DR. ABBIE MAROÑO, PhD

BEHAVIORAL SCIENTIST | EXPERT WITNESS

Trauma & Victim Behavior • False Confessions • Investigative Interviewing • Nonverbal Evidence

contact@abbiemarono.com

PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

Behavioral scientist and expert witness with a PhD in Psychology and experience testifying in U.S. federal and state courts. Expertise spans trauma and victim behavior, false confessions, investigative interviewing, nonverbal behavioral analysis, and recorded evidence. Examines scientific research on freezing, non-resistance, delayed disclosure, continued contact, and the limitations of the “perfect victim” stereotype without treating behavior as proof of an allegation. Approved to serve as an expert for the Federal Defender Program Trial Unit. Has trained personnel across 29 U.S. federal agencies and senior INTERPOL leadership.

CORE AREAS OF EXPERTISE

- Trauma and sexual assault victim behavior; post-trauma responses; delayed disclosure; freezing; non-resistance; continued contact; the “perfect victim” stereotype
- False and disputed confessions; compliance, acquiescence, suggestibility and interrogation influence
- Investigative interviewing, questioning practices and recorded interview analysis
- Nonverbal behavior, behavioral sequence analysis and CCTV/body-worn camera/surveillance evidence
- Deception- and credibility-related behavioral claims; rebuttal of unsupported inferences about intent or truthfulness

EXPERT WITNESS & LITIGATION EXPERIENCE

Rebuttal Expert Witness | Weber, Crabb & Wein, P.A. | 2026–Present

- Independent expert analysis and testimony in a Florida criminal defense matter involving sexual assault allegations; evaluation of the State’s expert opinions, scientific foundations and methodology, and preparation of independent rebuttal findings.

Approved Expert | Federal Defender Program, Trial Unit | 2026–Present

- Approved to serve as a behavioral science expert in federal criminal defense proceedings.
- Specialist expertise in interview and video analysis, expert reporting, rebuttal analysis and testimony.

Defense Expert Testimony | State of New Mexico v. John Karl O’Brien | 2025

- Thirteenth Judicial District Court, Cibola County; case D-1333-CR-202400028. Trial: September 9–11, 2025.
- Retaining counsel: Nicholas T. Hart, Harrison & Hart, LLC. Expert testimony in nonverbal communication and behavioral analysis.

Expert Testimony Experience | U.S. Federal Court

- Provided expert testimony concerning behavioral analysis of CCTV footage, including observed conduct relevant to violent or nonviolent intent.
- Explained findings within the limits of the available video evidence and behavioral research.

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

- Retained in criminal and civil matters concerning nonverbal behavior, investigative interviews, confessions, post-incident behavior and disputed credibility-related claims.
- Reviews CCTV, body-worn camera and surveillance footage; interviews, interrogations, transcripts, investigative reports and opposing expert opinions.
- Provides scientific analysis of post-trauma behavior and the limitations of assumptions about how victims are expected to respond.
- Has been retained in high-profile matters, including civil litigation involving public figures.

EXPERT SERVICES TO COUNSEL

- Case screening, consultation and assessment of the scientific questions presented
- Post-trauma and victim-behavior research review, including misconceptions about victim responses
- Recorded interaction, video, interrogation and interview analysis
- Expert reports, methodological critique and rebuttal of unsupported behavioral claims
- Deposition and trial preparation; expert testimony

EDUCATION

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

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

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

Founder & Chief Executive Officer | Dr. Abbie Enterprises, LLC | 2026–Present | Orlando, Florida

Independent expert witness services, litigation consultation, behavioral evidence analysis, written reports and testimony.

Expert Advisor | Virtual Sapiens Solutions | 2022–Present

Advises on scientific validity, interpretation and responsible use of nonverbal communication metrics and behavioral data.

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

Led training in behavioral analysis, nonverbal communication, investigative interviewing, information elicitation and decision-making; advised public- and private-sector clients.

Professor of Psychology | University of Northampton | 2021–2022 | United Kingdom

Taught psychology and behavior analysis; supervised research; published and presented academic findings.

FEDERAL, SECURITY & INVESTIGATIVE EXPERIENCE

- Delivered behavioral science training to professionals across 29 U.S. federal agencies, including the FBI, Department of Homeland Security and U.S. Secret Service.
- Delivered training to senior INTERPOL leadership. Topics include interviewing, information elicitation, nonverbal behavior, trust, influence and decision-making.
- Selected professional training audiences include the American Polygraph Association, Federal Interagency Polygraph Seminar, Maryland Polygraph Association, International Association of Interviewers Elite Training Days, and Florida Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC).

RECOGNITION & ACADEMIC DISTINCTIONS

- U.S. Secret Service Award for Outstanding Contribution to Forensic Services
- U.S. Department of State recognition for extraordinary ability in sciences and behavioral analysis
- 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

ACADEMIC & PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

International Association of Experts (IAE) | Expert Registry | 2026–Present

Behavioral science and interrogation analysis; expert services in investigative interviewing, confession analysis, nonverbal behavior and post-trauma behavior.

Peer reviewer for the Journal of Criminal Psychology and experimental psychology journals; member of CREST, ReBSA and SPRITE+; mentor in the NetworkPlus for Analytical Behavioural Science Early Career Researcher Mentoring Scheme; Associate, JNForensics; Advisor, Green Light Behavioural Analysis.

BOOK

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

SELECTED MEDIA & SCIENTIFIC COMMUNICATION

Behavioral science commentary for BBC, Reuters, WIRED, Fox News, Court TV and Forbes; regular contributor to Forbes and other publications.

PEER-REVIEWED & SCHOLARLY PUBLICATIONS

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.