

ABSTRACT

TESTING THE *TIME/DISTANCE ASSUMPTION*: A SPATIAL ANALYSIS OF 11 LOCALIZED GEOGRAPHICALLY STABLE U.S. SERIAL MURDERERS

Geographic profiling consists of a body of propositions/assumptions about a serial offender's psychological state and his/her movement through the environment in the search for victims. One of the seminal geographic profiling propositions is the *time/distance assumption*, which states that as a serial offender's crime series progresses, there will be equivalent increases in the distance-to-crime trips. The goal of the current project is to test this assumption using a sample of 11 U.S. serial murderers. The numerical results failed to establish a positive correlation between the time and distance variables, and as a result, the existence of the *time/distance assumption* cannot be supported by the serial murder sample.

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