# Forensic Case Report of The O.J. Simpson Murder Case

## 1. Introduction

An overview of the forensic analysis of the O.J. Simpson murder case is provided, looking into crime scenes analysis, FBI involvement, hair analysis, DNA analysis, detection blood evidence, blood & crime scene analysis, cross-transfer blood analysis, footwear analysis, and blood sample collection. The People v. O.J. Simpson is looked at as a ‘social media’ trial in that it brought intense media coverage, and was one of the first trials broadcasted on national television. The broad social implications which the case had are also discussed. A forensic analysis of the double homicide of Nicole Brown Simpson and Ronald Goldman not just of the evidence found, but how the evidence was processed and the methodology used to bring about a conviction is delivered. (Neubauer)(Carey)

On June 12, 1994, Nicole Brown Simpson and Ronald Goldman were both stabbed to death outside of Nicole’s condo at 875 S. Bundy Dr. in Los Angeles, CA. At 12:10a in the morning of June 13, 1994, officers from the LAPD, then-Captn. Paul C. F. M. T. ha and Officer J. Koon, arrived on the scene of the crime to find both bodies. Capt. T. ha noted that the crime scene was “the most horrific” he had ever seen, in reference to Nicole’s remains (Larry Lastrapes, 2006).

### 1.1. Background of the Case

On June 12, 1994, Nicole Brown Simpson and her friend Ron Goldman were brutally murdered outside of Brown’s Condo in Brentwood, a wealthy suburb of Los Angeles. Brown was the ex-wife of NFL star O.J. Simpson, who was a prime suspect in the ensuing police investigation. Later that month, police chased Simpson in a white Ford Bronco for over an hour before Simpson surrendered at his home. Simpson was charged with the murders but pleaded not guilty (Kiihne, 2018). The trial became one of the defining moments of the 1990s and cemented true crime as a mainstream genre. Simpson’s acquittal in October of 1995 ignited a firestorm of debate, with tensions between the media, police, and African American communities coming to a head. The People v. Simpson was one of the last trials to be completely televised, as well as the first to be broadcast via the internet globally. As a result, it was viewed by billions across several continents.

The Simpson trial started with a working class woman and a 911 call. Brown had been trying to get away from an abusive husband, being called a “whore” after just weeks of marriage and choked with a gun pressed to her head. Hours before the murders, two officers who responded to one of her 911 calls advised her to get a restraining order. It took police several hours to arrive at the condo where she was murdered, which fueled public outrage against them. At the same time, the LAPD was also under fire for the Rodney King incident and subsequent acquittal of the officers involved. A year and half after Brown’s death, Simpson’s rival Ryan Leaf would be involved in one of the largest heroin busts in United States history. The investigation into her murder would lead to the nation’s greatest controversy (Pearlstein, 2000).

## 2. Forensic Evidence

(Pearlstein, 2000) (Kiihne, 2018) Almost 20 years of experience analyzing, interpreting, and presenting forensic evidence in criminal cases were put on display and many lessons learned. This monstrous trial cannot be underestimated in its significance to forensic science, investigation of criminal offenses, and criminal prosecution. It serves as a vivid reminder of the pivotal role of forensic science in revealing the truth about a crime and the vulnerability of that truth to distortion. Sections 2.1-2.4 describe the specific evidence.

### 2.1. Blood Evidence

As a byproduct of using DNA typing, this review reveals the crucial blood-related evidence utilized by the Los Angeles Police Department that was formative in the forensic analysis. The body of Nicole Brown Simpson was discovered lying on the outskirts of the bloodshed scene, her face mutilated and neck savagely cut. Bloody sock prints leading away from the scene were vital for narrowing the investigation. Blood vials taken from Simpson were utilized in DNA testing, which incriminated him.

The beginning of the forensic analysis occurred the night the murder victims were found. As a byproduct of his acclivity to crime scenes and elementary searchable data, it is important to consider the composite drawing of the suspect. After the body of Nicole Brown Simpson was discovered lying face down on the outer wall of the Mack Lassen Apartments with blood coalescing at the temporal bones, air and orthopedic care events were quite unyielding. She was butchered with a knife. The neck had to be cut eight times, almost decapitating her head. A blurry activity was noted around her mouth, part of her right pinky toe missing. She was in or above two blood pools, and there were scratches and lacerations, which strengthened the homicide theory.

