

Greg - Here are some fancies of mine concerning what is so blithely termed a psychopath. I believe their lovelessness is some how important.

"Living without an "echo chamber of the emotions" eliminates the reflected emotional reverberations, which form the guiding support and "glue" of conceptual activities. The absence of this emotional background activity, or disruptions and distortions in it, produce strained, approximate, situation bound reasoning to fill the gap. Sensations alone demand fulfillment. Intellect directs the individual's efforts to satisfy the sensation seeking demands.

The object chosen are frequently other people, substances, fast vehicles, or any other means of increasing pleasurable sensations. Rationalization is a way of life for the psychopath (Wallace 2001). The gulf between the emotions that psychopaths experience and those of other people, with whom the psychopath interacts, remains an unbridgeable chasm. A healthy person sees the psychopath as " just not getting it", i.e., the sense of the emotions involved in interactions."

Wallace, J. L., (2001). "A Clinicians Guide to Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory Interpretation" Ex Libris.

From: <

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Subject: Emailing: uosc-usf031004 Date: 12 March, 2004 00:29

USC study hinds faulty wiring in psychopaths

Public release date: 10-Mar-2004

University of Southern California

USC study finds faulty wiring in psychopaths.

Psychopaths have physical abnormalities in two key brain structures responsible for functions ranging from fear detection to information processing, a USC clinical neuroscientist has found in two studies that suggest a neuro-developmental basis to the disorder.

Adrian Raine, a professor of psychology and neuroscience in the USC College of Letters, Arts & Sciences, focused his research on two parts of the brain: the hippocampus, a portion of the temporal lobe that regulates aggression and transfers information into memory and the corpus callosum, which is a bridge of nerve fibers that connects the

cerebral hemispheres.

"Scientists have implicated different brain regions with respect to antisocial and aggressive behavior, and all are important and relevant," Raine said.

"But it goes beyond that to the wiring. Unless these parts of the brain are properly wired together, they'll never communicate effectively. They'll never result in appropriate behavior," he said.

Although the neurobiological roots of psychopathy are still being explored, the key behavioral features of a psychopath have been clearly defined.

Psychopaths' criminal tendencies are typically coupled with a lack of inhibitions, emotions and a conscience.

"We don't do bad things because we will feel bad about it," Raine said. "Psychopaths don't have those feelings - they do not have a conscience. That means they can be callous and manipulative. They don't care about other people. If they can get what they want from life by hurting other people, they'll do it."

That lack of emotions often means that psychopaths don't bond with other people in a normal way.

"Friendship does not mean the same thing to them. They'll use the word love a lot, but they really don't know what love means. They've never properly experienced it," he said.

But while psychopaths may be cold on the inside, they often can appear to be warm and endearing on the outside - a tool used to lure people in to manipulate them.

"They are glib. They use words well and can be charming. That lures people into their devious net," Raine said. "Psychopaths can be the life of the party for a few minutes or a few hours, and it can actually be a wonderful experience brushing shoulders with them. It's when you get to know them in the long term that you begin to see that they are not what they appear to be."

To explore the physical roots to psychopathic behavior, Raine and his colleagues recruited 91 men from Los Angeles' temporary employment pool and gave them a battery of tests to assess cognitive ability, information processing skills and criminal history. They also were given MRIs, or brain scans.

In the study of the hippocampus, the research team expanded the scope of previous studies by comparing the brains of two groups for the first time: "successful" psychopaths - those who had committed crimes but had never been caught - and "unsuccessful" psychopaths - those who had been caught.

The hippocampus plays a critical role in regulating aggression and in learning which situations one should be afraid of - a process called contextual fear conditioning.

With psychopaths, contextual fear conditioning plays a part in learning the concept of what to do and what not to do, Raine said. It has been theorized that the disruption of the circuit linking the hippocampus with the prefrontal cortex could contribute to the impulsiveness, lack of control and emotional abnormalities observed in psychopaths.

