



**FORENSIC POWER AND THE PRODUCTION OF TRUTH: A
CRIMINOLOGICAL ANALYSIS OF POSTMORTEM REPORTS IN
PAKISTAN AND KENYA**

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Abstract

Postmortem reports can be considered as very important tools in the investigation of crimes because they make biological evidence intelligible in terms of legal account of death. Nonetheless, according to its central position, very little research investigated the role of such reports as a tool of forensic power especially in cross-jurisdictional situations. This study fills this gap by applying a comparative criminological approach to the study of postmortem reporting related to Pakistan and Kenya to examine the way in which the procedures, the institutional power and the narration process influences the construction and the contestation of the forensic truth. A publically available postmortem reports were reviewed, coded and themed using a qualitative document analysis technique. The study uses an excellent conceptual framework involving social constructionism, state crime theory, procedural justice and critical criminology to explain results. Findings indicate consistency in deciding firearm wounds on the head and chest as the cause of death, and disparity in reporting patterns: Kenyan reports focus on internal organ trauma, gun track, and the general assessment, whereas Pakistani reports focus on the external form of wounds, sewage documentation, and wound categories. These variations show that forensic truth is socially and institutionally produced (via jurisdictional norms, medico-legal practices, and procedural priorities). The study becomes significant in the body of criminology by demonstrating that the postmortem report can be utilized as an instrument of institutional legitimacy and investigative authority. These policy suggestions are that there is a necessity to have standardized forensic procedures, capacity building of the investigators and judicial actors, independent examination of the forensic postmortem documentation and knowledge exchange with other states to increase the level of transparency and responsibility and accountability of the contested death investigations.



Keywords: *Postmortem reports; Forensic power; Truth production; Comparative criminology; Procedural justice; Institutional Legitimacy; Constructionism.*

Introduction

The postmortem reports play a central part in criminal investigations and they are not a medical report; they are the instruments of law that are so powerful and determine the cause, manner of death and criminal culpability. Forensic documentation plays a significant role as to epistemic power in the criminal justice system, and it may be a decisive object in the legal procedure and investigation. Consequently, postmortem reports are not merely documents that capture biological facts but forms of active involvement in the formulation of truths of a legal nature regarding the death, violence and guilt (Innes, 2003; Jasanoff, 2004).

Learning within criminology has also shown that forensic practice always rests upon larger systems of power, institutional order, and routinizing procedures. Using the idea of power/knowledge, forensic authority can be seen as a kind of institutionalized knowledge according to which specific versions of events are acceptable, and other possible versions can be pushed to the margins or even furred away (Foucault, 1980). In this regard, forensic reports exist at a cross of medicine, law and state power and they thus squabble the bodies' evidence into normalised narratives which fit into the legal categories and investigative priorities (Cole, 2002). Manufacturing forensic truth is not, therefore, a technical or neutral procedure. Instead, it is informed by institutional settings, professional judgments, legal systems and jurisdiction practices. The comparative criminology suggests that variations in forensic infrastructure, normal systems of procedures and accountability could have an enormous effect on how in various legal systems, deaths are constructed and registries (Lynch, Cole, McNally, and Jordan, 2008). The inconsistency can be so dramatic especially in the cross-jurisdiction environment where much concern can be raised about consistency, openness, and trustworthiness of forensic results (Michael, Bengtson, and Blatt, 2021).

Pakistan and Kenya among others, postmortem examinations are significantly relevant in high profiled and controversial death investigations, whereby forensic evidence frequently overlaps with political and legal and social scrutiny. The current literature points to the enduring predicaments of governance of forensics in most of the post colonial criminal injustices systems, especially the lack of resources available, the lack of uniformity in the practice of procedures and the pressure that might not be scientific but instead due to other non-scientific influences on medico-legal practices (Cole and Lynch, 2006; Ahmed et al., 2025). These circumstances highlight the necessity of critical criminological research on the ways the power of forensics is occupied and truth is constituted in the official postmortem records.

In this study, the comparative criminological approach is taken to investigate the factors of postmortem reports as tools of forensic power and truth production in Pakistan and Kenya. Through the examination of publicly available postmortem records, the research will examine how the institutional power, practices of procedure, and forensic discourses influence the official definition of death. This way, it adds to criminological discussions of evidence, expertise, and state



power and provides an empirical observation on the purpose of forensic documentation in cross-jurisdictional death investigations.

Research Objectives

The main objectives of the research in the study are as follows:

1. To examine how postmortem reports construct narratives of cause and manner of death within the criminal justice systems of Pakistan and Kenya.
2. To analyze how forensic practices and reporting procedures shape institutional authority, investigative power, and perceptions of legitimacy.
3. To explore cross-country similarities and differences in the production of forensic truth and their implications for accountability and institutional narratives.

Literature Review

The postmortem investigations in relation to criminal matters extend beyond the role of the medical professional to act as significant truth providers, accountability and procedural justice concerns in the field of death investigations. The literature provided shows that postmortem biochemistry and toxicology cannot be considered as necessarily technical practices, but they are institutional, legal, and socio-political in nature, and therefore do shape the values and modes of perception and official explanation of the deaths, particularly controversial and high-profile ones.

