

DR. ABBIE MAROÑO, PhD

BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE EXPERT WITNESS

Nonverbal Behavior | Investigative Interviewing | False & Coerced Confessions | Deception & Credibility

+1 (407) 358 5253 | contact@abbiemarono.com

Behavioral science expert witness with a PhD in Psychology and specialist expertise in false and coerced confessions, police interviews and interrogations, investigative interviewing, deception and credibility, nonverbal behavior (body language), and behavioral sequence analysis. Qualified and testified as an expert in U.S. federal court, including CCTV-based behavioral analysis relevant to violent or nonviolent intent, and approved to serve as an expert for the Trial Unit of the Federal Defender Program. Has delivered specialized training across 29 U.S. federal agencies, including the FBI, Department of Homeland Security, and U.S. Secret Service, and to senior INTERPOL leadership.

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

- Nonverbal behavior (body language) analysis
- Police interviews, interrogations & investigative interviewing
- False & coerced confessions
- Post-incident & post-trauma behavior
- Behavior sequence analysis
- CCTV, body-worn camera & surveillance behavior analysis
- Deception & credibility analysis
- Compliance, acquiescence & interviewer influence
- Behavior relevant to violent or nonviolent intent
- Rebuttal of unsupported body-language & deception claims

EXPERT WITNESS & LITIGATION EXPERIENCE

Qualified Expert Witness - U.S. Federal Court

- Provided expert testimony based on behavioral analysis of CCTV footage, including behavior relevant to violent or nonviolent intent.
- Presented scientific findings clearly to the court, grounded in behavioral research and the limits of what the video evidence could reliably support.

Approved to Serve as Expert - Federal Defender Program, Trial Unit | 2026-Present

- Approved to provide behavioral science expertise in federal criminal defense matters.
- Available for case review, video and interview analysis, expert reports, rebuttal analysis, deposition support, and trial testimony.

Independent Expert Witness and Behavioral Consultant | United States and United Kingdom

- Retained in criminal and civil matters involving nonverbal behavior, investigative interviews and interrogations, confessions, post-incident behavior, and disputed deception or credibility.
- Reviews CCTV, body-worn camera, doorbell and surveillance footage, interviews, interrogations, testimony, transcripts, investigative reports, witness statements, and opposing expert opinions.
- Retained in high-profile matters, including civil litigation involving public figures.

EXPERT SERVICES TO COUNSEL

- **Case review and consultation:** Review of case issues and evidence to identify where behavioral expertise may clarify, support, or challenge interpretations.
- **Video and interview analysis:** Analysis of nonverbal behavior, interviewing practices, interaction dynamics, behavioral change, timing, sequence, and context.
- **Expert reports and rebuttal analysis:** Evidence-based reports setting out materials reviewed, methodology, findings, and scientific basis; evaluation of opposing behavioral opinions.
- **Deposition and trial preparation:** Support in presenting or challenging behavioral evidence, identifying weaknesses in opposing opinions, and clarifying scientific limits.
- **Expert testimony:** Clear, authoritative testimony translating complex behavioral science for judges and juries.

EDUCATION

PhD in Psychology and Behavior Analysis | Lancaster University, United Kingdom

BSc Psychology with Forensic Psychology - First-Class Honours | University of Lincoln, United Kingdom

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Founder and Chief Executive Officer - Dr. Abbie Enterprises, LLC | 2026-Present | Orlando, Florida

- Provides independent expert witness services and litigation consultation across federal and state matters, including behavioral analysis, written reports, and testimony.
- Specialist areas include nonverbal behavior, investigative interviewing, deception and credibility, false and coerced confessions, post-incident behavior, and video evidence.

Director of Education - Social-Engineer, LLC | 2022-2026

- Directed development and delivery of advanced training in behavior analysis, nonverbal communication, investigative interviewing, information elicitation, and human decision-making.
- Delivered specialized training to federal, law-enforcement, security, and private-sector audiences.
- Provided expert behavioral analysis and consultation to public- and private-sector clients.

Expert Advisor - Virtual Sapiens Solutions | 2022-Present

- Evaluates and refines nonverbal communication metrics, behavioral thresholds, and educational content used in technology-assisted communication analysis.
- Advises on the scientific validity, interpretation, and responsible use of nonverbal behavioral data.

Professor of Forensic Psychology - University of Northampton | 2021-2022 | United Kingdom

- Designed and taught university courses in psychology and behavior analysis; supervised undergraduate and postgraduate research.
- Conducted and published peer-reviewed research and presented findings at academic and professional conferences.

FEDERAL, SECURITY & INVESTIGATIVE EXPERIENCE

- Delivered specialized behavioral science training across 29 U.S. federal agencies, including the FBI, Department of Homeland Security, and U.S. Secret Service.
- Delivered training to senior leadership at INTERPOL.
- Training topics include nonverbal behavior, behavioral analysis, investigative interviewing, information elicitation, trust, influence, and decision-making.
- Worked with investigative and security professionals in settings where methodology, accuracy, and practical application are subject to significant scrutiny.

