

Psychological Motivations in Vampiric Crime:

A Focus on the Rod Ferrell Case

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Abstract

Crimes which contain vampiric attributes have existed throughout history. It is estimated that several criminal acts incorporating elements associated with the vampire archetype are committed each year in the United States. One of the most widely studied investigations is the Rod Ferrell case. This paper suggests that Ferrell's fascination with vampiric imagery provided the content for his delusional belief system and subsequent violent actions. If his obsession was with an alternative mythology, his crimes would most likely still have happened, but the context surrounding them may have been different. It is additionally proposed that identifying the specific source of imagery an offender adopts is a priority when establishing a criminal profile of the vampiric offender.

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