

Psychopathy in Psychiatry and Philosophy: An Annotated Bibliography

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Table of Contents

Using the Bibliography.....	3
Part 1: Psychiatry.....	4
1 General.....	4
2 Diagnostics.....	4
2.1 Adults.....	4
2.1.1 Antisocial Personality Disorder.....	4
2.1.2 Psychopathy.....	5
2.2 Children and adolescents.....	6
2.3 Recidivism.....	7
3 Functional impairments.....	8
3.1 Lack of fear/anxiety.....	8
3.2 Instrumental learning.....	9
3.3 Empathy.....	10
3.4 Moral reasoning.....	10
3.5 Attention.....	11
4 Information processing models.....	12
4.1 Response modulation hypothesis.....	12
4.2 Dysfunctional fear hypothesis.....	12
4.3 Violence inhibition mechanism model.....	13
5 Neurological explanations.....	13
5.1 The left hemisphere activation hypothesis.....	13
5.2 The frontal lobe dysfunction hypothesis.....	13
5.3 The somatic marker hypothesis.....	13
5.4 The amygdala dysfunction hypothesis.....	14
6 Treatment.....	14
6.1 General.....	14
6.2 Therapeutic communities.....	15
6.3 Cognitive behavioural therapies.....	15
Part 2: Philosophy.....	16
1 Philosophy of psychiatry.....	16
1.2 Mental illness status.....	16
1 Moral philosophy.....	16
1.1 Criminal responsibility/punishment.....	16
1.2 Moral understanding (see also 1.1., 1.3., 1.4.).....	17
1.3 Moral responsibility.....	18
1.4 Implications of psychopathy for ethics and moral psychology.....	22

Using the Bibliography

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Contacting the Compilers

Comments, corrections and suggestions are more than welcome.

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Part 1: Psychiatry

1 General

Blair, J., Mitchell, D. and Blair, K. 2005. *[The Psychopath: Emotion and the Brain](#)* (information). Oxford: Blackwell.

A comprehensive critical survey of recent research on the cognitive, emotional and neurological correlates to psychopathy. In addition, the book presents the authors' research on the neural abnormalities that might underlie the disorder (see [section 6.4](#)).

Cleckley, H. M. 1941. *[The Mask of Sanity: An Attempt to Clarify Some Issues about the So-called Psychopathic Personality](#)*. 5th edition, St. Louis (Mo): Mosby.

A classic account of psychopathy that has inspired the work of many researchers in the field.

Hare, R. 1970. *Psychopathy: Theory and Practice*. New York: Wiley & Sons.

A important collection of scientific studies on psychopathy.

Hare, R. D. 1999. *[Without Conscience: The Disturbing World of the Psychopaths Among Us](#)* (information). New York, Guilford Press.

A popular and readable presentation of the phenomenon of psychopathy by one of the leading researchers in the field.

Herv, H. and Yuille, J. C. 2007. *The Psychopath: Theory, Research, and Practice*. Mahwah (NJ) and London: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates.

Patrick, C. J. ed. 2006. *[Handbook of Psychopathy](#)* (information). New York/London Guilford Press.

A state-of-the art survey of classifications, theoretical models, neurological genetic and social explanations, legal and clinical issues. With contributions by leading researchers in the field of psychopathic personality.

2 Diagnostics

2.1 Adults

2.1.1 Antisocial Personality Disorder

American Psychiatric Association. 1994. *[Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, 4th edn.](#)* Washington, D.C. American Psychiatric Association.

American Psychiatric Association. 1994. *[Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, 4th edn.](#)* Washington, D.C. American Psychiatric Association.

This manual, known as DSM-IV, describes the antisocial personality disorder (ASPD). The essential feature of the disorder is "a pervasive pattern of disregard for, and violation of, the rights of others that begins in childhood or early adolescence and continues into adulthood". In order to be classifiable as suffering from ASPD, an adult (ie over 18 years of age) should display three or more of the following: (1) failure to conform to social norms with respect to lawful behaviours as indicated by repeatedly performing acts that are grounds for arrest (2) deceitfulness, as indicated by repeating lying, use of aliases, or conning others for personal profit or pleasure (3) impulsivity or failure to plan ahead (4)

irritability and aggressiveness, as indicated by repeated physical fights or assaults (5) reckless disregard for safety or self or others (6) consistent irresponsibility, as indicated by repeated failure to sustain consistent work behaviour or honour financial obligations (7) lack of remorse, as indicated by being indifferent to or rationalizing having hurt, mistreated, or stolen from another.

Moran, P. 1999. *Antisocial Personality Disorder: An Epidemiological Perspective*. London: Royal College of Psychiatrists.

2.1.2 Psychopathy

Cooke, D. J. and C. Michie. 2001. "[Refining the Construct of Psychopathy: Towards a Hierarchical Model](#)." *Psychological Assessment* 13: 171-188.

The authors criticise the [two factors analysis](#) of [PCL-R](#). They argue that a more appropriate account should include three factors. The interpersonal/affective factor is separated in an interpersonal and an abnormal affect component. **Factor I: Arrogant and deceitful interpersonal items:** 1. Glibness/superficial charm 2. Grandiose sense of self-worth 4. Pathological lying 5. Conning/manipulative. **Factor II: Deficient affective experience:** 6. Lack of remorse or guilt 7. Shallow affect 8. Callous/lack of empathy 16. Failure to accept responsibility for own actions. **Factor III:** 3. Need for stimulation/proneness to boredom 9. Parasitic lifestyle 13. Lack of realistic, long-term goals 14. Impulsivity 15. Irresponsibility. Remaining items that do not fall under any factor: 10. Poor behavioural controls 11. Promiscuous sexual behaviour 12. Early behavioural problems 17. Many short-term marital relationship 18. Juvenile delinquency 19. Revocation of conditional release 20. Criminal versatility. For a three factor analysis of psychopathy in childhood and adolescence, see [Frick and Hare 2001b](#).

Blair, J., Mitchell, D. and Blair, K. 2005. [The Psychopath: Emotion and the Brain](#) (information). Oxford: Blackwell.

[APSD](#) and [PCL-R](#) are preferable to [ASPD](#) because they include criteria concerning emotions. This inclusion individuates a common aetiology due to dysfunctional emotional processing.

Cleckley, H. M. 1941. [The Mask of Sanity: An Attempt to Clarify Some Issues about the So-called Psychopathic Personality](#). 5th edition, St. Louis (Mo) Mosby.

This classic source, that has inspired many current descriptions of psychopathy, suggests 16 criteria for the diagnosis of the disorder: (1) Superficial charm (2) Absence of delusions and other signs of irrational thinking (3) Lack of anxiety (4) Lack of remorse or shame (5) Undependability (6) Dishonesty, untruthfulness insincerity (7) Pathological egocentricity (8) Failure to form lasting intimate relationships (9) Failure to learn from punishment (10) General poverty in major affective relations (11) Lack of insight into the impact of one's behaviour on others (12) Failure to plan ahead (13) Fantastic and uninviting behaviour with drink, and sometimes without. (14) Suicide threats rarely carried out. (15) Sex life impersonal, trivial, and poorly integrated (16) Unresponsiveness in general interpersonal relations.

Hare, R. D. 1980. "[A Research Scale for the Assessment of Psychopathy in Criminal Populations](#)." *Personality and Individual Differences* 1: 111-119.

On the basis of the characteristics delineated in [Cleckley 1941](#) and independent clinical work, Hare offers his original Psychopathy Checklist (PCL) to assess psychopathy in adults. (See [PCL-R](#))

Hare, R. D. 1991. *The Psychopathy Checklist-Revised*. Toronto: Multi-Health Systems.

Revised version (PCL-R) of Hare's original Psychopathy Checklist ([PCL](#)). The [PCL-R](#) includes 20 behavioural items and is scored on data collected in an extensive file review and a semi-structured interview. For each behavioural item, an individual can score between 0 and 2 points. Individuals scoring 30 or above in the [PCL-R](#) are generally considered psychopathic, while those scoring less than 20 are considered non-psychopathic. Hare argues that [PCL-R](#) is superior to [ASPD](#) because, by following [Cleckley 1941](#), it considers the individual's behaviour and his personality. For criticism see Moran 1999.

Hare, R. D. 2003. *The Psychopathy Checklist-Revised*, 2nd Edition. Toronto: Multi-Health Systems.

