

***Are we where we should be?* Assessing investigative interviewing practices and training of officers in the Force Criminal Investigation Department of the Nigeria Police Force**

by

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Abstract

In the criminal justice system, investigative interviewing is crucial for getting information that helps law enforcement agencies resolve cases. While there is a relative wealth of scholarly studies on investigative interviewing procedures in the West, there is a paucity of empirical research assessing this concept in Nigeria and Africa. To begin to fill this gap in literature, a paper and pen questionnaire was administered to Police Investigators (N = 64) in the Criminal Investigation Department of the Nigeria Police Force assessing their investigative interviewing practices and training. Results showed that some police officers had received some training, but only a few had been specifically trained on evidence-based investigative interviewing techniques. Most police officers reported not favouring coercive techniques in their practices. Implications of this study on investigative interviewing practices in Nigeria will be discussed.

Keywords; Investigative Interviewing; Criminal Investigations

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FUNMILOLA OGUNSEYE

STATEMENT OF CONTRIBUTIONS

I hereby certify that I am the sole author of this thesis and that no part of this thesis has been published or submitted for publication. I have used standard referencing practices to acknowledge ideas, research techniques, or other materials that belong to others. Furthermore, I hereby certify that I am the sole source of the creative works and/or inventive knowledge described in this thesis.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

FCID	Force Criminal Investigation Department
NPF	Nigeria Police Force
PEACE	PEACE P (Preparation and Planning) E (Engage and Explain) A (Account) C (Closure) E (Evaluation)

CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

Investigative interviewing involves systematically questioning an individual to gather comprehensive details of an event or occurrence as part of a larger investigative procedure (Meissner et al., 2021). The information gained from interviewees is vital in successfully resolving criminal cases, as they are often the primary or sole source that can provide details regarding the target event (Akca et al., 2021). Even with other tangible evidence, interviewing individuals involved provides context and fills in necessary knowledge gaps to further put the evidence in perspective (e.g., issues surrounding consent in sexual assault cases; Westera et al., 2016).

The assumption that interviewing techniques could impact information elicitation was put forward over a century ago when Munsterberg (1908) examined the reliability of witness and suspect statements. Over the past century, various investigative interviewing concepts and procedures have been studied in the psychological science literature (Milne et al., 2008). More recently, there has been a growing consensus that information-gathering questioning approaches should be favoured over more confrontational and confession-focused approaches (Meissner et al., 2021). A few studies have examined investigative interviewing practices in different parts of the world. However, this concept has yet to be examined in an African setting. This study sought to assess investigative interviewing practices in Nigeria, informing this understudied forensic psychology area.

Investigative Interviewing Practices

Scholars have studied the art and science of investigative interviewing for decades and developed various questioning techniques. According to French (2019), physical abuse and schemes referred to as third-degree were adopted in police interrogations till the mid-1930s. The

incorporation of third-degree schemes like isolation, starvation, verbal abuse, and physical assault with rubber hoses (Kozinski, 2018) was initially executed discreetly, but as the details of these approaches became public, juries and judges began to question the reliability of confessional statements arising from these techniques. This resulted in widespread reforms in the United States (Chen, 2021).

The Reid technique was developed to provide a means to elicit information effectively while minimizing harmful interrogation schemes. The Reid technique was devised by Fred Inbau and John E. Reid but was made popular by John E. Reid (Kozinski, 2018; Vrij et al., 2017). The Reid technique has three major components: factual analysis, the investigative interview (behavioural analysis interview), and the interrogation, which consists of nine steps (Reid, 2018). The Factual Analysis involves evaluating a suspect in regard to particular observations about the crime and information gathered about the suspect. The Behaviour Analysis Interview is a non-accusatory interview that involves standard and behaviour-provoking questions to elicit truthful or deception-like cues from the interviewee. The Interrogation Phase is recommended only when the investigator is confident that the suspect is involved in the crime being investigated.

The nine steps of the Interrogation Phase are (1) positive confrontation, where the investigator establishes that the evidence is linked to the suspect's guilt, (2) theme development, where a moral justification is established for the suspect's involvement in the crime; (3) handling denials, where the investigator discourages the suspect from denying the accusations, (4) overcoming objections where the investigator accepts the suspect's objections as facts, (5) procurement and retention of suspect's attention where the investigators try to keep the suspect's focus on the investigator but not the punishment, (6) handling the suspects' passive mood where

the investigator displays a sympathetic outlook towards the suspect, (7) presenting an alternative question, (8) having the suspect orally divulge the different details of the offence and (9) converting the oral confession to a written confession (Orlando, n.d.). Although the Reid technique has been widely implemented, various studies have highlighted its confrontational approach, overreliance on non-verbal cues and potential risk of false confessions, especially among younger and vulnerable individuals, as some of the technique's flaws (Chen, 2021; Gavin, 2020).

The PEACE (Preparation and Planning, Engage and Explain, Account, Closure and Evaluation) model is a newer approach widely regarded as the current best practice in suspect interviewing. The PEACE model was developed due to police reforms in England and Wales (Bull & Rachlew, 2020), and law enforcement agencies worldwide have now adopted the principles of the approach (Akca et al., 2021). The acronym PEACE stands for the five stages of the interview process; this model promotes a non-accusatory and information-gathering approach to investigative interviewing. The model focuses on building rapport, gathering fulsome accounts, incorporating the cognitive interview model, and challenging suspect accounts using objective evidence (Orlando, n.d.). According to Snook and colleagues (2010), rapport building, evidence presentation, good questions, and questioning the irregularity in the interviews are emphasized in this model. Furthermore, there has been a fundamental shift in countries worldwide from confrontational techniques, such as the Reid Technique to information elicitation strategies underpinned by rapport building, such as the PEACE model (Meissner et al., 2017).

In 1985, Cognitive Interview (CI) was developed by Ed Geiselman and Ron Fisher as a response to continued requests for an improved method for interviewing witnesses made by law

enforcement agencies and legal practitioners. This model comprises various memory retrieval techniques and is rooted in the psychological science of remembering and the retrieval of information from memory (Memon et al., 2015). Empirical findings based on laboratory study has revealed that incorporating the CI in witness interviews can greatly increase the likelihood of recalling correct details while only increasing the ability to recall incorrect details on a smaller scale (Memon, 2006; Schrieber & Fisher, 2006 as cited in Memon et al., 2015).

Interviewing Techniques and Training Used in Practice

While evidence-based interviewing procedures such as PEACE have been developed to improve investigative interviewing practices in real-world settings, research suggests that law enforcement agencies rarely follow them (Akca et al., 2021; Chung et al., 2021). This research has been centered primarily within Western countries (e.g., Australia, United States, Canada, Spain and England; Hill & Moston, 2011; Kassin et al., 2007; Schell-Leugers et al., 2023; Soukara et al., 2009) and, to a lesser extent, Asia (e.g., Indonesia & Malaysia; Chung et al., 2021; Sumampouw et al., 2020).

For example, Kassin and colleagues (2007) used a self-report survey to assess police practices and beliefs in North America. Respondents were 631 investigators from police departments in America and customs officials in Canada. Investigative interviewing techniques that were reported to be commonly used involved physically isolating the suspects, identifying contradictions in suspects' accounts, establishing rapport, confronting suspects with the evidence of their guilt and appealing to their self-interests. This study's respondents believed they were usually successful at obtaining admissions and confessions. Respondents also reported they were 77 percent accurate at truth and lie detection and elicited self-incriminating statements from 68

percent of suspects and approximately 5 percent from innocent individuals. Overall, 81 percent felt that interrogations should be recorded.

Schell-Leugers and colleagues (2023) conducted a similar study examining police beliefs and practices in Spain. Participants [Guardia Civil (n = 89) and Policía Nacional investigators (n = 126)] in this study completed an online survey. It was reported that when compared to the North American findings, Spanish investigators were less likely to favour coercive interrogation techniques and conducted fewer and shorter interviews. Police investigators in this study estimated that they could determine truth and deception about 80 percent of the time. This figure is relatively close to what Kassin and colleagues (2007) obtained in the study involving North American investigators.

