

DECLARATION

I **Debbie Collaros** (Student number: **9007394H**) am a student registered for the degree of **Doctor of Philosophy** in the academic year **2018**.

I hereby declare the following:

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- I confirm that the work submitted for assessment for the above degree is my own unaided work except where I have explicitly indicated otherwise.
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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Debbie Collaros', enclosed within an oval shape.

Date: 10th of March 2019

DEDICATION

For my Loving, Eternal Anchor...

...and to the wonderful children He has given me: Jules & Erin

ABSTRACT

Recent, but limited local research supports the theory demonstrated abroad that serial offenders tend to cluster their crimes (Geographical Profiling). In response to the need for additional research, this qualitative study explored the psychogeography of fifteen imprisoned South African serial murderers to assess whether this sample of offenders perpetrated their crimes in geographically patterned ways. Using semi-structured interviews, the incarcerated serial murderers were requested to draw mental maps of the areas encompassing their crime scenes as well as to provide descriptions of their movements during their crime series. It was established that geographical patterns *did* emerge, which had a domocentric focus, and that these South African serial murderers predominantly seemed to represent a marauding, route-following model of environmental learning.

Although not yet formally acknowledged in our South African courts, geographical profiling has already made a significant contribution to the investigation of local serial murder. As more research is conducted and the psychogeography of serial murder is better understood, it is hoped that this would have the important implication of assisting police in focusing their patrolling efforts and investigators in their linkage of multiple crimes to a common perpetrator for court purposes.

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Thank you to the DCS for granting me permission to enter the Johannesburg, Leeuwkop, Boksburg, Modderbee, Kroonstad, Kutama-Sinthumele and Mangaung Maximum Security Correctional Centres, and to the Heads of the various Medium and Maximum facilities as well as their psychologists for collectively arranging the opportunity to interview fifteen of their incarcerated serial murderers.

Thank you to the editing femme fatales - my mom and Angy – for their ruthless execution of referencing, grammatical and typing errors.

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NOMENCLATURE

Readers should note that although female serial murderesses have been estimated to comprise approximately 10% to 15% of all serial murder offenders (Scott, 2008), the masculine pronoun has been used exclusively throughout the thesis. This is due to the fact that most serial murders are committed by men (Cohen & Felson, 2010). Most of the research on serial murderers has focused only on male offenders, including the sample in this thesis. Hence, for the purpose of easy reading, the masculine pronoun has been used.

GLOSSARY OF SOUTH AFRICAN JARGON/PHRASES

(in order of appearance)

<i>joh</i>	exclamation of surprise
<i>veldt</i>	bush/grassland
<i>ja</i>	yes
<i>sjambok</i>	whip
<i>shebeen</i>	informal bar
<i>comrades</i>	fellow members of an organisation/struggle
<i>muti</i>	traditional medicine made from plants (and sometimes human body parts)
<i>shack</i>	primitive dwelling
<i>Shoprite</i>	a local franchise store for basic necessities
<i>klaar</i>	finished
<i>mealie</i>	corncob
<i>dustbin</i>	trashcan
<i>ai</i>	expression of a sigh
<i>bakkie</i>	pickup truck
<i>niks nie</i>	nothing
<i>êk ken fokol</i>	I know nothing

Please also note that sometimes the use of the gender pronoun (he/she) is mixed up in some of the interviewee's quotes as this is a common error when Black people speak English.

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