Hare, R. D., T. J. Harpur, A. R. Hakstian, A. E. Forth, and S. D. Hart. 1990. "[The Revised Psychopathy Checklist: Reliability and Factor Structure](#)." *Psychological Assessment* 2: 338-3.

Harpur, T. J., A. R. Hakstian, and R. D. Hare. 1988. "[Factor Structure of the Psychopathy Checklist](#)." *Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology* 56: 741-747.

Shows that the original Psychopathy Checklist (PCL) ([Hare 1980](#)) is composed of two correlated factors: interpersonal/affective and impulsive/antisocial lifestyles items.

Harpur, T. J., R. D. Hare, and A. R. Hakstian. 1989. "[Two-Factor Conceptualization of Psychopathy: Construct Validity and Assessment Implications](#)." *Psychological Assessment* 1: 6-17.

This study carries forward a factor analysis of the Psychopathy Checklist Revised ([PCL-R](#)). It emerges that [PCL-R](#) is composed of two correlated factors. Factor I: interpersonal/affective items: 1. Glib/superficial charm 2. Grandiose sense of self-worth 4. Pathological Lying 5. Conning/manipulative 6. Lack of remorse or guilt 7. Shallow affect 8. Callous/lack of empathy 6. Failure to accept responsibility for own actions. Factor II: Impulsive/antisocial lifestyle items 3. Need for Stimulation/proneness to boredom 9. Parasitic lifestyle 10. Poor behavioural controls 12. Early behavioural problems 13. Lack of realistic, long-term goals 14. Impulsivity 15. Irresponsibility 18. Juvenile delinquency 19. Revocation of conditional release. Items in the [PCL-R](#) that fail to fall on either factor: 11. Promiscuous sexual behaviour 17. Many short-term marital affairs 20. Criminal versatility.

Hart, S., D. Cox, and R. Hare. 1995. *The Hare Psychopathy Checklist - Revised Screening Version*. Toronto: Multi-Health Systems.

Hobson, J. and J. Shine. 1998. "[Measurement of Psychopathy in a UK Prison Population Referred for Long-Term Psychotherapy](#)." *British Journal of Criminology* 38: 504-515.

Lilienfeld S. O. and B. P. Andrews. 1996. "[Development and Preliminary Validation of a Self-Report Measure of Psychopathic Personality Traits in Noncriminal Populations](#)." *Journal of Personality Assessment* 66; 488-524.

This paper illustrates and assesses the Psychopathic Personality Inventory (PPP). This inventory consists of 163 items and offers a global index of psychopathy with eight subscales: "Machiavellian egocentricity", "social potency", "fearlessness", "coldheartedness", "impulsive nonconformity", "blame externalization", "carefree nonplanfulness", and "stress immunity".

Molto, J., R. Poy, and R. Torrubia. 2000. "[Standardization of the Hare Psychopathy Checklist - Revised in a Spanish prison sample](#)." *Journal of Personality Disorders* 14: 84-96.

Study on Spanish inmates that confirms the [two factors analysis](#) of [PCL-R](#)

Pham, T. H. 1998. "[Psychometric Evaluation of Hare's Psychopathy Checklist - Revised Amongst a Population of Incarcerated Belgian Prisoners](#)." *L'Encephale* 24: 435-441.

Study on Belgian inmates that confirms the [two factors analysis](#) of [PCL-R](#).

Wootton, B. 1959. *Social Science and Social Pathology*. London: George Allen and Unwin.

Argues that the diagnosis of psychopathy available at the time is circular: mental abnormality is inferred by criminal behaviour that is explained in terms of mental abnormality (p. 250). Wootton's argument is based on dated conceptions of psychopathy, but there were also reasons for scepticism at the time, see [Haksar 1965](#).

2.2 Children and adolescents

Forth, A. E., D. S. Kosson, and R. D. Hare. 2003. *The Psychopathy Checklist: Youth Version*.

Toronto, Ontario: Multi-Health Systems.

Frick, P. J. and R. D. Hare. 2001a. *The Antisocial Process Screening Device*. Toronto, Ontario: Multi-Health Systems.

APSD is an assessment tool for psychopathy in childhood and adolescence based on developments of Hare's ([PCL-R](#)) (Hare 2003, Hart 1995). The APSD is scored on the basis of parental/teacher reviews. See also [Kosson et al. 2002](#).

Frick, P. J. and R. D. Hare. 2001b. *Antisocial Process Screening Device (APSD) Technical Manual*. Toronto, Ontario: Multi-Health Systems.

Kosson, D. S., Cyterski T. D., B. L. Steuerwald, C. S. Neumann, and S. Walker-Matthews. 2002. "[The Reliability and Validity of the Psychopathy Checklist: Youth Version \(PCL:YV\)](#)." *Psychological Assessment* 14: 97-109.

2.3 Recidivism

Hare, R. D., D. Clark, M. Grann, and D. Thornton. 2000. "[Psychopathy and the Predictive Validity of the P.C. L-R an International Perspective](#)." *Behavioral Sciences and the Law* 18: 623-645.

An international study of 278 offenders. While 82 percent of individuals with psychopathy ([PCL-R](#)) reoffended, 40 of non-psychopathic individuals were reconvicted.

Hare, R. D., A. E. Forth, and Strachan, K. E. 1992. "Psychopathy and Crime across the Life Span." In R. D. Peters, R. J. McMahon, & V. L. Quinsey (Eds.), *Aggression and violence throughout the lifespan* (pp. 285–300). Newbury Park: Sage Publications.

Hare, R. D., L. M. McPherson. 1984. "Violent and Aggressive Behavior by Criminal Psychopaths." *International Journal of Law and Psychiatry*, 7, 35–50.

Hare, R. D., C. E. Strachan, and A. E. Forth. 1993. "Psychopathy and crime: A review." In K. Howells, & C. R. Hollin (Eds.), *Clinical Approaches to the Mentally Disordered Offender*. Chichester: Wiley, pp. 165–178.

Hart, S. D., P. R. Kropp, and R. D. Hare. 1988. "[Performance of Male Psychopaths Following Conditional Release from Prison](#)." *Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology* 56: 227-232.

Show the usefulness of [PCL-R](#) in predicting reoffending. Within 3 years, 25 per cent of non-psychopathic individuals had been re-incarcerated. 80 per cent of the individuals with psychopathy had breached the terms of their release.

Grann, M., N. Langstrom, A. Tengstrom, and G. Kullgren. 1999. "[Psychopathy \(P. C. L-R\) Predicts Violent Recidivism Among Criminal Offenders with Personality Disorder in Sweden](#)." *Law and Human Behavior* 23: 205-217.

Hemphill, J. F., R. D. Hare, and S. Wong. 1998. "Psychopathy and Recidivism a Review." *Legal and Criminological Psychology* 3: 737-745.

A comprehensive review of studies on psychopathy and recidivism. The authors conclude that individuals with psychopathy ([PCL-R](#) diagnosis) are three time more likely than non-psychopathic offenders to reoffend. For other studies that support this higher correlation, see Hart et al. 1998, Hare et al. 2000, Serin and Amos 1995, Grann et al. 1999. Moreover, this study shows that recidivism is more correlated with the [PCL-R](#) diagnosis of psychopathy than with the DSM-IV diagnosis of [ASPD](#).

Serin, R. C. and N. L. Amos. 1995. "[The Role of Psychopathy in the Assessment of Dangerousness](#)." *International Journal of Law and Psychiatry* 18: 231-238.

This study on the correlation of psychopathy ([PCL-R](#)) and recidivism considers 299 offenders within a period of 3 years. 65 per cent of individuals with psychopathy and 25 non-psychopaths were convicted of a new offence.

Wilson, N. J. 2003. [The Utility of the Psychopathy Checklist- Screening Version for Predicting Serious Violent Recidivism in a New Zealand Offender Sample](#). PhD Thesis, University of Waikato.

3 Functional impairments

3.1 Lack of fear/anxiety

Cleckley, H. M. 1976. *The mask of sanity an attempt to clarify some issues about the so-called psychopathic personality*. St. Louis (Mo) Mosby.

Eysenck, H. 1964. *Crime and Personality*. London: Routledge & Kegan Paul.

Flor, H., Birbaumer N., C. Hermann, S. Ziegler, and C. J. Patrick. 2002. "[Aversive Pavlovian Conditioning in Psychopaths Peripheral and Central Correlates](#)." *Psychophysiology* 39: 505-518.