The methodological weaknesses that Madea and Musshoff (2007) reveal such as permanence of the postmortem examination, cohesiveness of the reference ranges and the variation among the biological compartments are more vital under the criminological background. They may be directly relevant to the authority of the forensic findings whereby the alleged involvement of a state is considered as being involved or transnational research is pursued, or even in case such evidence histories are being contested whereby the credibility of the investigating officials is doubted. Although founded scientifically based on the other biological fluids (e.g. vitreous humor), the discretion of interpretation should be introduced that will reveal how the forensic findings are delivered in the medico-legal and judicial system.

As stated by Almulhim and Menezes (2023), postmortem timelines are less or more approximate and circumstantial and affected by both natural biological mechanisms and exogenous environmental changes. This deviation of critical concern in a comparative criminological approach with regard to the generalizability of postmortem interpretive procedures across jurisdictions possibly of different climates, infrastructures and approaches of forensics and viewpoints of standards in investigations. This situational difference is particularly relevant in comparative studies involving nations such as Pakistan and Kenya where the environmental situation and the capability of the institutions can make a great contribution to the explanation of the postmortem findings.

Postmortem toxicology is another line of scientific uncertainty and investigation of crime. According to Skopp (2010), there are redistribution possibilities that influence postmortem drug concentrations, antemortem physiological conditions, medical interventions in the resuscitation



process, and chemical alterations during the decomposition. These make it difficult to guess at causation and apportion blame, particularly in homicides that are legally questionable or which the political elite finds embarrassing. Criminologically, these uncertainties might interfere with the conclusions of culpability, negligence, or intent in the official investigation and judicial systems.

In this regard, the comparative analysis of the postmortem reports of Pakistan and Kenya creates a possibility to critically evaluate the generation, perception, and institutionalization of forensic evidence in the various systems of law and medico-legal systems. Instead of viewing postmortem reports as a neutral scientific artifact, this paper theorizes them as criminological texts of methodical constraint, procedural regularities and larger power and responsibility frameworks (Madea & Musshoff, 2007; Skopp, 2010; Almulhim and Menezes, 2023). This solution has added to the field of criminology through the light within the pursuit of forensic science in building official discourses of death in transnational and human rights cases.

Theoretical Framework

The research study is based on the ascertained criminological and socio-legal theories that describe postmortem reports not only as technical medical records, but also as institutional products, influenced by perceptive practices, power relations, and accountability measures. By applying Social Constructionism, State Crime Theory, Procedural Justice Theory, and Critical Criminology, postmortem reports in cross-border death investigations can be analyzed in a thorough analytical perspective.

Social Constructionism: Postmortem Reports as Narrations of Truth

According to social constructionism, knowledge, as well as legal and scientific knowledge is constructed through social processes rather than found in the form of an objective reality (Berger and Luckmann, 2011). In the context of criminology, such an outlook points to the fact that the official discourse of crime and death is influenced by the ritual of an institution, professional meaning, and situational limitations. This theory can be applied to postmortem investigations in which this theory proposes that, on the one hand, autopsy and postmortem reports are produced as narrative constructs that convert biological evidence into legal frameworks.

Considering the methodological ambiguity of postmortem biochemistry and toxicology, particularly instability of the analytic, postmortem redistribution and interpretive discretion, the postmortem redistribution and postmortem report of redistribution will certainly be biased in seizure and use descriptively. Socially constructed on a social constructionist view, these reports cannot be viewed as objective images of physiological facts but systematized images that are authorized by medico-legal institutions. Such a framework is especially applicable to comparative analysis because there is a likelihood of varying jurisdictions to establish forensic truth differently due to institutional norms and investigative cultures.

State Crime Theory: Death Investigations: Institutional Accountability

The state crime theory is concerned with harms that are caused by state action or omission such as failure to investigate, be transparent and accountable (Green and Ward, 2004). This theory does



not focus on individual criminality but investigates the role institutional practices can play as a cause of injustice or responsibility concealment, particularly in cases with political sensibilities.

The state crime theory can be used in a context of investigations of the postmortem in order to analyze the compliance of the forensic procedures with the independence, completeness, and transparency standards. The practice of cross-border death investigations is concerned, in particular, with the jurisdictional responsibility, the cooperation across the states, and the possibility of institutional self-protection. Postmortem reports are therefore core evidentiary tools whereby states show or do not show accountability. Such an attitude is particularly relevant in cases of deaths of journalists or public personalities that have consequences concerning the freedom of expression and human rights.

Procedural Justice Theory: Consistency, Fairness and Legitimacy

Procedural justice theory reiterates that institutions of law and investigation should be viewed as legitimate based not only upon the results of actions but also the fairness, uniformity, as well as openness of practices (Tyler, 2006). The perceptions of neutrality, accuracy and due process are considered to influence the formation of public trust according to this framework.