"It is learning what is right and what is wrong in a certain situation," he said.

He tested the theory that psychopaths with hippocampal impairments could become insensitive to cues that predicted punishment and capture. As a result, he said, these "impaired" psychopaths were more likely to be apprehended than psychopaths without that deficit.

Fewer than half of both the control subjects and the "successful" psychopaths had an asymmetrical hippocampus.

Ninety-four percent of the unsuccessful psychopaths had that same abnormality, with the right side of the hippocampus larger than the left.

Raine said the results suggest, but don't prove, a neuro-developmental root for psychopathy.

"Abnormal brain development in early life may cause the structural brain abnormalities that result in psychopathy," he said.

These findings were bolstered by the results of the second study, which focused on the corpus callosum.

The corpus callosum is a bundle of nerve fibers that connects the two hemispheres of the brain, enabling them to work together to process information and regulate autonomic function. Raine explored its role in psychopathy for the first time.

"There's faulty wiring going on in psychopaths. They're wired differently than other people," Raine said. "In a way, it's literally true in this case."

He found that the psychopaths' corpus callosums were an average of 23 percent larger and 7 percent longer than the control groups'.

"The corpus callosum is bigger, but it's also thinner. That suggests that it developed abnormally," Raine said.

The rate that the psychopaths transmitted information from one hemisphere to the other through the corpus callosum also was abnormally high, Raine said.

But that didn't mean things worked better.

With an increased corpus callosum came less remorse, fewer emotions and less social connectedness - the classic hallmarks of a psychopath, he said.

"These people don't react. They don't care," Raine said. "Why that occurs, we don't fully know, but we are beginning to get important clues from neuro-imaging research."

Raine's colleagues on the studies were from institutions including USC, Hillside Hospital in Glen Oaks and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's Goddards Institute for Space Studies.

The hippocampus and corpus callosum studies were published in the journals Biological Psychiatry (January 2004) and Archives of General Psychiatry (November 2003), respectively.

From the University of Southern California News Service, 3620 South Vermont Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90089-2538, Tel: 213-740-2215, Fax: 213-740-7600, <http://www.usc.edu>.

Greg Shannon wrote:

Not at all sure that Enron Execs or other high profile criminals are psychopaths, Joe. Remember only 25% (approximately) of prison population is estimated to be psychopaths and there is much in the nature of the

Tyler, pardon me if i cut and paste a little... psychopathy occurs in approximately one percent of United States adult males (Hare, 1993), psychopaths make up an estimated 30-35% of the State and Federal prison

populations, account for as much as 80% of violent crimes... .... and may be responsible for the deaths of approximately 50% of law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty (Hare, 1996).

Psychopaths were found to exhibit violent recidivism at a rate three times higher than non-psychopathic parolees (Harris, Rice & Cormier, 1991). Also alarming are the life-long persistence of Psychopathy (Harris, et. al., 1991) and the well documented failure of modern treatment modalities.....

Many psychopaths never come to the attention of psychologists or the courts. They operate just at the edge of the law, and cross over only when the likelihood of getting apprehended is very low.

Not all psychopaths are overtly violent and stupid, and hence do not draw attention to themselves. Consider the bad eggs of Enron and other corporate criminals. Greedy, self-serving behavior wouldn't necessarily meet the criteria for psychopathy...

One would expect that Factor 1 would be higher for those folks that never get arrested, and Factor 2 would not likely go high enough to hit a 30 on the total ...

Makes sense, but does that predict chronic criminality perfectly or explain why many of those folks likely adapt in functional and pro-social (or not criminal) ways? Tyler

even chronic criminality is not psychopathy...my point is that we need to identify the children to develop better interventions.

implicit in the C/U vs..s I/CP distinction is that the bio markers of adult psychopathy are present in the children identified as C/U

It appears that the C/U children move toward psychopathy and the I/CP children into the APD category (if they don't "out-grow" their conduct problems).

Joe...

