



International Journal of Innovative Technologies in Social Science

e-ISSN: 2544-9435

Scholarly Publisher
RS Global Sp. z O.O.
ISNI: 0000 0004 8495 2390

Dolna 17, Warsaw,
Poland 00-773
+48 226 0 227 03
editorial_office@rsglobal.pl

ARTICLE TITLE

PROFILING IN BORDER CONTROL SERVICES: A MONGOLIAN
PERSPECTIVE

ARTICLE INFO

Bolortungalag Getsel. (2025) Profiling in Border Control Services: A Mongolian
Perspective. *International Journal of Innovative Technologies in Social Science*.
1(45). doi: 10.31435/ijitss.1(45).2025.3226

DOI

[https://doi.org/10.31435/ijitss.1\(45\).2025.3226](https://doi.org/10.31435/ijitss.1(45).2025.3226)

RECEIVED

25 January 2025

ACCEPTED

23 March 2025

PUBLISHED

27 March 2025

LICENSE



The article is licensed under a **Creative Commons Attribution 4.0
International License**.

© The author(s) 2025.

This article is published as open access under the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License (CC BY 4.0), allowing the author to retain copyright. The CC BY 4.0 License permits the content to be copied, adapted, displayed, distributed, republished, or reused for any purpose, including adaptation and commercial use, as long as proper attribution is provided.

PROFILING IN BORDER CONTROL SERVICES: A MONGOLIAN PERSPECTIVE

Bolortungalag Getsel

Lieutenant Colonel, Ph.D. candidate, National Defense University.

Senior Lecturer, University of Internal Affairs, Mongolia

ABSTRACT

Profiling at border control services involves using a set of criteria based on observable factors like travel patterns, behavior, and document details to identify individuals who may pose potential security risks.

This approach allows border officials to focus their scrutiny on those considered more likely to be involved in illegal activities such as smuggling, human trafficking, or terrorism, while facilitating smooth passage for low-risk travelers. Implementation occurs through a combination of data analysis, observation, and questioning techniques by trained border officers, often utilizing specialized software to flag potential concerns based on collected information.

This article explores the use of profiling techniques in border control services, focusing on Mongolia's border security context. It discusses the historical evolution of profiling from criminal psychology to its current role in identifying security threats.

The research highlights the importance of profiling as a complement to technological solutions in addressing human factors in border security.

It compares traditional Mongolian identification methods with modern profiling techniques and identifies challenges faced by Mongolian Border Security Checkpoint officers.

The study suggests the need for formal profiling training programs, specialized curricula, and dedicated profiling teams with diverse expertise to improve border security operations.

KEYWORDS

Profiling, Border Security, Criminal Psychology, Security Screening, Risk Assessment, Border Protection

CITATION

Bolortungalag Getsel. (2025) Profiling in Border Control Services: A Mongolian Perspective. *International Journal of Innovative Technologies in Social Science*. 1(45). doi: 10.31435/ijitss.1(45).2025.3226

COPYRIGHT

© **The author(s) 2025.** This article is published as open access under the **Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License (CC BY 4.0)**, allowing the author to retain copyright. The CC BY 4.0 License permits the content to be copied, adapted, displayed, distributed, republished, or reused for any purpose, including adaptation and commercial use, as long as proper attribution is provided.

Introduction

Throughout history, humans have always strived to uncover falsehoods and confirm the truth. As society has progressed, the tools and strategies for discerning lies from truth have evolved, with modern advancements in science and technology playing a significant role in this endeavor.

Profiling is a technique used to assess a person's current psychological and behavioral traits by analyzing their behavior, appearance, and characteristics. It can be seen as a way to quickly assess and understand a person by analyzing their personality, characteristics, needs, opinions, and behavior.

The practice was initially employed to develop a "psychological profile" of unidentified criminals who were actively committing crimes. Creating a psychological profile of a criminal is thought to have originated in 1888 when English surgeon Thomas Bond tried to identify the 19th-century criminal known as Jack the Ripper.

Key works on profiling methodology include the experimental and research studies conducted by P. Ekman, W. Friesen, K. Scherer, M. Zuckerman, B. DePaul, V. A. Labunskoy, and O. Frya. Currently, profiling methods are considered extremely valuable in revealing "hidden information" stored in human memory.

Historical Context and Applications

The main goal of profiling is to enhance the information stored in a person's mind. Profiling is viewed as a method to access and use information stored in a person's subconscious. It is widely used in various fields, such as law enforcement, to solve crimes, make decisions based on profiling results, identify patterns, prevent and solve crimes, and improve investigative work. It is also used to assess the honesty and integrity of individuals in personal and professional evaluations.

