

PSYCHOPATHY

IS THERE A PSYCHOPATH LIVING NEXT DOOR TO YOU?

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Clockwise, from top left: Charles Manson, Ted Bundy, John Wayne Gacy, Karla Homolka, Paul Bernardo and Aileen Wuornos
Credits clockwise from top left: Bettman/Corbis (3); AP photo/CP; AP Photo/CP, Toronto Sun, Greig Reekie; Florida Department of Corrections

- **“Psychopathy is a personality disorder defined by a distinctive cluster of behaviors and inferred personality traits, most of which society views as pejorative.”** Robert Hare, *Without Conscience*

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STATISTICS

FROM “WITHOUT CONSCIENCE” BY ROBERT HARE, PH.D.

In North America, there are at least 2 million psychopaths; in New York City, that number is perhaps over 100,000.

- **In North America, psychopaths are approximately:**
 - 1% of general population
 - 15-18% of prison population
 - 90% are male
 - 4% of corporate world
- **Of prison population, psychopaths are 3X more likely to reoffend and 4X more likely to violently reoffend.**

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WHO ARE THE PSYCHOPATHS?

- Serial killers, thieves, rapists, swindlers, con men, wife beaters, white collar criminals, hype-prone stock promoters, child abusers, gang members, disbarred lawyers, drug barons, professional gamblers, members of organized crime, doctors who've lost their licenses, terrorists, cult leaders, mercenaries, and unscrupulous business people.

Differences between mild and severe psychopaths:

- Mild psychopaths are less aggressive and more anxious and guilt-ridden than severe ones.
- Mild psychopathy has more benign course and better prognosis.

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HISTORY OF PSYCHOPATHY

- Term coined in mid to late 1800's from the Greek *psykhe* and *pathos*, meaning sick mind or suffering soul.
- Philippe Pinel (1745-1826) founding father of modern psychiatry
 - Mania sans délir, insanity without delirium – term was used to describe individuals with no intellectual problems, but showed profound deficit in behavior.
 - Behavior marked by cruelty, antisocial acts, alcohol & drug use, irresponsibility, & immoral acts
 - Pattern of behavior marked by utter remorselessness and complete lack of restraint
 - He was first to describe type of insanity that did not occur with confusion of mind & intellect.
- Benjamin Rush (1745-1813) father of American psychiatry
 - Argued that the moral faculty, like the intellectual faculty, was susceptible to brain damage.
 - Insisted this be included in realm of medicine

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HISTORY CON'T

- **James Prichard (1786-1848)** – *Treatise on Insanity and Other Disorders Affecting the Mind* , 1835
 - First to propose term “moral insanity” – broad term that encompassed all mental illness except schizophrenia and mental retardation
- **Henry Maudsley (1835-1918)**
 - *As there are certain persons who cannot distinguish certain colours, having what is called colour blindness, and others who, having no ear for music, cannot distinguish one tune from another, so there are some few who are congenitally deprived of moral sense. (p. 58)*

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HISTORY CON'T

- **J.L.A. Koch (1841-1908)** – German psychiatrist
 - Coined term *psychopathische* or psychopath in response to the controversy of term “moral insanity”
 - First to insist that thorough evaluation of individual’s life history & behaviors necessary to make diagnosis of psychopathy
- **By the 1920’s**, people were using term psychopath to include individuals deemed weak-willed, depressed, excessively shy, or insecure.
 - Led to legal arguments on competency

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HERVEY CLECKLEY (1903-1984) FATHER OF PSYCHOPATHY

- Changed the face of psychopathy research when he published *The Mask of Sanity* in 1941.
- *Non teneas aurum totum quod splendet ut aurum.* ALANUS DE INSULIS Do not take as gold everything that shines as gold.
- “It is a different kind of abnormality from all those now recognized as seriously impairing competency...The first and most striking difference is this:...The observer is confronted with a convincing mask of sanity. All the outward features of this mask are intact.”

• From Cleckley, H. 5th Edition of *The Mask of Sanity*. 1976, p. 6.

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From chaos shaped, the Bios grows.
In bone And viscus broods the Id.
And who can say Whence Eros comes?
Or chart his troubled way?
Nor bearded sage, nor science, yet has shown
How truth or love, when met, is straightly known;
Some phrases singing in our dust today
Have taunted logic through man's Odyssey:
Yet, strangely, man sometimes will find his own.
And even man has felt the arcane flow
Whence brims unchanged the very Attic wine,
Where lives that mute and death-eclipsing glow
That held the Lacedaemonian battle line:
And this, I think, may make what man is choose
The doom of joy he knows he can but lose.

Cleckley, H. 5th Edition of *The Mask of Sanity*. 1976

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CLECKLEY, CON'T

- Cleckley called psychopaths “the forgotten man” of psychiatry.
 - Even repeat offenders did short stints in prisons
 - Were released from psychiatric hospitals because they were deemed diagnostically sane, displaying “a perfect mask of genuine sanity, a flawless surface indicative in every respect of robust mental health.”
 - Cleckley was ignored by the psychiatric community.
 - By the late 1960’s, the DSM replaced “psychopathic personality” with “antisocial personality disorder” which didn’t include the hallmark traits of callousness and lack of empathy.

Read pgs. 27-28 “Without Conscience”

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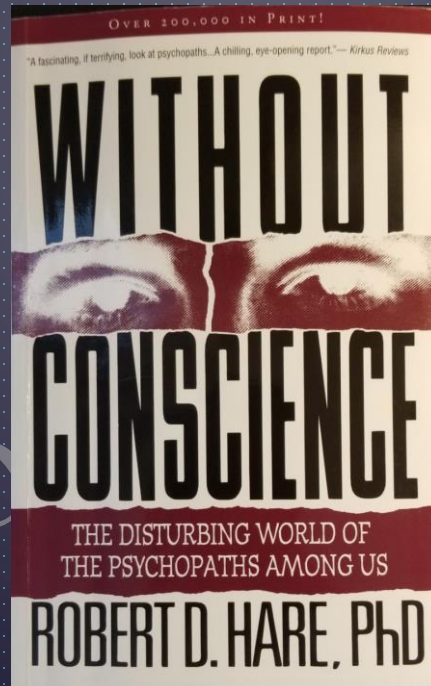
ROBERT HARE, PH.D. (1934 –)

ONE OF THE WORLD’S FOREMOST EXPERTS ON PSYCHOPATHY

- University of British Columbia – established psychopathy research lab and ran it for 30 yrs.
- Advises the FBI’s Child Abduction and Serial Murder Investigative Resources Center (CASMIRC) and consults for various British and North American prison services.
- Known as “Beagle Bob” by his inner circle for his tenacious ability to follow a scent.
- Developed clinical rating scale for assessment of psychopathy – Hare Psychopathy Checklist-Revised, PCL-R, 1991. (PCL first published 1980) – the gold standard diagnostic tool for psychopathy.
 - Includes almost all Cleckley’s criteria
 - To complete PCL-R, trained clinician must do a detailed semi-structured interview that lasts approx. 2 hrs PLUS a collateral file review. Files include police reports social worker assessments, details on family dynamics, employment history, education, relationships, childhood, adolescence, & criminal history.

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HOW WE DEFINE ABNORMAL

- **Behavior is dysfunctional when:**
 - it interferes with a person's ability to function on a daily basis.
 - it causes personal distress.
 - it deviates from established social norms.
 - it is statistically rare in occurrence.
- **Insanity** – *mental illness of such a severe nature that a person cannot distinguish fantasy from reality, cannot conduct her/his affairs due to psychosis, or is subject to uncontrollable impulsive behavior.*

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WHEN IS A PERSON MENTALLY ILL?

- **Diagnosis** – process of deciding whether symptoms meet established criteria for disease
- **Psychologists & psychiatrists use DSM-5** – *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, 5th Edition*
- **Although some still prefer to use DSM-IV-TR** – *Diagnostic & Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, 4th Edition, Text Revision*

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WHAT IS PSYCHOPATHY?

- **Psychopath? Sociopath? Antisocial Personality Disorder? Are they bad, sad, or mad?**
- **Are there psychopaths in everyday life?**
- **Robert Hare on psychopaths of everyday life:** “These individuals are every bit as egocentric, callous and manipulative as the average criminal psychopath; however, their intelligence, family background, social skills and circumstances permit them to construct a façade of normalcy and to get what they want with relative impunity.”

Without Conscience: the Disturbing World of the Psychopath

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SOCIOPATHY VS. PSYCHOPATHY

- Sociopathy introduced in 1930's – signified origin of psychopathic traits from social causes.
 - Too broad a diagnosis – every criminal met the diagnosis
 - Behaviorists believe that the human brain is a blank slate at birth.
 - All traits & processes are formed through social forces.
 - Sociopathy is a broad, heterogenous category of individuals who act antisocially.
- Psychopathy is a term grounded in biology and genetics.
 - Genetics and the physiology & biology of the brain, in concert with the environment, contribute to the construct of psychopathy.
- Unfortunately, the term *sociopathy* continues to be confused with the term *psychopathy*.

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Antisocial personality disorder: a pervasive pattern of disregard for and violation of the rights of others occurring since age 15 yrs, as indicated by 3 or more of the following:

1. Failure to conform to social norms with respect to lawful behaviors as indicated by repeatedly performing acts that are grounds for arrest.
2. Deceitfulness as indicated by repeated lying, use of aliases, or conning others for personal pleasure.
3. Impulsivity or failure to plan ahead.
4. Irritability or aggressiveness, as indicated by repeated physical fights or assaults.
5. Reckless disregard for safety of others
6. Consistent irresponsibility, as indicated by repeated failure to sustain consistent work behavior or honor financial obligations.

➤ Most psychopaths are diagnostically antisocial, but the majority of people with antisocial personality disorders are not psychopaths.

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Majority of psychopaths are not serial killers.

They are our neighbors.

And they are neighbors who show a perplexing and frightening theme in their lives: a deeply disturbing inability to care about the pain and suffering of others – a complete lack of empathy which is a prerequisite for love.

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CHARACTERISTICS OF PSYCHOPATHY

- Hallmark of psychopathy is a stunning lack of conscience.
- Psychopaths display a relative or absolute absence of anxiety and guilt and an inability to experience remorse.
- They have an incapacity for feeling empathy.
- They are not distorted or out of touch with reality.
- They do not experience hallucinations, delusions, or intense subjective distress that characterize most other mental disorders.
- They are rational and aware of their behavior, the result of choice.

BTK Killer

<https://youtu.be/BvWOje46Xp8>

(11:52)

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PSYCHOSIS VS. PSYCHOPATHY

- **Psychosis is a fragmentation of the mind, a thought disorder.**
 - Symptoms include hallucinations, delusions, and disordered thoughts
 - *A Beautiful Mind* – movie about Nobel Prize winning mathematician John Nash, portrayed by Russell Crowe
 - Disorders such as schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, major depression
- **Psychopaths typically exhibit no psychotic symptoms, have average to above average intelligence, demonstrate excellent social skills**

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BREAK!



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KEY SYMPTOMS OF PSYCHOPATHY

PSYCHOPATHY IS A SYNDROME – A CLUSTER OF SYMPTOMS
4 DIMENSIONS

Emotional & Interpersonal

- Glib and superficial
- Egocentric and grandiose
- Lack of remorse or guilt
- Lack of empathy
- Deceitful and manipulative
- Shallow emotions

Lifestyle & Antisocial behaviors

- Impulsive
- Poor behavioral controls
- Need for excitement
- Lack of responsibility
- Early behavior problems
- Adult antisocial behavior

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GLIB AND SUPERFICIAL

- Witty and articulate, entertaining conversationalists, and tell unlikely but convincing stories about themselves
- Very effective in presenting themselves and very likeable and charming
- Try to appear familiar with sociology, psychology, medicine, poetry, literature, law, etc.
- Speak quickly with lots of energy and interrupt often. They bombard their listeners with information.
- Most people come away really liking the individual.

It's not easy to tell whether or not an individual is being sincere or glib.

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EGOCENTRIC AND GRANDIOSE

- **Have a narcissistic and grossly inflated view of their self-worth, astounding egocentricity, see themselves as center of the universe**
- **Self-assured, opinionated, dominating and cocky**
- **Love power and control. Don't believe anyone else has a valid opinion**
- **Appear charismatic or electrifying to others**
- **Seldom embarrassed by their legal, financial, or personal problems. Rather see them as set backs, bad luck, unfairness**

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LACK OF REMORSE OR GUILT

- **Show total lack of concern for the devastating effects their actions have on others**
- **Kenneth Taylor, dentist who severely beat his wife on honeymoon, cheated on her, and later battered her to death: "I loved her so deeply. I miss her so much. What happened was a tragedy. I lost my best lover and my best friend....Why doesn't anybody understand what I've been going through?"**
- **Ted Bundy before his execution:**
 - “Whatever I've done in the past, you know – the emotions of omissions or commissions – doesn't bother me. Try to touch the past! Try to deal with the past. It's not real. It's just a dream!”
 - “Guilt? It's this mechanism we use to control people. It's an illusion. It's kind of a social control mechanism – and it's very unhealthy. It does terrible things to our bodies. And there are much better ways to control our behavior than that rather extraordinary use of guilt.”

From “Without Conscience” Robert Hare, Ph.D.

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LACK OF EMPATHY

- Show a profound lack of empathy – an inability to construct a mental and emotional facsimile of another person
- View people as objects to be used for their own gain or pleasure. The weak and the vulnerable are their favorite targets.
- Can torture and mutilate their victims with the same sense of concern that ordinary people feel when they cut up a turkey.
- Show a *general* lack of concern – same for family as for strangers

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DECEITFUL AND MANIPULATIVE

- Lying, deceiving and manipulation are special talents of the psychopath.
- When caught in a lie, they simply change their story or rework the facts.
- Proud of their ability to lie.

“I’m the best. I’m really good at it, I think because I sometimes admit to something bad about myself. They’d think, well, if she’s admitting to that she must be telling the truth about the rest...If they think some of what you say is true, they usually think it’s all true.” From “Without Conscience” Robert Hare, Ph.D.

- See the world as givers and takers, predators and prey. Not to exploit weaknesses of others is seen as foolish.
- Easy for them to commit fraud or embezzlement, promote phony stocks and worthless property.

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SHALLOW EMOTIONS

- Show an emotional poverty – unable to relate to real emotions
- Can exhibit dramatic, shallow, short-lived displays of feelings. Usually learned by watching others.
 - Equate love with sexual arousal, sadness with frustration, anger with irritability
- The psychopath “knows the words but not the music”.¹
- Perhaps experience “proto-emotions” – primitive responses to immediate needs.
- Lack physiological responses normally associated with fear. Normal people experience fear and apprehension as sweating, pounding heart, dry mouth, muscle tenseness or weakness, butterflies in stomach. Psychopaths do not.

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¹ JOHNS, J. H., & QUAY, H. C. The effect of social reward on verbal conditioning in psychopathic and neurotic military offenders. *Journal of Consulting Psychology*, 1962,26,217-220.

IMPULSIVE

- I did it because I felt like it”
- Aim is instant gratification – immediate satisfaction, pleasure, or relief – like an infant absorbed with its own needs
- Unable or unwilling to modify their desires
- Ignore needs of others
- Live for the moment in a day-to-day fashion

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POOR BEHAVIOR CONTROLS

- Inhibitory controls are weak
- Highly reactive to perceived insults or slights
- Short-tempered – respond to frustration, failure, discipline and criticism with sudden violence, threats and verbal abuse
- Outbursts are short-lived – resume acting as if nothing has happened
- **HOWEVER** they are not out of control. Rather they know exactly what they are doing. They see their aggressive behaviors as natural responses to provocation.
- “I keep myself in control. Like, I decide how much I want to hurt the guy.”

From “Without Conscience” Robert Hare, Ph.D.

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NEED FOR EXCITEMENT

- Have an ongoing and excessive need for excitement
- Inability to tolerate routine or monotony – easily bored
- Often move from place to place, job to job, seeking a fresh buzz
- Teenager who convinces his buddies to play chicken on railroad tracks

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LACK OF RESPONSIBILITY

- Irresponsible, unreliable, and untrustworthy
- Erratic job performance – frequent absences, misuse of company resources, violations of company policy.
- Don't honor formal or implied commitments to people, organizations, or principles
- Diane Downs, who murdered her daughter, and attempted to murder her other two children, often left her children, ages 15 months to 6 years, alone. Neighbors described children as hungry, emotionally starved, and generally neglected.
- See children as an inconvenience and are indifferent to their welfare

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EARLY BEHAVIOR PROBLEMS

- Persistent lying, cheating, theft, truancy, class disruption, substance abuse, vandalism, violence, running away, bullying, and precocious sexuality at an early age
- History of above behaviors more extensive and serious than that of most other young offenders
- Typical psychopathic child – one from an otherwise well-adjusted family who starts to steal, take drugs, cut school, and have sexual experiences by age 10 or 12.
- Early cruelty to animals always a sign of serious emotional or behavioral problems
- Adult psychopaths describe their torture of animals in a matter of fact way, e.g. : about a dog he shot: "I shot him in the ass and he cried and crawled around awhile and died."
- Cruelty to other children common

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ADULT ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOR

- See rules and expectations of society as unreasonable and inconvenient
- Early appearance of antisocial behaviors is a good predictor of adult behavioral problems and criminal activity.
- Even stand out in prison populations because their crimes are more varied and frequent than those of other criminals.
- Rap sheet can be over 25 pages long. One psychopath boasted about length of his rap sheet when compared to Charles Manson's. He said Manson "was only a killer."

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BREAK!



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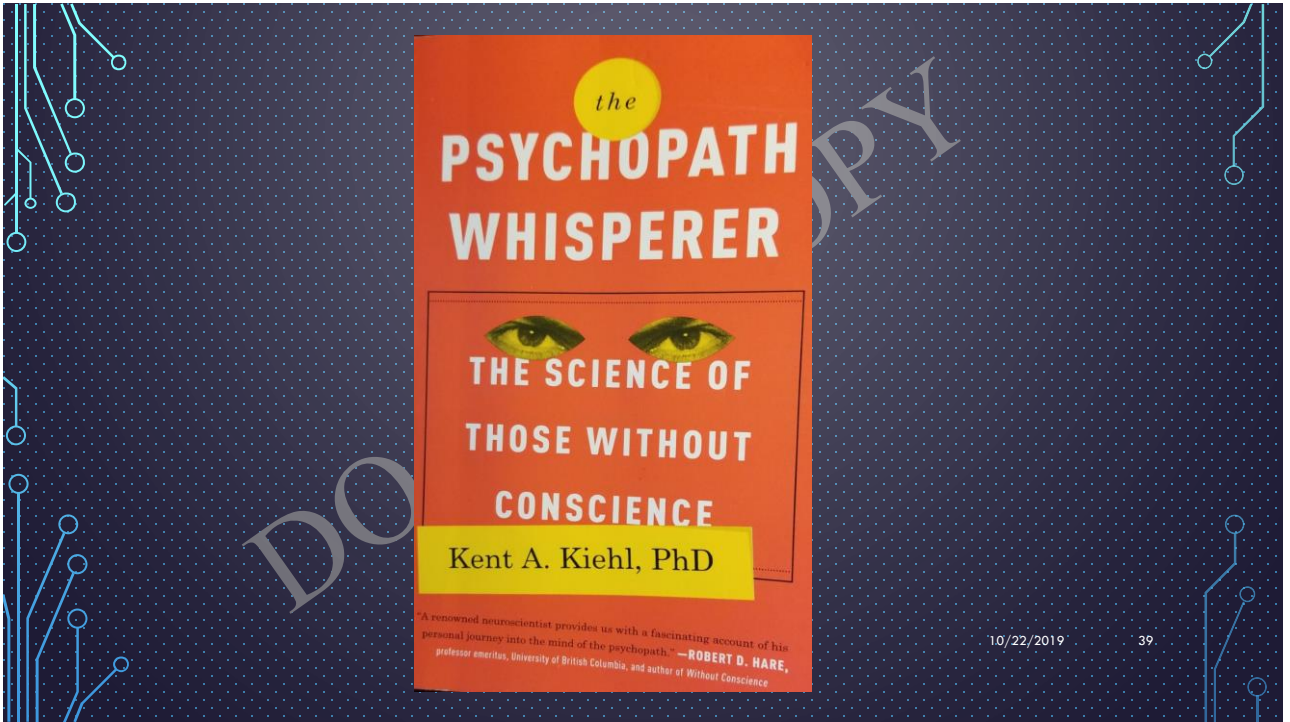
PSYCHOPATHY AND NEUROSCIENCE