RECOGNITION & ACADEMIC DISTINCTIONS

- U.S. Secret Service award for Outstanding Contribution to Forensic Services.
- Recognized by the U.S. Department of State for Extraordinary Ability in the Sciences.
- Orlando Business Journal 40 Under 40 honoree, 2026.
- 2026 Leader of Impact nominee, American Heart Association.
- Outstanding Reviewer Literati Award - Journal of Criminal Psychology.
- Recipient of competitive research funding for behavioral analysis research.

BOOKS

Maroño, A. (2025). *The Upper Hand: Mastering Persuasion and Getting What You Want with the Science of Social Engineering*. BenBella Books. USA Today bestseller.

ACADEMIC & PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- Peer reviewer for academic journals, including the Journal of Criminal Psychology and journals within experimental psychology.
- Member, Centre for Research and Evidence on Security Threats (CREST).
- Member, Researchers in Behaviour Sequence Analysis (ReBSA).
- Member, SPRITE+ (Security, Privacy, Identity and Trust in the Digital Economy).
- Mentor, NetworkPlus for Analytical Behavioural Science Early Career Researcher Mentoring Scheme.
- Associate, JNForensics; Advisor, Green Light Behavioural Analysis.

SELECTED MEDIA & PROFESSIONAL COMMUNICATION

Selected behavioral science commentary and analysis for BBC, Reuters, WIRED, Fox News, Court TV, and Forbes; regular contributor to Forbes. Extensive media experience translating complex behavioral science clearly for non-specialist audiences.

PEER-REVIEWED & SCHOLARLY PUBLICATIONS

Peer-reviewed research includes nonverbal behavior and deception, false confessions, behavior sequence analysis, violent and nonviolent extremism, and criminal behavior.

- Maroño, A. (2026). Social context: Family, support systems, and early life in the making of serial killers. In *The Psychology of Serial Murder: Current Evidence* (pp. 215–233). Springer Nature Switzerland.
- Papagathonikou, T., & Maroño, A. (2025). The relationship between psychopathy and sexual sadism: A mixed-methods study. *The Journal of Forensic Psychiatry & Psychology*, 36(3), 407–429.
- Knight, S., Maroño, A., & Keatley, D. (2024). The age of extremism: A crime script analysis of violent and nonviolent extremists according to age of first extremist act. *Journal of Criminal Psychology*, 14(2), 157–179.
- Abdelrahman, Y., Alt, F., Dingler, T., Hadnagy, C., Maroño, A., & Distler, V. (2024). Defining and fortifying against cognitive vulnerabilities in social engineering. *Dagstuhl Seminar* 23462.
- Keatley, D. A., Knight, S., & Maroño, A. (2023). A crime script analysis of violent and nonviolent extremists. *Studies in Conflict & Terrorism*, 46(11), 2285–2302.
- Keatley, D., Maroño, A. J., & Clarke, D. D. (2023). Prevalence scores: An addition to behaviour sequence analysis. *Journal of Criminal Psychology*, 13(4), 394–404.
- Maroño, A., & Keatley, D. A. (2023). An investigation into the association between cannibalism and serial killers. *Psychiatry, Psychology and Law*, 30(4), 447–458.
- Maroño, A., Bartels, R. M., Hill, K., Papagathonikou, T., & Hitchman, G. (2023). Exploring the stigmatisation of offending and non-offending paedophiles: A terror management approach. *Journal of Criminal Psychology*, 13(3), 157–172.
- Maroño, A. J., Reid, S., Yaksic, E., & Keatley, D. A. (2020). A behaviour sequence analysis of serial killers' lives: From childhood abuse to methods of murder. *Psychiatry, Psychology and Law*, 27(1), 126–137.
- Maroño, A., & Bartels, R. M. (2020). Examining the judgments of pedophiles in relation to a non-sexual offense. *Psychology, Crime & Law*, 26(9), 887–901.
- Maroño, A., Clarke, D. D., Navarro, J., & Keatley, D. A. (2018). A sequence analysis of nonverbal behaviour and deception. *Journal of Police and Criminal Psychology*, 33(2), 109–117.
- Keatley, D. A., Maroño, A., & Clarke, D. D. (2018). Unmaking a murderer: Behaviour sequence analysis of false confessions. *Psychiatry, Psychology and Law*, 25(3), 425–436.
- Maroño, A., Clarke, D. D., Navarro, J., & Keatley, D. A. (2017). A behaviour sequence analysis of nonverbal communication and deceit in different personality clusters. *Psychiatry, Psychology and Law*, 24(5), 730–744.