In contemporary society, profiling is predominantly utilized in criminal profiling, criminology, psychology, psychiatry, forensics, and penitentiary studies. Additionally, it is increasingly applied in border control, customs, and immigration services.

The most contentious issue surrounding profiling is ethnic profiling, which involves linking individuals of a specific ethnic group directly and indirectly to legal actions.

Psychological Aspects of Border Crossing

Not just national borders, but also administrative borders have a significant influence on people's psychology. For instance, disasters that happen within a border are seen as more serious and concerning compared to disasters that occur within the same 200-mile radius (Journal of Psychological Science).

Crossing a national border or checkpoint can evoke feelings of pride and respect for our national border, as well as negative emotions like fear, anxiety, caution, and panic. It is important to conduct research on the psychological effects of border crossings on individuals.

As tourism grows and passenger traffic rises, the influx of individuals with criminal intentions crossing the border also increases. Their illicit actions jeopardize Mongolia's national and border security. These threats encompass terrorist attacks, human trafficking, weapons, drug and narcotics trafficking, and money laundering. Additionally, they involve individuals wanted on international and national levels. These high-risk groups aim to smuggle prohibited and restricted goods and services into Mongolian territory using counterfeit or deceptive documents.

Profiling in Border Security

International Practices: Profiling is a common practice used to identify potential criminals, particularly terrorists, through pre-flight check-in and boarding procedures for passengers. This approach was first developed by Israel's El Al airline, which is now considered the safest airline in the world. The effective profiling techniques used by El Al have been implemented by airlines globally, leading to significant outcomes. Trained screeners can distinguish between individuals with criminal intentions and regular passengers based on their behavior.

Traditional Mongolian Context: The nomadic Mongols were skilled at identifying people based on their location, activities, identity, and origin when they met, greeted, or interacted. This ability is reflected in proverbs such as "...you can recognize someone in five words, my friend..." and "the mother is a field of color, and the foal is a shilling." These traditional greetings are now referred to as "identifying and directing interviews," or true Mongolian profiling.

This relates to the psychological traits exhibited by individuals with malicious intent as they pass through checkpoints, including their behavior, body language, facial expressions, and overall demeanor when interacting with inspectors.

Current Challenges in Mongolia: The officers of the Mongolian Border Security Checkpoints lack formal understanding of the telltale signs of individuals with malicious intent entering border checkpoints and have not received specialized training or dedicated programs. However, they often rely on their years of experience and professional intuition to identify such individuals based on observed behaviors.

In recent years, it has become evident that while modern technical and technological advancements are relied upon for surveillance, they cannot determine the motives behind illegal actions of passengers or completely eliminate the human factor. Only inspectors with expertise in profiling technology and practical application can effectively analyze a person's behavior, body language, facial expressions, and psychological cues to identify criminal intent. Such individuals, known as "profilers," possess the skills to make informed decisions based on these observations.

Implementation of Profiling at Border Control

Border control agencies gather data from various sources, including travel documents, criminal databases, and intelligence reports, to create comprehensive profiles. Travelers are evaluated based on risk factors like nationality, travel history, and behavior at the border. For example, individuals from regions with high crime rates or a history of terrorism may undergo closer scrutiny.

Officers are trained to observe non-verbal cues and behavior that may indicate suspicious activity, such as nervousness, inconsistencies in their story, or unusual travel patterns. Advancements in technology enable the use of algorithms and machine learning to analyze large datasets and predict potential risks. These systems can identify individuals for additional screening based on their profiles.

Border control profiling is often linked with national and international intelligence sharing systems, providing officers with real-time information on ongoing threats and known entities.

Legal and Ethical Considerations: It is essential to balance security requirements with individual rights. Profiling must adhere to legal standards and avoid discrimination based on inappropriate factors like race, ethnicity, or religion. Proper training for border personnel is crucial to ensure fair treatment.

Border control staff undergo regular training on profiling techniques and ethical considerations. Standard operational procedures help maintain consistency and fairness in applying profiling methods.

Challenges of Profiling in Border Control

1. Accuracy and Reliability: Profiling may lead to false positives or negatives, resulting in unnecessary delays or wrongful detention.

2. Public Perception: There can be significant public opposition to profiling practices, particularly if seen as discriminatory or intrusive.

3. Evolving Threats: Border control agencies must continuously adapt their profiling strategies to effectively address new risks as criminal tactics evolve.

While profiling can enhance border security, it must be implemented judiciously and ethically to uphold trust between border agencies and the public. Regular reviews and updates to profiling practices, along with transparency, are crucial to ensure the effectiveness and fairness of border control measures.