I haven't surfed in about 20 years. UH Hamilton Library just re-opened yesterday. This past Halloween Manoa valley flooded...filled up the entire basement and the first floor of the Library was under 5 feet of water...what a mess...

not sure what markers you have in mind exactly, but Hare has done lots of stuff on language, hand motions (beats), dichotic listening, heart

rates, galvanic skin response...

5-HIAA, serotonin...amygdale volumes....and on and on...  
a hui hou, greg

Joe

PS Greg, I lived in Hawaii (UH undergrad) for over ten years back in my youth. Surf's up! :-)

-----Original Message----- From: law and psychology discussion list  
[mailto:PSYLAW-L@LISTSERV.UNL.EDU] On Behalf Of Greg Shannon Sent:  
Wednesday, March 30, 2005 12:53 AM To: [PSYLAW-L@LISTSERV.UNL.EDU](mailto:PSYLAW-L@LISTSERV.UNL.EDU)  
Subject: prodromal psychopathy

Aloha Dr. McIntyre,

Frick is right; and (IMHO) has been on the right track for years. Byron Egeland at U Minnesota has a longitudinal study from the 70's...subjects are now almost 30 y.o. Last I heard, he had arrest records up to age 21, and continuing to follow/collect data. that will be good stuff...

Rather than "fledgling psychopath", I would like to suggest the term "prodromal psychopathy", to describe the children who do not yet meet the criteria for psychopathy.

Otto Kernberg has a useful concept concerning personality structure and etiology of same. One might argue that the formation of the personality structure it is a process underlying Attachment; or rather personality is the crystallization of attachment, as crystallized intelligence might be viewed as a function of experience. Temperament was found not to influence the quality of infant attachment, but rather the expression of the attachment (the cite escapes me-available on request). The internal working model of the external environment is created by the infant. The ambiance of this internal model influences the creation of hardwiring during the fastest growth period of the human brain. Just as other personality disorders that arise in childhood, and persist across the decades, psychopathy historically has been essentially intractable to treatment. Most Conduct Disorder children will grow up to become responsible adults. Some who did not squander their educational opportunities will become policemen, lawyers, doctors and psychologists. While most psychopaths will meet the criteria of APD, most APD will not meet the criteria of psychopathy. There is a difference. The CD children

that grow up to be APD are different from the CD children who grow up to be psychopaths. A growing body of literature is looking at the Callous/Unemotional(CU) child and how he is different from the Impulsive/Conduct Problem

(I/CP) child (Frick, et al, 1994). There appear to be neurological and biological differences; galvanic skin response, language processing, and response preservation among others. These are analogous to the features and studies that are done on adult psychopath and non-psychopath populations. As mentioned here on this list recently, discerning adolescent developmental phases from personality disorder is difficult for clinicians, but there is a difference.

".recent developments indicate that the PLC: YV has much the same factor structure as the PCL-R" (Hare, 2003, p. 80).

Frick, P.J., O'Brien, B.S., Wootton, J.M., & McBurnett, K. (1994). Psychopathy and conduct problems in children. *Journal of Abnormal Psychology*, 103 (4), 700-707.

Forth, A.E., Kosson, D., & Hare, R.D. (in press/2003). *Hare Psychopathy Checklist: Youth Version (PCL: YV)*. Toronto, ON: Multi-Health Systems.

Hare, R.D. (2003) *Hare psychopathy checklist-revised, 2nd Edition, technical manual*. Toronto Ontario: Multi-Health Systems.

Best wishes, Greg Shannon

From: Robert McIntyre <[robert.mcintyre4@GTE.NET](mailto:robert.mcintyre4@GTE.NET)> Reply-To: law and psychology discussion list <[PSYLAW-L@LISTSERV.UNL.EDU](mailto:PSYLAW-L@LISTSERV.UNL.EDU)> To: [PSYLAW-L@LISTSERV.UNL.EDU](mailto:PSYLAW-L@LISTSERV.UNL.EDU) Subject: Re: APA General Counsel's response to Justice Scalia's - personality (not Scalia Date: Tue, 29 Mar 2005 22:14:31 -0700

So Joe, pertinent to your question but possibly not exactly on point, here's what I recently learned at forensic psychology school.

