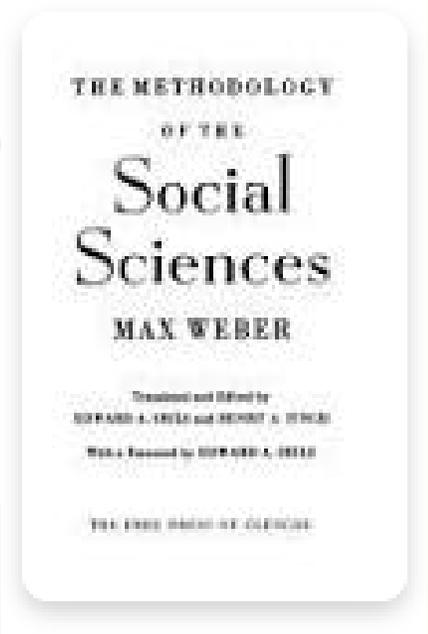


# What is required to attain the status of a social science?

- ▶ Empirically based on observation and logical analysis --
- ▶ Theoretical (including summarising complex observations and devising propositions to explain relationships) --
- ▶ Accumulative knowledge (including theories that build on one another) --
- ▶ Published research findings for checking by other scholars --

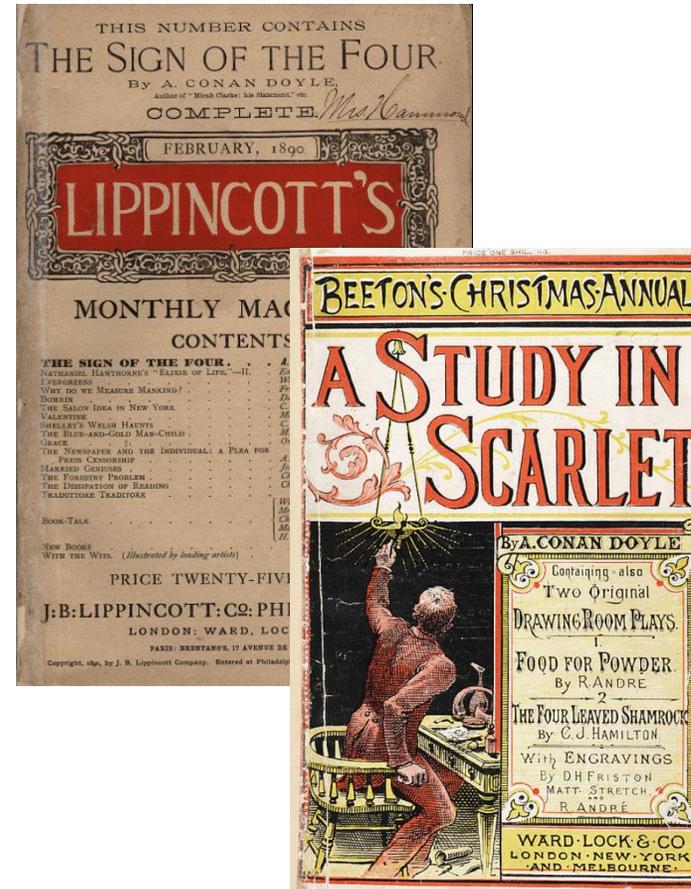
(Weir 1991, p8)



# The Science of Deduction

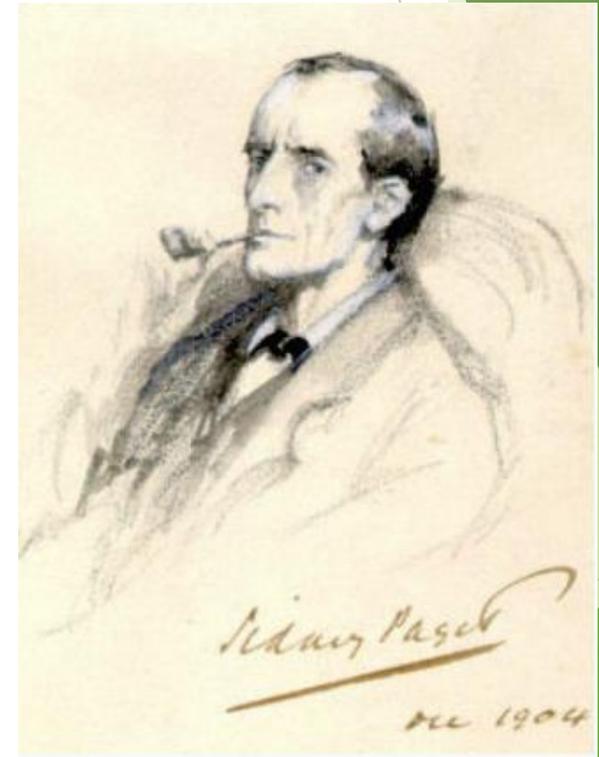
“Detection is, or ought to be, an exact science, and should be treated in the same cold and unemotional manner,” [said Holmes].