Recommendations for Mongolian Border Security

To ensure national and border security, it is recommended to utilize profiling as a modern psychological technique for uncovering hidden information about individuals' motives for illegal actions. This involves employing various methods and technologies such as control, search, identification, remote surveillance, electronic, intelligent, and artificial intelligence systems, along with traditional investigative techniques. Profiling is considered the most effective approach for gathering accurate information about potential threats, enabling the implementation of timely and efficient countermeasures within security and intelligence agencies.

The utilization of profiling by Border Control Service officers of Border Protection Organization is a key aspect of their responsibilities. Regulations require each inspector to actively detect and prevent illegal activities, as well as to be vigilant of any attempts or intentions of border violators by monitoring their behaviors, actions, and potential use of deceptive tactics.

The following suggestions are proposed:

1. Profiling is a key tool for identifying potential threats within border security agencies and safeguarding personal, social, state, and border security.

2. Profiling is a cost-effective and efficient approach that can be applied across various security sectors and domains.

3. Methodologically, profiling involves identifying criminal motives, behaviors, attitudes, and emotions by analyzing observable characteristics and unclaimed possessions.

4. Profiling serves as a means to monitor and understand fundamental principles of social psychology, including interpersonal dynamics and responses to external and internal stimuli.

5. For inspectors, having strong observational skills and the ability to swiftly detect changes in the environment are crucial.

6. Profiling enables inspectors to accurately identify and understand the individuals they are dealing with and mitigate potential threats in various scenarios, even when time, resources, and options are limited.

Profiling involves evaluating one's actions in various environments and situations while carrying out military duties. It entails identifying individuals' behavior, suspicious activities, and objects based on specific

characteristics and signs, understanding the connections between them, and making unconventional decisions when necessary.

The proven effectiveness of "Profiling" and "Polygraph" techniques in border and inspection agencies in other countries underscores the significance of these methods.

Conclusions

The use of profiling techniques in border control services is essential for modern border security strategy. This research highlights the importance and application of profiling in border control contexts:

- Profiling is a crucial tool for border security agencies, aiding in threat identification and risk assessment to safeguard personal, social, state, and border security interests. Its cost-effectiveness and versatility make it valuable for resource allocation and operational efficiency.

- Profiling excels in identifying criminal motives, behaviors, attitudes, and emotions through observable characteristics, complementing technological solutions by addressing the human element that automated systems may overlook.

- There is a need for formalized training and systematic implementation of profiling techniques in Mongolia's border control system, as officers currently rely on experience and intuition. Integrating traditional Mongolian cultural practices with modern profiling methodologies is essential to meet contemporary security challenges.

Successful implementation of profiling in border control requires:

- Comprehensive training programs for border control officers
- Standardized textbooks and manuals
- Specialized "Customs/Inspector/Profiling" teams with diverse expertise
- Integration of multiple disciplines such as psychology, document examination, ethnology, and international relations

As border security threats evolve, the expertise of qualified profiling specialists becomes crucial. While technological advancements are important, skilled examiners proficient in profiling techniques are irreplaceable for effective border security.

To enhance national and border security, Mongolia must prioritize developing profiling capabilities within its border control services. Investing in human capital through specialized training and team development will improve the country's ability to identify and respond to security threats while facilitating legitimate border crossings.

REFERENCES

1. Ageiko, O. V. (2017). Base profiling [in Russian].
2. Aminov, I. I., Davydov, N. A., Degtarev, K. E., Kolevatov, V. L., & Pustynnikova, O. V. (2012). Profiling: Prevention technology of illegal actions (2nd ed.) [in Russian].
3. CAREC Program. (2022). Risk assessment, profiling and selection. <https://www.carecprogram.org/uploads/03-Risk-Assessment-Profiling-and-Selection.pdf>
4. Center Metaphora. (n.d.). Profiling KPK. <https://centrmetafora.ru/profiling-kpk>
5. Dymar, N. A. (2018). The psychology of professional activity of a sapper. Science and Education a New Dimension, VI (155) (65), 61-63. <https://doi.org/10.31174/SEND-PP2018-155VI65-14>
6. Statewatch. (2023). Frontex and interoperable databases: Knowledge as power - Travel intelligence, profiling and risk assessment. <https://www.statewatch.org/frontex-and-interoperable-databases-knowledge-as-power/4-travel-intelligence-profiling-and-risk-assessment/>
7. Turvey, B. E. (2022). Criminal profiling (J. Boldbaatar & E. Erdembat, Trans.) [in Mongolian].