During his day long presentation titled Developmental Pathways to Severe Antisocial & Aggressive Behavior at AAFP-LaJolla on 3-4-05, University of New Orleans developmental psychologist, Paul Frick, presented his research and the related research of others on this topic. Toward the end of the day the inevitable question was raised, i.e., does Frick et al's research establish how psychopaths develop from infancy to adulthood?

Frick's answer was: NO.

Frick then went on to say that the links between factors identified as contributing to child / adolescent antisocial conduct and adult psychopathy are only conceptual, and that to his knowledge the studies have yet to be completed with respect to actually following the research cohorts into adulthood and finding out if these same factors contributing to childhood and adolescent antisocial behavior also result in adult psychopathy.

Bob

Robert McIntyre, Ph.D., Boulder, CO

----- Original Message ----- From: "Joe W Dixon" <[jwdixon@NC.RR.COM](mailto:jwdixon@NC.RR.COM)> To: <[PSYLAW-L@LISTSERV.UNL.EDU](mailto:PSYLAW-L@LISTSERV.UNL.EDU)> Sent: Tuesday, March 29, 2005 7:46 PM Subject: Re: APA General Counsel's response to Justice Scalia's - personality (not Scalia

Tyler and Joel,

Astute points well made, as usual. How do you see the work of R. Hare, and his idea that psychopaths are indeed born (biogenetic)? If true, then perhaps the adaptation of the PCL-R for kids, PCL-YV, either is accurate in identifying these personality types, or with more work, could be fine tuned for better discriminate ability.

IOW, given the publication of the PCL-YV, is that not a statement that we already posses the technology to accurately ID psychopathic persons while they are adolescents? If the latter is true, I feel better about my impressions rendered that some of the little folks I have examined are indeed "bad seeds."

Anyone herein used the PCL-YV and want to venture an opinion on it? Tnx.

Best, Joe

-----Original Message----- From: law and psychology discussion list [mailto:[PSYLAW-L@LISTSERV.UNL.EDU](mailto:PSYLAW-L@LISTSERV.UNL.EDU)] On Behalf Of Tyler Carpenter Sent: Tuesday, March 29, 2005 6:15 AM To: [PSYLAW-L@LISTSERV.UNL.EDU](mailto:PSYLAW-L@LISTSERV.UNL.EDU) Subject: Re: APA General Counsel's response to Justice Scalia's - personality (not Scalia

Although it has been some time since I followed personality research more closely, it seems to me that what we refer to as personality is an amalgam of a variety of things and that it not only grows out of



temperament and genetics - meaning aspects likely to be turned "on" and "off" by environment

(e.g., extraversion has the greatest heritability of what was studied in the Minnesota Twin studies if I remember correctly), but famously expresses itself across or only in certain contexts (remember the old trait vs. context debates of the 70s). When I think about the chronic criminals I work with this propensity to being problematic and violent often is modulated by h/o trauma, TBI, prison/anti-social subculture, substance abuse, hyperactivity/learning disabilities, absence of graduated structured environments, etc.

One way of thinking about how dynamic vs. static factors play into the equation is by considering how a static factor like age of or number of crimes before a certain age, raises the likelihood that a person had correlated birth complications and separation from his/her primary caregiver at an early age (increasing likelihood of violent acting out) and hence less likely to have education, socio-economic resources, education (e.g., "protective factors"). When the dice is loaded this way it increases/decreases the probability that a person has co-morbid dynamic factors like substance abuse, etc. Laub and Sampson point out in "Shared Beginnings, Divergent Lives: Delinquent Boys to Age 70" (2003). Harvard U. Press, (p.16) the continuity of offending from childhood to adolescence and adolescence and from adolescence to adulthood "with the earlier the onset of criminal activity, the longer the criminal career" is one of the fundamentals that "any reasonable theory of persistence and desistance from crime must address".