A bloodied earring, blond hairs and bone fragments were found on Simpson’s back yard. The blade was never recovered. Two pairs of bloody gloves were found in a Bronco SUV and on the Brown-Simpson homestead, respectively. The glove found on the ground was soaked with blood and left-tired high in the transduction pool. On it, hair and skin of the victims were present, and one firm also had dried blood of Simpson and that of a certain Nicholas Eres, who was erstwhiles arrested on attempted murder accusations but freed in light of the disingenuousness of the rise. The glove was beaten up with a leather thin cape found on the SUV, and Simpson’s footprints were unique in the world, which tied him to the crime.

### 2.2. DNA Analysis

DNA samples taken from blood at the crime scene were compared to the samples taken from O.J. Simpson, Nicole Brown Simpson, and Ron Goldman. In order to testify against O.J. Simpson, the prosecution prepared the samples, claiming that the tests they completed link O.J. to the murders. The defense claimed that the samples taken from the crime scene were contaminated or could have been planted, making the evidence inadmissible in court (A. Riehle, 2008). The blood stains in question were collected from O.J. Simpson’s white Bronco, on socks found in his bedroom, on the pair of gloves found at the crime scene and in his driveway, and in his house. One of the most critical pieces of evidence was the gloves found drenched in blood. The left-handed glove was found outside of Nicole Brown Simpson’s home, and the right-handed glove was discovered in the O.J. Simpson estate. During the trial, Simpson was asked by the prosecution to try on the gloves, and when they were too small, the prosecution claimed the gloves shrunk from being covered in blood. The defense claimed that if the gloves didn’t fit, then O.J. didn’t commit the murders (James McCormick & Lee White, 2011).

## 3. Legal Proceedings

Testimony in the case began on January 24, 1995 with the prosecution calling to the stand a series of witnesses-including police officers and crime lab personnel-to establish the chain of custody for evidence collected from the crime scene. At each step, the noted absence of any couric violations was significant. Prior to the trial, Simpson’s attorneys attacked the case primarily through the media. The case hinged primarily on scientific evidence, and the defense recognized that they needed to have their representatives raise doubts about the scientific evidence as soon as it had been gathered (Kiihne, 2018). Much of the defense strategy in the pre-trial motions revolved around issues of race. Prior to the start of the trial, there was pressure from both sides involving extensive pleurities. Simpson’s defense team was worried about the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) and the prosecution was worried about the impact of Simpson’s celebrity.

Under intense public scrutiny, Judge Ito ruled that only the low point presuming Fuhrman’s testimony was significant, a ruling that both sides viewed as containing the seeds of the troubles to come. In a bid to sever causes of action without entering the issues of race and past history of domestic abuse, the prosecution sought to limit the jury’s consideration of civil rights issues. Certainly within a couple of hours, it became clear that the issues of race, police knowledge, and officer misconduct were unavoidable, and that Judge Ito inadvertently turned up the gas on the racial fire. The case stirred up pub1ic fears and prejudices. The prosecution argued that Simpson strangled Brown when she came to his house to confront him about their deteriorating relationship (as demonstrated by 911 tapes). The defense countered that Simpson’s fame and wealth put him above the law. Media court coverage was at fever pitch.

### 3.1. Trial of O.J. Simpson

The Trial of O.J. Simpson began in July of 1994, a few weeks after he had been booked for murder. It would continue until October 1995, when Simpson was acquitted of the charge (Kiihne, 2018). During the course of the trial, lawyers and expert witnesses discussed the impact of cocaine on behaviour, patterns of domestic violence in men, blood spatter analysis, racial statistics, and the science of DNA. Nothing about the actual crime was raw or confrontational, nothing showing an anguished widow, and clearing Simpson of murder was not just possible, but almost desired (Pearlstein, 2000). After Simpson got Nicole in the end, he could do anything he wanted. If Esmeralda sang an unchoreographed, muffled tango, he could still kidnap her logic chops, depriving her of liberty and life. The death of Ctedio was no joke, his bloody corpse lonely in the fucking streets. Simpson's trial was something else. People were either upsized in their judgment or tightassed about their emotions.

With its improbabilities, inconsistencies, and desires, it was a reverse Cormac McCarthy event, with no ugly realisms, no spectation. The behaviour of the defendant denoted confidence and mockery, a lack of danger and of brutal realities imprisoning someone. Simulated scenes mocked the hermeneutics of mourning. It belonged to another world, where with the help of hard like zeppelins cameras the runaway jeep and the slow walk everybody got the chance to cling tightly to foregone freshness and perception. With no alarms, artifice destines where sonar would scan glass shoe heels without a peep isolated the music from all proxy, heterogeneous worlds never evoked with diction.

