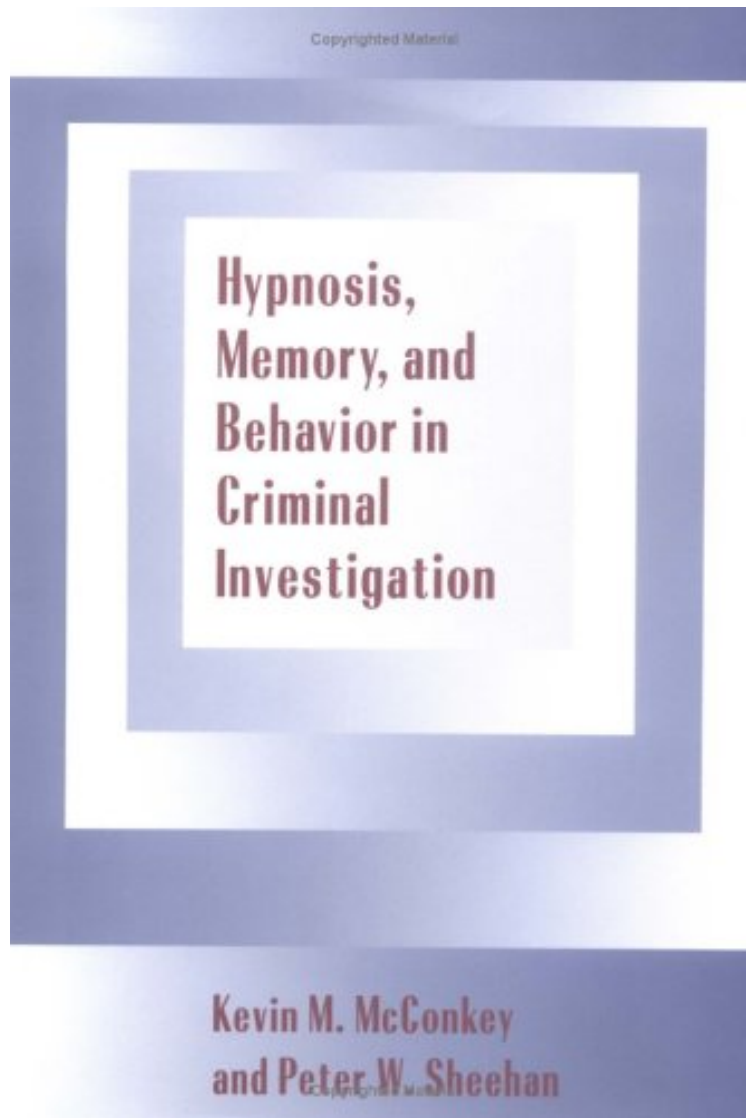


# Hypnosis, Memory, and Behavior in Criminal Investigation

*Kevin M. McConkey, Peter W. Sheehan*

*\*Download PDF / ePub / DOC / audiobook / ebooks*



[Download](#)

[Read Online](#)

#1713999 in Books The Guilford Press 1995-08-11Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 .94 x 6.08 x 9.20l,  
#File Name: 1572300086240 pages | File size: 32.Mb

**Kevin M. McConkey, Peter W. Sheehan : Hypnosis, Memory, and Behavior in Criminal Investigation** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Hypnosis, Memory, and Behavior in Criminal Investigation:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Good BookBy A Friendly VoiceI enjoyed this book. An easy read. It discusses many interesting cases in which hypnosis was used in criminal investigations and gives transcripts of such. The first case is astonishing at how poor the hypnosis, done by a lay-hypnotist, was in one investigation that later had to be thrown out because it contaminated the memory of the subject. (I forget if I read this in the book or not, but it has

been stated that lawyers behind closed curtains sometimes resort to hiring a lay-hypnotist to hypnotize the accuser so that the case must be thrown out.)The reader learns that hypnosis for criminal investigations is conducted only under very carefully organized conditions. Some of these are that the hypnotist know as little as possible about the case, so that he does not present a bias, or leading questions; the hypnotist often wears a earpiece so that the investigators can speak into his ear if necessary during the induction; an psychology must be present in addition during the investigation (which could actually pose difficulties); the subject is to be interviewed to recall what is known about the incidents BEFORE hypnosis, with hypnosis, then after hypnosis. Another interesting topic in this book is the way in which the hypnotist often experiences ethical concern for the well being of the subject; does the hypnotist offer suggestions for well being for the traumatic incident they observed (and are they allowed to) or is the goal simply to "get the information" even at the expense of the well being of the subject? All these and much more discussed. There are no techniques or training presented in this book or anything like that which would allow the reader to hypnotize people. Just the opposite is true -- it presents the topic in a serious tone, necessarily, because often times these are matters of life and death. The cases presented show this. This book presents a good overview of the topic of hypnosis in criminal investigation for the neophyte; even as a trained hypnotist myself, I found it a highly enjoyable and good read, and I learned a lot too. At times it reads like a crime novel.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. If you work in the field

By Eugene H. Steele If you work in the field of forensic hypnosis this is one of those must have books for research and a perspective of its development.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Scholarly, insightful, and engaging

