

Criminal minds thinks essay



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The different aspects reviewed are; facts and fictions about psychopaths, classifications and AD/SM criteria of antisocial personality disorder and psychopaths, etiology of psychopaths, agreement of criminal psychopaths, differences among psychopaths and nonphysical, characteristics of psychopaths, psychobiology and biochemical theories on psychopaths, psychopathic behaviors, differences among psychopaths, lifestyles of psychopaths, male psychopaths versus female psychopaths and finally white collar psychopaths.

Based on these various aspects this paper attempts to understand how criminal minds think, and tries to investigate the relationships between psychopaths and crime. Psychopaths: Fact and Fiction On the night of March the 9th, 2009 Mjnewer Sauerkraut's body was found in a trash notation, cut in to pieces in Istanbul, Turkey. According to the autopsy report she had been cut in 29 different places (Anonymous, 2009). The reports showed the brutal truth, her head had been severed slowly with a saw when she was alive. Her murder suspect was her boyfriend Chem. Cigarillo who was about to turn eighteen.

Cigarillo was found after six months and he was sentenced for first degree murder, of twenty four years in prison 2009). According to the psychiatric reports he showed narcissistic and psychopathic features (Demit, 2010). The This paper was submitted on May 25, 2012, Kjbra Fiducially*, Severance Ёeerily**, Niagara Department of Psychology, Alfred University.

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Email*: cabal 991 @gamma. Com, E-mail**: Com horror and fascination of this incident focused great media attention on the homicide process and the capture of Cigarillo. The Turkish public had met a horrifying crime and now had increased their focus on murder and psychopaths. In the past, most tizzies simply assumed serial killers must be insane, however, for example in the reports of the Cigarillo case he was found to be totally sane with an IQ of 119 (Demit, 2010).

Such crimes catch great attention from the public and stay on screen for a very long time. The pure sensationalism and horror of murder has been the great interest of the media. Different agencies the media is using to exhibit murders are; books, television shows, series, movies and documentaries. Such as the prime-time programs " Cantina Dossal" (Homicide Files) and Dossal (Crime files) and books like " Series Stiller" (Serial Murders) which is a collection of serial murders and murderers around the world written by Picket Topical.

Hollywood, the world's largest film industry features a great number of movies related to homicides. Such as the movies that have turned into a world phenomenon and have been watched by many; Silence of the Lambs and the Saw series. Both movies portray ferocious serial murders where they use sophisticated technologies and different equipments to further draw the audience in, trapping us in their imagination. With the explosion of murder themes n media viewers are bombarded with graphic killings, mutilations and sexual torture, where one can reach in the privacy of their home.

Because of media's attention and wide publicity on murderers, different types of stereotypes can form in the minds (Hickey, 2010). The psychopaths portrayed in movies are more stereotypical rather than the ultimate truth, fancied to excite and sadly to entertain the viewers. An example of a common stereotype can be that all psychopaths are men, to show that is not the case in reality different television channels made programs and documentary films such as "The Black Widow(s)". These films and programs showed that there are also women murderers and serial killers, in an attempt to break down the stereotype.

Another factor of media is exploiting the public's fascination with the murders without yielding much information about the offender. The other side of the picture is observed by researchers from different fields such as; forensic psychologists, law, police forces and rarely, victims who escaped. From their narratives one can understand in depth the different dimensions of psychopaths in an insightful manner. Case study analysis is one of the ways researchers use to examine the hometown of murder, in order to promote greater understanding.

However the accounts of murder often tend to surpass the horror described in nonfunctional accounts of murder (Hickey, 2010). Now murder began to be explored as not only the action, but also as a process. Currently, researchers do not only ask the question "how"; but also ask the question "why". Classification of Antisocial Personality Disorder and Psychopaths The DSM-IV-TR diagnostic criterion for antisocial personality disorder (PAD) includes two components; these two components are as follows.

The first component is that there would be a pervasive pattern of disregard for the rights of others since the age of 15 as shown by at least three of the following (American Psychiatric Association, 2000), 1) Repeated law breaking 2) Deceitfulness, lying 3) Impulsively 4) Irritability and aggressiveness 5) Reckless disregard for own safety and that of others 6) Irresponsibility as seen in unreliable employment or financial history 4 7) Lack of remorse The second component is the presence of a conduct disorder before the age of 15 (Hare, Hart & Harper, 1991).

