

## Donald Arthur Andrews June 13, 1941-October 22, 2010 An Appreciation

*Editor's Note: In October we learned of the death of Donald Arthur Andrews, whose four decades of work in the field of criminal justice have greatly enriched his colleagues and helped offenders and those who work with them. Long-time friend and collaborator James Bonta agreed to contribute an appreciation of his late colleague's work. In addition to appearing here in Federal Probation, it will also appear in Psychology, Crime & Law (Vol. 17, Issue 1, 2011, available late January), which can be accessed online at [www.informaworld.com/gpcl](http://www.informaworld.com/gpcl). Readers interested in this or other issues of Psychology, Crime & Law can contact Prof. Clive Hollin at [crh9@leicester.ac.uk](mailto:crh9@leicester.ac.uk) for further information.*

ON OCTOBER 22, 2010, criminology and correctional psychology lost a friend, innovator, and a vigorous advocate for the just and ethical treatment of offenders. Don Andrews' contributions have literally changed the lives of offenders, the people who work within the criminal justice system, our views of what causes crime and how to deal with crime.

Don spent almost all of his life in Ottawa, Canada. He received his B.A. (1963) and M.A. (1967) degrees from Carleton University and the Ph.D. (1969) from Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario, a short two-hour drive from Ottawa. All his degrees were in psychology and his doctoral dissertation was on the treatment of smoking behavior. He never published his dissertation and only presented the results at a conference. Don's failure to pursue smoking research was fortunate for criminology.

While in school Don completed a number of internships in the Canadian Penitentiary Service. It was during one of these internships that Don met Paul Gendreau. Paul was working on his Ph.D. and actually studying offender issues when he and Don struck a lifelong friendship and collaboration. During the card games that passed the time while waiting for their inmate to be escorted to them they spent hours laughing, talking, and discussing the contributions of Spence and Hull, early giants of psychology.

Upon graduation, Don accepted a post as a psychologist at Rideau Correctional Centre, a prison outside of Ottawa housing low- and medium-risk offenders. It was affectionately referred to as "Sleepy Hollow" and although the inmates were relatively well-mannered, the prison became a hotbed of research that began with Don and continued by the chief psychologists and treatment directors following Don (Paul Gendreau, Hugh Marquis, Steve Wormith).

Don only stayed a year at Rideau Correctional Centre. In 1970 he accepted a position as assistant professor of psychology, St. Patrick's College (which later became part of Carleton University). It was at Carleton where Don remained until his retirement as professor emeritus in 2006. One of the courses that Don taught was the Psychology of Criminal Behaviour. Initially,

the course “textbook” was a collection of journal articles. The course was extremely popular and in 1980, Don invited me to teach the evening section of the course. I was working as the chief psychologist at the Ottawa-Carleton Detention Centre and eagerly agreed to teach the evening section. As the years progressed the articles in the course textbook were replaced by chapters and eventually became in 1994 *The Psychology of Criminal Conduct*.

The late 1970s and the 1980s were heady days for research on criminal behavior. In 1974, Martinson and his colleagues published their review of the apparent ineffectiveness of offender rehabilitation and the so-called “nothing works” movement was launched. Immediately, Don and many of his colleagues became staunch opponents of “nothing works” and the resultant “get tough” zeitgeist. During these years, Paul Gendreau, who was a Regional Coordinating Psychologist for the Ontario Ministry of Correctional Services, held annual meetings at Opinicon Resort. In attendance were the psychologists, psychometrists, and students working for the Ministry of Correctional Services, along with many other invitees. Don Andrews had a standing invitation to these meetings, where we discussed developments in offender risk assessment and offender treatment and why we thought Martinson et al. were wrong.

On reflection, I do not think that I ever fully appreciated the fact that so many of those conducting ground-breaking research were all there in one province, many of whom within a one-hour commute from each other. We truly had a critical mass of intellectual curiosity. This is the group that Frank Cullen called the “Canadian School” and this is the group that was partly led by Don and also influenced Don. During the 1980s, Don and his colleagues gathered the evidence to forcefully respond to “nothing works” and to also contextualize this evidence within a theoretically informed model. The accumulation of this work appeared in two 1990 papers. The first paper, co-authored with myself and Robert (Bob) Hoge, outlined the Risk-Need-Responsivity (RNR) model. The second paper (with Ivan Zinger, Hoge, Bonta, Gendreau, and Cullen) presented the evidence that offender treatment can work if the RNR principles are followed. The General Personality and Cognitive Social Learning (GPCSL) Theory made its first published appearance in *The Psychology of Criminal Conduct* (1994), although the originating ideas go back to 1982.

With respect to offender risk prediction, Don's research began in the late 1970s and resulted in the Level of Service Inventory (LSI) published by the Ontario Ministry of Correctional Services in 1982. The LSI was quickly adopted by the probation division of the Ministry and with ongoing collaboration with me and Larry Motiuk eventually adopted by the institutional division. Today, the Level of Service (LS) instruments are the most widely used offender assessment instruments in the world, with translations in five languages.

Don Andrews has made significant contributions to the theoretical, empirical, and applied understandings of variation in the criminal behavior of individuals. The GPCSL theory of criminal conduct stood in stark contrast to traditional criminological theory that placed an emphasis on political-sociological-economic explanations of crime. The level of detail and respect for evidence in his theoretical work was unparalleled. Criminological theoreticians were reminded of the importance of psychological factors and today many theories of crime place significant emphasis on person factors.


*The Psychology of Criminal Conduct*, now in its 5th edition, has had a major impact on applied research in criminology. The development of the LSI offender risk assessment instruments has moved the field beyond the simple assessment of static risk factors to include dynamic risk factors that guide supervision and intervention. The formulation of the RNR principles has provided a theoretical understanding of why certain treatments are effective. These principles have formed the basis for the empirical analysis of the treatment literature, for the development of rehabilitation programs, and the evaluation of these programs.

The significance of Don's contributions has been instrumental in an approach to corrections that is more scientific, more effective, and more humane. Through his research and inspiration to colleagues and students, Don has improved the lives of thousands of offenders and prevented untold numbers of victimizations. He has been a scholar of much criminological and practical

consequence. He will be deeply missed by his wife, Catherine Carvell; his children and grandchildren Rebecca, Adam, Vicky, Karen, Donna, Ashley and Jeminah; sister Heather Chase; and his entire family. He will also be missed by his colleagues and friends and, I am certain, the field of criminology and correctional psychology.

*James Bonta*  
*Director, Corrections Research*  
*Public Safety Canada*

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