

# The Prediction and Prevention of Recidivism —— The Relationship Between the Subconscious, Behavior, and Personality

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## **Abstract:**

*In the fast-paced world, many criminals pose a serious threat to social security, among which recidivism is a group that needs special attention, so it is important to accurately predict and effectively prevent it. In general, such groups are imprisoned for two or more crimes. By typing keywords such as “criminal cases, basic courts, judgments, and recidivism” into the China Judgment Network, it can be found that from 2014 to 2021, the number of recidivism cases adjudicated by basic courts nationwide accounted for about 10% to 15% of all cases, and the number of recidivism cases in all years was around 100,000 to 145,000 except for 2021. Judging from the relevant judgment documents and cases reported by the news media, the offenders in some cases of recidivism of persons released from prison have the experience of being criminally punished many times, such as the theft case of Song cracked in 2020, the offender has been imprisoned eight times, seven of which were for theft. In the process of committing crimes, these people have a stronger sense of anti-reconnaissance and more proficient criminal methods, and many people regard crime as an insignificant habit, and this has undoubtedly brought more threats and pressure to public order to the people and society. The purpose of this study is to explore the relationship between recidivism and the subconscious, behavior, and personality, and to propose a prediction method based on image projection. Through experiments on ex-convicts and people with no criminal record, the psychological characteristics and subconscious manifestations of the ex-offenders and the population with no criminal record were analyzed, to predict the possibility of recidivism.*

**Keywords:** Recidivism; Subconscious; Personality; Prediction; Prevention

## 1. Introduction

Regarding the legal concept of recidivism, according to the concept of jurisprudence, any criminal who has been sentenced to a criminal sentence commits a crime that should be punished under the criminal law after the completion of the execution or pardon. Recidivism is a serious problem in the field of public order and poses a serious threat to social stability and public safety. The subconscious refers to unnoticed mental activities, including primitive instincts, impulses, childhood psychological imprints, environmental influences, concepts, personality, etc. The subconscious mind can influence people's decision-making, emotions, behavior, and health, and many of people's behaviors are influenced by the subconscious. According to Wenxuan Chen (2021) [1], recidivists usually have specific psychological characteristics and behavior patterns, so it is crucial to accurately predict and intervene in these characteristics. This study will explore the relationship between recidivism and the subconscious, behavior, and personality, to provide theoretical support and practical guidance for effective prediction and prevention of recidivism.

## 2. Literature Review

The prediction and prevention of recidivism have always attracted the attention of academics and all walks of life. Zihan Wang et al. (2019) [2] have shown that the prediction of recidivism can be achieved by comprehensively considering the psychological characteristics of individuals. Lin Sun (2018) [3] et al. proposed a psychological assessment-based method that can help predict and prevent the occurrence of recidivism. A comprehensive literature review shows that factors such as subconscious and personality play an important role in recidivism, but relevant studies still need to be further explored [4].

## 3. Research Methodology

This study uses image projection as a research tool, which allows participants to construct their own imaginary world through a medium and reveal their personality traits without restriction. The medium used in the test may be some irregular lines, some meaningful images, or just a few endless sentences at the beginning, and so on. Due to the blurry image, a person's explanation can only be based on their imagination. Through different reactions and reactions, one can understand the personalities of different people. This method helps to observe participants' reactions to unintentional line images, and then analyze their subconscious and psychological characteristics. The participants included 18 released individuals and 18 indi-

viduals without criminal records. During the experiment, participants will be asked to describe the associations and feelings that the image brings to them in order to obtain their subconscious expression.

### 3.1 Research Objectives:

In today's society, crime and recidivism have always been a serious problem. This study aims to accurately predict recidivism through in-depth exploration of the subconscious domain and detailed personality analysis. Recidivists are common in criminal groups around the world, causing many lasting negative impacts on social security, victims, and their families.

Image projection is a uniquely valuable psychological research method that opens a window into the subconscious of specific groups. It can proficiently uncover hidden emotions, thoughts, and undiscovered psychological trends within individuals, and then combine personality assessment to construct predictive models based on various factors that predict the likelihood of individual recidivism. Through this innovative research method, we hope to provide a solid scientific foundation and support for preventing recidivism, developing more effective criminal correction strategies, and optimizing social security management systems.