When applied to forensic pathology, the procedural justice theory provides emphasis on the necessity of standardized postmortem procedures, precise documentation, and uniformity in the use of scientific techniques. The perceived validity of postmortem findings can be compromised by the application of different forensic procedures, interpretation limits or reporting criteria by jurisdictions. Procedural inequity is one aspect in which this theory can be used in comparative criminological studies to determine whether a difference in postmortem reporting patterns is indicative of procedural inequity influencing the reliance in medico-legal judgments.

Critical Criminology: Power, Authority and Forensic Knowledge

Critical criminology questions the role of power relations in the definition and investigation as well as the interpretation of crime (Taylor, Walton, and Young, 2013). In this regard, forensic science is not separate of power but exists within the frameworks that can afford some stories more than others.

Critical criminology, in a postmortem study, would highlight those who command forensic knowledge, the way judgements are constituted, and which interests are fulfilled by state pronouncements of the cause and manner of death. Postmortem reports may thus be seen as apparatus of authority through which certain versions of events are legitimized and others ruled out. This theoretical perspective is particularly applicable at the time of working with instances of political sensitivity or transnational character, when the consequences of the provided forensic findings might be extended outside the legal framework of the case under consideration.



Table No.01: Theoretical Perspectives

Theory	Analytical Focus	Relevance to Postmortem Reports
Social Constructionism	Truth production	Postmortem reports as narratives
State Crime Theory	Institutional accountability	Cross-border death investigation
Procedural Justice	Fairness & legitimacy	Consistency of forensic procedures
Critical Criminology	Power & authority	Control over forensic narratives

Together, these theoretical approaches place postmortem reports in a criminologically possible location, as a product of science, law, and power on the border. Social constructionism describes the means of production of forensic truth; the state crime theory places postmortem investigations on the institutional accountability models; the procedural justice theory examines fairness and legitimacy, and the critical criminology theory questions the power relations that construct forensic discourse. This combined system will offer cohesive support to the qualitative comparative study of postmortem reports in Kenya and Pakistan.

Research Gap

Although central in unearthing a factual account of death contests, a gap between the output of forensic science and their interpretation in criminal justice of Pakistan remains steady (Peters, Drummer, and Musshoff, 2007). In Pakistan, studies on the autopsy reporting practices indicate that law enforcers, particularly police and judicial officers, find it difficult to interpret medico legal findings because reporting procedural issues are inherently embedded in statutory provisions like Section 174 CrPC (Studocu Report, 2022). Not only does this lack of connection postponing justice but it also grants biomedical content more privileges than critical interrogation of the social and institutional construction of forensic interpretations.

Empirical research on medico legal death patterns, like encounter related deaths in urban Pakistan, is mostly descriptive, tracking frequencies and demographic profiles without considering how postmortem evidence forms a tool of force that determine popular discourses as well as institutional authority (Mirza et al., 2024). On the same note, multidisciplinary critiques formulate premium gaps in standardization, training, and transparency which obviate report reliability and legal efficacy (Wahab, 2024). Nevertheless, little theoretical investigation has placed postmortem reports in contexts of power and knowledge production and procedural justice especially in comparative situations such as Pakistan and Kenya where medico legal structures and political power diverge but both are important in determining the outcomes of conflict cases.

This literature thus makes apparent a gap in the current literature; in the lack of a integrative, criminologically informed inquiry which explores the ways in which postmortem reporting practices generate, challenge or efface state regimes of truth. This disparity is especially



pronounced in high-profile cases when the biological findings are not only documented in forensic reports but are used as tools in which criminal justice, institutional power and narrative platforms are shaped and challenged. To make sense of the constructions, validation, and exploitation of truths in postmortem in both the Pakistani and Kenyan setting, a research that links forensic science with institutional power and procedural justice is needed.

Research Design

Document analysis is a long-standing qualitative method of interpreting the text in systematically interpreting institutional documents and other textual materials to comprehend their meaning and the social practices they harbor (Bowen, 2009; Morgan, 2022). Regarding the context of forensic reporting, comparative studies reveal that individuals differ significantly in the form of the presentation and articulation of the forensic conclusions and how the perceived authority of such reports may be influenced in legal contexts (Sunde, 2021). In addition, procedural use of postmortem reports in criminal investigations in Pakistan is a sign of what the law demands and the reality of encountering those practical challenges in the justice system (Khan, Irshad and Maqbool, 2025; Ahmed et al., 2025). Discourse analytic attitudes also contribute to the construction of institutional truth and authority discourses in official texts (Arribas-Ayllon, Walkerdine, 2008).

Theoretical Considerations

The research is based on the theoretical framework introduced in the previous section. This framework formed the basis of the analysis to examine how forensic power, procedures, and institutional authority mediate the construction and construction of truth in high-profile postmortem reports relying on the concept of power/knowledge that is used to justify some truths and marginalize others (Foucault, 1980).