Frick, P. J., S. O. Lilienfeld, M. Ellis, B. Loney, and P. Silverthorn. 1999. "[The Association Between Anxiety and Psychopathy Dimensions in Children](#)." *Journal of Abnormal Child Psychology* 27, 5: 383-392.

Gray, J. A. 1987. *The Psychology of Fear and Stress*, 2nd edn. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Hare, R. D. 1965. "Psychopathy, Fear Arousal and Anticipated Pain." *Psychological Reports* 16: 499-502.

Shows that psychopathic offenders, when anticipating painful stimuli, manifest significantly smaller electrodermal responses than non-psychopathic offenders. Moreover, psychopaths' electrodermal responses closer to the time of administration of the shock. For similar results, see Hare 1982, Hare et al. 1978, Ogloff and Wong 1990.

Hare, R. D. 1982. "Psychopathy and Physiological Activity During Anticipation of an Aversive Stimulus in a Distraction Paradigm." *Psychophysiology* 19: 266-271.

Hare, R. D., J. Frazelle, and D. N. Cox. 1978. "Psychopathy and Physiological Responses to Threat of an Aversive Stimulus." *Psychophysiology* 15: 165-172.

Hare, R. D. and M. J. Quinn. 1971. "Psychopathy and Autonomic Conditioning." *Journal of Abnormal Psychology* 77: 223-235.

Ogloff, J. R. and S. Wong. 1990. "Electrodermal and Cardiovascular Evidence of a Coping Response in Psychopaths." *Criminal Justice and Behaviour* 17: 231-245.

Patrick, C. J. 1994. "Emotion and Psychopathy Startling New Insights." *Psychophysiology* 31: 319-330.

Patrick, C. J., B. N. Cuthbert, and P. J. Lang. 1994 "[Emotion in the Criminal Psychopath: Fear Image Processing](#)." 103, 3: 523-534.

While comparison individuals show strong physiological reactions to imagined frightening situations ("Taking a shower I hear the sound of someone forcing the door"), psychopaths show reduced reactions to these events.

Patrick, C., M. M. Bradley, and P. J. Lang. 1994. "[Emotion in the Criminal Psychopath: Startle Reflex Modulation](#)." *Journal of Abnormal Psychology* 102: 82-92.

Psychopathic offenders, in comparison to non-psychopathic subjects, present a reduced [startle reflex](#) following negative primes.

Lykken, D. T. 1957. "A Study of Anxiety in the Sociopathic Personality." *Journal of Abnormal and Social Psychology* 55: 6-10.

This classic study demonstrates how the impaired aversive conditioning of psychopaths results in low fearfulness. Both psychopath and comparison individuals were exposed to repeated successions of the sound of a buzzer (Conditioned Stimulus or CS) and the infliction of innocuous but painful electroshock (Aversive Unconditioned Stimulus) that induces sweating and electrodermal changes (Unconditioned Responses). While in non-psychopaths the CS would alone induce sweating and, therefore, electrodermal changes, psychopaths would not show this conditioning. For similar results see Hare and Quinn (1971), and Flor *et al.* (2002).

Schmitt, W. A. and J. P. Newman. 1999. "[Are All Psychopathic Individuals Low-Anxious?](#)" *Journal of Abnormal Psychology* 108: 353-358.

Trasler, G. B. 1973. "Criminal Behaviour." In H. J. Eysenk, ed. *Handbook of Abnormal Psychology*. London: Pitman.

Verona, E., J. J. Curtin, and T. E. Joiner. 2001. "[Psychopathy, Antisocial Personality, and Suicide Risk.](#)" *Journal of Abnormal Psychology* 110, 3: 462-470.

3.2 Instrumental learning

Blair, R. J. R., E. Colledge, Mitchell D. G. 2001. "[Somatic Markers and Response Reversal: Is there Orbifrontal Cortex Dysfunction in Boys with Psychopathic Tendencies?](#)" *Journal of Abnormal Child Psychology*, 29(6), 491-498.

LaPierre D., C. M. J. Brown, Hodgins S. 1995. "[Ventral Frontal Deficits in Psychopathy: Neuropsychological Test Findings.](#)" *Neuropsychologia* 33, 139-151.

Mitchell, D. G. V., E. Colledge, A. Leonard, R. J. R. Blair. 2002. "[Risky Decisions and Response Reversal: is There Evidence of Orbitofrontal Cortex Dysfunction in Psychopathic Individuals?](#)" *Neuropsychologia* 40, 2013-2022.

Newman, J. and D. Kosson. 1986. "[Passive Avoidance Learning in Psychopathic and Non-Psychopathic Offenders.](#)" *Journal of Abnormal Psychology* 95 (3): 252-256.

Individuals with psychopathy commit more [passive avoidance](#) errors than comparison individuals. See for similar results Newman *et al.* 1997, Newman *et al.* 1985, Thornquist and Zuckerman, 1995.

Newman, J. P., W. A. Schmitt, and W. D. Voss. 1997. "[The Impact of Motivationally Neutral Cues on Psychopathic Individuals Assessing the Generality of the Response Modulation Hypothesis.](#)" *Journal of Abnormal Psychology* 106: 563-575.

Newman, J. P., C. S. Widom, and S. Nathan. 1985. "Passive Avoidance in Syndromes of Disinhibition Psychopathy and Extraversion." *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology* 48: 1316-1327.

Newman, J. P., C. M. Patterson, D. S. Kosson. 1987. "Response Perseveration in Psychopaths." *Journal of Abnormal Psychology*, 96, 145-148.

Shows that psychopaths have difficulties with a [response extinction](#) task. In the task subjects have to play a card. While initially playing a card is rewarded with money, as the game progresses the probability of reward decreases. Psychopaths persevere in playing the cards even when this is associated with punishment.

Roussy, S., J. Toupin. 2000. "[Behavioral Inhibition Deficits in Juvenile Psychopaths.](#)" *Aggressive Behavior* 26, 413-424.

Thornquist, M. H. and M. Zuckerman. 1995. "[Psychopathy, Passive-avoidance Learning and Basic Dimensions of Personality.](#)" *Personality and Individual Differences* 19, 4: 525-534.

3.3 Empathy

R. J. R. Blair, E. Colledge, L. Murray, D. G. V. Mitchell 2001. "[A Selective Impairment in the Processing of Sad and Fearful Expressions in Children with Psychopathic Tendencies.](#)" *Journal of Abnormal Child Psychology* 29 (6), pp. 491–498.

Children with psychopathic tendencies showed emotion recognition impairment relative to the comparison group.

Aniskiewicz, A. S. 1979. "[Autonomic Components of Vicarious Conditioning and Psychopathy.](#)" *Journal of Clinical Psychology* 35: 60-67.

Blair, R. J. R. 1999b. "[Responsiveness to Distress Cues in the Child with Psychopathic Tendencies.](#)" *Personality and Individual Differences*, 27, 135-145.

Electrodermal measurement shows that children with psychopathic tendencies (APSD diagnosis) manifest reduced autonomic responses to images representing distressed individuals.

Blair, R. J. R., L. Jones, F. Clark, M. Smith. 1997. "The Psychopathic Individual: a Lack of Responsiveness to Distress Cues?" *Psychophysiology*, 34, 192-198.

Blair, R. J. R., L. Cipolotti. 2000. "[Impaired Social Response Reversal: A Case of 'Acquired Sociopathy'.](#)" *Brain*, 123, 1122-1141.

Calder, A. J., A. V. Young, D. Rowland, D. I. Perrett. 1996. "[Facial Emotion Recognition after Bilateral Amygdala Damage: Differentially Severe Impairment of Fear.](#)" *Cognitive Neuropsychology*, 13, 699-745.

House, T. H., W. L. Milligan 1976. "[Autonomic Responses to Modelled Distress in Prison Psychopaths.](#)" *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 34, 556-560.

3.4 Moral reasoning

Blair, R. J. R. 1995. "[A Cognitive Developmental Approach to Morality: Investigating the Psychopath.](#)" *Cognition*, 57, 1-29.

Blair, R. J. R. 1997. "[Moral Reasoning in the Child with Psychopathic Tendencies.](#)" *Personality and Individual Differences*, 22, 731-739.

Campagna, A. F., S. Harter 1975. "[Moral Judgements in Sociopathic and Normal Children.](#)" *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 31, 199-205.