In an Australian study, Hill and Moston (2011) surveyed 2,769 police investigators from the Queensland Police Service. The study assessed their current training and supervision and their adopted investigative interviewing techniques. Results showed that only 52 percent of the respondents had received training on investigative interviewing, while 48 percent had not. When asked to rate their satisfaction regarding the training they had received, 42 percent reported they were neither satisfied nor dissatisfied, 38 percent reported they were dissatisfied, and 20 percent reported they were very satisfied. Most of the respondents in this study reported that they could detect deception during suspect interviews. Results showed that in the Australian study, police investigators reported using a combination of informational gathering approaches (i.e. asking open questions) and confrontational techniques (i.e. positive confrontation) during suspect interviews. Over 40 percent of the respondents reported using intimidation tactics.

Soukara and colleagues (2009) were interested in the operational investigative interviewing techniques police investigators employed during practice in England. Eighty

interview recordings that were audio-taped were assessed by forensic psychologists. Results showed that police investigators preferred information-gathering techniques, and coercive tactics were not frequently applied during practice.

Chung and colleagues (2022) conducted a study assessing the perception and investigative interviewing practices of Malaysian police officers. The participants were 44 Royal Malaysian Police investigators in the Sexual, Women and Child Investigations Divisions (D11), a part of the Crime Investigation Department. Results showed that police officers in this study must gain the requisite knowledge of best practices for investigative interviews and apply them in practice. Half of the respondents were confident in their deception detection ability, similar to the results of other researchers who examined this concept in other parts of the world. Results also showed that 61 percent of trained and untrained police investigators in this study rated their investigative interviewing skills as average, which may reflect their lack of confidence in their practice.

Sumampouw and colleagues (2020) examined forensic child interviewers in Indonesia. They found that police interviewers relied on suggestive and option-posing questions when conducting forensic interviews involving children which is a common trait of police investigators without training in evidence-based practices on child-interviewing (see Powell et al., 2016). While these studies have provided some excellent insights into police interviewing training and practices globally, little is known about police investigative interviewing practices in Nigeria and Africa in general.

Criminal Investigation in Nigeria

Murder, rape, fraud, human trafficking, drug trafficking, terrorism, kidnapping and armed robbery are the categories of crimes in Nigeria that have continued to maintain Nigeria on the

global crime map since 1980 (Alisigwe & Oluwafemi, 2019). In the criminal justice system, criminal investigation is vital to the process (Maiyaki et al., 2019). Any compromise in the criminal investigation system may lead to delayed administration of justice and miscarriages of justice (Ladapo, 2011). In cases where capital punishment is applicable (The Constitution of Nigeria. § 33), compromise in the criminal investigation process could lead to unlawful death. Ladapo (2011) identified eight challenges plaguing criminal investigations in Nigeria: (1) insufficient training of police officers in the criminal investigation process, (2) scarcity of police funding, (3) inadequate record keeping, (4) corruption, (5) reluctance to report illegal activities, (6) shortage of forensics, (7) delayed replication and (8) loss of investigation case files. Similarly, in Chinwokwu's (2013) study on police criminal investigation in Enugu state, Nigeria, it was highlighted that corruption, inadequate training, lack of skills, equipment, and lack of regard for due process and best practices were the underlying cause of the increased level of pending and unresolved cases in the criminal investigation process in Enugu State and Nigeria at large.

Police officers in developing countries are inclined to abuse their authority and are usually not answerable to the public, according to some studies on the topic (Akinlabi, 2017; Bradford et al., 2014; Johnson et al., 2014; Tankebe, 2008, as cited by Akinlabi, 2019). The Nigeria Police Force (NPF) has been heavily criticized for its inability to fulfill its obligations and carry out its responsibilities (Gholami & Abdulrauf, 2018). Citizens have suffered physical and psychological abuse from human rights violations by the police (Maiyaki et al., 2019).

The Nigeria Police Force's inadequacy in criminal investigation has led to a shift in investigative procedures from seeking, interpreting and analyzing evidence to forcefully obtaining "confessional" statements from suspects (Alisigwe & Oluwafemi, 2019; Ladapo,

2011). Ladapo (2011) puts forward that 53.3% ($n = 8$) of prosecutors in Oyo state, Nigeria rated the police investigators as poor, while 94% ($n = 14$) held the opinion that the results of police investigations adversely contributed to their criminal prosecutions. This lack of adherence to due process has led to enforcing torture and abuse of power by the Nigerian police (Alisigwe & Oluwafemi, 2019; Amali & Nwafor Orizu, 2019; Maiyaki et al., 2019). Therefore, it seems that a suspect-centred approach is adopted in criminal investigations in Nigeria (Alemika & Chukwuma, 2006). The implication is that during prosecutions, many “confessional statements” are challenged in court based on it being obtained involuntarily or by coercion (Ojo, 2005 as cited in Ladapo, 2011). Suppose a confessional statement is challenged based on being obtained under pressure, the court might move forward with the “trial within trial” (*Obue vs. The State, 1976*) procedure, initiated to determine its voluntariness and admissibility of an evidence (Ladapo, 2011).

Chinwokwu (2013) asserts that the investigative procedures implemented by the NPF need to tackle the problems they face adequately. The dependence on information obtained in investigative interviews is further heightened by the lack of adequate forensic facilities and the application of forensic science in criminal investigation (Agbibo, 2015; Alisigwe & Oluwafemi, 2019; Amali & Nwafor Orizu, 2019). Alisigwe and Oluwafemi (2019) noted that experts had linked several cold cases in Nigeria to the lack of forensic evidence. The lack of these forensic facilities has led NPF to rely heavily on eyewitness testimonies, confessions and circumstantial evidence in the criminal investigation process (Alisigwe & Oluwafemi, 2019; Amali & Nwafor Orizu, 2019).

In the few studies available on criminal investigations in Nigeria, the lack of adequate personnel training involved in the process has been heavily emphasized (Alisigwe & Oluwafemi,

2019; Chinwokwu, 2013; Ladapo, 2011). Unprofessionalism when dealing with evidence and ineptitude were highlighted in these studies. According to Chinwokwu's (2013) study on a criminal investigation in Enugu state, Nigeria, 60.6% of respondents were not trained before being posted to the investigation department, and only 18.2% attended a form of detective training. Furthermore, the author asserts that police officers are posted to the department based on corruption. Ladapo (2011) opines that information sharing between junior officers and seemingly experienced senior officers, who themselves not have received training, might be how information is obtained, as a way to make up for the lack of organized training or refresher courses. The scarcity of capacity-building training among Nigerian police officers results in the enablement of fraudulent acts and practices, and it diminishes motivation to properly carry out their duties (Umar et al., 2013). Instances of corruption in the NPF manifest in varying forms; it has been identified that eyewitnesses can be falsified to make up a story and provide fake evidence against a suspect (Alisigwe & Oluwafemi, 2019).

It is difficult to precisely ascertain the investigative interviewing procedures adopted in Nigeria as very few studies have examined this concept in the Nigerian context. The available studies examined investigative interviewing from a linguist's perspective. The term "interrogation" is more commonly used to refer to investigative interviewing in the Nigerian literature (Farinde et al., 2021; Maiyaki et al., 2019). Ajayi (2016) highlighted that interrogation was more commonly used among police officers in Nigeria and further delineated between interrogation and interviewing. Interviewing was defined as non-accusatory and involved in information elicitation, while interrogation was more accusatory and confrontational.