Data Source and Collection

The first data includes postmortem in Pakistan and Kenya. Only those documents that included detailed forensic findings, procedural notes, and conclusions were included. All the publicly available records, authenticated secondary online sources were gathered and all the ones, which had online accessible legal document of Ministry of Interior, Government of Pakistan, were scrutinized along with Fact Finding Team Report 2022 (Waheed, & Hamid, 2022) of high profile case. A protocol of document review was used to extract information systematically on:

- Description of injury and death cause
- Forensic standards and plasticity to procedure
- Narrative framing and commentary on institutions

Data Analysis

Thematic content analysis was also used in the study to develop patterns and emerging themes in the postmortem reports (Braun & Clarke, 2006). The analysis was initiated by familiarization, which entailed repeat readings in order to be contextually immersive, and by systematic line-by-line coding to recover narrative, procedural, and institutional name-checking. These codes were further grouped into larger themes that encompassed investigative stories, institutional legitimacy,



procedural practices as well as the challenge of truth. The emphasis of the interpretive phase was the reflexive interaction with the data, and thematic meanings were theoretically based and analytically consistent (Braun and Clarke, 2019). Since the analysis was based on official forensic reports, the principles of document analysis were employed to put into perspective how institutional texts are used as tools of power and knowledge production within legal and investigative discourse (Bowen, 2009).

Ethical Considerations

Since the research is only built based on publicly available or officially published online sources, the researcher did not engage with human participants directly. Of the deceased and affected families, sensitiveness and confidentiality were observed. Each analytical step was also conducted in compliance with the set of ethical principles that govern research based on secondary and publicly available data and aligned with the internationally accepted ethical principles (World Medical Association [WMA], 2013).

Table 02. Methodology Alignment

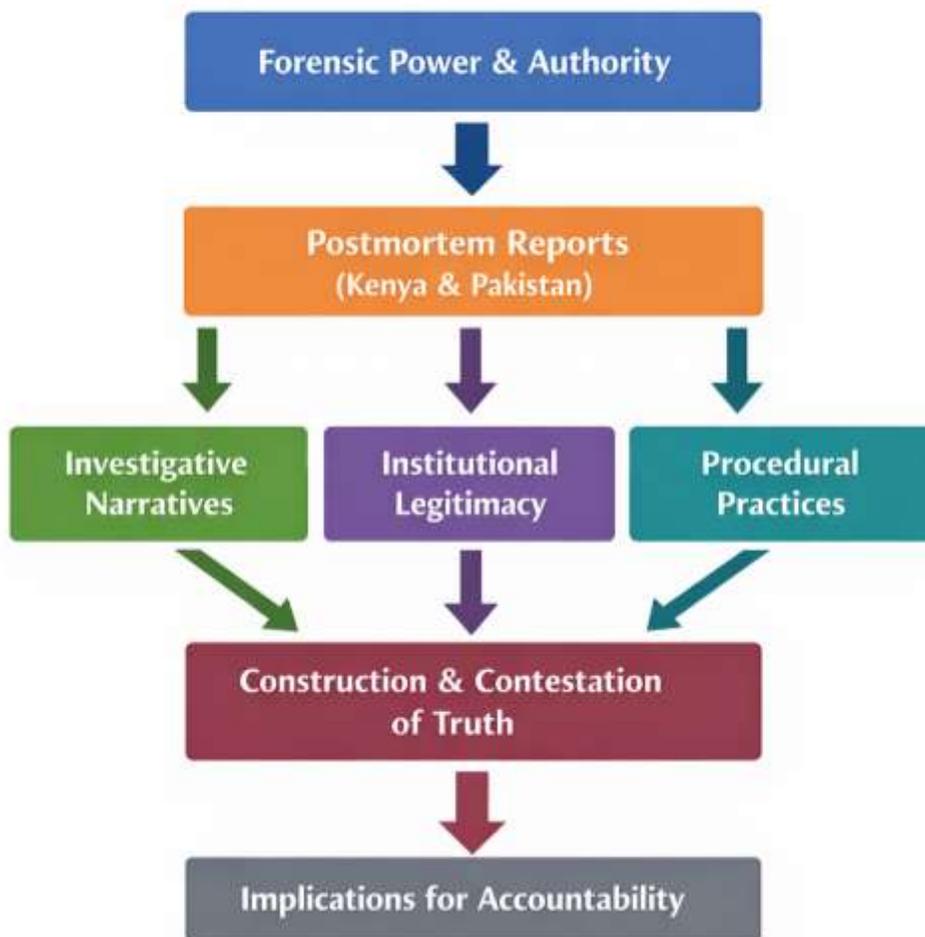
Research Objective	Data Source	Analytical Codes	Emergent Themes	Theoretical Alignment
Examine how postmortem reports construct narratives of cause and manner of death in Pakistan and Kenya	Postmortem reports	Injury description, Cause of death, Narrative framing, Language use	Investigative Narratives, Factual Representation, Reporting Bias	Social Constructionism
Analyze how forensic practices and reporting procedures shape institutional authority, investigative power, and perceptions of legitimacy	Same reports	Procedural notes, Adherence to forensic standards, Standardization, Terminology	Institutional Legitimacy, Procedural Power, Forensic Authority	State Crime Theory, Procedural Justice
Explore cross-country similarities and differences in the production of forensic truth and implications for accountability	Comparative analysis of reports	Contrasts in reporting style, Procedural adherence, Interpretive statements	Construction & Contestation of Truth, Accountability Mechanisms	Integrated Theoretical Lens

Conceptual Framework

The following conceptual map showing how forensic authority affects postmortem reports and truth construction in Pakistan and Kenya.

