

*Lecture 3: Mental illness, Psychopathy and Sociopathy.

- * This is a hugely controversial area: the notion that some individuals are insane... the idea that mentally ill people are dangerous and violent...
- * **Andrea Yates** was found guilty of murder in the first degree and sentenced to life in prison. In her second trial, she was found NGRI (not guilty by reason of insanity).

* **Mental illness and crime**

*The case of Andrea Yates (2000)

- * A mother of 5 children under the age of 8, who drowned them one by one and placed them on her bed. She claimed to have committed the act as she was a bad mother and needed punishing. The insanity defence was pleaded but despite a history of severe mental illness and hospitalisation, she was charged with first degree murder.
- * However, on appeal, the Texas Crown Court of Appeals overturned the conviction because of an error made by an expert witness Dr Dietz.

- * Dr Dietz claimed that she had the idea from the TV show Law and order, but the show had never been aired. She was found NGRI and remains in a mental institution.
- * Where does the rationale come from for the insanity defence?
- * Insanity is considered a legal comprise to a moral dilemma when people should not be punished if they do not know what they are doing.
- * BUT this is a **legal term** and not purely a mental illness, you could have a M.I. And not be insane. The level of impairment must be more specific than the presence of a M.I.

- * **Mens rea**: the cognition and reasoning behind a criminal act.
- * **Actus reus**: the criminal act itself.
- * Both must be present for a conviction to be made, having a mental illness can/may remove criminal responsibility.

* **The rationale for the insanity defence**

- * The insanity rule is overused and abused.
- * Actually it is rarely raised, and if it is, it rarely leads to acquittal.
- * Approximately raised in only 1% of serious charges and is only successful 26% of the time (Cirincione et al., 1995).
- * There is a negative correlation between frequency of insanity plea and its` success...

* **Insanity myths.**

- * Insanity acquittees are not severely mentally ill.
- * Actually when 1,700 defendants studied, 77% found insane were suffering from psychosis, mood disorder, organic disorder or mental illness. Less than 1% were malingering (Cochrane et al., 2001).
- * Prepping Aaron
- * Meeting Roy
- * The end
- * And, the vast majority of insanity acquittees had been previously hospitalised for mental health reasons (Callahan et al., 1991).

* **Insanity myths.**

- * Most insanity acquittees are charged with murder.
- * No; in actual fact, only 14.3% are charged with murder, those charged with a violent crime are more likely to receive an insanity acquittal than those charged with murder.

* Insanity myths.

- * Insanity acquittees are freed.
- * No, they are usually immediately confined for evaluation at least, and often confined for longer than if they had been convicted of the original crime! (Silver, 1994).
- * Guilty defendants are more likely to go without institutionalisation than those found NGRI.
- * Finally, insanity acquittees are no more likely to reoffend than other offenders, nor are they any more or less dangerous.

* Insanity myths.

*Evaluations of insanity

*Problem 1:

- *The nature of M.I. Has largely been undefined by courts. Also knowing the difference between right and wrong is a) a legal definition, b) a moral definition or c) a level of impairment? - what do you think?

*Problem 2:

- *Often professionals have to assess the mental state of individuals months after a crime. How does this relate to their mental state at the actual time of the crime? Often third parties have to be relied upon.

*Forensic assessment tools

- *To improve the reliability and validity standard practise is moving towards the use of instruments such as the MSE & R-CRAS.
- *The `mental state at the time of offence screening evaluation` assesses issues related to responsibility such as cognitive function, historical information and current mental status. As yet there are no studies to indicate its reliability and only one for its validity from the original article.