Assessing investigative interviewing technique from a linguist's perspective, Ajayi's (2016) study on politeness and impoliteness procedures and abuse of power among

police-suspect interaction in Ibadan, Oyo state, Nigeria, a 35-hour audio-recording of sixty-six police officers and fifty-eight suspects at the State Criminal Investigation Department Headquarters, Ibadan, Oyo State, Nigeria were analyzed. The study revealed that Investigating Police Officers (IPOs) adopt positive impoliteness (i.e. being unsympathetic, making the other feel uncomfortable), negative impoliteness (i.e. invading the other person's space, ridicule, frighten), bald-on-record impoliteness (i.e. use of face threatening act directly and unambiguously) and mock politeness strategies (i.e. using polite strategies with an insincere motive) to pressure suspects into confessing. During the interview phase, high-profile and low-profile suspects (interviewees) employed different approaches in the interviewing process. The former adopted positive politeness (i.e. attempting to pique the hearer's interest, seeking agreement and avoiding disagreement) and negative impoliteness to assert their status. In contrast, the latter assumed positive politeness (i.e. seeking agreement) to compensate for their powerlessness. Linguistics (verbal) tools such as questioning, verbal abuse, verbal threats, interruptions and paralinguistic cues such as hitting the table, raising one's voice, and hissing were identified as some of the techniques adopted by the police in their interviews with low-profile suspects. This behaviour is consistent with studies that have established the unbalanced power dynamics in police-suspect interactions as police officers presume a powerful stance, and low-profile suspects have a less powerful outlook (Farinde, 1997; Sadiq, 2011, as cited in Ajayi, 2016).

Similarly, Farinde and colleagues' (2021) study on interrogation in the Nigerian police-suspect discourse showed that the questioning strategies adopted by the NPF put them in a position to exert authority and control. Additionally, the more questions used in the investigative interviewing process, the more coercive the interaction was. Importantly, Ajayi's (2016) study

revealed the blatant disregard for Nigeria's 1999 Constitution provisions, which police officers capitalize on as suspects are unaware of their rights (Ajayi, 2016).

In addressing the limited knowledge available on NPF's investigative interviewing procedures, Maiyaki and colleagues (2019) suggest the Reid technique as a good roadmap of how a *successful interrogation* might unravel. This suggestion might not be in the best interest of the criminal justice system in Nigeria as the Reid technique has been heavily criticized. Critics of the Reid technique have highlighted that the various procedures could result in false confessions, including coercion, misclassification, and contamination (Gudjonsson, 2012).

There have been some progressive efforts by the legislative arm of the government of Nigeria to enhance the criminal justice system. In recent years, the enactment of the Administration of Criminal Justice Act (ACJA), 2015, has been the most significant. The Act is universally applied in Nigeria, where law enforcement agencies instituted by the constitution or federal legislation operate (Administration of Criminal Justice Act, 2015). The Act modulates the criminal justice system from arrest, investigation, and trial. Therefore, providing protection against involuntary confessional statements (Maiyaki et al., 2019), promoting restorative justice and human dignity and prioritizing the needs of the vulnerable people in society and victims of crime (Egbegi, 2020). Egbegi (2020) emphasizes that ACJA prioritizes human dignity in its language and provision for treating people with respect during arrest, among other safeguards. Furthermore, unlawful detention, plea bargain, speedy trials, the electronic recording of confessional statements, and compensations to crime victims are some novel provisions ACJA introduced to the Nigeria criminal justice system (Egbegi, 2020).

In the Administration of Criminal Justice Act (ACJA), 2015, provisions were made to amplify further the rights of suspects in Nigeria (Adewumi & Dawodu, 2016). Adewumi and

Dawodu (2016) highlighted some of the rights of a suspect in Nigeria according to ACJA:

- I. Suspect or a defendant should be arrested and tried according to the provisions of the ACJA 2015, except otherwise provided.
- II. The arresting police may make physical contact and restrain the body of the suspect, unless the suspect submits to custody by word or action.
- III. A suspect or defendant need not be restrained except the suspect is violent, has attempted to escape, for the safety of the suspect or by order of court.
- IV. Except in the event of an escape from custody, in the course of commission of an offence or immediately after an offence has been committed, the arresting police officer is to inform the suspect of his rights to remain silent until after consultation with any person of his choice, to a legal practitioner of his choice, to free representation by the state where necessary.
- V. The suspect's relative or next of kin must be informed of his arrest at no cost to the suspect.
- VI. Another person (friends, colleagues or relatives) should not be arrested in place of the suspect.
- VII. A suspect should be given amiable treatment with regards to the dignity of his person, not be to exposed to a hostile or unpalatable treatment through extreme distress.
- VIII. A suspect need not be arrested on simple civil wrong or breach of contract.
- IX. A suspect should be released with or without conditions or brought before the court as prescribed by the Act or any other written law.
- X. The arraignment and trial of a suspect for a crime must be carried out in accordance with the provisions of this ACJA.

XI. When a suspect is arrested with or without a warrant, he shall be taken to the police station immediately and be informed of accusations levied against him in the language he understands, and be given a good enough access to communicate, furnish bail, make preparations for his defence or release. This is to be done in the presence of the arresting officer. (pp. 34 - 35)

The Administration of Criminal Justice Act (ACJA) presents comprehensive provisions for suspects, victims, witnesses, and other aspects of the criminal justice system. However, scholars have questioned the implementation of this Act in the practice of law enforcement agencies in Nigeria (Adewumi & Dawodu, 2016; Maiyaki et al., 2019).

Additionally, in an attempt to provide a guideline for criminal justice within the context of terrorism, which has increased over the years in Nigeria, while also addressing the human rights concerns underpinning investigative interviews in terrorist cases, the *Nigeria Training Module on Investigative Interviewing, the Right to Remain Silent and the Prohibition of Torture* was developed. This module was developed as a joint effort by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and Nigerian stakeholders under the Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies (NIALS) and was published in 2022. The module offers strategies for training different parties in the criminal justice system; law enforcement officials, judges, defence lawyers, public prosecutors and legal advisers within the Nigerian context. It addresses human rights and terrorism investigations, effective investigative interviews with a focus on the Mendez principles, the right to remain silent, barring and preventing torture and other inhumane acts, the inadmissibility of evidence obtained under coercive circumstances, gender differences and child victims/witnesses in investigative interviewing related to terrorism cases (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, 2022).

Recent developments by the Nigerian government and its agencies reveal some efforts to improve the criminal investigation and criminal justice process. However, the extant literature reveals very little about what is practically obtainable concerning investigative interviews within the Nigerian context.

CHAPTER 2: THE CURRENT STUDY

While there has been some research on the broader topic of criminal investigations in Nigeria, no study has sought to assess directly investigative interviewing practices in the Nigerian context. Based on the limited literature on this topic and the study's exploratory nature, we do not pose a hypothesis but raise the following research questions:

- What is the current state of interviewing practices in Nigeria and Lagos State specifically?
- What type of interview training are officers receiving, if any?

Methodology

Participants

The initial sample consisted of 80 police officers. Sixteen police officers who were not in the Force Criminal Investigation Department (FCID) but officers in the Nigeria Police Force were dropped from the sample, resulting in a final sample of 64 police officers (*M*_{age} = 46.24 years, *SD* = 8, Range = 27 - 58 years) in the FCID at the Lagos State Command in Nigeria. According to World Population Review (2022), it is estimated that Lagos State has a population of 21 million as of 2016, ranking it as Africa's largest city. Lagos State had the highest number of crimes recorded out of the 36 states in Nigeria (Sasu, 2022), making it an ideal location for the study.

Of the 64 participants, 47 identified as male, 14 as female, and three did not include their gender. The self-report demographic breakdown was as follows: Yoruba (29%), Igbo (16.1%),

Hausa (8.1%), and Others (22.6%); the remaining participants preferred not to include their tribe (6.5%).

