

ABSTRACT

SERIAL KILLERS: A CROSS-CULTURAL STUDY BETWEEN JAPAN AND THE UNITED STATES

Since a cross-cultural study of Japanese and American multiple homicides has been academically neglected, the present research focused on patterns of serial killers in both Japan and the United States. It also compared and contrasted serial killers from the two cultural perspectives to gain further insight into serial murder figures in the two nations. The author examined 82 Japanese serial killers (64 cases) and 402 U.S. serial killers (342 cases) as well as their victims from 1800 to 2002. While the findings supported previous studies that identified low homicide rates in Japan, this study provided fundamental characteristics of serial killers such as a demographic status and their differences between the two industrial countries.

Kaori Aki
August 2003