- * **Automatism:** refers to a lack of full consciousness, could be due to head injury, sleep disorder, epilepsy, dissociation.
- * **Diminished responsibility:** allows a defendant to introduce a testimony regarding their mental status without claiming insanity, based on **mens rea**, allowing for a conviction of lesser offence: recklessness not knowingly. Nicola Edgington
- * **Intoxication:** failure to exhibit sufficient **mens rea** where they need to behave knowingly. E.G. not knowing what alcohol will lead to...
- * <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E15dPddusJ0>

* Other issues of criminal responsibility

* **Kenneth Bianchi** and **Angelo Buono** raped and murdered young women on Los Angeles during 1977-78. Bianchi pleaded insanity based on the film Sybil, he acted as if he was suffering from dissociative identity disorder. Two experts believed him, but two additional ones did not. The giveaway was he slipped up several times when using the name Steve Walker, referring to him as `he` and not `I`. Dr Martin Orne also purposely misled him, by asking about other personalities, to which `Bill` appeared.

* **The hillside strangler**

Insanity

- * Focus is on mental state at time of offence.
- * Requires presence of mental illness.
- * Requires admission of crime.

Competency

- * Focus is on mental state at any point along the judicial process.
- * Mental illness not required.
- * Postpones the adjudication process.
- * Does not require admission.

***Competency to stand trial**

- * This usually requires referral to a mental health facility.
- * The problem with competency is that there is much variance in the way in which it is assessed, leading to a lack of consistent standard practice.
- * So, how can we decide the `typical` characteristics of an incompetent defendant? Would this provide us with better insights?
- * Cochrane et al., (2001) examined defendants of serious crimes and found that 43% who received a psychotic diagnosis, 38% in receipt of an organic diagnosis and 30% receiving a mental retardation diagnosis were judged to be incompetent to stand trial.

*Competency

- * Although diagnoses such as psychosis were linked to incompetence, the majority of psychotic defendants were found competent!
- * Early studies suggested demographic variables were good predictors of competency, however Cooper & Zapf (2003) argue that employment status is the only reliable predictor of incompetency.
- * It appears that crime severity is related to mental illness and mental illness is related to a finding of competency.

*** Warren et al., (2006)**

- * We like to think that there is a link because the mentally ill who commit crime usually do so in the public domain, do not flee from the scene, draw attention to their behaviour and often confess!
- * There are often problems of co morbidity with alcohol and drugs and treatment is problematic because of patients rights.
- * The uneven distribution of mental illness in society can be seen as related to poverty and social exclusion. Do prisons and secure hospitals provide us with a representative population sample?

*The reality of mental illness and crime

- * Why are so many schizophrenia sufferers portrayed as violent?
- * In one German newspaper, 68% of crimes were reported to be related to mental illness, with 49% involving homicide. Findings such as these have great impact of public perceptions of individuals with mental illnesses.
- * Worryingly, admissions to British mental institutions correlate negatively to prison incarcerations:
- * In an analysis of 500 homicide cases 44% had a record of mental illness at some point, 14% had a mental illness at the time of offence and 8% had contact with mental health service in the previous year.

- * Reviews of the diagnostic process and DSM has seen the increase of violence as a characteristic of certain illnesses rise from 2% to 13% and currently 47%...
- * Medication can increase levels of aggression.
- * Misclassification occurs, because violence in a person with a mental illness often appears exaggerated or more disturbing.
- * If you sample mental illnesses via hospital admissions, you are more likely to see violent behaviour as this warrants incarceration.

***Major confounding issues:**

- * **Link et al., (1992):** A sample of 500 men never treated for a M.I. along with a mental patients sample from N.Y.
- * They reported a weak relationship between psychosis and violence BUT this was a weaker predictor of violence than any other variables such as age, education or gender.
- * **Swanson et al., (1990):** after controlling for socio-demographic variables, schizophrenic/mood disorder patients were associated with a 4 fold increase in violence, compared to a 14 fold increase in violence conducted by those with a substance abuse disorder. Having **both** a M.I. and substance abuse led to a 17 fold increase in violence.