Participants reported that the average number of years they had been in the Nigeria Police Force was 23.8 years (Range = 6 - 34 years, $SD = 8.3$), while the average number of years participants had been in the Force Criminal Investigation Department (FCID) was 11.95 years (Range = 2 - 30 years, $SD = 7.7$). For interviewing experience, 66.7% of the participants reported conducting investigative interviews weekly, 12.7% reported monthly, 6.3% reported quarterly, and 14.3% preferred not to answer the question (see Figure 1). Similarly, 36.5% of the participants reported they had carried out approximately over 100 investigative interviews, 11.1% reported having carried out about 90 - 100 investigative interviews, 9.5% reported having carried out about 60 - 89 investigative interviews, 23.8% reported having carried out 30-59 investigative interviews, 7.9% reported to have carried out between 1 - 29 investigative interviews and 11.1% of the participants preferred not to disclose this number (see Figure 2).

Figure 1

A bar chart depicting police investigators' frequency of carrying out investigative interviews

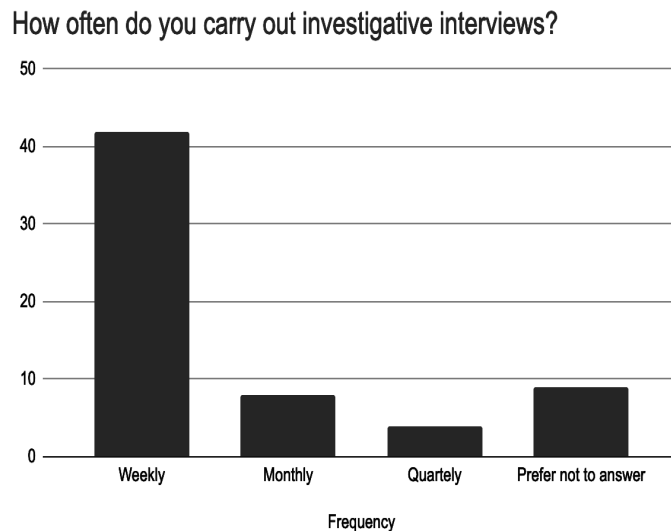
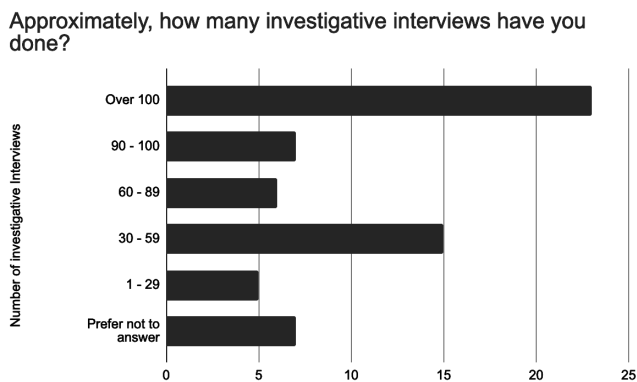


Figure 2

A bar chart depicting the number of investigations police officers have conducted



Materials

Paper and Pen Questionnaire

A paper and pen questionnaire (Appendix A) was created using similar questions from studies that assessed investigative interviewing practices in other parts of the world (See Chung et al., 2021; Kassin et al., 2007). Other elements to fit the Nigerian context were considered

while developing the questionnaire. The survey consisted of seven pages. The first page consisted of demographic questions (i.e. age, gender, tribe) and participants' years in the Nigeria Police Force and Force Criminal Investigative Department. The second page contained questions on participants' training level, confidence and satisfaction with their investigative interviewing skills. The third page contained questions on their truth and lie detection skills, confidence level, awareness, and application of several investigative interviewing techniques, which continued on pages four to six. The seventh page contained questions about criminal investigation, specifically in the Nigerian context. The Consent Form, which highlighted the purpose and procedures, contained a separate booklet.

Procedure

Participants were police officers in the Force Criminal Investigation Department (FCID) at the Lagos State Command in Nigeria. The FCID is the division in charge of the investigation in the Nigeria Police. It is responsible for investigating and prosecuting minor and complicated criminal cases within and outside Nigeria. It coordinates various crime investigations across the Nigeria Police Force (Nigeria Police Force, n.d.).

Participants were recruited through the convenience sampling method, and ₦500 (\$1.58) was offered as an incentive for their participation. The first contact was made by the end of 2021 by the researcher. A letter was submitted to the commissioner of police, and upon approval, the study was conducted at the end of 2022. A research assistant based in Nigeria, alongside a supervisor at the police station, informed the police officers of the study by announcing it at the police station, and interested officers indicated their interest in the study by verbally answering the call out. The interested officers were then given the Consent Form and Paper and Pen Questionnaire to fill out on a first come basis. As indicated in the consent form, participants were

reminded that participation in the study was voluntary (see Appendix B for the consent form used in this study). The interested police officers completed two copies of the consent forms on their desks, after which they indicated they were done by raising their hands. Participants retained one copy of the consent form, and then they completed the paper and pen questionnaire. Upon completion of the document, they submitted the questionnaire by raising their hands and were thanked by the research assistant/supervisor for completing the study. The incentive was disbursed at the end of completion. After the completion of the study, the study materials were shipped to Canada through safe and secure means.

CHAPTER 3: RESULTS

Note that some participants in this study did not give a response to one or more items; therefore, there are slightly different sample sizes across the analyses reported in this section.

Additionally, for the scope of this thesis, a full analysis of the open-ended question was not possible, but a preliminary examination of the open-ended questions was provided to contextualize the qualitative data.

Research Question 1. *What is the current state of interviewing practices in Nigeria and Lagos State specifically?*

Respondents ($n = 62$) rated their satisfaction with their existing knowledge of investigative interviewing techniques on a five-point Likert scale. In terms of results, 37.1% reported being very satisfied, 24.2% reported they were somewhat satisfied, 12.9% reported they were neither unsatisfied nor satisfied, 8.1% reported they were somewhat unsatisfied, 8.1% reported they were very unsatisfied, and 9.7% preferred not to disclose their answer.

Similarly, respondents ($n = 63$) rated their confidence level in their skills to carry out criminal investigative interviews on a five-point Likert scale, 52.4% reported being very confident, 20.6% reported being moderately confident, 17.5% reported being confident, 4.8% reported to be somewhat confident, 1.6% reported to be very unconfident and 3.2% preferred not to answer the question. In an open-ended question, participants were asked to approximate the minutes/hours they spent before preparing for an interview. They reported varying times they spent preparing for an interview which included; 30 minutes ($n = 11$), 1 hour ($n = 11$), 20 minutes ($n = 5$), depending on the case ($n = 5$), 2 hours ($n = 4$), 10 - 30 minutes ($n = 2$), 5 minutes ($n = 2$), 4 hours ($n = 2$), 30 minutes to 1 hour ($n = 2$), 5 to 10 hours ($n = 2$), hours ($n = 2$), 10 minutes ($n = 1$), 10 - 20 minutes ($n = 1$), 2 hours ($n = 4$), 24 hours ($n = 1$), 30 minutes to

45 minutes ($n = 1$), 35 minutes ($n = 1$), 40 minutes ($n = 1$), about 1 hour ($n = 1$), below 30 minutes ($n = 1$), minutes ($n = 1$), and not fixed ($n = 1$).

When asked if respondents recorded their investigative interviews, 88.9% reported ‘yes,’ 7.9% reported ‘no,’ and 3.2% preferred not to answer the question. 42.6% of the respondents reported that they recorded the interviews in a written format, 38.3% recorded in a video format, and 19.1% recorded the interviews in an audio format. Most (91.4%) respondents ($n = 58$) agreed that suspect interviews should be recorded, 1.7% disagreed, and 6.3% preferred not to answer the question.

Respondents were asked to rate the accuracy of their truth and lie detection skills. Results are displayed in Tables 1. They were also asked to provide the basis for their assumption of truth and deception in an open-ended format.

Table 1

Participants’ lie and truth detection accuracy level on a scale of 1 to 100.