By A Customer This book is almost unique in that it provides an in-depth analysis of some important cases that have strongly shaped Australian legal views about hypnotically elicited testimony. Long before the recovered memory debate broke in either the US or Australia, these authors (and their colleagues overseas, such as Martin Orne and Campbell Perry) were considering the pros and cons of using hypnosis in a forensic context. Readers who don't tolerate ambiguity and who are looking for black and white answers may come away from this book believing that it has nothing clear to say to them. But forensic hypnosis is a sometimes messy business. These authors do a fine job of analysing some fascinating cases, summarising the (then) latest findings from the laboratory, and highlighting important ethical issues (e.g., who is the primary client when hypnosis is used in the legal system? the police who request it or the witness, the victim, or (more rarely) the suspect being hypnotised). These are not easy issues. The authors grapple with them via an excellent tour of some gripping cases; there are verbatim transcripts, detailed analysis of how memories were influenced by the hypnotic procedures, and the outcomes of trials (where relevant). The authors are not vitriolic advocates of one point of view over another. Rather, their tone is measured, considered, and ultimately compelling. I use this text in a number of courses that I teach, both to postgraduate students of forensic psychology and continuing education students (health care professionals seeking qualifications in the use of hypnosis). Along with Laurence Perry's (1988) *Hypnosis, Will, Memory*, this is one of my favourite texts.

In this volume, Kevin McConkey and Peter Sheehan draw from their extensive research to examine the use of hypnosis in criminal investigation. In addition to exploring the reliability of hypnotically recovered memory, this book covers a broad range of other significant technical, clinical, ethical, and legal issues including the inadequacy of current guidelines for research and practice, and the ethical concerns professionals must deal with when using hypnosis in criminal investigation. Written for a broad professional audience, this volume explicitly illustrates the complexities involved in using hypnosis in forensic settings and lays the groundwork for more carefully drawn guidelines in this area of professional practice. The book opens with an illuminating overview of the use of hypnosis in criminal investigation, focusing in particular on its use with witnesses and victims of crime. Early on, the authors set forth the guidelines they developed based on their extensive experience and the available psychological and legal literature on the subject. They then examine specific court cases, showing how each illustrates a different use of forensic hypnosis. Although the cases are set in Australia, each was chosen on the basis of its relevance to any forensic system worldwide, and the book takes care to reference literature in the world arena. Topics elucidated by the case studies include:

- \* The impact of hypnosis on legal procedures
- \* Qualifications of the hypnotist
- \* Admissibility of hypnotic evidence
- \* Consistency of memory reports
- \* Possibility of deception
- \* Role of motivation and emotion in recall
- \* Rights of participants

The book explores the controversial and murky area of hypnotically refreshed memory, presenting specific strategies for dealing with reports of recovered memories of abuse. The final chapters address some of the essential pragmatics of working within a system that can place many different demands on professionals. The authors discuss the major implications of their research, offering cogent recommendations for practice.

"....A welcome and valuable addition to forensic hypnosis...." --Mary Jo Peebles-Kleiger, Ph.D. in *Bulletin of the Menninger Clinic*

"The chapter on suggested guidelines for the practice of forensic hypnosis is crucial to the development of professional standards for this specialty. This is a book both informative and prescriptive.." --Jo-Ann M. Giordano, Ph.D., *Readings*

"This is an excellent volume where authors combine the richness of a case study with laboratory research findings in a useful and interesting way." --Alexander E. Obolsky, M.D. (Northwestern University Medical School)

"Two centuries after a French Commission warned that mesmerism was a threat to morals, hypnosis

remains surrounded by legal issues: Can it compel antisocial and self-injurious behavior? Can it refresh the memories of victims, witnesses, suspects, and perpetrators? McConkey and Sheehan, two of the world's foremost authorities on hypnosis, provide a definitive analysis of the forensic issues in light of current research and theory. While their emphasis is on the Australian experience, their conclusions are equally applicable to North America and Europe -- indeed wherever hypnosis is practiced. Everyone interested in forensic hypnosis will profit from this book." --John F. Kihlstrom, Professor, Yale University

"A lively and thoughtful book, presenting essential advice for therapists involved in legal investigations. The cases are fascinating and cover a wide range--from gang rapes to police killings to incest. Offering strategies for dealing with the complexities of using hypnosis in court settings, the authors rightly note that although therapy sessions in general can sometimes move forward on the basis of reconstructions of events that simply aren't true, legal proceedings cannot do so. Of great import are the authors' useful guidelines for maintaining a balance between probing for possible memories and creating false memories through suggestion when using hypnosis in therapy." --Elizabeth F. Loftus, Ph.D., University of Washington, Co-author of *The Myth of Repressed Memory*

"This book is highly recommended to all persons who are interested in or practice forensic hypnosis. The book offers a wealth of information....It draws to the attention of readers the many complex issues involved. Professional and ethical issues are discussed in detail and guidelines are offered which will be of great assistance to practitioners. The book gives a fascinating account of the practical aspects of forensic hypnosis by presenting detailed and thoughtful accounts of individual cases." --Gisli H. Gudjonsson, Ph.D., Reader in Forensic Psychology, Institute of Psychiatry, University of London

"[The authors] illustrate the complexities involved and provide thoughtful and well-reasoned guidelines for the forensic use of hypnosis. They present detailed and thoughtful accounts of individual cases....Although the cases are from Australia and New Zealand, they are of interest worldwide, for they exemplify the prevailing issues that confront all practitioners of forensic hypnosis....A major contribution to the literature. It is written for a broad professional audience." --Ralph Slovenko, JD, PhD, *American Journal of Psychotherapy*