

**Sent:** Friday, July 27, 2012 9:39 PM

**Subject:** Re: [ISPS-Int] On the recent tragedy in Colorado

Dear Brian and all

I am very tentative to make comments so soon after the event.

I did not get the impression of psychosis. On the contrary multiple and complex personality issues, from the news reports. Your post alludes to the traits. The personality issues have correlations to social environment, not readily analysed.

I was really shocked from the case, thank you for opening a space for discussion.

Vasilli

**Sent:** Friday, July 27, 2012 10:42 PM

**Subject:** Re: [ISPS-Int] On the recent tragedy in Colorado

Dear Brian and Vasilli,

There is another dimension to this which has a plausible explanation:

Rage is proportionate to helplessness, and no one is as helpless as a baby when the mother is not there. This does not have to be the mother's fault; sometimes there are circumstances beyond the mother's control. Then all it takes is a separation or rejection from some other "most important person" to precipitate the step back in time to the original separation trauma and a reexperiencing of that rage. Feelings are more intense than thoughts, and after the original trauma is long since forgotten, the rage can resurface with a separation or rejection from some other "most important person" or group, and since the mother is the "whole world" to the baby, that rage then is directed out to the whole world (men, women, children, all colors and nationalities).

I profiled the DC sniper on Fox News with Bill O'Reily, and said there would be an early separation from mother followed by a separation from some other "most important person" in the present. I cited the case of the Unabomber who was hospitalized at age 9 months -- right at the end of stranger anxiety -- and his mother was permitted to see him but was not allowed to touch him. Can you imagine the rage of the infant, who was sick and hurting and having strange people putting needles and tubes in him -- and then he sees the mother but she will not pick him up, hold him and comfort him? All it took in the delayed posttraumatic stress disorder mechanism was for some other "most important person" to reject him. When his ladyfriend left him 40 years later, he no longer could function well enough to teach math at Harvard University, and he holed up and sent bombs indiscriminantly to persons he never met. The adult mind was also active of course -- and it rationalized reasons why he sent bombs to particular

individuals. Incidentally, his mother attributed his murderous rampage to the rage he felt when she was standing next to him but was not permitted to touch him!

With the elder DC sniper, it turns out that his mother died when he was three. That would not have caused it because it was too late. The cause more likely when she discovered she had cancer, probably a couple of years earlier, and focused her attention on her imminent death. The DC sniper was separated from his wife and children prior to becoming a serial killer. The targets were anyone and everyone, white, black, hispanic, young, old, men, women, children.

It is a partial return to infancy, prior to 24 months, and in my view this is psychosis -- which does not have to be found in DSM. Those are artificial categories.

With the Colorado Killer, there is one more probability: he had a strong interest in neuro science, probably because of his infirmity -- and easily could have been placed on an SSRI. This is very likely. Peter Breggin testified recently in Canada on a teenager who stabbed and killed his good friend -- for no apparent reason, other than he was on Prozac. There was nothing in his history that would indicate anything unusual about him that would cause him to do this. The judge believed Breggin and ruled the killing was related to Prozac. Later in the US a young teenager told a 9 year old that she had a surprise for her, and then she led the other child into the woods, and first stabbed her in the chest and then cut her throat. She was on Prozac. Unfortunately she did not have Breggin for an expert witness.

Clancy

**Dato:** 28. jul 2012 14.35.01 CEST

**Til:** <[ISPS-Int@yahoogroups.com](mailto:ISPS-Int@yahoogroups.com)>

**Emne:** Vedr.: [ISPS-Int] On the recent tragedy in Colorado

**Svar til::** [ISPS-Int@yahoogroups.com](mailto:ISPS-Int@yahoogroups.com)

As there is no organic marker for "psychosis" it is a socio-cultural definition of aberration or disharmony so it is hard to dispute Brian K's calling the Colorado killer "psychotic." It is more or less like anyone hearing of the crime and saying "he was crazy to do that." Incidentally we now know he was in some sort of psychiatric treatment at the time of the incident.

One of the things Freud did that in my estimation and others lowered his public credibility was to engage in "wild analysis." He would make distant "diagnoses" and formulations of people he had never met or hardly knew but certainly had never analyzed, based on news reports, some of their writings, even disagreements with him about matters within the

psychoanalytic organization, at the same time he maintained that in order to understand people psychoanalytically it was necessary to use a very specific and individualized (perhaps by current standards too rigid) intensive and extensive office-based procedure that he called the psychoanalytic method.

At one time I administrated wards housing among others people who had committed violent acts. Those of us who study the mental processes of psychotic persons in depth over time may find common elements of mental process that relate to the social aberration. While it is likely that behavior such as mass murder originates from unrepresented and uncontrolled rage, and that in turn relates to failure to differentiate one's insides from the outside world, I would be loathe to speculate much further. People are not cut from cookie cutters and part of the fascination of my work is to discover how differently within certain basic human parameters each individual, his and her development and world view is. I think it is dangerous as well as "unscientific" to speculate about people's psychodynamics much less their personal histories from flimsy data like news reports of behavior. In my lengthy analytic career I have found that common behaviors can originate from a multiplicity of complex sources both currently and historically.

Michael Robbins