Article Review 2

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Cybercrime refers to "crimes committed through the use of computers and computer networks, but it also includes crimes that do not rely heavily on computers" **(Ngo & Paternoster, 2021)**. Since the emergence of cybercrime, all that has been examined is studies like "What makes a criminal?", "What was the motive for cybercrime?" "What is cybercrime?', and so on. It is mentioned that "research has explored the nature and extent of cybercrime"; one could say that the study of cybercrime has been stretched thin. Newer studies have begun to shift the focus from the crime/criminal to the victim; this is often referred to as Cyber Victimization, defined as "the act of being targeted or victimized by cybercrime." **(Ngo & Paternoster, 2021).** They are researching the victim and their lifestyle, behavior, and anything else that may have caused them to be targeted, applying theories, and seeing if these factors may be universal to victimization.

To date of this article, only five studies have applied the lifestyle activities theory to account for cyber victimization; however, it is mentioned that each study "underscores the importance of both situational and individual factors in understanding online victimization" **(Ngo & Paternoster, 2021)**. The goal of this study is to research "the effects of individual and situational factors on the seven forms of cybercrime" **(Ngo & Paternoster, 2021)** to see if the way an individual lives their life is to blame. This article can be closely related to **human factors and the use of technology and psychology**.

The data from the study was retrieved from a self-reported survey at a university campus composed of 1,533 students who were all encouraged to take it through email. Of the total number of students, only 295 responded (a 19% response rate). The survey questions asked the respondents to reflect over the last 12 months and determine if they had been a victim of computer viruses, "receiving unwanted exposure to pornographic material, being solicited for

sex, encountering phishing, experiencing online harassment by a stranger and by a non-stranger, and experiencing only defamation." **(Ngo & Paternoster, 2021).** The study would analyze the data in two parts; in the first, the seven crimes of computer crime were "regressed on levels of self-control while holding sex, age, race, marital status, employment and computer deviance constant" **(Ngo & Paternoster, 2021).** The second analysis it is noted that "each of the above seven form of computer crime was regressed on the LRAT measures…. While controlling for sex, age, race, marital status, employment, and computer deviance" **(Ngo & Paternoster, 2021)**.

The results were as follows: "Low levels of self-control are significantly related to the likelihood of experiencing online harassment by a string or non-stranger only" **(Ngo & Paternoster, 2021)**. If an individual had low self-control levels, they were at greater odds of being harassed online. Although this seemed to be trending in the right direction, self-control only seemed to account for online harassment and none of the other computer crimes. It also appears that the theories tested are not influential and play a limited role in victimization within cyberspace. In the end, the researchers were unable to define a universal targeting standard for cyber victimizations as one of the factors being tested could only account for 2/7 types of computer crime. The researchers noted that their study was limited due to their university study not representing a typical U.S. university and their sample not representing a large student population. They concluded that their research could not be applied in a larger sense but to only their specific or similar model.

As I reflected on this module, I thought back to Module 4; we learned about human factors in this chapter. The human factor mentioned in both the article and in the lecture was cyber victimization. These two texts reminded me that, at times, it is okay to shift the focus from the criminal to the individual. Studying the victim is a study that is now ongoing, which is most

likely due to the emergence of learning cybersecurity through a social science lens. Although the article was unable to find what makes an individual a target, I believe it is one step closer to helping future scientists achieve this goal.

References

Ngo, F. T., & Paternoster, R. (2021, May 3). *(PDF) cybercrime victimization: An examination of individual and situational level factors (2011): Fawn T. NGO: 220 citations*. SciSpace - Paper. https://typeset.io/papers/cybercrime-victimization-an-examination-of-individual-and-53iukcrgyc