Every breath you take: An examination of the natural phenomenon of stalking

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Every Breath You Take:
An Examination of the Natural Phenomenon of Stalking

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This paper will consider:

- The intentionality and motivation behind stalking (including cyber-stalking)
- Vast number of tools readily available
- The general obsessive behavior that acts as a proclivity toward stalking
- The conclusion that everyone is a potential stalker
- We as a society are being conditioned by the media (particularly social media) to accept stalking as a natural phenomenon
DEFINITION

“The easiest way to stalk people.”
Definition of Stalking

• “The willful, malicious, and repeated following and harassing of another person that threatens his or her safety”
  (Meloy JR, Gothard S. Demographic and clinical comparison of obsessional followers and offenders with mental disorders. Am J Psychiatry 1995; 152:258-63.)

• No universal, consensus definition

• No single classification system
THE HOW AND THE TOOLS
Basic Information Needed
(Name/Address)

Conduct Free Online Social Media Sites Search
Facebook, Friends Reunited, Classmates.com, LinkedIn, Flickr, ancestry.com, Mylife, Blogs, MySpace, etc.

Conduct Free People Search Engines Search
123People, LookUp, PeekYou, Pipl, Radaris, Spokeo, Waatp, WhitePages, Wink, peoplefinders.com, yasni.com, Yatedo, etc.

Conduct Free/Pay Public Records Access Search
If you still need more info then consider becoming an “Attractive Stranger” and make them come to you!

You can also create a fake identity to gain personal contact with individuals to access more personal information.

Don’t forget to Cross-Reference and save all Information Gathered!

Repeat As Necessary!
TYPOLOGIES AND MOTIVATIONS
## Stalking Typologies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Zona’s Stalker-Victim Types</th>
<th>Mullen’s Stalker Typology</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Simple Obsessional</td>
<td>• Rejected</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Love Obsessional</td>
<td>• Intimacy Seeking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Erotomanic</td>
<td>• Incompetent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Zona, Palarea, &amp; Lane, 1998)</td>
<td>• Resentful</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Predatory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(Mullen, Pathe, &amp; Purcell, 2000)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
THE RECON CONCEPT
The RECON Typology of Stalking

Nature of previous relationship (RE) and the context (CON) in which relationship was based

- **Type I**
  - Intimate and acquaintance stalkers
  - Previous Relationship with victim

- **Type II**
  - No previous relationship
    - Public Figure Stalkers
    - Private Stranger Stalkers

(Mohandie, Meloy, McGowan, & Williams, 2006)
REMEMBER....
ITS THE PEOPLE NOT LIKING YOUR PICS WHO ARE PAYING THE MOST ATTENTION

THE REALITIES
Motivation and Intentionality

Potential Motivation from the Stalker’s Perspective

- Love
- Guardian/Protector

The Reality

- Affirmation/Acceptance
- Possession
- Control

Commonality:
The intentionality and motivation of the stalker remains essentially the same, regardless as to whether the stalker has ever had a relationship with the victim
I live in constant fear of accidentally mentioning something I only know about you because I've stalked you on the internet.

your ecards
someecards.com
We are all potential stalkers...

• Is the aforementioned motivation/intentionality of a stalker beyond that normal human behavior?
  – If so, what differentiates said behavior?

• Media and the use of technology (viz. the internet and social media) is conditioning society to accepting stalking as a normality
Why do we do it?

- It is easy and free
  - a lot of information real fast
- Can be done in the privacy of our own home
- Told it will ensure our personal safety
- Naturally nosey?
- People and employers do it to us all the time...right?
- Anonymity!!!
WHY DO WE ACCEPT IT?
Why do we accept it?

- Stalking behaviors are becoming *accepted* in dating.
  - the idea of no boundaries
- Social Media promotes it
  - How many *followers* do you have?
- “Facebook stalking”
  - commonly accepted as discovered in various research articles (Joinson, 2008; Lyndon et al., 2011; Tom Tong & Walther, 2011; Tokunaga, 2011)
• Tokunaga, R. S. (2011). Social networking site or social surveillance site? Understanding the use of interpersonal electronic surveillance in romantic relationships. Computers in Human Behavior, 27, 705-713.
Stalking is when two people go for a long romantic walk together but only one of them knows about it.