% of respondents (lie detection)		% of respondents (truth detection)	
30	2.8	5	2.7
40	5.6	50	24.3
45	2.8	55	5.4
50	11.1	60	13.5
60	16.7	65	2.7
65	2.8	70	2.7
70	8.3	72	2.7
75	5.6	75	5.4

80	30.6	80	29.6
90	2.8	90	13.5
100	11.1	95	2.7

Participants were asked to rate their familiarity with various interviewing techniques (Reid technique, PEACE model, Cognitive Interview) on a five-point Likert scale (Table 3). As can be seen, for the Reid technique: 31.0% of respondents were extremely aware, and 8.6% were not at all aware; for the PEACE model: 36.2% of respondents were extremely aware, 5.2% were not at all aware; and for the Cognitive Interview: 32.1% respondents were moderately aware, 5.7% were not at all aware.

Table 2

Participants' ratings of their familiarity with various investigative interviewing techniques on a 5-point Likert scale.

Interview Techniques	% of respondents					
	Not at all aware	Slightly aware	Somewhat aware	Moderately aware	Extremely aware	Prefer not to answer
REID Technique	8.6	13.8	13.8	20.7	31.0	12.1
PEACE Model	5.2	13.8	12.1	22.4	36.2	10.3
Cognitive Interview	5.7	15.1	5.7	32.1	30.2	11.3

Similarly, participants rated the frequency of applying these interviewing techniques (Reid technique, PEACE model, Cognitive Interview) in their practice on a five-point Likert

scale (Table 4). As can be seen, for the Reid technique: 20.7% of respondents applied this technique almost every time, 8.6% never applied this technique; for the PEACE model: 30.4% of respondents applied the PEACE model almost every time, 3.6% never applied this model, and for the Cognitive Interview: 27.3% applied the Cognitive Interview occasionally, and 3.6% never applied this technique.

Table 3

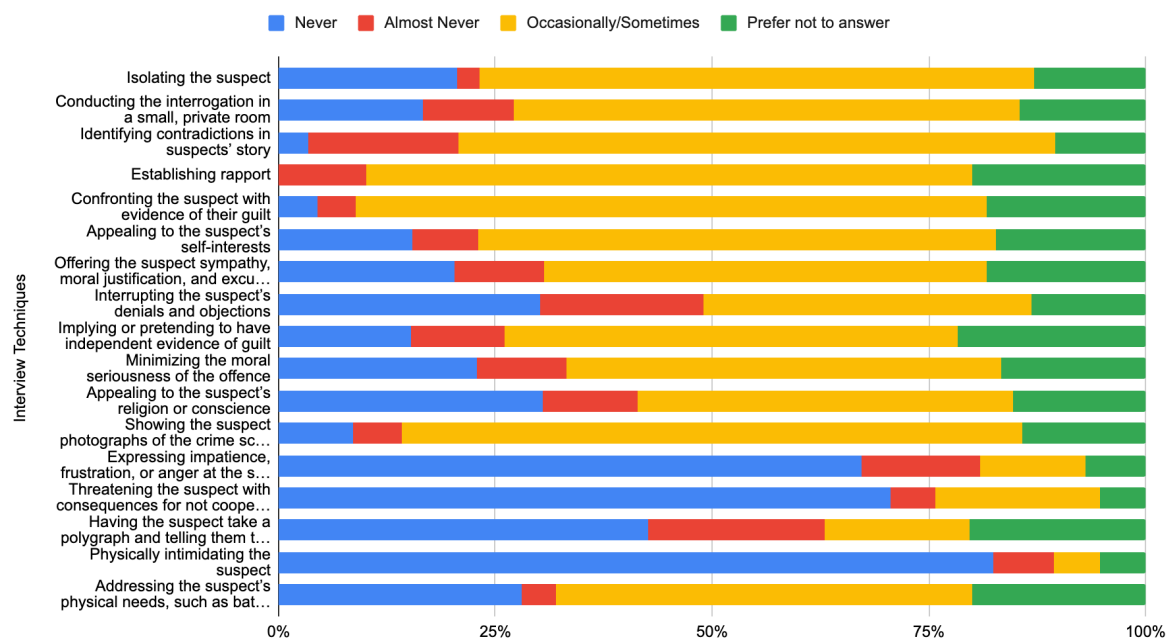
Participants' ratings on the frequency of the application of various investigative interviewing techniques on a 5-point Likert scale.

Interview Techniques	% of respondents					
	Never	Almost Never	Occasionally/Sometimes	Almost every time	Every time	Prefer not to answer
REID Technique	8.6	6.9	37.9	20.7	13.8	12.1
PEACE Model	3.6	3.6	32.1	30.4	17.9	12.5
Cognitive Interview	3.6	14.5	27.3	21.8	14.5	18.2

To further understand the current investigative interviewing practices of police officers in NPF, participants were asked to rate the frequency of their practical application of various investigative interviewing techniques on a five-point Likert scale (Figure 3 & Table 5). As can be seen, 42.4% occasionally isolated the suspect, 29.3% established rapport almost every time, 43.9% occasionally offered the suspect sympathy or moral justification and excuses, 79.7% never physically intimidated the suspects, 65% never expressed frustration or anger at the suspect, and 70.7% never threatened the suspect with consequences for not cooperating.

Figure 3

A chart displaying the frequency of respondents application of interviewing techniques



When asked if participants read any interviewing-related rights or laws to suspects before an interview, 85.7% reported that they did, 7.1% reported they did not read any interviewing-related rights or laws to suspects, and 7.1% preferred not to answer.

84.5% of participants in this study were aware of the Anti-torture Act of 2017, 1.7% were unaware, and 13.8% did not disclose the information.

Additionally, 59.3% of the participants in this study reported that they did not interview suspects and witnesses in the same manner. In comparison, 30.5% of the participants reported they did, and 10.2% preferred not to answer. When asked to further elaborate on this difference, open-ended responses revealed that *interviews* were usually conducted with victims and witnesses, and *interrogations* were conducted with suspects. Also, suspects were provided with a *word of caution* (i.e. similar to Miranda's right) while witnesses were free to speak.

When asked if there was a name for the interviewing technique adopted in Nigeria, 39.6% of the participants reported yes, 24.5% reported no, and 35.8% preferred not to answer the question. Participants who reported that there was a name for the investigative interview technique adopted in Nigeria had a variety of responses (i.e. interview is interview, UNODC, ACJA) when asked to name the technique. The most common response was the REID technique. However, this was from only six of the 19 respondents.

Research Question 2. *What type of interview training are officers receiving, if any?*

When asked if participants had received training on skills for criminal investigation or interviewing, 70.5% reported 'yes,' 18% reported 'no,' and 11.5% preferred not to answer the question. Participants who reported having received some training provided more details in an open-ended response. Respondents reported thus; detective training, human right training, crime, police training courses, cybersecurity and basic intelligence course. Respondents ($n = 62$) rated their satisfaction with their current level of investigative interviewing on a five-point Likert scale, 37.1% reported being very satisfied with their current training level, 27.4% reported being somewhat unsatisfied, 9.7% reported being neither unsatisfied nor satisfied, 9.4% reported to be somewhat satisfied, 9.4% reported to be very unsatisfied, and 6.5% preferred not to answer the question.

CHAPTER 4: DISCUSSION

This study assessed the current investigative interviewing techniques and officers' training in the Force Criminal Department of the Nigeria Police Force.

The findings of this study reveal that a substantial number of police officers in the study were familiar with investigative interviewing techniques (Reid technique, PEACE model, Cognitive Interview) and occasionally applied them in their practice. These findings necessitate the need to probe further into what is known about these techniques, their practical applications and police investigators' awareness of their shortcomings.

Many police officers in this study reported that they never physically intimidated suspects during investigative interviews. Similarly, many reported not expressing impatience, frustration, or anger at the suspect. This result is inconsistent with other studies that have reported the NPF's use of force and other physically intimidating tactics during criminal investigations (Alisigwe & Oluwafemi, 2019; Maiyaki et al., 2019). Various reasons could explain the difference in the results. Police officers might have become more aware of the negative reputation associated with physical intimidation and might be reluctant to admit that they engage in such acts. Another explanation for this is that police officers might now be valuing building rapport as the study's findings reveal a substantial number of police officers reported establishing rapport in their interviews and also addressing the suspect's physical needs, such as bathroom breaks and food. Therefore, with these measures in place, there might be less concentration on forcefully eliciting information. Additionally, rapport building is essential in various investigative interviewing techniques (Cognitive Interview, Reid technique, PEACE model; Geiselman & Fisher, 2014; Inbau et al., 2013; Milne & Bull, 1999; Snook et al., 2010). Hence, if police officers know these investigative interviewing strategies, there might be less emphasis on physically and forcefully

eliciting information. This result is similar to the Spanish and English studies (see Schell-Leugers et al., 2023; Soukara et al., 2009), where more police investigators favoured using non-coercive methods in the interview process but inconsistent with the North American findings (Kassin et al., 2007). The findings of the more recent study point to a pattern that we might now be witnessing a departure of investigators from using coercive techniques and embracing non-confrontational interviewing techniques. At the same time, it is important to highlight that many police officers reported using minimization tactics (i.e. minimizing the moral seriousness of the offence), which have been criticized as coercive and linked to false confessions (Kassin, 2014).

Unsurprisingly, many police officers appeal to the suspect's religion or conscience. As a very religious society where religion has been a critical element of both domestic and foreign policies in Nigeria (Onuh, 2022), it is likely for police officers to pull the religious card in their interaction with suspects. Similar to Chung and colleagues (2022) Malaysian study, this study is not based on a sample collected from Western, Educated, Industrialised, Rich, and Democratic (WEIRD) countries (Henrich et al., 2010). The current study draws attention to important factors that might be salient in Non-WEIRD countries.

While the police officers have received some form of training, from the open-ended questions, it can be inferred that most of them received this training at the beginning of their career (i.e. detective training), which is insufficient and might not be well equipped to meet today's needs. Respondents indicated training as far back as 1992 and, more recently, in 2022. However, the recent training was based on cyber security and personal safety and not specifically on investigative interviewing. Very few respondents alluded to receiving training that could be classified as evidence-based for investigative interviewing. This result is consistent with findings

that show that most police investigators in the NPF only go through the three-month basic training where many emphases are on physical training and not necessarily crime investigation (Tamuno, 1970 as cited in Ladapo, 2011). Police investigators reporting a lack of adequate training, specifically on best practices for investigative interviewing, is not unique to Nigeria alone. Researchers examining this concept also report similar findings in countries worldwide (e.g., Indonesia, Australia, and Spain; Chung et al., 2021; Hill & Moston, 2011; Schell-Leugers et al., 2023; Soukara et al., 2009).

Regarding participants' satisfaction with their training level, findings reveal a varying level of satisfaction as this might be due to the different levels of experience of training that might be received. This highlights the need for further training and refresher courses to boost police officers' satisfaction levels.

It might be concerning that a substantial amount of police officers in this study were very confident in their knowledge of investigative interviewing skills and satisfied with their training even though a substantial amount still occasionally engaged in "inappropriate investigative interviewing techniques" (i.e. isolating the suspects from family and friends). This finding is inconsistent with a similar study where police officers reported their proficiency more on an average scale (Chung et al., 2022). Their confidence and satisfaction in the skills and knowledge beg the question of if Nigerian police officers will be receptive to further training, as some of their responses reveal the deficiencies in the strategies adopted in interviewing.

Similarly, more than half of the police officers in this sample were confident in their truth and lie detection skills. This finding is consistent with literature where people often overestimate their ability to detect deception (Vrij et al., 2019). The literature also reveals that law enforcement officers, like laypeople, could be better discerners of truth and deception, and

training cannot be relied on to improve this skill (Granhag & Stromwall, 2004; Memon et al., 2003). It is consistent with literature for law enforcement agencies to be more confident in differentiating truth and false confessions than lay people, but they are necessarily inaccurate (Kassin et al., 2005). While some police officers reported they would base their assumption of truth and lie on the evidence at hand, a number of police officers reported they based their assumptions on non-verbal cues, which research has shown to be unreliable (Vrij et al., 2019). On average, police investigators in this study reported a 64 percent self-reported accuracy rate when the suspect was telling lies and a 68 percent self-reported accuracy rate when the suspect was telling the truth. While this figure is concerning, it is lower than some figures that researchers examining the concept have obtained from other countries (Hill & Moston, 2011; Kassin et al., 2007; Schell-Leugers et al., 2023). This specific result should be interpreted cautiously as various factors might explain these inconsistencies (i.e. smaller sample size used in the current study).

This study also revealed that most suspect interactions are recorded in a written, video or audio format. This insight provides a good basis for further research studies in the future as self-reported studies can be compared to what is obtainable in real-life scenarios.

Limitations

Nigeria is a large country with over 200 million people (United Nations Population Fund, n.d.) with diverse cultures. Even though the study was conducted in Lagos State, the small sample size is not a representation of all the police officers in Nigeria which may impact the generalizability of its findings. In recent years, the Nigeria Police Force has been associated with much bad press. Hence, police officers might feel the need to represent their organization positively, which might influence their responses. This study is based on self-report measures;

hence, respondents might feel pressured to answer in a certain way, giving in to social desirability. Additionally, self-report measures differ from what would be obtainable in practice (Chung et al., 2021); however, they provide a promising avenue for insights and a basis for conducting other research studies in this area.

CHAPTER 5: CONCLUSION AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS

This study provides foundational insights into Nigeria's investigative interviewing practices. Overall our results suggest that interviewing practices in Nigeria may more closely match best practices than thought initially.

There is still a need for further training of police investigators in Nigeria on best practices in investigative interviewing. Furthermore, the study pointed to a need for uniformity in training. The Nigeria Police Force needs to create a structure where every police officer will be trained on best practices. If police investigators surveyed in just one location could not point to a uniform name for the techniques adopted, there is a gap in creating an area of need that the Nigeria Police Force authorities need to fill. Collaborations with researchers and practitioners should be sought to facilitate this training further as careful observation and continued research studies will highlight areas that need improvement in practice.

It is important to reiterate that this study provides foundational knowledge where further knowledge should be pursued. Accepting the self-reported opinions of police investigators can not be the basis for further decisions (i.e. policy development). It is important to investigate further what is practically obtainable in relation to investigative interviews by police investigators in Nigeria. Further examining real-life transcripts, audio recordings, and videotapes will provide more knowledge. There is a need to assess the perceptions of individuals who have interacted with the Nigeria Police Force and compare it with self-reported data obtained from police investigators. Importantly, Lagos State is just one of the thirty-six states in Nigeria. There is a need to examine what is obtainable across Nigeria.

Are we where we should be? This is not a 'yes, no, or maybe' answer. Based on this study, it can be deduced that police investigators in Lagos State, Nigeria, might not be so far off

in the application of some investigative interviewing practices. It is still vital to highlight that while a substantial number of police investigators report using non-coercive method, a questionable number still use them. Therefore, we are still yet to see a total departure from non-coercive techniques. Importantly, there are many factors to consider and more studies that need to be carried out before a definitive conclusion can be reached. Additionally, the yardstick of comparison is usually best practices (i.e. PEACE model) originating from Western countries with different social climates and structures than Nigeria. There might be a need to investigate further the most suitable “best practice” for investigative interviewing in a Nigerian context. This highlights the significance of the present study as it is not based on a sample from a Western, Educated, Industrialised, Rich, and Democratic (WEIRD) country (Henrich et al. 2010).

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Appendix A

- How old are you (please only enter numbers)? _____

- How long have you been in the Nigeria Police Force? _____

- How long have you been in the Force Criminal Investigation Department of the Nigeria Police Force? _____

- How long have you been carrying out criminal investigative interviews?

- What gender do you identify as? _____

- What tribe do you identify as?
 - Hausa
 - Igbo
 - Yoruba
 - Others, please specify _____
 - Prefer not to answer

How often do you carry out investigative interviews?