Running away from home, frequent lying, theft, and destruction of property are major symptoms of conduct disorder (Grin, Johnson, Davison & Neal, 2010). The person must be at a minimum age of 18 to be diagnosed with PAD. According to Newman and his friends (1998) about three-quarters of people with PAD meet the diagnostic criteria for another disorder and the most common comorbid disorder is found to be substance abuse (Newman, Muftic, ASPI & Silva, 1998). The clinical description of psychopaths predates the DSM-IV-TR diagnosis of antisocial behavior.

Psychopathy is a personality disorder where the person lacks respect for others and social rules (Woodward & Porter, 2002). Hare's (1976) criterion of psychopaths focuses on the person's thoughts and feelings, unlike the diagnostic criteria of PAD which focuses on observable symptoms such as behavior (Grin, Johnson, Davison & Neal, 2010). Hare claims that one of the most important characteristics of psychopaths is their poverty of both positive and negative emotions.

Other features of psychopaths are egocentricity, deceptiveness, callousness, impulsively, irresponsibility, shallow emotions, poor behavioral controls and antisocial behaviors (Clerkly, 1976; Hare, 1991 as cited in Bolt, Hare, Vital & Newman, 2004). Psychopaths are also found to be superficially charming and that they use this charm to manipulate others for their personal gain. Their lack of anxiety makes it impossible for them to learn from their mistakes, and their lack of remorse leads them to behave irresponsibly and cruelly to others (Grin, Johnson, Davison & Neal, 2010).

Many psychopaths are found to be con-artists some even become cult leaders, politicians or successful corporate leaders using others in order to gain their personal satisfactions such as sex and power (Babies, 2000 as cited in Porter & Woodworms, 2007). Lowe (1969, p. 56, as cited in Widow, 1976) suggests that “ their personal relationships lack ‘ common humanity; that is, they have learned only the ritual and not the meaning of personal relationships”. Cough (1948, as cited in Widow, 1976) suggests that they are also unable to identify themselves with the viewpoint of other people.

Hence the similarity between the criteria of PAD and psychopaths they also differ in certain ways, such as; psychopaths does not require the onset symptoms before age 15. Another difference can be the fact that the criterion for psychopaths over a broader range of problems than the criteria of PAD. For example people diagnosed with PAD might not meet the criteria of psychopaths (Grin, Johnson, Davison & Neal, 2010). Not excluding the fact that 20 percent of the people diagnosed with PAD obtain high scores on the psychopaths checklist (Rutherford, Asocial, & Alderman 1999).

The etiology of many disorders are debatable, researchers are not exactly sure about the causes. Researchers perpetually face the issue of nature versus nurture in psychology. The same is viable for the etiology of psychopaths. Some studies suggest that criminality (Statesman & Goldsmith, 1994), psychopaths (Taylor et al. , 2003) and PAD (Eely, Liechtenstein, & Mufti, 2003) were moderately heritable and the heritability estimates were of 40 to 50 percent.

Genetic risk factors of PAD, psychopaths, conduct disorder, and substance abuse appear to be related (Grin, Johnson, Davison & Neal, 2010). Research shows that psychopathic behavior violates social norms, therefore to find the causes researchers also focus on factors such as; social and family environments, and poverty. Consequently a person can inherit a general vulnerability of the symptoms of psychopaths, and then the environmental factors can shape which of the symptoms will evolve (Kindler, Prescott, et al. 2003; Larsson et al. , 2007 as cited in Grin, Johnson, Davison & Neal, 2010). Moreover, another important factor is that psychopaths and antisocial behavior is associated with crime and violence in general (see Hart and Hare, 1997; Porter & Porter, in press, 6 as cited in Porter & Woodworms, 2007) making them potentially dangerous. Results of different researches suggest that psychopaths are more willing than others to commit crimes (Williamson, Hare & Wong, 1987).

