

FORENSIC PSYCHOLOGY: is the understanding & production of psychological knowledge that is applicable, in an integrative fashion, to issues of importance to the criminal and civil justice systems

- **Clinical Forensic Psychology (AU):** The application of clinical psychological knowledge to the treatment and rehabilitation of offenders.
- **Criminal Psychology (UK):** The application of psychological knowledge to the criminal justice system.
- **Law & Psychology (US):** The use of psychological knowledge to assist with issues of importance to the law

NATURE VS NURTURE: This debate revolves around the issue of how people acquire their behaviours & mental processes

FREE WILL VS DETERMINISM: This debate revolves around the issue of whether our behaviours & mental processes are a product of our choice or the unavoidable result of precursors

MIND / BODY: This debate revolves around the issue of establishing the relationship between the mind (cognitive processes) & the body (behaviour)

- **EMERGENCE:** the mind controls the body
- **EPIPHENOMENALISM:** the body controls the mind
- **INTERACTIONISM:** the mind & body causally affect each other
- **PSYCHOPHYSICAL PARALLELISM:** the mind & body are not causally related

MENS REA: “guilty mind” – The state of mind that the prosecution, to secure a conviction, must prove that a defendant had when committing a crime (criminal intent)

- Mens rea serves to distinguish a criminal offence from the same act committed accidentally or for some legal / non-criminal purpose such as self defence

ACTUS REUS: “guilty act” – The act does not make the person guilty unless the mind be also guilty (common law standard for establishing criminal intent)

DIMINISHED RESPONSIBILITY: The claim that some influence beyond their control caused them to act the way that they did eg. mental illness (depression) led to financial hardship, led to personal stress, led to lack of sleep etc. diminishing the ability to rationalise & control their actions

IMPULSIVE: An act committed without thinking (reactive) – unconscious

PREMEDITATED: Planned or intentional acts – conscious

LAW: The rules established by a governing authority to institute & maintain orderly coexistence

CIVIL CASE: Settlement of a dispute between 2 parties, where one of the parties perceives that they have been harmed

CRIMINAL CASE: The prosecution by the state of an individual who has violated a law

APPELLATE DECISIONS: Made by a higher court, usually regarding a claim that an individual’s constitutional rights have been infringed upon during a lower court hearing. These decisions are usually recorded

STARE DECISIS: Legal principle of following precedents in deciding a case – the idea that future decisions should follow the example set by prior decisions