“But it was not mere guesswork?” [asked Watson]. “No. No: I never guess. It is a shocking habit - destructive to the logical faculty. What is strange to you is only because you do not follow my train of thought or observe the small facts upon which large inferences may depend,” [replied Holmes].



# The Science of Deduction or Induction

- ▶ **Deduction:** Theory to Hypothesis to Observation to Confirmation
- ▶ **Induction:** Observation to Pattern to Hypothesis to Theory
- ▶ **Inductive reasoning** – Holmes extrapolates from the information he observed to arrive at conclusions about events that have not been observed.



Sidney Paget 1904

# Victimology - Are its roots in Criminology?

- ▶ Beccaria (1738-1794 in Kirchhoff 2007) ... abuse of power is victimisation
- ▶ Ferri (1906) & Garofalo (1914) observed that the victim sometimes provoked another person to attack, which could result in the victim's death.
- ▶ “Characteristics of homicide victims” (see MacDonald 1971 on 1920-30s criminology)
- ▶ Impact of sex offences on children (Bender & Blau 1937)
  
- ▶ “The duet frame of crime” (von Hentig 1940, 1948; see Elias, 1986) ... asked why do we not listen to what is revealed about the victim in the available ... information anecdote & unstructured observations
- ▶ The victim's culpability (Mendelsohn 1940, 1956; see Walklate, 1989) ... accident, proneness and liability
- ▶ “The penal couple” (Ellenberger 1955)

# Victimology - Are its roots in Criminology?

- ▶ The criminologists Wolfgang (1957) on homicide and Amir (1971) on rape ... precipitation v. provocation ... victim blaming
- ▶ Shared Responsibility (Schafer 1968) ... much of the earlier work in the study of victims of crime “suffered from a lack of organised imagination”
- ▶ These early studies relied on ‘police data’ or ‘recorded crime’, so the samples might be seriously unrepresentative; hence calling into question the ‘duet frame’, victim culpability, shared responsibility ... “dangerously misleading” (Taylor 1976)
- ▶ Crime victim survey data -- “actions, attributes and social situations of victims” ... victim proneness (Sparks 1981)
- ▶ Concepts of victim precipitation and victim proneness laid the foundation for ‘positivist victimology’ (Meirs 1989) and contribute to the formulation of ‘lifestyle exposure theory’ of criminal victimisation (Gottfredson 1981)

# Victimology - An evolving social science?

- ▶ Unlike Criminology that focused on the criminal, Mendelsohn (1940, 1956) proposed a science that focused on the victim ... some scholars & commentators attribute Mendelsohn with coining the term Victimology. However, the term first appeared in print in *Victimology: the study of victims of homicide* (Wertham 1949; see Fattah, 1991 and Zedner, 1997).
- ▶ A “hodgepodge of non-academic collection of ideas, interests, ideologies and research methods” (Cressey 1988).
- ▶ Lacks a sound theoretical basis (Goodey 2005; O’Connor 2005) ... routine activities theory and rational choice theory are put forward as victimological theories, yet, though the original proponents utilised victimological concepts, they did not present their theories as victimological.

# Victimology - An evolving social science?

- ▶ Conversely, several theoretical streams have evolved: conservative, liberal, positivist, radical and critical victimology (Karmen 1994; Mawby and Walklate 1994; Walklate 2017)
- ▶ Several theories have been advanced through scientific methodologies:
  - ▶ Social-structural, situational-oriented (Schneider 2001) and differential risk (Fattah 1991) theories that, among other things, help explain why victimisation happens.
  - ▶ Psycho-social theory (Dussich 2007; Tollefson 2012) and ‘invasions into the self of the victim’ theory (Kirchhoff 2005; James 2015) that help explain the impact of victimisation.

