

CRIMINAL THINKING AND BEHAVIOUR

Abstract of thesis entitled: Effects of the Content and Process of Criminal Thinking on Criminal Behaviour

Submitted by CHUNG Yee-lan

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Background: Criminal thinking can be defined as criminal thought process and criminal thought content. Assessment tools have been developed to measure these two constructs separately.

While the Criminal Sentiments Scale-Modified (CSS-M) and the Measures of Criminal Attitudes and Associates (MCAA) are suggested to measure criminal thought content, the Psychological Inventory of Criminal Thinking Style (PICTS) aims to measure criminal thought process. The Psychological Inventory of Criminal Thinking Style for Laypersons (PICTS-L) was designed to measure criminal thought process in non-offender population. The abovementioned scales except CSS-M had not been validated in the Chinese offenders in Hong Kong. The criminal thinking profile of Chinese offenders had not been investigated.

Aims: (1) To validate the Chinese version of PICTS, PICTS-L and MCAA; (2) to ascertain the relationship between criminal thinking and behaviour; and (3) to elucidate the association between offence type and criminal thought process and content.

Method: **Study 1** investigated the validity and reliability of MCAA with 400 Chinese participants (200 offenders and 200 non-offenders) in Hong Kong. The validity and reliability of PICTS and PICTS-L were assessed with 200 offenders and 200 non-offenders respectively.

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Construct validity was examined by confirmatory factor analysis. Model fits were evaluated by chi-square statistic, Comparative Fit Index (CFI), Tucker-Lewis index (TLI) and Root Mean Square Error of Approximation (RMSEA). **Study 2** compared criminal thought content and process of 194 offenders against 190 non-offender participants using multivariate analyses of covariance (MANCOVA). Correlational analysis was conducted to examine the relationship between criminal thought content and process and criminal history in terms of number of convictions and sentence length. **Study 3** compared criminal thought content and process across three offender groups (violent ($n = 66$), sex ($n = 59$), and property ($n = 69$)) using multivariate analyses of variance (MANOVA).

Results: The Chinese versions of PICTS, PICTS-L and MCAA showed good psychometric properties in terms of internal consistency, test-retest reliability and concurrent validity. The current findings suggested that non-offenders endorsed more criminal thought process than offenders whereas offenders endorsed more criminal thought content than non-offenders, after controlling for education, mental illness and social desirability. A significant and positive correlation was found between criminal thought content and process and number of convictions but not sentence length. Property offenders were found to have the highest level of criminal thought content and process when compared to sex and violent offenders.

Conclusions: The study demonstrated reliability and concurrent validity of the Chinese versions of PICTS, PICTS-L, and MCAA, which supported their use in local clinical practice. Results of this study enhanced the assessment of criminal thinking in Chinese offender population and informed design of treatment programmes to reduce reconviction.

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背景：犯罪思想可定義為包含犯罪思想過程和犯罪思想口容兩個構念，每個構念可由不同的評估工具測量。CSS-M 和 MCAA 用於評估犯罪思想口容，而 PICTS 用於評估犯罪思想過程。PICTS-L 則用於評估沒有犯罪紀錄的公眾人士的犯罪思想過程。除了 CSS-M 外，以上提及的評估工具於香港的中國籍罪犯之應用均未獲驗證。中國籍罪犯群體的犯罪思想方面亦未有足口的研究。

目標：1. 驗證 PICTS, PICTS-L 和 MCAA 的信度和效度；2. 闡明犯罪思想和犯罪行為的關係；3. 了解犯罪性質與犯罪思想過程及口容的關係。

方法：研究一透過 400 名香港的中國籍參加者 (200 名罪犯和 200 名沒有犯罪紀錄的公眾人士) 驗證 MCAA 的信度與效度。PICTS 和 PICTS-L 的信度和效度則分別透過於 200 名罪犯和 200 名沒有犯罪紀錄的公眾人士作出評估。此研究利用驗證性因素分析，並採用 CFI, TFI 和 RMSEA 來衡量模型擬合程度以評估構念效度。研究二採用多元方差分析法比較 194 名罪犯和 190 名沒有犯罪紀錄的公眾人士的犯罪思想過程及口容。此研究亦採用相關分析，從定罪的數量和刑期的長短，檢視犯罪思想的口容和過程與犯罪歷史之間的關係。研究三採用多元方差分析法，比較三組罪犯 (66 名暴力罪犯, 59 名性罪犯和 69 名侵犯財口罪犯) 的犯罪思想過程及口容。

結果：PICTS, PICTS-L 和 MCAA 的中文版均有良好的口部一致性信度、再測信度及並行效度。本研究發現在控制教育程度、精神病紀錄以及社會期許三個變項後，非罪犯採納的犯罪思想過程多於罪犯，而罪犯採納的犯罪思想口容多於非罪犯。犯罪思想的口容和過程與定罪的數量之間呈正相關，但與刑期的長度沒有顯著的正相關。與性罪犯和暴力罪犯相比，侵犯財口罪犯的犯罪思想口容和過程最多。

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結論：本研究證明了 PICTS, PICTS-L 和 MCAA 的中文版本的信度和並行效度，為本地臨床實踐中的應用提供了支持數據。研究結果加強了對中國籍罪犯群體犯罪思想的了解，對為減少重犯而設計的治療方案有重要的參考價口。