- Weekly
- Monthly
- Quarterly
- Yearly
- Prefer not to answer

Approximately how many investigative interviews have you done?

- Over 100
- 90 - 100
- 60 - 89

- 30 - 59
- 1 - 29
- Prefer not to answer

Have you received any training on skills for criminal investigation/interviewing? (Please, select only one option)

- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to answer

If yes, please outline the details of the training:

How satisfied are you with your current level of investigative interview training? (Please, select only one option)

Very Unsatisfied [] | Somewhat Unsatisfied [] | Neither Unsatisfied nor Satisfied []
Somewhat Satisfied [] | Very Satisfied [] | Prefer not to answer []

How satisfied are you with your current knowledge of investigative interviewing techniques? (Please, select only one option)

**Very Unsatisfied [] | Somewhat Unsatisfied [] | Neither Unsatisfied nor Satisfied []
Somewhat Satisfied [] | Very Satisfied [] | Prefer not to answer []**

How confident are you in your skills to carry out criminal investigative interviews? (Please, select only one option)

**Very Unconfident [] | Somewhat Unconfident [] | Moderately confident []
Confident [] | Very confident [] | Prefer not to answer []**

Before carrying out investigative interviews on a suspect, approximately how many minutes/hours do you spend preparing for the interview? _____

On average, how many times is a given suspect interviewed during a criminal investigation?

On average, how long are your interviews with a suspect: _____

What is the longest suspect interview that you have been involved in: _____

Do you usually record your interview? **Yes [] | No [] | Prefer not to answer []**

If Yes, how are they recorded – **Audio [] | Video [] | Written []**

Suspect interviews should be recorded:

(Please, select only one option) **Yes [] | No [] | Prefer not to answer []**

On a scale of 1 to 100, how accurate are you at knowing when a suspect is lying?

On a scale of 1 to 100, how accurate are you at knowing when a suspect is telling the truth?

What do you base your assumption on when determining truth and deception?

How familiar are you with this investigative interviewing technique? - **REID Technique**

Not at all aware [] | **Slightly aware** [] | **Somewhat aware** [] | **Moderately aware** []
Extremely aware [] | **Prefer not to answer** []

How often do you apply the **REID Technique** in your practice?

Never [] | **Almost never** [] | **Occasionally/Sometimes** [] | **Almost every time** []
Every time [] | **Prefer not to answer** []

How familiar are you with this investigative interviewing technique? - **PEACE MODEL**

Not at all aware [] | **Slightly aware** [] | **Somewhat aware** [] | **Moderately aware** []
Extremely aware [] | **Prefer not to answer** []

How often do you apply the **PEACE model** in your practice?

Never [] | **Almost never** [] | **Occasionally/Sometimes** [] | **Almost every time** []

Every time [] | Prefer not to answer []

How familiar are you with this investigative interviewing technique? - **Cognitive Interview**

Not at all aware [] | Slightly aware [] | Somewhat aware [] | Moderately aware [] |
Extremely aware [] | Prefer not to answer []

How often do you use **Cognitive Interviewing** methods in your practice?

Never [] | Almost never [] | Occasionally/Sometimes [] | Almost every time []
Every time [] | Prefer not to answer []

How often do you use each of the following techniques within your investigative interviews:

Isolating the suspect from family and friends

Never [] | Almost never [] | Occasionally/Sometimes [] | Almost every time []
Every time [] | Prefer not to answer []

Conducting the interrogation in a small, private room

Never [] | Almost never [] | Occasionally/Sometimes [] | Almost every time []
Every time [] | Prefer not to answer []

Identifying contradictions in the suspect's story

Never [] | Almost never [] | Occasionally/Sometimes [] | Almost every time []
Every time [] | Prefer not to answer []

Establishing a rapport and gaining the suspect's trust

Never [] | Almost never [] | Occasionally/Sometimes [] | Almost every time []
Every time [] | Prefer not to answer []

Confronting the suspect with evidence of their guilt

Never [] | Almost never [] | Occasionally/Sometimes [] | Almost every time []
Every time [] | Prefer not to answer []

Appealing to the suspect's self-interests

Never [] | Almost never [] | Occasionally/Sometimes [] | Almost every time []
Every time [] | Prefer not to answer []

Offering the suspect sympathy, moral justification, and excuses

Never [] | Almost never [] | Occasionally/Sometimes [] | Almost every time []
Every time [] | Prefer not to answer []

Interrupting the suspect's denials and objections

Never [] | Almost never [] | Occasionally/Sometimes [] | Almost every time []
Every time [] | Prefer not to answer []

Implying or pretending to have independent evidence of guilt

Never [] | Almost never [] | Occasionally/Sometimes [] | Almost every time []
Every time [] | Prefer not to answer []

Minimizing the moral seriousness of the offence

Never [] | Almost never [] | Occasionally/Sometimes [] | Almost every time []
 Every time [] | Prefer not to answer []

Appealing to the suspect's religion or conscience

Never [] | Almost never [] | Occasionally/Sometimes [] | Almost every time []
 Every time [] | Prefer not to answer []

Showing the suspect photographs of the crime scene or victim

Never [] | Almost never [] | Occasionally/Sometimes [] | Almost every time []
 Every time [] | Prefer not to answer []

Expressing impatience, frustration, or anger at the suspect

Never [] | Almost never [] | Occasionally/Sometimes [] | Almost every time []
 Every time [] | Prefer not to answer []

Threatening the suspect with consequences for not cooperating

Never [] | Almost never [] | Occasionally/Sometimes [] | Almost every time []
 Every time [] | Prefer not to answer []

Having the suspect take a polygraph and telling them they failed it

Never [] | Almost never [] | Occasionally/Sometimes [] | Almost every time []
 Every time [] | Prefer not to answer []

Physically intimidating the suspect

Never [] | Almost never [] | Occasionally/Sometimes [] | Almost every time []

Every time [] | Prefer not to answer []

Addressing the suspect's physical needs, such as bathroom breaks and food

Never [] | Almost never [] | Occasionally/Sometimes [] | Almost every time []
 Every time [] | Prefer not to answer []

Criminal Investigation Interviewing Laws in Nigeria

- Do you read any interviewing-related rights or laws to suspects before an interview?
 - Yes []
 - No []
 - Prefer not to answer []

If **Yes**, which rights/law(s) do you frequently communicate?

Are you aware of the anti-torture Act of 2017?

- Yes []
- No []
- Prefer not to answer []

When carrying out investigative interviews, what level of priority do you attach to the admissibility of the statement obtained during an interview for trial purposes?

Do you interview suspects and witnesses in the same manner?

- Yes []
- No []
- Prefer not to answer []

If **No**, what is the major difference?

- Is there a name for the technique used for criminal investigative interviews in Nigeria?
 - Yes []
 - No []
 - Prefer not to answer []

If **Yes**, what is the technique called?

Appendix B

Consent Form to Participate in a Research Study

Title of Research Study: Investigative Interviewing Processes in Nigeria

Name of Principal Investigator (PI): Dr. Joseph Eastwood

PI's Contact Information: (905) 721 8668 ext. 5971; Joseph.eastwood@ontariotechu.ca

Student Investigators and Contact Information: Funmilola Ogunseye;
funmilola.ogunseye@ontariotechu.net

Research Assistant: Olaoluwa Afolabi: +234 806 048 1219

Departmental and Institutional Affiliation(s): Faculty of Social Science and Humanities,
Ontario Tech University

Introduction

You are invited to participate in a research study *Investigative Interviewing Processes in Nigeria*. You are being asked to take part in this research study. This study is accessible to Police Investigators in the Nigeria Force. Please, take the time to read the following information about the study presented in this form. This consent form includes details about the study's procedures and benefits that you should know before you decide if you would like to participate. You should take as much time as you need to make your decision. You should ask the Research Assistant to explain anything that you do not understand and make sure that all your questions have been answered before signing this consent form. Before you come to your decision to consent, feel free to talk about this study with anyone you wish, which may include friends and family. Participation in this study is voluntary.

