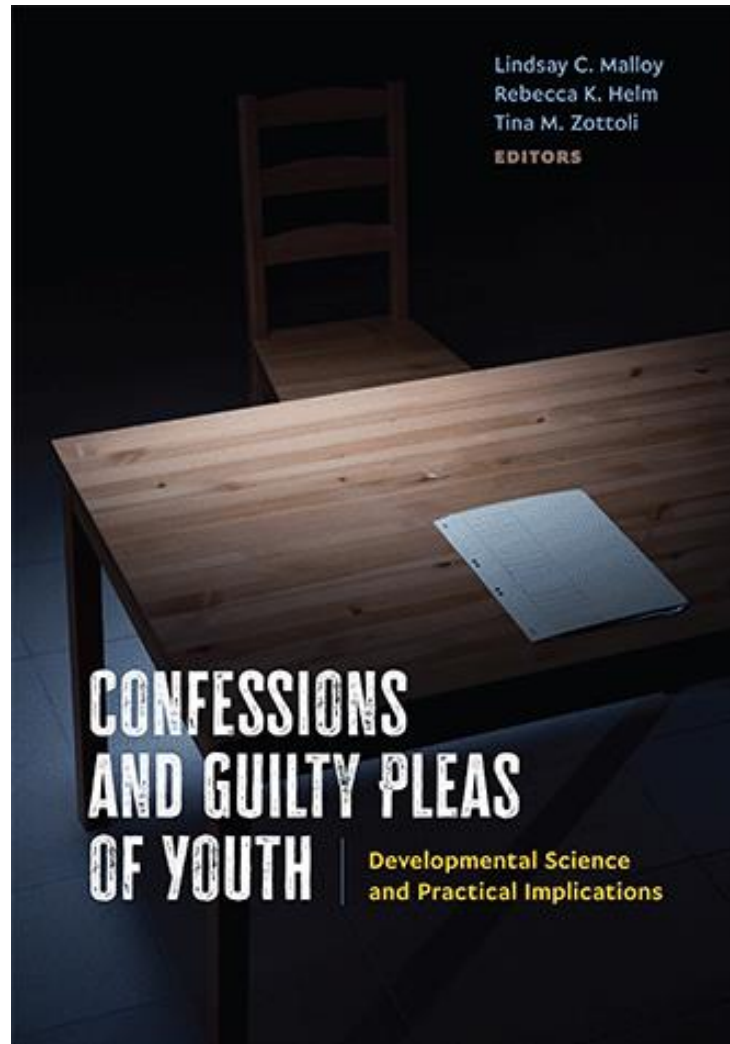




Confessions and Guilty Pleas of Youth
Malloy, Helm & Zottoli, 2026

Lee Arthur Hester



Confessions

Guilty Pleas

Youth

I thought I was going home . . . I didn't understand the—the seriousness of what was going on. I didn't understand exactly what I was getting myself into once I signed that statement.

— CALVIN OLLINS, DESCRIBING THE FALSE CONFESSION HE GAVE AT AGE 14

'Cause I was hungry and I did not want to go back to jail. They made me throw away a huge donut I had at the court.

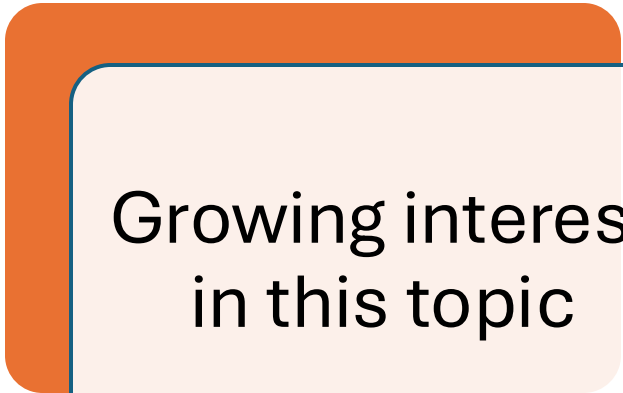
— 14-YEAR-OLD BOY DESCRIBING WHY HE DECIDED TO PLEAD GUILTY DESPITE CLAIMING INNOCENCE



