



EUROCRIM2025

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BOOK OF ABSTRACTS V1

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psychopaths have some degree of free will. I further contend that neuroscience does not undermine free will and that psychopaths can be considered morally responsible under specific conditions and contexts. Implications for legal and moral responsibility are discussed. Conclusions. Further considerations might include the role of rationality in decision-making, varying degrees of psychopathy (primary vs secondary), implications for rehabilitation as well as broader societal impacts of these views.

High Stakes and Dark Traits: How Psychopathy and Narcissism Drive Financial Risk-Taking in Gambling Addiction *Sharon Rabinovitz, School of Criminology, Faculty of Law and The Unit for Excellence in Research & Study of Addiction (ERSA), and The Center for the Study of Crime, Law, and Society, University of Haifa, Israel; Maayan Nagar, Ariel University*
 The Dark Triad encompasses three distinct personality traits—psychopathy, narcissism, and Machiavellianism—characterized by exploitation, emotional detachment, cruelty, and selfishness. Research has linked narcissism to various risk-taking behaviors across health, social, and economic domains, including investments in volatile stocks and high-stakes betting. Psychopathy has been more thoroughly investigated in connection with risky behaviors related to heightened sexuality, substance use, criminal and antisocial conduct, though studies show inconsistent results and have primarily focused on normative populations. Financial risk-taking stands as the hallmark characteristic of gamblers, yet the relationship between Dark Triad traits and gambling behavior has been primarily examined among casual gamblers or in controlled gambling tasks—not among frequent gamblers. The current study investigated the relationship between psychopathy, narcissism, and the willingness to risk and lose money among active gamblers. In a field study, 203 participants completed self-report questionnaires while en route to gambling venues. Willingness to take economic risks correlated positively with psychopathy but negatively with narcissism. A significant interaction emerged between these traits: gamblers with high psychopathy demonstrated greater economic risk-taking only when their narcissism levels were low, while those with low psychopathy exhibited minimal risk-taking regardless of narcissism levels. When analyzed by gambling severity, low-risk gamblers showed economic risk-taking associated with psychopathy but not narcissism. Conversely, high-risk gamblers (those with gambling disorder) displayed economic risk-taking associated with narcissism—specifically, lower narcissism correlated with higher economic risk-taking—but not with psychopathy. These findings illuminate the complex interplay of Dark Triad traits in economic risk-taking among gamblers, particularly those with gambling disorder. The study suggests nuanced mechanisms underlying these relationships, with important implications for prevention strategies, treatment approaches, rehabilitation programs, and gambling venue regulations.

Psychopathy and lifetime criminal behaviour: sex differences and mediation paths *Svetlana Pavlović, Institute of criminological and sociological research, Belgrade, Serbia; Janko Mededović, Institute of criminological and sociological research, Belgrade, Serbia*

One of the newer operationalizations of psychopathy, Short Psychopathy Rating Scale (SPRS) consists of three traits: Deceitfulness (manipulativeness, dishonesty), Emotional Coldness (lack of empathy, fear, and guilt), and Recklessness (impulsiveness, risk-taking). In the present research, we analyzed the associations between psychopathy and indicators of criminal behavior: age of first offence (AFO), educational measures (EM), penal recidivism (PR), and the risk assessment of future recidivism (RA), in a sample of Serbian prisoners (N = 270). The psychopathy ratings of offenders were provided by the treatment service staff, while data on criminal behavior were obtained from the prisoners' files. In regression analyses, Emotional coldness turned out to be the most consistent positive predictor of various criminal behavior indicators (it predicts AFO, PR, and RA); conversely, Deceitfulness showed the lowest contribution to the explanation of criteria's variation (predicts only RA). Recklessness also positively contributed to the predictions (EM, PR and RA). Mediation analysis showed that earlier AFO mediates the relationship between Emotional coldness and both criminal recidivism and the risk of future recidivism. Men had higher average scores on all indicators of criminal behavior, however women scored higher on Deceitfulness and Recklessness than men. Emotional Coldness represents a greater risk factor for offending in women regarding the earlier onset of criminal behavior

and the future offenses' risk. These findings are in line with previous studies that impulsivity and disinhibition are important predictors of criminal behavior. However, our results primarily highlight Emotional Coldness, a finding that is not frequently observed. The cause may lie in some aspect of the sample structures, but it also underscores the importance of this trait in the occurrence of criminal behaviours. This research confirms the importance of psychopathy in the criminological context and supports the use of the instrument as an assessment in penitentiary institutions.

Psychopathy, Callousness, and Exposure to Violence (ETV): A Comparative Study Between Inmate and Non-Inmate Individuals *Fabio Delicato, Criminiseriali Association*

Psychopathy and callousness are personality traits associated with antisocial behavior and a lack of empathy. These traits have been found to predict violent behavior (Baskin & Sommers, 2014; Durant et al., 1994; Gaylord-Harden et al., 2011; Hawkins et al., 2000; Spano et al., 2006). Previous research has shown that psychopathy mediates the relationship between exposure to violence (ETV) and violent behavior (Estrada et al., 2020). The present study aims to compare levels of psychopathy and callousness between inmate individuals and a non-inmate control group while also examining the relationship between ETV and these traits. To assess personality traits, we utilized (1) the Psychopathy subscale of the SD3 questionnaire – Italian version (Somma et al., 2020) and (2) the Callousness subscale of the LSRP – Italian translation (Somma et al., 2014). Additionally, participants provided self-reported data on their exposure to violence. The collected data were analyzed using SPSS v25 software. The findings of this study will offer insights into whether psychopathy and callousness are more prevalent among inmate individuals and how ETV influences these traits. This research contributes to the understanding of the psychological profiles of offenders and the potential role of environmental factors in shaping antisocial characteristics.

202. Improving the wellbeing and resilience of police personnel

Topic 5: Social Control and Criminal Justice/Policing and Law enforcement (Policing WG)

Pre-arranged Panel

5:30 to 6:45 pm

Communications Building (CN): CN 2113

Absence due to physical injury, mental health, and poor wellbeing have increased in UK policing over the past decade. This panel, comprising researchers from the University of Huddersfield, will present a body of research focused on improving the wellbeing and resilience of police personnel. Focus will be on identifying common negative effects on wellbeing associated with specific policing roles (e.g. Family Liaison Officers, Disaster Victim Identifiers, Call Handlers, and Senior Investigating Officers), preventing and supporting the effect of assaults on police officers, the development of new support resilience approaches, and the need to encourage individuals to acknowledge that they need support and to access it if available.

Chair:

Jason Roach, University of Huddersfield

Participants:

A survey of the wellbeing of UK police officers with less than five years experience of doing the job *Ashley Cartwright, Crime and Policing Research Centre, University of Huddersfield; Jason Roach, University of Huddersfield*

Policing is a challenging occupation that often results in adverse mental health outcomes for those involved. While much is known about the negative effects on mental health and the roles and administrative burdens contributing to these wellbeing issues for police officers in general, there is limited understanding of the experiences of new recruits and those with less than five years experience of being a police officer. It is crucial to explore how their journey into policing and initial years of service influences their ability to cope with potentially traumatic and stressful situations during their first five years of service. This presentation delves into the wellbeing of new recruits, presenting emerging evidence from a survey comprising 280 UK police recruits within their first five years of service. The findings specifically highlight critical points in a recruit's journey when negative factors can impact their wellbeing. Furthermore, this study explores whether the professionalisation of police entry programmes in the UK, including apprenticeships, university pathways, and direct entry routes, are associated with better or worse wellbeing outcomes for