* Normal population studies

- * Previous history of violence is the single best predictor of violence in both clinical and non clinical environments.
- * Gender is a poor predictor of violence, although women 'inpatients' appear to commit more assaults, despite men causing more fear.
- * Race, ethnicity and culture are worthless predictors of violence and mental illness.
- * Poor social networks are associated with violence.
- * Hodgins (1997) identified 2 clear groups of offenders: **early starters** and **late starters**. Early starters demonstrate antisocial behaviour from the beginning, but are not identified as MI. When in acute stages of MI they do not show antisocial behaviour so not deemed criminal. Late starters show antisocial behaviour as a result of MI and are more likely to be helped by treatment of the MI disorder.

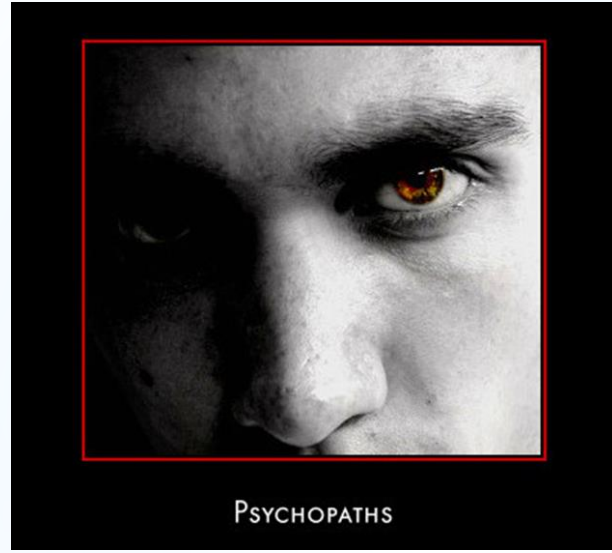
*What do we know?

- * Ronnie and Reggie Kray were notorious gangster twins who along with their older brother terrorised London in the 50`s and 60`s.
- * Ronnie Kray was diagnosed with paranoid schizophrenia and over time he gradually lost grip on reality with only his brothers keeping him from going completely insane.
- * His escalating use of violence was unstoppable, along with Reggie until they were eventually arrested.
- * Does this mean that mental illness is related to crime?
- * Not necessarily, but it does suggest that mental illness can be conducive to antisocial behaviour at times.
- * Mental illness does not cause violence per se, but it does alter our feelings, mood and ability to relate to others.

* The Krays

*The criminal mind and Psychopathy: **Ted Bundy**

- * A Psychology graduate, working on a suicide hotline crisis centre, Bundy killed 36 females at least, between 1974 and 1978.
- * Bundy is also interesting because he sacked his legal defence team and represented himself, taking the centre stage.
- * Whilst Carol Anne Boone was testifying as a character witness, he proposed and she accepted.
- * Bundy illustrated how he knew right from wrong, but just did not care!



*Psychopathy.

* A psychopath is “A person with an antisocial personality disorder, manifested in aggressive, perverted, criminal, or amoral behaviour without empathy or remorse”.



* What is a
Psychopath?

- * It is now recognised as one of five dimensions for a personality disorder and has been described as
- * `single most important clinical construct in the criminal justice system` (Hare, 1996)
- * `the most important forensic concept of the early twenty first century` (Patrick, 2006)

* DSM 5

- * Hare (1999) describes psychopaths as arrogant, callous, dominant, superficial and manipulative.
- * They are short-tempered, unable to form strong emotional relationships and are lacking in empathy, guilt or remorse.
- * The personality traits of psychopaths lead to socially deviant lifestyles typified by irresponsible impulsive behaviours.

* Characteristics of a Psychopath

- * Psychopaths make up about **1%** of the total population, but around **15-20%** of the prison population.
- * Psychopathy differs from normal criminal behaviour. These individuals display predatory behaviour whilst being charming, manipulative but without conscience.
- * Their crime scene and post offence behaviour will differ from non psychopaths committing the same offences.

***Some facts...**

- * 20% of male and female inmates are psychopaths.
- * Yet, psychopaths are responsible for 50% or more of serious crime.
- * 44% of offenders who kill law enforcement officers are psychopaths.
- * The violence of non psychopaths occurs as a response to emotion or intense events whereas in psychopathy the violence is goal directed.
- * Two thirds of their victims are women. (Howitt, 2015).