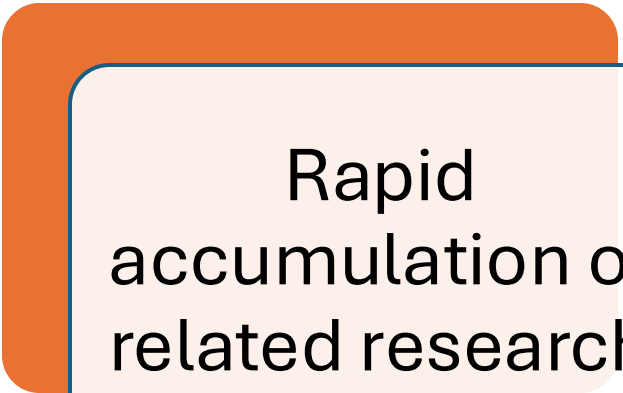
The Editors



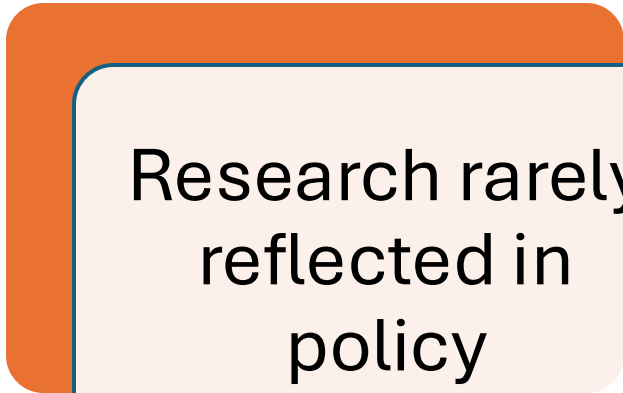
Why Publish this Book Now?



