

Psychological Profiles of Cybercriminals

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CYSE 201s

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3/28/2025

Relationship to Social Sciences

The article by Trinh et al. (2023) aligns with social science theories as it examines individual behavior and decision-making in a digital context. Social sciences emphasize understanding the motivations behind individuals' actions rather than concentrating solely on data, especially in the context of social structures or environments. Cybercrime is not solely attributed to technology. This relates to culture, psychology, and the ways in which individuals engage in online environments. The authors demonstrate that personality traits such as impulsivity are interconnected with societal influences.

Research Question, Hypotheses, IV and DV

The study is centered on a fairly straightforward question: What psychological traits show up most often in cybercriminals? Trinh and colleagues predict that certain traits—impulsivity, lack of empathy, antisocial behavior—make someone more likely to engage in cybercrime. The independent variables are the traits themselves, such as narcissism or moral disengagement, while the dependent variable is the actual participation in online crime, which the authors assess by looking at surveys and documented case studies.

Research Methods

Rather than relying on just one way of collecting information, the study blends methods. Surveys and psychological tests provide measurable data, which covers the “hard numbers” side of the research. At the same time, case studies give context and show how individuals behave in real life. This balance allows the study to get at both the personality traits that can be tested and the lived situations that influence people’s choices online.

Data and Analysis

The data comes from different sources, including psychological assessments, survey results, and the details of criminal cases. To find patterns, such as if high impulsivity is genuinely linked to involvement in cybercrime, statistical approaches were used. The qualitative analysis explored the backgrounds and stories of offenders, making the findings feel more tangible and relatable. The combination of numerical data and personal context allowed the study to paint a more complete picture of cybercriminal behavior than either approach could achieve on its own.

Connection to PowerPoint Concepts

The article directly ties into the concept of **determinism** from the course presentation. Cybercriminal behavior is not explained as entirely free will nor entirely predetermined. Instead, the study highlights how certain psychological predispositions and environmental influences shape the likelihood of committing cybercrime. This reflects the “middle ground” between free will and determinism mentioned in the lecture—individuals make choices, but those choices are influenced by personality, cultural context, and systemic opportunities or constraints. By studying *why individuals choose to commit cybercrime*, the article supports the social science goal of identifying strategies to reduce harmful behaviors.

Marginalized Groups

The article also talks about marginalized groups in a roundabout way by talking about how socioeconomic conditions can make people more likely to commit cybercrime. People who come from humble backgrounds may not have many work opportunities, so cybercrime may seem like a good way to get money or get influence. But these groups are often wrongfully accused of

crimes, which underscores how vital it is to combine worries about fairness in society with psychological causes.

Contributions to Society

The study contributes to society by advancing knowledge about the psychological and social factors that underlie cybercrime. These insights can inform preventative strategies, educational campaigns, and rehabilitation programs. Rather than framing cybercriminals solely as malicious actors, the article underscores the importance of understanding the complex interplay of traits, choices, and environments that lead to illegal online behavior.

Conclusion

Overall, Trinh et al. (2023) provide a valuable interdisciplinary contribution to the study of cybercrime. By combining psychological analysis with social and cultural insights, the article helps bridge the gap between theory and practice. Its recognition of both individual responsibility and deterministic influences aligns with social science principles, offering a nuanced view of why cybercrime occurs and how society might address it.

Reference

Trinh, V. D., et al. (2023). *The psychological profile of cybercriminals: A systematic review*.

Frontiers in Psychology, 14, 1149847. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsyg.2023.1149847>