# What is the scope of Victimology?

- ▶ Victims of crime: the extent, nature and causes of criminal victimisation, its consequences for victims and the reactions of society (O'Connell 2005).
- ▶ Focuses on victimisation, victims, and processes involving these elements and categories in five major areas, each with sub-areas and in some instances sub-sub-areas, identified as criminal/penal, political, economic, familial and medical victimology. (Knudten 1992)
- ▶ Human rights abuses (Neuman 1984; Elias 1986).
- ▶ All forms of human suffering, regardless of their origin (Garkawe 2004). Even Mendelsohn (1963; 1973), one of the forefathers of victimology, first proposed a criminal or penal victimology but later advocated for a general victimology.

# What are 'fundamental' concepts for Victimology?

Two concepts are fundamental to Victimology - victim and victimisation:

## ▶ Victim

- ▶ “lacking descriptive precision” (Anand CJ 1997 in Ramasubramanian J 2015)
- ▶ Ideal victim (Christie 1986) & deserving of victimhood (Bayley 1991) - helpless to prevent, plus legally and/or morally entitled to social concern
- ▶ International law (e.g., Declaration of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime & Abuse of Power)
- ▶ People who are beset by loss, injury or hardship from any cause (Karmen 2004)

# What are 'fundamental' concepts for Victimology?

## Victimisation:

### ▶ Sources:

- ▶ Natural - Disaster (e.g., earthquake, tsunami), Disease (e.g., HIV/AIDS), Predatory Animal (e.g., shark attacks)
- ▶ Human - Structural (e.g., patriarchy. political), Criminal, Civil, Self / Auto (e.g., suicide)

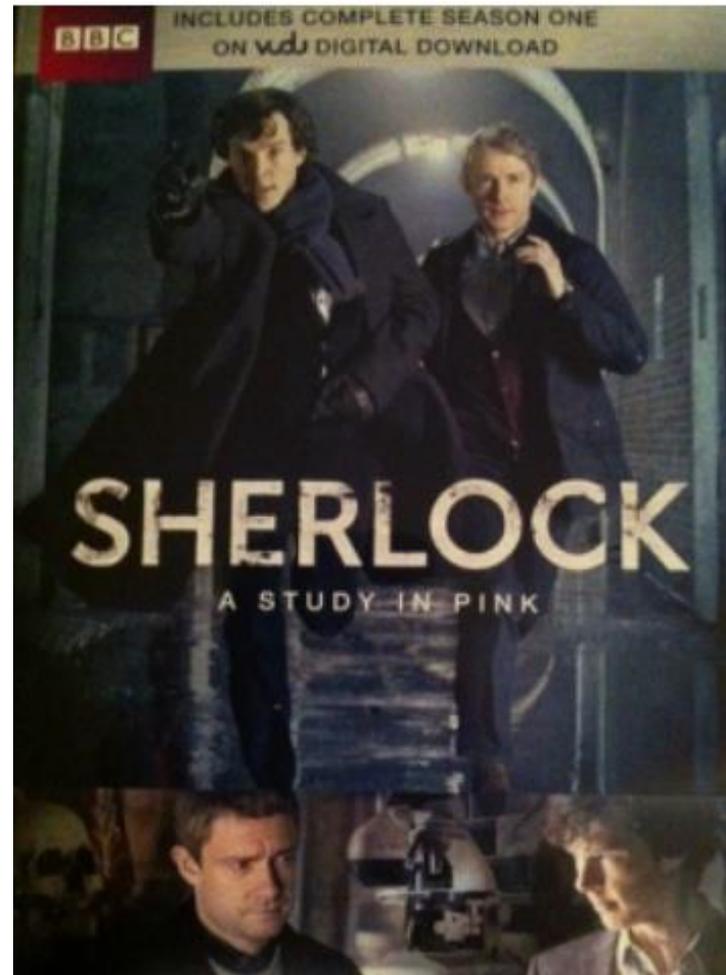
### ▶ Levels of victimisation:

- ▶ **Primary victims** are directly affected by the source.
- ▶ **Secondary victims** are people who have some relationship with the primary victim and are emotionally and/or financially dependent on them (e.g., a child, parent or spouse).
- ▶ **Tertiary victims** are people whose lifestyles have been inconvenienced by, for instance, excessive fear and those people (e.g., consumers and taxpayers) who have to bear the cost to society of the source of victimisation