Growing interest
in this topic



Rapid
accumulation of
related research



Research rarely
reflected in
policy

The Authors



International Group of Experts



Researchers & Practitioners



Forensic, Developmental, Clinical, Cognitive, & Social Psychology

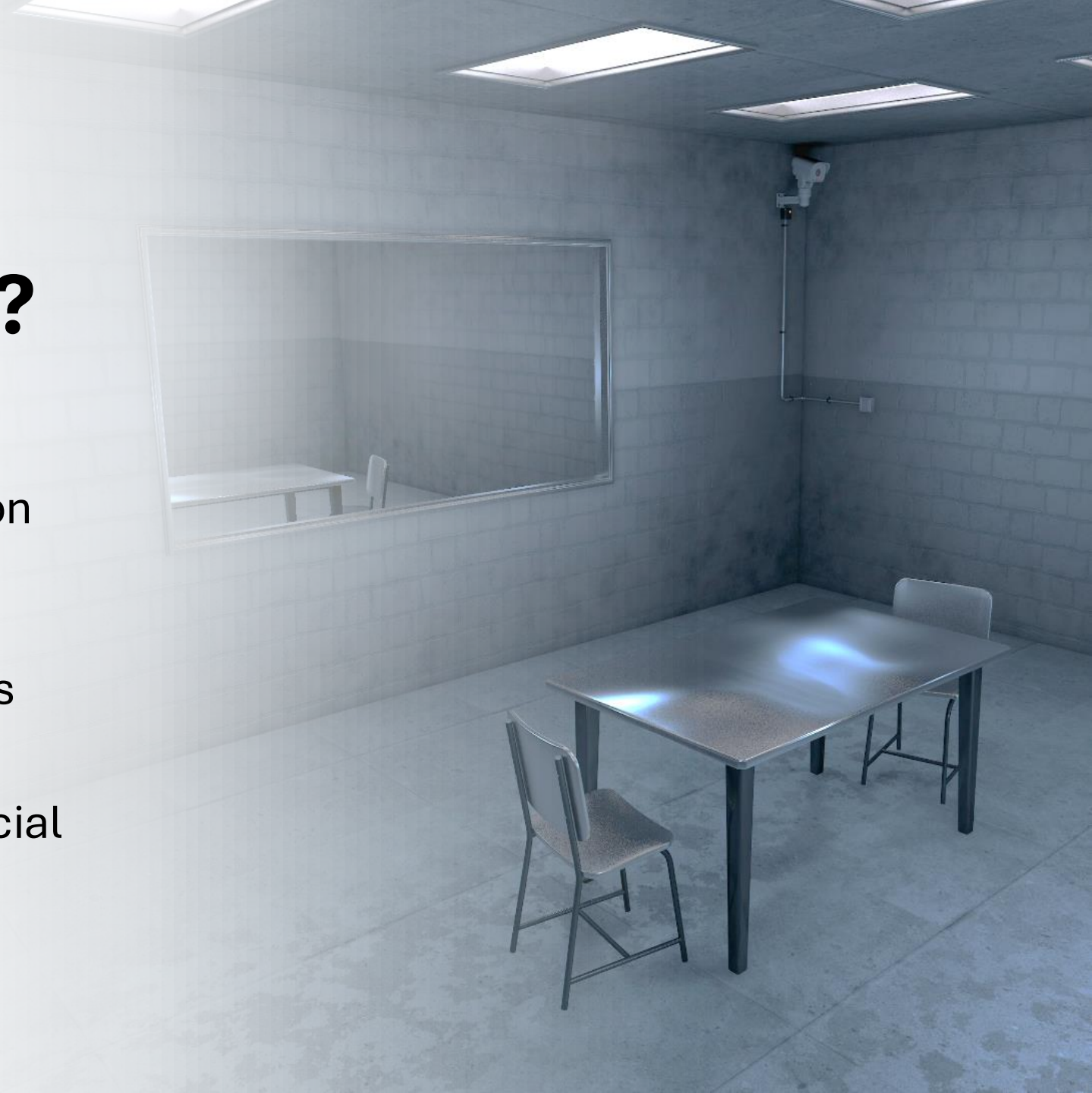


Law, Criminology, & Criminal Justice



Who is this Book For?

- Anyone interested in understanding self-incrimination in the interrogation room and the courtroom
- Academics | Practitioners | Students
- Psychology | Law | Criminology | Social Work | Law Enforcement





Book Roadmap

- **Part I: Developmental and Legal Foundations**
- **Part II: Confessions**
- **Part III: Guilty Pleas**
- **Part IV: Specific Actors and Other Contexts**

What People are Saying about the Book

This comprehensive guidebook, with contributions from the field's leading experts, is an indispensable resource for scholars interested in adolescence and the law and for attorneys who represent young defendants. I recommend it with great enthusiasm.

Laurence Steinberg, PhD
Professor of Psychology and Neuroscience, Temple University

What People are Saying about the Book

Confessions and Guilty Pleas of Youth is a groundbreaking must-read from the leading experts on youth, development, and the law. Blending cutting-edge science with real world implications, the authors reveal how adolescent immaturity shapes decision making in the justice system—often leading young people to confess or plead guilty without fully understanding the stakes. Both powerful and illuminating, this book redefines what it means to achieve justice for youth.

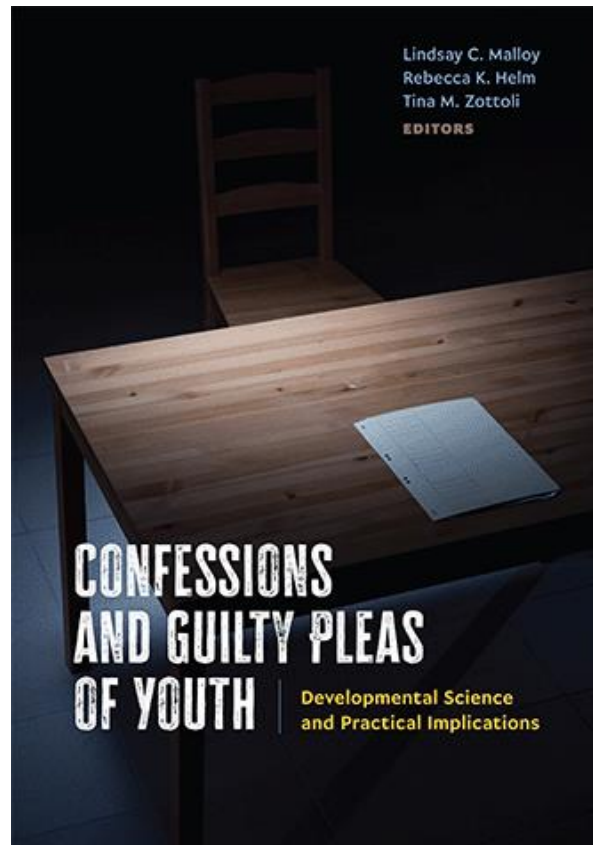
Elizabeth Cauffman, PhD
Distinguished Professor of Psychology, Education & Law, University of California, Irvine

What People are Saying about the Book

I really learned a lot from it. The story of how it took 58 years for the exoneration of Lee Arthur Hester is one that will stick with me... Nice to read about the complex interaction of the fields of psychology, law, criminal justice, social work, and law enforcement. This is groundbreaking stuff.

Tina's Aunt Mary

Thank You



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