



**Department of Humanities**

**Topic: Implication of Psychological Concepts in Forensic Science**

<b>Event</b>	Guest lecture on 'Implication of Psychological Concepts in Forensic Psychology'
<b>Date</b>	September 9th, 2021
<b>Duration of event</b>	1 Hour
<b>Name of the event organizing department</b>	Department of Humanities
<b>Sponsor of the event</b>	None
<b>Committee members</b>	NA
<b>Chief Guest / Guest of Honor</b>	NA
<b>Name of the speakers with affiliation</b>	Ms. Amani K Forensic Professional (Psychology) Central Forensic Science Laboratory Bhopal

## **Report On the Webinar:**

### **Event Objective:**

1. To understand the basics of forensic psychology.
2. To gain insight on implications of psychological concepts in Forensic science.

### **Event Description:**

The speaker Ms. Amani, from Central Forensic Science Laboratory Bhopal, was introduced to the students by one of the faculty members.

The speaker started the session by asking students what they know about the field forensic science. After listening to students answer Miss. Amani started presenting her power point presentation.

Forensic science is the branch of study in which the concepts of science are applied to enforce civil and criminal law. It is a combination of two different Latin words: forensic and science. Forensic, relates to an examination performed in public. The second is science, which is derived from the Latin word for 'knowledge'. Forensic science means the use of the scientific methods and processes for crime solving.

Forensic science is also known as criminalistics. It is an element of the criminal justice system. It examines evidence from crime scenes to develop findings that can assist in the investigation and prosecution of perpetrators of crime or absolve an innocent person from suspicion. Forensic Psychology is a sub-branch of Forensic Science.

After the brief introduction of Forensic science, the speaker took up the next topic that is 'Memory in Forensics'.

Eyewitness testimony is an important part of forensic sciences and eyewitness testimony is mostly based on memory. The speaker started discussing the question "How reliable are human memories?" Eyewitness testimony is the account a bystander or victim gives in the courtroom, describing what that person observed that occurred during the specific incident under investigation. Ideally this recollection of events is detailed; however, this is not always the case. Eyewitness testimony can be unreliable due to conditions at the scene of a crime, memory "contamination" and misrepresentation during trial.

The uncritical acceptance of eyewitness accounts may stem from a popular misconception of how memory works. Many people believe that human memory works



like a video recorder: the mind records events and then, on cue, plays back an exact replica of them. On the contrary, psychologists have found that memories are reconstructed rather than played back each time we recall them. The act of remembering, says eminent memory researcher and psychologist Elizabeth F. Loftus of the University of California, Irvine, is “more akin to putting

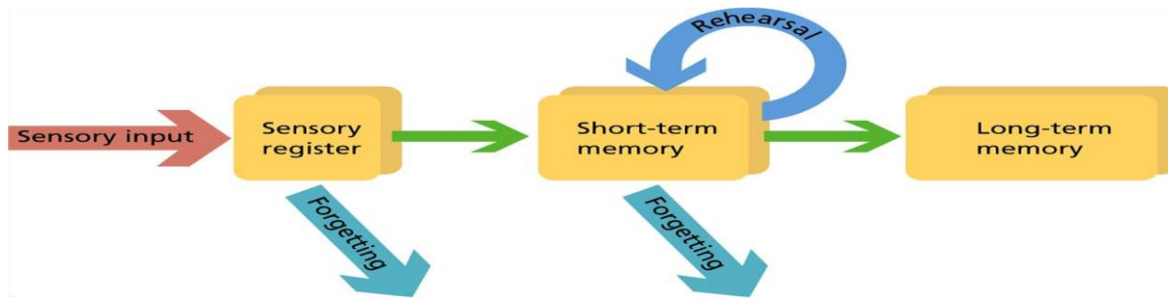
puzzle pieces together than retrieving a video recording.” Even questioning by a lawyer can alter the witness’s testimony because fragments of the memory may unknowingly be combined with information provided by the questioner, leading to inaccurate recall.

Many researchers have created false memories in normal individuals; what is more, many of these subjects are certain that the memories are real. In one well-known study, Loftus and her colleague Jacqueline Pickrell gave subjects written accounts of four events, three of which they had actually experienced. The fourth story was fiction; it centered on the subject being lost in a mall or another public place when he or she was between four and six years old. A relative provided realistic details for the false story, such as a description of the mall at which the subject’s parents shopped. After reading each story, subjects were asked to write down what else they remembered about the incident or to indicate that they did not remember it at all. Remarkably about one third of the subjects reported partially or fully remembering the false event. In two follow-up interviews, 25 percent still claimed that they remembered the untrue story, a figure consistent with the findings of similar studies.

The speaker also discussed the case of Steve Titus - wrongful conviction: The wrongful conviction of Steve Gary Titus an American businessman, was convicted wrongly of rape. Titus was dismissed from his job after the conviction and, though the charges were soon dismissed, he became long term unemployed The crime was later determined to have been committed by serial rapist Edward Lee King. Journalist Paul Henderson was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for Investigative Reporting for his work on the case.



The topic that was discussed next was ‘Stages of memory’ to make students understand the unreliability of eyewitness testimony.



The speaker then discussed the topic ‘Mental health & Forensics’ and mainly discussed the question ‘Should a person who is mentally ill/disabled be punished for crime commission?’ People with mental illness can rarely be harmful to society. As part of this discussion the expert explained Section 84 of IPC to the students. Section 84 of IPC deals with the “**act of a person of unsound mind.**”. “Nothing is an offense which is done by a person who, at the time of doing it, by reason of unsoundness of mind, is incapable of knowing the nature of the act, or that he is doing what is either wrong or contrary to law.”

The insanity defense, also known as the mental disorder defense, is an affirmative defense by excuse in a criminal case, arguing that the defendant is not responsible for their actions due to an episodic or persistent psychiatric disease at the time of the criminal act.

At the end questions from students were answered by the speaker and one of the faculty from the department presented vote of thanks.