Kent A. Kiehl, Ph.D.

- Student of Robert Hare, Ph.D., at UBC.
- Now one of the world's leading researchers on psychopathy.
- Created world's first mobile functional MRI scanner to be used in prisons.
- Identified key brain structures that are impaired in psychopaths.
- Scanned brains of more than 500 psychopaths and 3,000 other offenders.
- Father of the paralimbic dysfunction model of psychopathy

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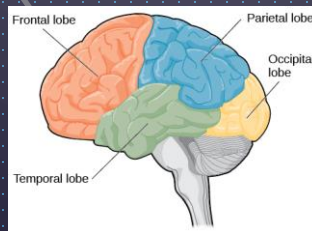


ERP – WHERE IT ALL BEGAN

- ERP – event related potential, 1 sec long, a recorded brain wave typically in response to a stimulus.
 - Early component, first 200 milliseconds, reflects sensory processing and attentional demands. A big early response means word or picture grabbed attention of subject or subject focused hard to study word or picture.
 - Middle component, 200-500 milliseconds after presentation of stimulus, reflect working memory, contextual updating, and motor processes needed to respond. Big middle response means more memory is being engaged.
 - Late component, 500-1000 milliseconds after presentation of stimulus, reflect evaluative processes in brain. Big late response means subject is really ruminating on what he/she saw.
- Negative peaks and positive peaks. Both are equally meaningful.
- Important ones are N1 and P3.

P3 RESPONSE

- **Amplitude (height) latency (duration) topography (shape)**
- **Complex waveform whose abnormalities are associated with most forms of mental illness.**
- **In schizophrenia, P3 reduced in height and duration over left temporal lobe.**
- **In depression, P3 reduced in height over frontal lobes.**
- **In short, P3 is a probe for how the brain is functioning. When P3 is distorted, something is wrong in the brain.**



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ODDBALL TASK

- **Subjects are presented with series of different tones, most of which are the same; however, occasionally a tone is presented at a higher pitch – the oddball or target. Subjects press button as fast as possible when they hear the oddball or target tone, but don't press button for any other tones.**
- **The target elicits a very specific, large, response at P3.**
- **Thousands of papers have been published on only the P3 response.**

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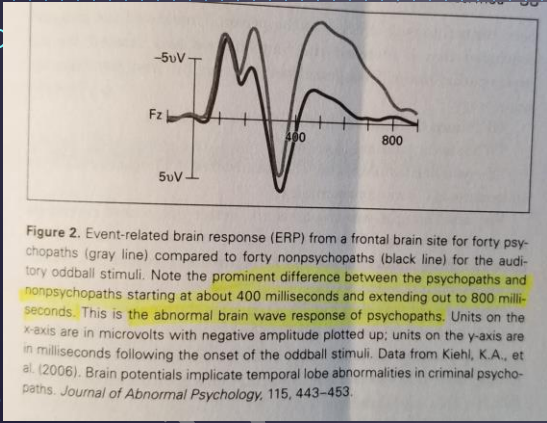


Figure 2. Event-related brain response (ERP) from a frontal brain site for forty psychopaths (gray line) compared to forty nonpsychopaths (black line) for the auditory oddball stimuli. Note the prominent difference between the psychopaths and nonpsychopaths starting at about 400 milliseconds and extending out to 800 milliseconds. This is the abnormal brain wave response of psychopaths. Units on the x-axis are in milliseconds following the onset of the oddball stimuli. Data from Kiehl, K.A., et al. (2006). Brain potentials implicate temporal lobe abnormalities in criminal psychopaths. *Journal of Abnormal Psychology*, 115, 443–453.

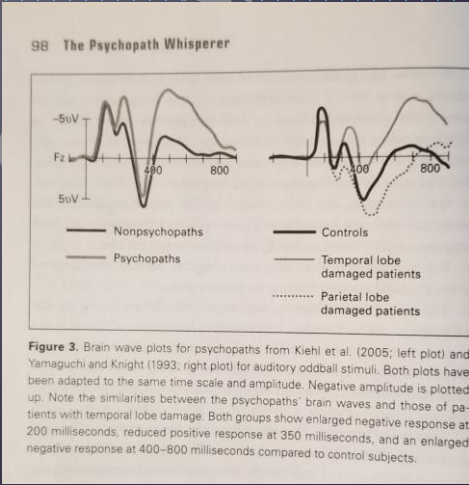


Figure 3. Brain wave plots for psychopaths from Kiehl et al. (2005; left plot) and Yamaguchi and Knight (1993; right plot) for auditory oddball stimuli. Both plots have been adapted to the same time scale and amplitude. Negative amplitude is plotted up. Note the similarities between the psychopaths' brain waves and those of patients with temporal lobe damage. Both groups show enlarged negative response at 200 milliseconds, reduced positive response at 350 milliseconds, and an enlarged negative response at 400–600 milliseconds compared to control subjects.

