This book provides a review of the research literature to guide evidence-based practice in the assessment and treatment of adult female offenders.

There is a large body of research that provides guidance for those working with offenders on how they should be treated once they are in the correctional system. The problem is that most, if not all this research has been conducted on all male populations and it is assumed that women offenders are the same. However, women have different needs and support systems than men in some areas of their lives and it is unclear whether all research based on men can be generalized in this way.

An historical overview of women’s crime and imprisonment is followed by a global review of various theories of female criminality. The remainder of the book reviews the psychology of criminal conduct, with a specific focus on three psychological principles of effective intervention: risk, need and responsivity. Respectively, these principles set the “who”, “what” and “how” for correctional intervention.