Figure No. 01: Conceptual Framework

Forensic Power and the Production of Truth



Source: Researcher's Vision

The above figure of conceptual framework demonstrating the role of forensic authority in postmortem reporting in Pakistan and Kenya, showing how investigative narratives, institutional authority and practice play converge to influence the construction and contestation of truth ultimately impacting upon accountability structures.



Results

The post-mortem reports Kenya and Pakistan give detailed records of injuries that the deceased in the high profile Case-X sustained. Analytical comparison of these reports shows that certain similarities are present, as well as discrepancies that can be discussed in terms of their implications of forensic authority, creation of medico-legal truth, and further investigation of the criminal case.

1. Nature and Location of Injuries.

Post-Mortem Report Findings of Kenya:

1. **Head Injury:** Grazed gun-shot to the left parietal area with skull puncture, loss of bone fragmentation and laceration of the left parietal area of the brain.
2. **Torso Injuries:** Right upper back entry wound (1 cm diameter) and right chest exit wound (2 × 1 cm) that is suggestive of a penetrating and high velocity gunshot wound.
3. **Right Lung:** Right lung apex contravention and right hematoma.
4. **Musculoskeletal:** Four nails lost on the left hand (with the exception of the little finger), several shallow and deep injuries on the fingers and the wrist.
5. **Further Results:** Injury of upper parietal skull, fracture of right clavicle, and third rib; injury of pleurae.

Post-Mortem Results Findings of Pakistan:

1. **Head Injury:** Left upper parietal area has a T-shaped sewn wound with jagged edges 12 x 3 cm in area, and half of the skull is missing.
2. **Facial and Neck Injuries:** Left black eye; left lower neck single 1 cm stitched wound.
3. **Chest and Shoulder:** 2.5 cm stitched wound on upper portion of left chest (exit), 0.5 cm stitched wound on the outside of the left shoulder.
4. **Other Injuries:** 1 × 1 cm circular injury on upper please, and entry wound (upper back), further small linear injuries and abrasions on left hand and fingers.

Comparative Insights:

1. Both reports point towards head and chest trauma as the main lethal injuries.
2. Kenyan report focuses on the direction and the path of intrusion, where the involvement of firearms is a high-velocity one, but the Pakistani report presents information about wound morphology and stitching.
3. In both scenarios, hand and finger injuries and nail damage are observed, which may indicate a self-protective wound or the use of a weapon.
4. Pakistan has a more detailed report of the post-mortem giving the description of surgery/stitches, whereas Kenya exhibits structural damage (bone and organ injury).

2. Determination of Cause of Death

Post-Mortem Report of Kenya:

- Cause of death Multiple gunshot wounds to the head and chest, caused by high-velocity firearms.



- All the injuries were ante mortem and capable of killing in the normal course of things.

Post-Mortem Report of Pakistan:

- ***Moment of death:*** Gunshot wounds on brain and right lung.
- All injuries were ante-mortem.

Comparative Insights:

1. Both reports also agree that injury to the head and the chest is the main lethal mechanism of firearms.
2. High level of forensic agreement in terms of lethality, however, the difference in injury reporting shows differences.
3. As an example, the Kenyan report focuses on structural and functional damage of organs indicative of a biomedical focus, and the Pakistani report focuses on surface and stitched wound morphology indicative of medico-legal procedural standards.

3. System Review (Organs and Function)

Post-Mortem Report of Kenya:

- ***Respiratory And Cardiovascular System:*** Cardiovascular normal; right lung injury and hematoma.
- ***Digestive System:*** Stomach partially digested; liver and pancreas normal; shrunken spleen; intestine normal.

Post-Mortem Report of Pakistan:

- Minimal systemic information given. Development emphasis is much more on outward injuries and wound records.

Comparative Insights:

- Kenyan report gives systemic analysis internally and Pakistan report gives more forensic documentation of stitching and wounds.
- This implies that there are variations in forensic culture and procedural focus that have the potential to shape investigative narratives and truth perception by the public.

4. Criminological and Forensic Implications

Production of Truth: Both post-mortem reports are tools of forensic power of developing a legal and scientific story around the cause and manner of death.

Forensic Power: Kenya postmortem report emphasis on objective organ-level damage, which strengthens the narrative of kill trauma from gunshot wounds. The postmortem report from Pakistan highlights the fact of surgical recording and wound morphology possibly to formulate an investigative or court room interpretation document.

Consistency and Discrepancy: There are slight variances in the description and focus areas of the wound which serve to highlight the nature of the negotiation of the forensic interpretation within the indigenous procedural norms and medico-legal culture.

Defensive and Ancillary Injuries: Depending on the presence of nail loss and abrasions on fingers, it is possible that the subject was struggling and/or defending himself or herself, this is vital in reconstructing the crime in terms of criminology.