### 3.2 Research Questions

#### 3.2.1 Differences in the psychological characteristics of the general population and criminal personnel

The general population lives in a social environment that follows traditional moral, ethical, and legal norms, and their psychological characteristics are often positive, stable, and healthy. They exhibit characteristics such as confidence and kindness in interpersonal relationships, have a good coping mechanism for life stress, can regulate emotions reasonably, and release stress.

However, due to criminal behavior, the psychological characteristics of criminals are significantly different from those of the general population. Criminal behavior is often closely related to distorted values, erroneous cognitive patterns, and unstable emotional control abilities. They may be more inclined to develop psychological tendencies such as aggression and antisocial tendencies, and more inclined to use extreme or illegal means to solve problems when facing them. Thoroughly studying these differences helps us understand the root causes of criminal behavior and guide targeted interventions and prevention measures.

#### 3.2.2 The recidivist's performance on the dark triangle personality

The Dark Triangle personality includes three characteristics: Machiavellianism, Narcissism, and Psychopathy.

In the field of crime, these three personality traits have attracted a lot of attention. The performance of recidivists in this regard is unique.

Recidivists with Machiavellian characteristics may be more manipulative and unrestrained, using various means to obtain the necessary resources or benefits in prison environment and social relationships after release, ignoring moral norms. The narcissistic characteristics of repeat offenders may manifest as excessive self-centeredness, overestimating their own abilities and values, ignoring the feelings and needs of others, which may lead them to relapse into conflicts with others and increase the risk of repeat offenders. On the other hand, repeat offenders with psychiatric characteristics may exhibit apathy, lack of empathy, and impulse control disorders, and are more likely to commit reckless criminal behavior in the face of temptation or conflict.

### 3.3 Study Designs

#### 3.3.1 Experimental tools and object selection

In order to deepen the relationship between the subconscious, personality, and recidivism, we carefully selected two sets of special colored line images as inductive tools. These images have been carefully designed without explicit or implicit meanings, aiming to maximize participants' free association and subconscious reactions.

We adhere to the principle of scientific rigor when selecting test subjects. On the one hand, we selected 18 former offenders with unique psychological experiences and states as the key group for our research on recidivism related issues. On the other hand, 18 individuals without criminal records were selected from the control group. By comparing the responses of two groups to the same experimental stimuli, we can more clearly reveal the differences in psychological characteristics associated with recidivism.

#### 3.3.2 Experimental Procedures and Psychoanalysis

When participants are exposed to experimental images, they will be asked to describe in detail the associations and inner feelings that arise from seeing the lines in the images. We will conduct a thorough psychological analysis of the reactions of former offenders. By carefully observing their language expression, emotional tendencies, and associative content, we can explore their subconscious psychological activity patterns.

Meanwhile, evaluate it using a professional dark psychology measurement scale. The experimenter will comprehensively evaluate the participants' subconscious thinking characteristics and recurrence probability based on the scientific standards of the scale, combined with their descriptions of the images and the psychological character-

istics exhibited during the communication process. In this process, we focus on the relationship between independent variables (psychological characteristics, subconscious, and personality) and dependent variables (how images are perceived and described), ensuring the reliability and effectiveness of research results through precise data collection and analysis methods.

### 3.4 Specific Assumptions

Based on a deep understanding of relevant theories and research results in the field of criminal psychology, as well as previous empirical observations, we propose the following specific hypotheses.

When presenting experimental images to participants, we assume that due to a healthy lifestyle, good education, and a positive social support system, individuals without criminal records will have healthy, sunny, and positive psychological traits. When they see images, their associations usually revolve around beautiful things, positive emotional experiences, and harmonious interpersonal relationships. They can feel positive elements from the lines, such as the beauty of art and the joy of life.

In contrast, due to past criminal experiences, possible psychological trauma, and distorted thinking patterns, the psychological state of repeat offenders is relatively dark and negative. When they see a photo, they may experience associations related to crime, negative emotional experiences, or aggressive thoughts.