* Recorded characteristics noted by psychologists working with psychopaths:

* Lack of guilt/remorse.

* Egocentricity.

* Impulsiveness.

* Inability to form close relationships.

* Failure to learn from experience.

* Emotionally and socially empty.

***Cleckley (1964, 1976)**

- * **Five factors describing a typical psychopath:**
- * An inability to develop warm empathic relationships.
- * An unstable lifestyle.
- * An inability to accept responsibility for antisocial behaviour.
- * An absence of intellectual and psychiatric problems.
- * Weak behavioural control.

* **Later, Hare (1980) using Cleckley`s work identified:**

- * Superficial charm
- * Grandiose sense of self worth
- * Need for stimulation
- * Pathological lying
- * Manipulative
- * Lack of remorse/guilt
- * No emotional depth
- * Callous
- * Parasitic lifestyle
- * Poor behavioural control
- * Promiscuous behaviour
- * Early behavioural problems
- * Lack of long term planning
- * Impulsive
- * Irresponsible
- * Failure to accept responsibility for own actions
- * Frequent marital failures
- * Delinquent as a juvenile
- * Poor record on probation or other conditional release
- * Versatile as a criminal

* This led to the revised
psychopathy checklist: **PCL-R**

- * Psychopaths appear in business, politics, law, government, academia; however, they are often misdiagnosed, minimised or explained by their occupation (wrongly). Babiak (1995) Babiak & Hare (2006).

- * The PCL-R:

- * 20 items scored 0-2, max score of 40, 30 being point of psychopathy, corporate psychopaths mid 20`s a sexual deviant being higher 30+ and non psychopaths scoring 5-6 on average.
- * Whilst it appears to be a continuum, all traits are present to a matter of degree.

- * When it comes to young people, there is a major problem. The PCL-R is not applicable, therefore the PCL-YV has been developed for people aged 13-18 years of age. Also for 6 years and over a measure of ASPD & CPS have been devised with preliminary research supporting the existence of the 2 factor model.
- * More recent research, Stouthamer-Loeber (2007) has provided evidence for the stability of diagnosis from adolescence to adult.
- * Major potential problem though...
- * Labelling, treatment, death penalty, juries decisions etc.

- * Given to 1,200 male prisoners in UK Canada & US: high construct validity, leading to the conclusion that psychopathy consists of 2 factors: personality and antisocial/criminal activity.
- * Must have however, higher than average scores on both factors to receive diagnosis.
- * **I in every 200 gets a perfect score of 40.**
- * Aside from this, research using the MMPI to study profiles of psychopaths resulted in a distinction between primary and secondary psychopathy:

* **Evidence for the PCL-R**

primary

- * High levels of hostility
- * Low levels of anxiety
- * Few psychiatric problems

secondary

- * Display high levels of hostility
- * High levels of anxiety
- * High levels of guilt
- * High levels of psychiatric problems

* Primary/secondary Psychopathy:

- * Often, primary psychopaths commit violent offences, secondary psychopaths commit sexual offences.
- * Additionally, whereas violent offences are often accompanied by high emotion, this is not true for psychopaths, their violence is cold callous and non emotional.
- * On conditional release from prison they are more likely to be problematic and be reconvicted than non psychopaths.
- * Hare et al., (1988) however states that this tends to burn out after the age of forty.

* Differences within psychopathic population:

- * Both sociopathy and psychopathy are terms used in psychology and criminology to refer to subsets of people with anti social personality disorder.
- * But do you know the difference between psychopaths and sociopaths?

* Psychopath vs. Sociopath

	Sociopaths	Psychopaths
Personality	A very noticeable nervous and easily agitated personality – appear abnormal to others.	Charming personalities, manipulative and they gain people’s trust very easily – appear “normal” to others.
Education/Career	Uneducated and unable to hold down a steady job.	Educated and hold down steady jobs.
Family/Relationships	Usually single with no family or sexual relationships.	Some are so good at manipulating mimicry of emotion they have family and long term relationships without those around them every suspecting their true nature.
Crime	Any crime committed tends to be disorganised and spontaneous leaving many clues to their identity.	Well planned out crimes in every detail with little or no clues.