# Sherlock - Forensic Victimology



Illustration by Sidney Paget



Source: BBC UK

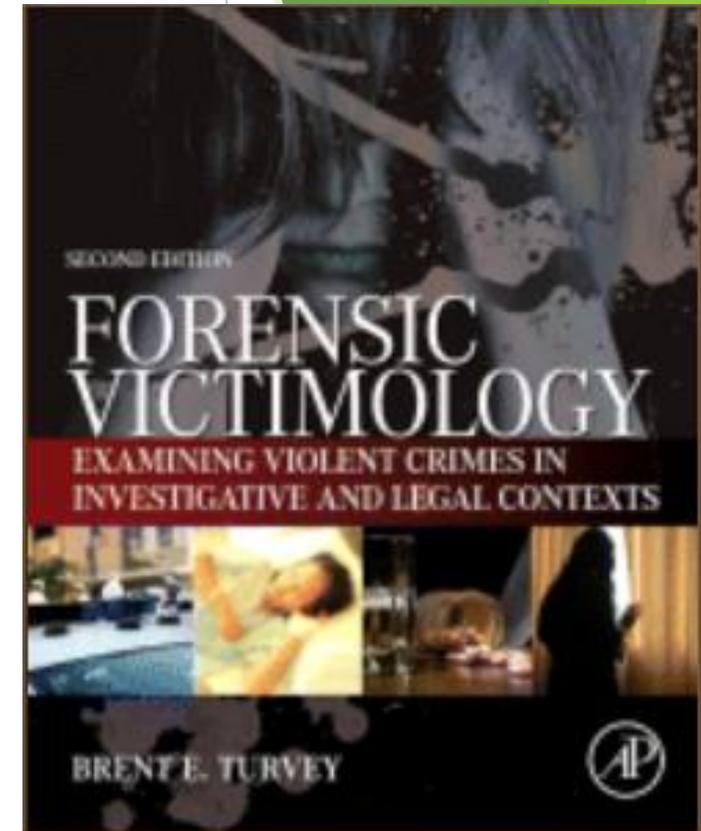
# Forensic Victimology - Popularised in drama



Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sC9M2zh1MhM>

# What is Forensic Victimology?

- ▶ “... an applied discipline, intended to be employed as an objective scientific practice.”
- ▶ “... objectively studies victims, with a focus on impartially and completely describing all aspects of their life and lifestyle in order to gain a better understanding of how they came to be victimized, how the crime took place, and their relationship with the offender.” (Turvey 2009)



# What are the theoretical bases of Forensic Victimology?

- ▶ Informed by criminological theories, especially those that incorporate victimological concepts (i.e., a focus on the 'victim')
  - ▶ Individual characteristics and commonalities
  - ▶ Life-style theory
  - ▶ Situational theory
  - ▶ Profiling
- ▶ Applied to:
  - ▶ Conventional violent crime
  - ▶ Intimate partner violence
  - ▶ Sexual violence
  - ▶ Transnational organised crime (e.g., trafficking in human beings)

# How do Forensic Victimologists define key concepts in Victimology?

- ▶ **Victimology** - “The study of a victim, or all victims, in order to discover clues and information in regard to the offender’s opportunity and selection process. (“Why this particular victim at this particular time?”)”
- ▶ **Victimisation** - An act that exploits someone or makes a victim of them, such as homicide, sexually assaulting any person, molesting a child, or sex trafficking.

# Forensic Victimology - Proponents' views

- ▶ “Forensic victimology moves victimology from the theoretical study of victim groups through the lens of radical agendas to an applied scientific discipline that helps solve crime and resolve legal questions...”
- ▶ “It provides scientific balance against the idealization or demonization of victims, a filter for deception and false reporting, and the means for identifying a threshold of relevance for victim information and opinions already at work in the criminal justice system.” (Turvey & Petherick, 2008)

# Forensic Victimology - Critical observations

- ▶ Revisits the early victimological theories - does it therefore have the potential to victim blame?
- ▶ Moves victimology from the theoretical study to an applied science?
- ▶ Limits the scope of Victimology to domestic concepts of crime and criminal law ... Is this contrary to the advances in the field of Victimology?
- ▶ Though arguably its application improves investigation of crime, who is (or are) the beneficiaries?
- ▶ Is it truly victim-centric (i.e., puts the victim at the centre) or another means to advance a 'crime-fighting' ideology?

# Does Forensic Victimology match the tasks of Criminal/Penal Victimology?

- ▶ To diagnose a situation --
- ▶ To interpret the situation --
- ▶ To suggest ways of creating desired situations --
- ▶ To prevent undesired situations --

(Holyst 1982 in Whitrod 1986, p3)

- ▶ To minimise the effects / the impact --

(Groenhuijsen 2017)

Thank you



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