This study uses Kohlberg's paradigm. It reports that individuals with psychopathy show lower levels of moral reasoning than non-psychopathic offenders. For similar claims, see: [Fodor 1973](#), [Jurkovic and Prentice 1977](#). For contrasting results, see [Lee and Prentice 1988](#), [Trevethan and Walker 1989](#). Moreover, the pertinence of Kohlberg's paradigm [has been challenged](#).

Fodor, E. M. 1973. "Moral Development and Parent Behaviour Antecedents in Adolescent Psychopaths." *Journal of Genetic Psychology*, 122, 37-43.

Jurkovic, G. J., P. M. Prentice. 1977. "Relation of Moral and Cognitive Development to Dimensions of Juvenile Delinquency." *Journal of Abnormal Psychology*, 86, 414-420.

Lee, M., N. M. Prentice. 1988. "Interrelations of Empathy, Cognition, and Moral Reasoning with Dimensions of Juvenile Delinquency." *Journal of Abnormal Child Psychology*, 16, 127-139.

This study uses Kohlberg's paradigm. It reports that while the moral reasoning of psychopathic and non-psychopathic offenders are lower than non-criminal individuals, there is no difference between psychopathic and non-psychopathic offenders. See also, [Trevethan and Walker 1989](#). This contrasts with the results in [Campagna and Harter 1975](#).

Trevethan, S., L. J. Walker. 1989. "Hypothetical Versus Real-Life Moral Reasoning Among Psychopathic and Delinquent Youth." *Development and Psychopathology*, 1, 91-103.

3.5 Attention

Hiatt, K. D., W. A. Schmitt, J. P. Newman. 2004. "[Stroop Tasks Reveal Abnormal Selective Attention Among Psychopathic Offenders](#)." *Neuropsychology* 18(1): 50-59.

Howland, E. W., D. S. Kosson, C. M. Patterson, J. P. Newman. 1993. "[Altering a Dominant Response: Performance of Psychopaths and Low-Socialization College Students on a Cued Reaction Time Task](#)." *Journal of Abnormal Psychology*, 102(3), 379-387.

Study of the attentional performance of psychopaths and non-psychopaths on a exogenously-cued Posner task.

Jutai, J. W., R. D. Hare. 1983. "Psychopathy and Selective Attention During Performance of a Complex Perceptual-Motor Task." *Psychophysiology* 20: 146-151

When psychopaths focus their attention on a certain task, they show reduced physiological (autonomic and electrocortical) responsivity to irrelevant auditory stimuli, while they respond normally during passive listening.

Jutai, J. W., R. D. Hare, J. F. Connolly. 1987. "[Psychopathy and Event Related Brain Potentials \(ERPs\) Associated with Attention to Speech Stimuli](#)." *Personality and Individual Differences* 8, 175-184.

Kiehl, K. A., R. D. Hare, P. F. Liddle, J. J. McDonald. 1999 "[Reduced P300 Responses in Criminal Psychopaths During a Visual Oddball Task](#)." *Biological Psychiatry* 45(11): 1498-1507.

Kosson, D. S. 1996. "[Psychopathy and Dual-Task Performance under Focusing Conditions](#)." *Journal of Abnormal Psychology* 105(3): 391-400.

Kosson, D. S. 1998. "[Divided Visual Attention in Psychopathic and Nonpsychopathic Offenders](#)." *Personality and Individual Differences* 24: 373-391.

Kosson, D. S., J. P. Newman 1986. "[Psychopathy and the Allocation of Attentional Capacity in a Divided-Attention Situation](#)." *Journal of Abnormal Psychology* 95: 257-263.

Newmann, J. P., W. A. Schmitt, W. D. Voss. 1997. "[The Impact of Motivationally Neutral Cues on Psychopathic Individuals: Assessing the Generality of the Response Modulation Hypothesis](#)." *Journal of Abnormal Psychology* 106: 563-575.

Raine A., P. H. Venables. 1988. "[Enhanced P3 Evoked Potentials and Longer Recovery Times in Psychopaths](#)." *Psychophysiology* 25: 30-38.

4 Information processing models

4.1 Response modulation hypothesis

- Gorestein, E. E., J. P. Newman. 1980. "[Disinhibitory Psychopathology: A New Perspective and a Model for Research.](#)" *Psychological Review* 87: 301-315.
- Newman, J. P. 1998. "Psychopathic Behaviour: an Information Processing Perspective". In D. J. Cooke, A. E. Forth, R. D. Hare (eds.). *Psychopathy: Theory, Research and Implications for Society*. Dordrecht: Kluwer, pp. 81-104.
- Newmann, J. P., W. A. Schmitt, W. D. Voss. 1997. "[The Impact of Motivationally Neutral Cues on Psychopathic Individuals: Assessing the Generality of the Response Modulation Hypothesis.](#)" *Journal of Abnormal Psychology* 106: 563-575
- Patterson, C. M., J. P. Newman. 1993. "[Reflectivity and Learning from Aversive Events: Toward a Psychological Mechanism for the Syndromes of Disinhibition.](#)" *Psychological Review* 100: 716-736.

4.2 Dysfunctional fear hypothesis

- Blackburn, R. 1988. "On moral judgements and personality disorders: the myth of psychopathic personality revisited". *British Journal of Psychiatry* 153: 505–512.
- Blair, K. S., Leonard, A., Morton, J., & Blair, R. J. R. (2006a). Impaired decision making on the basis of both reward and punishment information in individuals with psychopathy. *Personality and Individual Differences*, 41, 155–165.
- Cleckley, H. M. 1941. [The Mask of Sanity: An Attempt to Clarify Some Issues about the So-called Psychopathic Personality.](#) 5th edition, St. Louis (Mo) Mosby.
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- Fowles, D. C. 1988. "Psychophysiology and Psychopathy: a Motivational Approach." *Psychophysiology* 25: 373-391.
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- Lykken, D. T. 1995. *The Antisocial Personalities*. Hillsdale, NJ: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates.
- Mealey, L. 1995. "The Sociobiology of Sociopathy: an Integrated Evolutionary Model." *Behavioral and Brain Sciences* 18, 523-599.
- Patrick, C. J. 1994. "Emotion and Psychopathy Startling New Insights." *Psychophysiology* 31: 319-330.
- Pichot, P. 1978. "Psychopathic Behavior: a Historical Review." in R. D. Hare, D. S. Schalling (eds.). *Psychopathic Behavior: Approaches to Research*. Chichester: John Wiley and Sons.
- Trasler, G. B. 1973. "Criminal Behaviour." In H. J. Eysenck (ed.). *Handbook of Abnormal Psychology*. London: Pitman.
- Tralser, G. B. "Relations between Psychopathy and Persistent Criminality - Methodological and Theoretical Issues." in R. D. Hare, D. S. Schalling (eds.). *Psychopathic Behavior: Approaches to Research*. Chichester: John Wiley and Sons.

4.3 Violence inhibition mechanism model

Blair, R. J. R. 1995. "[A Cognitive Developmental Approach to Morality: Investigating the Psychopath.](#)" *Cognition* 57, 1-29.

Blair, R. J. R., L. Jones, F. Clark, M. Smith. 1997. "The Psychopathic Individual: a Lack of Responsiveness to Distress Cues?" *Psychophysiology* 34, 192-198.

Blair, J., Mitchell, D. and Blair, K. 2005. [The Psychopath: Emotion and the Brain.](#) Oxford: Blackwell.

5 Neurological explanations

5.1 The left hemisphere activation hypothesis

Kosson, D. S. 1998. "Divided Visual Attention in Psychopathic and Nonpsychopathic Offenders." *Personality and Individual Differences* 24: 373-391.

Argues that information processing in psychopaths is disrupted when the left hemisphere is activated by processing demands.

5.2 The frontal lobe dysfunction hypothesis

Moffitt, T. E. 1993. "The Neuropsychology of Conduct Disorder." *Development and Psychopathology* 5: 135-152.

Raine, A. 1993. "Annotation: the Role of Prefrontal Deficits, Low Autonomic Arousal, and Early Health Factors in the Development of Antisocial and Aggressive Behaviour in Children." *Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry* 43, 417-434.

5.3 The somatic marker hypothesis

Bechara, A., A. R. Damasio, H. Damasio, S. W. Anderson 2000. "[Emotion, Decision Making and the Orbitofrontal Cortex.](#)" *Cerebral Cortex*, 10, 295-307.

