

Module Title:	Attachment Theory and Crime	Level:	7	Credit Value:	30
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Module code:	SOC716	Is this a new module?	Yes	Code of module being replaced:	N/A
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Cost Centre(s):	GACJ	JACS3 code:	L611
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With effect from:	September 17
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School:	Social & Life Sciences	Module Leader:	Dr Vivienne Dacre
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Scheduled learning and teaching hours	36 hrs
Guided independent study	264 hrs
Placement	0 hrs
Module duration (total hours)	300 hrs

Programme(s) in which to be offered	Core	Option
MA Criminology and Criminal Justice	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Pre-requisites

Office use only

Initial approval: December 16

APSC approval of modification: *Enter date of approval* Version: 1

Have any derogations received Academic Board approval? Yes No N/A

Module Aims

This module critically applies attachment theory to understand problematic developmental prospects within forensic populations. The focus on attachment theory presents an approach that seeks to understand the influence of relationships on personality and social development. The module interrogates attachment theory research approaches that investigate adverse experiences most likely to lead to poor social functioning and criminal behaviour. In this sense it elucidates the way in which attachment theory may be used to explicate offending behaviour and to assess risk in forensic settings.

Intended Learning Outcomes

Key skills for employability

- KS1 Written, oral and media communication skills
- KS2 Leadership, team working and networking skills
- KS3 Opportunity, creativity and problem solving skills
- KS4 Information technology skills and digital literacy
- KS5 Information management skills
- KS6 Research skills
- KS7 Intercultural and sustainability skills
- KS8 Career management skills
- KS9 Learning to learn (managing personal and professional development, self-management)
- KS10 Numeracy

At the end of this module, students will be able to

Key Skills

1	Interrogate with criticality research approaches related to theory development of attachment and criminal behaviour such as sexual abuse of children.	KS4	
		KS5	
		KS6	
2	Demonstrate in-depth understanding of attachment theory to explain relationship difficulties in later life. Including attachment anxiety, cognitive distortions and the role of empathy.	KS1	
3	Critically analyse how theoretically based intensive intervention might positively impact a negative developmental trajectory.	KS1	
		KS6	

4	Critically appraise ethical considerations relevant to understanding and resolving value dilemmas and conflicts in the practice context.	KS5	
		KS9	
Transferable skills and other attributes			

Derogations

None

Assessment:

Through the means of a systematic literature search review empirical research studies investigating attachment processes among a chosen forensic population. Critically evaluate conceptual models derived from attachment theory.

Assessment number	Learning Outcomes to be met	Type of assessment	Weighting (%)	Duration (if exam)	Word count (or equivalent if appropriate)
1	1-4	Literature Review	100%		5,000

Learning and Teaching Strategies:

The module is taught entirely online albeit there is an optional face to face/skype based workshop day which preceded commencement of the module. Lectures will adopt a wrap-around format so that text is interspersed with links to documents, videos and supported by online Q&A and discussion fora.

Syllabus outline:

Attachment Theory – Core Concepts

- Attachment terminology
- Characteristics of the attachment relationship
- Patterns of attachment - Theory of mind
- Adaptation, mental representations, fragmented representations
- Metallisation, empathy, developmental roots of violence

Attachment Theory – conceptualising offending behaviour

- Attachment anxiety and cognitive distortion
- Adult attachment styles: intimacy avoidance

Applied attachment – Conceptualising intervention

- Links between childhood trauma and violent offending
- Attachment informed models and strength-based perspectives

Adult self-care

- Managing complex feelings

- Coping strategies
- Reflective practice

Bibliography:

Essential reading

- Cassidy, J., Shaver, P.R. (2016), *Attachment Handbook: Theory research and clinical application*. Third Edition. London: The Guildford Press.
- Mikulincer, M., and Shaver, P. R. (2016), *Attachment in adulthood: structure, dynamics, and change*. Second Edition. New York: Guilford Press.
- Rich, P. (2006), *Attachment and sexual offending: Understanding and applying attachment theory to the treatment of juvenile sexual offenders*. Chichester: Wiley and Sons Ltd.

Other indicative reading

- Ansbro, M. (2008), 'Using attachment theory with offenders'. *The Journal of Community and Criminal Justice*, Vol. 55, pp.231–244.
- Bateman, A., Fonagy, P. (2016), *Mentalization-based treatment for personality disorders: A practical guide*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Blair, R. J. R., Mitchell, D. G. V., & Blair, K. (2005), *The psychopath: Emotion and the brain*. Malden: Blackwell.
- Hansen, A. L., Waage, L., Eid, J., Johnsen, B. H., Hart, S. (2011), 'The relationship between attachment, personality and antisocial tendencies in a prison sample: A pilot study'. *Scandinavian Journal of Psychology*, Vol. 52, pp.268–276.
- Pfafflin, F., Adshead, G. (2004), *A Matter of Security: The Application of Attachment Theory to Forensic Psychiatry and Psychotherapy*. London: Jessica Kingsley
- Sharp, C., Fonagy, P., Goodyer, I. (2009), *Social cognition and developmental psychopathology*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Thompson, N., Cox, G., Stevenson, R. (Eds.) (2016), *Handbook of Traumatic Loss*, New York, Routledge.