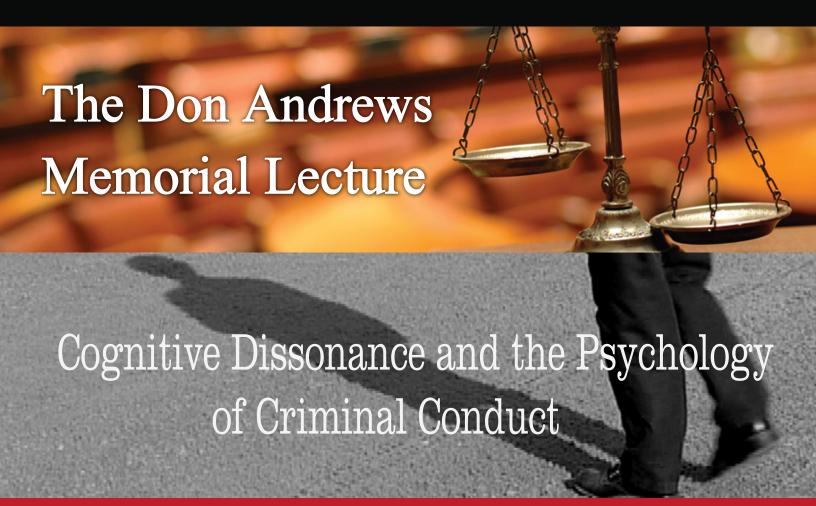


Department of Psychology Colloquium Series



Thursday, November 30, 2017 2:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Tory 340



Dr. Jim Bonta Public Safety Canada (ret.)

Many new perspectives of criminal behaviour arise from cognitive dissonance - the discomfort felt when one's attitudes and beliefs are in conflict with the evidence. This discomfort then serves as the motivation to restore consistency between attitudes/beliefs and what is observed. One such perspective that has been influenced by cognitive dissonance is the General Personality and Cognitive Social Learning (GPCSL) theory (Andrews & Bonta, 1994; Bonta & Andrews, 2017). GPCSL views criminal behaviour as a product of the environment in interaction with bio-social-personal factors. The application of GPCSL, the risk-need-responsivity (RNR) model of offender assessment and treatment, posits that certain bio-social-personal factors are more important than others and that cognitive-behavioural intervention techniques are more effective than other therapeutic tech

niques. Of course, the development of GPCSL and the RNR model was not entirely determined by cognitive dissonance but there were a few times that cognitive dissonance played a role. The presentation will describe a number of points of tension between what was believed and what was empirically demonstrated from both a general research viewpoint and from a personal perspective.