The Geographical approach is based on scientific evidence, from statistical analysis conducted by Canter while developing the theory and looking into a criminal's mental map. The Geographical approach is based on empirical evidence and all the research was conducted in real life situations giving it high academic credibility. On the other hand, the Typology approach has been criticised by Canter for its research method, the closed interviews with serial killers provided a small sample size and lacked academic credibility. The interpretation of the interview could be biased to support the research as well as the fact that Canter has questioned the motives of the FBI, saying instead that it was for glorification of their agents to have first hand contact with a convicted serial killer. As all the research was conducted on convicted killers, the behaviour and personality traits could be different to those who haven’t been caught. By nature, Canter said that all serial killers are organised, they are clever enough to plan their attacks and leave very little forensic evidence at the crime scene, for this reason the classification system is unnecessary.

Offender profiling as a whole has a lot of practical application, the Typology approach is widely used by the FBI across America and is considered a necessary tool in solving the more serious crimes such as rape and murder. As well as this, the Geographical approach was used by Canter when the police failed to catch the Railway Rapist, Canter devised an offender profile and as a result John Duffy was caught and convicted. Despite the criticisms of the research, the theories themselves have been proven to be useful in solving crimes and as a result of this they cannot be considered a waste of time.