

Social Scientific Analysis

Focus Questions

- What assumptions do psychologists make when analyzing people's behaviour?
- What assumptions do sociologists make?
- What assumptions do anthropologists make?

Key Concepts

psychology

personality

sociology

anthropology

The Incident

On 6 April 1999, at around 2:40 p.m., city bus maintenance workers for OC Transpo in Ottawa saw a former employee drive his car into the parking lot. He got out carrying a loaded Remington hunting rifle. Pierre Lebrun walked deliberately into the bus garage. In less than six minutes, he killed four co-workers and seriously injured two others. He entered a bus where eight workers were finishing their afternoon coffee break, swore at them but did not fire a shot, and finally killed himself.

An inquest was held to investigate the incident. Joseph Casagrande, one of the workers at the bus garage that day, was asked how Lebrun seemed when he entered the garage. Casagrande replied: "He was blank, just blank. He didn't sway. He didn't even blink an eye."

The Killer

Pierre Lebrun was a quiet and reserved man who appeared to live an isolated life. He did not really have close friends, and

there is no evidence that he had any romantic relationships. His parents lived in Ottawa, and they were virtually his only social contacts. Many of his problems at work related to his stutter, which became worse when he was agitated or frustrated. Some of his co-workers mocked him by mimicking his speech, which naturally made the problem worse.

Lebrun had no criminal record and had given no indication that he was capable of such violence. He had been in trouble only once. In August 1997, he punched a co-worker at the bus garage. He was moved to another garage and forced to take a twelve-week anger management course. In a self-evaluation at the end of the course, he wrote that he did not feel he had met the goals he had set for himself. He offered no further explanation for what this meant. After completing the course, he returned to his usual location, but quit a few months later. Almost exactly a year after completing the course, he returned to the garage and went on his shooting rampage

The Lebrun Case

- Ottawa, April 6, 1999, 2:40pm
- Former O.C. Transpo (local bus company) employee (Pierre Lebrun)
- Walked into garage & shot former co-workers (blank look)
- 6 min = 4 dead, 2 wounded (hunting rifle)
- boarded bus (w 8 c/w's), swore at c/w, & shot himself
- loner, no friends, no romance
- mocked at work (stutter)
- no criminal record
- August 1997, punched a co-worker
- Was sent to 12-week anger management which he felt he did not pass
- Quit a few months later, 1 year after course was shooting

HSP 3MB

Pierre Lebrun

Psychology	Anthropology	Sociology
Question:	Question:	Question:
Assumption:	Assumption:	Assumption:
Method:	Method:	Method:
Explanation:	Explanation:	Explanation: