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Full Length Review Article

CRIMINOLOGICAL STUDY ON THIEVES' DIGIT LENGTH (FARS RACE) IN BIRJAND JAIL

[1,*]Seyyed Mahmoud Mir-Khalili, [2]Omid Milanloui and [3]Fatemeh Mobasherian

[1]Faculty of Law, Farabi College, University of Tehran, Tehran, Iran
[2]Postgraduate, Criminal law and Criminology, Azad Islamic University, Qom Branch
[3]Graduate, Animal Bilogy, Azad Islamic University, Mashhad Branch

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ABSTRACT

Criminology is considered as a young, superior and effective knowledge in Iran which is not respected competently. Thus, necessary researches are not conducted and the only option for domestic criminologists has been restudying western researches. Criminological studies need a national will, thinking and holistic thought. Although we are confronting modern criminal thoughts, our combat against it is traditional. Anthropometry is a branch of biometry which only involves human. Different aspects such as ecology, plants, nutrition, age and gender impact on the dimension and diameters of human body (Gilbert, Scott, 2009, p. 530). Therefore, one cannot extend anthropometry of other parts of the world to a certain country or the racial groups of other regions. In the meantime, anthropometric studies are conducted on a certain age, gender and racial group and in different geographical regions. The main purpose of present research is to study and compare the age and anthropometric features of professional thieves' digits length and a controlled group without any criminal background. In present study, the anthropometric sizes of right and left hands of professional 20-40 year – old male thieves in Southern Khorassan who had no trauma or deficiency in their digits and the anthropometric sizes of ordinary males' digits in Southern Khorassan were measured. Data was analyzed by SPSS version 16. Finally, it was concluded that there is a significant association between the anthropometric sizes of right/left hands of 20 – 40 year-old ordinary people and professional thieves and the average length of thieves' right/left hands is longer than ordinary people.

INTRODUCTION

So far, different schools, theories, opinions and insights are emerged in different and even conflicted formats on human behavior, crime, the reasons of crime, reactions and other factors in criminology and its paramount branches and each one has enforced and justified in terms of its own attention to human behavior aspects and have expanded the scope of criminology by naming them. It should be contemplated that which schools, theories and insights are right and complete and which one are barriers or expired. By the beginning of studies by Lombroso, some connoisseurs in criminology (positivism and biological criminology schools) concluded and provided their theories by relying upon on physical, inherited and genetic traits (White, Rob and Hinns, Funa (2008), criminology, translated by Salimi, p. 104). The most important thinking property of this group is to rely upon statistical data, field studies and experimentalism. Although there are many critics against its methodology, concluding and extension (Safari Ali, 2007, criminology, pp. 75 – 76), one can say that the role of genetics, biological and inherited factors cannot be neglected in committing crimes since human, his/her behavior and offences are not a unilateral phenomenon; rather, it is a complicated issue (Salahi, Javid, 2007, p. 59). By devising any theory in criminology on the reasons of an offence through relying upon one or more factors, the theoretician may believe in the first step that he/she has explored the reason of offence while it takes no long time that other mentions some faults and it shows what entity he/she has creased. Any criminology school and any devised theory can be exemplified as an elephant in a dark home that anyone expresses his/her opinion after touching an organ of the animal. In past and present, there have been conducted numerous field studies in west on physical, inherited and biological attributes of human as well as the association between such attributes and the reasons of committing offences. Far from their nature and results, some

Corresponding author: Seyyed Mahmoud Mir-Khalili,
Faculty of Law, Farabi College, University of Tehran, Tehran, Iran

may believe that there is no need to conduct new studies. However, it should be noted that anthropometry studies come to exclusive results in different parts of the world and in such factors as kinship, race, gender, age, etc. Therefore, it is necessary to know that our country needs such researches in order to achieve the necessary ramifications. Such researches are not regarded in Iran and only western studied are revised. To this end, we plan to conduct a field study on biological criminology and anthropometry focused on measuring the length of professional thieves' digits in Birjand prison that belonged to Fars race in 2013. In present study, digit sizes of 140 professional thieves ages 20 – 40 in Birjand Prison were measured of whom 35 were omitted since they were not professional or not in Far race.

In present study, the anthropometric sizes of right and left hands of professional 20-40 year – old male thieves who had no trauma or deficiency in their digits and the anthropometric sizes of ordinary males' digits were measured. Initially, the hand was fixed in a point and then the length of digits from the back area of the hand was measured by a metal caliper (0.01mm precision) from the beginning pint of Metatarsophalangeal joint to the end tip of digits so that a right angle was shape between the palm and digits. Data was analyzed by SPSS version 16. Finally, it was concluded that there is a significant association between the anthropometric sizes of right/left hands of 20 – 40 year-old ordinary people and professional thieves and the average length of thieves' right/left hands is longer than ordinary people. The length information of digit 1 (1LD, 1RD), digit 2 (2LD, 2RD), digit 3 (3LD, 3RD), digit 4 (4LD, 4RD), digit 5 (5LD, 5RD) were recorded separately in a table. All finding were measured by SPSS 16, descriptive statistics (graphs), and analytical statistics including average, standard deviation, two averages comparison test, student t-tests and significance level, $p<0/05$ (to compare the digit length of professional thieves with ordinary people):

(1) The average digit length between left and right hands in each group was compared in order to measure the homogeneity of digits in both hands.
(2) The average digit length was compared between thieves and ordinary people to find a significant difference.

Article 1: concepts and history

(A) Concepts

Anthropometry is a branch of biometry which only involves human. Its general meaning is to measure the size and dimensions of the body. Anthropometry roots in two Greece terms namely Anthro (human) and Metric (measurement). Different factors such as ecology, bio-planetary, nutrition, race, age and gender influence on human dimensions. Humans have difference in many aspects: needs, intelligence, visionary, imagination, skills, muscular power, and age and feet length. Today, most anthropometric studies are conducted by imaging and utilizing computerized programs. A unique anthropometry is conducted for each organ (Jozkanani et al., 2008, p. 10). Hands are the end segment of upper organs of the body. They are consisted of palm and five digits. The closer digit to thumb is called as the second digit (2D) or Index Digit. The middle digit is third digit (3D) as the tallest one. The fourth (4D) is ring digit while the smallest one is digit 5 (5D). Thumb or the first digit (1D) is jointed to palm edge and is considered as the most important digit of the hands (Abulhassanzadeh, 2005, p. 1277).

(B) History

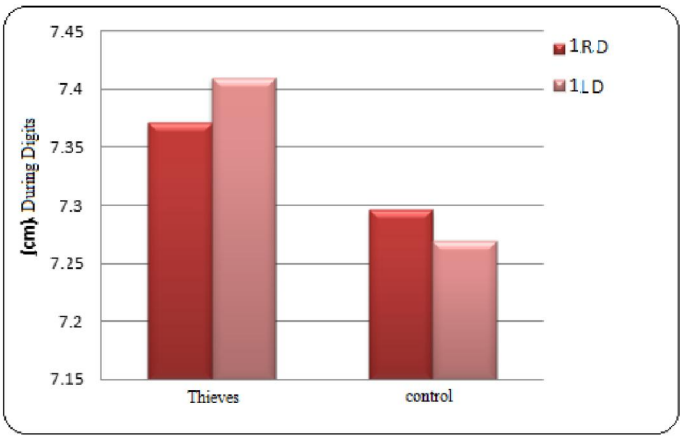
In 1820s and 1830s, Garry and Kattle were the first guys who started their studies with focus on positivism. For example, Kattle provided the concept of average person by using possibility theory and relevant information. In 16th century, Delapert who was a physiognomic believed that physical traits are related to crimes. In 19th century, Gal, Gosper and Sporzime as the pioneers of craniometrist believed that brain attributes are reflected in skull nodes. In Italy, Lombroso as the father of criminology introduced de facto criminal theory through his biological studies (Danesh, 1989, p. 72; Bernabolk, 2006, Criminology, translated by Najafi Abrandabadi, p. 45) while his beliefs were criticized by other writers (Najafi Tavana, Criminology, 2002, p. 65). It was in 20th century that Richard Dale who studied on Jack's family and introduced criminal act as an inherited phenomenon. Finally, such studies led into sociological criminology (Williams and McShin; translated by Malek Mohammadi, 2009, p. 55).

Article 2: statistical report

In present research and to summarize the concepts, RIGHT (R) shows right hand and LEFT (L) shows the left hand of the population. Likewise, D shows DIGIT.

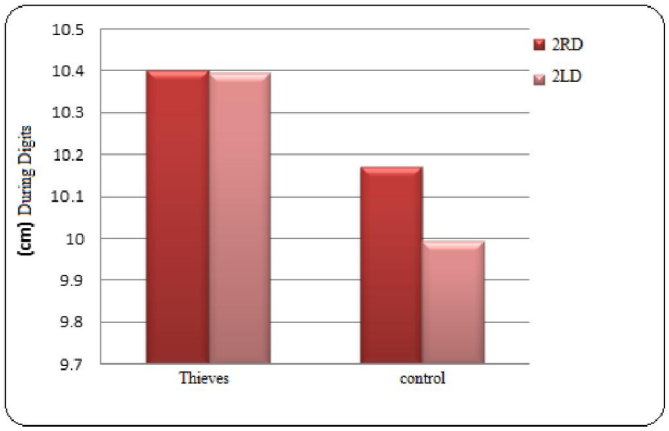
(a) Comparing the 1D digit length average in thieves and ordinary people

