Dealing with the Unthinkable: Studies of the Cognitive and Emotional Stress of Child Homicide on Police Investigators, a European Perspective

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Investigating crime can be a physically and psychologically draining task, such effects are exacerbated when the crime being investigated is the most heinous of all. When a child dies, this is without doubt one of the most distressing events imaginable and the most atrocious of crimes to investigate. Until recently, research had neglected the effect that investigating such crimes can have on an investigating officer. This presentation will discuss two recent research articles one including Senior Investigating Officers (n=99) from UK constabularies and the other including detailed interviews with UK and Danish investigators. The presentation will conclude with a discussion of future research being prepared aimed at supporting those who investigate the unthinkable.

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