Table No. 03: Comparative Highlights

Feature	Kenya	Pakistan	Observations
Head Injury	Grazed gunshot, left parietal, brain laceration	T-shaped stitched wound, skull missing, 12 × 3 cm	Both confirm lethal cranial trauma
Chest Injury	Penetrating gunshot back to chest	2.5 cm stitched exit wound, left upper chest	Fatal trajectory recognized in both
Hand/Finger Injury	Loss of nails, multiple abrasions	Minor linear wounds on fingers, abrasions	Suggestive of defensive actions
Organ/System	Lung penetration, hematoma; shrunken spleen	Not detailed	Kenya emphasizes internal trauma
Cause of Death	Multiple firearm injuries	Firearm injuries to brain and lung	Convergent determination
Forensic Focus	Structural and organ-level damage	Wound morphology and stitching	Reflects procedural norms and medico-legal style

The comparative review of post-mortem accounts of the Kenya and Pakistan in the high profile Case-X points out at the dynamics of the interplay of forensic power and the generation of truth:

1. They both confirm firearm wounds on the head and chest as a cause of death.
2. Discrepancies in documentation (internal vs external focus, stitching details) reflect differences in forensic methodologies and procedural cultures, impacting upon legal and investigational outcome.
3. Criminological observation (that of minor wounds, hands, fingers, nails) provides an overview of a particular incident i.e. this can suggest a struggle or a defensive stance.
4. The production of forensic truth is not simply biological but lies within the context of medico-legal power, procedural norms and the making of narrative.

Thematic Analysis

Theme – 1: Investigative Narratives, Factual Representation, Reporting Bias

The Kenyan and Pakistani post-mortem report cases offer the example of how narrative of the forensics play is built by the selective focus on specific aspects of the injury. Kenya is concerned with the level of organ trauma and systemic effect, whereas Pakistan is concerned with the morphology of wounds and the stitches. Both identify the cause of death but use various language and procedure resources, as per social constructionism, which holds the veracity is subject to mediation concerning institutional practices and language.



Theme – 2: Institutional Legitimacy, Procedural Power, Forensic Authority

Forensic processes-particularly the documentation of information about wound size, wound pathology and organ injury- are instruments of institutional power. The presence of the differences in the style of reporting indicates the differences in terms of the norms of procedures that strengthen the validity as per their legal system. This goes in line with the state crime theory and procedural justice, which also encompasses the use of authority that is contained in forensic expertise.

Theme – 3: Construction & Contestation of Truth, Accountability Mechanisms

Although they both reach the same cause of death (injury with a firearm) the disparity in the amount of detail and the perspective shows that forensic truth is not merely factual - it is created and defined in a social-legal environment. These variations reflect the contestation potentiality and the necessity to have harmonized accountability procedures, in a manner that makes an integrated theoretical interpretation of the forensic power in a global situation.

Discussion

The Kenyan and Pakistan post-mortem reports are documented with very similar focus and using language but orientations are strongly different which display who the way that medico-legal language inform truth-claims in the field of forensic procedures.

The Kenyan postmortem report findings highlight internal trauma due to high velocity firearm wounds such as a parietal head wound penetrating the brain tissue, and a thoracic shot which damaged the lung tissue; establishing cause of death at multiple gunshot impacts. The initial shot was exiting the skull causing damage in the brain tissue, while the second of the shot was causing hemothorax and lung injury consistent with intermediate range high velocity firearm trauma. Such detailed anatomical description brings the damage to organs to the forefront as evidence of fatality (Pakistan Press Foundation, 2022).

In contrast, for the Pakistani who was autopsied there are descriptions of external injuries and wound morphology including missing parts of the skull, fractures and multiple bruises with twelve ante-mortem injury markers in addition to lethal firearm wounds. The greater overall cataloguing of injuries, missing nails and a variety of bruises, create a story of traumatic experience before death (Azeem, 2022).

From a criminological perspective this is compatible with the school of thought in criminology known as social constructionism, a theory that suggests that the forensic "facts" are mediated through language and through institutional practice. Social constructionist theory proposes that meaning is not passively observed, but actively constructed, and forensic reports, even ones based on anatomy, are part of these processes of meaning-making (Henry, 2009). This is why similar biological injuries could be presented differently based on procedural norms and emphasis on investigation.



Forensic documentation serves as a tool to preserve injury as well as a tool of institutional legitimacy and power. The way in which the injuries are documented, the language of the procedure, and the focus on the standardized measures all play their roles in how institutional accounts are credited by the way forensic evidence is presented.

The Kenyan postmortem report highlights the trajectories of the ballistics and internal organs trauma, which are high-procedural rigor characteristics that underpin the power of forensic pathology to describe the cause and manner of death. The use of the systematic register of the penetration angles, measurements of wounds, and anatomical disruption is in accordance with the scientific traditions of the field of forensic pathology and with limiting subjective assessments (Pakistan Press Foundation, 2022).