Sociopath

- * Environmental and social factors believed to be main cause.

Psychopath

- * Combination of biological , genetic and behavioural factors believed to be main causes.

However, Hare (1999) proposes that they can and often are used interchangeably to refer to very similar behaviours; it is simply a matter of personal preference. Some avoid using psychopath because of its similarity to psychosis.

*Further considerations:

- * **Brian Dugan** showed signs of psychopath tendencies in his early years such as setting fires, hurting animals and injuring his siblings.
- * He saw specialist child services but they had a lack of understanding of his condition therefore this behaviour continued into his adolescence and adulthood leading to murders.
- * <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-15386740>

*The Nature vs. Nurture Debate

- * **Brain scans:** research into Dugan's brain density and function:
- * Doctors monitored Dugan's brain reaction to a number of distressing images such as the faces of people suffering.
- * Low levels of activity in the amygdala and pre-frontal cortex - process emotions suggesting psychopaths lack emotional ability.
- * This may help explain why they lack guilt and remorse.

* The Nature vs. Nurture Debate

* What do we know about personality?

- * Personality represents who we are and results from a combination of our genes and environment. It shapes our view of the world, how we think, interact, and it continues to develop into our late twenties until it is hard wired.
- * Personality traits begin in childhood (Frick & Marsee 1996) and are a combination of social, biological factors and temperament.
- * The central trait of psychopathy is a lack of remorse/empathy which enables cold blooded behaviour to satisfy their needs.

*Cont'd

- * Psychopaths are selfish sensation seekers, with no moral compass, no responsibility and like to shift the blame onto others.
- * They present themselves favourably, and are successful, but often view others as prey.
- * For us to understand them, we must view them as predators, scamming people and blaming them for letting themselves being victims. Early VISCERAL reactions are warning signs.

*Cont`d

- *They have an egocentric nature, a need for power, control and demonstrate an ease of involvement with criminality and violence. This is coupled with a lack of shame and blame of the victim (or a co-criminal!).
- *Their acts will be planned, purposeful and definitely not a result of a lack of control. The motive is often sadistic gratification, yet will try to claim `loss of control`. This is because they want us to believe that. Yet, it is likely that there is no emotion and in fact, they have complete control.

* Characteristics continued...

- * However, many are not violent, but where violence is present, it is goal directed.
- * Psychopathic sex offenders are 2-4 times more likely to be released than their non psychopathic counterparts.
- * Psychopathic offenders in general are 2.7 times more likely to be released than their non psychopathic counterparts.
- * They can manipulate the parole panel 2.5 times faster, despite their criminal history (Porterten, Brike, Wilson, n.d.)
- * This shows they are good at faking emotions.

*Cont`d

- * Their linguistic patterns are unique and provide insight into how they view the world and their emotional detachment (Hare 1998). This enables them to have clarity in viewing their prey and being anxiety free in social situations.
- * The way in which they respond to their victims is important, they relish in smug satisfaction, they are cool, indifferent and take pleasure in their victim`s demise.
- * Victims feel themselves to blame, whether it be in work, in relationships or within a family. Most victims are stunned by their ruthlessness, callousness, denial and minimisation of the damage they have caused.

- * There are two types of violence, **instrumental** and **reactive**. Psychopaths are known for instrumental crime, planned goal orientated behaviour. This may be because they are less likely to experience emotional arousal.
- * Cornell et al (1996) found that psychopaths were able to inflict serious injury for **goal directed behaviour** but, because they also exhibit poor behavioural controls this implies that they do also commit **reactive/impulsive** violence.

***The general nature of
violence in psychopaths**

*Criminal behaviour

- *These factors tell us why they are considered the most serious offender. Hare, McPherson & Forth (1988) noted that psychopaths have significantly more convictions for assault, theft, robbery, fraud, possession of a weapon and escape from custody than non psychopaths.
- *Robertson (1981) `Psychopaths are much more criminal than mentally ill or learning disabled offenders`.

* Interpersonal/affective aspects

- * These deficits are central to understanding psychopaths. Whilst they appear to be charming charismatic and good fun, they are not good to be around for long periods due to their lack of ability to maintain interaction.
- * A striking feature is their affective responses in language. Their use of language is technically correct, but research shows that when asked to select similar words from a list, they decide on literal meanings not the connotations or emotional aspects of the message.
- * This implies that they are less sensitive to emotional expressions, they can understand a word but not its emotional meaning.

- * These deficits are characteristic of reduced understanding of emotion in general. They cannot seem to process the deep semantic meanings of language, cannot get abstract meanings nor are they able to draw upon emotional words easily.
- * This is particularly so in relation to negative words such as fear, anxiety and guilt. Perhaps this is why they cannot understand the impact of their behaviour on others.
- * Research shows they can understand `dictionary` definitions by the experience of emotions is lacking and cannot understand or feel them.

*Hollow words

- * `psychopaths know the words, but not the music`
- * Research on neutral and emotional words shows that when we process neutral words we appreciate their paper meaning, but when processing emotional words they have a dual meaning: both **paper** and **emotional**; which gives our processing a `turbo boost` enabling us to process them more quickly.
- * But, this difference in processing speed is not observed in psychopaths.
- * It appears that the emotional element usually enhances our `inner voice` and conscience, but not so for psychopaths.

*The language of psychopaths

- *Woodworth, Hancock, Porter, Hare, Logan, O`Toole & Smith (2012).
- *Rob Pickton murdered six women, was initially tried for murdering 26 and bragged to cellmates that he was going to kill 50. his behaviour and language showed no emotion, he was detached, bored and nonchalant.
- *When watching a transcript, he showed evidence of `duping delight` lying for the sake of getting away with it, and making it difficult to follow.

*Why?

- *Because, many aspects of language are not under conscious control: functional words are used unconsciously, because we usually focus on verbs and nouns.
- *Psychopaths are different to non psychopaths because they make few references to the social needs of friends and family, and they use the past tense suggesting detachment.

- * Our conscience depends not just on imagining the consequences but on our ability to talk to oneself, our **inner voice**.
- * When psychopaths talk to themselves they are just **reading the lines**, they are not able to picture the consequences.
- * Whilst most crimes are a result from negative circumstances, with psychopaths it is `just for fun`.
- * In addition, there is no loyalty to other individuals or groups etc.

* A quote...

* “do I care about other people? That’s a tough one, but yeah, I guess I really do...but I don’t let my feelings get in the way... I mean I`m as warm and caring as the next guy, but lets face it, everyone`s trying to screw you...You’ve got to look out for yourself, park your feelings. Say you need something, or someone messes with you... maybe tried to rip you off...you take care of it...do whatever needs to be done... Do I feel bad if I have to hurt someone? yeah, sometimes but mostly its like...uh...(laughs)...how did you feel the last time you squashed a bug?”

- * Many studies looked at functioning of the nervous system and the autonomic nervous system, e.g. Blackburn (1983).
- * EEG recordings have not found consistent patterns; some abnormalities in particular with primary psychopaths showing lowest EEG arousal.
- * ANS studies showed unusually low levels of electro-dermal reactivity at rest (GSR), but high levels of cardiac reactivity when stressed.

* **Physiological functioning:**

*Cognitive and learning deficits

- *They cannot learn from their mistakes, but their other cognitive abilities such as intelligence and memory are intact.
- *They are especially limited in `passive avoidance learning`. That is, learning from behaviour that punishes. The proposed explanation for this is `hypersensitivity to rewards`, resulting in a narrowed attentional focus (Kosson, 1996).
- *When performing the **stroop task**, psychopaths have no difficulty, because they can block out peripheral words and only look at the colour, `normal` pp`s cannot!

*This may suggest...

- * What is considered to be aversive to us is not to psychopaths.
- * Further studies involving competing goals, indicate that psychopaths perform poorly, meaning that once they are trying for reward they have difficulty in paying attention to anything else, particularly risks.
- * Newman, Patterson & Kosson (1987) found that unlike others, psychopaths are unable to make allowances for increasing probabilities of losing, hence they then lose!
- * These test results have also been linked to under socialisation and poor social performance.
- * Even in the hospital environment they are more verbally aggressive, more threatening and less likely to follow rules. This non conformity of breaking social rules and lack of remorse (failure to learn) is typical of psychopaths.

* A biological basis?

- * Psychopaths do demonstrate characteristic physiological responses such as reduced fear in anticipation of pain/punishment, which leads to suggestion that they have an inability to experience fear anxiety and a heightened ability to maintain control in an anxiety provoking situation.

- * `Our findings appear to be the first to provide evidence for a neurodevelopmental brain abnormality in those with antisocial personality disorder and psychopathy, and support the hypothesis that early mal-development of limbic and septal structures predisposes to the spectrum of antisocial behaviours` Raine, Lee, Yang & Colletti (2010).
- * Those with CSP (Cavum septum pellucidum) had significantly higher levels of antisocial personality, psychopathy, arrests and convictions compared with controls.

* Neurodevelopmental disorders.

- * Converging evidence suggests that the short allele of the serotonin transporter gene increases risk for a variety of psychological disorders, including depression, anxiety, and alcoholism.
- * Findings associated with the long allele of the serotonin transporter gene share striking similarities with findings from studies of psychopathy. The long/long genotype may be a potential risk factor for the development of psychopathic traits (Glenn, 2011).
- * "YOUR ENVIRONMENT CAN PLAY A ROLE IN WHICH GENES ARE TURNED ON OR OFF." Jim Fallon (2014).

* The MAO-A hypothesis

- * Monoamine oxidase A gene (MAOA) has earned the nickname “warrior gene” because it has been linked to aggression in observational and survey-based studies.
- * The MAOA gene codes for the enzyme monoamine oxidase A that plays a key role in the metabolism of neurotransmitters, including dopamine, norepinephrine, and serotonin.
- * Studies with mice found that MAOA pups were more aggressive than their normal counterparts.
- * A Dutch family with a repeated incidence of violent criminal behaviour among males across several generations was also found to have an abnormality in MAOA. (Brunner, Nelen, Breakefield, Ropers, van Oost, 1993).
- * Recent neuroimaging demonstrates that during emotional arousal, MAOA-L men show greater reactivity in the amygdala and lower activity in the regulatory prefrontal areas. Such work suggests the emotional and cognitive channels that link MAOA-L to impulsive forms of aggression.
- * Moreover, a functional polymorphism in the MAOA gene can mediate the impact of traumatic early life events on the propensity to engage in violence as an adult. Specifically, children who had suffered abuse and who had the low activity form of MAOA were much more likely to develop antisocial problems as adults (Caspi et al., 2002).

* The MAO-A hypothesis

*Interaction model:

- * Obviously, psychopathy is a complex interaction between nature and nurture.
- * Evidence supports the idea that genetics contribute to brain function and basic personality, which in turn affects how the individual responds to and interacts with the environment.
- * Their biology provides a poor basis for socialisation and conscience.
- * Whilst poor parenting and adverse environments do not cause psychopathy, they do influence how the disorder develops and is expressed.
- * Raine et al.(2010) found a cross-sectional relationship between maternal and paternal bonding, childhood physical abuse and psychopathic personality at age 28 years.

* Sam Brown was a top CEO, with a net worth of 10 million dollars. He lived in an affluent and non violent environment. As he was leaving his home one morning, Anthony Lake jumped, kidnapped and wounded him, put him in a van and drove away. Brown died within days, and in agony, but Lake victimised the family for several months, with ransom calls, notes etc.; three months later Brown`s body was found in a shallow grave.

*** When the stalker is a psychopath
(Smith, O`Toole & Hare (2012))**

* Why do we think Lake was a psychopath?

- * Victim is a target, possession, a form of retribution, revenge.
- * Evidence of careful planning, pre meditated and goal directed.
- * The high risk of media attention, and money taking.
- * The excitement of the FBI attention.
- * The treatment of Brown, no empathy.

* John Gacy, Charles Sobhrajit, Jeff McDonald, Gary Tison, Kenneth Bianchi, Richard Ramirez, Diane Downs, Ted Bundy, Clifford Olson, Joe Hunt, William Bradford Huie, Ken McElroy, Colin Pitchfork, Kenneth Taylor, Constantine Paspalakis & Deidre Hunt.

* **Examples of psychopathic individuals:**

* Do individuals grow out of psychopathy?

- * The offending level is high until they reach 40`s then it declines.
- * Why?
- * The drop is even sharper in non violent offenders.
- * But, not all give it up, some continue.
- * A decrease in criminality does not mean a change in personality...

*Young psychopaths

- * Most parents of children who go onto develop psychopathy know that there is something wrong before the child even starts school.
- * In adolescents there is no specific category in DSM5, the closest is `conduct disorder` and certainly one sub category is almost identical to the items on the PCL-R.

*Some early signs:

- * Repetitive casual and thoughtless lying
- * Indifference to, or inability to understand the feelings, expectations or pain of others
- * Defiance of parents, teachers and rules
- * Continually in trouble and unresponsive to reprimands, threats of punishment
- * Petty theft from parents and friends
- * Aggression, bullying and fighting
- * Unremitting truancy, staying out late, absences from home
- * Hurting or killing animals
- * Early experimentation with sex
- * Vandalism and fire setting

*Some examples:

- * Teenage boy in Colorado waits patiently whilst two friends hack and hammer his mother to death.
- * Florida police try to determine if a 5 year old knew the consequences when he threw a 3 year old off a 5th floor stairwell.
- * Kansas city police are baffled by 12 year old who kills younger sister and mother over birthday party plans.
- * 11year old from affluent area shoots 10 year old when he doesn't leave her garden.
- * 4 year old kills twin baby brothers by throwing them on the floor when one accidentally scratches her whilst playing.

- * Suggested that many CEO`s have psychopathic traits such as:
- * Excellent manipulative skills.
- * Excellent at progressing through the ranks at the expense of colleagues.
- * Poor actual performers.
- * Blame others for own poor performance.
- * [BBC documentary](#)

* **Documentary on BBC4**

* So, does psychopathy exist or not?

- * It is certainly difficult to define, some argue that is simply a concept used for legal and medical purposes?
- * Grounds (1987) objects to the concept of psychopathy, claiming that it has no explanatory, descriptive, prognostic or therapeutic function. It is a label for offenders with a group of abnormalities to help the psychiatrist negotiate the court.
- * The concept of psychopathy is that they are dangerous, antisocial people committing violent offences and their diagnosis is based on this behaviour.
- * There are no medical biological or psychological criteria distinguishing them from other offenders!
- * Even the Home Office accepts that psychopathic disorder isn't a single clinical disorder just a convenient label...

* Can anything be done?

- * Why does nothing appear to work?
- * Psychopaths do not think anything is wrong, there is no reason to change. They will not seek help.
- * They are not fragile, they have rock solid personalities, resistant to outside information.
- * As youngsters, they are often protected from the consequences of their actions by family and friends so their behaviour goes unchecked.
- * In therapy they will go through the motions and can dominate group therapy.
- * Therapy equips them with better skills and it may even be detrimental...

- * How do you think research into psychopathy could influence society?
- * Change in prisons?
- * Ways of testing for psychopathy?
- * Treatable disorder?
- * Increase sentences - execution?

* Applications to the
real world?

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