of the upper airways with a plastic element that covered her face. Household appliances and the homeowner's personal items were scattered on the floor of other bedrooms and social areas of the house. The victim's husband reported that approximately ten thousand dollars (US) were missing, along with his wife's cell phone.

After a comprehensive process of analysis of the three crime scenes and the effective interpretation of the behavioral evidence in common, as described by the specialized literature in offender profiling, the prosecutors could show conclusively and beyond reasonable doubt that the crimes were committed by the husbands and the mother. All offenders were sentenced.

Crime Scene Investigation, Behavioral Evidence in Common, Criminal Behavior Analysis