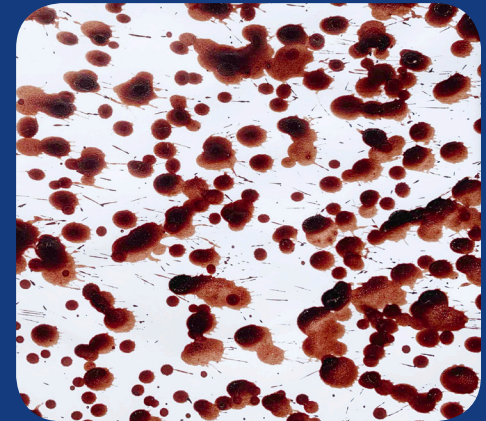# Bloodstain Pattern Analysis (BPA):
Do you see what I see?

Jo Millington, BPA scientist

Bloodstain pattern analysis is a discipline within forensic science that deals with the examination and identification of bloodstains, and the evaluation of those bloodstains to attempt to establish the activities that may have caused them. Because there is a direct requirement for blood, BPA is inextricably linked to violent crime.

Human observation forms a significant component of BPA and, as a consequence, it is widely considered to be subjective. However, the discipline is underpinned by sound scientific principles, and a body of research that dates back to at least the 19th Century.

Taking us on a whistle-stop tour of BPA, Jo will introduce us to the tools that are available to help classify and interpret bloodstain patterns, and then ask us to analyse a number of patterns to investigate if we can see what she sees.

Jo Millington
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Jo's experience in forensic casework spans over 24 years, starting with Lothian & Borders Police laboratory (Edinburgh, Scotland) and then moving to the UK Forensic Science Service (FSS) Homicide division in London. She transferred from there to the Specialist Forensics Division of the Metropolitan Police Service, and then joined a small independent company to lead their biology team in delivering a wide portfolio of case review. A little while ago she set up her own company Millington Hingley Ltd (www.millingtonhingley.co.uk) where she now works as an independent Forensic Consultant with various agencies, specialising in forensic biology, on behalf of the prosecution and defence. Over her career, Jo has collaborated with a wide range of practitioners across the criminal justice system and has given expert scientific evidence, including in many high-profile forensic investigations, in courts across the UK and abroad.

Her specialism in Blood Pattern Analysis has developed since her formative training with Metro Dade Police, Miami in 1998. She was a member of the FSS's training team and had a key role in the design, development and delivery of their core BPA training program. She continues to deliver a variety of national and international bespoke training courses to a broad spectrum of practitioners from all over the world, having recently led a team to provide Basic and Advanced BPA training to the Turkish Gendarmerie and Police. She has just launched Spattered Ltd, a venture that is dedicated to BPA Training and Education. She is a member of the expert board that advised the UK's Forensic Science Regulator and led to the publication of the BPA Codes of Practice. A few years ago Jo was invited to join the Advisory Panel of Inside Justice (www.insidejustice.co.uk), a charity that investigates alleged miscarriages of justice, and their work has recently been the subject of a series of documentaries - *Conviction: Murder at the Station* and *Conviction: Murder in Suburbia*.

Jo is a visiting lecturer at several UK universities, including Kings College London and the Academy of Forensic Medical Sciences on undergraduate and postgraduate programs and holds the honorary positions of Lecturer at UCL, Visiting Fellow at Bournemouth University and Visiting Senior Fellow at the University of Surrey. She authored the chapter on BPA in the most recent edition of the textbook *Crime Scene to Court: The Essentials of Forensic Science* and she has helped out on a number of media projects: *Des*, *White House Farm*, *Murder, Mystery and My Family* and the podcast *Mortem* to name a few. She is a member and good friend of BAFS.