Williamson and his friends (1987) further assert that, “ psychopaths have relatively little contact with their families, change their residence often, exhibit little intensity in their interpersonal relationships, and often engage in criminal activities that lack purpose and long- range planning”. Therefore it

can be said that the dominant clinical conception of a psychopath is a dangerous person who preys on others across their life span and that the relationship between psychopaths and some forms of homicide seem likely (e. G. Hare 1998; Simooms & Hodge, 2000 as cited in Woodworms & Porter, 2002).

Measuring Criminal Psychopaths The most commonly used scale to assess psychopaths is the Psychopaths Schoolmistresses (PC-R) (Hare, 2003). Researchers use the scale in cooperation with extensive interviews, and gather information from other resources such as criminal records, in order to rate the 20 items. Each item is scored as 0 (not present), 1 (possibly present), or 2 (definitely present), resulting in the total PC-R scores that range from 0 to 40 (Bolt, Hare, Vital & Newman, 2004). According to the manual of the checklist, the cut of score of classifying psychopaths is 230 (Porter & Woodworms, 2007).

Some of the items of the Psychopaths Checklist-Revised overlap with the criteria of PAD including criminality, delinquency, impulsively and irresponsibility (Grin, Johnson, Davison & Neal, 2010). The scale also includes “ interpersonal items such as (superficial charm, pathological lying and manipulatively) and affective symptoms (such as lack of remorse, shallow effect and lack of empathy)” (Hare & Neumann, 2006). Therefore it can be said that the PC-R has two main factors; factor 1, including interpersonal and affective traits 7 and factor 2, including impulsive, antisocial and chronically unstable lifestyle (Hicks,

Vaudevillian & Patrick, 2010). Hicks (2010) and his friends suggest that factor 1 includes the primary features of psychopaths whereas factor 2 includes the secondary characteristics. Hart and Hare found that PC-R total scores were positively correlated with narcissistic personality disorder and PAD (Hare, Hart & Harper, 1991). According to different researches the PC-R has demonstrated good internal consistency and test-retest reliability across diverse populations (see, e. G. , Alderman, Asocial, & Rutherford, 1993; Hare et al. , 1990; Vital, Smith, Brinkley & Newman, 2002, as cited in Bolt, Hare, Vital & Newman, 2004).

Psychopaths and Nonphysical Researchers conduct various types of research where they compare psychopaths with nonphysical. By doing such a comparison researchers try to identify different characteristics and mechanisms underlying psychopathic . Clerkly (1976 as cited in Woodworms & Porter, 2007) observed that psychopaths violence was motivated by external goals, and that it was not characterized by powerful emotions associated with “ crimes of passion”, which is the case nonphysical. Researchers tend to categorize violence in two main groups; instrumental violence and reactive violence.

Instrumental violence is associated with strangers and tends to have material goals whereas reactive violence is associated with high emotional arousal and a close relationship with the victim. An additional fact is that victims of nonphysical were likely to be women who are known to them; however the victims of the psychopaths were likely to be men and unknown to them, and they are more likely to use a weapon during an offense It should be taken into consideration that this section of this paper is only

considering the comparisons between psychopaths and nonphysical criminals. (Hare, Hart & Harper, 1991). Previous research done on aggression in general show that (e. G. Cornell et al. , 1996; Serine, 1991) psychopaths engage in more instrumental goal driven homicidal violence, for example to obtain money or drugs, on the other hand nonphysical engage in reactive spontaneous violence, for example that may result from a heated argument.

Woodworms and Porter (2007) argue that almost all psychopaths had primarily committed instrumental murder; they further suggest that nonparticipating offenders are capable of committing instrumental offences however they do not show the same clear preferences as the psychopathic offenders o. In addition they recommend a possible reason for this finding; that psychopathic offenders show a distinctive lack of empathy toward others therefore this extends to their crime victims.

In 2002, Soon, Such, Mayer and Lobby conducted a study which showed that unlike nonphysical, psychopaths failed to startle while viewing affective slides that depicted potential, and psychopaths appeared to be less accurate than nonphysical on facial affect recognition. On the other hand Blair, Jones, Clark and Smith (1997) found that, psychopaths exhibited less automatic espousing than nonphysical when presented with fearful and sad human expressions, proving their lack of empathy.

Thus, psychopaths appear to be capable of engaging in and carrying out far more relentless, cold-blooded homicides than many potentially violent nonphysical are less likely to consider perpetrating. Brown and Forth (1997) found that psychopaths commit almost twice as many offences than

nonphysical. Woodworms and Porter (2007) states that Serine and Amos (1995) found that psychopaths were about five times more likely than nonphysical to engage in violent recidivism within five years of release.

Accordingly Hare (1966) found that “ psychopaths lack the normal capacity to acquire conditioned fear responses and that the emotional significance of future punishment is of relatively little immediate concern to them”.

Woodworms and Porter (2007) also cited Porter, Birth and Boer (2001) as finding that psychopathic offenders consistently committed more violent and 9 nonviolent crimes than their nonparticipating counterparts from late adolescence to their late ass.

Harper and Hare (1994) indicate that psychopaths commit more crimes, receive more convictions and spend more time in prison than do nonparticipating criminals. It was reported that criminal psychopaths were four times more likely than nonphysical to fail release (Hare, McPherson & Forth, 1988), therefore psychopaths had lengthier criminal histories than nonphysical (Serine, Peters & Barber, 1990). It was found that psychopaths committed more varied crimes than nonphysical (Williamson, Hare, and Wong, 1987), and they demonstrated poor passive avoidance to learning (Holland, Soon, Patterson & Newman, 1993).

Moreover psychopaths differ from nonphysical in their nonverbal behavior during interpersonal situations, they tend to be more intrusive awards their partner, they display more hand gestures, lean forward more (reducing the distance between the other person), and look at the persons eye for longer periods of time and smile less than nonphysical (Rim©, Bow, Laboring &

Roiling, 1978). Consequently, ranging from dominance, aggressiveness, impulsively, sensation seeking, and harm avoidance; individuals high in overall psychopaths are likely to differ from nonphysical on a variety of traits (Elevenths, Patrick, Bradley & Lang, 2000).

Characteristics of Psychopaths Psychopaths is defined by the features of emotional detachment and antisocial traits. In addition, it is strongly associated with criminal behaviors and recidivism. " Psychopaths exhibit particular symptoms and behaviors, including; impulsively, shallow affect, seemingly illogical antisocial behavior, and chronic disturbances in interpersonal functioning" (Bolt, Robert, and Hare, 2004). Psychopaths can be compared to silent guns, which can fire any time. Nevertheless, they are known in the society as harmless, inoffensive, shy and even polite people.

However, 10 psychopaths are callous, remorseless, manipulative, impulsive and irresponsible individuals (Porter and Woodworms, 2007). A unique characteristic of psychopaths is defined as their willingness to commit moral transgressions despite being able to indicate their faults and mistakes. Deficiency of affect is defined as another characteristic of psychopaths. Although this characteristic has been investigated in numerous clinical studies, considerable controversy surrounds the possible physiological concomitants of this emotional defect. Psychopaths may actually be more sensitive to emotional stimuli than normal people, but because of habituation to their higher autonomic arousal state, their threshold for emitting an emotional espouse is greater than normal" (House & Mulligan, 1976). Yet another characteristic of psychopaths noted in literature includes egocentricity (Hellfire, 1982). They have no emotion in interpersonal

behavior and they lack empathy and inhibition against physical aggression. In this sense, as a result; those maladaptive attributes increases the risk of violent behavior.

Further, a very important aspect is that psychopath's behaviors and characteristics are relatively permanent. This is very well portrayed in the movie " The Clockwork Orange" (1971). Psychopath Alex Delaware commits various violent rimes until he is caught and Jailed. In Jail he volunteers for an experimental aversion therapy developed by the government in an effort to solve issues related to psychopaths and crime. At the beginning, the experiments go very well and Alex positively responds to the treatment, by showing observable differences.

However the movie ends' showing Alex exhibiting his previous psychopathic and violent behaviors, indicating that no matter what happens he will not change. 11 Psychobiology and Biochemistry of Psychopaths According to investigators, what makes psychopaths so astounding and potentially ungenerous is a disorder which includes psychosocial and biological factors (Brenna & Rain, 1997). In order to explain the effect of psychosocial factors researchers examined some children, who had behavioral disorders.