By using t – test for independent groups, the average 1D length of professional thieves (average = 7.37 and standard deviation = 0.44) was compared to the average 1D length of ordinary people (average = 7.30 and standard deviation = 0.58). According to the findings of such comparisons, one can say that there is no statistical significant difference ($0.05<p$) between the length of 1RD (thumb at the right hand) of professional thieves and ordinary people. The same findings were compared on the length of professional thieves' 1LD (average = 7.41 and standard deviation = 0.41) and ordinary people' (average = 7.27 and standard deviation = 0.53). According to the findings, one can say that there is no statistical significant difference ($0.05<p$) between the length of 1LD (thumb at the left hand) of professional thieves and ordinary people.



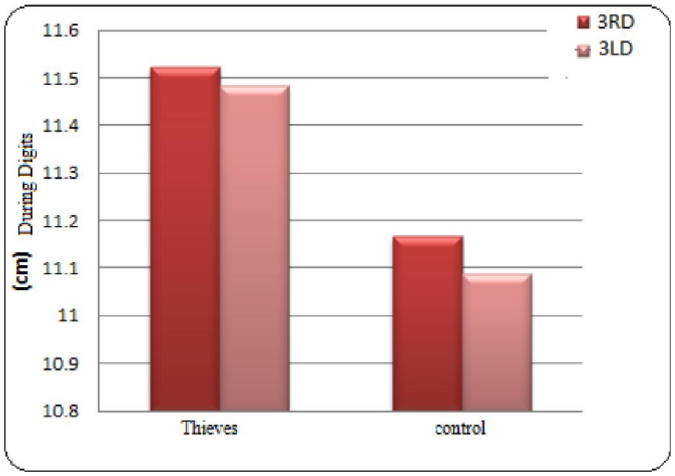
(b) *Comparing the 2D digit length average in thieves and ordinary*

By using t – test for independent groups, the average 2RD length of professional thieves (average = 10.40 and standard deviation = 0.53) was compared to the average 2RD length of ordinary people (average = 10.17 and standard deviation = 0.55). According to the findings of such comparisons, one can say that there is a statistical significant increase ($p<0.05$) between the length of 2RD (point index at the right hand) of professional thieves and ordinary people. The same findings were compared on the length of professional thieves' 2LD (average = 10.40 and standard deviation = 0.50) and ordinary people' (average = 9.99 and standard deviation = 0.56). According to the findings, one can say that there is a statistical significant increase ($0.05<p$) between the length of 2LD (point index at the left hand) of professional thieves and ordinary people.



(c) *Comparing the 3D digit length average in thieves and ordinary*

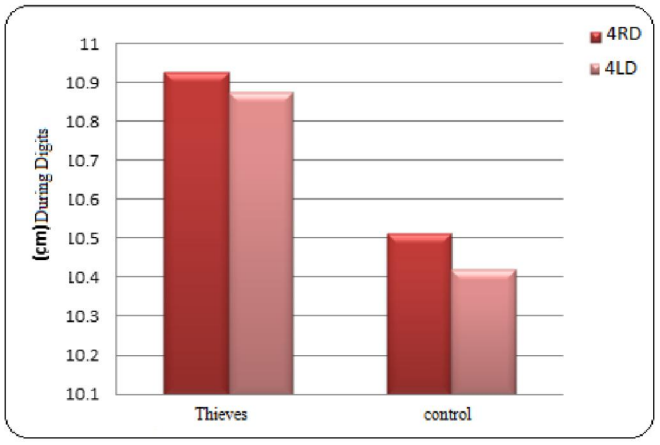
By using t – test for independent groups, the average 3RD length of professional thieves (average = 11.52 and standard deviation = 0.54) was compared to the average 3RD length of ordinary people (average = 11.17 and standard deviation = 0.67). According to the findings of such comparisons, one can say that there is a statistical significant increase ($p<0.05$) between the length of 3RD (middle digit at the right hand) of professional thieves and ordinary people.



The same findings were compared on the length of professional thieves' 3LD (average = 11.48 and standard deviation = 0.56) and ordinary people' (average = 11.09 and standard deviation = 0.53). According to the findings, one can say that there is no statistical significant difference ($0.05<p$) between the length of 3LD (middle digit at the left hand) of professional thieves and ordinary people.

