Challenging the idea that profilers can make accurate predictions

**Defining investigative psychology**

Canter (1994): ‘The domain of ‘investigative psychology’ covers all aspects of psychology that are relevant to the conduct of criminal or civil investigations. Its focus is on the ways in which criminal activities may be examined and understood in order for the detection of crime to be effective and legal proceedings to be appropriate.’

Relates to the management, investigation and prosecution of crime

*Canter and applied profiling*

So-called ‘railway rapist’

18 attacks on women between 1982 and 1986 in London

Operation Hart police inquiry

Emergency of profiling and investigative psychology

**Components of investigative psychology**

Police decision making

Inference: using the information to inform decision making and subsequent actions

Retrieval of statements by witnesses, victims and suspects and informants: including how police should use different interview techniques for different kinds of interviews, the evaluation of the reliability and validity of informant’s information

Psychological autopsy: the attempt to understand the character and activities of a person found dead under suspicious circumstances

Statement analysis: the development of objective indicators or deception or false confessing