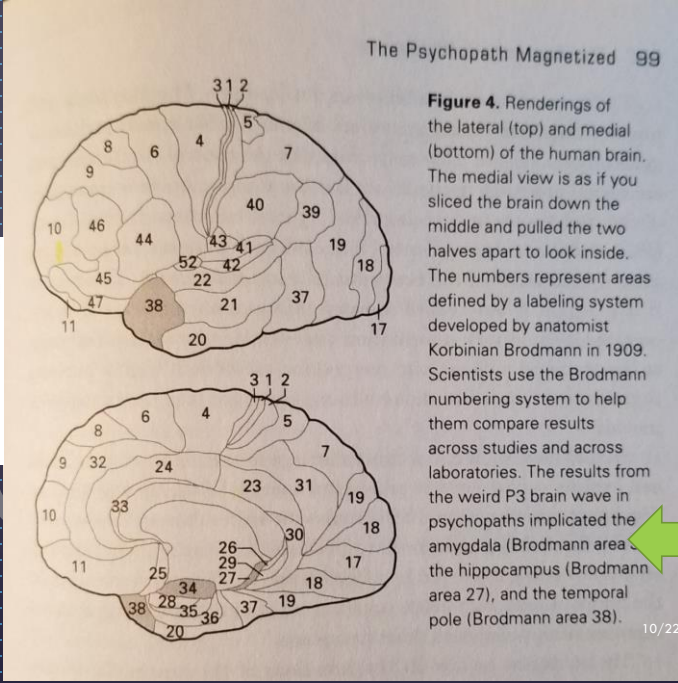
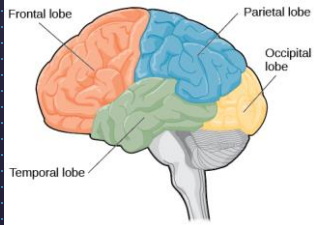


Figure 4. Renderings of the lateral (top) and medial (bottom) of the human brain. The medial view is as if you sliced the brain down the middle and pulled the two halves apart to look inside. The numbers represent areas defined by a labeling system developed by anatomist Korbinian Brodmann in 1909. Scientists use the Brodmann numbering system to help them compare results across studies and across laboratories. The results from the weird P3 brain wave in psychopaths implicated the amygdala (Brodmann area 27), and the temporal pole (Brodmann area 38).

1991 STUDY BY ROBERT HARE, PH.D., ET AL

Researchers flashed real and nonsense words in front of prisoners, some of whom were psychopaths. Told them to press button every time they recognized a real word.

- Words had positive (milk) and negative (scar) connotations as well as neutral (gate).
- Non psychopaths responded faster to emotionally charged words than to neutral, and their brain waves showed a surge.
- Psychopaths did not react faster to emotional words and their brain waves did not change.

Conclusion: Psychopaths do not catch emotional nuances of language.

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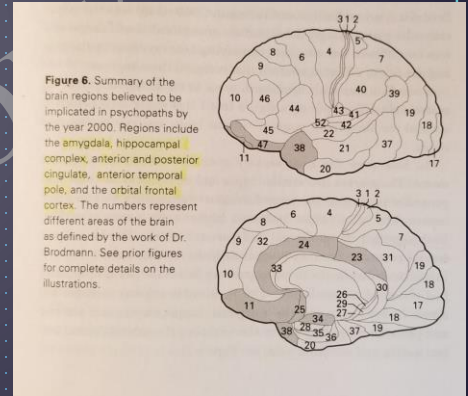
Psychopaths use words differently

- Psychopaths used more conjunctions like "because," "since" or "so that," implying that the crime "had to be done" to obtain a particular goal.
- They used twice as many words relating to physical needs, such as food, sex or money, while non-psychopaths used more words about social needs, including family, religion and spirituality.
- Psychopaths were more likely to use the past tense, suggesting a detachment from their crimes.
- They tended to be less fluent in their speech, using more "ums" and "uhs."

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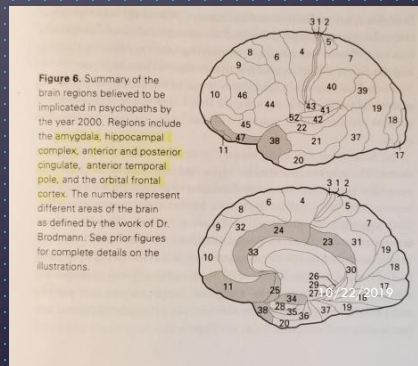
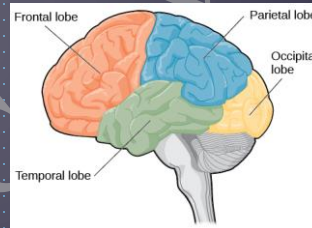
- Kiehl also conducted fMRI studies. Many focused on responses to neutral, *table, chair, lamp* vs. emotional words, *hate, kill, death*.
 - Psychopaths responded to emotional words exactly the same way they responded to emotional ones. Psychopaths' brains showed decreased activity in amygdala compared to normal brains.
- Kiehl also studied concrete words, *river, car, truck*, vs. abstract, *love, finite, piety*.
 - Psychopaths' brains processed abstract and concrete words the same way. Their brains did not respond differently to abstract vs. concrete words as normal brains did.
 - In normal brain, 175 milliseconds after abstract word is presented, brains starts to put abstract words on different processing pathway than concrete words.



