

Deziree Johnson

Professor Duvall

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Article review #1

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In the article *Exploring Fraudster Strategies To Defraud Users On Online Employment Databases*, three disciplines of social sciences relate to the topic. The three disciplines that relate are economics, psychology, and criminology. Economics is “the study of how societies use their limited resources to produce wealth, and how the distribution of the wealth among their members is determined”. The fraudsters committing fraud are doing so to scam individuals out of their money to have for themselves. Psychology is the “science of understanding human behavior, including behavior in education, health, military, business, and everyday human interactions”. The article studies the behavior of the humans committing this specific type of fraud. Criminology is “the study of crime, criminals, and society's response to them”. The article is a study of why and how criminals commit fraud online through employee databases. Specifically, how fraudsters commit identity theft and employment scams.

The study hypothesized that criminals exploit other users for the purpose of expanding their own financial gain, therefore fraud affects both the digital and physical worlds. The research method that is mostly used in this study is secondary data analysis research because Tessa Cole pulls from existing research data to find the answers to the question she is trying to answer. The types of data and analysis done are predictive analysis, descriptive analysis, and diagnostic analysis. Cole uses predictive analysis when she states what is most likely to happen if these scams do not stop. Cole uses descriptive analysis when she used former data to show how the fraudsters gained the ability to manufacture the scams on the employment database. Lastly, Cole uses diagnostic analysis when she looks at why specifically the strategies used to

defraud users on online employment databases occurred and why the fraudsters got away with the crime.

Self-control theory and determinism are concepts that were discussed in class and relate to this article. Self-control theory means “victims have been shown to have lower levels of self-control”. For example, people of lower socioeconomic status are more likely to respond to these scams as they are more likely to need a job. This shows determinism, which is a “behavior is caused, determined, or influenced by preceding events”. It shows this because these fraudsters know this about these victims, and preceding events. Job seekers of low socioeconomic status and women are the marginalized groups that are affected by the topic. Cole states this, “Research suggests job seekers of lower socioeconomic status in major metropolitan areas, specifically Detroit, have a limited understanding of technology and the importance of securing their digital data.”, “research indicates females are more likely than men to mitigate fraud, specifically securities fraud, within the workplace.”. This shows that fraudsters target these groups because they are the most likely to play into the scam.

Overall there are important contributions to this study provides. Mainly providing awareness to all job seekers, by showing them that online employment scams exist and to explaining the risks involved with sharing sensitive and financial information. The study also shows how these fake applications may look like so they can be avoided. With this information, the hope is for the rate of identity theft to lessen.