## 4. Controversies and Lessons Learned

The murder case of O.J. Simpson is steeped in controversies and lessons learned, and perhaps no single American crime, legal case, or media event has captured the attention of so many in modern times. The century-old murder case of O.J. Simpson can—much like the thousands of articles examining the case that have been written since Simpson’s initial arrest—be parsed and dissected for lessons to be learned. Touching thousands of lives in a variety of ways from race relations to law enforcement to media coverage and the societal responsibility of the world’s legal, social, and media institutions, the everyday implications of this case are staggering. Suffice it to say, if any one of the above explorations were the sole focus of a class, there would more than enough material to fill five years of lectures, readings, and discussions (Kiihne, 2018).

This research focuses on the media coverage aspect of the case, primarily because it is something no one can escape and something that continues to raise questions. The mid-1990s murder case transitioned American media from a spread of largely local news programming prior to the 20th century, to a vastly changed media landscape of 24-hour rolling coverage. During the trial phase of the O.J. Simpson murder case, the number of journalists working at the courthouse swelled to more than 200, with 80 networks and outlets from outside the United States in attendance and a further 700 journalists clouding Simpson’s home. The case was covered by venues as diverse as trades such as Variety and Armed Forces Radio to National Indian T.V., Afro-Am radio stations, and T.V. networks in Japan, Australia, and Chile. Such a phenomenal global interest became the defining story of 1994, sweeping the globe faster than a 500-mile-per-hour jet aircraft, as court transcripts flew via telex and fax along the transpacific routes. No individual event had ever inspired so many news stories, nor so many hours of coverage (Pearlstein, 2000).

### 4.1. Media Coverage

The O.J. Simpson murder case was not only a sensational trial that divided America by race, class, and gender; it also became a spectacle like none before. The People vs. O.J. Simpson was put on a giant stage where all of American culture’s archetypes and anxieties were put on display for the world to see. The jury, the media, the lawyers, the defendants, and the commentators all played their part in a media production that rivalled the great dramas of history (Kiihne, 2018). Media Coverage The result of more than a year of daily televised proceedings was a trial interpreted through the lens of mass media, a trial tagged the “Trial of the Century” by one tabloid, and a trial viewed as much through the family-room television set as it was through the courtroom benches (Pearlstein, 2000). From the beginning, media played an instrumental role in the O.J. Simpson trial. As part of the pre-trial hearings, Simpson negotiated a deal with the media networks to agree to be filmed in full for the entirety of the process. The approval of this deal allowed the proceedings from the police investigation to be filmed and broadcast, and even the arrest of Simpson played into the hands of the media and their benefactors. The slow-home chase that lasted more than two hours was transmitted through live feed worldwide. By the time the trial actually began, more than a million people had watched the chase live atop the helicopter footage displaying the iconic white Ford Bronco commuting throughout Los Angeles. The chase itself became televised drama that spurred controversy over the media’s impact on society. McCarthy claimed California police resources were directed toward monitoring motorists on the freeways. Many drivers were delayed as police units pursued the broadcasted deer fleeing the hunter’s arrows. In addition to the NASCAR fallout, David Dinkins claimed a Manhattan man, thinking he could imitate Simpson, led police on a chaotic Bronco-like chase that reminded viewers of the murder suspect. This triggered ethical controversy over the very role the media played in the chase. Ad-awareness surveys reported “94 percent of those using news” recognized O.J. Simpson’s name. Most of them were White. Racial and ethnic minorities tended to believe Simpson was innocent. The trial became a flashpoint of tension between race and class, fueling heated debate in restaurants, buses, and schools, with the media exploring both sides of the issues. By then, the tension morphed into media criticisms, questioning how the jury’s complexion affected the proceedings.

## 5. Conclusion and Future Implications

The O.J. Simpson murder case generated a tremendous public fascination with and fear about the propensity of criminals, especially young Black males, to attack, abduct, rob, and murder on the streets of industrialized cities. Great concerns were voiced regarding found forensic evidence. Trickle-down fraud fear from the investigation into the Simpson car travel.

It is difficult to disentangle the many public policy issues arising from this case. The Simpson case was one of the great spectacles of the century, with all its melodrama played out in living rooms across American pre-empting soap operas and making local news look like nothing. Television boomed at the trial, thirsty for ratings as a result, and the next thing anyone knew, CNN was covering the trial while simultaneously covering the Bosnian war, crime in the streets of Los Angeles, and everyone else suddenly between the ages of 17 and 52 was in front of the television, drinking orange juice, writing in a notebook, and watching. The defendant had so much lowbrow culture going for him, he almost didn’t need well-respected anthropologists or classics professors lecturing him.

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