PARALYMBIC DYSFUNCTION MODEL OF PSYCHOPATHY

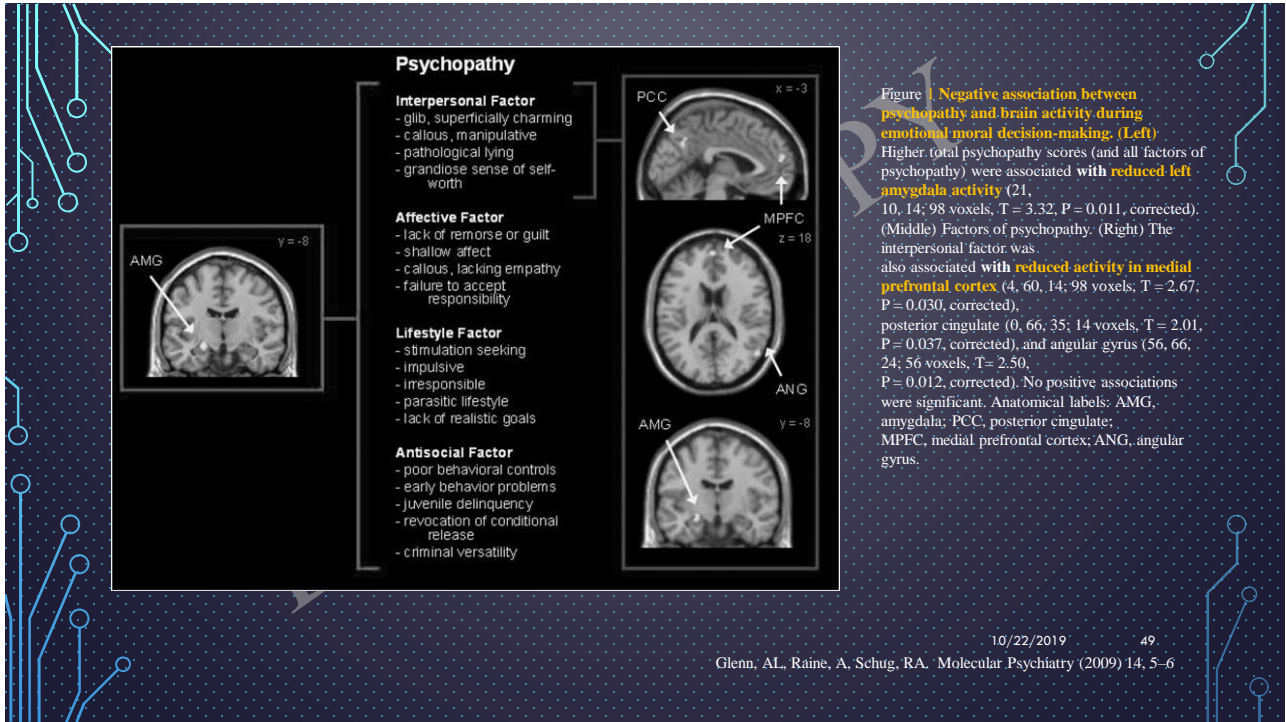
Paralymbic regions include:

- Classic limbic structures:
 - Amygdala
 - Hippocampus
 - Anterior & posterior cingulate
- As well as:
 - Orbital frontal cortex
 - Insula
 - Temporal pole



Dr. Mike Koenigs:

<https://youtu.be/rY0Z41TUSFg>



Structural MRI Results of Criminal Psychopaths

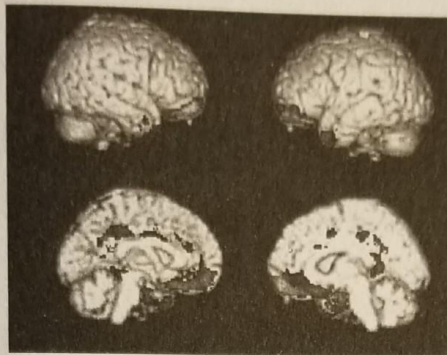


Figure 8. Results from the first structural MRI analyses of criminal psychopaths collected on the mobile MRI system. The shaded regions depict areas of the brain that are atrophied in adult male criminal psychopaths. The areas represent the majority of the paralimbic system of the brain (see note 3).

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Ermer, E, Cope, LM, Nyalakanti, PK, Calhoun, VD, & Kiehl, KA. (2012) Aberrant paralimbic gray matter in criminal psychopathy. *Journal of Abnormal Psychology* 121 (3) 649-658.

NEUROLOGICAL BASIS OF PSYCHOPATHY

- **Blair article**

- Blair, James R. *Neurobiological Basis of Psychopathy*. *British J of Psychiatry* 2003, 182: 5-7.
 - **Aversive conditioning** – must experience aversive unconditioned stimulus, eg. distress of victim
 - **Instrumental learning** – being punished for committing bad act by experiencing the aversive response, distress of victim.
 - **Both are impaired in psychopaths** – (LaPierre et al 1995)

- **Evidence for neural dysfunction:**

- **Reduced volume of amygdala** – (Tiihonen et al 2000; Kiehl et al 2001)
- **Dysfunctional frontal cortex** – (Morgan & Lilienfeld 200; Soderstrom et al 2000; Raine et al 2000; Kandel & Freed 1989)
- **SPECT Study**

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PARALIMBIC BRAIN DAMAGE

- **Also, paralimbic brain damaged patients:**
 - Have trouble recognizing nuances of voice or facial expression
 - Have trouble inhibiting their behavior
 - Have trouble avoiding harmful situations
 - Have poor decision making skills
 - Appear apathetic
 - Are promiscuous
 - Show rebelliousness
 - Tend to disregard social convention
 - Show lack of respect for authority

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MORE EVIDENCE

Robert Hare's electric shock test

- Subjects told they were going to receive an electric shock after countdown from 10.
- Non psychopaths steeled themselves in preparation for the shock and showed dramatic increases in perspiration rate.
- Psychopaths had no reaction. No sweating, no tensing of muscles. Just a small noise.

Robert Hare's Startle Reflex Test

- Subjects looked at grotesque images
- Dr. Hare, at random, set off very loud noise in subject's ear
- Non psychopaths leaped with astonishment and shock; psychopaths remained calm and unaffected.
- He concluded that when psychopaths see images of blown apart faces or bodies, they're not horrified. They are *absorbed*.

From "The Psychopath Test" Jon Ronson ^{10/22/2019}

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WHAT DOES ALL THIS NEUROSCIENCE MEAN?

Psychopaths show deficits in paralimbic system

- **Amygdala**
 - Responsible for amplifying salient information – interrupts ongoing thinking & makes us pay attention.
 - Seat of fear
- **Hippocampus**
 - Seat of memory
 - Responsible for consolidation and storage of memories
 - Particularly good at storing emotional memories
 - Continues to grow throughout life
- **Temporal pole**
 - Responsible for merging auditory & visual information (similar to the way filmmakers integrate sound & video to make movies)
 - E.g., people with temporal lobe damage have trouble indicating type of emotion being conveyed by affective speech. They also have trouble understanding abstract speech like metaphors.
- **Paralimbic brain damaged patients are characterized by problems with:**
 - Aggression, motivation, empathy, planning & organization, impulsivity, irresponsibility, poor insight, and lack of behavioral controls

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CONCLUSION

Brains of psychopaths are different!

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BREAK!