It seems to me that what we have in psychopathy is a constellation of factors which influence the trajectory toward crime and when murder is committed at an early age there are often a confluence of these factors associated with persistent offending. The death penalty in this context reflects the social impulse to eliminate what is probably persistent (criminality) and what we in the broad sense have not been famous for successfully treating. A sad, but thoughtful and somewhat optimistic look at the life of a young girl who killed at an early age, was placed in the English criminal justice system, and seems to have emerged pretty well

(has a child) is "Cries Unheard: The Story of Mary Bell" by the reporter Gita Sereny (think I got that right). Tyler

From: [JoeltheD@AOL.COM](mailto:JoeltheD@AOL.COM) Reply-To: law and psychology discussion list <[PSYLAW-L@LISTSERV.UNL.EDU](mailto:PSYLAW-L@LISTSERV.UNL.EDU)> To: [PSYLAW-L@LISTSERV.UNL.EDU](mailto:PSYLAW-L@LISTSERV.UNL.EDU) Subject:

Re:

APA General Counsel's response to Justice Scalia's Date: Mon, 28 Mar

2005 23:50:47 EST

In a message dated 3/28/2005 4:03:51 PM US Mountain Standard Time, [jwdixon@NC.RR.COM](mailto:jwdixon@NC.RR.COM) writes: Me, too, regards multiple decades of clinical dx and tx experience with adolescents and adults of the criminal persuasion.

I am intrigued by what you say (above). What of the literature, not to mention my experiences, that argues to the contrary of your opinion, i.e., that personality traits are largely formed by late childhood; and, also of considerable importance, the more recent data suggesting for a bio-genetic basis for personality per se? If the later is true, then genotypic personality traits are present at birth, and arguably manifest phenotypically certainly by late childhood and early adolescence. Bear in mind that late childhood and adolescence per se are rather new conventions appearing in modern society in only the past century or so.

This is interesting, and I look forward to your comments. Thanks.

Joe This is an interesting question, And there are lots of people who know more about personality research than I do, so I hope that they will chime in. The research to which I referred (Steinberg, Cauffman, Steiner, Elliot, etc.) is quite clear in asserting that many, many kids act like psychopaths during developmental stages, largely determined by their peer influences. Some of these kids were good kids and some of them will turn out to be good adults. The question is our ability to identify which is which.

As for the notion that personality is formed quite early, I think that lots of kids act very differently during adolescence than they did before and/or after, so it is possible that both points of view could be correct.

I must admit, despite my respect for the work of Adele Forth, her effort to identify "fledgling psychopaths" scares me. While it is true that a small number of kids account for a large number of offenses, only some of them carry these behaviors into adulthood, and again there is no way that I know of to know which are which.

As for the bio-genetic bases for behavior and personality, it's a shame that Carl Osbourn is no longer on the list. He taught me a lot about this issue on the list. In response to your question, I guess I would say that even if we are variably loaded for the risk of violent or criminal behavior due to our neurological, biological, or genetic make-up, that still doesn't mean that psychologists have the ability to assess such biological loading.

(I hope that made sense.)

Finally, even if we are differentially loaded for risk biologically, it does not mean that lifestyle, parenting, peer influence, etc. will not affect which of us manifest the "loaded" trait. Generally, I believe that nature and nurture are independently and interactively influential in determining the course of our lives, but that debate won't end any time soon.

Thanks. Those were very good questions.

Joel

Joel A. Dvoskin, Ph.D., ABPP Diplomate in Forensic Psychology University of Arizona College of Medicine

J. Tyler Carpenter, Ph.D., ABPP (Clinical)

John L. Wallace, Ph.D.

"Always forgive your enemies, nothing annoys them so much". Oscar Wilde

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