The children who had these disorders were diagnosed because of their aggressive and antisocial behaviors like disobedience to parents, escaping from school, theft, extreme cases of lying and feeling of no remorse for their behaviors. With regards to these behaviors, investigators found that children who are controlled harshly by their parents have a high risk of developing aggressive and antisocial personalities. Another psychosocial factor for an

antisocial personality development and maybe the most powerful reason is that psychopaths experience physical and/or sexual incidents in their childhood.

On the other hand, all of these children do not develop into becoming a psychopath, but its affect on antisocial behaviors is seemingly clear.

According to some cases, parents have reported that from an early age their children have anger tantrums, get anger very easily and quickly when they are in a disappointing situation, and generally they cannot be controlled.

Researchers think that serious behavioral disorders start in early years of age, becoming one of the risks of antisocial personality development; other risks are found to be genetic and neurological factors.

It was found that there are differing neurological factors, such as; the relationship between brain damage and antisocial personality disorder (Plotting, 2009). Other research done on twins and adopted children, show that genetic factors play a 30-50 percent role on the development of antisocial personalities. In a recent investigation it was found that the psychopath's brain structure is biologically different from other people. It is suggested that there is a failure in connections between the emotional areas of the brain (amazedly) and the region responsible for stimulation and decision 12 making (arbitrator cortex).

It was previously known that these regions functioned differently in psychopaths, however it was primarily found that the connections between the regions are defective (Craig, 2009). Furthermore, preferential cortex damages can cause serious problems for normally functioning people. ' The

enlargement of the frontal cortex was one of the distinctive morphological developments in the evolution of the human brain. Accordingly, the psychological functions attributed to the frontal area are often considered to be distinguishing features of human adaptation: the capacity for foresight, planning, and, in general, the regulation of impulses.

But such functions are also important components of behavioral adaptation in animals. Lesions of the prefrontal cortex of primates and lower mammals result in deficient regulation of responding and reduced ability to organize complex motor programs. Highly similar effects are observed following lesions of the septum and hippocampus, leading to speculation that the septum, hippocampus, and prefrontal cortex constitute an integral system that functions to regulate coordinated activity and modulate impulsive responding in both humans and animals. (Cornerstone, 1998). Additionally, brain damage has also a significant role on maladaptive behaviors.

Researchers think that the prefrontal lobe is important in task functioning and for that reason, brain damage during development or after an accident increases the risk of the development of antisocial personality disorder (Plotting, 2009). Psychopathic Behavior Psychopaths have been described as individuals who have no other abnormality from there. They also have attractive physical appearance.

In almost every situation, they are cold blooded and they do not have feelings of remorse. Psychopaths only demonstrate emotions when they consider it to be intellectually appropriate. This means that they have learned to use it as a social ritual; therefore their personal relationships do not make sense to them emotionally (Widow, 1976). In America, 20 years ago

Jeffrey Dammed was known as a normal individual by the local people. Later on it was found that he had raped 17 people and killed them. It was also found that in some situations, he practiced cannibalism with his victims.

He usually preferred young homosexual males, brought them to his home, gave them drugs, then strangled them and had sexual intercourse with their dead bodies. In one conversation Dammed himself said: " I was able to control somebody completely, especially someone who I found attractive. Also I was able to keep them with me for a long time. Even significant pieces of them... " (Plotting, 2009). This example exhibits a typical psychopath. Dammed had absolutely no remorse saying those words and he even seemed to feel proud of his actions.

According to many researches, the influence of psychopaths on emotion is moderated by general levels of anxiety, distress, and related constructs and general levels of anxiety. Related constructs also have been shown to moderate the modulation of startle reflexes in response to unpleasant stimuli (Sutton, Vital & Newman, 2002). Another research, mentions " semantic dementia" (Patrick, Cutter & Lang, 1994), which describes the failure of associating emotional meaning to language. One of our brain's functions is to animate unpleasant incidents, when normal individuals face such incidents they tend to block and avoid these images.

This function of the brain prevents the individual from portraying antisocial or maladaptive behaviors. On the other hand this function in psychopaths is out of order, it does not function. Additionally, in psychopaths, understanding

the emotional components are diminished when compared with normal individuals.