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PSYCHOPATH NEXT DOOR

- “Serial killers ruin families. Corporate and political and religious psychopaths ruin economies. They ruin societies.” Robert Hare

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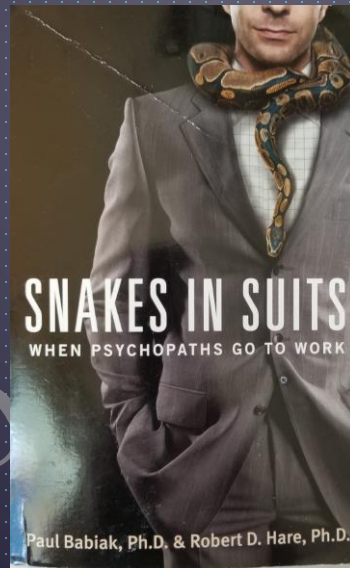
HARE PSYCHOPATHY CHECKLIST PCL-R

1. Glibness/superficial charm
2. Grandiose sense of self-worth
3. Need for stimulation/proneness to boredom
4. Pathological lying
5. Conning/manipulative
6. Lack of remorse or guilt
7. Shallow affect
8. Callous/lack of empathy
9. Parasitic lifestyle
10. Poor behavioral controls
11. Promiscuous sexual behavior
12. Early behavior problems
13. Lack of realistic long-term plans
14. Impulsivity
15. Irresponsibility
16. Failure to accept responsibility for own actions
17. Many short-term marital relationships
18. Juvenile delinquency
19. Revocation of conditional release
20. Criminal versatility

Source: Hare and Frazelle (1980)

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CORPORATE WORLD CONDUCTIVE TO PSYCHOPATHIC BEHAVIOR

Buzz words in corporate psyche

- Business ethics
- Corporate responsibility
- Best practices

“Not all psychopaths are in prison. Some are in the boardroom” Robert Hare, at 2002 meeting of Canadian Police Association.

Yet corporate profile for new hire is:

- Good communication skills
- Charisma
- Good presentation style

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CORPORATE CULTURE IS HE OR SHE A GOOD CULTURAL FIT?

WHAT IT IS

- Shared enthusiasm about a company's mission or purpose
- A common approach to working, together or individually
- A mutual understanding of how to make decisions and assess risk

WHAT IT ISN'T

- A common educational, cultural, or career background
- A sense of comfort and familiarity with co-workers
- Shared enjoyment of such perks as ping pong and craft beer

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KEVIN DUTTON, PH.D. OXFORD

- Most likely careers with psychopaths

1. CEOs
2. Lawyers
3. Media especially TV and radio
4. Salespeople
5. Surgeons

In no particular order – other professions that attract psychopaths:

- Law enforcement
- Rescue services
- Politicians
- Stock promoters
- Mercenaries

“Wolf of Wall Street” – Jordan Belfort, 1980's & 90's

James Bond character – poster boy for the functional psychopath:

- Focused, fearless
- Mentally tough
- Charming
- Ruthless
- Cool under pressure
- charismatic

Lack of conscience is a bonus in the corporate world.

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BABIAK & HARE STUDY OF 203 HIGH POTENTIAL EXECUTIVES

P. BABIAK, ET AL. BEHAV. SCI. LAW 28: 174-193 (2010)

Babiak & Hare's study looked at personality characteristics of corporate psychopaths

- **Rated high in:**
 - Communication skills
 - Charisma
 - Visioning
- **Rated low in:**
 - Performance
 - Productivity
- **Despite low ratings in productivity & performance, psychopaths were promoted and groomed for success.**

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Babiak & Hare study of 203 high potential executives

Results

P. Babiak, et al. Behav. Sci. Law 28: 174-193 (2010)

- **PCL-R total score range 0-34**
- **80% of scores fell between 0 and 3**
- **4.4% (9) scored 25 or higher**
- **3.9% (8) scored 30 or higher**
- **2 persons scored 33 and one, 34**
- **3.9% met profile of psychopath, considerably higher than general population (1%)**
- **All had traits of manipulative psychopath: superficial, grandiose, deceitful, impulsive, irresponsible, lack of empathy, lack of remorse, doesn't take responsibility for actions.**
- **2/200 exhibited bullying as well. (1%)**

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THREE SUBTYPES OF CORPORATE PSYCHOPATHS, *SNAKES IN SUITS, BABIAK & HARE*

- **Within global syndrome of psychopathy: classic, macho, manipulative**
 - **Classic** style scores high on interpersonal, affective, lifestyle, antisocial. All features that define psychopathy.
 - **Manipulative** style scores high on interpersonal & affective, but lower on lifestyle & antisocial.
 - **Macho** style score high on affective, lifestyle & antisocial, but low on interpersonal. They are aggressive, bullying, abrasive, and less charming & manipulative.
- **3 types of corporate psychopaths**
 - Corporate manipulators or cons
 - Bullies
 - Puppet masters

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CONS

- Very good at using others to get ahead
- Deceitful, egotistical, superficial, manipulative, prone to lying
- Don't care about consequences of their behavior
- Never take responsibility regardless of promises, commitments, personal favors.
- When confronted, they blame others for the problem.
- Rude and callous to those who have nothing to offer them
- Don't think about harm they cause to others
- No remorse or guilt
- Very good at reading people and situations and then adapting their behavior to suit
- Quickly & easily build up trust in others
- Love to get inside people's heads
- Can fly into rage and quickly calm down
- Able to control their anger when it suits them

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[p. 187 Babiak]

BULLIES

- Not as sophisticated or smooth as the cons, they rely on coercion, abuse, humiliation, harassment, aggression.
- Callous to almost everyone, intentionally finding reasons to engage in conflict.
- Attack others unfairly in private & public, and are generally antagonistic.
- Routinely violate rights of others
- Frequently violate traditional norms of behavior
- Frequently target those who are relatively powerless.
- React aggressively in response to provocation or perceived insults,
- Feel no remorse, guilt, or empathy
- Lack insight into their own behavior and are unwilling to change. They are very dangerous.
- They are callous, vindictive, controlling with no feeling or consideration for the rights of others.
- In management positions, their reputations keep rivals at bay

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[p. 188 Babiak]

PUPPET MASTERS

- Use both manipulation and bullying
- Adept at manipulating people from a distance – get those directly under their control to abuse or bully those lower down in corporate structure.
- Surround themselves with obedient followers
- They will attack any signs of disobedience.
- Both the puppet and the victim are seen as expendable. Puppet master doesn't see them as real people.
- This is the most dangerous type of corporate psychopath.
- Examples from history:
 - Hitler and Stalin

[p. 192, Babiak]

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PSYCHOPATHIC TRAITS VALUED BY CORPORATIONS BUT ARE THEY BAD TRAITS?

- Companies seek out individuals who are bright, charming, glib, assertive, persuasive, charismatic, fast thinkers and talkers, socially skilled, self-confident, able to change quickly, are risk takers, take charge type, can get others to do what you want.
- Some companies want individuals who can shake the trees, rattle cages, and get things done quickly.

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BREAK!



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HOW PSYCHOPATHS WORK THEIR MAGIC IN THE CORPORATE WORLD

1. Assess value of persons to their needs. Identify person's psychological strengths & weaknesses.
2. Manipulate the person by feeding them carefully crafted messages
3. Drop the person when they've gotten what they want.