Regarding the personality of the black triangle, we assume that repeat offenders exhibit significant differences in their characteristics. Recidivists with higher Black Triangle personality traits score higher on the scale, and this high score is positively correlated with their likelihood of future recidivism. That is to say, the higher the score on the scale, the more important the dark personality traits are, and the greater the likelihood of recurrence. However, we are also fully aware of the enormous subjectivity of this experience and the possibility of participants hiding their inner thoughts for various reasons. Therefore, we will use a specific population recidivism prediction model based on big data for cross validation and re exploration evaluation to improve the accuracy and reliability of the research results.

### 3.5 Research Processes

#### 3.5.1 Subject screening and informed notification

To ensure the representativeness and randomness of the experimental subjects, we use public safety networks as the authoritative channel for screening participants. Through a rigorous selection process, released individuals and individuals with no criminal record who meet the research requirements can participate in the experiment.

Before officially starting the experience, we attach great importance to the participants' right to know and autonomy. Each participant provides detailed background information about the experiment, including its purpose, process, potential risks, and expected benefits. At the same time, an informed consent form was provided for participants to read and sign. During this process, participants can fully understand the relevant information about the experience and decide whether to continue participating in the research.

### **3.5.2 Pre-questionnaire survey**

Before the study began, to better control variables and fully understand the participants' basic knowledge, we designed a detailed questionnaire. The questionnaire includes basic personal information of participants, such as age, gender, education level, occupation, as well as questions about certain control variables related to experience. For example, participants' understanding of the subconscious domain, whether they have been exposed to dark personality tests, and information about family environment, social support systems, etc. By asking these questions, we can analyze the experimental results more comprehensively, eliminate the interference of independent factors, and ensure the accuracy and scientific of the results.

### **3.5.3 Experimental operation and data collection**

After completing the questionnaire survey, participants officially enter the experimental operation stage. In this process, they will individually face the information stimulus of the experiment, namely the visualization of experimental images. When participants read the experimental images, we asked them to quickly describe the situation of the dependent variable. For example, describing the first feeling of seeing an image, the relevant images that appear in the mind, emotional changes, etc. During this process, the experimenter will carefully record each participant's reaction and description to ensure the completeness and accuracy of the data. Through this method, we are able to collect a large amount of raw data, providing a solid foundation for further data analysis work.

### **3.5.4 Data analysis and conclusion derivation**

After data collection, the experimenter will use advanced data analysis methods to conduct in-depth analysis of the collected data. By comparing and analyzing the evaluation results of the Dark Psychology Scale with data from released individuals and individuals without criminal records, the intrinsic relationship and patterns between independent and dependent variables were explored, and the emotional, associative, and psychological characteristics of images were described. We will use statistical methods

to quantify data, create charts, build models, and visually present the results. Finally, through rigorous data analysis and scientific reasoning, research conclusions on the relationship between subconsciousness, personality, and recidivism were drawn, providing valuable references for the development of criminal psychology and social security management.

## **4. Conclusion**

Subconscious and personality traits are closely related to recidivism. The assessment of the psychological characteristics and subconscious of ex-offenders can help predict the likelihood of recidivism and provide an important basis for formulating effective preventive measures [5]. In addition, with the development of society and the diversification of crime forms, we need to further improve the prediction model to improve the accuracy and effectiveness of recidivism prevention. To organically combine prediction and prevention, in the real system, it is necessary to establish a realistic institutional carrier to implement the two-way thinking of "punishment + prevention", and the realistic institutional carrier here is the preventive incarceration system with the nature of security sanctions. The system is aimed only at specific types of offenders, who, after the execution of the sentence for the offence they have committed, are assessed and, if they are still a danger to society, are required to be held in custody even after the sentence has ended, provided with a series of treatments to eliminate the danger during the detention period, and released after the danger has been eliminated. Doing a good job in preventing the recidivism of persons released from prison is not achieved overnight. When considering how to do a better job in this regard, we should consider it from multiple angles, not only at the legal level, but also from the personal and family reasons of those who have been released from prison. In this way, with continuous persistence and exploration, China's governance system for recidivism of those released from prison will become more scientific and modern.

## **References**

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