In the same manner, the Pakistani postmortem report focuses on the external wound stitching, mapping of the bruises and profiling of the injuries, forming an all-inclusive inventory of the injuries which can be construed medically and legally. This is in line with the procedural justice models, which offer that the institutional legitimacy depends on the compliance with clear procedures and the use of neutral words (Bennett, Hine, and Mazerolle, 2018).

A combination of these conflicting but institutionalized reporting styles brings out the point of view that the forensic practice becomes exemplar of not just of biological truth, but also organizational norms, legal expectations as well as authority structures.

In spite of the differences in the way the procedures are conducted, both reports seem to have reached a common conclusion that Case-X died by gunshot wounds to the chest and the head. This fact aligns an assembly of common forensic truth, but the variations in focus (internal organ trauma to external wound cataloguing) point to the fact that even in the context of this individual unanimous conclusion, there is still controversy of truth.

Others claimed in the media and commentary that lacking nails and external bruises were the signs of torture, but independent Kenyan professionals and pathologists denied the allegations as not supported by the autopsies (Pakistan Press Foundation, 2022). This contestation demonstrates that even with an anatomical-based forensic truth, social narratives, media framing, and public explanation mediate this truth, which makes sense in terms of criminological approaches to constructing narratives where institutionalized accounts are challenged by other accounts as legitimate (Winburn and Clemmons, 2021).

In this way, post-mortem reports are a good example of how the processes of forensic evidence work in the context of wider accountability system, in which the creation of truth is the negotiation between various actors and meanings. Rumors and social consideration may extend the level of accusing power, particularly when there is insufficient or disputed material evidence, further creating a sense of culpability or innocence most notably in times of crisis, a transition, or especially social anxiety (Haque, 2021).



Theoretical Integration

The findings are consistent with three strands of interconnecting theory:

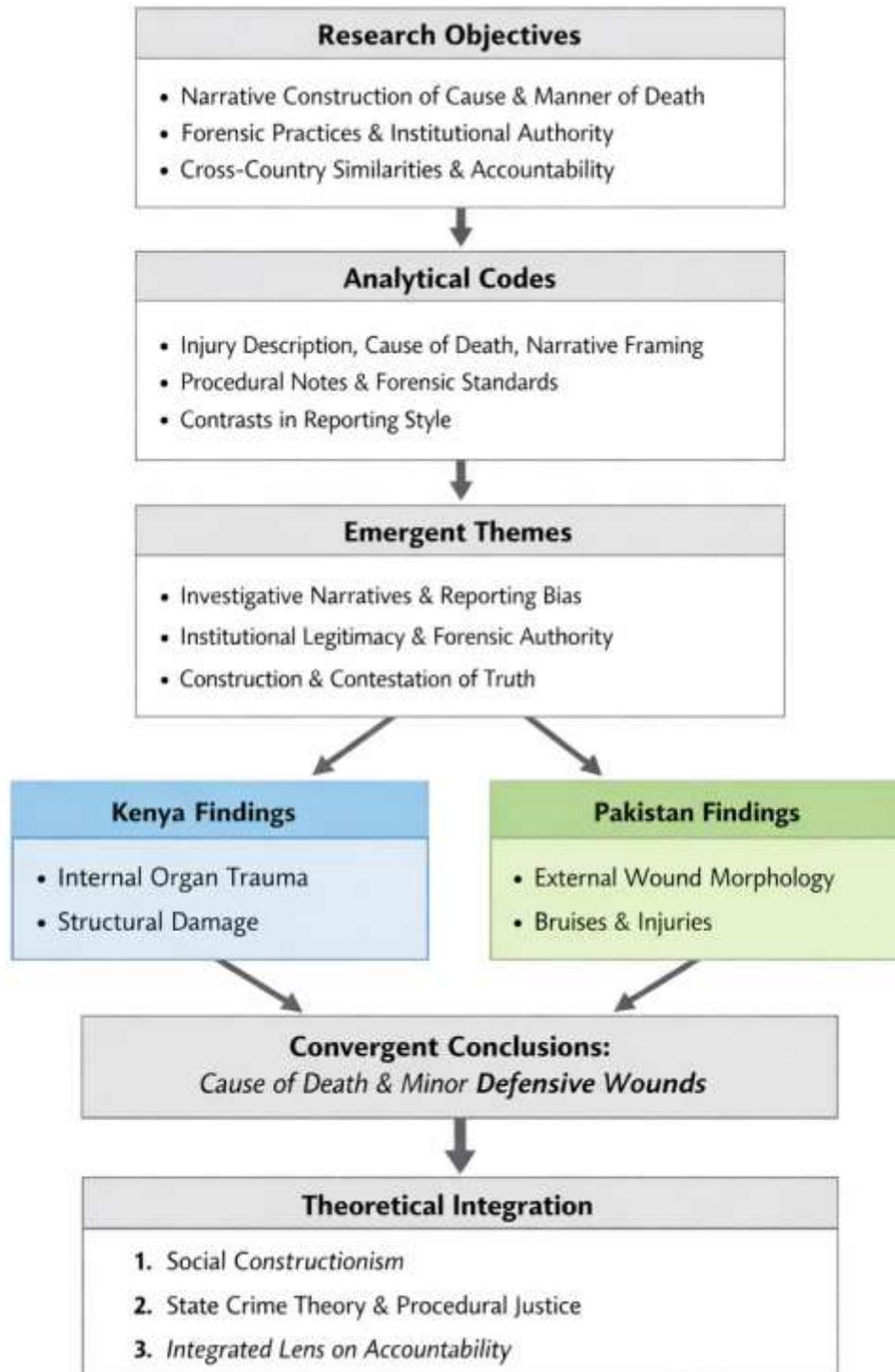
Social Constructionism: Forensic reports belongs to the narrative artifacts in the language and institutional practice of subject matter as compared to Kenya and Pakistan emphasis on what the cause and manner as constructed as discovered (Henry, 2009).