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INTERVIEWS WITH A CORPORATE PSYCHOPATH

5 minutes:

<https://youtu.be/PvznWSEKoEE>

WSJ interview:

<https://youtu.be/ta1DqI4xDRw>

16 minutes

<https://youtu.be/8JPOXURfqDs>

Examples of her:

<https://youtu.be/MfWS8hOk188>

Employees talk:

<https://youtu.be/bpBELR366e4>

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ASSESSMENT PHASE

- **Always on lookout for potential for gain from others**
 - Secretary who controls access to the boss or his/her calendar
 - Union rep who can smooth over employee conflicts
 - Person plugged into the company grapevine
- **Some like challenge of targeting a strong individual**
- **Most seek out weakness in people**

How do they do that?

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THREE FACES OF PERSONALITY

1. **Internal or private personality**
 1. Consists of our thoughts, attitudes, perceptions, judgments, needs, emotions
 2. Also our fantasies, hopes & ambitions
 3. Plus our darker sides – insecurities, greed, selfishness, faults, weaknesses
2. **Projected or public personality**
 1. Carefully edited version of private self
 2. How we want others to see us
3. **Attributed personality or reputation – how others see us**
 1. Others assess us by what they see, hear & experience
 2. Judgment based on what we do, clothes we wear, our stated values & beliefs – all done through the observers filters.

First impressions are formed within seconds.

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WHO IS GOOD AT FORMING FIRST IMPRESSIONS?

- Salespeople, human resources staff and other professionals are good at judging personality traits.
- Poker players good at identifying “tells”.
- Psychopaths good at judging personalities and choosing persons to get what they want. They see your face, words, and body language as the map to your personality.

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HOW PSYCHOPATHS ASSESS YOU

1. Decide your value
2. Figure out the inner workings of your personality
3. Build relationship by:
 1. Positively reinforcing your self-presentation, your private personality – “I like who you are”
 2. Pretend to share personal information that is eerily similar to yours – “I am just like you”
 3. Pretend to understand you – “your secrets are safe with me”
 4. Convinces you that he/she is the perfect friend, lover, partner for you

Psychopathic bond is complete.

Psychopath has analyzed your expectations and desires and reflected them in a psychological mask that is very convincing. Bonding takes place very fast.

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MANIPULATION PHASE

- Develop relationship based on lies. Tell stories that are so believable, so entertaining and creative that people instinctively trust them.
- If caught in a lie, they simply change the story to suit the facts.

ABANDONMENT PHASE

- Most often is an abrupt break.
- No guilt or remorse – “They got a lot from me”
- Psychopath moves on to his next victim.

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Masters of Seduction

- For psychopath, sex is not a bonding experience, it's a tool.
- Target the right woman – one who shows empathy, is sweet, caring, mild, not aggressive
- He tugs at her sympathy – “I was abused as a child, etc.”
- He's hypersexual – gets her to engage in marathon sex.

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Corporate Psychopaths

- They sell a product you don't understand and can't properly price
- Lack real concern for other people – no real emotional connection
- Don't understand that other people have rights
- Utterly without conscience

“The Inventor – Out for Blood in the Silicon Valley” HBO

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SERIAL KILLERS

- **John Gacy, Charles Sobhraj, Jeffrey MacDonald, Gary Tison, Kenneth Bianchi, Richard Ramirez, Diane Downs, Ted Bundy, Clifford Olson, Joe Hunt, William Bradford, Ken McElroy, Colin Pitchfork, Kenneth Taylor, Ed Gein, Jeffrey Dahmer, David Berkowitz.**
- **Committed unspeakable acts, had grotesque sexual fantasies, and were fascinated with power, torture, death.**
- **According to accepted legal and psychiatric standards, they are NOT insane. They behaved, “not from a deranged mind, but from cold, calculating rationality combined with a chilling inability to treat others as thinking, feeling human beings.”** Robert Hare, “Without Conscience”

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INTERVIEWS WITH PSYCHOPATHS

- Wayne
- <https://youtu.be/jp9u-UaeKRw>
- Robert describes his psychopathic behavior
- <https://youtu.be/eu17Wuq3nI8>
- Angela
- https://youtu.be/AJ0Vts2YS_M

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MYTHS ABOUT SERIAL KILLERS

- **Myth:** Dysfunctional loners **Truth:** They hide in plain sight, have families, homes, are gainfully employed, and appear to be normal members of their communities.
- **Myth:** All white males **Truth:** Serial killers span all racial groups. In fact, the racial diversification of serial killers in the U.S. mirrors that of our population.
- **Myth:** Only motivated by sex **Truth:** All serial murders are not based on sex. Other motivations are anger, thrill, financial gain, and attention seeking.
- **Myth:** Serial killers cannot stop killing **Truth:** Events in their lives prohibit them from killing. Things such as family activities, sexual substitution, and other diversions. BTK killer, Dennis Rader, murdered 10 people from 1974 to 1991. He never killed again, although he wasn't captured until 2005. Jeffrey Gorton killed once in 1986, next in 1991, and finally in 2002.

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MYTHS ABOUT SERIAL KILLERS CON'T

- **Myth:** Are insane or evil geniuses **Truth:** they are not psychotic or insane. Psychopaths have average to above average intelligence but are not known to be geniuses.
- **Myth:** Want to get caught **Truth:** As they continue to kill without being caught, they become bolder and more confident. Many believe they will never be caught.

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RED FLAGS

Inability to:

- Form a team
- Share information
- Treat people equally
- Tell the truth
- Be modest
- Accept blame
- Act predictably
- React calmly
- Act without aggression

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Why Nothing Seems to Work

- **A basic assumption of therapy is that the patient needs or wants help**
- **Successful therapy requires that the patient actively participate with the therapist**
- **The patient must recognize that there is a problem and want to do something about it**
- **Psychopaths don't feel they have a problem and see no reason to change their behavior**

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SURVIVAL GUIDE

- **Know yourself and your vulnerabilities, especially your hot buttons.**
- **Be aware of what's missing in your life.**
- **If it's too good to be true, it probably isn't true.**
- **Avoid temptation. (Good luck with that one!)**
- **Open your eyes and ask questions.**
- **Understand your utility to a psychopath.**
- **Set firm boundaries and ground rules.**
- **Understand how psychopaths manipulate others.**
- **Avoid that psychopathic bond. Let relationships develop slowly.**
- **Try to deal with self doubt and denial**
- **If you've been abused, seek help.**

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Thank you!

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