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Forensic Cyberpsychology: A Transferable Discipline?

Forensic cyberpsychology has recently experienced a surge in popularity in both fiction and popular science media but this portrayal is rarely based on empirical evidence and is often comparable to the glamorised presentation of offender profiling which has been evident for decades. The reliability of these portrayals is exacerbated by the lack of scientific verification of the applicability of offline forensic psychology to online settings. The similarities and differences between online and offline offenders, victims, law enforcement, and other actors in this field have yet to be determined, and the question remains as to if the forensic psychology of offline offences and offenders translates directly to cybercrime or if these circumstances require a different skillset and perspective on the topic. This talk considers how existing knowledge and theory in forensic psychology may or may not enhance our understanding of cybercrime, with particular focus on how the psychology of online offending may differ significantly from offline equivalents.