This study has been reviewed by the University of Ontario Institute of Technology (Ontario Tech University) Research Ethics Board [REB # 16890] on [30/09/2022].

Purpose and Procedure

Purpose

- The purpose of this study is to understand investigative interviewing practices and training in the Nigeria Police Force.
- You have been invited to participate in this study because you are an officer in the Force Criminal Investigation Department of the Nigeria Police Force.

Procedure

- This study was made accessible to police officers in the Force Criminal Investigation Department of the Nigeria Police Force through voluntary participation.
- This study will be completed on a scheduled date at the Force Criminal Investigation Department, Nigeria Police Force, Ikeja, Lagos, Nigeria.
- This study consists of a paper survey that assesses your beliefs regarding your investigative interviewing practices.
- You are asked to carefully and sincerely answer the questionnaire.
- This study is expected to take approximately 20 minutes to complete in its entirety.
- The data collected for this research will consist of your responses and will be coded and then will be analyzed by the research team.
- Aggregated data may be published (e.g., dissertation, presentation, academic journal articles) later.
- There will be approximately 100 participants recruited for this study.

Potential Benefits

- You will not directly benefit from participating in this study.
- There may be indirect benefits to your participation. For example, by participating, the information found may contribute to the advancement of knowledge in areas that are related to policing, the legal system and society in general.

Potential Risks or Discomforts

- There are no known or anticipated risks to you from participating in this study.

Use and Storage of Data

- The data collected via the paper survey will be coded and entered into a computer-based spreadsheet stored on the Ontario Tech University cloud storage system, which is only accessible by the members of the research team. The paper survey will be discarded once all the data is entered.
- Basic demographic information will be requested (e.g., age, gender). However, you are not obliged to provide this information and it will not be linked to your individual answers.

- The research data gathered from the paper survey will be kept indefinitely on the Ontario Tech University Cloud storage.
- Please note that aggregate data collected in the current study will also be made publicly available in an online repository (Open Science Framework, <https://osf.io/>). Note: no demographic or identifying information will be included in any publicly available dataset.
- Raw data will be accessible only to the researchers that have been listed on this form, while aggregated data (without personally identifiable information) may be shared with other researchers.
- Please be aware that academic publications and presentations may result from this project and that the data you provide may be published at the discretion of the researcher.
- All information collected during this study, including your personal information, will be kept confidential and will not be shared with anyone outside the study unless required by law.
- You will not be named in any reports, publications, or presentations that may come from this study.

Confidentiality

- Identifying information will be collected during this study, including basic demographic data. All data will be used solely for research purposes, and only aggregated data will be published in any publicly available formats (e.g., journal articles, presentations).
- Your privacy shall be respected. No information about your identity will be shared or published without your permission, unless required by law. Confidentiality will be provided to the fullest extent possible by law, professional practice, and ethical codes of conduct. Please note that confidentiality can not be guaranteed while data is in transit over the Internet.
- The research study includes the collection of basic demographic data that will be aggregated (not individually presented) and not linked to your survey answers in an effort to protect your anonymity. Despite best efforts, it is possible that your identity can be determined even when data is aggregated.
- Please note that communication via email is not completely secure. Thus, please do not communicate any personal or sensitive information via email.

Voluntary Participation

- Your participation in this study is voluntary and you may partake in only those aspects of the research in which you feel comfortable. You may also decide not to be in this study,

or to be in the study now, and then change your mind later. You may leave the study at any time without affecting your compensation.

- You may refuse to answer any questions that you do not want to answer by simply not providing a response.

Right to Withdrawal

- You can withdraw from the research study at any time prior to submitting your survey by informing the Research Assistant. If you withdraw, your paper will be discarded and any data that you have contributed will be removed from the study. You do not need to provide any reasoning for this request.

Conflict of Interest

- The researchers have an interest in completing this research study. The researchers' interests should not influence your decision to participate in this study.

Compensation, Reimbursement, Incentives

- You will receive ₦500 as compensation for taking part in this study.
- You will not incur any expenses as a result of your participation in this study.
- If you withdraw at any point during the study, your compensation will not be taken away.

Debriefing and Dissemination of Results

- If you have any questions or concerns about the study, you may contact the PI (Dr. Joseph Eastwood) at Joseph.eastwood@ontariotechu.ca.
- If you would like to know about the results of this study, please contact Dr. Eastwood after June 2023.
- The results found from this research study may be published in the future (e.g., conference presentations, scholarly articles). If you wish to receive a copy of any publications, please contact the research team.

Participation Rights and Concerns

- Please take the time to read this consent form carefully and feel free to contact the researchers with any questions or concerns that you may have about the research study. If you have any such questions about your rights as a participant, complaints, or adverse events, please contact the Research Ethics Office either at (905) 721 8668 ext. 3693 or researchethics@ontariotechu.ca.

- If you have questions concerning the research study or experiences of discomfort relevant to the study, please contact the PI, Dr. Eastwood, at either (905) 721 8668 ext. 5971 or Joseph.eastwood@ontariotechu.ca.
- By ticking “I agree” below, you do not give up any of your legal rights against the investigators or involved institutions for compensation, nor does this form relieve the investigator or involved institutions of their legal and professional responsibilities.

Consent to Participate

1. I have read the consent form and understand the study being described.
2. I have had an opportunity to ask questions and my questions have been answered. I am free to ask questions about the study in the future by contacting the PI, Dr. Eastwood.
3. I freely consent to participate in the research study, understanding that I may discontinue participation at any time without penalty. A copy of this Consent Form has been made available to me.

I agree

I do not agree (this will end the study for you)

Appendix C

Interview Techniques	% of respondents					
	Never	Almost Never	Occasionally/Some times	Almost every time	Every time	Prefer not to answer
Isolating the suspect	13.6%	1.7%	42.4%	20.3%	13.6%	8.5%
Conducting the interrogation in a small, private room	12.9%	8.1%	45.2%	9.7%	12.9%	11.3%
Identifying contradictions in suspects' story	1.7%	8.5%	33.9%	42.4%	8.5%	5.1%
Establishing rapport	-	5.2%	36.2%	29.3%	19.0%	10.3%
Confronting the suspect with evidence of their guilt	1.6%	1.6%	26.2%	32.8%	31.1%	6.6%
Appealing to the suspect's self-interests	13.8%	6.9%	53.4%	5.2%	5.2%	15.5%
Offering the suspect sympathy, moral justification, and excuses	17.5%	8.8%	43.9%	8.8%	5.3%	15.8%
Interrupting the suspect's denials and objections	28.1%	17.5%	35.1%	3.5%	3.5%	12.3%
Implying or pretending to have independent evidence of guilt	12.1%	8.6%	41.4%	19%	1.7%	17.2%
Minimizing the moral seriousness of the offence	19.6%	8.9%	42.9%	12.5%	1.8%	14.3%
Appealing to the suspect's religion or conscience	24.6%	8.8%	35.1%	10.5%	8.8%	12.3%
Showing the suspect photographs of the crime scene or victim	5.2%	3.4%	43.1%	27.6%	12.1%	8.6%

Expressing impatience, frustration, or anger at the suspect	65%	13.3%	11.7%	-	3.3%	6.7%
Threatening the suspect with consequences for not cooperating	70.7%	5.2%	19%	-	-	5.2%
Having the suspect take a polygraph and telling them they failed it	41.1%	19.6%	16.1%	3.6%	-	19.6%
Physically intimidating the suspect	79.7%	6.8%	5.1%	1.7%	1.7%	5.1%
Addressing the suspect's physical needs, such as bathroom breaks and food	12.1%	1.7%	20.7%	22.4%	34.5%	8.6%

Table 4. Participants' ratings on the frequency of the application of various investigative interviewing tactics on a 5-point Likert scale.