This paper reviews some neuropsychological studies, concerning patients with ventromedial prefrontal cortex (VM) damage, that support the *somatic marker hypothesis*. The central idea of this hypothesis is that certain marker signals, which arise in bioregulation, including those expressed in emotions, influence decision making processes. The authors advance the hypothesis that psychopathic behaviour might also result from abnormal operation of the neural system involving the VM that determine a reduced generation of somatic markers. For a more extensive and semi-popular presentation of the somatic marker hypothesis see [Damasio 1994](#).

Blair, R. J. R. 1999b. "[Responsiveness to Distress Cues in the Child with Psychopathic Tendencies.](#)" *Personality and Individual Differences*, 27, 135-145.

Against the prediction of some upholders of [somatic marker hypothesis](#) applied to psychopathy, children with psychopathy appear to present somatic marker responses to certain visual stimuli of social situations.

Blair, R.J.R., L. Cipolotti 2000. "[Impaired social response reversal: A case of 'acquired sociopathy'](#)." *Brain*, 123 (2000), pp. 1122-1141.

Damasio, A. R. 1994 [Descartes' Error: Emotion, Rationality and the Human Brain](#) (information). New York: Putnam.

Dolan, R. 2000. "[On the Neurology of Morals.](#)" *Nature Neuroscience*, 2, 927-929.

Lösel, F., M. Schmucker, 2004. "[Psychopathy, Risk Taking, and Attention: A Differential Test of the Somatic Marker Hypothesis.](#)" *Journal of Abnormal Psychology*, 4, 522-529.

Schmitt W. A., C. A. Brinkley, J. P. Newman, 1999. "[Testing Damasio's Somatic Marker Hypothesis with Psychopathic Individuals: Risk Takers or Risk Averse?](#)" *Journal of Abnormal Psychology*, 108, 538-543.

5.4 The amygdala dysfunction hypothesis

Blair, R. J. R. 2001. "[Neuro-cognitive Models of Aggression, the Antisocial Personality Disorder and Psychopathy.](#)" *Journal of Neurology, Neurosurgery and Psychiatry* 71, 727-731.

Blair, R. J. R. 2002. "A Neuro-Cognitive Model of the Psychopathic Individual." In M. A. Ron, T. W. Robbins (eds.). *Disorders of Brain and Mind*. Vol. 2. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Blair, R. J. R., J. S. Morris, C. D. Frith, D. I. Perrett, R. Dolan 1999. "[Dissociable Neural Responses to Facial Expressions of Sadness and Anger.](#)" *Brain*, 122, 883-893.

Blair, J., Mitchell, D. and Blair, K. 2005. [The Psychopath: Emotion and the Brain](#) (information). Oxford: Blackwell.

Patrick, C. J. 1994. "Emotion and Psychopathy Startling New Insights." *Psychophysiology* 31: 319-330.

6 Treatment

6.1 General

Cleckley, H. M. 1941. [The Mask of Sanity: An Attempt to Clarify Some Issues about the So-called Psychopathic Personality.](#) 5th edition, St. Louis (Mo) Mosby.

Cleckley maintains that psychopaths neither benefit from treatment nor can form the emotional bonds required for therapy.

Harris, G. T., E. M. Rice. "Treatment of Psychopathy: A Review of Empirical Findings." in [Patrick ed. 2005](#), pp. 555-572.

A critical review of recent empirical studies.

McCord, J. 1982. "Parental Behavior in the Cycle of Aggression." *Psychiatry* 51, 14-23.

Maintains that there is no evidence for efficacious treatment of adult psychopaths..

Hare, R. D. 1970. *Psychopathy: Theory and Research*. New York: Guildford Press.

Concluded that, at the time, there was no evidence for efficacious treatment of adult psychopaths.

Salekin, R. T. 2002. "[Psychopathy and Therapeutic Pessimism Clinical Lore or Clinical Reality?](#)" *Clinical Psychology Review* 22, 79-112.

A meta-analysis study of 42 studies, it states that there is evidence that psychopaths respond to treatment. The methodology and reliability of the study are criticised in [Harris and Rice 2005](#), pp. 557-561.

Skeem, J. L., J. Monahan, E. P. Mulvey 2002. "[Psychopathy, Treatment, and Subsequent Violence Among Civil Psychiatric Patients.](#)" *Law and Human Behavior* 26, 577-603.

The authors conclude that there is evidence that psychopaths respond to treatment. This study uses data from the MacArthur Risk Assessment Study (<http://macarthur.virginia.edu>). Nonforensic potentially

psychopathic patients (scored on the PCL-SV) who participated in more than 6 sessions of therapy exhibited less violent behaviour (in the 10 post discharge weeks) than those who attended fewer sessions. For criticisms, see [Harris and Rice 2005](#), pp. 561-562.

6.2 Therapeutic communities

Hobson, J., J. Shine, R. Roberts. 2000. "How do Psychopaths Behave in a Prison Therapeutic Community?" *Psychology, Crime and Law* 6, 139-154.

Study of a therapeutic community at Grendon prison in England. Higher [PCL-R](#) scores associated with poor adjustment to the program.

Ogloff, J., S. Wong, A. Greenwood. 1990. "Treating Criminal Psychopaths in a Therapeutic Community Program." *Behavioral Sciences and the Law* 8, 81-90.

Evaluation of a therapeutic community program. Psychopaths (scored on [PCL](#)), compared to non-psychopaths, showed less motivation and improvement and were discharged earlier.

Rice, M. E., G. T. Harris, C. Cormier. 1992. "A Follow-up of Rapists Assessed in a Maximum Security Psychiatric Facility." *Journal of Interpersonal Violence* 5, 435-448.

Evaluation of a therapeutic community program operated over a decade at the forensic hospital in Penetanguishene, Ontario. The results showed that psychopaths (scored on [PCL-R](#)), compared to non-program, manifested higher violent recidivism. Non-psychopaths who took part in the program also had a lower rate of violent recidivism. For similar results, see [Ogloff et al. 1990](#), [Hobson et al. 2000](#).

6.3 Cognitive behavioural therapies

Hare, R. D., D. Clark, M. Grann, D. Thornton. 2000. "Psychopathy and the Predictive Validity of the PCL-R: An International Perspective." *Behavioural Sciences and the Law* 18, 623-645.

A study based on a short-term anger management and social skills training program. While the program had no demonstrable effects on non-psychopaths, offenders with high score in PCL-R had higher rates of recidivism than untreated offenders with similar scoring.

Hughes, G., T. Hogue, C. Hollin, H. Champion 1997. "First-stage Evaluation of a Treatment Programme for Personality Disordered Offenders." *Journal of Forensic Psychiatry* 8, 515-527.

PCL-R score is inversely correlated with therapeutic improvement in a program for mentally disordered offenders.

Seto, M. C., H. Barbaree. 1999. "Psychopathy, Treatment, Behaviour, and Sex Offender Recidivism." *Journal of Interpersonal Violence* 14, 1235-1248.

Study of a treatment based on the principles of [good correctional treatment](#). Offender with high psychopathy scores were more likely to reoffend than other participants.

Wong, S., R. D. Hare 2005. *Guidelines for a Psychopathy Treatment Program*. Toronto, ON, Canada: Multi-Health Systems.

The authors suggest that a cognitive behavioural programs targeting personal characteristics that are correlated with recidivism might be effective.

Part 2: Philosophy

1 Philosophy of psychiatry

1.2 Mental illness status

Malatesti, L. 2014. "[Psychopathy and Failures of Ordinary Doing.](#)" *Etica & Politica / Ethics & Politics* XVI, 2: 1138-1152.

One of the philosophical discussions stimulated by the recent scientific study of psychopathy concerns the mental illness status of this construct. This paper contributes to this debate by recommending a way of approaching the problem at issue. By relying on and integrating the seminal work of the philosopher of psychiatry Bill Fulford, I argue that a mental illness is a harmful unified construct that involves failures of ordinary doing. Central to the present proposal is the idea that the notion of failure of ordinary doing, besides the first personal experience of the patient, has to be spelled out also by referring to a normative account of idealised conditions of agency. This account would have to state in particular the conditions which are required for moral responsibility. I maintain that psychopathy is a unified enough construct that involves some harms. The question whether the condition involves also a failure of ordinary doing, as this notion is understood in this paper, is not investigated here.

Malatesti, L. and J. McMillan. 2014. "[Defending psychopathy: an argument from values and moral responsibility.](#)" *Theoretical medicine and bioethics* 35, 1: 7-16.

How psychopaths and their capacity for moral action are viewed is not only philosophically interesting but is also important and relevant for policy. The philosophical discussion of psychopathy has focussed upon the psychological faculties that are prerequisites for moral responsibility and empirical findings regarding psychopathy that are relevant to philosophical accounts of moral understanding and motivation. However, there are legitimate worries about whether psychopathy is a robust scientific construct, and there are risks attached to reifying psychopathy or other psychiatric constructs. We defend the concept of psychopathy by pointing out the relevance of empirical studies about it for our ordinary practices of ascribing moral responsibility and folk psychological accounts of moral understanding and motivation.

Nadelhoffer, T. and Sinnott-Armstrong, W. P. 2013. "Is psychopathy a mental disease?" In Vincent, A. N., ed. *Neuroscience and legal responsibility*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 227-253.

If mental diseases are classified as harmful dysfunctions, psychopathy is a mental disease.

Reimer, M. 2008. "[Psychopathy Without \(the language of \) Disorder.](#)" *Neuroethics* 1: 185-198.

Abstract. Psychopathy is often characterized in terms of what I call "the language of disorder." I question whether such language is necessary for an accurate and precise characterization of psychopathy, and I consider the practical implications of how we characterize psychopathy—whether as a biological, or merely normative, disorder.

1 Moral philosophy

1.1 Criminal responsibility/punishment

Adshead, G. 2003. "[Measuring Moral Identities: Psychopaths and Responsibility.](#)" *Philosophy, Psychiatry & Psychology* 10, 2: 185-187.

Benn, P. 2003. "[The Responsibility of the Psychopathic Offender: Commentary on Ciocchetti.](#)" *Philosophy, Psychiatry & Psychology* 10, 2: 189-192.

Ciocchetti, C. 2003. "[The Responsibility of the Psychopathic Offender.](#)" *Philosophy, Psychiatry & Psychology* 10, 2: 175-183.

Ciocchetti, C. 2003. "[Some Thoughts on Diverse Psychopathic Offenders and Legal Responsibility.](#)" *Philosophy, Psychiatry & Psychology* 10, 2: 195-198.

Fine, C., J. Kennett 2004. "[Mental Impairment, Moral Understanding and Criminal Responsibility: Psychopathy and the Purposes of Punishment.](#)" *International Journal of Law and Psychiatry* 27, 5: 425-443.

This paper is empirically well informed and contains forceful arguments. Psychopaths (PCL-classification) are not criminally responsible. In fact, their capacity to draw the moral/conventional distinction is impaired (see section 3.4) and, thus, they do not meet the requirement of moral understanding advanced in the criminal code (for instance, in Australia, USA and UK). Moreover, neither retributive nor utilitarian conceptions of punishment imply that psychopathic offenders should be punished. However, assuming that self-defence provides reasons for punishment and given the data suggesting the PCL-classification as a good predictor of criminal recidivism (see section 2.3), we are justified in detaining psychopaths.

Hare, R. D. 1988. "Psychopaths and their Nature." in T. Millon, E. Simonsen, M. Birket-Smith, & R. D. Davis (Eds.) *Psychopathy: Antisocial, Criminal and Violent Behaviour*. New York: The Guildford Press, pp. 188-212.

Agreeing with the practice in many jurisdictions, Hare maintains that psychopathy should be considered an aggravating factor for criminal responsibility.

Kiehl, K. A. and W. P. Sinnott-Armstrong. 2013. [Handbook on Psychopathy and Law](#). (Information) Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Maibom, H. L. 2008. "[The Mad, the Bad and the Psychopath.](#)" *Neuroethics* 1: 167-184.

Argues against the claim that psychopaths entirely lack in the 'deep moral understanding' necessary for responsibility, on the basis of empirical evidence. Research on psychopaths and empathy (e.g. [Blair 1995](#)) establishes only that empathy is *impaired* in most psychopaths, not that it is *absent*. Moreover, since harm norms are justified on a whole range of grounds, not just empathy, lack of empathy in itself does not negate understanding of these norms. On the rational side, the evidence does not justify the conclusion that psychopaths' practical reason is so impaired that they cannot understand that rational values provide reasons for action. Finally, in a world with no moral or social norms, psychopaths would face little or no problems. Psychopaths are therefore "more bad than mad" and to excuse them on the basis of their condition would be tantamount to the paradoxical claim that they are to be excused because they are bad.

Shuman, D. W. "[A Comment on Christopher Ciocchetti 'The Responsibility of the Psychopathic Offender'](#)" *Philosophy, Psychiatry & Psychology* 10, 2: 193-194.

Slovenko, R. 1999. "[Commentary Responsibility of the Psychopath.](#)" *Philosophy, Psychiatry, & Psychology* 6, 1: 53-55.

Reznek, L. 1997. [Evil or Ill? Justifying the Insanity Defence](#) (information). London: Routledge.

Psychopathy should not excuse criminal behaviour. In fact, classifying psychopathy as a disease would have unacceptable social and political costs (pp. 237-245). Moreover, courts should consider psychopathy as proving the lack of any redeeming characteristics.

1.2 Moral understanding (see also 1.1., 1.3., 1.4.)

Glover, J. 2014. *Alien landscapes? Interpreting disordered minds*. Cambridge (Mass.) and London:

Harvard University Press.

Jonathan Glover elaborates in this book the foundations for a interpretative psychiatric descriptions and explanations. An application of this approach by mean of the use qualitative interviews with a group of men classified as having antisocial personality disorder and detained at Broadmoor Hospital (pp. 9-73). The aim is to hear the voices of these individuals to investigate the claims that them and psychopaths lack a conscience. He individuates three themes as standing out from these interviews: the majority of these subjects manifest moral shallowness, the dominance of self-interest over a capacity to being concerned about others and imagining their situation, and a morality that focuses in rights and fairness but that is not based on empathy for others (p. 36). However, he also registered comments of some of the interviewed people that contrasted with the previous generalisations.

1.3 Moral responsibility

Adshead, G. 1996. "[Commentary on "Psychopathy, Other-Regarding Moral Beliefs, and Responsibility."](#) *Philosophy, Psychiatry & Psychology* 3, 4: 279-281.

Adshead, G. 1999. "[Psychopaths and Other-Regarding Beliefs.](#)" *Philosophy, Psychiatry & Psychology* 6, 1: 41-44.

Arrington, R. 1979. "Practical Reason, Responsibility and the Psychopath." *Journal for the Theory of Social Behavior* 9:71-80.

Barry, P. B. 2010. "[Saving Strawson: Evil and Strawsonian Accounts of Moral Responsibility.](#)" *Ethical Theory and Moral Practice*. Published online 7 January 2010.

Defends Peter Strawson against the charge that his account of responsibility commits him to the implausible claim that evil is an exempting condition. This is achieved through a discussion of various types of evil person, and of psychopaths, discussed here with reference to [Levy 2007](#), and to the response by Vargas and Nichols. If Levy is correct that psychopaths are unresponsive to moral reasons, then they are not exhaustive of the class of evil people, and Strawson can exempt them from moral responsibility without falling foul of the wider implausible claim. If Levy is incorrect, then psychopaths are members of the moral community as defined by Strawson, and so are not exempt from responsibility on Strawson's account.

Benn, P. 1999. "[Freedom, Resentment and the Psychopath.](#)" *Philosophy, Psychiatry & Psychology* 6, 1: 29-39.

Benn, P. 1999. "[Response to the Commentaries.](#)" *Philosophy, Psychiatry & Psychology* 6, 1: 57-58.

Blair, R. J. R. 2007. "[What Emotional Responding Is to Blame It Might Not Be to Responsibility.](#)" (Commentary on Levy: "The Responsibility of the Psychopath Revisited"). *Philosophy, Psychiatry, & Psychology* 14, 2: 149-151.

Deigh, J. 1995. "[Empathy and Universability.](#)" *Ethics* 105, 4 743-763.

Duff, R. A. 1977. "Psychopathy and Moral Understanding." *American Philosophical Quarterly* 14: 189-200.

Psychopathic offenders are not morally responsible for their crimes. According to Duff, if an agent is mentally disordered then he is not responsible. Moreover, an agent is mentally disordered when she fails to satisfy the following requirements for possessing practical rationality: (i) knowledge of his action (ii) capacity to do what he wants. Duff, against the "empiricist account" of practical rationality, argues for a further criterion: (iii) understanding of values, interests and concerns that inform people's lives. Psychopaths satisfy (i) and (ii). However, in psychopaths' life there is no "intelligible dimension of value, emotion or rational concern", and this logically implies that they lack (iii).

Duff, R. A. 1996. "[Commentary on "Psychopathy, Other-Regarding Moral Beliefs, and Responsibility."](#) *Philosophy, Psychiatry, & Psychology* 3,4: 283-286.

Elliott, C. 1992. "Diagnosing Blame: Responsibility and the Psychopath." *Journal of Medicine and Philosophy* 17: 199-214.

Elliott, C. 1994. "Puppetmasters and Personality Disorders Wittgenstein, Mechanism, and Moral Responsibility." *Philosophy, Psychiatry & Psychology* 1, 2: 91-99.

Elliott, C. 1996. *The Rules of Insanity Moral Responsibility and Mental Illness*. New York: State University of New York Press.

(Chapter 5) Psychopaths (as characterised by [Cleckley](#) and DSM-IV ([ASPD](#))) lack "deep engagement with morality". They do not understand why morality is important and they do not care about it. The psychopaths do not "seem to be able to see why the interests of others matter". However, they understand that others value certain ways of behaving. Moreover, this understanding warrants holding them morally responsible for certain actions that do not involve "the subtleties of moral reasoning or emotional commitments". For a criticism, see [Haji 1998](#), pp. 120-126.

Elliott, C. and G. Gillett. 1992. "Moral Insanity and Practical Reason." *Philosophical Psychology* 5: 53-67.

Fields, L. 1996. "[Psychopathy, Other-Regarding Moral Beliefs, and Responsibility](#)." *Philosophy, Psychiatry, & Psychology* 3, 4: 261-277.

Fields, L. 1996. "[Response to the Commentaries](#)." *Philosophy, Psychiatry, & Psychology* 3, 4: 291-292.

Fischer, J. M. and M. S. J. Ravizza. 1998. [Responsibility and Control. A Theory of Moral Responsibility](#) (information). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

This book offers an account of moral responsibility. An agent is morally responsible for a certain action (omission) *A*, when (1) he knows about the circumstances in which he performs and (2) he has control over action *A*. While condition (1) is not explored, the authors argue that (2) is satisfied when the action *A* is performed by an agent who is (2.1) *regularly receptive* to reasons and (2.2) acts from a mechanism that belongs to the agent and that is (2.3) *reactive* to reasons. (2.1) requires that the agent knows that there are certain reasons and moral reason to perform (or not to perform) *A*. (2.3) means that the mechanism that actually issues in action *A* would not issue in that action if there were a reason (not necessarily a moral one) to do otherwise. The theory suggests that thinking about the responsibility of the psychopath should be structured by two hypotheses that need to be investigated in the light of empirical evidence (pp. 79-89). If a psychopath is not regularly receptive to moral reasons, he cannot be morally responsible. On the other hand, if he is receptive to moral reasons, but fails to be reactive to moral reasons, then provided he is reactive to other reasons, he can be held morally responsible. This suggestion is adopted in [Glannon 1997](#).

Gillett, G. 1994. "[Commentary on 'Puppetmasters and Personality Disorders'](#)." *Philosophy, Psychiatry, & Psychology* 1, 2: 101-103.

Gillett, G. 1999. "[Benn-Ding the Rules of Resentment](#)." (Commentary on Benn: "Freedom, Resentment and the Psychopath") *Philosophy, Psychiatry, & Psychology* 6, 1: 49-51.

Glannon, W. 1997. "[Psychopathy and Responsibility](#)." *Journal of Applied Philosophy* 14: 263-275.

The psychopath lacks the capacity to internalise social norms of behaviour and to identify with them as his own. This lack of "deep moral knowledge" does not derive from an impairment in practical reason as some rationalists (Kantians) have maintained ([Deigh 1995](#), [Murphy 1972](#)). Instead, this failure derives from the emotional deficits of psychopaths (for a similar conclusion, see [Nichols 2002](#); for possible objections, see [Maibom 2005](#) and [Kennett 2002](#)). However, they have sufficient moral understanding to be partly responsible for their behaviour (for a similar conclusion, see [Elliott 1996](#)).

Glannon, W. 2008. "[Moral Responsibility and the Psychopath](#)." *Neuroethics* 1: 158-166.

Psychopaths are impaired in their responsiveness to moral reasons, and therefore in the sort of control over motivational states which is necessary for moral responsibility. However, the empirical evidence does not justify

the conclusion that this responsiveness is entirely absent. Moreover, psychopaths demonstrate responsiveness instrumental reasons, and it has not been demonstrated that sensitivity to instrumental and moral reasons can be effectively distinguished. Overall, on both empirical and philosophical grounds, only full responsibility, and not partial responsibility, can likely be ruled out.

Greenspan, P. S. 2003. "[Responsible Psychopaths](#)." *Philosophical Psychology* 16, 3: 417-419.

Psychopaths' limitations in feeling moral emotions, such as guilt based on empathy with their victims, undermine their capacity of self-control and thus their free will. However, when psychopaths intend to harm, the manifested bad qualities of their will, should warrant in us reactive attitudes such as hatred, scorn and contempt. Elaborating a Strawsonian account of moral responsibility, Greenspan thus concludes that psychopaths have a degree of moral responsibility.

Haksar, V. 1965. "[The Responsibility of Psychopaths](#)." *Philosophical Quarterly* 15: 135-45.

Relying upon Cleckley's work, the author objects to [Wootton's circularity argument](#). Moreover, he replies to the three following arguments against the ascription of moral responsibility to psychopaths. Psychopaths are not morally responsible because: (i) their anti-social acts undermine their values and aims (liberty, jobs) (ii) their behaviour is not purposive (iii) they lack control over their immediate desires. Against (i): there is no evidence that proves that psychopaths value liberty, jobs etc. above performing their anti-social acts. Against (ii): psychopaths can execute plans to accomplish their criminal acts. Against (iii): in many occasions they can restrain their desires; there are no reasons to assume that they have less-powers of resisting their desires than other criminals.

Haksar, V. 1967. "Aristotle and the Punishment of Psychopaths." *Philosophy* 39: 323-40.

Harold, J. and C. Elliott, 1999. "[Travelers, Mercenaries, and Psychopaths](#)" (Commentary on Benn: "Freedom, Resentment and the Psychopath"). *Philosophy, Psychiatry, & Psychology* 6, 1: 45-48.

Haji, I., 1998. "[On Psychopaths and Culpability](#)." *Law and Philosophy* 17: 117-140.

Haji, I. 2003. "[The Emotional Depravity of Psychopaths and Culpability](#)." *Legal Theory*, 9: 63-82.

Investigates the moral culpability of psychopaths who possess a certain degree of moral understanding (for this possibility see [Fisher and Ravizza 1998](#)). Argues that the emotional impairments of these psychopaths do not affect their *volitional control*, thus, it does not undermine their culpability. However, drawing a comparison with cases of compulsion, the author suggests that the legal response to the psychopathic offender should be attenuated.

Levy, N. 2007. "[The Responsibility of the Psychopath Revisited](#)." *Philosophy, Psychiatry, & Psychology* 14, 2: 129-138. (New)

The best way to settle the debate about the responsibility of the psychopath is not by appealing to meta-ethical principles (e.g. motivational internalism), which are more controversial than the original question. Instead, psychopaths' apparent inability to distinguish between moral and conventional distinctions (see Blair, 1995) is enough to demonstrate that their moral knowledge, and hence their degree of responsibility (given the causal history of their coming to be psychopaths), is severely reduced. Goes on to argue against the 'attributionism' of Scanlon and Arpaly, among others, which states that moral responsibility can be attributed to agents if their actions exhibit ill-will.

This paper is followed in the journal by responses from Matt Matravers, Paul E. Mullen, R. J. R. Blair, Shaun Nichols and Manuel Vargas, and a further response to these by Levy.

Malatesti, L. and J. McMillan eds. 2010. [Responsibility and Psychopathy: Interfacing Law, Psychiatry and Philosophy](#) (Information). Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Psychopaths have emotional and rational impairments that can be expressed in persistent criminal behaviour. UK and US law has not traditionally excused disordered individuals for their crimes citing these impairments as a cause for their criminal behaviour. Until now, the discussion of whether psychopaths are morally responsible for their behaviour has usually taken place in the realm of philosophy. However, in recent years, this debate has been informed by scientific and psychiatric

advancements, fundamentally so with the development of Robert Hare's diagnostic tool, the Psychopathy Checklist.

Responsibility and Psychopathy explores the moral responsibility of psychopaths. It engages with problems at the interface between law, psychiatry, and philosophy, and is divided into three parts offering relevant interdisciplinary background information to address this main problem. The first part discusses the public policy and legal responses to psychopathy. It offers an introduction to the central practical issue of how public policy should respond to psychopathy, providing insights for those arguing about the responsibility of psychopaths. The second part introduces recent scientific advancements in the classification, description, explanation, and treatment of psychopathy. The third part of the volume includes chapters covering the most significant dimensions of philosophical debate on the moral and criminal responsibility of psychopaths. Exploring one of the most contentious topics of our time, this book will be fascinating reading for psychiatrists, philosophers, criminologists, and lawyers.

Matravers, M. 2007. "[Holding Psychopaths Responsible](#)" (Commentary on Levy: "The Responsibility of the Psychopath Revisited"). *Philosophy, Psychiatry, & Psychology* 14, 2: 129-138.

McMillan, J. 2003. "[Dangerousness, Mental Disorder, and Responsibility](#)." *Journal of Medical Ethics* 29: 232-235.

The debate generated by the UK Mental Health Bill, which recommend preventive civil commitment for criminals with "Violent Antisocial Personality Disorder", has focused on the tension between personal rights and protection of the public. However, the moral responsibility of these individuals and their capacity to act on a medical decision should be also considered.

Mullen, P. E. "[On Building Arguments on Shifting Sands](#)." (Commentary on Levy: "The Responsibility of the Psychopath Revisited"). *Philosophy, Psychiatry, & Psychology* 14, 2: 129-138.

Murphy, J. G. 1972. "[Moral Death: A Kantian Essay on Psychopathy](#)." *Ethics* 82, 4: 284-298.

Assumes that psychopaths fail to be motivated by the recognition of rights of others. Such a motivation is required for having rights (reciprocity). Therefore, psychopaths cannot have rights and we have no obligations to them. Moreover, we should not hold them morally responsible. Thus, they should be treated as non human animals. However, the adoption of this practical conclusion should be constrained by the following considerations. First, there might be serious difficulties in the clinical diagnosis of psychopathy. Second, there are dangers deriving from political abuse. Third, psychopathy might be the result of collective choices. Fourth, psychopaths might be potential or former persons. For a criticism, see [Glannon 1997](#).

Nichols, S. and Vargas, M. 2007. "[How to Be Fair to Psychopaths](#)" (Commentary on Levy: "The Responsibility of the Psychopath Revisited"). *Philosophy, Psychiatry, & Psychology* 14, 2: 153-155.

Radden, J. 1996. "[Commentary on "Psychopathy, Other-Regarding Moral Beliefs, and Responsibility](#)." *Philosophy, Psychiatry, & Psychology*, 3, 4: 287-289.

Shoemaker, D. 2007. "Moral Address, Moral Responsibility, and the Boundaries of the Moral Community." *Ethics* 118:70–108.

Psychopathy is presented as one of four test cases in assessing the criteria for membership of the moral community, defined as the group of agents who have the capacity to (a) address a moral demand to another via praise or blame, and (b) understand, and reject or accept such a demand. Membership of the moral community is presented as a necessary condition for moral responsibility. The other three test cases are "moral fetishism", autism, and mild mental retardation. The role of psychopathy is to show that both (a) and (b) above require not just the ability to grasp and exchange moral reasons, but the motivation to comply with them.

Shoemaker, D. 2009. "[Responsibility and Disability](#)." *Metaphilosophy*, 40, 3-4: 438-461.

Slovenko, R. 1999. "[Responsibility of the Psychopath](#)" (Commentary on Benn: "Freedom, Resentment and the Psychopath"). *Philosophy, Psychiatry, & Psychology* 6,1: 53-55.

Smith, R. J. 1984. "[The Psychopath as Moral Agent](#)." *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*, 45: 2, 177-193.

Illustrates and criticises [Arrington 1979](#), [Duff 1977](#), [Haksar 1965](#), and [Murphy 1972](#). These accounts are based on the observation that psychopaths fail to conform to certain *idealized* values (having empathy, following a life plan, being concerned for other people's interests and rights). However, these authors do not recognise that psychopaths share values that prevail in many modern societies (manipulation of others, little affect in interpersonal relations, lack of idealized values).

Talbert, M. 2008. "[Blame and Responsiveness to Moral Reasons: Are Psychopaths Blameworthy?](#)" *Pacific Philosophical Quarterly* 89: 516–35.

Following Strawson, it is appropriate to blame someone if their actions express ill-will, indifference or lack of concern. Psychopaths' actions are expressive of attitudes with moral substance, for example the attitude that there is nothing about other people that counts against their being harmed. Because such attitudes contradict our belief that people have moral status and can reasonably demand to be treated in certain ways, they are appropriate grounds for attitudes of blame on our part. In other words, psychopaths can be blameworthy.

Vargas, M. and Nichols, S. "[Psychopaths and Moral Knowledge](#)" (Commentary on Levy: "The Responsibility of the Psychopath Revisited"). *Philosophy, Psychiatry, & Psychology* 14, 2: 157-162.

Zavaliy, A. G. 2008. "[Absent, Full and Partial Responsibility of the Psychopaths](#)." *Journal for the Theory of Social Behaviour*, 38, 1: 87-103.

The evidence does not suggest that there is a difference in kind between psychopaths and normal agents. Rather, psychopaths exist at the far end of a spectrum with regard to certain personality traits that we all share to a greater or lesser degree, while sharing the same underlying structure of purposeful behaviour. Moreover, even if, as some argue, psychopaths are entirely unable to feel certain emotions, it would be possible to lead a morally and socially acceptable life based purely on the cognitive resources available to psychopaths. There is therefore no justification for denying altogether that psychopaths are responsible for their actions. Finally, *contra* [Glannon 1997](#) it is wrong to ascribe only partial responsibility to the psychopath.

1.4 Implications of psychopathy for ethics and moral psychology

Kennett, J. 2002. "[Autism, Empathy, and Moral Agency](#)." *The Philosophical Quarterly* 52: 340-357.

A defence, against the Humean stress on the role of empathy in moral agency, of the Kantian emphasis on the role of rationality. The moral shortcomings of psychopaths cannot be determined by their lack of empathy. High-functioning autistic adults with Asperger's syndrome manifest a similar deficit in empathic understanding. However, they can realise, by reasoning, that other people have reason-giving interests as their own. The moral indifference of psychopaths appears to derive from their incapacity to understand reasons available to them.

Kennett, J. 2006. "[Do psychopaths really threaten moral rationalism?](#)" *Philosophical Explorations*, 9, 1: 69-82.

Criticises [Nichols 2002](#). Nichols's experiment about ordinary intuitions concerning the moral understanding of psychopaths fails to address the main tenets of rationalism. Moreover, psychopaths do not constitute a counterexample to rationalism understood as an empirical claim about moral psychology. Psychopaths present impaired practical rationality. These defects in their rationality affect their capacity for self-regulation. Developmental studies show that self-regulation is a requirement for moral understanding and motivation.

Maibom, H. L. 2005. "[Moral Unreason: The Case of Psychopathy.](#)" *Mind and Language* 20, 2: 237-257.

Maibom maintains, against [Nichols 2002](#), that rationalists can explain the moral defects of psychopaths. An agent who is capable of moral judgement should satisfy certain requirements of practical rationality (such as forming consistent intentions and willing the means to reach her ends). Recent psychological evidence shows that psychopaths do not satisfy these requirements.

Nichols, S. 2002a: "[How Psychopaths Threaten Moral Rationalism, or is it Irrational to be Amoral?](#)" *The Monist*, 85, 285–303.

Nichols argues that psychopaths undermine rationalist accounts of morality. Psychopaths, being rational individuals that fail to be motivated by moral reasons, offer a counterexample to those that assume that moral rationalism is a conceptual truth. Moreover, moral rationalism, understood as an empirical account of moral psychology, fails to explain the psychology of psychopaths. Finally, he argues that an account of morality based on moral sentiments explains the case of psychopaths. For criticisms, see [Maibom 2005](#), [Kennett 2006](#).