State Crime Theory and Procedural Justice: The legitimacy and power of institutions is influenced by methods of forensics and documentation. Clear procedural compliance- This promotes procedural justice as well as citizen confidence in medical companies (Bennett, Hine, and Mazerolle, 2018).

Integrated Lens on Accountability: The forensic truth bargaining can be exemplified by the contention around torture and official autopsy reports and highlights the bargaining aspect of the forensic reports. So is with the creation and perception of forensic truth of effect of justice, social confidence and political goodwill.

The figure below demonstrates the objectives of the research, the codes of analysis, the emergent themes, primary findings, and theoretical integration of the comparative post mortem analysis of the high-profile case.

Figure No. 02: Theoretical Integration





Source: Researcher's Vision

Conclusion

This study proves that postmortem reports are not merely a historical yardstick of medical documentation but is a gift of power to forensic communities and the formation of legal, institutional and public discourses about contesting fatalities. The similarities and differences between the construction of the forensic reality as thrown up in the reports from Pakistan and Kenya are evident in the comparative review of the reports. Both jurisdictions identified firearm injuries to the head and the chest as the single most common cause of death, but the contrasting procedural approach taken to such agents of external and internal organ trauma (in Kenya versus wound morphology and suturing in Pakistan) highlights the fact that the process of forensic reporting depends on institutional norms, professional judgment, and procedural culture.

These are results in a criminological context, in which the truth (forensic) is socially and institutionally constructed. The paper demonstrates that postmortem reports are not only a product of biological truth but also are involved in discourse of creation that incurs institutional power and social validation in formation of accountability perception. The debatable nature of minor injuries, the meaning inherent to defensive wounds, confirms the negotiability of even convergent decisions, professionally and socio-political thus influenced.

Theoretically, the results confirm the applicability of social constructionism, state crime theory, procedural justice, and critical criminology. Postmortem report is an artifact of narrative that comes into being at the point of intersection of scientific, legal, and power in which the institutional processes, reporting habits, and forensic expertise are structures that are used in the construction and contestation of truth. The study demonstrates the need to ensure that comparative criminological lenses are considered when making forensic analyses of politically sensitive cases or transnational cases, in order to comprehend the nature of medico-legal evidence in institutional and societal contexts.

Policy Recommendations

1. *Postmortem Procedures Standardization in Cross-Jurisdiction:* To decrease differences of interpretations and improve inter-jurisdictional comparison, the forensic agencies in Pakistan and Kenya ought to have uniform postmortem protocols (such as injury reporting, wound morphology, and organ assessment). The facets of standardization will make the results of medico legal processes transparent, consistent and believable by the society.

2. *Training and Building of Capacity of Investigative and Judicial Actors:* The police, the prosecutors, and the judicial should be trained in specifically on how they can interpret the forensic report in order to reveal the procedural peculiarities, the anatomy, and the methodological constraints. Forensic literacy may be a bridge between the medico-legal outputs and the legal interpretation that improves the possibility of misrepresentation or misinterpretation of postmortem results.



3. Independent Review and Control: To provide assurance for compliance with organizational standards of the procedure, and to avoid institutional bias as well as to provide external has been identified as having independent forensic oversight committees or cross-jurisdictional review systems to provide proof of postmortem decision-making.

4. Reciprocal Forensic Learning: The countries can be informed of cross-border knowledge in the sphere of forensic practices, reporting standards and documentation practice. The comparative learning process can facilitate the harmonization of investigative processes, enhance the credibility of the reports in the international jurisdiction and promote accountability in the politically sensitive cases.

5. Greater Transparency and Openness to the Community: Forensic establishments ought to implement procedures of responsible external communication of founds of the deceased to strike a balance between the right of the public to information and the role of extensive secrecy. Efficient, centralized reporting could curb misinformation and minimize speculations and boost trust of the media on the medico-legal institutions in society.

As this study demonstrates, postmortem reports can be regarded as effective searching tools of institutional power and truth. The fact that there is a difference in the procedural emphasis and reporting culture between Pakistan and Kenya demonstrates that forensic truth is not absolute and that it is a socially mediated truth. The application of a uniform procedure, capabilities building, control measures and clear communication techniques would improve the integrity and equity and responsibilities of the forensic inquiries, particularly on high-profile and cross-jurisdictional investigations.

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