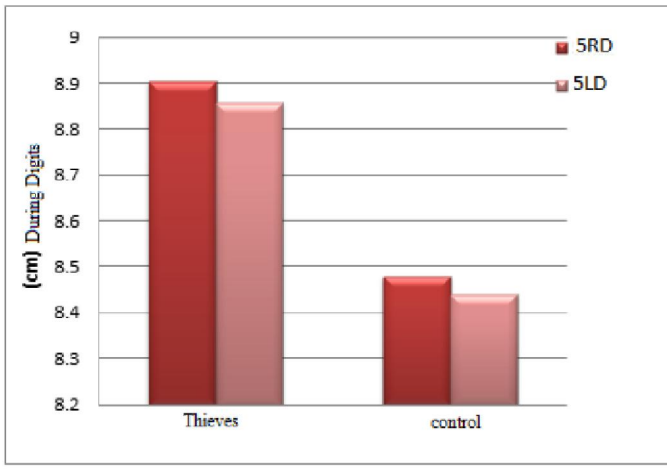
(d) *Comparing the 4D digit length average in thieves and ordinary*

By using t – test for independent groups, the average 4RD length of professional thieves (average = 10.92 and standard deviation = 0.55) was compared to the average 4RD length of ordinary people (average = 10.51 and standard deviation = 0.62). According to the findings of such comparisons, one can say that there is a statistical significant difference ($p<0.05$) between the length of 4RD (ring digit at the right hand) of professional thieves and ordinary people. The same findings were compared on the length of professional thieves' 4LD (average = 10.87 and standard deviation = 0.58) and ordinary people' (average = 10.42 and standard deviation = 0.63). According to the findings, one can say that there is a statistical significant difference ($0.05<p$) between the length of 4LD (ring digit at the left hand) of professional thieves and ordinary people.



(e) *Comparing the 4D digit length average in thieves and ordinary*

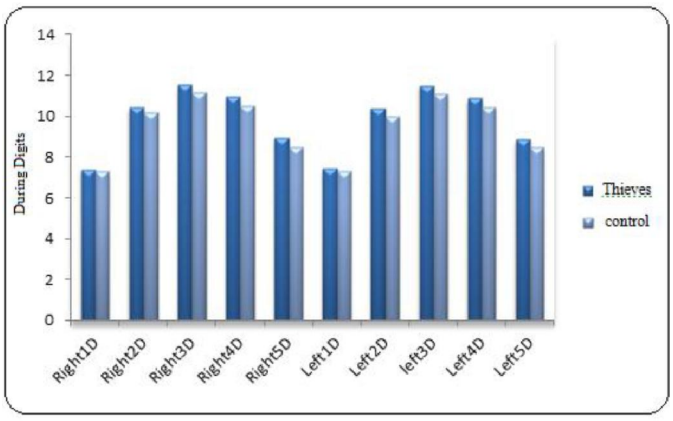
By using t – test for independent groups, the average 5RD length of professional thieves (average = 8.90 and standard deviation = 0.50) was compared to the average 5RD length of ordinary people (average = 8.48 and standard deviation = 0.65). According to the findings of such comparisons, one can say that there is no statistical significant difference ($p<0.05$) between the length of 5RD (small digit at the right hand) of professional thieves and ordinary people. The same findings were compared on the length of professional thieves' 5LD (average = 8.86 and standard deviation = 0.58) and ordinary people' (average = 8.44 and standard deviation = 0.65). According to the findings, one can say that there is no statistical significant difference ($0.05<p$) between the length of 5LD (small digit at the left hand) of professional thieves and ordinary people.



(f) General results of comparing digit length in right/left hands of thieves and ordinary people

Ultimately, we conclude that the digit length average of male professional thieves aged 20 – 40 years in Birjand Prison among Fars race who were passing their conviction in 2013 was higher than

The digit length of control male group from Fars race aged 20 40 years without any conviction or committing any crime led to conviction. Noteworthy, both groups were residents at Southern Khorassan Province. 1D, 2D, 3D, 4D and 5D averages in different ages at both groups indicate that 3D and 1D had the highest and lowest sizes respectively so that it can be depicted in below figure. Likewise, there is a significant association between thieves and control groups in terms of 3D, 2D and 4D shown in below figure. It should be noted that the races of total professional thieves' population, the races of 105 were Fars (75%), Baluch (26.42%), Arab (0.71%) and other (1.42%).



Article 3: Conclusion

Growth of human body's organs is influenced by hormones, genetic factors, nutrition as well as environmental, social, economic and believing factors. According to the results from present study which state that the average digit length of professional thieves (males and Fars race) is higher than control group, one can say that such growth is the result of various factors and it shows the impact by various factors on committing offences. Ultimately, it should be noted that in current circumstances, our society extremely needs local and field studies to expand profitable, effective, young and humanistic criminology science. In the meantime, proving or disproving a criminological theory foes not mean the start or terminating of such science. Although researches and theories by positivists and biological criminologists are suspected and even refused by scientists, it does not mean the invalidity of such studies; rather, the deficiency roots in simple and unilateral perspective on human, unilateralism in thinking and non-comprehensives of theories.

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